

# College cage whiz wants Olympic gold in '80

By DAVID STOCKMAN

Be it basketball or business, Nancy Lieberman, the Old Dominion women's basketball star who is aspiring to help cup a gold medal for the United States in the 1980 Olympic Games, wants to be successful.

If her future goals measure up to Lieberman's page-long resume of athletic

highs, then she has much to look forward to. Lieberman, who recently spoke at Birmingham's Oakland Hills Country Club, presently wants more than anything else for the U.S. to take the gold in women's basketball next summer.

She suspects the main competition will again come from the Russians, who towered over Lieberman and her

U.S. teammates in 1976 enroute to the gold. The Russian team features a 7-foot-2 center, comparable at least in height, to the National Basketball Association's Kareem Abdul Jabbar.

But after weeks of practice at the Olympics, Lieberman, a senior on the defending national champion Old Dominion University team from Virginia,

will be forced to decide where her talents will be placed. "I'll stay in the field of marketing when I graduate unless I'm offered enough money to play in the Women's Basketball League (WBL), Lieberman said."

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE, currently in its second year, lost some money in its initial season, according to Lieberman.

man, but could become a widely visible form of sporting entertainment. But the two-time All-American, and recent recipient of the Wade Award as the nation's top women's college basketball player, views her education as a definite plus when encountering the "real world" of a daily job.

Right now Lieberman is traveling to promote and perform in women's basketball. Her stop in Metro Detroit was to plug the University of Detroit's Coca Cola Women's Basketball Classic which features the Titans, Old Dominion's Lady Monarchs, Louisiana and Penn State in clashes Nov. 23 and 24.

Lieberman also was in the Birmingham area to help raise funds for the University of Detroit's athletic scholarship program.

Money is the necessary ingredient for an athletic program to stay out of the red. Lieberman realizes this fact and admits that sports in college today, even women's basketball, is a business.

"Each team has to produce on the court and bring people in the stands so that the university can make money and distribute it, she said. "If the team loses, so does the university."

This puts more pressure on the coaches, Lieberman said, to constantly

produce not only winning, but crowd-drawing teams, as well. This, in turn, affects the players.

"Basketball has become a full-time job, she said."

LIEBERMAN, also a good student, feels with many road games in last season's Old Dominion regular schedule of 27 contests, "It's not easy to have a three-point, grade-point average. It takes away from your education and your social life."

In fact, Lieberman dropped out of school last spring to try out and perform for the U.S. contingent in the Pan American Games. She was able to make up the six weeks in lost credit time "because I had some very understanding professors."

And Lieberman will cut the term short again next April when tryouts for the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics commence.

Yet numerous college women, like men, pursue their basketball ambitions — some with and some without academic success.

## Clarenceville '11' downs Willow Run

COACH Ralph Weddle's Clarenceville football team is not only young and tough, but they are exciting too.

And they'll need all of that and more Friday when they entertain a Saline powerhouse at 7:30 p.m. Clarenceville won't have time to rest from their 31-22 win over Willow Run last weekend.

The Trojans are 4-2 and could well be 6-0. Both of their losses came in games that could have gone either way.

The Trojans tend to have thrillers every week. They almost blew a 28-2 lead against Willow Run.

On the second play from scrimmage,

quarterback Tom Bass, apparently recovered from an injury, hit Chris Jeffrey with a 53-yard touchdown pass. Raffi Markosian added the extra point.

Later in the first quarter, fullback Jim Thompson plowed into the end zone from three yards out.

Willow Run got on the scoreboard in the second quarter with a safety. A snap went over the Trojan punter's head out of the end zone. But Clarenceville came back with another Bass-to-Jeffrey touchdown pass, this one for 45 yards. The Trojans missed the extra point that time.

Then Larry Fox got into the act. He fell on a blocked punt in the Willow Run end zone for yet another touchdown. Thompson ran in the two-point conversion to give the visiting Trojans a 28-2 halftime lead.

Disaster almost struck in the third quarter. Willow Run scored three unanswered touchdowns. After three periods, Clarenceville's huge lead had been cut to 28-22.

Markosian closed out the scoring in the fourth quarter with a 29-yard field goal. "That was a really big play," said Weddle. "I was pretty uneasy with only a six-point lead. The kick must have

gone 50 yards and it was into the wind.

"I was very pleased with the performance of Tom Bass," said Weddle. He was hurt the week before, but it wasn't as bad as we thought. His knee was badly bruised." Bass was 4-6 for 128 yards.

Thompson had 107 yards as the leading rusher. Clarenceville will have to save some of its 377 yards total offense piled up against Willow Run for Saline.

"They're rated number 10 in the state in class B," said Weddle. "That will be a real big game for us. They're a power this year."

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