

Injuries plague Pioneers

By GREG SMITH

Another rash of injuries has hit the Oakland University men's basketball team, reducing the squad to seven players.

Second-year coach Lee Frederick started the year with 14 players. He cut two players, both seniors who did not figure in his plans, reducing the squad to 12. After senior guard Mark Mendez was sidelined for the year with surgery for ligament damage in his ankle, the squad was reduced to 11.

Then guards K.C. Forward, a senior from Lathrup Village, and Lamar Ragland, a freshman from two-time Class D champion Detroit East Catholic High School, both left the team for personal

reasons, reducing the team further to nine.

The "Injury Bug" hit the Pioneers when senior forward Rich Brauer broke his foot against Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Brauer, who moved into 10th place recently in the all-time Oakland University scoring and rebounding charts, is expected to be out a minimum of four weeks.

"Rich is our second-leading rebounder (10) and leads the team in scoring (20.3) and casts with two," said Frederick.

"We've had six casts put on our players this year. This is by far the worst year as far as injuries goes that I've ever seen."

"Brauer had a cast on his right wrist

in preseason and now has one on his foot. Mendez and (Larry) Lubitz, (Les) Thomas and (Anthony) Barnard have also had casts this year."

Barnard was injured in practice last week and immediately underwent knee surgery that will sideline him for the year. The junior guard from Pontiac Catholic High School was averaging 10.8 points off the bench for Frederick, and his absence will severely hurt the Pioneers.

Now there are just seven healthy players to finish the 1980-81 season.

One encouraging note for Frederick is the presence of Tim Meter, a graduate of Bloomfield Hills Andover, who has joined the squad. Meter will be

pressed into service Saturday against St. Joseph's College. Gametime is 2 p.m. at the Rochester High School gym. The game has been moved to Rochester because the Lapeyre Sports Center is hosting the Oakland County Wrestling Tournament Friday and Saturday.

According to the first NCAA Division II basketball statistics released today, Oakland University is ranked 12th nationally in scoring with an 87.4 points per game average. The Pioneers have scored 427 points in five games. Brauer is ranked as the nation's 22nd leading scorer with a 20.3 average, and Bill Peterson is the 20th best rebounder with a 10.2 average.

Build a snow shelter

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Your chance to learn the basics of building snowshelters and winter camping arrives at 2 p.m., Dec. 30 at the Twin Chimneys Shelter of Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston.

Weather and snow conditions permitting, quinzee construction will be

demonstrated by Kathleen Dougherty, Oakland County Parks naturalist.

Dougherty also will discuss winter recreation and current trends of outdoor activities once thought to be summer-oriented.

Participants must call 858-0903 to register in advance. The cost of the program is covered by the \$2 park entrance fee. For non-Oakland County residents, the fee is \$3.

Coaches asked to call

Varsity prep coaches from the Observer & Eccentric area are encouraged to call in their results for the winter sports season.

The O&E sports lines will be open 8-11 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this month.

Coaches from the Birmingham-Bloomfield, Farmington, West

Bloomfield, Southfield, Troy and Rochester communities are asked to call in their results immediately after each contest.

Weekend results should be reported on Monday mornings after 10 a.m.

The sports lines are 644-1101, 644-1103 and 644-1105.

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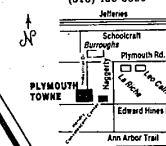
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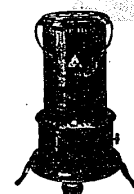
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