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CELEBRATING LOVE AND SPRING



Holi is also known as the Festival of Colors.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Nepalese Student Association celebrates Hindu festival Holi

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

The Nepalese Student Association held a Holi celebration from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 7 at the Cafaro House lawns.

Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates the arrival of spring and the eternal love of the goddess Radha and the god Krishna. It also signifies the triumph of good over evil as it commemorates the victory of Vishnu's form as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu.

NSA president, Sashank Pandey, said Holi was in March, but the celebration took place in April be-

cause of the cold weather.

"The actual date of Holi that is celebrated in Nepal and India has already gone like one month ago, it was like on March. But due to the cold weather, we could not celebrate. Now that the weather is getting warmer, we are celebrating as soon as possible," Pandey said.

Holi is celebrated in almost every part of India and Nepal, but is not a recognized national holiday in the U.S. Pandey said he is happy to celebrate Holi on campus.

Holi, Page 2

Branching out into online degrees

By Elizabeth Coss and Michael Sheehan
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Department of Cyberlearning offers various courses, degrees and certificates — entirely online.

A variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees are available, ranging from nursing, respiratory care, criminal justice, education and more.

Jessica Chill, the director of Cyberlearning, explained that the department has two primary objectives, to support students in fully-online programs and to assist faculty in building online courses.

Chill said the department has come a long way since its inception, as enrollment in online courses and the number of courses available have increased significantly.

Cyberlearning, Page 4

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

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Holi

Page 1

“We Nepalese people, we already know about this, but we can provide [Americans information] about how our culture is and how we celebrate different festivals. We feel like we are far from home, so small events like this can make us feel like we are with our culture and we feel happy,” Pandey said.

The holiday is also known as the Festival of Colors and is celebrated by smearing powdered colors onto a person’s skin and clothes. Students at the celebration danced to music while throwing bright pink, yellow, purple, blue and green colors into the air and onto one another.

Manev Desai, a freshman biology

pre-medicine major, said each color is symbolic.

“Each color is supposed to represent a different aspect of life. Red represents love, yellow represents [a] bright, cheerful, jolly spirit. Green represents the lush greenery, [and] pink represents the fresh beauty,” Desai said.

Desai said he was excited to celebrate with the colors.

“[I’m most excited for] the color run. It signifies that coloring your life with the new spirit of spring, the fresh awakening of the new energies that come with the spring,” Desai said.

Aniket Singh, a graduate student studying computer science, said he enjoyed the Holi celebration.

“It’s the festival of colors and that’s

what we like. Everyone is just having fun, not worrying about anything, just enjoying the colors,” Singh said.

Singh said having Holi at YSU was important for those who celebrate and who are unfamiliar with the holiday.

“There are a lot of Nepalese and Indian students and I’m pretty sure some other cultures celebrate something similar, but they don’t get to celebrate this in America,” Singh said. “It’s a great opportunity to get involved in these kind of events and festivals, and even for American students they can get some experience in this so it’s good for basically everyone and it makes us diverse.”


For more information on the Nepalese Student Association, email Pandey at spandeyo9@student.ysu.edu.





Students throw powdered colors at each other for the Festival of Colors.


Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar


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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
High: 82°F Low: 49°F Chance of precip: 1%	High: 81°F Low: 56°F Chance of precip: 8%	High: 77°F Low: 58°F Chance of precip: 25%	High: 76°F Low: 44°F Chance of precip: 95%	High: 50°F Low: 37°F Chance of precip: 64%	High: 51°F Low: 36°F Chance of precip: 55%	High: 63°F Low: 46°F Chance of precip: 4%
 Fair	 Fair	 Overcast	 Rain	 Rain	 Rain	 Partly Cloudy

Information courtesy of accuweather.com



The Tressel Institute appeared at the 2022 Homecoming Parade.

Photo courtesy of Jenna Binsley

Continuing dedication: The Tressel Institute

By Raeghan Hilton
Jambar Contributor

The Tressel Institute for Leadership and Teamwork aids Youngstown State University students in developing skills beyond the classroom to make them more marketable as job candidates.

The Tressel Institute was established in 2021 because some students lacked “soft skills” necessary for career success. Some of these “soft skills” include continuous learning, time management, decision-making, collaboration and emotional intelligence.

Former President Jim Tressel serves on the board for the organization and is featured in a video speaking about the institute.

“Our vision is to really have four avenues as we build out this institute. The first and most important — that is going to take a lot of our time in the early going — is to create a Personal Leadership Track for our students here at Youngstown State University,” Tressel said.

Jenna Binsley, program manager for The Tressel Institute, said it’s funded through donations from the community.

The first initiative, which falls under the Personal Leadership Track, is the online-based Personal Leadership Badge Program available for the institute’s part-

ners which are the Sokolov Honors College and the YSU Athletic Department.

“It has been our first initiative we are focusing on, so with that we have been able to partner with [the] Honors College, athletics on campus, as well as different groups too, such as DEI with our programming,” Binsley said. “We have been able to help over 626 students actually go through our program.”

Binsley said the Personal Leadership Badge Program includes five different badges, which highlight the “soft skills” that students learn outside of the classroom.

The five badges are My Personal Journey, My Commitment To All, My Healthy Habits for Life, My Career Path and My Financial Game Plan.

All of the badges are available to students who complete at their own pace. Students do not have to complete all of the badges, but won’t receive the Personal Leadership certificate that is given after completing all five of the badges.

Della Toliver, a sophomore nursing major and peer coach, further explained the Personal Leadership Badge Program.

“The students watch an introductory video about the badge that they’re going to learn about. Then they watch the key concept videos, which basically goes more into detail about what the badges are about,” Toliver said,

“Then ... they watch our guest servant leader videos, which our guest servant leaders are members of the community or YSU alumni, that volunteer their time and kind of talk about their experiences relating to the badge.”

After the students have watched the guest servant leaders, the peer coaches are brought in, Toliver said. The institute has about 20 peer coaches, whose job is to work with other students and evaluate their goals to make them as attainable as possible.

Binsley said peer coaches are required to complete the badge program and additional training to become a peer coach for The Tressel Institute.

Recently, The Tressel Institute held a Financial Networking Night so students could talk with certified financial professionals on a personal level.

Binsley said, moving forward, they hope to make the Personal Leadership Track available for all students as well as create a speaker, leadership and teamwork series. Going into the next school year, it’s also a goal for the institute to be more engaged on campus by hosting events.

Binsley said The Tressel Institute hopes to offer services to local businesses as well.

