

Bench strength lifts OU women over N'wood

Oakland University's women basketball team got a lift from a seldom-used source Saturday in frustrating Northwest Institute 72-61 at Northwest.

Cherry Wilks, a freshman forward, came off the bench to contribute 24 strong minutes of action. Wilks finished with 5 baskets in 17 shots and 11 points, 5 assists and 3 steals. Wilks was passed into service when illness Pam Hawkins was sick and didn't make the trip — struck the guard-short Pioneers.

OU limited Northwest to 11 points in the game's first 15 minutes and led 26-11 before the Northwest closed 33-25.

at the half. The Pioneers started fast again in the second half and built a 63-43 lead with 4:52 left before Northwest closed with a rally that proved meaningless.

The Northwestmen, 11-9 overall and 5-6 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC), managed to connect on just 28 percent of their field goals (22 of 77). OU hit 55 percent (27 of 49).

Julie Wilga, a Livonia Franklin grad, led OU with 16 points. Brenda McLean scored 14 points and grabbed 8 rebounds and Kim Nash had 8 points and 12 rebounds.

McLean's 14 points gave her 1,504

for her career. The senior forward is third on OU's all-time scoring list.

Tammy Bumpus netted 23 points and nabbed 16 rebounds for Northwest.

The win lifted OU to 10-12 overall and 5-5 in the GLIAC.

OU'S MENS TEAM came up flat in dropping its second straight, 81-67, Saturday at Northwest.

After a 14-4 surge gave Northwest a 20-10 lead with 16:04 to play in the opening half, the closest the Pioneers got was 4 points at 26-22 with 6:05 left in the half. But the Northwest finished the half with a 15-3 rally and were never again threatened.

Terry Campbell and Kevin Brown topped Northwest (10-13 overall, 3-8 in the GLIAC) with 20 points each. Chris Howze had 20 points and 10 rebounds for OU, with Rob Skinner and Scott Bittiger contributing 10 points apiece.

The Pioneers, 11-10 overall and 4-6 in the GLIAC, made just 38 percent of their floor shots (28-71).

OU NOTES: OU will host the GLIAC wrestling championships Friday, with action starting at 11 a.m. at Lepley Sports Arena.

The sophomore-powered Pioneers are led by Jerry Umlin (167-pounds), who's 14-0 this season and a strong fa-

vorite in his weight class; Dave Wilgen (142), who has a 10-6 match record; John Solomonson (178), 9-6 this season; and Pat Stano (190), 8-10 for the year. All are sophomores.

Lake Superior State defeated OU 40-8 Friday and ranks as the GLIAC favorite. OU, which was 2-1 in conference meets and 3-4 overall, and two-time defending champ Ferris State are strong contenders. Grand Valley is the final entrant.

OU'S WOMEN SWIMMERS raised their dual meet record to 5-3 with a 93-44 victory over Kenyon State of Ohio Friday, which closed their home dual meet season.

Nancy Schermer won twice for OU, taking the 100-yard (55.39) and 500-yard (5:08.76) freestyles.

Other winners included Linda Scott in the 200 free (1:58.00), Allison Klump in the 100 breaststroke (1:11.25), Kathy Van Valkenburg in the 200 backstroke (2:20.8), Kim Brace in the 100 butterfly (1:01.49), Sarah Stanwood in the 200 individual medley (2:15.58), Lee Ann O'Neil in the 1-meter diving (220.35 points) and Janine Doll in the 3-meter diving (238.125 points).

North spikers Pistole-whip Dearborn

No hum. Just your basic meaningless non-league volleyball match.

Right. And Mozart was just another song writer. North Farmington and Dearborn went at it Monday as if a state championship was at stake. There was no state championship, just two proud programs battling for respect and bragging rights.

And North came out on top, 10-15, 15-6, 15-7.

"We adjusted to their hitting after the first game," said North coach Sandy Lubienicki. "We are really playing good team volleyball right now."

Indeed, all the Halder starters contributed. Brooks Landback was 12 for 15 at the net and made 9 digs. Patti Kozicki was masterful with her sets. Suzanne Greenberg nailed 18 of 19 serves and scored 12 points and Donna Konjarewich served well and played solid in the back row.

