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## IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY



Excellence Training Center updates Fanuc robots.

Photo by Scott Chittock II / Jambar Contributor

# Robots replaced for ETC upgrade

By Scott Chittock II  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's Excellence Training Center recently replaced several old Fanuc robots with five newer, up-to-date models that cost \$400,000.

Scott Craig, the program manager for Workforce

Training-Robotics and Automation, teaches classes at Kohli Hall where students receive hands-on experience with the Fanuc robots, which were unveiled in December 2022.

ETC, Page 2

# Electric vehicles storm YSU

By Hannah Werle  
Jambar Contributor

Officials from Foxconn and Youngstown State University's National Electric Vehicle Training and Innovation Center expect to have programs running by fall 2023.

Since announcing the partnership last October, Foxconn and YSU have progressed in the creation of a joint training center. The purpose is not only to create a functioning, local workforce and electric vehicle manufacturer but also to encourage growth in the Mahoning Valley.

The partnership plans to establish its digital footprint within 60 days, which will include web resources and on-line training courses. YSU hopes to occupy the Foxconn building — site of the former General Motors Lordstown plant — come summer and have programs running there for the fall semester.

Jennifer Oddo, vice president of the Division of Workforce Education and Innovation at YSU, said the center will be primarily a partnership between Foxconn and YSU, but other relevant organizations and community colleges may have an opportunity to work with or at the center.

Foxconn, Page 4

News	1-7	Classifieds	13
Student Life	8-11	Sports	14-16
Opinion	12		

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Page 1

"It brought us into the new century here. The old robots were from the 90s," Craig said. "The operating system on them hasn't really changed all that much in the past 30 years, but these are up-to-date with everything they're using now."

Craig said the new robots make training convenient.

"They've got the safety features on them that are pretty common to industry," Craig said. "When people come and they get trained on these, they're gonna understand what they're going to see when they go out into industry."

The new robots are Fanuc m10id-12s, which have a payload of 12 kilograms, but students aren't just learning how to use that model specifically. According to Craig, most Fanuc robots operate the same way.

"That's what differentiates the different Fanuc robots for the most part ... the amount of weight they'll carry," Craig said. "You program a 12 kilogram robot the same way you'd program a 200 kilogram robot."

The new robots can be used for a variety of tasks and proper training is important to make things safer and more efficient Craig said.

Marielle Muncy, a senior mechanical engineering technology major, works with the Fanuc robots in Craig's robotics technology class. Muncy said the experience

"We don't get a lot of hands-on opportunities, so this is very valuable to us to be actually able to get our hands on a machine and see how things really work in the field."

— **Marielle Muncy**,  
senior mechanical engineering  
technology major

with the robots is important to her college experience.

"We don't get a lot of hands-on opportunities, so this is very valuable to us to be actually able to get our hands on a machine and see how things really work in the field," Muncy said.

Jay Wargacki, operations manager at Kohli Hall, said the new robots offer more to YSU than the old robots.

"Right now, with the Fanuc training that we offer through YSU mechanical engineering tech programs, we offer certification classes for robot handling," Wargacki said.

Wargacki said the three levels of certification available are tool handling, infrared vision and programmable logic controller integration. Currently, YSU only offers tool handling, but will soon offer all three levels of certification because of the new robots.

YSU purchased the new robots because of a Defense Logistics Agency grant, which will be used to make a variety of improvements to the building. ETC Director Jackie Ruller stated that YSU received a total of \$5.7 million over two rounds of funding.

The university partnered with America Makes and the University of Northern Iowa for the grant and the projects involved. One of its main focuses is to partner with small and medium-sized foundry companies to help integrate technologies like 3D printing, robotics and more across the country.

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 60°F	High: 34°F	High: 43°F	High: 52°F	High: 48°F	High: 43°F	High: 39°F
Low: 29°F	Low: 20°F	Low: 30°F	Low: 38°F	Low: 29°F	Low: 26°F	Low: 27°F
Chance of precip: 97%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 2%	Chance of precip: 6%	Chance of precip: 40%	Chance of precip: 56%	Chance of precip: 62%



Rain



Partly Cloudy



Fair



Partly Cloudy



Rain



Rain



Snow

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com)

## HELPING THOSE IN NEED



The IPO accepted donated items at Jones Hall including winter clothing, blankets, sleeping bags and tents.

Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

# IPO donates to earthquake victims

By Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

The International Programs Office at Youngstown State University held a donation drive from Feb. 9 to 10 with the Youngstown Chapter of the United American Muslim Association, for victims of an earthquake that shook Turkey and Syria on Feb. 6, along their Southwestern and Northeastern borders respectively.

According to The New York Times, the earthquake is estimated to have killed over 35,000 people in Turkey and over 5,500 people in Syria. With excavations still in progress, the death toll will likely rise. According to Euronews, the earthquake also destroyed several buildings leaving people homeless and exposed to winter weather.

Following the earthquake, the UAMA began organizing donation efforts for the victims through local groups, like the Youngstown Sadabat Education Center, formerly the Youngstown Islamic Center.

Bilal Ezer, an Imam who works at the Youngstown Sadabat Education Center, said one of the hardest things about the donation drive has been making sure the donated items are new and usable.

“The hard part was people want to do a lot of things, but it’s hard to tell everyone what is officially needed. This is winter and we can’t accept everything,” Ezer said.

The Sadabat Education Center began working with the IPO through a student affiliated with both organizations. Afterward, IPO announced its specific drive for the earthquake victims, which coincided with an International Coffee Hour, when many students came to donate items.

Nicholas DuBos, the coordinator of International Student Services, said he was grateful for the success of YSU’s contribution to the donation drive.

“If you look at it — in a one day span — it’s extremely successful. Yesterday we sent [the email] late morning ... and we had some clothing given but if you look at it

now it’s grown, and I had a feeling it would,” DuBos said. “I’m just so grateful, and this is literally in the span of a little over 24 hours.”

Ezer also said the local drive as a whole has been successful.

