

# Raiders outshoot S'craft

By C.J. Rusk  
staff writer

Nothing went exactly according to plan Wednesday night at Oakland Community College.

Except maybe that OCC won, as expected, over a Schoolcraft College team that Raider coach Lynn Reed admitted "surprised me."

The score, though, was indicative of the kind of game it was: 112-108, with the deeper OCC team able to outrun and outshoot their SC rivals.

"Instead of trying to defend people, we're trying to outscore people," said SC coach Bob Wetzel. "We couldn't control the tempo, either, and you have to control it against a team like this."

**CONTROL** WAS a concept both teams chose to ignore. So was defense and patience and simple things like looking for a good shot. In this game, any shot was a good one.

OCC, now 12-8 overall and 4-3 in the Eastern Conference, was in a favorite coming in, only because SC dropped six players because of poor grades and picked up five others two weeks ago. The Raiders started out to fulfill that prophecy, scoring the game's first eight points and rolling to a 14-5 lead in the game's first four minutes.

But if anything was evident by the middle of the opening half, it was that no team would dominate. SC answered OCC's surge with one of its own, scoring 10 straight points to go up 15-14.

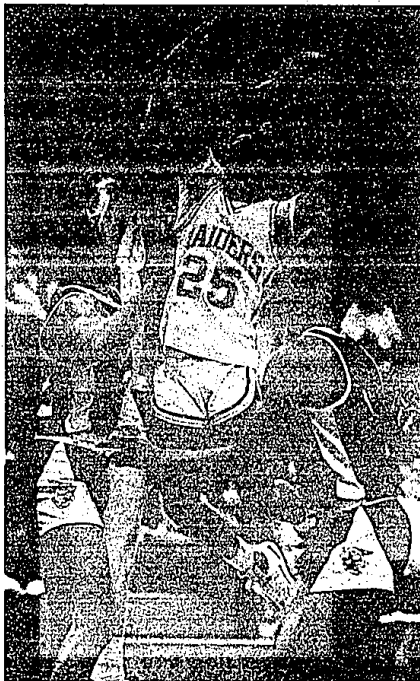
**THE RAIDERS** reassumed the lead quickly, and they kept it from the midpoint of the first half through the game's end. But their lead was never a sturdy one.

The reason for OCC's inability to put the Ocelots away was simple. "That was not the same team I scouted," said Reed. "We got up on them early but they adjusted well. They were very quick."

The SC team Reed scouted featured big men Aaron Brown and Dan Edwards inside and Mike Simpson at guard. Those three — who accounted for 50 percent of the Ocelots' scoring and 65 percent of their rebounding — came up short in the classroom. The addition of the quicker Derrick Kearney and Les English changed the team's personality.

Still, OCC dictated the pace, which pleased their coach. "I think it's to our advantage to play an up-tempo game," he said, then added, "but we easily could have lost that game tonight."

**SC'S BEST CHANCE** for the upset came with 12:15 left to play. The Ocelots trailed 52-47 at the half, but four points by Derrick Kearney and three more from Bill Sweet in a 7-2 run cut SC's deficit to 71-69.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Derrick Williams (25) drives through a trio of Schoolcraft defenders on route to the basket. It was a score often repeated; there was no shortage of shots in Wednesday's game.

OCC missed on its possession, giving the Ocelots a chance to tie. But they threw the ball away, and the wasted opportunity ignited an 8-0 streak for OCC, giving the Raiders a 10-point lead.

Zollie Stevens, who poured in 34 points, broke the Raider string with a three-pointer, but OCC got right back on track, using three SC turnovers to score six more in a row to go up 85-72.

"Rebounding was the key thing," said Wetzel. "We talked about it and talked about it, but we just didn't do a very good job rebounding. We gave up too many put-backs."

A LOT OF those put-backs were

put-ins by OCC's Sam Smith, who popped in 33 points; Reggie Anderson and Derrick Williams, who had 20 apiece; Carson Butler, who netted 18; or Jimmy Sherrill (from Avondale), who scored 12.

Joining Stevens in double-figures for SC were Kearney (21) and Desmond Steele and English (12 each).

The loss dropped the Ocelots to 5-11 overall and 3-4 in the Eastern Conference.

On Saturday (Jan. 10), OCC whipped Macomb CC 103-83 at Macomb. Smith's 26 points led the Raiders. Williams had 24, Gary Holt collected 23 and Butler scored 14. Scott Allen led Macomb with 26.

# Hoop purgatory

## Greg Wendt surviving in CBA

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

What's like life in the Continental Basketball Association?

If you have some time, former Catholic Central High School and University of Detroit star Greg Wendt can tell you all about it since joining the Pensacola (Fla.) Tornadoes of the CBA.

Although he's only one step away, the NBA may seem miles away for aspiring players like Wendt.

"Last year at this time I was talking to my teammate Kevin McAdoo about what we'd be doing after graduation and he asked me about the CBA and I said 'No way,'" Wendt said. "I heard a lot of horror stories about it, but it's not as bad as I thought."

