

Respect could be key for new OU cage boss

By DAVE STOCKMAN

Respect is one of the intangibles with which Oakland University's new head basketball coach Jim Mitchell hopes to build a representative team. He feels that respect between the players and himself will result in a winning season at the Rochester school within three years.

"If I respect the ability and mental toughness of each of my players, they will respect me as a coach," said the former University of Cincinnati assistant varsity coach. "Consequently, we will play with

more confidence, win more ballgames and be happy."

Mitchell will take this attitude into the 1976-77 school year, when the Pioneers must improve on last year's disastrous 5-22 mark.

The Eastern Kentucky University graduate isn't speaking of miracle turnarounds for OU's basketball program, but does promise a group of guys who'll perform enough to attract a large percentage of those connected with the university—students, faculty, staff and parents.

maintain respect for one another plus the desire to win, the players will set the program to recruit.

The problem of attracting the student-athlete to a relatively small college and basketball tradition will then be eased, and the Pioneer program should improve since Mitchell acknowledges that the record of a team is measured more by its personnel than its coaching staff.

Concerning the coach, Mitchell is from a family of nine children, who "had to pull their own weight." He helped lead the nearly century old University of Cincinnati to the quarterfinals of this year's NCAA basketball tournament, before losing to Notre Dame with the much-publicized Digby Phelps and Adrian Dantley by a single point.

His rates dedication, pride, attitude and respect as the ingredients a well-rounded player must possess. Mitchell also believes he must contribute to a happy situation with understanding and an open ear, besides having tolerance and strictness.

His impression of the university's landscape is refreshing. The scenery of trees, grass, flowers, new structures and rolling hills is appealing to Mitchell, who completed a high school career record of 417 wins and 91 defeats.

IT WOULD be pleasant if Mitchell could transform his impressions of OU and prep and collegiate coaching experience into a consistent winner here.

"We think we've got a teacher in Jim Mitchell," said Corey Van Fleet, OU's athletic director.

Should Mitchell bring a representative and entertaining program to OU along with a winning team within three years, he undoubtedly will be a valuable asset to the university and the Rochester community.

"I WANT the kids to know exactly what is expected of them in attitude and work when they come to our first practice," said the 42-year-old with the friendly southern accent of a Jimmy Carter.

With productive practices and games, Mitchell feels the attendance at Pioneer home games will increase. The morale of the university as a whole would also benefit.

Thus, one of the new coach's primary objectives will be to get the student body to come out and see that the players are trying hard to win.

At least eight of Oakland's 75-76 team will be returning (that fall to add some fresh spirit). Included are starting guards Lewis Bryant and Duke Stephens plus forwards Tim Krumer and David Humphries.

There are four new faces expected to make the initial OU team under Mitchell. They are center-forwards Ernest Swanson and Ray Goss, who both stand 6-7, and guards Mark Maybeiger and Steve Brink.

The potential at OU exists, but the technique and drive for a winner is still up to one man—Jim Mitchell.

"I WANT to have happy ballplayers on Oakland's team," said Mitchell. "If they

OCC plans tennis, swimming for women

Oakland Community College will add two new women's sports—swimming and softball—to its varsity program beginning with the 1976-77 season, according to OCC Athletic Director Prentice Ryan.

OCC now offers five varsity sports for women.

Chris Churchill, who coached the school's volleyball team to a 4-4 record last season, will direct the new softball squad, which will play its home games at OCC's Highland Lakes campus. The swimming team will be coached by Lynne Weir, a Birmingham resident who has an extensive background in aquatic. The swim team will use Oakland University's pool for its home meets.

OCC also announced a coaching change in the women's sports program, and a status change for the hockey team.

Carolyn Moore, a physical education instructor at the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, will take over the coaching duties for the women's tennis program. She replaces Marie Smith, who will continue to coach the men's tennis team. Both tennis teams will play their home meets at the Orchard Ridge campus.

The hockey program, which operated on the varsity level for the past two seasons.

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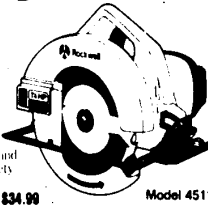
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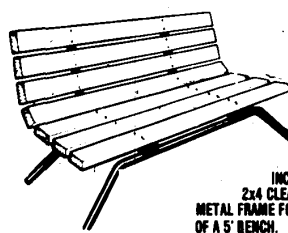
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