“People tried their best, and [just] only in our location we got over 150 boxes, and those boxes are large boxes. These are all new clothes and new shoes,” Ezer said.

The number of donated items by YSU was not measured, but was loaded onto trucks and brought to the Turkish embassy in Washington D.C. along with the other donated articles. They were then flown to Turkey via Turkish Airlines. Some donated items were also shipped to Syria after arriving in Turkey.

While the clothing drive is over, monetary donations are still being accepted. If interested in donating go to the Youngstown Sadabat Education Center website.

**Foxconn**

Page 1

The project has involved groups like the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber, General Motors, Ultium Cells LLC and other constituents. Oddo said she hopes to involve additional electric vehicle related organizations and companies in the center.

“Our goal is to bring all academia together and to bring all workforce organizations together. We want everyone who is playing in this industry or has a place in the industry to be able to participate,” Oddo said.

One of the center’s purposes is to create an electric vehicle and workforce resource for the entire country.

“The number one thing we heard from our research is that industry, academia and these workforce organizations need a hub — a one-stop-shop where they can go to get access to standards around the industry to understand what’s happening and to see who is providing the training,” Oddo said.

A major component of planning for this goal is attracting interest from local and national businesses and workers.

“The only way we’re going to scale this workforce in America is by coming together and that’s going to be an important piece of what we do so we can help everybody,” Oddo said. “If Ultium in Tennessee or other partners in Tennessee or in California want to learn how to build an EV workforce, we want them to come to the YSU and Foxconn center.”

Contributors also want the project to attract businesses and workers to the Mahoning Valley. Guy Coviello, president of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber, is working with both YSU and Foxconn to organize and support the development of the training center.

“We’re going to experience some substantial economic and job growth here and a lot of it is right at Foxconn,” said Coviello. “Having YSU in our community, having a four-year institution and a staff at YSU that is able to pivot to address trends in industry disruption

and new technologies makes [the Youngstown-Warren area] a very attractive place.”

Helen Lafferty, interim president of YSU, said projects like the training center will serve as motivation for population retention.

“We know the statistics in our city and what’s happening — we’re losing people. We need to retain our students here. Projects like this give them both the opportunity and the motivation to stay,” Lafferty said.

The location of the training center was also a factor in creating accessibility and room for growth. While there’s a possibility of relocation or expansion, no plans have been announced yet.

“It’s a great location in terms of the facilities, size of the facility, the equipment there, but also the infrastructure nearby in terms of rail, in terms of the Ohio Turnpike, in terms of [Ohio Department of Transportation] highways,” Coviello said. “It’s an ideal situation and it is a place where we’re seeing some rapid economic growth.”



The collaboration between Foxconn and YSU will offer jobs and work experience for students.

Photo by Hannah Werle / Jambar Contributor

# SGA begins election process

By Shianna Gibbons  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University Student Government Association announced it was accepting forms to declare candidacy for the 2023-2024 academic year. The deadline is Feb. 16 at 5 p.m.

Students can run to be representatives of their college, for senator positions and also president and vice president. President and vice president require students to run as a pair and garner 150 student signatures for the president petition form.

Elsa Khan, a senior biology major and vice president of student life, said there is a tight deadline to declare candidacy for SGA.

“Anyone who wants to run [has to] get that form in ASAP. It is a little bit different depending on who wants to apply,” Khan said. “If you are applying for senator or representative, you fill out the form, your name, your Y number, your major, what college you’re from and if you have a 2.5 minimum GPA. If you’re going for president or vice president ... [they’ll] have to get 150 signatures by the 16th.”

Khan said there are different levels of responsibilities for each position. These responsibilities typically consist of attending meetings and staying involved on campus.

Representatives are required to attend the body and committee meetings that occur every other Monday.

Representatives also have to complete 15 representative hours a semester. This requires representatives to work at the SGA or YSU-sponsored event.

Khan said this is to ensure representatives are active in YSU’s student body.

“That way you’re actually advocating and listening to everyone on campus, and you can maximize your time as a [representative],” Khan said.

Khan said, at minimum, senators meet the first Wednesday of every month. There are also different committees that meet on their own time with a faculty advisor of that committee such as the library committee, the teaching and learning committee, the honors committee and more.

The executive team consists of a president, vice president, four vice presidents of different committees, parliament and chief of staff. Khan said these positions are a lot more involved.

“You’re taking a lot of initiative to work on the [executive] team to make our campus and really put out a lot of goals,” Khan said. “We have a whole bunch of goals we want to get done as a team. Some of the things that we are working on [are] the Aunt Flo machines, solar-powered tables installed and implemented.”

According to Khan, getting your name on the ballot is the first step, but campaigning for positions begins the first Monday after spring break. Khan also said there are a few campaigning rules. No campaigning in class-

rooms, flyers can only be the size of a regular sheet of paper, receiving approval to post flyers on boards and not harassing other candidates.

Nickiforos Mastorides, the president of SGA, said his campaigning process was intense but rewarding.

“I didn’t expect it to be as intense because this is the first time in my five years of watching SGA campaigns that there was three different [president and vice president] campaigns running against each other,” Mastorides said. “It was intense at times, but I don’t regret any second of it.”

Maguire Franko, the vice president of SGA, said campaigning requires a lot of dedication.

“While there were people traveling and whatnot — we spent our spring break creating flyers and reaching out to different people we could to develop the platform we had,” Franko said. “It was fun but it was an extremely stressful time.”

Mastorides and Franko said the biggest responsibility of SGA is to listen, unite, represent and serve the student body.

“The role of student government is to advocate on student’s behalf, and I think if you’re not listening to the student body, then there’s really no point to serve in this role,” Franko said.

Elections begin April 4 at 8 a.m. and close at midnight April 5. For more information on candidacy, campaigning and voting, go to SGA’s website.



Student Government Association opens submissions to declare candidacy for the upcoming academic year.

Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar



Jones Hall is home to the International Programs and Admissions Office.

