

# Lady Pioneer tankers enjoy big turnaround

By C.J. Riasek  
staff writer

Success in swimming may be anticipated at Oakland University, but the quick turnaround of OU's women's program has been surprising — even to their coach.

The Lady Pioneers were 11th in the NCAA Division II two years ago. That was after finishes of eighth in '86 and 12th in '85.

Last year, Tracy Huth — a three-time NCAA II mens swimmer of the year while competing for the Pioneers (1981-84) — took over as coach, replacing Mary Ellen Wyden, and immediately OU improved. The Lady Pioneers were sixth at last season's NCAA II meet.

Huth was hoping for continued improvement on a national level this year. "I would have been happy to finish fourth," he said.

That was prior to the season. Now, OU is expected to challenge Army, Navy and North Dakota in a battle for second in the NCAA II.

"If we go in and have our kind of meet, I think we'll be second or third," predicted Huth. "If we just swim OK, I think we'll be fourth."

**THE REASONS** for the Lady Pioneers' sudden emergence as a national contender are other teams' problems as well as OU's development. Both will be on display at the first Great Lakes Conference women's swim championships, to be held with the mens meet today through Saturday at Grand Valley State.

Before the season, OU was expected to battle Northern Michigan for the GLIAC title. NMU finished ahead of OU at last year's NCAA II meet. But at a dual meet in Marquette earlier this season, the Lady Pioneers won easily — and that was before NMU's best swimmer, Ann Boltzinger, became academically ineligible in January.

## St. Mary's enjoys home court

There's no place like home. That's a phrase St. Mary's College basketball coach Glen Donahue was without doubt eager to prove. With Monday's 105-97 triumph over Wayne State at Dombrowski Fieldhouse, he did.

"This was a whole different team tonight," said St. Mary's assistant Kevin Donahue. "We did some things right and the kids had fun."

One of the right things the Eagles — losers of six of their previous seven games, all on the road — did was

Now, OU's mens and womens teams are both expected to dominate the GLIAC meet.

OU's goal is still the NCAA II meet, so only half Huth's swimmers will taper for the GLIAC championships — and those just to make NCAA II qualifying times. NMU, on the other hand, will have three-quarters of its team tapered to try and reach NCAA II qualifying times at the GLIAC meet.

**IT SHOULDN'T** make a difference in the outcome. "I would be surprised (if we didn't win)," said Huth. "We've set our goals: first to swim well and second to win the conference meet. But if we do the first, we'll accomplish the second."

NMU's problems — "They haven't swum nearly as fast as last year," said Huth. "Whether their training is different or what, I don't know" — have dropped them from the NCAA II title picture. Two other contenders, Clarion College and University of Tampa, are also struggling.

"It's weird how it's all working out," said Huth. "I'm not used to getting these breaks. Usually it's Oakland that's having all the problems." Huth was part of the 1984 OU mens team that was favored to win the NCAA II. But a flu epidemic decimated the team during the meet; they finished second.

**WHILE OTHER** teams are having problems, the youthful Lady Pioneers — Ginie Johnson (from Plymouth Canton) is the only senior — are going beyond expectations. They were expected to have trouble replacing freestyler Nancy Schermer, a 24-time All-American.

One reason they haven't is they have another Schermer, freshman Lyn. "I would call her (Nancy's) younger sister, not little sister," said Huth. "She's as big (5-foot-11) as Nancy."

Her talent is also equal, at least. "I may be going out on a limb here, but I think Lyn's more talented," said Huth. Schermer has qualified in the 100-yard, 200-yard and 500-yard free and the 400 individual medley. If she has a good meet at nationals, Huth thinks she could finish in the top three in the 100 and 200 free and the 400 IM.

Huth is also expecting a big contribution from sophomore Lisa Guilfoyle. "She's another we need to finish in the top six in her events," he said. Guilfoyle will swim the 50, 100 and 200 free and the 100 breaststroke.

Johnson could finish her OU career in style. The team captain was an honorable mention All-American. In the 100 IM and 100 butterfly a year ago and has been swimming well. "We've adjusted her training and she's responded," said Huth.

**OTHERS TO WATCH** are sophomore Dana Kennedy (from Birmingham Groves) in the 50 and 100 free; sophomore Deanna Fridley in the 200 fly, 400 IM and 1,650 free; and freshman Katie Ill, a possible top-six finisher in the 100 and 200 fly and 100 and 200 back.

