

Pioneer men drop one

Oakland women stop Northwood

from court-side
David Stewart

The 2nd serve can save crucial points

Everyone wants to hit the big serve. Everyone wants to hit the ball so hard that his opponent doesn't have the time to move, but can only watch helpless as it streaks by.

But how many players ever stop to think that they are only as good as their second serve? This is the serve that keeps you from winning the point.

Each time your first serve hits the net, or outside the line, you're confronted with a problem. This is probably the toughest moment of all for the club player with a sickly second serve.

There you are, standing at the line having just hit the first serve with the score 30-40 against you. A moment ago your partner urged you to get your first serve in. Now he isn't looking at you, but you can see the steam coming out of both ears. The receiver has relaxed completely and is creeping forward in anticipation of a weak second serve, ready to smash it at your poor, innocent partner.

ARE YOU UNNERVED? You probably are, if you're like most players, because you lack faith in your second serve.

How can you make the most of this nearly hopeless situation? How can you avoid the nearly inevitable loss of a crucial point? A few suggestions:

- Stop and take a deep breath. Whatever you do, do not let the pressure of the moment hurry your second serve as so many players do, serving out of embarrassment or chagrin. They want the moment to pass as quickly as possible. "That's like saying, 'I concede the point. Let's forget it and get on with the game.'"

- The next time you go to a tournament, watch what a good player does when he misses the first serve. You'll notice a long pause as the player mentally collects himself. There is nothing more important to keeping control of the point.

- Do some positive thinking during the moment's pause. Have a talk with yourself. Tell yourself, "I'm ready now. I'll serve smoothly. I'll clear the net with good height and serve toward a safe part of the court with as much depth as possible."

Your mental attitude helps you avoid serving an absolute lollipop, or worse, a double fault. Aim for where you want the ball to hit and apply enough, but not too much, power.

- Take the receiver's habits into consideration. What has your opponent been doing with your second serve? Has he been smacking them away for winners?

If so, you might as well gamble — at least part of the time — to develop uncertainty in your opponent's mind. Instead of losing the point by playing pat ball, take a chance on a double fault and hit the ball sharply.

You're probably saying, "But that's against everything I've ever learned about doubles. If I do that, I'll be committing the cardinal sin in doubles."

BUT ISN'T IT as much of a sin to consistently give away a shot that the receiver always murders?

You're condemned to die either way, so you might as well go down fighting.

Don't make every second serve a bullet. If you do it intermittently, even your double faults can make your opponents unsure. The receiver will begin hanging back, thinking that your serve might get in. That can throw off his rhythm.

There is one more suggestion for a long-range plan. Set up your own survival school — plan for the worst. Get a bunch of balls and practice only second serves. Very few players ever work to eliminate a chronic weakness in their second serve.

When you reach a point where you seldom, if ever, miss the second serve, you'll find yourself more relaxed and confident with your first serve as well. You won't tense up when serving an important point and try too hard on your first serve.

And more importantly, you won't become unglued when you have to hit that second serve.

By GREG SMITH

The Oakland University women's basketball team rolled to its third victory in four outings this year by defeating Northwood Institute in a recent Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) game, 72-53.

Sophomore forward Linda Krawford, ranked ninth nationally in the AIAW Division I scoring race with a 24.3 point average, was OU's leading scorer with 25 points. Krawford hit nine of 18 from the free-throw line and seven of 10 from the foul line.

Anne Kish contributed 15 points, while freshman Pam Springer came off the bench to score 10 points.

Northwood, now 2-5 overall and 0-4

in conference action, was led by freshman center Jane Peringer with 17 points.

Oakland will play in the Wayne State tournament that begins today.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Darryl Lewis came off the bench to score a career-high 17 points, pacing the Northwood Northmen to an 85-67 victory over the Oakland University men's basketball team last week.

Lewis paced a balanced NI scoring attack that saw five Northwood players reach double figures. Scott Ruttle had 14 points, while Terry Mann and Jim Somers scored 13 and 12 points. Mark Taylor contributed with 11.

Freshman forward Larry Lubitz paced the OU offense with a career-high 19 points in a reserve role. Lubitz connected on 8-11 from the field and three of four from the free-throw line.

Freshman guard Rob Manilla, a graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice High School, was the only other Oakland player in double figures with 10 points.

The Pioneer cagers will play at Shaw College tomorrow.

PIONEER POINTERS

- The Oakland University women's basketball team has three players in the AIAW national rankings. Sophomore forward Linda Krawford is

ranked ninth nationally with a 24.3 scoring average. Oregon State's Carol Menken tops the nation with a 32.3 average.

Sophomore guard Kelly Kenry is third among the nation's assist leaders. The 5-foot-5 guard from Sterling Heights Henry Ford High School is averaging 3.0 assists.