Photo by Aleksa Radenovic / Jambar Contributor

# Admitting across borders

By Aleksa Radenovic  
Jambar Contributor

The number of international students attending Youngstown State University has nearly doubled since 2021.

Erika Kraus, the assistant director of International Admissions and Recruitment, said international students contribute cultural diversity to the campus life and local communities and introduce domestic students to a multilingual environment.

“Our International Programs Office has worked to develop partnerships with agents in certain countries to help students get recruited, as well as send members of our team abroad to attend international recruitment fairs all over the world,” said Kraus.

According to Kraus, most of the more than 600 international students on campus hail from Nepal and India, but over 60 countries are represented. Among the draws to attend YSU are the scholarships offered Kraus said.

Jan Hart, a freshman economics major from Germany, said a service in his hometown helped him evaluate his interests and career plans to determine which university was best for him.

“Shortly after deciding to pursue my academic career in America, I reached out to an agency in my home-

town,” said Hart. “In the end, I chose YSU because of the generous scholarship I received.”

The recruitment of athletes is more complicated because of NCAA requirements. Athletes must maintain a minimum 2.3 GPA — higher than the university requires for traditional students.

Brad Smith, head coach of YSU’s swimming & diving program, said athletes are considered an integral part of an institution’s education program.

“International student-athletes, once admitted, need to obtain these standards in order to be eligible to compete in NCAA Division I sports,” Smith said.

During the recruiting process, there are often challenges students face, such as proving to the coaches how capable they are.

Jaime Ventura, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and track athlete from Spain, encountered this when he was searching for schools.

“The agency I turned to helped me create a video compilation of all my competitions and training sessions, which I later sent to the coaches,” Ventura said. “Finally after a few months, one of the YSU track and field coaches reached out.”

Although agencies help students find their dream schools, they also cost thousands of dollars some students can’t afford. In some countries, student-athletes

who’ve already graduated from the U.S. return home bearing valuable information and tips for younger generations who wish to study and train abroad.

Oliwia Kaniak, a sophomore majoring in informational technologies, came to YSU from her home country of Poland for YSU’s swim team. She learned about college swimming through that kind of international outreach.

“One of my teammates on the Polish national team gave me information needed to start the recruitment by myself,” Kaniak said.

Shortly after reaching out to a few colleges, YSU’s swimming head coach offered her a spot on the women’s team with almost a full-ride scholarship.

Other challenges international students face include important paperwork, Kraus said.

“There are six major things the international students need to have in order to study in the U.S. — a copy of their passport, current high school transcripts, their diploma, English proficiency test, an I-20 form and a VISA,” Kraus said.

For more information about the International Program’s Office, contact ipo@ysu.edu.

*Editor’s Note: Aleksa Radenovic is a member of the swimming & diving team at YSU.*

# Math tutoring at the MAC

By **Cassandra Lucyk**  
The Jambar

The Math Achievement Center is one of many on-campus services that Youngstown State University provides for students.

The MAC offers tutoring for all students who are currently enrolled in a math class at YSU. Tutoring is available from college algebra to Calculus 3 and the room also acts as a study space.

Jessie Jones, coordinator of the MAC, said the service was founded several decades ago and has some history in its name.

“The Math Achievement Center was founded in 1979 as the Math Lab to help students struggling in their mathematics courses. In the ‘80s it was renamed the Math Assistance Center and in 2021 it took its current

name,” Jones said.

Sela Jones, a junior civil engineering major who tutors at the MAC, said the types of services and support provided.

“We can do both drop-in tutoring, and we have review sessions. For our drop-in tutoring, you can walk in anytime that we’re open, which is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and nine to three on Friday,” Jones said.

Before finals week, the MAC will offer review sessions for specific classes or professors. It posts the schedules around the building hallways and stairwells.

Devan Miller, a senior mathematics major, said how he started tutoring at the MAC.

“I was taking discrete mathematics with Dr. Byers last spring and Jessie, who is the director here at the MAC, came to our class looking for tutors. So, I applied, I had

an interview with her and started in the summer,” Miller said.

Students who tutor can use their involvement at the MAC in the future.

Matt Commons, a senior mathematics major, said how his experience as a math tutor can help him in his future career.

“I would like to be a professor, eventually, so tutoring others helps me learn how to communicate ideas that I understand better,” Commons said. “It’s usually pretty easy once you understand something to feel like you know it, but explaining it is something completely different.”

For students who need help with math or want a job as a tutor, the MAC is located in Cafaro Hall, room 408. Students who want to tutor can apply on the MAC website.



The Math Achievement Center helps students in any math class.

Photo by Cassandra Lucyk / The Jambar

## CHILL AND VIBE



Hannah Ferguson wants D.O.P.E. to be a positive place to visit.



Photos by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

# Un-wine-d downtown at D.O.P.E.

By Jessica Stamp  
The Jambar

From empty bottles hanging on the wall, to a variety of comfy chairs to sit in, D.O.P.E. Cider House and Winery offers a space for people to unwind with a variety of seltzers and ciders.

D.O.P.E. stands for dwelling on positive energy and is a cider and wine manufacturer with a tap room space.

Hannah Ferguson, winemaker and owner of D.O.P.E., wanted people to feel like they are at a coffeehouse — but with a happy hour.

“I usually like to say [D.O.P.E.] has the coffeehouse feel with a happy-hour vibe,” Ferguson said. “If you are looking for a chill space and just like a very chill comfortable vibe with some good music and conversation.”

It offers eight taps of cider or seltzer and will have wine available in April and around the beginning of May.

Before she founded D.O.P.E., Ferguson started wine-making as a hobby 11 years ago. Family and friends en-

couraged Ferguson to pursue the business and she originally wanted to open just a winery.

“To open up a winery, that was kind of the original plan,” Ferguson said. “Knowing and seeing a lot of the craft breweries started off as home breweries and they were doing it more on a bigger production scale so I felt I would be able to do that more on a winery scale.”

