

Pioneers in too deep at holiday tourney

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

It wasn't exactly a happy holiday for Oakland University's men's basketball team.

The Pioneers entered the Sacred Heart Holiday Classic at Bridgeport, Conn., with a 6-2 record. They left with just one win in three games.

OU was felled by New York Tech in its opener last Thursday, 90-68. The Pioneers regrouped to blast Queen's College of New York, 94-71, on Friday before suffering a 101-81 loss to New Hampshire in a Saturday contest.

The University of District of Colum-

bia won the eight-team tournament, beating New York Tech in the finals.

IN THE OPENING LOSS to Tech, OU was never into the game. The Pioneers trailed by 11 at the intermission (42-31) and never got closer than 10 in the second half. OU's top scorers for the season, Mike Mohn and Chris Howze, combined for only nine points and three rebounds.

Harold Davis led the Pioneers with 18 points. Craig Mitchell added 17. Five Tech players reached double figures in scoring, led by Al Davis' 19. Tech dominated by connecting on 69.6 percent of its floor shots to 51 per-

cent for OU.

In Friday's victory, Mohn rebounded from his one-for-10 shooting performance in the opener to pump in 21 points. Davis turned in another strong offensive game off the bench, matching Mohn's 21 points in the rout of Queen's.

OU RACED TO A 51-31 halftime lead and was never headed. Rebounding, a weak point with the Pioneers (Tech had a 35-17 advantage), was improved against Queen's as centers Walt Dixon and Jenny Vrij combined to grab 17 boards and score nine points. Dixon had seven points and 10 rebounds. Mitchell netted 13 points and Rob

Skinner collected 10 for OU. Queen's got 26 points from Norm Roberts and 24 from Elliott York.

OU proved no match for New Hampshire in the finale, falling behind by 10 at the half (44-34) and never forging closer than that the rest of the way. The Pioneers committed 28 turnovers to 17 for the winners and were outscored, 42-37.

Howze, who was 16th in NCAA Division II scoring with a 21-point average after seven games, broke out of a slump by pouring in 19 points. Davis contributed 13 more and earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team with his 52-points-in-three-games effort. Mohn

had 10 points and nine rebounds.

Carmen Gianpetrucci's 31 points sparked New Hampshire.

OU, now 7-4 overall, resumes its the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schedule at 3 p.m. Saturday at Northwood. OU is 1-0 in GLIAC play.

WOMEN SPLIT PAIR

Poor shooting thwarted any hopes for a championship OU's women's basketball team may have entertained at last weekend's Wolverine/Domino's Classic at University of Michigan.

OU was knocked out of title contention by Cincinnati in the opening round,

87-69. The Lady Pioneers shot just 38 percent from the floor for the game, including a meager 33 percent in the first half as they trailed 44-32 at the intermission.

Cheryl Cook pumped in 28 points to top Cincinnati, which connected on 44 percent from the floor. Brenda McLean scored 23 points to lead OU. McLean also pulled in 11 rebounds. Kim Nash collected 15 points and hauled in 16 rebounds, but hit just three of 17 field goal attempts.

Cincinnati lost to Michigan by a single point for the title.

North grapples in Salem meet

By Chris McCoskey
staff writer

In many respects, the 10th annual Plymouth Salem Invitational wrestling tournament, which takes place Saturday at the Salem gym, will be a scaled-down version of the state meet.

In last year's tourney, four eventual state champion wrestlers were defeated. Some 19 wrestlers that competed in last year's tourney placed at the state meet, six were state champs and four were runners-up.

This year, among the field of competitors are Class C defending state champs Montrose, Class A runner-up Mount Clemens, and just as many state-class grapplers as there were last year.

Salem wrestling coach Ron Krueger has invited 16 teams. As of Tuesday, only 14 have responded.

Holland has sports ship on course

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programs plagued by such crises as salary disputes between coaches and administrators, poor student support, poor parent support, reduced activities at the seventh, eighth and ninth grade levels, declining enrollments, etc. How has Farmington weathered such crises?

Holland: Well, I think we've had a real stable program for the last few years and I can't foresee any real problems as far as cuts go, reduction in sports, or anything like that. The big problem of course, is securing coaches. We need quality coaches to maintain the type of programs we've had. We try to get coaches with professional attitudes, to continue the professionalism that's been shown and exhibited in this school district.

Observer: Why is that a problem? Is there just a lack of competent coaching in this area?

Holland: Well, you're not hiring anybody, for No. 1. And you're cutting back on student enrollment. We're pushing the middle school kids up. So, as the enrollment declines, the staffs get cut. And staffs get cut by seniority and tenure, and then you discover that you've lost all your young people. The older people that have been coaching, like myself, well, you get tired of it after a while. You get burned out a little and you want to move on to other things.

Observer: What are some of the things you have in the hopper for 1984?

Holland: That's a good question. I don't really know what more things we can do. I think within the educational realm of things, we are trying to strengthen our total physical education program. We are trying to get more identity with the middle schools and elementary schools — kind of an elementary-middle school-high school concept. We also are trying to integrate a health program.

Athletically, we are just trying to strengthen some programs.

Observer: To wrap this up, can you assess the strengths and weaknesses, athletically speaking, of the district?

Holland: Overall, I think our strengths are, No. 1, all three of our schools are in good leagues. Leadership, the coaching staffs from top to bottom are very strong at this point. The facilities, well, are not outlandish. They are not the worst and they are not the best. They are very sufficient to carry on the types of programs we have. We have good administrative leadership. Some might dispute that, but I really think that overall our administrative staff has been very supportive and helpful to our coaches. And there's a lot of tradition at our schools.

Observer: What about weaknesses?

Holland: One of the weaknesses, looking down the road, will be the implementation of a feeder program for coaches. Possibly, another problem, because of the numbers of participants, some of our sports may not have enough people to maintain a good program.

But, I think some of our strengths, going back to strengths, is our middle school program. Our inter-mural, interscholastic competition at that level is good. The kids get a good feel for athletic competition.

Back to weaknesses, a future consideration will be replacing some of our more experienced, older coaches, both male and female. But, I really don't see a lot of weaknesses.

Observer: Last question. Is the Harrison-North football rivalry going to be renewed?

Holland: I don't think so right now. I really don't know how we are going to be able to work it out. We can't work it out now because of the commitments we have to non-league opponents and because of playoffs.

There are a lot of questions down the road to be answered about league structures. We presently have two leagues, the Western Lakes and North-west Suburban. The Western Lakes is going to soon lose a team (Bentley). There may be some considerations for forming a big mass league by combining the leagues and coming up with three divisions. (In which case North and Harrison could be in the same league.)

Observer: Thanks for your time.

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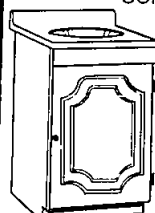
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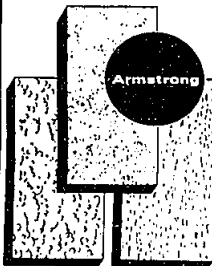
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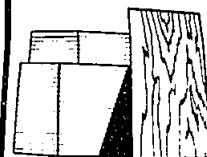
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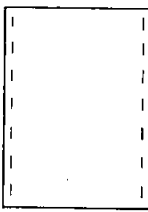
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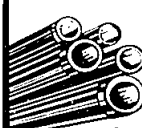
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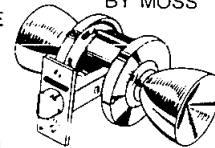
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