

Pioneer wrestlers finish 2nd in GLIAC

Oakland University wrestling coach Max Hasse would have been satisfied with a third-place league finish this year.

But, the Pioneer wrestlers surprised everyone — including their coach — and finished as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's second-best team.

Oakland, which had a 6-1 dual-meet record this year, finished last week end's GLIAC conference tournament with 66 points. League winner Grand Valley State, which handed OU its only dual-meet loss of the season, scored 97 points.

It was the best finish for an Oakland wrestling team in the program's four-year history. The Pioneers placed sixth

in their first year, fifth in the second and were fourth last year.

Hasse's goal at the beginning of the season was to finish at least third, thereby improving the team's overall performance for the fourth straight season. In the past two years, Oakland's record is 13-7.

"These wrestlers are the most dedicated group I've ever coached," said Hasse, who was selected by his peers as the GLIAC's Coach of the Year. "There's mutual respect between me and them, and that's what has made us so successful."

"This is one of the most enjoyable years I've ever had as a wrestling coach," he said.

One of the season's highlights, Hasse said, was beating Eastern Michigan University, a Division I school. The Pioneers, who were beaten by the Hurons for three straight years, dumped Eastern 31-16.

"We had them 27-0 before they even scored," said Hasse. "We were pushing for that meet at the beginning of the year, and that was definitely a win for us. One of our goals this year was to beat Eastern."

"Eastern is a Division I school with a great wrestling tradition. Our guys have been nipping away at them for the past three years, and this year we finally beat them."

"When you wrestle the top people, you're just going to get tougher yourself," he said.

Another key victory was over GLIAC opponent Lake Superior State. "We worked very hard to beat them, and we won 27-15," said Hasse.

The Pioneers culminated their season by placing in six individual GLIAC final matches, and taking five second places. For the first time, the Pioneers had a league champion.

Tim Chapel, a junior from Parma Western High School, beat Grand Valley State's John Wilder 8-6 for the 17-pound championship. Chapel shut out his first-round opponent and pinned his opponent in the second round to qualify for the championship match.

Chapel has an overall 18-8 record this year, 11-4 since Jan. 1. The junior co-captain was a national qualifier last year and was Oakland's most valuable wrestler.

"He's (Chapel) trimmed down to his right weight class now, and he's doing very well," said Hasse. "He has scored quite a few pins for us this year."

"As a matter of fact, we're a pinning team. We had four against Windsor, and three against Eastern."

The conference runners-up included

Phil Liebling (118), Mike Eble (134), who was Oakland's other national qualifier last year, Paul Johns (158), Kirk Shoemaker (190) and John Whitfield (167).

Rochester High School graduate Dan Gustafson was fourth at 142 pounds. Rick Blakey finished third at 126 pounds.

The Pioneers recently won a tournament at Adrian by taking three first places, and landing eight finalists in the nine weight classes. The Pioneers scored 89½ points.

Oakland's wrestlers will participate in the NCAA Division II regionals this week at Indiana Central University. Among the eight teams represented

will be Grand Valley, Wright State and Lake Superior State.

The 10 weight class champions will then advance to the Division II finals which will be held the following week-end at South Dakota State University.

GLIAC TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Team results: 1. Grand Valley, 97; 2. Oakland University, 66; 3. Lake Superior State, 58; 4. Ferris State, 59; 5. Saginaw Valley, 55.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

118 pounds: Senior (SV) dec. Liebling (OU), 7-0; 126: Freshman (LSU) dec. Conn (OU), 11-0; 134: Junior (OU) dec. (OU), 4-2; 142: Junior (OU) dec. Bryan (LS), 16-7; 158: Junior (OU) dec. Polini (SV), 9-2; 167: Junior (LSU) dec. Johns (OU), 9-0; 167: Junior (OU) dec. Whitfield (OU), 15-4; 177: Chapel (OU) dec. Wilder (OU), 8-6; 190: Junior (OU) dec. Shoemaker (OU), 11-4; 190: Junior (OU) dec. Conn (OU), 19-4.

Northland icers lose, but keep league lead

The Southfield Over 30 Hockey League's top two teams, Northland Heating and Suburban Sports Center, played each other last Thursday night, and the No. 2 team (Suburban) came out ahead by a 3-2 score.

Bud Stefanko scored an unassisted goal at the 6:15 mark of the final period to pull it out for Suburban, which still trails first-place Northland in the league standings. Stefanko opened the scoring with a marker in the first period, and teammate John Gummus added a goal in the middle stanza.

Bob Kiefiuk and John Waterman each scored a goal for Northland, which has an 11-4-3 record, one point better than Suburban's 9-3-6 mark.

In another Over 30 game last Thursday, third-place Roger Penske Chevrolet battled Star Lincoln-Mercury to a three-all tie. Mike Prentice scored two goals and Gary Mosley had one for Star. Penske, which has an 8-5-5 record, got a goal each from Ray Tremblay, Nick Mancinelli and Chuck Hoover.

Midwest Coffee bested Southfield Holiday Inn, 5-2, in another league contest. Jerry Feldman fired in three goals to go with single tallies by Ray Miras

and Don Ellis. Holiday Inn's markers by Don Mills and Gary LeMiere both came in the third period.

Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home scored two goals in the first period and then added three more in the third to beat Concourse Camera, 5-2.

Jim Clement scored two goals for Sawyer-Fuller, and teammates Jim Dietle, Jerry Kowalski and Greek Lambros each added one. Derrick Reynolds and Frank Goldberg tallied for Concourse.

Northland Heating takes on Concourse Camera at 10:50 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 15) at the Southfield Civic Center Arena in a key Over 30 game. Three other games are scheduled for that night.

OVER 18 HOCKEY LEAGUE

LEAGUE STANDINGS—Northland Heating, 11-4-3; Southfield Holiday Inn, 9-3-6; Roger Penske Chevrolet, 8-5-5; Star Lincoln-Mercury, 7-5-5; Concourse Camera, 5-2-2; Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home, 5-2-2; Suburban Sports Center, 4-3-3; Midwest Coffee, 3-5-5; Southfield Holiday Inn, 2-13-3.

GAMES COMING UP (FEB. 15)—Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home vs. Suburban Sports Center, 7:30 p.m.; Roger Penske Chevrolet vs. Southfield Holiday Inn, 8:30 p.m.; Midwest Coffee vs. Star Lincoln-Mercury, 9:49 p.m.; Northland Heating vs. Concourse Camera, 10:50 p.m. All games will be played at the Southfield Civic Center Arena, 3600 Evergreen Road.



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