

# Pioneer women sloppy in loss

By C.J. Risak  
Staff writer

For Orchard Lake St. Mary's, what started with such promise could not have had a more dismal — and abrupt — ending.  
The brightest moment for the Eagles in their basketball game at Oakland University Saturday came in the opening seconds. Point guard Lance Davis lofted a high, arching pass toward the basket. Theodis Pearson intercepted the ball above the rim and slammed it home.  
But the perfectly timed alley-oop play only counted for two points. It also was the only time OLSM led in the game. OU answered Pearson's slam by hitting six shots in a row, scoring 12 points en route to an 86-76 victory.  
The final 10-point margin was as close as OLSM came to the surging Pioneers after the eight-minute mark of the opening half. The score was 66-68 with 1:32 left in the game and OU's bench was cleared when the Eagles scored the game's final 10 points to make the final margin semirespectable.

ELEVEN PLAYERS scored for OU, which has now won four straight to lift its record to 5-1. Those finished with eight points or more.  
Senior forward Randy Strunk paced the Pioneers with 15 points, on six-for-eight floor shooting, and nine rebounds. Sophomore guard Scott Bittinger also canned six-of-eight from the field and had 13 points.  
Rob Skinner and Rob Alvin netted nine points each, with Skinner dishing out six assists. Both Pete Schilt and Johnny Johnson scored eight points, and Johnson also grabbed seven rebounds and passed out four assists.  
Poor shooting plagued OLSM, which trailed 41-23 at the half. Freshman Bob Brigman led the Eagles with 11 points and nine rebounds. Davis had 10 points and had six assists, and Pearson, Steve Kopplek, Erich Hartnett and Mike Belczak con-

## OU sports

tributed eight points apiece.  
Pearson was in foul trouble throughout the game and fouled out with 4:10 left, while top Eagle scorers Kopplek and Hartnett connected on a combined seven-for-24 floor attempts. Kopplek did nab seven rebounds.

The loss dropped OLSM to 1-11. OU'S THIRD win in a row came Friday night when the Pioneers pounded visiting Northeastern Illinois 85-72.

The outcome was in doubt until midway through the second half. OU squeezed ahead 39-37 at the half after leading by as much as seven in the first 20 minutes. NEI remained in the hunt, however, trailing 57-56 with 9:47 to play, before a pair of freshmen ignited the Pioneers.

Johnson and forward John Henderson combined for 10 points (Johnson four, Henderson six) in a five-minute span as OU outpined NEI 20-7 and assumed a commanding 77-63 advantage. The visitors never got closer than 10 the rest of the way.  
Henderson finished with 12 points and five rebounds, while Johnson contributed seven points and six assists. Team-high scoring honors went to hot-shooting senior guard Rob Skinner, who connected on nine-of-11 from the floor for 18 points. Skinner also was OU's high rebounder with eight.

Strunk (five-for-seven) and Chris Howze had 14 points apiece, with Strunk hauling in seven rebounds. OU outboarded the Golden Eagles 45-28.  
Pete Shepherd's 24 points was best for NEI, which fell to 3-5 with the loss.

The Pioneers are on the road for their next two contests, playing at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Thursday and at Quincy (Ill.) College Saturday.

# Lady Ocelots tumble

Schoolcraft's women's basketball team won its first game, then ran into two ranked powerhouses during an eight-team tournament last weekend in Lakeland, Ohio, and suffered its first two losses of the season.  
Thursday night, the Ocelots rallied from 20 points down with 15 minutes to play and beat the host team, Lakeland Community College, 64-61, to go to 5-0 on the year.

Freshman center Sue Lubbe led the way with 20 points and sophomore forward Kim Chandler added 11.  
Game No. 2 was the next morning at 10 a.m., and though Schoolcraft played well, it succumbed to Sinclair (Ohio) CC, 88-76.

THE THIRD GAME was a rematch against Shawnee (Ohio) State of a game won earlier this season by Schoolcraft, 68-

## Spartans defeated

A brilliant comeback ended a minute too soon for Livonia Stevenson's basketball team Tuesday as the Spartans dropped a heartbreaker to Northville, 61-59 at Stevenson.

The Spartans tried to play Northville non-toman in the opening quarter and that proved to be a mistake. The Mustangs got nine points from Matt Hines and seven from Don Norton in jumping to a 24-14 lead.

Stevenson switched to a 2-1-2 zone after that, and by halftime cut Northville's lead in half (33-28). By the start of the fourth quarter the Spartans were within two (49-47).

The Spartan rally continued until just 85 seconds remained. They led 59-56 and had the ball, but then the roof caved in.

A FIVE-SECOND call on the in-bounds pass gave the ball to Northville. The Mustangs scored to make it 59-58.  
Rich Gregor was fouled on Stevenson's next possession, but he missed the first in a one-and-one free throw situation.  
Northville scored again to go ahead by a point with 13 seconds left.

# OU cagers best St. Mary in rout

All good things come to an end, including a six-game win streak for Oakland University's women's basketball team. It's just too bad the end didn't come on a better note.

The Lady Pioneers had lots of chances to best visiting Indiana Tech Saturday, but they blew them all and lost 54-33.

If a win streak must be snapped, one can only hope the end comes against a tough opponent in a well-played game. Well, Indiana Tech was a rugged foe (9-1 for the season), but the game was sloppy.

TECH LED 31-24 at the intermission and maintained a five-to-seven point lead until late in the second half. Consecutive baskets by Lady Pioneers Sarah Knuth and Kim McDowell got OU back in it, cutting a 52-47 Warrior lead with 6:11 left to 52-51.

The final three minutes, however, were mistake-filled. Lella Crosley hit one of two free throws to increase Tech's lead to 53-51 with 2:56 to go. Both squads missed opportunities in the next minute before Cherry Wilks knotted it at 53-51 for the Lady Pioneers with a jumper at the 1:54 mark.

OU had a chance to go ahead with 1:08 left, but guard Margaret Boyle missed two free throws. Again, both teams missed scoring tries in the final

minute before the Warriors broke OU's full-court pressure defense and got the ball to Cindy Savage underneath the basket with two seconds to play.

PAM HAWKINS fouled Savage to prevent the easy hoop. Following an OU timeout, Savage missed her first foul shot. OU coach Sue Kruszewski called another timeout, hoping to upset Savage's concentration, but the play failed when Savage hit the second free throw for the game-winning point.

Lisa Quinn's 13 points were best for OU. Knuth chipped in with 11, while Soojie Pearson got six points and nine rebounds and Doyle finished with four points and eight assists.

Neither team shot well. OU converted 38 percent of its floor shots to 39 percent for Tech. The difference was at the stripe, where the Warriors hit 14-of-19 free throws to three-of-seven for OU.

Crosley's 18 points and 14 rebounds were best for Tech. Paula Pavelka and Savage had 12 points apiece.

OU will play in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee tournament this weekend. The Pioneers will open against St. Ambrose College (Davenport, Iowa) Saturday, with Wisconsin-Milwaukee facing Southwestern State (Marshall, Minn.). The winners meet in Sunday's final.



Chris Howze's play for OU this season has many coaches' touting him for All-American honors.

# North Farmington dumped in tourney

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for the tournament title.  
North took two games from Algonac and Rochester, while splitting a pair with Mount Clemens, Richmond and L'Anse Creuse North.  
Sophomore Suzi Butcher was effective hitting and blocking. She also

served with a 93 percent efficiency.  
Twins Tammy and Terry Spengler, along with Kris McMinn were consistent all-around players as well. Stacy Talamini played well in the setter's role.

Although the Raiders (2-1) finished third in the tourney, they outscored all teams on the day.

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