

Youngstown State Football Alumni Club Newsletter

APRIL 2009 EDITION



TIME FOR US TO STAY TOGETHER IN 2009

The WATTS Indoor Facility, slated to get started next summer, will be another quality addition to our campus and first class operation for our football program. We should all be proud of the football facilities and operations that YSU has to offer, especially at the FCS level. This addition will greatly aid in the recruitment of top-notch talent.



Ray Briya

Although economic times are tough we have not only maintained our membership level but have increased it. I want to thank all of you for your efforts and commitment to the YSU football program. I know the young men and coaching staff are very appreciative.

Knowing these times are hard, we did reduce the cost of the upcoming golf outing. (See bottom right of page.) We hope this will permit the attendance to stay at the high level as in the past. Remember, our goal is not only to raise money for the football program, but also to keep our Football Alumni together. Once again we are at Oak Tree Country Club with 600 hot dogs and an added feature of Coney Island Sauce.

We have a guest speaker, former standout Trent Boykin, at our Spaghetti Dinner. You should plan to attend this feast at Mr. Anthony's. Not only is the food great but the stories get better

each year.

We're looking forward to a great season with Coach Heacock taking over the defensive coordinator role. We open with Pittsburgh on Sept. 5, with our first home game Sept. 12. We have five great home games with the Blast on Oct. 10 against Western Illinois.

Plan on attending the Bocce Tournament July 12 at the MVR Club. Great food and fun along with some keen competition.

Let's stick together and keep the growth and strength of our organization going, not only for the current players, but for all who have and will ever play for YSU.

2009-10 EVENTS	
Spaghetti Dinner	April 23
Golf Outing	April 24
Bocce Social	July 12
Tailgate Blast	Oct. 10
Hall of Fame	Oct. 31
Homecoming	Oct. 31
Senior Tunnel	Nov. 14

Coach Boykin Featured Speaker

Former wide receiver Trent Boykin will be the featured speaker at this year's YSU Football Alumni Group Spaghetti Dinner on April 23.

Boykin is in his second season as the head coach at Division II Lane College in Jackson, Tenn.

Boykin served as an assistant at YSU from 2001-03. He has also been an assistant coach at Ball State, Kentucky State, Tiffin and Boston College.

While at YSU from 1991-94, Boykin was a standout wide receiver and punt returner. He finished his career with 150 receptions for 1,950 yards. He holds the school record for career punt returns and punt return yards.



WATSON AND TRESSEL TRAINING SITE

Former Youngstown State Football Coach Jim Tressel was honored as the 2009 Penguin of the Year at the Penguin Club's 19th Annual Scholarship Ring Banquet in February at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman.

Nearly 900 people attended the event celebrating the Watson and Tressel Families and their commitment to the Watson and Tressel Training Site, an indoor athletic complex.

Master of Ceremonies Paul McFadden opened the evening by recognizing the late Ray Travaglini. Travaglini was one of the founders of the original event in

the early 1990's.

YSU President Dr. David Sweet announced that \$5 million for the WATTS Center has been allocated by the Board of Trustees to go along with \$3 million in funds that have already been raised by the athletic department. The project continues to move closer to production, however, \$2 million is needed to make the process move into the construction phase.

Finally, Tressel took over the evening with an entertaining talk. He joked about being the "Penguin of the Year" when in fact he

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Spring Reunion On April 23-24

The 2009 Football Alumni Spring Reunion is set for Thursday and Friday, April 23-24. The event begins on Thursday night with the fifth revival of the Spaghetti Dinner, which is being held at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman.

On Friday, the Football Alumni Golf Outing sponsored in part by Huntington Bank, Taco Bell, Canova Electrical Contracting, Inc. and Columbiana Buick Cadillac Chevrolet is being held at the Oak Tree Country Club. The day concludes with an Outback Steakhouse meal before the Red-White Spring Game at Stambaugh Stadium.

The cost of the Spaghetti Dinner (6 p.m.) is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The cost for the golf outing is \$75 for non-members and \$60 for members while the cost of the dinner is \$60/\$50.

Contact Jim Morrison at (330) 941-3720 to make a reservation.

Golf Outing Information
Oak Tree Country Club
 Located on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border between Hubbard, Ohio and West Middlesex, Pa., on Route 318. **For GPS Units the Address is** 48 State Line Road | West Middlesex, Pa.
Phone: (724) 538-9984
Registration: 10 a.m.
 Lunch is at 11 a.m.
 Tee time is 11:30 a.m.

Price Information
Golf Only
 • \$75 for non-members
 • \$60 for members
Buffet Dinner Only
 • \$60 for non-members
 • \$50 for members
Golf and Dinner
 • \$95 for non-members
 • \$80 for members
Tee/Green Signs
 • \$50 per sign

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Program Announces All-Division I Schedules in 2009, 2010

The Youngstown State Athletic Department has announced that the football schedules for the 2009 and 2010 seasons have been completed. Every game the next two campaigns will be against Division I foes.

YSU will return to Pittsburgh in 2009 and Penn State in 2010 while Austin Peay comes to Youngstown in 2009 and Butler and Central Connecticut State visit Stambaugh Stadium for the first time in 2010.