Cyberlearning

Page 1

"When I started in 2014, I think we maybe had 200 [students] ... enrolled in fully online programs and now we're close to a little over 1500," Chill said. "We had at that time also maybe around nine programs ... we're up to a little over 30 now."

The pandemic also affected the department's enrollment. Chill said the amount of students taking online courses at YSU has tripled since the start of the pandemic.

"Around 10% of our enrollment were in online or hybrid courses pre-pandemic. Post-pandemic, I just checked the numbers for spring, it was around 30% of our enrollments were in online [courses]," Chill said.

Chill said the department is considering expanding to undergraduate-level certificates too.

"We have several — I want to say eight or nine — licensures, certificates. Most of them are grad level ... hopefully, we can branch out and do some undergrad level certifications as well," Chill said.

The department has certificates available for post-graduate students as well. These include certificates for a family nurse practitioner, in nursing education, a superintendent licensure or a principal certificate.

Unlike a traditional degree, the Department of Cyberlearning doesn't require an individual to be an enrolled student to obtain a certificate.

The department gauges student interest before adding more degree options. One undergraduate degree in the works is graphic design.

"We actually utilize program evaluation data to look at student demand for specific programs, competitive intensity," Chill said. "[We consider] the possibility of salary once students graduate, compensation — we want to make sure that's all valid before we implement a program. I know one that we are currently developing courses for is in graphic design."

The Department of Cyberlearning has earned numerous Badges of Excellence from a few different organizations.

According to Chill, YSU's Department of Cyberlearning was highlighted in the top 10 of Best online MBA programs for 2022. The department also received a top-10 online master's degree in health care management programs in Ohio.

Other badges include best online master's criminal justice program and most affordable master's degree.

If interested in learning more about the Department of Cyberlearning, visit its page on YSU's website, or contact Jessica Chill at (330) 941-1526.



Jessica Chill is the director of Cyberlearning.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

The next generation of doctors from YSU

By Elizabeth Coss and Michael Sheehan
The Jambar

For students aspiring to become doctors and physicians, the BaccMed program at Youngstown State University is working to prepare them for medical school.

Almost every month the program holds cohort meetings to aid students through day-to-day life with team-building experiences and learning about medical school entrance exams.

Mollie Hartup, director of the Sokolov Honors College, which houses the BaccMed program, said the program has been welcoming on average 35 students a year and guiding them into the medical field.

"We just welcomed — I think it was — 24 BaccMed students at our Honors orientation we had in March and I think we have another 11 signed up in May," Hartup said. "We're still always in the recruiting process and of course wanting our students who indicate that they're coming to remain connected [to YSU] and have a good experience."

At the April 3 meeting, Dr. Tiffany Hughes, an associate professor in the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences graduate studies program, spoke to students about op-

portunities Ohio Living and the Vivo Center could offer them.

Hughes said while working with the university for nine years, there have been opportunities for collaboration in her job.

"I've been working with different community partners over this time period including a statewide nonprofit organization called Ohio Living," Hughes said. "They have a lot of different services and support that they provide in the community ranging from skilled nursing care, [to] memory care [and] independent living."

Hughes also said pre-medical students should begin thinking about where their careers will take them, and that they should consider caring for the older population.

"The fastest growing segment of our population is 85 and older, so if you guys are going to go into being doctors, even if you're not a geriatrician who specializes in the older adult population, there's a good chance ... you're going to work with older clients," Hughes said.

Before BaccMed students can provide medical care, they must first pass the Medical College Admissions Test.

The test, which is comprised of four sections, includ-

ing a psychology and sociology section, a chemistry and physics section, a critical analysis and reasoning essay section, and a biochemistry and biology section, challenges an undergraduate student's knowledge before medical school.

Jacob Fay, a senior biology major, wants to attend the Northeast Ohio Medical University after graduating from YSU. Fay said it's important for medical students to start prepping for the MCAT sooner rather than later.

"The MCAT is one of the major metrics that medical schools look for to see if you will succeed," Fay said. "The averages for the exam has increased in the past couple years, so it's important to make sure you are maintaining your own baseline to keep up with a national average."

Hartup said that at YSU, students have flexible track options to either follow a traditional four-year plan or an accelerated pathway into medical school a year early.

"We have a curriculum that is flexible and that can adapt to whatever the student need and interest is, whether they'd like to go a three or four year pathway," Hartup said.

For more information on applying to YSU's BaccMed program, visit ysu.edu.

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE



Guins Against Cancer plans Relay for Life.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Guins Against Cancer prepares for fundraiser

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

The Guins Against Cancer organization will host Relay for Life from noon to 8 p.m. April 29 at Farmers National Bank Field.

Relay for Life is an annual fundraiser that benefits the American Cancer Society, a nonprofit organization that helps fight cancer through research, education, advocacy and more.

Celeste Kapalin, a junior public and professional writing major, is an executive team member of Guins Against Cancer. Kapalin said people will walk the track throughout the event.

"The concept is to have people walking the track all day but then throughout the day there's activities. There's a YSU lap, sometimes we'll have Zumba or yoga," Kapalin said.

The event will begin with a lap around the soccer field for cancer survivors. The second lap will invite caregivers of survivors.

Kapalin said attendees can also play games and eat food at Relay for Life.

"We have teams that fundraise money for us. So they have tables, and they sell food and have activities and stuff. Then, we also have raffle baskets," Kapalin said.

Senior nursing major, Haley Lowe, is an event lead for Guins Against Cancer. Lowe said Relay for Life will honor those affected by cancer.

"We like to honor our survivors that are involved in our group. We have a luminaria ceremony, that's kind of like in memory or in support of those with cancer or those who have passed from cancer," Lowe said.

Guins Against Cancer has been preparing for Relay for Life since the beginning of the fall 2022 semester. Lowe said she is looking forward to the day full of fun.

"We plan it all year and you get kind of nervous for it, but you just have a lot of fun all day and you have a lot of good food, laughter, friends, you honor people and it's just a really fun day," Lowe said.

Guins Against Cancer organizes other fundraisers throughout the year such as selling t-shirts, partnering with Chipotle, selling popcorn and more. Lowe said the organization was able to raise money last year, despite facing challenges from the pandemic.

"Last year our turn out was a little bit less than the year

previously because of [COVID-19], we had a little bit of issues with that. But I think we raised about \$33,000 throughout the year last year," Lowe said.

Third-year mechanical engineering major, Emilio Santiago, is the chair for the logistics committee in Guins Against Cancer. Santiago said he joined the organization to combat cancer.

"There's no one specifically in my family that has been hit by cancer at all, but I know some friends and some people closer to my family that have had cancer and because I know them so well and I've seen what it does I wanted to be a part of something to help out," Santiago said.

