

Division II giants invade OU

By C.J. Risk
staff writer

p.m. Saturday and Tech at 1 p.m. Sunday.

For the third straight year, Oakwood University will host three other top-20 ranked NCAA Division II soccer teams in its National Invitational Soccer Tournament this weekend.

And for the third straight year, OU will be seeking what has proved to be an elusive title. The Pioneers dropped their first game in the 1984 invitational before winning the consolation final, then lost twice last year.

The message is clear: This is not some marshmallow event meant to pad the win column. OU, ranked in the top 10 for five straight years, has won just one of its four previous invitational games.

The 1986 edition of the tournament won't be any easier. OU is ranked eighth nationally, and two invitees are rated higher. The Pioneers play New York Tech — the No. 1 team in Division II — Saturday at 4 p.m. At 3 p.m. Sunday, they meet Gannon University, the fourth-ranked team. New Hampshire (No. 13) plays Gannon at 1

p.m. Saturday and Tech at 1 p.m. Sunday.

FOR OU to succeed in a tournament in which they've had little success, coach Gary Parsons is planning nothing less.

"We can't worry about stopping them," said Parsons. "We have to worry about what we're going to do. We have to concentrate on making our system work for us."

At the moment, Parsons is concerned about his team's lack of offense. The Pioneers fell in 2-1 with a 1-0 loss at Cleveland State, a Division I power, Sunday on a disputed call against goalkeeper Kurt Hanus. With six minutes to play, Hanus stopped CSU's Kevin Smith, but the official ruled Hanus grabbed Smith's leg and awarded a penalty kick.

Barry Walmsley converted the kick to beat OU. The Pioneers were outshot 15-7 in the game and 11-3 in the second half.

"We're not generating enough pressure on our wings," said Parsons. "We've made some adjustments to move the ball downfield on our wings. Right now, we're

moving it down the middle too much."

PARSONS FIGURES he has the talent to win. "We have good players. It's just a matter of fitting our system to them."

Whether or not that talent is enough to succeed this weekend is questionable. The Pioneers are less experienced this season than in either of the previous two, returning just three starters: forward Marty Hagen (from Troy Athens), midfielder Gray Haizer, and defender Jon Stewart.

Further hurting OU's chances are the loss of goalkeepers Gino Soave and his brother, midfielder Tony Soave. Gino Soave was slated for starting duty, but the brother left OU after a disagreement with Parsons.

Saturday's game with top-ranked Tech is the glamour game of the tourney. "They have a lot of team speed," said Parsons. "If we can

knock off the No. 1 team, it will open some eyes, sure."

But Tech isn't the vital game for OU, according to Parsons. "The game that is critical for us is Gannon," he said.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of the Gannon game lies in the regional standings. Gannon and OU share the same region; a victory would put the Pioneers in front in the race for an NCAA play-off berth.

The tournament format has been changed this year. Instead of having semifinals Saturday, followed by finals on Sunday, the matches are pre-determined. The tournament champion will be decided by a series of criteria: first, most points, (two points for a win, one for a tie); second, goals differential; and third, most goals.

Last Thursday, OU opened its home schedule with a 5-0 shutout of St. Louis' Arbor. The game was played in a driving rainstorm, but the Pioneers adapted better than their foes.

OU led 2-0 at the half on goals by Brian Fitzgerald, a Southfield graduate, and Tom Duff, from Birmingham Seaholm.

Falcons, Harrison dumped in WLAA

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FRANKLIN 61, FARMINGTON

47: Bottom line: Farmington is finding trouble finding the hoop on offense. The team made just 15 of 62 shots from the field Tuesday in this Western Lakes conference game.

Livonia Franklin blew the game open with a 16-9 run in the third quarter. Marla Vassellou led the Pats with 20 points and 15 rebounds. Cathy Cruz added 13 points and Rose Oney 12.

Bucky Philip paced Farmington (0-4) with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Stacy Swanderski added 10 points and Karen Jenkins eight.

Franklin is 2-1 on the season.

JOHN GLENN 95, HARRISON 9:

The score at half time was 51-1.

Westland John Glenn sat its starters after the first quarter and played three players off its junior varsity team.

Both Wilson led Glenn (4-0) with

15 and Melissa Smiley added 12.

Laura Bissel scored four of Harrison's nine points.

The Hawks losing streak is now at

6.

Salem wins on links

Chris Brajdowood and Doug Scho each carded 45 and Mike Pilley shot 48.

STEVENS 215, CANTON 216:

Plymouth Canton is suffering the opposite fate of Salem. The Chiefs keep losing the link matches.

Canton's Ralph Reeves shared medalist honors with Livonia Stevenson's Mike Brown Monday, each carding a 40 at Idyl Wyld.

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