

OU netters gain experience in early meets

By MARTY BUDNER

Brad Newman will be steering his Oakland University women's tennis team towards the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) annual post-season tournament.

It's not that the first-year Pioneer head coach is taking the regular season lightly. Newman just believes the 15-match schedule preceding the GLIAC championships will give his young players valuable experience.

"Our emphasis will be to try and do as well as we can during the season, but we are gearing ourselves for the GLIAC tournament," said Newman,

who had served as an assistant to Lee Frederick the previous two seasons.

Last year the Pioneers finished with an overall 14-2 mark, which was good for second place behind Wayne State. Both of the Pioneer losses were to the Tartars in very close matches.

Oakland also finished behind arch-rival WSU in the conference's post-season tournament.

Newman considers Wayne State and Hillsdale the top two teams in the Great Lakes conference this fall, with Oakland not far behind. He says it's just a matter of those two teams having more experience.

The Pioneers are 1-1 so far, with a 9-

0 victory (six singles events and three doubles) over Northwood Institute, and a 6-3 loss to Hillsdale.

"Hillsdale has to be considered second-best to Wayne. We lost four or five three-set matches that we could have won if we had more experience. We have to be one of the top three teams in the conference, and if we can get our players to come around I think we have an outside chance."

"We expected to have five girls back from last year's team, but there are only three," said Newman. "We're very young — only one senior — and that leads to problems sometimes. Our younger players just have to play well

for us if we want to do anything this season."

OAKLAND'S NUMBER one player is senior Judi Stiff, who has not lost a match in singles or doubles. Last year Stiff, a transfer student from Oakland Community College, finished third in the conference.

Newman believes she has the potential to be one of the league's top players this season.

"She has a very fast game, with a really big serve and big volley," said Newman. "She is a tennis pro during the off season at Beverly Hills, so she's

quite competitive. She is probably the best player in the conference right now."

Oakland's two other returning players are junior Jody Woloszynski and sophomore Karen Wiecha, both from Dearborn.

Woloszynski plays number four singles. A steady, base-line player, she is 2-0 this season with a .923 winning percentage.

Wiecha, Oakland's most valuable player last year, moved from number four to number two singles in one year. She also has a 1-1 record.

Oakland's top recruit is freshman Nancy Golding, a product of Rochester Adams High School. Newman says Golding — who has split her first two college matches at number three singles — possesses unlimited natural ability.

"She could be one of the best players in the conference if she can get her game together," said Newman. "She's tall and quick, but she just has to learn

to be more competitive. She has all the physical skills, good court sense, and she's on the brink of becoming a great player."

SOUTHFIELD'S Tanya Newman (no relation to the coach) is also 1-1 after losing a tough three-setter to a Hillsdale opponent. Newman plays number five singles, and freshman Lisa Webber from Fraser is the number six singles player.

The three doubles teams consist of Stiff and Golding at number one, Wiecha and freshman Becky Beckman at number two, and Newman and Woloszynski at number three. Newman says Stiff and Golding have the potential to be the conference's best doubles team.

The Pioneers will host Madonna College at a 3 p.m. non-league match today. The courts are behind the Hoolie L. Lepley Recreation Center building. Their first match against Wayne State will be at home Oct. 10.

Brainard picked as new tennis pro



Chuck Brainard, the new director at the Birmingham Racquet Club, will help open the club's fifth indoor season with a series of tennis clinics for all interested netters.

The Birmingham Racquet Club opened its fifth indoor season three weeks ago with a new director, Chuck Brainard, an outstanding tennis professional and tournament player, well-known to the tennis playing public of southeastern Michigan.

Brainard is returning to the Detroit metropolitan area tennis scene after seven years of professional tennis activities in the Saginaw-Midland-Bay City area where he served as head tennis pro and club manager for the Bay Valley Tennis Club. He introduced a number of successful and innovative tennis programs there.

Brainard was taught by the world famous Hoxie and spent six years as an instructor in that program. His accomplishments have included winning the Class A state high school championship three consecutive years, a number-three national ranking in the boys' 16-years-and-under division, national junior championships, and the number-one singles and doubles positions for Michigan State University and Northwood Institute prior to his graduation from the latter school in 1970.

Among Brainard's achievements in recent years has been conduct-

ing the highly publicized "Bay Valley," a prestigious tournament which has drawn many high-caliber players from the Midwest.

BRAINARD ANTICIPATES introducing a strong teaching program at the club with emphasis on an active Junior Development program for all ages and levels of ability. He will also have a Junior Excellence program geared to develop potential tournament players.

Brainard and his staff also will concentrate on a series of clinics for both men and women interested in improving their tennis skills. Small groups will work with a professional instructor developing skills and knowledge of strategy at all levels of playing ability. The normal private and clinic program for adults will

constitute the largest part of the program for members and non-members.

According to Sally Saunders, Birmingham Racquet's club manager, Brainard's regular assistants and Bill Straith, head tennis professional from the Troy Racquet Club, will teach at Birmingham in both the Junior and Ladies Excellence programs. These programs will provide teaching instruction of the highest quality, according to Saunders. She expects a greater level of participation in all club teaching activities than in prior years and anticipates a greater response from the public.

Inquiries are welcome about the new programs, and the public is invited to call 644-LOVE (5685) for additional information.

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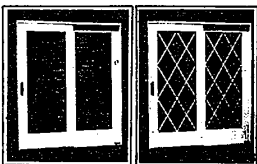
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