Santiago said he encourages students to get involved in Guins Against Cancer.

"Despite what someone may think, it actually is a lot of fun, and you get to meet a lot of people as well. But especially for our relay event, there's always a lot of fun things we like to do just to keep everyone active, and it's overall just a good time," Santiago said.

For more information on Relay for Life, head to its website. For those who want to be involved with Guins Against Cancer, email Lowe at halowe@student.ysu.edu.

Ongoing Adderall shortage

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

The Food & Drug Administration declared an Adderall shortage in October 2022 and after six months, it's still ongoing. The shortage has brought concerns to those who use the medication for health needs.

Adderall is a medication for people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. As stated by Lee Health, Adderall is used to "improve focus and reduce impulsivity by increasing dopamine and norepinephrine levels in the brain."

The shortage of Adderall is because the companies making the medication are experiencing manufacturing delays and not making enough of the medication to meet demands.

As stated by the FDA, "Teva, is experiencing ongoing intermittent manufacturing delays. Other manufacturers con-

tinue to produce amphetamine mixed salts, but there is not [a] sufficient supply to continue to meet U.S. market demand through those producers."

Youngstown State University has resources available for students during the shortage. Gina McGranahan, the associate director of Accessibility Services, said it can provide students with accommodations in the classroom.

"It depends on what the student needs. All accommodations are always based on what the students need. So, if it's a concentration issue and they're taking tests, we can give them extra time to take their test in a quiet place with limited distractions," McGranahan said.

McGranahan also said Accessibility Services can help students in the classroom and on campus, but would recommend students to talk with their physician about prescriptions.

"I don't know what kind of medication

[the student] should be taking or anything like that, so we always refer them back to their prescribing professional," McGranahan said.

Students have mentioned their thoughts and concerns about the shortage. Luke Franks, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said he thinks it's dangerous for those prescribed Adderall to suddenly not receive it.

"It's a very powerful drug, and I think it's very questionable that [doctors] prescribe it so willy-nilly to children," Franks said. "The fact of the matter is a lot of people have been relying on this drug for quite a few years and to make all those people cold turkey could be dangerous and harmful to them. Even ignoring switching to a new drug or something, I just think it's scary and dangerous."

McGranahan said it is important for students to register for Accessibility

Services even when it is not necessary because of situations like the shortage coming up.

"I always tell students that it's better to be registered and not need Accessibility Services than need Accessibility Services and not be registered," McGranahan said. "If something like this comes up, then they can always come in and talk to us and we can see what accommodations can be made to assist them."

The FDA has said it will continue to monitor supplies and assist manufacturers during this shortage. The agency stated it will keep an updated list of alternatives to the medication and manufacturers.

For updates about the shortage, visit the FDA's website. Students can visit the Accessibility Services office on the second floor of Kilcawley Center or visit its website.

Taking CARE of the YSU community

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

At the Office of the Dean of Students, the CARE Team, which stands for Concern, Assessment, Referral and Education, serves as a board for students to address personal safety issues for the Youngstown State University community.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, Dean of Student and ombudsperson, said the CARE team is made of key members in the YSU community who make decisions about individuals with food insecurity issues and harming themselves or others.

"The CARE Team is made up of a lot of key members of our campus community, all that have some authority to make changes or to act pretty immediately should that come up," Kent-Strollo said.

The CARE Team is divided up into 3 groups: core members, inner circle members and middle circle members. The NaBITA Risk Rubric, National Behavioral Intervention Team Association's guidelines, recommends who sits on the team based on their job position.

"It's not about personalities or who we like more. It's really about the role and scope of the person who's employed in that position," Kent-Strollo said.

The Penguin of Concern Referral Form, which is open to the public and not limited to just the YSU community, is the main way the CARE Team receives a concern.

"The Penguin of Concern Form is deliberately open to the public," Kent-Strollo said. "Our goal is to make sure that our campus is seen as a community that cares about one another and [the Penguin of Concern] is one way that we can assist our students."

Kent-Strollo said submitting a Penguin of Concern Referral Form is one way a person can show they care about the individual.

"The majority of reports that we get actually come from other people. Might be a teammate, might be a coach, might be a family member ... We get a lot from faculty which is really great because those individuals spend so much time with our students," Kent-Strollo said.

The Care Team receives referrals from the Penguin of Concerns Referral Form and then follows the NaBITA

Risk Rubric to make a decision about the report.

"We follow the NaBITA guidelines — at this point — we follow exactly what they say in that, then all reports are reviewed by the CARE Team," Kent-Strollo said.

The NaBITA Risk Rubric uses two scales: D-Scale and E-Scale. D-Scale is if a person is potentially going to hurt themselves and E-Scale is if a person is potentially going to harm others. From there, the person gets evaluated on a scale of mild to critical behavior.

Kent-Strollo said the CARE Team tries to make sure they have all the information needed before taking the appropriate steps of action.

"What's important about [reviewing all reports] is if we get something that comes through about a student, I might not know anything else about the student ... maybe accessibility services or ... someone even in Title IX area has had some interactions," Kent-Strollo said. "We want to make sure that we have all the pieces of the puzzle so that we can actually rate the level of the concern."

To learn more about the CARE Team and the Penguin of Concern Referral Form, visit the Office of the Dean of Students' website.

Writing help for finals

By **Samantha Smith**
The Jambar

Finals season is around the corner and the Writing Center at Youngstown State University is offering help for students.

The Writing Center is located in both the William F. Maag Jr. Library and Stambaugh Stadium. Ryan Teets, consultant for the Writing Center, explained what the center is and how it can help students with any writing needs.

“The Writing Center is the place you can come to get some writing support. If you’re having any problems with formatting or grammar — things like that — come in and we can give you a consultation and kind of help you improve your score,” Teets said.

Eden Lesnansky, consultant for the Writing Center, said the center can help with different forms of writing.

“We work with any sort of writing project that you may have like poetry, writing labs, anything like that,” Lesnansky said. “You can come down for free and sit with a tutor and we kind of go over whatever you have with you.”

The center will not have extra hours for finals, but will be open through finals week. Angela Messenger, coordinator of the Writing Center, said the hours will be posted for students for finals.

“We don’t have any specific, like extra hours this particular semester in terms of moving towards finals,” Messenger said. “I will let everyone know that we will be posting a finals schedule, so we will still be open during finals week. If students are working on last minute projects that involve writing that would be graded, any subject.”

Lesnansky said she has already helped a few clients with papers for their finals.