Youngstown State opens the 2009 slate on Sept. 5 by returning to Pittsburgh for the first time since playing at Heinz Field in 2005.

The home opener is Sept. 12 against Ohio Valley Conference member Austin Peay. It will be the ninth all-time meeting between the Guins and Governors, but first since a 20-18 YSU win at Stambaugh in 1987.

YSU goes on the road for consecutive weeks visiting Colonial Athletic Association school Northeastern on Sept. 19 and starting Missouri Valley Football Conference play at Indiana State on Sept. 26.

The Penguins are 6-3 all-time against the Huskies, however they have won one of the four meetings played in Brookline. YSU beat NU 35-16 in 2005. It lost to the Huskies 28-23 in its last trip to Parsons Field in 1992.

The Penguins head to Indiana State to start the conference campaign on Sept. 26. YSU has beaten the Sycamores in 17 of the 18 all-time meetings and is a perfect 9-0 at Memorial Stadium. The Penguins have beaten ISU 12 consecutive times.

The conference home opener is Oct. 3 ver-

sus Missouri State. The Penguins will look to avenge last season's 42-28 loss to the Bears. YSU leads the all-time series 11-2 and is 6-0 at Stambaugh Stadium.

Western Illinois visits Youngstown the following Saturday on Oct. 10, which is the Football Alumni Club's Tailgate Blast event. The Guins have had success in the series recently winning the last five contests. YSU has also won four of the last five meetings in Youngstown.

After the WIU contest, the Guins have a bye week on Oct. 17 before conference action heats up.

YSU visits 2008 playoff participant Southern Illinois on Oct. 24. The Guins will be looking to snap a three-game losing streak in their final trip to old McAndrew Stadium.

The Penguins play their first Halloween home game since 1992 when South Dakota State returns to Stambaugh Stadium. It is just the fourth home game played on Halloween in school history. The contest is YSU's Homecoming and Hall of Fame tilt.

Up next is a trip to 2008 FCS semifinalist UNI on Nov. 7. The Penguins have lost the previous two games to the Panthers by one point each, including a 14-13 defeat in Cedar Falls when UNI was ranked No. 1 in 2006. YSU has dropped the last eight games in the series and last won in the UNI Dome in 1999.

YSU will face a new-look Illinois State team at home on Nov. 14. The Redbirds will be under the direction of first-year coach Brock Spack. ISU has won the last two contests tying the series at nine wins each. The 2008 contest featured 98 points scored between the two teams. It is the first meeting in November between the schools since 2002.

The Guins conclude the regular season on Nov. 21 with their first trip to North Dakota State since 1972. The Penguins, who beat the second-ranked Bison last year, dropped a 16-10 decision at NDSU 27 years ago.

The playoffs are set to start Nov. 28 at campus sites.

In 2009, the Penguins play just five regular-season home games for the first time since 1987. YSU plays three of its first four games on the road, the last time that happened was to start the 1993 campaign.

The 2010 slate features the first-ever con-

2009 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 5	at Pittsburgh	TBA
Sept. 12	Austin Peay	4 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Northeastern	TBA
Sept. 26	at Indiana State*	TBA
Oct. 3	Missouri State*	6 p.m.
Oct. 10	Western Illinois*	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	OPEN	
Oct. 24	at Southern Illinois*	4 p.m.
Oct. 31	South Dakota State*	4 p.m.
Nov. 7	at UNI*	5 p.m.
Nov. 14	Illinois State*	1 p.m.
Nov. 21	at North Dakota State*	TBA
Nov. 28	FCS Playoffs	

2010 Schedule

Date	Opponent
Sept. 4	at Penn State
Sept. 11	Butler
Sept. 18	Central Connecticut State
Sept. 25	Southern Illinois*
Oct. 2	at Missouri State*
Oct. 9	North Dakota State*
Oct. 16	at Western Illinois*
Oct. 23	at South Dakota State*
Oct. 30	UNI*
Nov. 6	at Illinois State*
Nov. 13	Indiana State*
Nov. 20	FCS Playoffs
January	FCS Championship Game

tests against FCS members Butler and Central Connecticut State. Both games will be in September at Stambaugh Stadium.

YSU opens the year on Sept. 4 playing at Penn State for the second time in school history. The Penguins visited Happy Valley in 2006 dropping a 37-3 decision.

The Butler Bulldogs, members of the Pioneer League, come to Stambaugh on Sept. 11 for the home opener. This is the first meeting on the gridiron between the programs who are both members of the Horizon League in all other sports.

On Sept. 18, CCSU, makes its first trip to Youngstown. The Blue Devils are members of the Northeast Conference. League play opens on Sept. 25 when the Penguins play host to Southern Illinois.

The FCS playoffs will expand from 16 to 20 teams so the postseason will start a week earlier on Nov. 20. However, the National Championship Game will be played the evening before the FBS title game in January.



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said he wasn't even the Penguin of his House.

He reminisced about his 15 years at YSU and what it was like when he took over the program. He said FCS football has undergone many changes in the past few years, including his final few as the Guins head coach. His final year was in 2000 before leaving to take over at Ohio State in January 2001.