Then there's the diving trio of junior Nikki Kelsey, who was fourth on the three-meter board and 11th on the one-meter at last year's NCAA II meet, and freshmen Ann Jacobson (from Redford Union) and Marie Olson (from Farmington Hills Mercy). Kelsey is a definite contender to win the three-meter title.

As good as OU is looking, Huth believes his team hasn't reached the level of defending NCAA II champ California State-Northridge. "They're three, four deep in the distance events and have quality in every event," he said.

The Lady Pioneers aren't that good. Not yet. But in another year, they may be.

Suspect scored nine.

Lakes led the Eagles with 29 points. He also had nine rebounds. Curtis finished with 18 points, Washburn had 14 (and 11 boards), Mike Moroney notched 12 and Suspect had 11.

Ament's 38 points and 11 rebounds topped WSU (6-18).

St. Mary's is now 15-16, with its final regular-season game at 7:30 p.m. Saturday against NAIA District 23 leader Siena Heights in Dombrowski.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY Peachwood Inn and Borden Court



### Hotel Style Quality Health Care

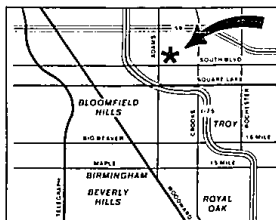
We're celebrating the 1st birthday of southeastern Michigan's finest older adult health care facility. We proudly offer our residents and their families the very best of services and amenities in our beautiful basic and skilled nursing and assisted living accommodations. Please join our celebration. Peachwood Inn and Borden Court is health care as it should be.

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, February 26, 1989

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

3500 W. South Boulevard  
Rochester Hills, MI



**TOURS  
AND  
BIRTHDAY  
CAKE**

**MEDICARE  
CERTIFIED**

"My best wishes on your first year anniversary!"  
*Dian Weisberg*  
Exec. Director, Alzheimers Assoc.-Detroit Area Chapter

"...to your continuing success."  
*Robert Mueller*  
Columnist, Detroit Free Press

"It is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the Peachwood Inn and Borden Court on the occasion of their first anniversary. Many wishes are passed along with this message for many years of prosperity!"  
*John J. ...*  
Senate Majority Leader

"A true home, filled with warmth and happiness!"  
*Nancy Kennedy*  
Volunteer

"Congratulations Peachwood Inn, Keep up the good work."  
*Henry J. Artman, M.D.*  
Lafayette Clinic

"Congratulations and Happy Birthday Peachwood Inn."  
*Sam ...*

"I love my Mom, and wanted a staff who would be loving, caring and kind — Peachwood has it — 100%!"  
*Smelly Smith*  
Daughter of Jennie Lytle

"Congratulations from the City of Rochester Hills on the occasion of Peachwood's First Birthday!"  
*John M. ...*  
Mayor - City of Rochester Hills

"Congratulations on a successful first year. Keep up the good work, Peachwood!"  
*John C. ...*  
State Senator, 9th District

"Uniqueness, quality and excellence describes Peachwood as you celebrate your first year in the greater Rochester community."  
*Marge Miller*  
Older Persons Commission

"Congratulations to Peachwood Inn. A great concept, keep up the great work."  
*Carl D. ...*  
Member of Congress

"Peachwood Inn is tops — in care, cleanliness and concern for the residents."  
*A Family Member*

**852-7800**

## Grand Opening SALE

**AN  
ADDITIONAL  
10% Savings  
off our  
already low  
pre-season  
prices!**

**In Stock Items Only  
No Layaways**

**FREE  
DELIVERY TO  
MOST AREAS**



High back chair with cushions and 42" acrylic top table  
Also available in 2 and 3 seat sizes



6 piece group includes 4 dining chairs with cushions and 42" square table  
Chairs also available

**Palm  
Beach  
Patio Furniture**

7350 Highland Rd. (M-59)  
7 miles West of Telegraph  
Near Pontiac Airport  
(313) 666-2880

**HOURS:**  
Mon. & Thur. 10 am - 8 pm  
Tues. Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday-Closed  
43236 Novi Town Center  
Grand River & Novi Road  
Just South of I-96  
(313) 347-4610