“I’ve already worked with a couple of clients on specific papers that they know that they’re gonna have to write for a final,” Lesnansky said. “I had a client come in and ask to write a sample, a little bit of something that he knew he’d have to write on his final. Just so I can kind of look over and give him any pointers, especially with structure.”

The Writing Center takes appointments and walk-ins, but walk-ins are on a first come, first serve basis.

Appointments can be in person or online. Messenger explained what the online appointments are.

“The online appointments can also be asynchronous. There’s something called the distance-edu-tutor and that person does the remote appointments where a student, at that point, has to be at the stage where they have something for us to look at. Then, it’s a two business day turnaround,” Messenger said.

Messenger said it’s best for students to start their writing sooner than later.

“There’s only a few weeks left, but you don’t want to try to write a paper the night before it’s due. I know it’s tempting, the best procrastinators in all of us, but you’re gonna thank yourself if you get your research done and have a couple of visits leading up to your due date rather than trying to get it all done at the end,” Messenger said.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday and 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information about the Writing Center, visit its webpage.



The Writing Center’s main location is on the bottom floor of the William F. Maag Jr. Library.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

FROM CHICAGO TO YOUNGSTOWN

Federal Frenzy is brewing

Greetings from YSU Penguin Productions



9th Annual Music and Arts Festival

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By Cassandra Lucyk
 Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's Penguin Productions is hosting its ninth-annual Federal Frenzy, April 22.

Mia Albaugh, president of Penguin Productions, said Federal Frenzy connects students with music and the greater Youngstown community.

"[Federal Frenzy] gives a lot of people an opportunity to see concerts, bands, live music, food trucks and activities," Albaugh said. "We have some art projects going on, so it's an opportunity for everybody to experience that in a free way."

Penguin Productions is a student-led organization that creates community events. Albaugh said it has been working all semester on this project.

"It's really cool and awesome to mention how hard everybody works. Like our talent team, right off the bat, as soon as we came back from [winter] break we needed to start looking for our headliner," Albaugh said.

Federal Frenzy was previously located on West Federal Street, but because of the construction in downtown Youngstown, the event was moved to East Federal Street. The change allows Penguin Productions to partner with Penguin City Brewing Co.

Aspasia Lyras, co-owner of Penguin

City Brewing Co., said there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

"There will be three stages around our area. We're gonna have a stage in our tap room, a stage in the way back of our warehouse and there's also gonna be a nice beer garden outdoors next to the main stage," Lyras said. "They're gonna have games, fun drinks, mocktails and cornhole."

Penguin Productions and Penguin City Brewing Co. teamed up with the Youngstown Flea.

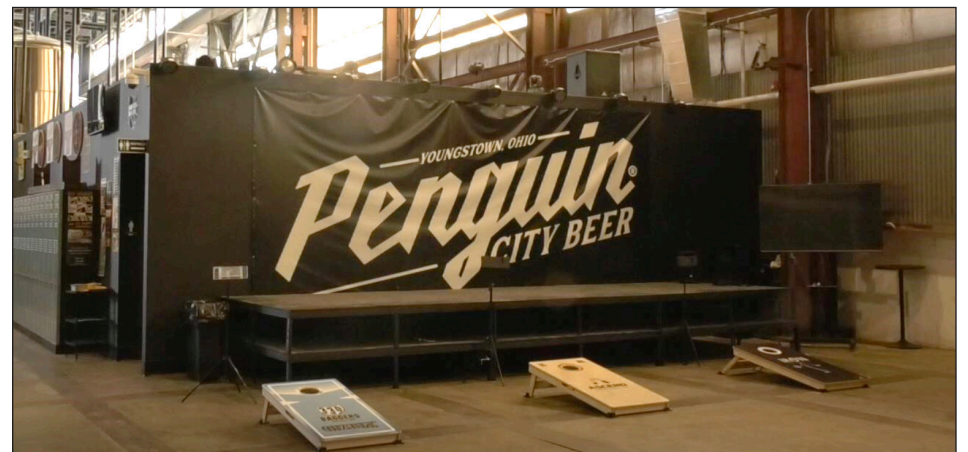
Derrick McDowell, founder of the Youngstown Flea, said the company has a small role in Federal Frenzy.

"This year [the Youngstown Flea] consider ourselves a community collaboration. We're falling into whatever Penguin Productions has planned," McDowell said.

The Flea will bring lawn games, a curated selection of 30 to 35 vendors and stage set up at its building.

Penguin Productions announced the lineup of artists on its Instagram. The headliner Mick Jenkins and other local artists such as The Commonheart, Fifth & Aurora and East 9th will take the stage.

To see more of Penguin Productions' events, visit its Instagram, @ysupenpro. For more information on Federal Frenzy, visit its website.



Federal Frenzy will host a variety of performers.

Photo courtesy of Penguin Productions

Penguin City Brewing Co. will host games during the event.

Photo by Cassandra Lucyk / Jambar Contributor

The boys are back in town

By John Ostapowicz
Jambar Contributor

In the Mahoning Valley, The Labra Brothers have been a staple with their stand-out live performances at local venues with unique latin sounds.

By combining latin roots, soul and funk, The Labra Brothers have changed their sound in preparation for the band's new EP, "Be Cool" which was released April 7. Accompanied with the release, the brothers performed at Westside Bowl April 8.

To The Labra Brothers, family is what drives the band with four of their members being brothers.

The brothers grew up in Youngstown, with the oldest brother, lead-guitarist and vocalist Adrian Labra, making the biggest impact on the brothers' music influences.

Adrian Labra graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Accounting in 2014.

The second oldest brother and bass player, Cristian Labra, said he remembers the impact his older brother had on his musical upbringing.

"[Adrian] started playing out at restaurants and bars, solo," Cristian Labra said. "I started to pick up percussion and started to be a percussionist and vocalist with him."

Shortly after, Cristian Labra switched to bass and has stuck with it since.

"Eventually, [Adrian] came to me with the idea of picking up bass," Cristian Labra said. "It was fun to really dive into an instrument and learn it."

While putting the band together, guitarist and saxophonist David Labra was initiated into the group when his older brothers persuaded him to take up the saxophone as a second instrument.

"While [Adrian] was officially starting the group, he said, 'David, we just need you to learn saxophone,'" David Labra said. "I took a few lessons and self taught from there."

The youngest member of The Labra Brothers is percussionist Antonio Labra.

Besides the brothers, the band consists of two other members, drummer Matt Hayes and keyboardist Danny Svenson.

Hayes has been with the brothers since the start, while Svenson has worked with The Labra Brothers in his home studio as well as for live performances. He has added his own flair to the band with his ability to mix and bring his own ideas to the table.

