Kruszewski to field young, talented team

A new coach and one returning start-didn't fool anyone at the Great akes Intercollegiate Athletic Associa-on (GLIAC) basketball meetings.

finish second.

One reason is that the returning starter is Brenda McClean, an All-Conference selection as a sophomore who averaged 13 points and eight rebounds

Opposing GLIAC coaches still picked
Oakland University's women's team to
finish second.
One reason is that the returning

19 shots.

A SECOND REASON is OU's 23-4 overall record last season, including a

to the state after a three-year stint at University of Washington. Kruszewski was 50-34 at Washington, a position she took after rolling up a 69-15 mark at University of Detroit. Ironically, Kruszewski replaces Dewayne Jones, who left OU this year to take over at U-D.

STILL. THE SELECTION of OU to

STILL, THE SELECTION of OU to challenge Saginaw Valley, which returns five starters, surprised Kruszewski.

"We're very young," the veteran coach said. "We have no seniors on the team. I thought it was interesting that they chose us, considering we have one returning starter.

teath: 1 thought is was increasing, we have one returning starter.

"The key thing is that we have the talent. How fast we pull together will make the difference."

One big change Krussewski has implemented is switching McClean, last year's starter at center, to power forward. The move should free the 6-foot 1 McClean from some of the demanding duties under the boards and make room for 6-3 junior kim Nash to take over in the pivot.

"She's ready to come into ber own," Kruszewski said of the Trenton native who backed up McClean last season. "I think she can be very dominant inside."

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KIM McCARTHA, a sophomore from Detroit, is slated to start at point guard. Kruszewski described the 5-0 McCartha as "extremely quick — one of the quickest in the GLIAC." If there's a problem with McCartha it's that she has a tendancy to play out of control, something Kruszewski has been spending a lot of time on trying to correct.

Sophomore Anya Williams will start at shooting forward. The 5-9 Clawson native has "a good jumper and speed," according to Kruszewski.

At the shooting guard, freshman Ma-

OU sports

ria Reynolds has the inside track. The 5-7 All-Stater from Fenton has shown "a lot of polse and maturity for a frephman," Kruszwiki said.

Toni Gasparovic, a transfer from Saginaw Valley, will be one of the first players off the bench. The 5-9 junior from Clawon will swing between guard and forward. A pair of sophomores, 5-10 Joane Mecoli from Benchy and 6-0 Sue Mausolf from Harbor Beach, will also see plenty of playing time.

"WE'LL RUN," Kruszewski promised McClean and Nash provide lots of rebounding strength and McCar-tha, Williams and Reynolds have the speed. Defensively, Kruszewski said OU would run a "combination of de-

speed. Defensively, Kruszewski gaid OU would run a "combination of defenses." The key to success there is what we can throw out at certain times. We grailly have concentrated on it. This team is good at anticipating." Kruszewski is somewhat unfamiliar with the CLIAC after a two-year leave from state play. However, Saginaw Valley is everyone's favorite and Wayne State and Northwood Institute look solid.

But don't count OU out. "This team is used to winning." Kruszewski salid. "They have a lot of pride. An importiant factor is not to pressure them and expect too much to soon."

Kruszewski plans to allow her team time to mature in the early part of the schedule. "Jelling together takes time and pattered," she salid.

If ow much time? Ask again midway through the GLIAC schedule. By then, the question should be answered.



New Oakland University women's basketball coach Sue Kruszewski, makes a point during a recent practice. The Ploneers are poised to

swimming

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