

OU wrestlers qualify for national tournament

Phil Liebhang has become the first wrestler in Oakland University's history to win All-American status.

finished fifth in last weekend's national NCAA Division II wrestling regional at South Dakota State University. The top eight wrestlers in each weight divi-

sion were accorded All-American honors, and the first six place winners were awarded medals of achievement. Oakland's other national qualifier — Tim Chapel — injured a knee in the first round and defaulted all his matches.

As a team, the Pioneers — who finished third at the regionals and second in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) — scored 8½ points. California State (Bakersfield) was first with 11½ points, and Eastern Illinois was runner up with 11½.

All together there were 46 teams represented at the nationals, and there was a chance that we possibly finished among the top half," said Oakland coach Max Hasse, who only had listings for the top 17 schools.

"There were close to 200 wrestlers

there, and they were all the cream of the crop," he said. "Phil just did an incredible job for us. The two matches he won were the best two matches of his college career so far."

A three-time national qualifier, Liebhang — including his 8½ points over the weekend — has now tallied 13 points in NCAA post-season finals. He scored 3½ points as a freshman, and one last year as a sophomore.

Liebhang lost his first match to Greg Anderson of Central Missouri State, who was seeded number five in the tourney. Ironically, in his very first college match, Liebhang beat Anderson 17-7.

In his next two matches, Liebhang beat Dave Walton of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, 15-5, then pinned Eastern Illinois' Randy Blackman at

5-54. Blackman was seeded number eight.

Against Curt Ellis of Morgan State, Liebhang won by default. Then, wrestling for a possible fourth place, Liebhang lost to third-seeded Tom Reed of Southern Illinois University, 11-2.

Liebhang has been one of Oakland's top wrestlers over the past two years. As a freshman the former East Detroit High school star was the team's most valuable wrestler. Last year, he scored the most team points.

As a senior in high school, Liebhang finished third in the state.

Just two weeks ago, Chapel made history as Oakland's first wrestler ever to win a GLIAC individual championship. The junior grappler won the 177-pound weight class with an 8-6 victory over Grand Valley's John Wilder.

At the regionals, Chapel scored another individual championship. Again it was Wilder he dumped in the finals, this time 7-3.

However, in last weekend's NCAA finals, Chapel defaulted his first match at the 6:19 second mark. He was wrestling Stan Curtin from Towson State (Maryland).

Oakland finished the season with a dual-meet mark of 6-1. Its only league loss was to eventual GLIAC champion Grand Valley State.

It was the best finish for an Oakland University wrestling team in the program's four-year history under Hasse, who was voted the most-valuable coach in the GLIAC this season. The Pioneers placed sixth in their first year, fifth in the second, and were fourth last year.

OLSM College seeks victories in season finale

Just wait until next year!

That is the battle cry from St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake as the Eagles await the closing of their basketball campaign with two home games — against Jordan Junior College of Grand Rapids on Friday, March 2, and Midwest Baptist College on Saturday, March 3.

Each game will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Domkowski Field House on the Orchard Lake campus.

"I'm very well satisfied with this team," says Coach Tim Domke, who has made a good beginning in his first year as a college varsity coach. For most of the campaign, the Eagles had only one upperclassman among their starters. Yet they are 16-16 going into the final weekend, assured of at least a .500 season, and hopeful that they can raise their victory total to 20.

"Right now I believe this is one of the better teams in the state," Domke continues. "I think that the freshmen are happy they had a chance to play so much. The whole team has shown great improvement. It was just a matter of playing together. After all, most of our players hadn't even met each other until school opened in the fall."

"Now they are a cohesive unit, with good speed and good balance. They play ball at both ends of the court, on offense and on defense. At the start of the season, we suffered from a lack of experience. Now we have that."

"In my opinion, with two more good players we will have everything we need."

The 10-player squad includes eight

freshmen, a sophomore and a junior. All are expected to return for the 1979-80 schedule. Two of the Eagles — Scott Glidden and Mike Baker — have been nominated for the NAIA District 23 (Michigan) All Star team.

Glidden, a 6-3 freshman from Utica Fort High School, leads the club with an average of 19 points per game. He is a 62 percent shooter, a mark that few cagers can approach. He has five steals and five assists per game.

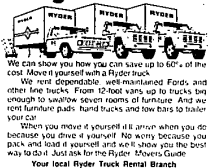
Mike Baker, a transfer from Central Arizona Junior College, is a 6-foot-8 ex-Northwestern High ace who has popped in 14 points and pulled down 12.3 rebounds per game. He leads the Eagles in blocked shots with four per game. Mike is a junior.

The club was strengthened for the second semester with the arrival of Martin Eddy, 6-foot-8, from Hillsborough (Florida) Community College. Eddy transferred from Hillsborough, near Tampa, when his parents moved to Westland. In seven games, Eddy has averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds. Eddy is a sophomore.

Tim Higgins, 6-foot-1 guard from Walled Lake Central, perhaps the best pure shooter on the team, popped in eight points a game.

"I want to emphasize that every one of these players, the starters and the subs, did their part," says Domke. "They never quit hustling. They pulled for each other. They have a wonderful spirit. You are going to hear a lot more from these fellows before they are through."

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