With Svenson's involvement in several musical projects in Youngstown, it led to The Labra Brothers partnering up with bass player and producer Unc D. Svenson's ability to take on multiple projects at a time, has put him in a position to make the most of his opportunities.

"To be honest, man, I feel like my entire [motto] is es-

entially being able to say yes to what's in front of me," Svenson said.

The inclusion of Svenson has helped the band's production, and he's provided creative output on the brothers' tracks.

"He is just an endless well of positive energy," David Labra said. "Working with a really good friend and that makes the whole process more natural."

The Labra Brothers got into the music scene in 2019 with their debut album "Colder Weather." As of April 10, the album's self-titled track is the band's most streamed song.

In 2022, The Labra Brothers had a big year with the release of the band's second EP "Waiting." The band also opened up for headliner HUNNY at Federal Frenzy 2022, hosted by Penguin Productions.

For the brothers, that was a career-defining moment.

"It was a special moment for us," David Labra said. "Opening for a big national act like HUNNY was awesome."

During the 2022 Cleveland Music Awards, The Labra

Brothers were named Best Latin Artist in northeast Ohio.

In July of the same year, the band took a family trip to San Luis Potosí, Mexico, where a four part documentary series was recorded and released on The Labra Brothers' YouTube page. While in Mexico, the group also recorded the music video for the single "Be Cool."

For The Labra Brothers, 2023 is shaping up to be another busy year with the release of the band's third EP, with more music planned for May.

"Be Cool" introduces a new song in Spanish "Los Días", and for The Labra Brothers, it opens the doors for new possibilities.

"It's a different style for us a little bit," Cristian Labra said. "One is mostly in Spanish, which is a first for us and that process was pretty fun to workshop."

Although the Labra Brothers will not be returning for Federal Frenzy 2023, the band will be back in the music scene at the Music & Art on Oak Glen 2023 in New Cumberland, West Virginia.

The Labra Brothers EP, with three new songs, is now streaming on Spotify and Apple Music.

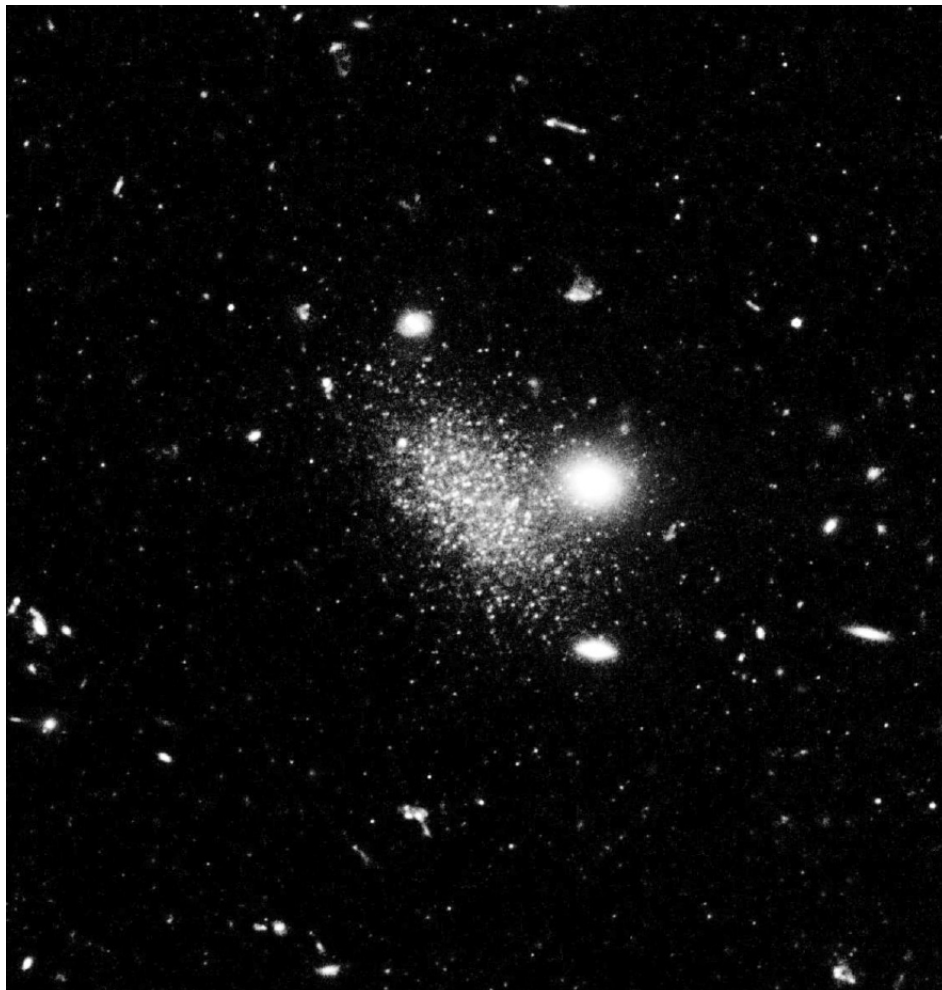


The Labra Brothers will perform at the Music & Art on Oak Glen 2023.

Photo courtesy of Mollie Crowe



Patrick Durrell is a YSU physics and astronomy professor.



Durrell makes astronomical discoveries.

Photos courtesy of Patrick Durrell

Finding a galaxy far, far away

By Aleksa Radenovic
Jambar Contributor

A member of Youngstown State University's faculty has used the world-renowned NASA space telescope the Hubble — and hopes to use the James Webb telescope — to contribute to astronomical discoveries.

Patrick Durrell, professor of physics and astronomy and director of Ward Beecher Planetarium, has used the Hubble for many years and took part in numerous observational research projects.

Durrell said using the Hubble, he and his team discovered a new galaxy during the Virgo Intra-Cluster Star project.

"On the Hubble project we studied a small part of a cluster to look for orphaned stars," Durrell said. "And, just by accident, I looked at the images and discovered a dwarfed galaxy."

Durrell is part of an international team waiting for time on the James Webb Space Telescope proposal.

Durrell said the James Webb is more precise with taking images than the Hubble and would help tremendously on his next project.

"I am collaborating with a group of astronomers from Austria, Germany and France to take a closer look at a galaxy we wrote a paper on," Durrell said. "I said 'I think we need James Webb to do this.'"

Durrell said throughout his career he has used many telescopes to conduct research, but since he came to YSU, the Hubble telescope has been his number one tool.

"I've been heavily involved in working with the Hubble Space Telescope for my research," Durrell said. "I've been a co-investigator in about nine different projects with scientists from around the world to analyze Hubble images."