After homebrewing for a while, Ferguson got into making cider and realized how similar the process is to making wine, which rearranged Ferguson’s business plan.

“I realized cider is the same process as wine and after doing the research I saw that cider was a growing industry that’s kind of between beer and wine,” Ferguson said.

Ferguson was born and raised on the South Side of Youngstown and wanted D.O.P.E. to be in the Youngstown area.

“It was always Youngstown. That’s where I was born and raised ... I grew up on the South Side, my heart always wanted to be in Youngstown,” Ferguson said. “It’s

a part of me.”

Ferguson said D.O.P.E. is a place for anybody looking for a comfortable environment to be in.

D.O.P.E. is located next to Penguin City on East Federal Street in downtown Youngstown and is open Thursday to Sunday in the evenings.

**D.O.P.E. hours:**  
Thursday and Friday:  
4 to 10 p.m.  
Saturday: 12 to 11 p.m.  
Sunday: 12 to 5 p.m.

# Small town musician makes big changes

By John Ostapowicz  
Jambar Contributor

In Youngstown, a small-town musician has created a name for himself with nine albums, a critically acclaimed novel and numerous live performances.

American singer, songwriter and novelist JD Eicher grew up in the Mahoning Valley and attended Canfield High School. His love for music started when he was 12 years old and said he gravitated to the guitar because of its emotional-sounding rhythm.

“Music to me has always been the closest thing to magic,” Eicher said. “I’ve always been in awe of it because it’s like you’re pulling it out of thin air.”

After high school, Eicher attended Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, where he majored in business music.

During his time in college, he started performing as JD Eicher, Guy With Guitar. After forming a band, the name changed to JD Eicher & the Goodnights. The inspiration for the band name comes from Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, an artist and band who were known for both solo and accompanied tracks.

In 2011, Eicher’s band was selected by *Alternative Addiction Magazine* as one of the top 10 unsigned bands of the year.

“I didn’t realize how useful that ranking was, but it continues to come up, which is cool,” Eicher said.

A year later, the ranking earned the band a deal with Rock Ridge Music. Before the pandemic, Eicher mu-

tually parted ways with Rock Ridge Music, eventually signing with AntiFragile Music.

With members coming and going because of other commitments and obligations, Eicher found the lineup that worked best.

Since 2012, Eicher has maintained a consistent rhythm section with Jim Merhaut on bass and Dylan Kollat on drums.

Kollat grew up in Youngstown and attended Youngstown State University. His love for the drums started in fifth grade and continued into college. He’s been teaching the drumline at YSU since 2011.

Both Eicher and Kollat worked in a music store together in Canfield teaching lessons. It was a mutual connection through Ed Davis, the former drummer of Red Wanting Blue, that led to Kollat partnering with Eicher.

“I never got to talk to JD that much until then. It was pretty easy because we were all in the same building at the time,” Kollat said.

When Eicher was growing up, he took guitar lessons with Merhaut throughout high school. After Eicher’s original bass player quit, Merhaut was asked to fill in and has been with the band ever since.

“I said yeah, I will do it until you find someone else — and that was 14 years ago,” Merhaut said.

Eicher, Kollat and Merhaut have played numerous venues in the area, with the band’s members each having a favorite.

For Eicher, The Soap Gallery in downtown Youngstown has been home to many ground breaking

performances for him.

Prior to the pandemic, Eicher hosted JD’s Summer Song Fest with the support of The Soap Gallery. He brought together local musicians to provide a low cost, outdoor venue for the Youngstown community.

“The Soap Gallery is near and dear to my heart. They have been central to a lot of important events, musically for me,” Eicher said.

2016 was a big year for Eicher and his band, as it dropped “the Goodnights” from the band’s name completely. The same year the band released “The Middle Distance,” the first album under the new name. He also recorded and composed the soundtrack to Nicholas Sparks’ novel, “Two by Two.”

The EP garnered national recognition from media companies, record labels and Good Morning America, with his music being streamed thousands of times.

In 2022, the trio performed at Federal Frenzy, which was hosted by YSU Penguin Productions. The event had been on hiatus since 2019 because of the pandemic.

“It was really cool to see [Federal Frenzy] come together beautifully. The weather was great and people were out and about,” Eicher said.

In the same year, Eicher released his first novel, “The Lights Along Majesto,” with the accompanying album “Majesto Sessions.”

Eicher and his band will be back in the area April 28 to perform at The Soap Gallery’s final show. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets can be purchased online at [jdeicher.com](http://jdeicher.com).



JD Eicher will perform at The Soap Gallery on April 28.

Photos courtesy of Doltyn Snedden and Jack Karson

## SWING INTO SPRING



Home games will be at Herding Park in Hubbard.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

# Baseball club swings into action

By Brandon Cantwell and Samantha Smith  
The Jambar

With club sports in full swing at Youngstown State University, the Baseball Club is just one that is active on campus this semester.

Jacob Stack, vice president of the Baseball Club and senior exercise science pre-physical therapy major, explained what a school year for the club looks like.

“We have two separate seasons in the fall and the spring. We’ll get back on campus [and] we’ll start practicing. We played six games this fall [then] we went home for break. We’ve been practicing now and then, by the end of the semester, we’ll play about 12 games this semester,” Stack said. “We’ll play anywhere from like 15-20 games the entire school year.”

The club is in a league called the National Club Baseball Association where it plays against other colleges such as Cleveland State University and Kent State University.

Stack said the club is currently full with 25 members,

but will always look for more people to add for the future.

“We’re always adding people. Right now, our club is actually really full, we have like, 25 people or so. We’ll still add people on, but odds are like, right now — we’re kind of set in stone with what we have,” Stack said. “[People] could join, they could come in practice and everything for next year.”

While students do not need experience to join, it is recommended to have some high school baseball experience for the club, Stack said.

“We’ll add people who have high school baseball experience. We’re open to anybody, but we do kind of like to try to recommend or push the high school experience just because it is a very competitive league,” Stack said.

