

Wayne State outmans OU men

By C.J. Rissak
staff writer

Both coaches agreed that the strategy was sound. And Greg Kampe, the Oakland University men's basketball coach, thought his team "executed the game plan well."

Why, then, did OU get blown out 84-62 on its own floor by Wayne State Saturday?

Technical data provides partial explanation: a late first-half WSU rally that gave the Tartars momentum, terrible free throw shooting by the Pioneer, WSU's superior rebounding.

But what it boils down to is talent. And the Tartars have more finely-tuned talent than OU.

It showed in the first half. After WSU scored the game's first six points, OU went on a tear, outpointing WSU 20-2 over a 9:30 stretch. During that run, the Tartars missed 19 straight shots against OU's packed-in zone defense.

WHEN TED MCCREE finally broke through for WSU with a bucket at the 9:19 mark, the Pioneer had a 20-8 lead. And yet, it could have — it should have — been more. OU missed seven consecutive free throws during their run, mauling its effect and allowing WSU to stay one step ahead of disaster.

Which was a mistake for OU. As any coach will attest, when you've got a team down, go for the kill — fast. Particularly if that team is the conference leader.

"I think we're up 20 at the half if we hit our free throws," said Kampe. "We held them to 30 points in

OU sports

the first half. We did just what we wanted to do. We made their non-scorers score, we kept Grady (Lowry) and Raheem (Muhammed) from scoring."

"It wasn't what they did in the first half. It's what we didn't do."

Kampe's defensive strategy — to keep the ball away from Lowry and Muhammed, the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's (GLI-AC) top two scorers — worked well in the first 20 minutes. Muhammed had four points, Lowry two.

But concentrate on two players, and someone's going to be open. The Tartars' talent stretches down their bench, which is where coach Charlie Parker found Hank Woodmore. The 5-foot-11 whip-like sophomore guard from Avondale replaced point guard Scott Perry during WSU's long scoreless streak.

WOODMORE MISSED his first couple of shots before heating up. He ignited the floundering Tartars, mixing long jumpers with drives to the basket that brought his team back from the brink. Woodmore netted 14 points and two steals in the final nine minutes of the half, including a layup following a steal at the buzzer that pulled WSU to within

32-30.

"He was the difference," said Parker of Woodmore's performance. "I thought Greg had a good strategy. He figured he could fall off the point guard and concentrate on Grady and Raheem. We were fortunate to have someone like Hank to come in."

In the second half, it seemed only a matter of time before WSU would assert itself. Which meant Lowry and Muhammed would get into the act. As Kampe said, "Sometimes in the game, they are going to score."

OU was ahead 45-43 after a Dave Hintz basket with 11:19 left. Then Lowry scored six points and Perry added a jumper, and the Tartars were off. In a span of 5 1/2 minutes, they outscored OU 18-2 to go up 61-47 with 5:50 left.

Muhammed finished with 18 points and 14 rebounds, while Lowry had 12 points and nine rebounds. Woodmore ended with 14 points, and Perry and Maurice Macon had 10 apiece.

Only one Pioneer reached double figures in scoring. Walt Dixon, who came off the bench to get 12 points and eight rebounds. Chris Howze had nine points, six rebounds and four assists. After hitting 15 of 30 first-half shots, OU slumped to 13 of 35 in the second half (37.1 percent).

Free throws were worse — two of nine in the opening half, four of 11 for the game (56.4 percent).

All of which, as Kampe pointed out, is why WSU is 11-1 in the GLIAC (8-6 overall) and OU is 5-7 (12-11 overall).



Division I talent

Wes Pringle (left) of North Farmington and Craig Petersmark (right) of Farmington have signed letters of intent with a pair of NCAA Division I football programs. Pringle, a 6-4, 240-pound tackle, will attend the University of South Carolina next fall. Petersmark, a 6-2, 220-pound defensive lineman, will attend Eastern Michigan University. Pringle turned down offers from Northwood Institute, Grand Valley and Minnesota, while Petersmark spurned a full-ride offer from Bowling Green. Both players were All-Oberonland choices last fall.

Lady Pioneers hang on for win

By C.J. Rissak
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Put five very young players out on a basketball court and nothing is ever certain.

Oakland University's women's team proved that Saturday. The Lady Pioneers had everything going their way against visiting Wayne State. After Sarah Knuth's basket with 7:31 left, OU had a seemingly comfortable 72-55 lead.

But then the collar tightened, mistakes mounted and before the final buzzer sounded, the Lady Pioneers had made a game of it. They did manage to hang on for an 82-76 triumph, which no doubt prompted a sigh of relief from coach Sue Kruszewski.

"You can see that lack of confidence," said Kruszewski of her youthful (one junior, three sophomores and a freshman star) team's near collapse. "What I like is that we didn't lose our poise out there. They're just not used to protecting a 10- or 12-point lead. We were forcing it when we didn't have to."

"They want to win it so badly."

