

# OU kickers go down fighting

Last Friday's loss could have a devastating ripple effect for Oakland University's soccer team.

The Pioneers traveled to Ohio Wesleyan only to lose to the No. 1-ranked team in the NCAA Division III, 2-1. The defeat had enough, but the fight near the end of the game could prove more costly.

The fight started when OU's John Stewart and Wesleyan's Dominic Romanelli tangled near the sideline in front of the Wesleyan bench, battling for the ball with 1:30 to play. Stewart was knocked down and kicked at Romanelli. Romanelli kicked back and was then joined by his teammates, who emptied their bench.

OU's cleared too. After officials stopped the melee and sorted things out, a red card was presented to OU's Stewart and Wesleyan's Romanelli and Charlie Blanchard. Strangely, no one from the Battling Bishops' bench was red-carded.

Perhaps it isn't so surprising, though. After all, even though the game was a rough one — two of the game's three goals resulted from penalty kicks awarded when players were knocked down inside the box — no yellow cards were assessed.

STEWART'S RED CARD means he will miss OU's next game, an important one against Midwest Region rival Gannon University. A loss to Gannon could conceivably cost the Pioneers a playoff berth, which makes it more important than the Wesleyan match was.

Ironically, it was Stewart who got OU back into the game against Wesleyan. The Battling Bishops scored at the 4:03 mark on Blanchard's penalty kick, awarded when Matt Paukovits pulled down Stewart's Bob Barnes after he had intercepted a careless Paukovits' pass.

# Pioneer spikers notch 20

Now, if Oakland University's volleyball team could only duplicate its non-league success against Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference competition.

In the last week, the Lady Pioneers have won three-of-five matches. Wouldn't you know it — their losses have been to GLIAC foes, their wins against non-league competition.

Still, if it's any consolation, OU has won 20 matches for the fourth time in the last five seasons. Tuesday's 15-8, 15-11, 15-8 triumph over visiting Northwood Institute improved the Lady Pioneers' mark to 20-9 overall.

Tracey Jones led the OU attack against NI with nine kills in 17 attacks with two errors, a .412 kill average. Jones also had three block assists and five digs.

On Friday and Saturday, the Lady Pioneers hosted Wayne State and Slippery Rock in the Pioneer Classic. They won two-of-three matches, but their only defeat was to GLIAC-rival WSU.

ON FRIDAY, OU bent Slippery Rock 15-11, 12-15, 15-10, 15-10, behind a season-best 468 team kill average. Sue Lormin had 19 kills and Jones added 14 in the match.

On Saturday, OU lost a heart-breaker to WSU 9-15, 13-15, 15-11, 15-10, 15-12. The Lady Pioneers led 9-0 in the pivotal third game before the Tartars rallied to win. OU then played Slippery Rock and won again, 15-10, 15-12, 15-12.

For the tournament, Jones collected 40 kills in 87 attacks with nine errors (.356), three solo blocks and 17 block assists. Lormin had 37 kills in 79 attacks with seven errors (.380), and Holly Hatcher totaled 37 kills in 60 attacks with six errors (.350), four solo blocks and 12 block assists.

Last Thursday, OU — playing without setter Kelly Williams and outside hitter Jennifer Henry, both starters — lost to GLIAC foe Saginaw Valley State 15-13, 8-15, 15-9, 15-12. Jones had 11 kills in 25 attacks with three errors (.320), six block assists and one solo block, and Lormin had 15 kills in 35 attacks with four errors (.314) and five block assists.

That loss dropped OU to 4-3 in the GLIAC. The Lady Pioneers are idle until Tuesday, when they travel to Grand Valley State.

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WHETHER THERE'S A NEED, THERE'S A WAY. THE UNITED WAY

# Oakland netters eye league title

By C.J. Rissak  
staff writer

The first battle of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference women's tennis season has been waged. No. 2 will be fought prior to the start of the final — and most important — engagement, which will decide who is the league's best.

And that's a title Oakland University has never won, a title it covets jealously.

The opening conflict was the dual-meet season. OU fared well, capturing eight of nine meets. But its only loss was a strategic disaster — the Lady Pioneers were thumped by defending GLIAC champion Ferris State 9-0.

Still, that was just one round.

And, as OU coach Jim Pinchoff put it, "Funny things can happen. Who can say?"

THAT'S BECAUSE two rounds still must be played. FSC is bound to fare well in the second round — because it is unbeaten in GLIAC play.

But that doesn't count OU out. The Lady Pioneers will be seeded second in at least four of nine matches, and could be seeded second in as many as seven entering the GLIAC tourney this weekend at the Midland Tennis Center.

Seeding is extremely important. FSC has the top seeds in all nine events (six singles and three doubles). By getting the second seed, OU is guaranteed of not meeting

any top seeds until the finals.

Which means that by the time an OU player seeded second meets a top seed, she will have advanced all the way to the final — collecting lots of team points along the way.

Only the top two positions earn seeds. The rest are seeded by draw. OU's best chance to win a GLIAC title is in first doubles with Marge Messabarger and Kris Jeffery. The twosome had an 8-1 record, their only loss coming in three sets to Ferris' Kathleen Watch and Diane Makonnen.

"THEY HAD Ferris at match point and lost," said Pinchoff of his first doubles tandem. "They didn't really play all that well, either. I think they'll beat (FSC) them this weekend."

Others guaranteed of a No. 2 seed for OU are the No. 3 doubles team of Kelly Hayden and Lori Kiffner. No. 2 singles Messabarger and No. 6 singles Kiffner. No. 1 singles Jeffery, No. 3 singles Heather Duncan (from Southfield and Birmingham Marian) and No. 5 singles Hayden all have 7-2 records and could also earn second seeds.

"If we play like we're capable of, we should take second," said Pinchoff. "The girls have really made improvement. They've worked very hard."

The seven-team tournament will last all day Friday and Saturday. The Lady Pioneers — runners-up five times in the league — are aiming at unseating FSC, which has won the last three titles.

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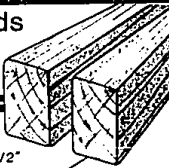
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