Ryan McNicholas, club advisor and director of campus recreation, oversees many of the club sports and said there are several benefits to participating in them, such as the Baseball Club.

“Club sports in general offer many different aspects that students can take advantage of, whether it’s the so-

cial wellness of being a part of a team, hanging out with others, playing the sport that they love, and eventually becoming leaders in that sport,” McNicholas said. “To having a sense of belonging on campus, to helping with the mental needs and relieve stress, and alleviate some of the stress of being a student nowadays.”

McNicholas said he thinks the Baseball Club will continue to grow in the future.

“I feel great. It’s been a fantastic ride with the current members and I believe [the Baseball Club] can continue at the pace they are going. It’s going to be a great, sustainable future,” McNicholas said.

The Baseball Club currently meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Watson and Tressel Training Site, but will begin practicing outside on Wednesdays when the weather warms up.

For more information about the club, visit the NCBA’s division III webpage or the club’s Instagram @ysuclub-baseball.

# Study up on the Lord

By Jazelle Artman  
The Jambar

The Bible Talks is an organization created by Old North Church that provides bible studies for students at Youngstown State University. The Bible Talks was created in fall 2021, and is led by pastor Bruce Chaimai.

Chaimai is employed at the church and is also a leader for the organization. Chaimai said the church wanted to create an organization with a goal of reaching out to Christian and non-Christian students.

“We want to find as many opportunities to sit down with students and study the Bible,” Chaimai said.

Senior nursing major, Ashley Fabian has been a part of the organization since the beginning of fall 2021. Fabian and Chaimai began working on the idea of the outreach in summer 2021.

“My pastor, Bruce, approached me and expressed his desire to start an organization so we got working on it,” Fabian said.

The organization holds monthly meetings called plugs to connect with students and provide an opportunity for others to join.

“The [meetings] are meant for people that would never think about reading the Bible. It is a little more accessible for someone who has never been in a church. [Instead, they can] come ice skate or come to a brunch. Our students do fun stuff all the time,” Chaimai said.

Although the organization holds monthly meetings, it also provides daily Bible studies for students.

Chaimai said Bible quads are small meetings that consist of four students. Bible quads are subject to change depending on student availability.

“We have small Bible studies that are happening every day on campus. I think [around] 14 [meetings daily],” Chaimai said.

The organization also provides Bible studies off campus at Old North Church. Sunday school is offered on Sunday mornings to students that currently attend the church or wish to join.

“We have about 50 of us that meet on a Sunday morning. We have worship music playing and then I will teach for a short while. [Then], they will break into groups [for] an hour meeting,” Chaimai said.

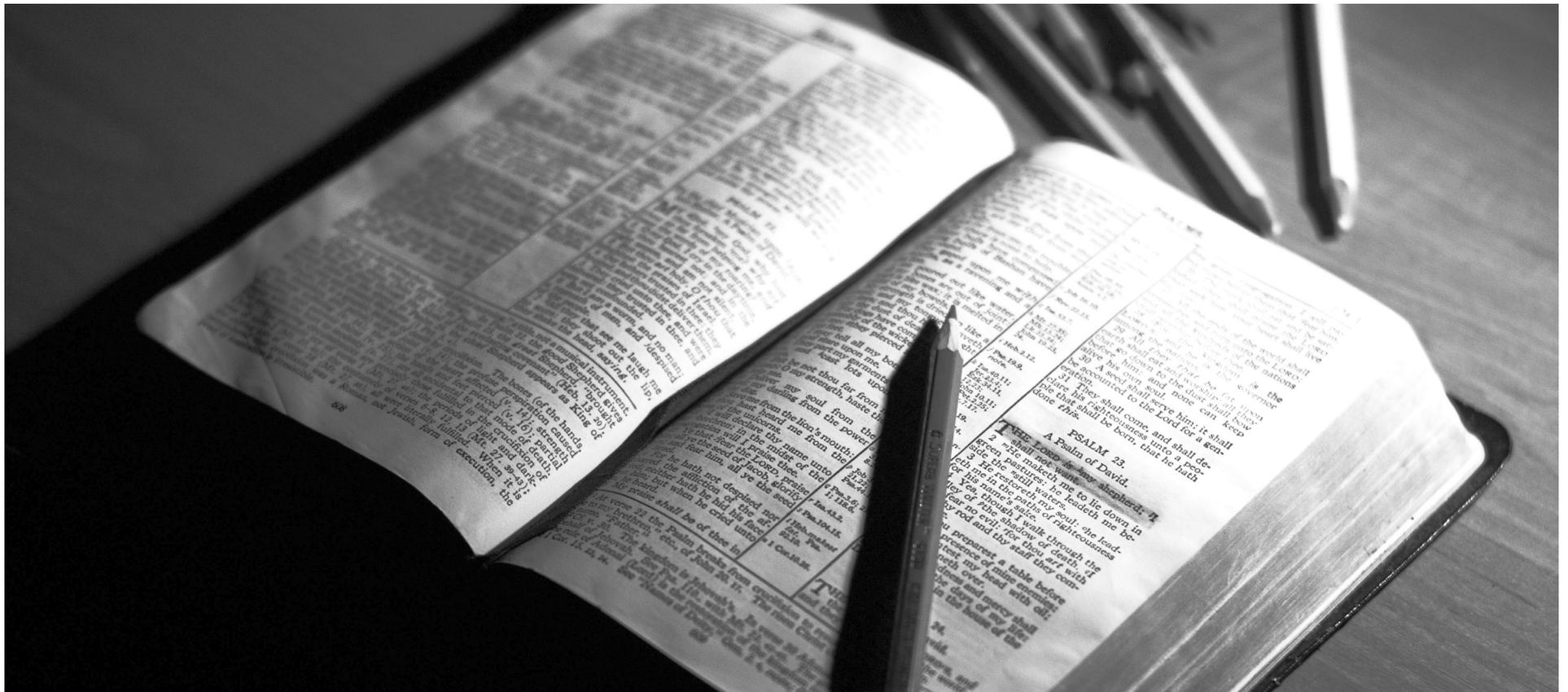
Junior accounting major, Ashley Thompson, said she has been a part of the organization since spring 2022. Thompson said being a part of the organization has given her an opportunity to make friends with similar beliefs and have fun.

