

Defense sparked Oakland University's men's basketball in the final 3:45 of overtime to a 64-62 triumph over host-team Northern Kentucky in the finals of its Tipoff Classic Saturday.

OU led 30-26 at the half, but NKU battled back to tie it at 56 at the conclusion of regulation. The host squad then jumped in front 62-58 in the first 1:15 of the five-minute extra session before the Pioneers defense took over, holding NKU scoreless for the remainder of the game.

Scott Bittinger, OU's junior guard, was named tournament MVP. Bittinger scored 18 points in the win over NKU after pouring in 20 in an opening 77-59 victory over Hanover (Ky.) College. Bittinger sank 17-of-26 field goal attempts in the two games, and had four assists against HKC.

Johnny Johnson collected 16 points (two-of-six three-point shots), Stacy Davis had nine and Mike McCan grabbed 12 rebounds in OU's win over NKU. Shawn Scott's 17 points was best for NKU. Willie Schlarman added 16 and eight rebounds.

In the HC contest, OU pulled away from a 39-34 halftime lead. John Bittinger in double-figure scoring were Pete Schili with 14 and Johnson and McCan with 11 apiece. McCan also grabbed 13 rebounds, breaking the tournament record for boards with 25. McCan joined Bittinger on the all-tournament team.

David Richards netted 21 points for HKC.

Rebounding was expected to be an OU strength this season, and it was

In this tournament, The Pioneers outboarded NKU 40-38 and HC 42-21.

**OU WOMEN WIN 2 ON ROAD**

OU's women's basketball team has a schedule that starts with seven straight road games. But new coach Bob Taylor probably won't mind it much if the Lady Pioneers handle it like they handled their first two games last weekend.

OU played at Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne Saturday and at Indiana Tech Sunday and came away with wins over both. The Lady Pioneers topped IPFW 78-68 and ITU 54-48.

Five players scored in double-figures against IPFW, led by Margaret

Boyle's 14. Celeste Sartor, Sonja Pearson and Kim Klein each contributed 12 and Sarah Knuth had 10. Pearson had nine rebounds and Sartor and Klein nabbed eight apiece. Michelle Crist and Tenna Merrell paced IPFW with 14 each.

OU led 38-31 at the half, and its defense helped it maintain that lead. IPFW converted just 38 percent (23 of 60) of its floor shots to OU's 45 percent (34 of 76).

In the win over ITU, Boyle once again led the scorers with 15. Knuth had 11 and nine rebounds and Leah Fenwick added eight points and 11 rebounds. The Lady Pioneers hit 52 shots (40 percent). Leila Crossley's 23 points and 11 rebounds topped ITU, which hit just 18-of-47 shots (38 percent). OU led 22-19 at the half.

## Stunning OU dumps Gannon

A Brian Fitzgerald header kept Oakland University's Cinderella soccer season alive Saturday, boosting the Pioneers to a 2-1 win at Gannon University in Erie, Pa.

Fitzgerald's goal came with just under 21 minutes left to play and snapped a 1-1 tie. The score was set up by Gray Halzel, who worked his way deep into GU territory and was fouled. Halzel lined up a free kick right at the end line, halfway between the penalty box and the edge of the field.

From there he chipped it to Fitzgerald, a Southfield graduate and forward-turned-defender, who headed it.

OU'S FIRST goal was netted by Birmingham Seaholm grad Tom Duff on an assist from John Stewart 18 minutes into the game. Stewart retrieved a ball deep in the corner and crossed a pass to Duff for the goal.

At 63:31, a Hannes van Zyl free kick was headed by Gerry van DeMerwe to Dave Dix, who knocked it in to tie it for GU. After the Knights again fell behind, they had a golden chance to tie it on a

Michael Idoko breakaway, but Michael Carlsrud got back for OU defensively and slid the ball clear.

"We win the ugliest and scariest way I know," said an elated Gary Parsons, OU's coach. "It seems like every time we get a lead, we do everything we can to let the other team back in."

Still, OU is in, advancing to the Division II semis for the third time. A month ago, when the team was mired 5-4-2, a playoff berth seemed unlikely. But the Pioneers rallied and have gone 8-1-1 over their last 10 games.

Who, where and when they play the next round is undetermined. Parsons believed his Central Region championship squad would meet the West Region titlist, either Seattle-Pacific or California-Norridge, on Saturday.

Davis and Elkins beat University of Tampa 3-1 to capture the South Region title. The Northeast Region final paired Bridgeport against Southern Connecticut.

"It doesn't matter who we play," he said. "I'm just glad we have another game."

## Short-staffed S'craft drops pair

**By Brad Emmons**  
staff writer

You can't blame Schoolcraft College women's basketball Jack Grenan for feeling a little bit like a carpenter without all the necessary tools.

The first-year coach is trying to patch things up until he gets a full complement of players.

Over the weekend, Grenan took his undermanned team to the Superstar Classic in Harrison, Tenn. The results were predictable.

The Lady Ocelots opened their season with two losses, failing to host Roane State (Tenn.) in Friday's opener, 89-78, and Gadsden (Ala.) in Saturday's consolation game, 78-65.

Two of the Lady Ocelots' 10-member crew, soccer player Sheri Wolfe and volleyball player Tina Osantowski, did not make the trip because of remaining obligations to their fall sports. They have yet to practice with the team.

Three other players were also nursing injuries. Monday's practice drew only seven players, and the prospects don't look any better this weekend when the Lady Ocelots travel to Muskegon Community for a two-day tournament.

GRENAN IS CONFIDENT things will turn around once the Eastern Conference season starts. Five players return from a 21-6 team that will try and defend its title.

"It's hard to see what we have until we get the kids back from other sports," said Grenan, who took over for Ed Kavanaugh. "After a few games we're still trying out different combinations. We have three starters back, but two spots are still open — point guard and center. We may go with three forwards."

"We still have three games before the conference so we're going to experiment to find the right combinations. We want to win, but we also want to improve."

The team's leading scorer from a year ago, 5-foot-10 forward Sue Lubbe of Dearborn Divine Child, scored 35 points over the weekend en route to all-tournament honors. She averaged 19 points per game last season. She had 31 in the two losses.

Others back include 5-8 guard Lori Abbas of Dearborn Fordson, who netted 13 each in the two games. She is joined by 5-9 forward Michelle Richards (Detroit Western) and Wolfe, a 5-8 guard from Livonia Bentley.

Several new players hope to fill the void left by top scorer Kim Chandler, who averaged nearly 25 points per game, and Colleen McKay, who opted for a four-year school.

Sharon Miller, a 6-2 freshman center from Melvindale, had seven points and seven rebounds in the loss to Gadsden. But she has been slowed in the preseason by an injury to her arm, missing three weeks of practice after being involved in a car accident.

Another hopeful is Lisa Kline, a 5-9 freshman from Waterford Kettering, who has showed so far that she can scrap underneath the boards, grabbing eight rebounds against Gadsden.

Kline will provide depth along with 5-5 guard Tammy Adkins (Melvindale), 6-0 center Kelly Watson (Livonia Clarenceville) and the 6-2 center Osantowski (Madison Heights Lamphere).

"I recruited all the freshmen and our season depends on whether they contribute," said Grenan, "especially the two big people — Miller and Osantowski. This is the biggest

team Schoolcraft has ever had.

"We'll see if the big people can run with us. We're going to push the ball up and play full-court man-to-man defense. We're going to pressure the other team and make them play the whole court."

Despite the injuries and the skeleton crew for the first part of the season, Grenan believes his team can contend for the title.

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