

# Questionable calls sting OU cagers

Foul! That cry — and the shrill of the whistle that accompanies it — is something Oakland University's men's basketball team can do without hearing for awhile.

The Pioneers traveled into the north country last weekend and returned with a pair of losses in closely contested Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) games.

OU fell at Michigan Tech Saturday, 78-74, and at Lake Superior State Thursday, 69-71.

Fouls played key roles in both defeats. Three players fouled out against Lake Superior and every start-

er had at least four fouls. In the Michigan Tech game, four more Pioneers were disqualified and two others were saddled with four personals by game's end.

MICHIGAN TECH reached its biggest leads (five points) twice in the second half Saturday: 71-48 with 2:03 left and 73-68 with 57 seconds left. With 15 seconds remaining, OU pulled to within 74-72. Tech's Wayne Helmila was at the free-throw line, but he missed the first in a one-and-one situation.

The Huskies' Todd Kleisow rebounded, however, and hit two free throws three seconds later. Chris Howze got

OU to within two with a basket, but Helmila clinched it with two free throws with two seconds left.

Mike Mohn, Rob Skinner, Craig Mitchell and Randy Strunk fouled out for OU as Tech hit 22-31 free throws to just two of four for the Pioneers.

Howze topped OU with 23 points and seven rebounds. Mohn had 15 points and Mitchell and Skinner clipped in with 12 apiece.

FOULS — AND POOR field goal shooting — proved costly in Thursday's setback against Lake Superior. The Pioneers trailed 40-27 at the half but managed to claw their way back to

within four (82-58) with 4:58 left.

That's when Howze fouled out. He argued the call and was assessed a pair of technical fouls. The Lakers hit five of six free throws to make it 87-55, and OU never got closer than six the rest of the way.

Mitchell, who enjoyed the best scoring game of his career with 23 points, Skinner and Howze all fouled out as OU again came up short in the free-throw shooting department (17 of 29 to Lake Superior's 28 of 37).

Poor shooting also plagued OU. The Pioneers, one of the best shooting teams in the NCAA Division II, made just 40 percent of their shots (27 of 67).

Mohn finished with 17 points and Howze 12. Mike Breenan bagged 23 for the Lakers.

The losses dropped OU to 7-7 in the GLIAC and 13-11 overall.

## OU WOMEN SPLIT ON ROAD

Oakland University's women jumped to an 18-2 lead after the first 10 minutes of their game at Michigan Tech Saturday and were never in danger afterwards in posting a 64-51 GLIAC victory.

The victory could not offset a poor second-half performance Thursday that cost the Pioneers a win and any

chance for a third-straight GLIAC crown as they lost at Lake Superior State 67-59.

Against Tech, Maria Reynolds tied her career high by tossing in 16 points. Brenda McLean contributed 10 points and Kim Nash added nine points, six rebounds and four blocks.

THE LOSS TO Lake Superior was a hard one for OU to swallow. The Pioneers led 53-49 on a basket by Nash with 4:44 to go. But that's when the Lakers went on an 11-0 tear, with Linda Thompson getting six points that gave them a 60-53 lead. OU never got closer than six after that.

## Salem is favored in WLAA

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

It's pretty much agreed that Plymouth Salem is favored to repeat its Western Lakes Conference playoff championship.

But basketball in these parts has been funny in a lot of respects. So funny in fact that the team with the best record during conference play (Salem) won't host a first-round game. Instead, the Western Division schools play host in the opening round, beginning tonight when Livonia Stevenson (13-4) travels to Northville (11-8). The other three match-ups are slated for Friday: Plymouth Salem (15-2) at Livonia Churchill (10-7), Livonia Bentley (6-11) at Plymouth Canton (12-5), and Walled Lake Central (11-6) at Walled Lake Western (9-8).

"Salem is definitely the favorite. Then, I think, there are three or four teams that fall in after," said coach Dave Van Wagoner, whose Canton team handed Salem its only loss in conference play.

"But right now, though, we have to think about Bentley," he added. "It is very difficult to beat a team three times in one season."

IN THE LAST meeting, Canton rallied in the final three minutes to top Bentley, 61-59. That night, the Chiefs did a job on Bentley's improving 6-foot-8 center Phil Graczyk, who is being courted by a number of Division II and Mid-American Conference schools.

"A 4-8 player gives us trouble," said Van Wagoner, whose tallest starter is 6-2. "And Graczyk is a fine player, as is John White, but we haven't lost at home this year."

"El Rogers and Kevin Hawkins have done a good job on Graczyk this year."

Salem, meanwhile, must play at Churchill for the first time this year. The Rocks won handily in an earlier meeting, 67-44.

"Obviously the first game is important," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "You've got to win it in that respect."

"We respect Churchill because they've played some good games over the years. They have players who can score. We're going to try to take away their rhythm. Their whole game is based on the fast-break and the outside jumper."

THOMANN SAID his team is healthy and ready to go for the playoffs.

"We've been playing pretty well," he said. "Our defense is coming and our shot selection has been good lately. We're playing pretty good."

Churchill, meanwhile, must regroup after losing to 4-14 Livonia Franklin on Tuesday, 72-64.

The Stevenson-Northville matchup is the most intriguing of the four.

The Mustangs seem to have a homecourt advantage, although Stevenson and Salem have already won there this year.

"If you don't take away certain things they'll hurt you," warned Stevenson coach George Van Wagoner, referring to the outside shooting of Bob Pegrum and the Northville's inside game. "We played them before on their floor and beat them because we played together in the second half."

STEVENSON'S 6-6 junior center, Bob Sluka, the team's second-leading scorer and top rebounder, will not play because of a bad ankle, which has kept him out of four games this season.

"I think we'll have to wait until next week," Van Wagoner said. "Bob wants to get in, and I appreciate that. But I don't think he's ready."

"We have to do without him, and we're capable of winning."

The semifinals will be played Tuesday with the championship scheduled for Friday.

## sport shorts

### ● BASFORD STARS

Denise Basford, a 1981 graduate of Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy, set a single-game assist record for the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team Saturday.

Basford, a sophomore, dished out 13 assists in an 88-83 loss to the University of Detroit. She also hit four of six shots from the floor for the Irish, scoring eight points.

### ● GIRLS' HOOPS

Girls' basketball teams are being sought to compete in the state AAU Sports Festival which takes place the third week of June.

Teams are needed in the following age divisions: 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 18-under.

Interested players and coaches should contact Schoolcraft Community College women's basketball coach Ed Kavanagh at 591-6400, ext. 409 as soon as possible.

### ● MORE GIRLS HOOPS

Applications are being accepted for the Great Lakes Basketball Day Camp (girls grades 9-12) which runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 9-15 at Schoolcraft College.

Those interested should call or write: Greg Kolb, 623 Central, Detroit 48208 — 841-6776.

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