Sophomore forward Teresa Vondrasek is tied for second with a 5.0 steals per game. Vondrasek is OU's leading rebounder with a 9.0 average.

- Two Oakland University soccer players have been named to the All-Mideast Soccer team. The squad was announced last week.

OU junior goalie Mark Hamilton from Rochester was selected as the second-team goalie behind Cleveland State University All-American John Vanostveen.

Hamilton registered 11 shutouts this fall, while leading the Pioneers to their best season ever with a 14-4-2 record. Vanostveen was the third player selected in the recent annual North American Soccer League draft.

- The OU women's basketball team is ranked fifth in the state of Michigan according to a 24-person group of coaches, sports information directors and media representatives.

The Pioneers, under the guidance of first-year coach Duwayne Jones, received 98 points in the balloting. Wayne State University was first with 183 points that included 16 first-place votes.

The University of Detroit was second with 116 points (eight first-place votes), followed by the University of Michigan (124), Michigan State University (119), Oakland, Eastern Michigan University (74), Central Michigan University (52) and Western Michigan University (47).

- The OU men's basketball team is ranked ninth nationally with an 87.4 scoring average. Junior forward Bill Peterson from Livonia Clarenceville is ranked fifth in field-goal percentage with a 69.0 accuracy mark.

The 6-6 junior forward has hit 29-42 from the field this season for the Pioneers, now 3-4 overall.

Sub-8 league breaking up

By BRAD EMONS

The western Wayne County prep sports scene in 1982-83 will take on a slightly different look.

Plymouth Salem and Livonia Bentley have handed in their respective letters of resignation from the Suburban Eight League.

The two schools are joining a new conference, which does not have a name yet. Salem and Bentley will join Inter-Lakes members Livonia Stevenson, Farmington and Walled Lake Central to form one division.

The other division will consist of teams left from the Western Six League — Plymouth Canton, Farmington Harrison, Walled Lake Western, Livonia Churchill and Northville. Waterford Mott is withdrawing from the Western Six after the current school year.

Bentley's and Salem's withdrawal from the Suburban Eight is a "mere formality," according to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Athletic Director John Sandmann.

"This issue has not been voted upon officially by the Suburban Eight," he said. "Formal acceptance of this will come in January."

Bentley's letter of resignation was submitted by Principal Bill Brown. It has been received by the league president.

The formation of the new conference came about when the Inter-Lakes began to break up. Milford Lakeland, Pontiac Northern and Waterford Township decided to align with nearby schools in Oakland County.

That's when principals and athletic directors of the remaining schools began to take steps toward forming a new conference.

"Everyone knows what the situation is," said Sandmann. "There was nothing under the table."

"This has been the accumulation of a lot of ideas. We'll have a group of principals and athletic directors form a committee and draft a constitution.

"We hope this is the beginning of a larger league with more divisions. There could be additions if it's written into the by-laws."

SANDMANN said the new conference will make scheduling a lot easier. Inter-conference play and maybe even conference playoffs could become a reality.

"We're going to take each sport and look at it," said Sandmann. "There could be different set-ups in each sport. Coaches could be making some of these decisions."

"This is financially better. Just look

at it from a transportation standpoint. The whole thing is a lot easier."

Skyrocketing transportation costs put a strain on schools in the Suburban Eight League. The distance between Trenton and Salem was 45 miles.

Salem and Bentley's abandonment leaves five schools remaining in the Suburban Eight — Dearborn, Dearborn Edsel Ford, Trenton, Allen Park and Belleville.

Holland, Brewer speak at grid coaching clinic

Ron Holland of North Farmington and Rick Brewer of Auburn Heights Avondale will be among the coaches participating in the Thumb High School Football Coaching Clinic, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 17 at Romeo High School.

Holland, coach of the North Suburban League champion Raiders, will speak from 1:30-2:15 p.m. about organizing and coaching the kicking game.

Brewer, who coached the Yellowjackets to a 9-0 season and the North Oakland Athletics Conference

championship, will speak from 10:45-11:30 a.m. about evaluating scouting reports and developing a game plan.

Other coaches on the panel include Paul Temerian of Royal Oak Kimball and Rick Bye of Sterling Heights Stevenson.

There is a \$10 fee. Reservations may be mailed to Larry Dunn, Romeo High School, 48065. Reservations can also be made by calling Dunn at 1-752-3531.

Romeo High School is at 11091 32 Mile.



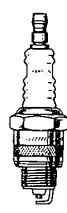
WED., DEC. 31 vs. PITTSBURGH 7:30 P.M.
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TUES., JAN. 6 vs. MONTREAL 7:30 P.M.
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