“It is easy to make friends because everyone is so welcoming and friendly. You get to learn with a lot of people who are completely centered around the word of God,” Thompson said. “There are so many wonderful people who genuinely love the Lord and love to love people.”

The organization currently has over 70 members and actively accepts new members.

“Anyone can join. Anyone [that is] interested in reading the Bible [and] studying the Bible. They have to be a student here, but there are some students that graduate [and] still keep coming,” Chaimai said.

For more information about the organization, go to The Bible Talks Instagram page @thebibletalksyu.



The Bible Talks organization meets on Sunday mornings at Old North Church.

Photo courtesy of pexels.com

# The Jambar Column

## Separating art from the artist

Like most millennials, Harry Potter was inescapable while growing up. I have read all seven books more times than I can count, have seen all the movies and know way too much about the wizarding world. That said, I don't think I will be buying Hogwarts Legacy.

For those unaware of the conversation surrounding J.K. Rowling, it may be too long to summarize. It comes down to the fact that she has been a vocal mouthpiece of the anti-trans movement. Some have even labeled her a trans-exclusionary radical feminist, or TERF.

Rowling has retweeted self-proclaimed TERFs in agreement with their message, she has written thought pieces on how transgender women's existence is a threat to the feminist movement and legislators have even quoted her in attempts to block trans people's rights.

What does it mean to separate art from the artist? Is it possible to engage with great works of art created by people who did objectively bad things? You can throw a stone and find authors who did terrible things. George Orwell informed on communists in the '50s. David Foster Wallace stalked and harassed a married woman in the '90s.

Going back in time, you'll find more artists who acted in ways that would be questionable in our current culture. Engaging with their work means having important conversations about how these people did bad things and how they would not fly in our current world.

Engaging with media we wish to separate from artists who are currently alive is, to me, a different story. These people still make money from their intellectual property, and sometimes they use that money to accomplish things that affirm their potentially skewed values.

Orson Scott Card, the author of the "Enders Game" series and devout Mormon, continues to use his platform to write about how much he opposes LGBTQ



Henry Shorr

rights and his money to donate to anti-gay charities. J.K. Rowling's most recent books, penned under the pen name Robert Galbraith, disparage trans women as perverts and criminals.

She also funded a "women-only" crisis shelter in Edinburgh that excluded trans women after First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, called for the passing of a bill that would make it easier for Scottish citizens to change their gender on legal forms.

Warner Brothers and Avalanche, the studio that made Hogwarts Legacy, have repeatedly stated in their recent attempts to make more money from the wizarding world intellectual property that Rowling has little to no input in content creation anymore.

Rowling was not included in HBO's Harry Potter reunion and Avalanche has put effort into the game into making it more trans-inclusive: There is a trans non-player character in the game and players can decide whether they would like to be referred to as a witch or wizard regardless of their gender.

That said, Rowling will still get paid.

I'm not going to say people who play the game because of their love for Harry Potter are all transphobes. Rowling created a world in which millions of people have found power and comfort

We should, however, think about how our buying power affects how decisions are made at the top. We as consumers don't have much recourse to tell the powers that be how we feel other than using or withholding our dollars.

So, I'll wait to play the game until I can either play it for free or buy it used.

I hear it's still pretty buggy too.

# The Jambar Editorial

## The Tressel Effect

On June 22, 2022, President Jim Tressel announced that effective Feb. 1, he will be stepping away as president at Youngstown State University. Since that announcement, sports at YSU have accomplished program records, championship appearances and playoff implications.

This in turn has put the "Tressel Effect" into motion. What is the Tressel Effect? It's an original theory that any announcement Tressel makes not only affects Youngstown State sports but the university as a whole in a positive way.

The Tressel Effect can be traced back to 1985, the same year Tressel was hired as the football head coach at YSU. It wasn't until 1990 that the stats started to show a trend, officially starting the Tressel Effect.

According to YSU's Preliminary Fall Enrollment numbers, from 1990 to 1994, YSU saw a steady increase of enrollment during the fall semesters.

During the same span, Tressel led Youngstown State's football team to three national titles, with 1992 being the only exception. Losing to Marshall University in the championship game, 28-31.

At the time, graduate assistant Doug Phillips aided Tressel during his coaching career and appearing in a national title game, from 1991-1992. In 2020, he was named as the current football head coach.

In 2022, Phillips led the men's football team to a compelling 5-3 record in the Missouri Valley Football Conference tied for third, marking the first time since 2016.

Besides football, other sports were affected by Tressel as well. This can be seen during the start of the fall semester in 2022. For the first time in program history, the women's soccer team finished with a record of 9-8-3 and fought their way to the Horizon League Finals.

The last time the women's soccer team appeared in the playoffs was in 2014, falling to the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay, 1-3 in the Horizon league quarter-

finals. The same year, Tressel was announced as the new president at YSU.

However in 2014, the women's volleyball team made it to the Horizon league Championship but fell to the University of Illinois Chicago, 3-2.

The trend continued in the 2022 fall semester, as the women's volleyball team finished 14-16, and made it to the Horizon League Volleyball Championships for the first time since the 2014 season falling to Green Bay, 1-3.

What makes the Tressel Effect interesting is that, during the same year, both women's soccer and women's volleyball made it to the playoffs and broke the record books.

In 2001, Tressel was named the 22nd football head coach at The Ohio State University with the hopes of rebuilding a dismantled Buckeyes team. His hopes became reality, earning the team's first national title since 1970 and finishing, 14-0.

The student enrollment at OSU saw a substantial increase during Tressel's 10 year tenure as the Buckeyes head coach.

During the fall 2001 to 2002 semester, OSU saw a 50.8% increase from the previous year. From 2002-2003, a 50.4% increase happened the following fall semester according to oesar.osu.edu.

