

It's a double departure

Jones accepts U-D job; OU bumped from title picture

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

The women's basketball program at Oakland University suffered two setbacks in four days, including the resignation of third-year coach Dewayne Jones who's moving to the University of Detroit to coach the Lady Titans. Jones, whose Lady Pioneers were bounced from the NCAA Division II playoffs at home Saturday in a 73-72 loss against Dayton, made the announcement at a press conference Tuesday at the University of Detroit.

The position was vacated by Mary Roelcke, who left midseason to pursue

career goals outside of coaching. Jones, who came to OU after four years at Ferndale — his high school alma mater — compiled a 70-18 collegiate record. He led the Pioneers to two post-season appearances, two Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships, and was named GLIAC coach of the year in back-to-back seasons.

"I'M LOOKING forward to the challenge of returning the basketball program back to where it was at U-D," Jones said. "And I'm happy with the commitment U-D has made to women's basketball."

U-D athletic director Bud Kinsman

is expecting Jones to continue his winning ways at Calhoun Hall.

"Dewayne Jones has been a successful coach wherever he's been, and I'm confident he will be as successful here at U-D," Kinsman said.

OU Athletic Director Lee Frederick, who also coaches the Pioneers' men's basketball team, admitted he'll be looking to fill some big shoes.

"We wish him the best of luck at the University of Detroit," Frederick said. "U-D has selected an outstanding coach and a great individual. It's going to be tough to find someone of Jones' caliber to fill our new position."

The notice for OU's coaching vacancy will be posted for 30 days before officials act on the selection process.

THE PIONEERS' other setback came Saturday when they were unexpectedly eliminated from the NCAA Division II tournament in the loss to Dayton in the Great Lakes Region Championship game. Oakland, which was a national semi-

finalist last year, held a 73-69 lead with 1:02 left in the game with Dayton. But the Lady Flyers scored the last four points — including two free throws by 6-foot-5 freshman center Theresa Yingling with nine seconds left — to upend the favored Pioneers.

Oakland's Gwen Browner, who scored a season-high 20 points to pace the Pioneers, launched a 20-foot shot at the buzzer which missed its mark.

Donna Burks was the key to Dayton's win, netting 28 points. "Burks is one of the finest post-up players I've seen in either men's or women's basketball on the college level," Jones said. "She did things entirely against our thinking, and it was hard for us to adapt. . . . We tried everything we could think of to stop her."

"She was the whole key to Dayton," Jones added, "but I don't think that was the only reason why we lost. We weren't able to run and do some of the things we wanted to do."

BROWNER'S 20 POINTS led a four-

some of Pioneers who scored in double figures. Linda Krawford, Michigan's all-time leading college scorer with 2,400 points, was next with 19. Teresa Vondrasek finished with 12 points and Brenda McLean scored 11.

Oakland, which usually puts up nearly 65 shots per game, were forced to play Dayton's tempo and attempted just 66 shots. The Pioneers were 29 of 66 from the floor (44 percent) while Dayton hit 28 of 50 (56 percent). OU clicked on 14 of 19 free throws; the Lady Flyers made 17 of 19.

The 73 points Dayton scored were the most allowed by Oakland since the third game of the season, when the Pioneers toppled Eastern Michigan, 88-77.

The loss ended Oakland's season with a 23-4 mark and closed out the careers of senior standouts Krawford, Vondrasek, Browner and Anne Kish.

Dayton, 20-9 overall, advances to the Western quarterfinals. In the Region semifinals, Dayton defeated Butler, 71-69. Oakland drew a bye.



Dewayne Jones moves to Division I



photos by JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Oakland University's Gwen Browner goes to the basket in Saturday's game with Dayton. Browner scored 20 points in a losing effort.

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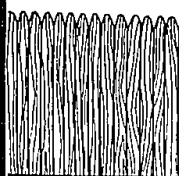


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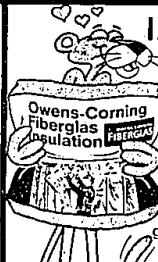
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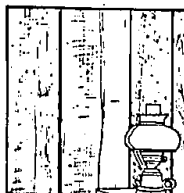
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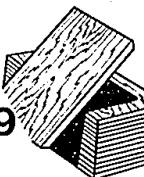
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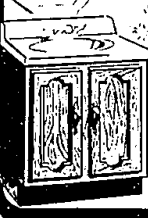
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