



Brian Gorby
Head Coach
13th Year
Youngstown State, 1990

In 1987, a Boardman, Ohio, native laced up his track shoes and put on his Penguins jersey for the first time. Now, entering his 18th season as a member of the Youngstown State track and field family and his 13th as head coach, Brian Gorby has built one of the elite programs in Ohio, the Horizon League and the Mid-east Region.

After earning three letters as an athlete from 1987-1990, Gorby served as an assistant coach in both cross country and track before being promoted to the helm of the cross country program in August of 1993. He was named head track and field coach in July of the following year. In his 12 seasons, Gorby has led the men's program to six conference championships and the women to seven conference titles and a current streak of four straight Horizon League Championships. He also directed the men's squad to the Mid-

Continent Conference Triple Crown in the 1996-97 season as the team won the league title in cross country and both the indoor and outdoor track titles. On the individual level, he has produced one All-American, seven national qualifiers and 18 Mid-east Regional qualifiers. Those accomplishments have earned him the distinction of conference coach of the year 13 times.

After claiming eight Mid-Continent Conference Championships from 1994-2001, the Penguins have continued to reap conference titles after moving into the Horizon League by winning five track and field titles in the last three years. Gorby has also coached the Penguins to 44 individual championships in the Horizon League.

In May the women's squad captured its fourth straight Horizon League Track and Field title behind two individual victories from Emily Schnitkey and one from Bethany Anderson. Schnitkey won the steeplechase with a time of and the 5,000 while Anderson set two school records and won the shot put. Anderson was also named Outstanding Field Newcomer at the meet. The Penguins entered the final day in third place 23 points behind Detroit and saw the Titans and UW-Milwaukee come out strong in the second day, but a clutch performance by Marielle Glanz and Schnitkey's win in the 5,000m got the momentum going and YSU won by 29 points. Aaliyah Gillespie also set the conference record the 100m hurdles en route to victory while Emily Wollet, Jeanna Cunningham, Yandeh Joh and Leslie Johnson won the 4x400m relay.

On the men's side, three Penguins earned second-team all-conference honors Joe Lahmon finished second in the discus, Kyle Dalton placed second in the high jump and Jason Greenamyre was second in the decathlon.

The Penguins turned in a dominating performance at the 2004-05 indoor meet, winning the title by 62 points and collecting three out of four individual awards. Cunningham was named Track Performer of the Meet and freshman Carly Youlton was named field performer of the meet. Anderson was named the league's Field Newcomer of the Year. YSU won eight different events as Danielle Bolt and Youlton won two events apiece while Cunningham, Gillespie and Anderson won one event. Cunningham and Gillespie also teamed up with Joh and Wollet to win the 4x400m relay.

Dalton also finished second in the high jump in the indoor season, and Drew Weizer placed second in the weight throw for the men.

At the 2004 Horizon League Outdoor Championship, the Penguins pulled together through a season full of injuries and adversity to top UW-Milwaukee by 18 points. Bolt set the conference record en route to winning the 100m dash while Gillespie won the 100m hurdles to pace the Penguins to their second conference title of the season. YSU also got a lift from two winning relay teams as the tandem of Cunningham, Johnson, Gillespie and Bolt teamed up to win the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. The group set the Horizon League record in the 4x400 with a time of and broke the school mark in the 4x100.

The men finished a respectable third and senior Kurt Michaelis capped off a remarkable career being named Men's Outstanding Track Performer of the Year at the league outdoor meet. Michaelis won the steeplechase and the 1,500 to pick up his eighth and ninth career conference titles. Also at the meet, the 4x400 quartet of Scott Weiser, Papis Joh, Ryan Strzalka and Kevin Breckenridge set the Horizon League and YSU record with a first-place time of 3:14.39 while Weiser teamed up with Dorian Chenault, T.J. Peterson and Chris Goffer to capture the victory in the 4x100.

In the indoor campaign, the women picked the program's first conference track title since 1996. Bolt highlighted the meet as she was named Newcomer of the Year, winning the 60m in a league-record time and placing fifth in the 200. Other individual champions included the Johnson in the 400, Schnitkey in the mile and Gillespie in the 60m hurdles.

Three men also captured individual league titles as Sherrod Holmes won the 60m, Papis Joh won the 200m and Derek Riker recorded the top height in the pole vault.

Gorby also directed the men's track and field team to the 2003 Horizon League Indoor Championship, which was YSU's first Horizon League crown in any sport. Eugene Harris swept the sprinting events for the second straight year at the meet while Michaelis was the league champion in the mile.

The men's success continued into the 2003 outdoor season as they finished just 23 points behind Detroit at the Horizon League Outdoor Championship. Harris again claimed gold in both sprinting events while Michaelis was victorious in the 1,500m.

Gorby's success in the Horizon League is not limited to just track and field. In the 2004 season, Schnitkey finished sixth at the conference meet to earn all-conference honors for the third time in her career. The women's squad also posted its best-ever finish at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional two weeks later.

During the 2003 cross country season, Gorby helped the men's squad to their 11th-straight year of finishing third or better at a conference cross country championship. He also guided freshman Lisa Davies to a second-place finish at the conference meet that earned her first-team all-league accolades and the title Newcomer of the Year. Davies was also named Ohio Freshman of the Year by posting a 12th-place finish at the All-Ohio Championships.

Before joining the Horizon League, Gorby led the Penguins to eight Mid-Continent Conference Championships. YSU won the league title in cross country in 1997, the indoor track and field title in 1996 and the outdoor track and field title in 1997. The men won cross country championships in 1994, 1995 and 1996, while claiming both the indoor and outdoor titles in 1997. Gorby also coached three athletes of the year and four newcomers of the year in the Mid-Con.

At the national level, Gorby has coached an All-American, six national qualifiers and 18 regional qualifiers.

Michaelis became YSU's first-ever Division I All-American with a ninth-place finish in the mile at the 2003 NCAA Championships. He also joined Beth Hochstetler and Delores Gaines in competing at the first-ever Mideast Regional in the 2003 outdoor season. Thirteen Penguins qualified for the regional meet in 2004 while seven qualified in 2005.

With Gorby as an assistant coach, Mona Jackson qualified for nationals in the indoor 55m in 1994. In 1997, Laura Thomas became the first-ever YSU cross country athlete to qualify for national competition while Matt Folk became the first male cross country athlete from Youngstown State to make it to nationals a year later. Also in 1998, YSU saw its first male athlete qualify for national competition in track and field as Paul Carter qualified in the 800m. Thomas qualified for nationals again in 1999, this time in outdoor track and field in the 10,000-meter run. In 2000, Kofi Owusu-Ansah posted a 15th-place finish in the 200m dash at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

As a noted distance runner himself, Gorby has competed in several marathons. His personal-best time of 2 hours and 26 minutes still ranks him as one of the top runners in the nation.

He received his doctorate in educational leadership in 2003 from Youngstown State after earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1990 and a master's in physical education in 1994.

Gorby and his wife, Charlotte, reside in Austintown, Ohio with their daughter Jersey and their son Beau.