But the star of the show was Julie Pistole. The 6-foot senior nailed 23 of 26 spikes with 11 aces, made 10 blocks and hit on 13 of 14 serves.

"Julie was outstanding both offensively and defensively," Lubienicki said. "You'll notice with our team that certain girls come to the front. Well, this was Julie's turn. But the thing I'm most pleased with is how far the level of team play has come."

The Halders, No. 3 in Observerland, are now 20-5 on the season. Dearborn is now 27-7.

PLYMOUTH CANTON registered its first Western Lake conference victory in two years Friday night, but had little time to savor it.

After knocking off Farmington Friday night 9-15, 15-11, 15-13, the Chiefs met up with another Farmington opponent on Monday. Farmington Harrison stopped the Chiefs' win streak at one with a 15-2, 13-15, 15-2 win.

Canton has been playing inspired volleyball in recent weeks, largely due to an infusion of new blood. First-year coach Sue Riggs called up three players from the junior varsity team two days ago — Vicki Minar, Sue Moffatt and Kelly Moeller — and the results have been positive.

"The JV players really improved us," Riggs said. "They gave us a little extra push that we really needed."

Against Farmington, it was the back row play of Minar that kept Canton in the game. Veterans Diana Kolickbocker, Jeanne Sumner and Vicki Perko contributed effectively to the Chiefs' attack as well.

But, it was a different story against Harrison. With powerful serving from Kristy Rugh and strong net play from Diana Raddatz, the Hawks simply didn't allow Canton into their attack.

Janine Whittemore and Jennifer Hughes were consistent both on the front line and in the back row for Harrison.

Canton is now 3-6 overall and 1-6 in the league. Harrison is 10-7 overall, 4-2 in the conference.

OLSM defeated

By C.J. Rieske
staff writer

Tim Domke's Orchard Lake St. Mary's basketball team is inexperienced, it's true. Two freshmen and two sophomores start, together with one junior.

And so far this season, it appears where the Eagles lack experience most is in winning.

They had a chance Monday when they hosted highly regarded Saginaw Valley State. OLSM had a 3-point lead early in the second half before a pair of 8-point Cardinal spurts dashed any thoughts of an upset.

In the end, Saginaw Valley prevailed 66-55, but the victory didn't come easy.

"WE JUST don't know how to win," said a frustrated Domke. "We went to a zone (in the game's late stages) and the young guys weren't protecting their area."

"But we're learning. You lose a little confidence in a year like this."

A "year like this" is a season in which the Eagles have won 7 of 21 games. Two of those wins came last weekend when it was learned an early-season opponent, Marion College, forfeited 2 wins over OLSM because it used illegal players.

Saginaw Valley, which improved its record to 19-3, showed how it compiled its outstanding record by staying cool when it fell behind and by pounding the offensive boards relentlessly.

THE CARDINALS fell behind 39-37 when the Eagles scored 9-straight points early in the second half. A Devaroe Bridges free throw cut the deficit to 1 before Gary Pederson hit a short jumper to put OLSM up 41-38.

Saginaw Valley answered by scoring 8 points in a row, with James Preston accounting for 4 on a pair of long, looping jumpers from the deep corner. St. Mary's added the Cardinal rally with 3 turnovers.

The Eagles did get back to within a point when Lance Davis hit a driving layup, but Saginaw Valley put together another 8-point string, with 3 baskets coming after offensive rebounds. The closest OLSM got after that was 5.

Steve Kopicki's 11 points was best for the Eagles, with Pederson adding 10. Davis and Erich Hartnett, whose slam of Davis' alley-oop pass tied the second half tied the score at 37, had 9 points each. Davis also had 4 assists.

Mike Oates and Dan Farley scored 15 points each for Saginaw Valley. Oates also had 7 boards. Steve Schumak finished with 11 points and Preston had 10. Saginaw Valley had a commanding 31-19 edge on the boards.

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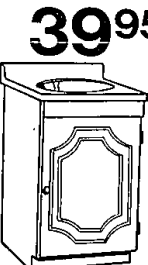
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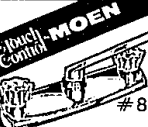
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