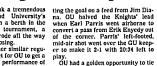
## to playoff hopes

8-4:2.

But, more significantly, the Planeers dropped from third to fifth in the Midwest Region rankings. The top three are guaranteed spots in the NCAA II tournament, with a possible fourth team getting an at-large borth.

berth.
Ranked ahead of OU in the region are University of Missouri-St. Louis, East Stroudsburg. Northeast Missouri State and GU. Making matters worse, OU has already played and lost to three of the four and has no game scheduled with NMS.

FOR THE SECOND consecutive FOR THE SECOND consecutive game, the Pioneers gave up a goal they shouldn't have. GU scored after just 5:51 when defender John Stewart tried to clear the ball back to keeper Jelf Warkatsis. The pass was not a good one, getting behind Vakratsis, who slipped and fell when he tried to retrieve it. The Knights' Gerry VandeMerve swooped in for the goal to make it 1-0. GU added to its advantage at 31:04, with VandeMerwe again get-



er to make it 2-1 with 20:34 left to play.

Out had a golden opportunity to tie twith eight minutes left, but failed when Yong Song rolled a shot from 15 yards out just wide of the net. The Pioneers outshot the Knights, 16-8.

This weekend, OU hosts Lewis University at 2 p.m. Saturday and Northern Kentucky at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Central Region Classic. In Saturday's first game (at noon, Northern plays Shippensburg; in Sunday's moon match. Shippensburg and Lewis tangle.

Pioneer netters

At first glance, it might be diffi-cult to understand why Oakland University tennis coach Jim Pin-choff was so extremely pleased with his team's performance at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athlet-ic Conference champloaship meet — when Ferris State won all nine final matches to capture its fourth-

final matches to capture its fourth-straight title.

But take another look. Because, for starters, there was never much doubt FSC would win the crown again. After all, the Bulldogs offer six scholarships (OU has none) and also has a pro tennis management major, which, basically, is a four-year marketing degree with a ner phasis on teaching tennis and man-aging a tennis club.

That's quite a recruiting tool for FSC coach Scott Schultz. It also

makes it difficult to beat the Bull-dogs, which no one in the GLIAC did.

BUT OU GAVE them a battle.
FSC lost three sets in the entire
tournamen: all to the Lady
Ploneers in the finals. Flve OU
netters reached the final matches,
an accomplishment that carned the
Lady Ploneers second in the GLIAC and Pinchoff conference coach
of the year.
"Mathematleally, we had a
chance to beat Ferris, but just to
get five into Saturday's finals was
absolutely tremendous," said Pinchoff of the weekend tournament in
Midland.

choff of the weekens to the Middand.

OU Jinished with 42½ points to 63 for FSC. Hillsdale was third with 37 with Lake Superior State fourth (32½). Wayne State fifth (32½), Saghaw Valley State sixth (29) and Michigan Tech seventh

2nd in league

(16). Marge Messbarger enjoyed the best tournament for OU, reaching the finals in both No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles, and taking her FSC opponents to three sets in each. Messbarger lost to Dlane Makonenen 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in singles, then teammed with Kris Jeffrey in No. 1 doubles, losing to FSC's Makonnen and Kathleen Watch 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

OTHER OU singles finalists were No. 5 Kelly Hayden, who was beaten by Natalie Geyer 6-3, 6-3, and No. 6 Lori Klifner, who lost to

and No. 6 Lori Kiffner, who lost to Jana Pearson 6-0, 6-0. In doubles, the Lady Ploneers' No. 3 team of Kiffner and Hayden fell to Geyer and Lori Meyer 3-6, 6-1, 6-0. The runners-up linish in the GLI-AC was OU's best since 1979 and came on the heels of an 8-1 dual-

meet season (6-1 in the GLIAC). The Lady Pioneers were obviously well prepared for the tournament.

"We were absolutely ready," said Pincholf, in his first year of coaching at OU. "We clinched second after the first day (Friday)." Pincholf got his team ready by focusing on mistakes during final practice essions. "Our routine for practice changes as we get closer to a match." he explained. "We really work on not making errors, because that's what usually decides matches, And that usually tends to get you mentally ready."

In the other four OU matches, No. 1 singles Juffrey finished sixth. No. 3 singles lifether Duncan was Chenchen Ballen gheed fifth, and No. 3 singles Ballen captured third. Ballen wan her consolation finals match against Saginaw Valley State's Linda Paeglis 6-2, 6-3.

CASHWAY

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## OU loss a blow

A year ago, it took a tremendous finish for Oakland University's soccer team to earn a berth in the NCAA Division II tournament, a berth the Ploneers rode all the way to the finish before losing.

It may take another similar regular-season closing act for OU to get a shot at repeating its performance of 86.

The Ploneers surrendered two first-half goals Saturday and fell at Gannon University 2-1. The loss dropped OU os 4-1; the Kinghis are 8-4-2.

But, more significantly, the



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