What started off as an interest in science grew into passion and profession. Durrell said he developed a curiosity for science from a young age and knew he wanted to become an astronomer.

"As a kid, I had a telescope and I would go outside and use it," Durrell said. "Ear-

ly on, I was bitten by the science-bug and knew what I wanted to do."

Durrell, originally from Canada, said many teachers in his early life helped him walk the path of science, but there was one person who inspired him the most — Carl Sagan. Sagan played a vital role in the American space program and was a consultant for NASA in the 1950s.

"The original 'Cosmos' came out with Carl Sagan as the narrator and I was floored," Durrell said. "It was a wonderfully done 1980 program series talking about astronomy."

After graduating from high school, Durrell earned his bachelor's degree in astronomy at the University of Victoria, Canada. Durrell said because of the strong astronomy program, he was mentored by various professors. But in order to reach his goals, he needed to continue his education.

"The big idea of becoming a great astronomer means you have to go to grad school," Durrell said. "I went to McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario to do my Master's degree and Ph.D. in 1996."

For the next eight years, he worked as a teacher and researcher at nationally recognized universities in the U.S. and Canada before coming to YSU.

"I was at [Pennsylvania State University] main campus for a few years, Vancouver and University of Waterloo in Ontario," Durrell said. "Then in 2004, YSU was looking for someone with my qualifications and here I am, 18 years later."

Durrell has connections with scientists all over the world, making YSU's astronomy program well equipped to help students get to top graduate programs in the country.

Durrell said he encourages his physics and astronomy students to search out graduate degrees and form connections like he has.

"The idea of our program is to prepare students, if they so choose, for graduate schools," Durrell said. "I had students go to [Pennsylvania State University] and University of New Mexico."

STEINWAY STARDOM

Piano professor's passion pays off

By Scott Chittock II
Jambar Contributor

A Youngstown State University piano professor recently received a national award for educational excellence.

Steinway Artist and YSU Head of Piano Studies, Caroline Oltmanns, was recognized by musical instrument company Steinway and Sons in February with a Steinway Top Piano Teacher Award for 2022. Oltmanns said the award was a surprise.

"The teacher award came out of nowhere. I had, as a matter of fact, practically overlooked it in my inbox because I get a lot of email[s] from Steinway as a Steinway Artist," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns said it's nice to be recognized, and her students appreciate the award as well.

"At first I just showed it to them and then, 'Oh, you must hang it. Oh, you must hang it in your studio. How about there?' And so on, and that was even more meaningful maybe than my initial reaction," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns' whole career is based on the piano. She started playing when she was just three years old — before she could even read.

"I started before I was able to read letters, which threw me off a little bit," Oltmanns said. "The musical alphabet, if you will, starts on C, and that's the alphabet I learned basically. And then I got this kind of awakening that the alphabet starts on A, which was weird."

Oltmanns' older sister was taking piano lessons at the time and began teaching her. She said having older siblings playing the piano is what also influenced her interest.

"We had a piano and everybody played in this, multiple siblings, so you can

imagine the attraction if you're a younger sibling. Like, everybody is always at that thing so I also want to be on there," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns, originally from Germany, attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles for her graduate education. While she was there, a friend of hers took a class on how to get a job at a college. Oltmanns said this is what led to her job at YSU.

"I didn't take the class and I helped out [with] the assignments, and then we both did the assignments together and thought, 'Why not send this stuff?' because it was literally making an application package for a college teaching job," Oltmanns said. "I remember sending that out, and then I got the job."

Oltmanns began teaching at YSU in 1994 and currently teaches applied piano.

Oltmanns has traveled the world, both for guest professorships at other universities and to perform. This includes countries such as China, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, her native Germany and many others.

Oltmanns has also judged about 150 different piano competitions throughout her career.

Other notable events from her career include performing on a cruise ship, being featured in an episode of a documentary series called 'Living the Classical Life,' and giving lessons in medieval castles in the English countryside.

Oltmanns said that music is something people should appreciate in their daily lives.

"I really think that through listening to music and not viewing something, but only listening, that is an experience we just don't have enough," Oltmanns said.



Certificate for the Steinway Top Teacher Award.

Photo courtesy of Caroline Oltmanns

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The Jambar Column

Henry's reading nook

This week, we return to my reading nook. With the trifecta of holidays passing, I would like to sing the praises of my favorite book, "American Gods" by Neil Gaiman.

"American Gods" fits so many niches. It's a story about war, love, friendship, duty, cons and so much more. Gaiman also finds a way to bring attention to many oft-forgotten parts of this beautiful country.

The story follows Shadow Moon, a reformed convict whose wife recently passed away in a car accident, on his journey across America to recruit gods in a war between old and new deities.

Recruited by the mysterious Mr. Wednesday, Shadow encounters friends, foes, gods and monsters all while being chased by agents of the enemy and his dead wife.

Each of these gods has been brought to America by immigrants who worshiped them and are sustained by people continuing to pray to them and keep them in their hearts and memories.

Some main players include Anansi: The West African trickster god, Kali: The Hindu goddess of death, and Czernobog: The Slavic god of chaos and darkness.

These gods are working against new gods, such as media, technology and the highways to maintain some semblance of relevance and power in a changing America.

Shadow's story is broken up by "coming to America" vignettes which tell the tales of immigrants throughout the continent's history, bringing their respective gods with them. Gaiman writes of Viking settlers long before



Henry Shorr

America's beginning, an Irish immigrant in the colonies, as well as slaves from Africa coming over in the Transatlantic slave trade.

The characters find themselves in big cities like Chicago and New York, small towns like Cairo, Illinois and Blacksburg, Virginia, and obscure roadside attractions like the House on the Rock and the Center of America.

I read this book about once a year. I keep going back to it because it's compelling, comforting and contained. It pushes its characters forward in ways that make sense but also breaks my heart.

The stories of so many different cultures and belief systems all fitting together remind me that no matter what some in this country would have us believe, we always have been the great melting pot.

I don't want to give too much away because I want people to read it, but there are twists and turns that are both well-foreshadowed and unexpected. Gaiman keeps readers on the edge of their seats with great action sequences interspersed with a healthy dose of exposition and character growth.

If you do read it, I implore you to think on how these different cultures you read about impacted you throughout your life and what people from your culture brought with them when they came to this majestic land.

Quote of the week

"Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider."

