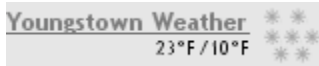


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Men's basketball team continues home stand

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After an impressive victory over Cleveland State University on ESPNU, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team encountered a roadblock in a loss to in state rival the University of Akron Zips on Monday night 67-53.



“Offensively, we’re as bad as we could possibly be. We had no consistency in our play,” head coach Jerry Slocum said after the loss.

The Penguins’ leading scorer was junior DeAndre Mays who scored 18 points and had eight rebounds. The Penguins now are 6-13 overall, and 3-6 in Horizon League play.

Moving forward, the Penguins have two more home games on this four-game home stand. The Penguins are 1-1 so far and look to improve their record when they play the Wright State Raiders Thursday and the University of Detroit Mercy Titans Saturday.

The Raiders are a formidable opponent for the Penguins. The Raiders are 12-8 overall and 6-3 in the Horizon League, which is good for fourth place. The Penguins have faced off against the Raiders on the road earlier this year on Jan. 3. The Raiders escaped with a one-point win, ending the game at 60-59.

The Raiders are stifling on the defensive end as they give up only 54.6 points per game. The 54.6 points per game ranks them behind only Washington State University as the nation’s top defense according to points given up. The Raiders counter on offense with a trio of juniors who all contribute nine points per game. Cory Cooperwood, John David Gardner and Todd Brown are juniors on offense that the Penguins should be concerned about.

Since they are the worst team in the Horizon League this season, the Titans should be less of a challenge for the Penguins. The Titans come into the contest against the Penguins with a 5-14 record overall and 0-9 in the Horizon League. The Titans won their last game against Chicago State University 68-67, but lost seven games before they got the victory. The Penguins picked up a win against the Titans earlier this month on Jan. 1, narrowly defeating the Titans 80-78. The lack of momentum for the Titans should work in the Penguins’ favor in the game.

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