Tressel told the crowd that back when Stambaugh Stadium was first planned in the late 1970's, economic times in the Mahoning Valley were difficult, but the dream of building a stadium for the community came together and has been the home of the Penguins for 26 seasons.

Tressel said winning the 1997 National Championship was one of the most

special events in his coaching career. He remarked that winning the 1991 title and the subsequent run (championships in 1993 and 1994) that followed was memorable. However, after not making the playoffs in 1995 and 1996, YSU returned to the summit of the FCS world for the fourth time in his tenure taking a 10-9 decision from McNeese State in 1997. What it took to return to the top is why that crown is one that stands out in his mind.

In concluding his speech, Tressel said he hoped the final \$2 million for the project could be raised by the start of the football season so the WATTS, along with all other YSU on-campus projects, could move forward to benefit the entire university and the Mahoning Valley community.

New Coaches Join Football Staff This Spring

Head Coach Jon Heacock announced prior to spring practice the addition of Michael Zordich, Benyard Jones and Eugene Crosby to the Penguins' staff. Heacock also said he will take over the defensive coordinator spot. He was the Guins' coordinator from 1991 through 1996.

Zordich, a Youngstown native who spent 12 seasons in the NFL, will coach the Guins' safeties. Jones, a former defensive coordinator at Arkansas Tech who played for Heacock at Indiana, takes over the defensive line duties while Crosby will assist the entire staff and handle video operations.

Board Members

President..... Ray Briya
Vice President..... Ned Mervos
Secretary..... Randy Barker
Treasurer..... Jim Morrison

Committee Chairmen

Membership..... Randy Barker
Special Events Ned Mervos
Golf Outing Frank Beck
Communications Chuck Joseph

The Football Alumni Club Newsletter is a production of the YSU Athletic Department. Designed and written by Trevor Parks and Tom Morella. If you have news of honors and awards for future newsletters or the Alumni Club contact: Chuck Joseph at (330) 856-6778 or cjoseph3@neo.rr.com or Tom Morella at (330) 941-2351 or tmorella@ysu.edu

Membership Information

Cost of a membership is just \$50 and all members receive:

- Game day program recognition
- Yearly football media guide
- Newsletter
- Four game tickets for Tailgate Blast
- Football Alumni static sticker
- Reduced cost for alumni events

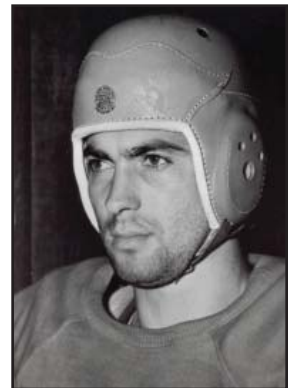
Julius, First Captain Passes Away

Carmen Julius, the first team captain in Youngstown College football history, passed away in February. He was 94 years old.

Julius, who played on the first two football teams (1938-39) and was captain for both squads, was enshrined into the YSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1988.

A native of Campbell, Julius was described as a gutsy player with a hard-nosed style of play. As a veteran on the field of play, his contribution meant so much to the program that Coach Dwight Beede named him (along with Johnny Zban) the captain of Youngstown College's first gridiron team.

Julius was born in October 1914 in Youngstown. He was a 1933 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School earning his bachelor's degree from YSU in 1941 in Education. He was also inducted into the Campbell Memorial Athletics and the Curbstone Coaches Hall of Fames.



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2009 National Letter-of-Intent Signees

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School (Previous)
Theo Barnes	DL	6-3	240	Akron, Ohio	Archbishop Hoban
Jelani Berassa	WR	6-3	180	Miami, Fla.	Miami Killian
Jamaine Cook	TB	5-9	195	Cleveland, Ohio	Midpark
Sylvestry Gibbs	LB	6-0	190	Austintown, Ohio	Austintown Fitch
Fred Herdman	DL	6-4	250	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Pinnacle
Kurt Hess	QB	6-3	220	Dayton, Ohio	Chaminade-Julienne
Taylor Hill^	DE	6-2	205	Youngstown, Ohio	Cardinal Mooney (Michigan)
Gannon Hulea	ATH	6-2	200	Poland, Ohio	Poland
Nick Liste	PK/P	5-11	180	Niles, Ohio	Niles McKinley
Torrian Pace	TB	5-10	220	Chantilly, Va.	Chantilly
Conner Seeman	TE	6-4	250	Copley, Ohio	Copley
Carson Sharbaugh	TE	6-5	230	New Wilmington, Pa.	New Wilmington
Kyle Stadelmyer	LB	6-2	210	Girard, Ohio	Girard
Rob Stupar	FB	6-0	235	State College, Pa.	State College
Jerome Swinton	CB	5-9	160	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Seabreeze (Milford Academy)
Averick Walker^	CB	5-10	180	Lithonia, Ga.	Redan (Fork Union)
Brandon White	OL	6-5	310	Cincinnati, Ohio	Colerain

^Enrolled at YSU in January



YSU Football Alumni Club
The Penguin Club/YSU
One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44555