Wendt turned down an offer to play pro ball in Belgium just before the Tornadoes opened training camp in mid-November.

He's suited with his decision, at least for the moment.

"I'VE ADJUSTED to it," he said.

"There's a lot of traveling and you have to come to the realization that you're up one day and down the next. You've got to keep your emotions on an even keel because sometimes you're playing five games a week."

Wendt says he is comfortable in his Pensacola surroundings. He lives in a one-bedroom efficiency apartment at the Best Western Hotel on North Davis Highway. The northern Florida climate also is nicer than Michigan at this time of year and the team flies to most of its destinations around the CBA.

"It's not a place where I'd want to make my permanent home, but I like it," Wendt said. "Other than the naval base, there's not too much here, although we play in a nice facility."

Although the Tornadoes are below .500, Pensacola leads the CBA in attendance, averaging nearly 4,900 per game at the 10,000-seat Civic Center.

"WE HAVEN'T BEEN doing real well, but the fans have been hanging with us," said Wendt. "I was kind of shocked because I remember going to some of the (Detroit) Spirits games at U-D and they'd be lucky to get a 100 people. I'm kind of shocked at what I've seen."

Wendt, a small forward at 6-foot-4, normally comes off the bench. He's been averaging nine points and three rebounds per game. In the season opener he hit seven of 10 shots from the floor and finished with 16 points. He scored 17 points in one quarter against Charleston (S.C.) and once grabbed eight rebounds.

"It's a lot more physical than in college," Wendt said. "And a lot of it's mental. You can't allow yourself to get emotionally into the wins and losses like you do in college. There's more energy surrounding the team when you're in college. This is much different."

Wendt often plays alongside former NBA center Marvin Webster, 33, who is trying to make a comeback after being out two years.

"MARVIN HAS ADDED a lot and he's the consummate pro," Wendt said. "He does his job every night. He's a quiet person who I've gotten to know. He's a nice guy and helps us out whenever he can."

Wendt's main goal this season is to increase his minutes on the floor and catch the eye of some NBA team.

"They're not looking for guys to come in and star," said Wendt of the NBA scouts. "They're looking for a guy who plays a role. Look at Fred Corfield (formerly of Eastern Michigan and the Knicks), he just got called up by Chicago and you realize how quick things can change."

"I just have to be patient, but I'm like everybody else (in the league). This is basketball purgatory and I want to get out of here as soon as possible."



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Greg Wendt is one step away from the NBA — one long step. He's playing for the Pensacola Tornadoes in the CBA.

# 2nd-half rally carries Eagles

St. Mary's College opened a key point of its schedule Wednesday by dumping visiting University of Michigan-Dearborn 84-73.

The Eagles, losers of 10 of their previous 11 games and now 8-11 overall, will be going against mainly NIAA District 23 foes for the remainder of the season. Victories are essential if they are to qualify for the four-team state NIAA tournament.

With that in mind, co-coaches Tim Donko and Rich Zelenski opted to use just seven players against UM-D (3-21 overall). In previous games, as many as a dozen Eagles would be shuffled in and out of the lineup.

The change in strategy worked, although it took awhile. The two teams

were tied at 43 at the half before a 41-30 second-half won it for St. Mary's.

Six of the Eagles scored in double figures. Jim Butcher finished with 17, Greg Spraggins had 16 (with nine assists and five steals). Theo Pearson had 14 (and eight rebounds). Safaa Qasawa had 13, and Mo Stew-

ard and Jon Bow netted 12 apiece.

Three players combined for 66 of UM-D's 73 points: Abraham Baydoun (32), former Eagle Mike Belczak (18) and Tim Van Rhein (16).

St. Mary's hit nearly 60 percent of its floor shots in the win. The Eagles play at Grand Rapids Aquinas tonight.

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# Pioneers ousted

After a poor start and drought to get back into the game, Oakland University's women's basketball team found itself in possession of the ball with 20 seconds remaining, trailing by a point in its game at 15th-ranked Wright State Thursday.

But the Lady Pioneers' chance for a victory was washed away when guard Kim Klein, who had provided some heroics earlier in the comeback, turned the ball over. WSU's Gwen Lenzy was fouled and hit two shots, and after another OU turnover, Nettie Carter canned two more free throws for WSU to cap a 65-60 win.

The loss dropped 19th-ranked OU to 11-3 overall. WSU is 14-2.

The game matched the Great Lakes region's No. 2-rated Lady Raiders and the No. 3-rated Lady Pioneers, but it was not a skillful contest by either. WSU led the entire game, thanks to a 20-6 start in the game's first eight minutes.

OU got back into it by halftime, outscoring WSU 23-12 to trail by just 32-29 at the intermission. It remained close in the second half, with two Klein foul shots making it 50-49 with 4:42 left. The Lady Raiders pushed their lead to 61-56 with 1:38 to go before OU rallied again.

Both OU's men's and women's teams host Hillsdale College at 6 p.m. tonight.

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