THAT'S JUST what OU ended up doing — win-

ning badly. In that final 7 1/2 minutes, the Lady Pioneers committed eight turnovers and made some ridiculously poor decisions, like putting up 22-footers with plenty of time on the shot clock and lobbing long, cross-court passes that were easily intercepted.

Twice WSU's Lisa Palazzola by herself pressured three OU players in the backcourt and came up with steals. Both came on bad passes, and fortunately for OU, Palazzola couldn't shoot. She missed layups after each.

The Tartars pulled to within 80-74 with 1:23 remaining, a 19-8 surge, and fouled OU point guard Margaret Boyle. Boyle missed the front end of the one-and-one, and after Hope Campbell scored to make it a four-point game with 25 seconds left, Boyle missed another one-and-one.

The Lady Pioneers salvaged down the stretch was that WSU was as inept. Add the two missed layups by Palazzola and another by Anne Porter, all in the final two minutes. Into the score and the outcome might have been different.

WHAT ALSO saved the Lady Pioneers was their solid play during the rest of the game, particularly

a stretch of the second half when they extended a five-point lead (52-47 with 13:22 left) to 15 (64-49 with 10:30 to go).

Boyle, who was exceptional everywhere but at the free throw line (five of 12), scored six points in the 12-2 streak and Sonja Pearson had four.

Boyle finished with 27 points and eight assists. Pearson had 17 points and an equal number of rebounds. Knuth had 14 points and four assists and Leah Fenwick scored eight points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Lisa Quinn had six points and pulled down 11 rebounds, as OU outboarded WSU 51-44.

OU took command in the first half with a 14-4 streak as Quinn, Knuth and Boyle got four points apiece. That carried the Lady Pioneers from a 12-12 tie to a 26-16 lead with 8:54 left. WSU cut the deficit to four twice, but solid bench play provided by Kim McDowell — she blocked four shots — helped OU maintain a 40-32 halftime edge.

Marie Doss' 28 points and 15 rebounds topped the Tartars. Campbell pitched in 11 and Porter had 10 to go with seven rebounds.

The OU victory left both teams with identical 13-11 overall, 4-8 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference records.

OCC women upset S'craft

The women's basketball team at Schoolcraft College had its 10-game winning streak snapped Saturday night by host Oakland Community College, 61-57.

Despite its first Eastern Conference loss in 10 games, first-place Schoolcraft (9-1) still maintains a one-game lead on OCC (8-2). The Lady Ocelots are 18-5 overall.

The Lady Ocelots' downfall was fouls as they played the final 15 seconds with only four available players after four were disqualified.

"Our offense didn't move well against their defense," said SC assistant coach Jack Grenan. "We did a lot of standing around."

Kim Chandler, Schoolcraft's leading scorer with 18 points, fouled out along with Lori Abbas (14 points), Tracy Ladouceur and Michelle Richards. Sue Lubbe added 10 in a losing cause.

"Losing our two big people, Ladouceur and Chandler, really hurt," Grenan said.

OCC hit only 9 of 22 free throws compared with 12 of 19 for Schoolcraft. Julie Campbell, who scored 15 points in the second half, led OCC with 17. Joanne Gregory and Heidi Eriandson each contributed 14.

OCC sports

On Friday, Schoolcraft traveled to Flint Mott and came away with a 77-64 Eastern Conference win.

Chandler, the Dearborn Fordson product, paced everybody with 29 points and 11 rebounds. Lubbe and Celine McKay bagged 14 each, while Ladouceur had 10.

OCC (men) 90, S'craft 72: "It was our worst first half of the year," said Schoolcraft coach Rocky Watkins, whose team fell behind 48-29 at intermission and never recovered against the nationally ranked Raiders.

Willie Jones led a balanced OCC attack with 24 points.

Derrick Kearney paced Schoolcraft with 25 points and nine rebounds. Harold Martin, chipped in with 10 points and seven rebounds.

"Our big guys stood around," Watkins said. "Our guard put it inside and they just fumbled the ball."

The loss dropped Schoolcraft to 14-13 overall and 2-9 in the Eastern Conference. OCC is 16-2 and 9-2.

Catholic Central moves on in cage tourney

With 50 points in the second half, Redford Catholic Central had its ticket to Calihan Hall already bought.

The Shamrocks advanced to second-round play in the Catholic League A-B playoffs with an easy 85-61 romp Tuesday over visiting Royal Oak Shrine (12-4) in the first round game. CC now meets Southgate Aquinas in a second-round battle at 6 p.m. Sunday at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall.

Paul Tavara and Lance Vaccarella could even drive the bus there. Both had hot hands in the rout, each scoring more than 20 points for the Shamrocks. Tavara checked in with a game-high 27 points. Vaccarella followed suit with 25.

CC (12-4), which already had rung up a 35-24 halftime lead, outscored the Knights 50-27 in the second half. In first eight minutes, the Shamrocks led 22-7.

Shrine was led by Tyrone Fuller, who netted 18

points.

JOHN GLENN 93, STEVENSON 65: Steve Hawley had yet another 30-point outing for the Rockets Tuesday as they paired visiting Livonia Stevenson in a Western Lakes Division game.

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