At OSU, the Tressel Effect is also prominent, with the announcement of his presidency with YSU in 2014, the Buckeyes won the college football National Championship during the 2014-15 season, the first time since 2002.

It seems as though the Tressel Effect has the greatest impact during the fall semester, this spring semester is on pace to be the year to break the trend.

With the year of recurring trends because of the effects of the Tressel Effect, this could foreshadow what is in store for the softball team this season.

With the spring semester in full swing, this could be the semester to continue the Tressel Effect.

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## THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

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The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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# Baseball season bats up

By Andrew Peterson  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's baseball team is gearing up for its 2023 season.

Last season, the Penguins went 21-36 and won just under 40% of their total games.

For the Horizon League conference games, the Penguins went 12-16 — just above 40%.

The 'Guins did have some achievements in 2022. Matt Brosky was named to the 2022 Horizon League Baseball All-Tournament Team for his performance in the league's post-season tournament

Last year as a junior, Braeden O'Shaughnessy set a new single-season school record for games played and started in. O'Shaughnessy was named First-Team All-Horizon League. He's the second YSU infielder to earn First-Team All-Horizon League honors since Drew Dosch in 2013. O'Shaughnessy finished the season ranked second in the Horizon League in batting average.

This season as a senior, O'Shaughnessy won PNC Achievers Award, which is awarded to someone with leadership qualities on the field, in the classroom and

within the community.

O'Shaughnessy said he was striving for the achievements.

"I want to be First-Team All-Horizon League again and hopefully player of the year," O'Shaughnessy said.

Last year, head coach Dan Bertolini had some achievements of his own with the Penguins.

Bertolini helped YSU to a 21-36 record to give YSU back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since 2005-2006. He also won 13 road games for the second straight season with double-digit road wins in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2006-2007.

In 2022, YSU placed third in the Horizon League Baseball Championship, which was the program's best finish since winning the tournament in 2014.

Freshman Matt Thompson will start at second base for the team. He was ranked as the No. 33 overall prospect in Ohio and the No. 10 shortstop in Ohio by Perfect Game.

Thompson, who comes in as a true freshman, said he's working to adjust to the schedule of a student-athlete in college as opposed to high school.

"At first it was difficult because you have to go to class. Early workouts start at 2 p.m. but some guys get

there before 2 p.m. so that is something that I adopted," Thompson said. "It is basically like go to class, eat, practice, lift [and] sleep. Then, you just repeat that every day."

Bertolini said the team is working to improve its record from last season.

"We have an older group, we have some guys that have been here for 4, 5 and some 6 years. So we're going to rely on that experience to lead us through this year," Bertolini said.

Bertolini also said he had many expectations for the team this upcoming season.

"I feel really good [with] where we're at as a team from an offensive perspective, on the mound. That ultimately our goal is to win a Horizon League Championship," Bertolini said.

On Feb. 15, the men's baseball team was picked to finish fourth in the Horizon League in 2023 by the league's head coaches.

The Penguins are away Feb. 17 and will play the University of Illinois and Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The game can be listened to at [YSNLive.com](https://www.ysnlive.com).

# YSU softball heads to the mound

By Dylan Lux  
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University softball team opened this season in Norfolk, Virginia, where the Penguins took on Norfolk State University. The team had four matchups against the Spartans and were victorious in one.

The Penguins had a .257 batting average and 13 runs in the four-game stretch to rival the Spartans' .282 average and 21 runs.

Brian Campbell, head coach of YSU's softball team, said the biggest change for the team in the offseason was five starters graduating. Campbell said those players excelled as team leaders.

"The big change is, they did a good job teaching the younger players that were here last year, to be able to come in and

know what to expect," Campbell said.

Campbell said this year's upperclassmen are taking on the leadership mantle this season.

"Our upperclassmen this year have done a tremendous job with our younger kids. Teaching them what we're looking for, teaching them the aspect of the game," Campbell said. "The college game is a lot faster."

YSU also added former pitcher and YSU record-holder for career wins and career strikeouts, Elle Buffenbarger, to the coaching staff in the offseason.

Campbell said Buffenbarger was a good fit for the coaching position, and impacts the team positively.

"Elle stood out when we did the interview process. She's come in and done a tremendous job with our pitchers the last couple years," Campbell said. "This gives

us an opportunity for a pitching coach to be with them all the time, be able to work with them, and set the standard."

Sophie Howell, a junior pitcher for the Penguins, said Buffenbarger brings valuable experience to share with the players.

"[Buffenbarger]'s very successful here, set many records, and having her knowledge and knowing the impact that she had here, and knowing how she's played here the past five years is definitely helpful," Howell said. "She's very encouraging, makes you feel the best even when you're not having the best day."

The team plays The Ohio State University April 18. Junior outfielder Hailey Neiderkahr said she's excited to play a Big Ten opponent.

"I have a couple of past teammates that went to Ohio State, so just being able to see them again, and play against them ...

I'm very excited to play them this year, because we've never really had the opportunity to before," Neiderkahr said.

Campbell said that one of the challenges for the team early on this season will be switching from indoor to outdoor fields.

"It's just getting out of the beautiful W.A.T.T.S. that we have and on dirt is the most important," Campbell said. "We play the first 21 games on the road. It's nothing that's not normal for us to be able to do. But it's about putting everything together."

The Penguins look to improve their 1-3 record Feb. 25, at the UMBC Tournament in Baltimore. They will face both Lafayette University and The University of Maryland Baltimore County in a two-day event. You can find updates on the games at [ysusports.com](https://www.ysusports.com).

PENGUINS WADDLE AWAY WITH THE WIN

# Ritz leads Penguins in back-to-back wins

By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team returned home after losing two games on the road. The Penguins faced off against Oakland University on Feb. 9. The team defeated the Raiders in a dominant fashion, 85-62.

