

## YSU on tap Saturday

# Eagle roundballers ready for stretch drive

by Dan Hodous

The fate of the Eagles' NCAA Division III playoff hopes will unfurl in the next two weeks. In that span of time the AC gang will take the court five times; however, four of those trips to the hardwood will be onto foreign floors. Youngstown State's Beeghly Center and Akron's Memorial Hall are two of those alien courts.

Last night's (Wednesday) battle with Malone commenced the Eagles' line-up of gritty opponents the team must conquer in order to enhance their playoff prestige. Malone had won six straight games heading into their tilt with the Eagles at Canton.

Next for Gottfried's gang is a date in Youngstown, Saturday night, with Division II power, Youngstown State. The Penguins brought an 11-6 record into their battle at Akron last night against the Zips whom the Eagles must face February 25. The Zips and Penguins split in their two previous meetings, with Akron winning by two and Youngstown State claiming a one point win.

One of the best 'big men' in the country and by far the best pivotman the Eagles will face this season will be anchoring the center position for Youngstown State. That's 6-7 sophomore Jeff Covington who is currently ranked thirteenth among Division II rebounders with 13.5 caroms per contest.

The Washington, D.C. native, who is tabbed as Youngstown State's Superman, is scoring 20.3 points per game while blazing the nets at a 52 per cent clip. Covington's personal highs this season came in the Penguins win over Gannon when he collected 28 points and grabbed 17 rebounds.

Super quick guard Gerald Parks is second to Covington in scoring with a 13.4 average. Sharpshooter Frank Andrews is peppering the nets at a 52 per cent clip. The 6-8 sophomore forward is also averaging 12.4 ppg. Forward Tony Mitchell is the only other Penguin averaging in double figures at 15.7 but the 6-3 leaper was declared ineligible for the second semester.

Defensively, Youngstown is ranked fifth in the Division II 'team defense' category, allowing only 63.6 points a contest. The Eagles are permitting 66.4 points per outing.

"Depth-wise I feel we're stronger and I truly believe the bench play could be a big factor in the game," said Eagle Head Coach Joe Gottfried.

"Youngstown is not a great perimeter shooting team; therefore, they try to run a lot and also turn to Covington often," continued Gottfried.

Penguin Head Coach Dom

Roselli, who has held that post since 1933, needs only 15 victories this year to achieve 500 career wins.

After the Youngstown tussle, the Eagles return home February 18, to face Walsh. The Canton school holds a 10-9 record, with the Cavaliers most recent loss to Malone, 88-86.

The Birds travel to Wayne State February 21 and journey to Akron February 25. The Eagles will then entertain St. Francis February 28 at 2:00. That game was originally scheduled for February 4 but was postponed due to the heavy snow.

This Saturday's clash with Youngstown State is the first of two meetings between the two schools this season. The Penguins invade Kates Gym March 1.

But by that time, the playoff berths for the NCAA Division III Championships might be made known. In fact Gottfried has a hunch that the tourney nods will be dished out a day or two after the Akron tilt.

"We cannot take anyone lightly. Every game is like a league game for us," said Gottfried who hopes to lead Ashland College into post season tournament play for the first time since 1971.

**Students who have changed their major since the last registration and who should have their advisor changed and/or students who wish to change their advisors must notify Academic Counseling, 213 Founders Hall, prior to February 20th.**

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Sponsored by the Kappa Sigma Stardusters.



## Eagles ranked Sixth

by Dan Hodous

The ever-improving AC basketball team moved up a notch in the United Press International Division III rankings that were released last Tuesday night.

The Eagles, who were ranked seventh last week, slipped into the number six spot. They received 79 votes compared to eighth ranked Wittenberg's 76 tallies.

Undefeated Coe College from Iowa gained the number one ranking for the third straight week. Otterbein, who owns a 17-3 record, was ranked fourth even though they barely squeezed by Wooster over the weekend. The Columbus school received 90 votes.

## Sports Roundup

by Jon Spencer

The one-two punch of injuries and fierce competition kayoed the Eagles' wrestling squad this weekend, in its effort to put a number one in the win column.

Coach Chris Ford had four freshmen in his starting lineup in a 21-14 loss to host West Liberty State College of West Virginia Friday. Probably the key loss came at 167 pounds when Rick Owens was pinned in 3:12 by Rick Spencer (no relation). Heading into the match, Ashland was only down by a 12-8 count, but the pin made it 18-8, virtually ending any AC hopes of victory. The Eagles' usual 167 pounder, Clay Barnard, was left home with one of those plaguing injuries.

Freshman George Wehring started things off on the right note with an impressive 10-3 win in the 118 pound class, but only Jeff Freedman, Skip Fair, and Joe Collins followed with wins.

Freedman, coming off an impairment himself, captured an 8-3 decision at 150, while Skip Fair showed his All-American prowess in taking an 8-3 win at 177 pounds. Sophomore Joe Collins made his initial mat pre-

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## Sports Spotlight

## Eagle tankers trimmed by Youngstown

by Jon Spencer

The tide has suddenly turned on the Eagle tankers.

After having splashed to wins in the first five dual meets of the season, the aquatic team has seen its record sink to 5-2.

Unlike the loss suffered at Marshall (W. Va.) two weeks ago, Saturday's defeat to the Penguins of Youngstown State came in the friendly waters of Hoffman Natatorium. But it was by no means a soaking.

In making a prognosis, Eagle Swim Coach Sandy Wilson had felt that an exciting meet would be in store for the viewers, and in the end he was right, as Youngstown escaped with a 57-56 win.

Up until the three-meter diving event, the meet was still up for grabs, with YSU holding down a slim 49-48 edge. But some clutch, individual performances were turned in by the Penguin divers, Kemper and Sullivan, to guarantee the victory.

The immersing of these two Birds was a definite cramp to the Eagles' efforts, and consequently led to Youngstown's first victory over Ashland in six years. Besides clinching the victory for their squad, (now 4-5), Kemper and Sullivan had completely dominated the one-meter diving earlier in the meet to enlarge a YSU lead that would never be relinquished.

"You're always surprised when you lose," said Coach Wilson, "but I knew it was going to be a close meet. We had a couple of close races earlier in the meet and it turned out that we needed those points going into the relay. We swam well. We had a few individuals who swam excellently. But it was probably the best Youngstown has ever done in our pool."

One of the individuals Wilson was undoubtedly referring to was Eagle All-American Mike

Abell. In a good part of the last two weeks, Mike recovered in time to enjoy one of his better days. He placed first in both freestyle sprints, with times of 22.8 in the 50 and 50.5 in the 100. Mike also anchored the winning 400-yard free relay team, consisting of Dwight Davis, Bob VanHorn and Mike Hodson.

Another All-American, Mark Fette, captured one of AC's six firsts with a 2:09 clocking in the 200-yard butterfly. A second win eluded him in the 1000-yard freestyle when he finished a scant three-tenths of a second off the pace.

The Eagles will attempt to revert to their winning ways against both Bowling Green (yesterday) and Ohio University on Saturday, with the action taking place at the Hoffman Natatorium.

## AC girls to battle Indiana

One of only four remaining home games is on tap for the Eagle gals who face Indiana University in an 8:00 p.m. contest tomorrow night.

Looking ahead, Coach Ruth Jones comments, "I have never seen them play, but they follow their men's team much. They run a great deal, play man-to-man defense, use the 1-2-1-1 press, trap, and pick up half court. They have been professionally ranked as 13th in the nation."

The Falcons of Bowling Green downed AC 78-62, handing the Eagles their second loss of the season.

The Eagle bench boss moaned, "We beat them in

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