

OU volleyball on upswing Future is bright for Pioneers

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

THE SECOND OF three stages geared toward lifting the Oakland University volleyball team to the top of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference soon will unfold as Bob Hurdle readies his young squad for his second season as head coach.

The Pioneers, 15-13 last year, will enter the new campaign without a senior on the roster. Hurdle's inexperienced squad finished the 1982 league season with a 3-5 record, and placed seventh in the conference tournament. He's hoping the youngsters will continue to jell this season, and become a bona fide contender the following year. "We hope to move up this year," Hurdle said. "We didn't lose anybody, and we had a great recruiting year."

The top recruit, according to Hurdle, is Bloomfield Hills Lahser graduate Dawn Winkler. The 5-foot-8 hitter is a player Hurdle believes can contribute from the start of the season.

"SHE HAS AN excellent chance of stepping right in and starting," said the former Andover coach, who was laid off from his teaching position last spring and resigned from his coaching duties. "She is a great defensive player. She plays the game exceptionally hard. Because of that, she has a chance to step right in."

Two other recruits — Sue Tacina from Big Rapids and Bridget Bohnet from Mt. Clemens — also stand a

volleyball

strong chance of helping the team contend in the GLIAC.

"Sue Tacina is a tremendous athlete, but she needs help in the skill areas," Hurdle said. "As far as the advanced skills, she has to work on those, but I think she will be a good player."

"Bridget Bohnet will probably be a developmental player for us. By that, I mean she will develop more as the season progresses. She's making great progress. By her sophomore or junior year, she can be a great player. And being 5-foot-2 makes her that much more attractive."

IN ADDITION to the freshmen recruits, Hurdle landed a pair of college transfers. Terri Wiechert, a 6-1 middle-blocker from Macomb Community College, and Stacey Young, a 5-8 Andover grad who transferred from Hillsdale, will give the Pioneers the depth which eluded them last season.

"Last year we were hurting because we did not have much depth," Hurdle said. "This year, it looks like that could be remedied. That's a positive factor, plus, we didn't lose anybody. We have a lot of people with valuable game experience."

Leading the list of returning letter winners is 5-8 junior middle-blocker Erika Bauer, a Rochester High gradu-

ate who co-captained last year's unit. Bauer, an all-conference honorable mention, led the team in blocking and was second on the squad with 161 kills. She also led the team with 34 saves, and was second in points scored off serve.

Judy Jenner is another key returnee who's proven herself as a top player. The 5-4 setter from Dearborn started all 26 games last year during her freshman season. Jenner's strength is in her quickness and range. Hurdle believes the compact spiking could be the top defender at Oakland, and has the potential to become one of the best setters in the conference.

Other returning letter winners on the pre-season roster include Peggy Green, a 5-6 hitter from Rochester, Mary Pike, a 5-8 hitter from Royal Oak, Linda Sciotti, a 5-4 setter from Warren, and Becca Wyatt, a 5-10 middle-blocker from Royal Oak.

THE COMBINATION of experienced players and highly-regarded newcomers have Hurdle optimistic about the season, although he believes the team still is a year away from challenging front-runner Ferris State.

"Ferris has to be the odds-on favorite to win it," Hurdle said. "They lost just two players from last year, and they

were a regional finalist in Division II. "It's hard to say where we come in. I hate to make predictions, but I feel we could be pretty close. The teams in spots two through seven are pretty competitive, and we could finish anywhere in there. If we finish two, three or four, that means the kids have to mature quickly, and we have to stay away from injuries."

"Remember, we don't have any seniors, and that (having experienced seniors) helps. If the conditions are right — if the kids grow like they can — there's no reason we can't be No. 2." Hurdle, along with assistant coach Fred Giltrow, believe the offense they've implemented at OU could be one of the best in the league — second only to Ferris.

"WE'RE GOING to have one of the two most potent attacks in the league," Hurdle said.

"It's a quick offense," Giltrow explained. "It's one that clicks and we can run it all the time. Looking at the competition from last year, we're the only team — other than Ferris — that runs the quick plays."

Hurdle's optimistic approach to the season has rubbed off on his team. The Pioneers no longer are willing to accept the fact that they are a team which can be beaten.

"This team is really hungry," Hurdle said. "They're young, but they're starting to believe they can play with people. We're looking for substantial growth. This year you should see substantial growth."

"I'd be a fool to think we won't be successful in the next couple of years. We can be successful. I wouldn't think here if I didn't think so."



Sound mutes Livonia's title bid

By Morris Moorman
special writer

It was truly a Sound beating. Livonia Adray was eliminated from the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAA) tournament Wednesday by Adray Sound, the Detroit champs, 16-6, in game halter seven innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

Sound, comprised primarily of University of Michigan players, used shortstop Barry Larkin's live BRY, including a grand slam homer in the second inning to advance to the next round of play in the 16-team double-elimination tournament in Johnston, Pa. for players 19 and under.

"It seemed that everything that went to us we'd make a mistake," said Livonia manager Ron Heller, whose usually reliable defense committed six errors.

"But they (Sound) is the best team we've played," he added. "I'm not impressed with their pitching as much as I am with their hitting."

"Larkin is a major league prospect. He hits well and runs well."

LARKIN, A native of Cincinnati, Ohio and starter for Michigan in the recent College World Series, keyed the six-run Sound scoring outburst in the second.

The Detroit Adray League champions added another run in the fourth when Mike Watters walked and later scored on Larkin's apparent second homer. The hard-hitting shortstop, however, failed to touch first base and his run was disallowed.

Livonia bounced back in the bottom of the fourth when starting pitcher Joe Taraskavage slammed a two-run homer, his third in three days. Teammate Randy Baringer followed with a three-run double, scoring Jim St. John, Pete Rose and John DePillo.

Sound added another run in the top of the fifth on a two-run, two-out double by Tony DeMarti to make it 16-6.

Livonia gained a run back in the bottom half of the inning when Mike MacDonald singled, Rose walked and John

Judge reached base safely on an error. Sound, which pounded out 13 hits, put the game away with five runs in the sixth followed by three more in the seventh.

Taraskavage, bound for the University of Detroit this fall, worked six innings before giving way to Mike Wilkins and Rick Rozman, both whom will be high school seniors. Taraskavage suffered the loss.

Joe Slavik, who relieved Sound starter Al Gainer, was the winning pitcher.

THE LIVONIA Collegiate Baseball League (LCBL) regular season, league playoff and AAAA regional champs, finished the year at 31-6-1.

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Course fights golfers

Continued from Page 1

No. 17: 135 yards (women), 156 yards (men), par 3 — "A good par three. It's a wide green, but narrow front to back. It's well bunkered, with traps all along the front. The green is sloped back to front. If you get behind the hole, you can putt right off the green."

FOR CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT golfers, Whitener said, the toughest holes would be numbers two, nine, 11 and 15. Best birdie chances are at seven, 10 and 13.

"For your 14th club," Whitener cracked, "you might want to take a McCullough chain saw."

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FLOYD A. CAIRNS
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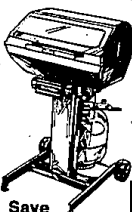
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