Four players scored in double-figures for Youngstown. Fifth-year senior Lilly Ritz had a dominant performance scoring 31 points, nine rebounds and also had five steals. That is the most points by a women's player at YSU since 2015.

Junior Malia Magestro and sixth-year senior Megan Callahan both scored 12 points. Magestro added five assists and three rebounds. Junior Shay-Lee Kirby came off the bench and scored 13 points on a perfect 5-of-5 from the field, which tied her season high.

In the first quarter the 'Guins jumped out to an early lead. They ended the quarter on an 8-0 run and led by 13 points. In the second quarter, the team kept the pressure up and led at halftime, 44-30.

In the third quarter, Ritz scored 10 points and the Penguins extended the lead to 20 by the end of the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the team finished strong and secured the 23 point victory. As a team it shot 54.1% from the field and also scored 40 points in the paint.

The team picked up its 11th conference win of the season and improved to 11-4 in the Horizon League.

Ritz spoke after the game about the team having 24 total assists and the importance of sharing the basketball after two tough road losses.

"We were just playing unselfish basketball and I think that's when we do our best. Just making the extra pass, and getting the ball to the post and just getting the ball out to the shooters is what we

needed to do," Ritz said.

On Feb. 11, the last place University of Detroit Mercy came to town. The Penguins came out on top by a final score of 72-67 and improved to 12-4 in the Horizon League.

Despite 15 lead changes, and shooting 30.4% from 3-point-range the Penguins secured the five point victory at home.

Three players for the women scored in double figures. Ritz once again led the way with her 14th double-double for the season, as she scored 26 points and 12 rebounds along with three steals.

Callahan scored 16 points. Senior

"We were just playing unselfish basketball and I think that's when we do our best. Just making the extra pass, and getting the ball to the post and just getting the ball out to the shooters is what we needed to do."

— Lilly Ritz,  
Senior Forward

Paige Shy made some big plays down the stretch, scoring 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Magestro scored nine points and had seven rebounds.

After the first quarter, the Titans lead by three. In the second quarter, the Penguins battled back and tied the game at 30 going into halftime.

In the third quarter the Titans jumped out to a five-point lead, the Penguins once again climbed back and tied the game heading into the fourth.

The Guins' went on a 10-0 run in the beginning of the fourth. The Titans brought the game within one, with less than 50 seconds remaining. The game came down to free throws and the Penguins went 6-for-8 and won the game.

Head coach John Barnes spoke after the game about the team struggling early against Detroit Mercy and how it came away with the win.

"I thought we were just off today and maybe that was their defense. We just didn't have the same fire as we did against Oakland and I was worried about this because everybody played an outstanding game on Thursday, so I was a little worried about us not playing our best. But I thought we showed a lot of toughness and heart to come back and hold on," Barnes said.

The team currently sits two games back of first place in the Horizon League. The Penguins have four games remaining, two at home and then two on the road. These games will be very important in deciding the Penguins seeding for the Horizon League tournament.

The Penguins continue their home-stand at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 as they host the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Then at 1 p.m. on Feb. 19 they host the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Both games can be listened to on 570 WKBN or watched on ESPN+.

## AWAY SPORTING EVENTS

### Feb. 17:

Swimming & Diving at Horizon League Championships  
@ Indianapolis, Indiana

Bowling at Mid-Winter Invitational  
@ Jonesboro, Arkansas

Men's Tennis at Northern Illinois  
@ DeKalb, Illinois

Women's Tennis at Bowling Green  
@ Bowling Green, Ohio

### Feb. 18:

Swimming & Diving at Horizon League Championships  
@ Indianapolis, Indiana

Bowling at Mid-Winter Invitational  
@ Jonesboro, Arkansas

Women's Tennis at Eastern Michigan  
@ Ypsilanti, Michigan

Men's Tennis at Northern Dakota  
@ DeKalb, Illinois

# Penguins down the Don's, raided by Vikings

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team hit the road over a two-game stretch finishing 1-1 and shaking up the Horizon league standings, Feb. 10 and 12.

The Penguins started their road trip with a hard-fought victory over Purdue University Fort Wayne. Senior Dwayne Cohill led the offense with 33 points en route to a compelling 81-72 win over the Mastodons, Feb. 10.

Inside the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Youngstown State popped out with a dominant offensive effort.

The effort was aided by graduate student Adrian Nelson. Nelson scored 15 points and nabbed nine rebounds, while senior Brandon Rush added 12 points.

During the first period, the Penguins went on a compelling 13-4 scoring run to close out the first half. The momentum carried into the second half, as the men took a 16-point lead early on.

Youngstown State looked to continue its winning streak Feb. 12, but came up short, 78-81 against Cleveland State University.

The Penguins lost a hard-fought match, as the lead changed 10 different times throughout the game.

Despite the loss, four players scored in double figures. Rush led the way with 20 points, attempting to jump-start the Youngstown State offense.

The defensive effort was facilitated

by Nelson, who marked his 12th double-double of the season with 19 rebounds and 12 points, tying a career high in rebounds.

As the regular season draws to a close, the men's basketball team falls to 20-7 overall and 12-4 in Horizon League play.

With an outstanding team performance this season, Cohill said it has been a long road from the start of the season until the end.

"It hasn't been easy this whole way, and it definitely won't be easy at the end of the season," Cohill said.

With four games left in the season, the Horizon League standings are in a two-way tie for first between the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Youngstown State.

With play-off implications looming, Youngstown State hopes to add an exclamation mark to its dominant season with a win over Purdue Fort Wayne. Head coach Jerrod Calhoun said the upcoming game will be a battle.

"It's a great opportunity for our guys who worked really hard this year," Calhoun said. "It's going to be a physical and tough game."

The men's basketball team returns home inside the Beeghly Center, rounding out the final two home games of the season, Feb. 16 and Feb. 18.

Youngstown State tips off the two-game homestand, welcoming Milwaukee at home for the last time this season on Feb. 16. The battle of the Horizon League can be watched on ESPN+ and listened to on 570 WKBN.



Bryce McBride attempts a layup.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes