

# OU might drop wrestling

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

Oakland University athletic director Paul Hartman has submitted a proposal to the school's board of trustees to drop its intercollegiate wrestling program.

Hartman has also proposed the board consider adopting baseball as a varsity sport.

Should the board accept Hartman's recommendation to discontinue wrestling, the school would be left with six men's sports: soccer, tennis, cross country, basketball, swimming and golf. OU offers four women's varsity sports: volleyball, basketball, swimming and tennis.

OU's cancellation would not affect its standing with either the league or with the NCAA Division II. GLIAC regulations state a school must meet NCAA Division II standards to remain a member; NCAA rules say a school must have a minimum of four men's and four women's sports to remain in Division II.

**THE REASON** for dropping wrestling is a "lack of interest," according to Hartman. "We don't have enough people to field a team. When you offer scholarships and still can't field a team, it's time to do something."

Hartman added the problem has existed "ever since I got here (in June, 1983). We had 11 on the

team last year, all freshmen and sophomores.

"There were 19 on the roster at the beginning of this year, but for varying reasons — eligibility, wrestlers leaving the team — we only had nine at the end of the year. And just seven were healthy. You can't run a team that way."

OU has competed in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) in wrestling since 1976, when the league had a high of seven schools sponsoring the sport. OU finished sixth that year.

The Pioneers' best league finishes were seconds in 1979 and 1983. In 1985, they placed third out of four teams and this year they finished last among four teams. They were winless in six GLIAC dual meets.

**SHOULD OU CANCEL** the sport, the GLIAC would have just three schools with wrestling (Lake Superior State, Ferris State and Grand Valley State), the fewest ever. From 1979 to 1983, there were five conference schools with wrestling. Saginaw Valley State dropped the sport after the 1983 campaign.

Hartman cited several reasons why the sport failed to gain interest at OU.

"We don't have the scholarships other schools have, we don't have the facilities and we have a part-time coach (in Mike Osga)," he said. "You need two or three kids in each weight class. Good teams

have 35 wrestlers on their roster.

"Our kids have no one to practice against. Who's going to work out against our heavyweight?"

Wrestlers currently under scholarship would maintain it for another year, Hartman said. Out of a possible seven returnees, Hartman said two or three would probably transfer to continue wrestling.

**RESURRECTING BASEBALL** at OU has been under discussion since Hartman arrived on campus. The athletic director thinks the time has come to restart the program.

"That will be my recommendation," he said. "I want to make it clear to people we aren't dropping wrestling to start baseball. If we had sufficient numbers, we'd keep wrestling."

Several factors have convinced Hartman to bring back baseball, which was a varsity and GLIAC sport until 1980 when it was cancelled for financial reasons.

"We would be reinstating a program that was very successful," said Hartman. OU was third in the conference in 1980, second in 1979 and first in 1978.

"We have a tremendous facility that we're not even using and that we have to maintain," he continued. "There's been a lot of interest, both from the students and the public."

## OU cage coach after BGSU job?

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

Oakland University's Greg Kampe is apparently one of several people interested in the Bowling Green State University head basketball coach's position, which became available at the end of the current season.

A source close to the Bowling Green basketball team last week confirmed that Kampe and Wayne State basketball coach Charlie Parker are both under consideration for the position, as are several others.

Kampe, reached Thursday at his hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, where his OU team was to play Lake Superior State, said only, "I work with Oakland University and I have a job to do here and I haven't done anything officially. That doesn't mean I won't. It is my alma mater."

Kampe graduated from Bowling Green in 1978. He served as an assistant basketball coach at University of Toledo for six years before succeeding Lee Frederick at OU prior to the 1984-85 season.

**IN HIS FIRST** season at the helm, Kampe, 29, guided the Pioneers to a 13-15 overall record and a 5-11 finish in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). Following OU's 77-70 loss to Lake Superior State Thursday, the team was 12-12 overall and 5-8 in the GLIAC.

Parker served as an assistant to current BGSU coach John Weibert — and coached Kampe — at Bowling Green before taking the Wayne State job. He led the Tartars to the GLIAC title and an NCAA Division II tournament berth in 1985-86.

After a disappointing 7-9 conference record last year, Parker has Wayne State back atop the GLIAC this year with a 12-1 record (19-6 overall).

Another candidate mentioned for the position was Eldon Miller. Miller is currently coaching Ohio State, but announced he will resign at the end of the year. Miller has also coached at Western Michigan University, like Bowling Green a member of the Mid-American Conference.

## sports shorts

### LOCAL ATHLETES COMPETE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Six Farmington High School students were among a local delegation of mentally impaired athletes that competed in the Michigan Special Olympics Winter Games at Sugar Loaf Mountain.

Dana Ostlick, Steve Ludwig and Sari Sullivan took part in the downhill and giant slalom skiing events, while Steve Wright, Lara Altman and Kathy Mytyk raced in the cross country ski events.

More than 600 took part in the competition.

### SOFTBALL COACH NEEDED

Farmington Hills Mercy High School is looking for a junior varsity softball coach for the spring season. Interested applicants should call Ellen Sekerak at 476-2836.

### SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

The recreation division of the Farmington Hills Special Services Department is accepting team registrations now for all mens and womens softball leagues.

Registration began Feb. 3 and will continue until all leagues are filled. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will guarantee a spot in a league.

Leagues available are Open, Residential, Industrial, 3-2, Coed and Over 35. Fees are \$340 for Industrial and Residential leagues; \$380 for Open leagues.

Call 474-6115, ext. 288 for more information.

### HOWE'S THIS FOR FUN?

Gordie Howe and Ted Lindsay are scheduled to headline the Red Wing Fantasy II hockey camp slated for March 15-18 at Port Huron's McMorran Arena.

The Detroit Red Wings Fantasy camp for adults gives the participants a chance to learn about the game of hockey from some of the sport's legends. The campers, who will be lodged at the Colonial Inn in Port Huron, will begin practice March 15. The camp concludes with the campers taking on the Detroit Red Wings legends at Joe Louis Arena immediately following the present Detroit squad's game against the Hartford Whalers.

Howe, a former player for both the Red Wings and Whalers, will be head coach for the Fantasy campers. Retired Red Wings Lindsay, Bill Gadsby, Nick Libbitt, Marcel Pronovost, Johnny Wilson, Gary Bergman and Roy Edwards also will participate in the camp.

The \$999 fee includes all ice time, training, accommodations, Red Wing uniform, awards banquet, daily training table meals, post-game meal and many other surprises.

For information, call Sports Fantasies from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 353-5643.

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