— Francis Bacon
English philosopher

The Jambar Editorial

The GOAT debate

It might be the most hotly-debated topic in American sports. Who's the greatest basketball player of all time, Michael Jordan or LeBron James? Both have hall-of-fame careers and have inspired countless athletes beyond just basketball. A strong argument can be made for either athlete.

Let's start with Michael Jordan. Everyone knows his name. The famous Jumpman logo, plastered on the ever-famous Jordan series of shoes, is culturally iconic. His NBA career is just as iconic. Five league MVPs, six championships, six Finals MVPs, an undefeated record in the Finals and a plethora of other accolades.

He won three championships in a row with the Chicago Bulls and retired, then came out with his famous press release, stating two words, "I'm back" and won another three championships in a row.

Michael Jordan is perhaps the most dominant scoring force the NBA has ever seen. He still holds the league record for the highest career points-per-game and has the most scoring titles in NBA history, with 10.

Jordan was also a lock-down defender. He won Defensive Player of the Year in 1988, and made multiple All-Defensive teams. He is almost inarguably the best two-way player of all time.

Another strong candidate for that title is LeBron James. Drafted #1 overall at 18-years-old, straight out of high school, his expectations going into the league were higher than any player ever — and he surpassed them.

Four championships, four Finals MVPs, 10 trips to the Finals, another myriad of accolades and most recently — the NBA's all-time leading scorer. LeBron's longevity as a player is unmatched. He's played at an elite level for longer than anyone.

Everywhere LeBron has been, from Cleveland, to Miami, to Los Angeles, he has won. Regardless of where he ends up,

he becomes the best player on a championship-winning team. He's also one of the best passers and playmakers of all time, and cracked into the top five in assists total.

The debate comes down to what you value more in a player: longevity or dominance?

Jordan was a more dominant player, but his light didn't shine as long. Jordan may have peaked higher, but LeBron played at a high level for longer. Jordan is undefeated in the Finals, but he didn't make the Finals as often as LeBron has.

Many people bring up LeBron's 4-6 record in the NBA Finals, but blindly stating a number based on a team accomplishment without any context doesn't tell the full story. LeBron, despite being the best player on the court, was often punching up.

From 2007 against the San Antonio Spurs to 2018 against the Golden State Warriors, LeBron has had to make herculean efforts to just bring his team to the Finals — let alone win it. We would be remiss to not mention LeBron's greatest achievement, winning the 2016 Finals.

LeBron and the Cleveland Cavaliers came back from a 3-1 deficit against a team with the best regular-season record of all time: The 73-9 Golden State Warriors. No team had ever come back from that position in NBA history.

Jordan was the king of the '90s. He was nearly untouchable. He never even had to go to a game seven in the Finals. He helped propel basketball into a global sport and that impact is impossible to measure.

Regardless of who your GOAT is, both players can and should be appreciated for what they've contributed to basketball, but we're going with LeBron, he came back from being down 3-1 — who does that?

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Softball coach seeks fourth-straight winning season

By Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributor

Brian Campbell is entering his 15th season as Youngstown State University's softball head coach, and he does so with 345 wins, the most in program history.

Since 2020, he's led the team to winning records, along with coaching many individual award winners, including 32 All-Horizon League honorees, two pitchers of the year and two players of the year.

Last season, the team finished with a 32-24 overall record and a 17-9 conference record. This earned the team a third-place finish in the Horizon League.

In the 2021 season, Campbell led the team to the best record in the Horizon League. The team completed the season with a 36-15 record overall, with a 28-8 record in the Horizon League, winning the program's first conference championship.

The team hosted the Horizon League championship, where it defeated Robert Morris University in the first round but came up short in the second, as it lost to both the University of Illinois Chicago and Oakland University.

This season, the Penguins are second in the conference, with a 19-17 overall record and a 7-3 start in the Horizon League.

Under the leadership of Campbell, the Penguins have the five highest batting averages in program history. The team also have held the top five highest single-season run totals under Campbell.

Prior to coaching at Youngstown State, Campbell took over the softball program at Tiffin University in 2001.

The Tiffin graduate was named Horizon League Coach of the Year twice. One was in the 2021 season, when the team were regular season champions in the conference, and the other he received in 2012, when the team went 29-21-1 and finished fourth in the Horizon League.

The team had five starters graduate this offseason, a large adjustment to make and Campbell said the new players are handling the change.

"We lost our pitcher, our third baseman, our short-

stop, our left fielder, our center fielder ... sometimes that's an adjustment period," Campbell said. "We played a really tough schedule down south, these young ladies have really done a tremendous job since we've been back."

The longtime coach said communication is key to the team's success.

"I am super happy of how they've come back and how we've been able to put a lot of this together with the new faces," Campbell said. "The communication part is a lot, a lot bigger when you're on defense ... I think that's something that's coming together, which is nice to see."

Stay up to date with Campbell and the Penguins, with live stats on ysusports.com.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar
Brian Campbell speaks about the game against RMU.

Penguins topple Power-Five

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University baseball team hosted Northern Kentucky University in a three-game series. The Penguins were swept by the Norse and dropped to 3-8 in the Horizon League.

The Norse defeated the Penguins 13-5 in the first game, April 6. Youngstown State led 1-0 through the first three innings. Northern Kentucky then scored six runs over two innings.

In the second game, Northern Kentucky didn't give up a run, as it held Youngstown State to just six hits. The Norse would go on to shut out the Penguins 11-0, on April 7.

The Penguins lost their fifth game in a row April 8, as Northern Kentucky won 11-5. The 'Guins jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning. The Norse outscored Youngstown State 11-3.

Youngstown State traveled to the University of Pittsburgh for one game April 10. The Penguins evened the series, as they defeated the Panthers 9-4. Fifth-year Patrick Gumto got his first win of the season on the mound.

Pitt jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning. In the fourth inning, sixth-year Padraig O'Shaughnessy hit a two-run home run tying the game at two. Redshirt junior Trey Law hit a two RBI double, which gave the Penguins a 4-2 lead.

In the fifth inning, Law hit a single, which allowed two runners to get home, en route to a 7-2 lead. In the top of the seventh inning, freshman Clay Wiesen hit his first collegiate home run, which brought the 'Guins lead to 9.

The Penguins returned to Eastwood Field on April 11, taking on the University of Toledo. The Rockets defeated the 'Guins 18-9.

In the bottom of the fourth, Youngstown State scored five runs and took a 6-3 lead. Toledo then scored nine runs in the top of the fifth inning and scored six more runs before the end of the game. The Rockets held the Penguins to just three runs the rest of the game.

Youngstown State dropped to 7-25 for the season and 3-8 in conference play. With 18 conference games left league play is still in full swing.

