



Ron Stollo

Athletic Director

Seventh Year

(Youngstown State, 1993)

Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ron Stollo, a former Penguin student-athlete, has worked diligently to ensure that today's student-athletes have the support system in place to not only succeed at Youngstown State, but in their future as well.

Now in his seventh year as Athletics Director and 12th as a member of the department, his vision for successful broad-based programs and providing student-athletes those necessary tools to succeed on-and-off the playing fields is coming to fruition.

Stollo has concentrated his priorities on facility improvements; full compliance of NCAA rules and regulations; fiscal management and sound budgetary maintenance; functioning and streamlining department organization; increasing visibility of the Penguin Club while also expanding the overall fundraising efforts; all while enhancing the overall experience and competitiveness of all student-athletes and programs.

Under Stollo's leadership, Youngstown State athletics earned full NCAA certification in the spring of 2007. This review of governance and commitment to rules, academic integrity, and equity and student-athlete well-being showed Youngstown State University athletics operates in substantial conformity with the operating principles adopted by the NCAA Division I membership.

This past spring, Stollo realigned the external relations area of the department in an effort create more revenue streams and increase customer satisfaction while also solidifying internal operations.

During his tenure, Stollo has placed a priority on the construction and enhancements of athletic venues. Projects in the Beeghly Center and Stambaugh Stadium have provided student-athletes, coaches and staff with state-of-the-art facilities. Most recently, he spearheaded a capital campaign to construct a \$4-6 million indoor athletic practice facility.

The Beeghly Center (home of the men's and women's basketball, swimming and diving, and volleyball programs) has undergone more than \$3 million in renovations. The "Coaches' Court", constructed utilizing externally raised funds, continues to serve as a host to Penguin Club members during the basketball season and a recruiting and meeting room for all sports. The Olympic Sports coaches offices and conference room was refurbished. In addition, a basketball office suite and significant renovations to the Beeghly Center pool were completed.

In Stambaugh Stadium (home of the football and soccer programs) since 2003 the following visual upgrades have occurred: a new concourse-level elevator (2005), a new scoreboard, including a Mitsubishi DiamondVision videoboard (2004) and a state-of-the-art synthetic field, SprinTurf (2003). Renovations to current spaces such as locker rooms,

athletic training room and weight room have also occurred. A major painting and hallway improvement project was completed and the entrance to the football suite underwent major renovations.

To improve game-day media operations, wireless internet access was installed for the 2006-07 season in both the Watson Sports Media Center in Stambaugh Stadium and on press row in the Beeghly Center.

He has also secured agreements with Eastwood Field, the home of the Mahoning Valley Scrappers and single-A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, and Cene Park as the home parks for the baseball team and McCune Park to serve as the softball team's home venue.

Thanks to the benevolence of the Andrews Trust and the priority Strollo places on academics, the academic counseling center underwent a significant renovation and expansion in his first year.

In the past six years, the Athletic Department, which has been recognized as a national leader for its graduation rates, had many successes on and off the playing field.

Of the 300-plus student-athletes, more than half have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better while 12 teams have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0. YSU's Academic Progress Rate is well above the national average for public institutions and its graduation rate of 93 percent is at an all-time high.

Six student-athletes have captured Academic All-America accolades while a total of 20 were named to Academic All-District teams.

As a member of the nationally-competitive Horizon League, YSU has won a total of nine League titles and back-to-back Gateway Football Conference championships in 2005 and 2006 under his leadership.

Last season, the Penguins football program also returned to the Division I FCS Playoffs, advancing to the national semifinals and finishing the campaign with an 11-3 record and a No. 4 final ranking – the highest since 1999.

In 2006, the softball team won their first Horizon League Tournament Championship advancing to the NCAA Regional Tournament. During the same weekend, the women's outdoor track and field team won its third straight league title.

Since joining the Horizon League, YSU has hosted the cross country, baseball, indoor track and field, softball and volleyball Horizon League championships. In fact, in 2004 and 2006, the baseball and softball programs used the momentum of hosting the championship to win, reaching the NCAA Regional's for the first time in school history. Youngstown State is set to serve as the host school for baseball again in 2008.

Outside of his YSU duties, Strollo has been busy representing the University, Horizon League and the Gateway on national committees. He completed his third of a four-year term on the NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet in 2006-07. This year, he will continue to be a part of Division I Football Championship Subdivision Executive Committee. He is currently a member of the Horizon League's men's basketball committee and has also provided assistance on the finance committee, Television committee (chair) and golf liaison.

In his role as the Executive Director of the Penguin Club, the organization has increased athletic endowed scholarship contributions annually. Annual events such as the Scholarship Ring Dinner and Penguin Club Bill Dailey Golf Outing keep growing every year. Also, the growth of the Football Alumni Club has had a positive impact on the department.

Strollo returned to his alma mater in 1996 as athletic business manager. In March 2000,

he was named the school's Associate Executive Director of Athletics. In his short time in that capacity, he helped spearhead the transition into the Horizon League. He was named the school's 11th athletic director in 2001,

Before joining the athletic department, Strollo spent three years as an accountant for Hill, Barth, & King, Inc. in Youngstown while successfully attaining his CPA certification.

He has strong ties to the local community and to the athletic department. He grew up in nearby Austintown and attended Fitch High School. He played football for YSU from 1988 through 1991 for Coach Jim Tressel and was named captain of the first Division I-AA National Championship team in 1991. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Youngstown State in June, 1993.

A key volunteer in the Stambaugh Stadium expansion project in 1997, he is a member of the Mahoning County American Red Cross Board of Directors, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and the Western Reserve Health Foundation.

Ron and his wife, Nicole, who is an OB/GYN nurse practitioner, reside in Austintown with their two children, Ryan and Rachel. Nicole is a former YSU student-athlete who competed in track and cross country from 1989 through 1993.

Youngstown State Athletic Directors

2001-Present - Ron Strollo

1994-2001 - Jim Tressel

1983-1994 - Joe Malmisur

1980-1983 - Bill Narduzzi

1975-1980 - Paul Amodio

1945-1974 - Willard Webster

1939-1944 - Kenneth James

1936-1938 - Castle W. Foard

1930-1936 - Jack McPhee

1927-1930 - Al Fairfield