The Penguins will continue conference play and travel to Dayton, Ohio for a three-games series against second-place Wright State University, starting at 3 p.m. April 14, then 2 p.m. April 15th, and 1 p.m. April 16th.

To listen to the game, go to [YSNlive.com](https://ysnlive.com) or view live stats on ysusports.com.

Bowling shines at tournament

By Andrew Peterson
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University bowling team finished its regular season March 25. The team was rewarded for its strong season March 29, when it was picked to be in the NCAA Bowling Lansing Regional Bowling Championship Regional round.

The bowling team received the honor after toppling Valparaiso University and the top-seeded Vanderbilt University at the Southland Bowling League Championship on March 25.

This marks its third straight selection for the tournament.

Kuberski said his expectations for the team have not changed from regular season competition.

"We're just going to keep it simple and treat it like we do any other event," Kuberski said. "Everything matters, every shot matters and we're not going to make it any bigger than it is."

Kuberski also explained how the team was able to fight off elimination.

"Just our experience, our ladies had just had a lot of experience these past few years in these types of matches and in their lives too. So, they're just really tough, they're tough out there," Kuberski said.

The bowling team took on Maryville University and Vanderbilt in the NCAA Lansing Regional on April 7.

In the first match against Maryville, Youngstown State was victorious 2-0.

Sophomore Jade Cote, junior Madyson Mark, senior Megan Grams, freshman Hope Bun and junior Kirsten Moore all reached the 210 mark or higher.

Game four saw Maryville score 269 to jump out to a 22-point advantage, the highest game of the match.

In Baker matches, the Penguins had a 32-pin advantage after winning game one 234-202, and they had a 30-pin advantage after three games. In game five, two players strung together four strikes and landed a score of 257.

In match two against top-seeded Vanderbilt, the Penguins lost, 2-0. Vanderbilt was hot the whole match as it averaged a score of 200.4 pins.

Cote had a team-high 227 in the final nine frames after stringing five strikes together. Although Vanderbilt held a 62-pin advantage, the Penguins had the advantage in three positions of the lineup.

Youngstown State finished first in three of the five Baker matches. Vanderbilt won the third and fourth games by a combined score of 110 pins. After the first two games, Youngstown State led 425 to 400, but in the third game, Vanderbilt strung along 11 strikes to win.

Sophomore Lyndsay Ennis explained how the team kept its composure during the matches.

"I think we did an excellent job staying within our own," Ennis said. "We do the best that we can."

On April 8, the team won two games to set up a rematch against top-seeded Vanderbilt in a winner-take-all game.

In their first game against Maryville, the Penguins defeated the Saints by 143 pins. Marx had the best game of any bowler with a 255 at the anchor spot.

In the Baker match, Youngstown State gained an early lead of 57 pins with games of 212 and 234. The Penguins led by 23 pins going into the fifth game.

The team won the first game of the best-of-seven tiebreaker 247-177, then Maryville went on to win the next two games.

"They had a heck of a performance all weekend and the whole weekend I've been proud," Kuberski said.

In its second match of the day, Youngstown State beat Vanderbilt. Marx scored the highest with 248.

In its third match of the day, Youngstown State lost to the Commodores 4-0. Strikes became difficult to earn as the match progressed. The Commodores had their largest margin in game two, leading by 54 pins.

Youngstown State ends the season with a record-breaking 83 victories and a .659 winning percentage, both program highs. The Penguins had their second-best performance in the seven seasons of the program when they tied for fifth place in the national competition.

To keep up with the bowling team and its offseason, visit ysusports.com



The bowling team finishes runner-up.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

Takin' care of business

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

After a cancellation of the April 5 doubleheader against the University of Akron, the Youngstown State University softball team bounced back with a two-game sweep, April 6.

Over a six-game span with two doubleheaders, the Penguins are 5-1 after defeating Niagara University and splitting against Robert Morris University.

During the opener against Niagara inside the YSU Softball Complex, junior Devan Ryan struck out two batters through six innings pitched, which earned her seventh win of the season, 2-1.

The Penguins got out to an early, 1-0 lead after junior Sara Fessler was hit by a pitch. She went on to steal second base, advanced to third and scored after a series of uncommon events.

In the bottom of the fourth, senior Conchetta Rinaldi led off the inning with a single out to left field. This allowed freshman Ashlyn Bishop a position to advance to second base on a bunt.

The Youngstown State score came off of an infield single by sophomore Bree Kholer, which helped Bishop advance and score.

In a game saving moment for the Penguins, junior Sophie Howell earned her first save of the season after walking two batters in the seventh inning.

In the nightcap, the Penguins stifled the Purple Eagles, 4-2. It was a team effort as four different runners scored.

For the Penguins' scoring efforts, junior Elyssa Imler hammered home a two-run homer, while senior Megan Turner secured a two-run double for Youngstown State.

The duo of Kohler and Howell proved to be too much for Niagara. Kohler recorded her third win of the season as a pitcher and Howell earned her second save in a row.

The team stayed inside the Covelli Sports Complex, against Robert Morris for a doubleheader, April 11.

In the series opener, Youngstown State got off to a slow start against the Colonials. In the bottom of the seventh inning, junior Elyssa Imler tied the game with a two-out, two run double to right center field.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Rinaldi led the

Penguins to victory with a single down the right-field to allow Fessler to secure the final score, 6-5.

In the night cap, the Colonials bested the Penguins 11-3. After a triple play at the top of the first inning, Fessler was able to get the team on the board early in the bottom of the inning.

Although the team had a stellar first game, six errors were made in the nightcap and for Fessler, the defense had to clean up heading into the next game.

"We had two pitchers against us in the first game and others in the second game," Fessler said. "Defensively, we have to clean it up and hit the gaps and we will be better."

In response to the loss, head coach Brian Campbell knew that the mistakes were crucial and it's about coming back in the next few games.

"We made some mistakes that we will clean up and work because that's not who we are defensively," Campbell said. "You can see it in the stats that we had one of those nights."

The team also took on Robert Morris in a separate game to round out its long stint at home, April 12.

In a hard-fought matchup, the women walked away with a 3-2 victory to claim the series.

The Penguins are now 19-17 overall and 7-3 in conference play.

With the team hitting the road after a 10 game homestand and heading into more league play the games start to matter more down the stretch.

"Every conference game is so crucial and you can't take anybody lightly no matter what the record," Rinaldi said. "Just coming out and doing our thing and getting back to the YSU Softball field."

The team is back in action on the road for the first time since March 27, against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, April 14 and 15.

To watch the game visit ESPN+ and to view live stats check out ysusports.com.

