OU looks to improve on area diamonds

Graphically speaking, Oakland University's baseball team should be right in the midst of the Great Lakes Conference race this season.

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An explanation is necessary: If you graph the Ploneers' last two seasons — their first playing basebail after a six-year absense as a varsity sport — then it becomes clear that if they can match the progress they made last year, they have a shot at winning the GLHG title.

OU was 3-21 in the conference 1987. It improved to 8-10 last year. Another five-game leap in the win column, to 13-5, and the Ploneers' record would be just one game behind last season's winning total (Ferris State won the title at 14-4).

Alas, calculations don't win con-

Alas, calculations don't win con-ferences. Defense, hitting and — most of all — pitching make cham-pions. Which is why OU coach Paul Chapoton, entering his second season at the helm, has set modest goals for

AND ALTHOUGH he'd like to challenge for the GLIAC crown—the Ploneers were one of three teams with a mathematical chance at winning the title entering the final results of the control of the control of them.

"Twe set three goals," said Chapoton. "First, I want us to continue to improve, then I'd like us to play around .500 (in the league). And I'd like us to win 20 games."

Chapoton is careful in his predictions for the same reason he were the control of the control

dominantly a freshmen-sophomore leam."
Indeed, 19 of the 30 team members are either freshmen or sophomores. But it isn't like it was a year ago, Chapoton acknowledged. "Everyone in the lineup has at least one year (of experience) under their belt," he noted. "Our starting lineup is as good a unit as any in the league, at least potentially."

OU sports

SO THERE is promise, anyway.

Chapoton likes his team's strength up the middle, starting with junior teather Dave Walezyk, a two-time all-GLIAC honorable mention hote. Walezyk hit. 374 in '88 with five doubles, three home runs and 18 uras batted in, and he committed just two errors while throwing out 65 perkins is a bit quicker and private with the doubles, three home runs and 18 uras batted in, and he committed just two errors while throwing out 65 perkins is stated to be OU's lead-off private with the work of the amopens its season Saturday at Indiana University-outbest.

In CENTER FIELD, there's june the state of the day of the stable, and stale in 18 committing just seven errors in 34 games while turning 16 double plays. And he hit 348 and stole a team-high 10 bases.

Tom Zerona, last year's second became, is gone, but Chapoton hinks junior Tom Perkins, a trans-

Sophomore third-baseman Mike Gunn was another outstanding freshman for Oil last year, He bit 350 and led the team in runs (29), hits (41), RBI (20), doublet dinhe, homers (five) and al-bats (117). Sophomore Dave Srpak (288, two bonners, 17 RBI) will split time between first base and designated hitter. Freshman Chris Bobo will share first base may be supported by the season. Last year, Salisbury served seekignated hitter and back-up infelder, this year, he'll still be a designated hitter (he hit .33) with 14 RBI) but will also be a short reliever.

Hever.

THE PIONEERS need all the help they can get on the mound. Chapoton knows it elike recruiting efforts fell short in the pitching department, although he did sign righthanders Mike Schill ("He's developing, but it could take him a little longer") and Tom Vandermeer ("He should be our fourth or fifth starter").

The nucleus of the staff is senior

righthander Duane Moore (2-3 with a 3.06 earned run average, opponents hit Just. 212 against him), sophomore righthander Dave Kallst (1-3, 8.51 ERA) and Junior righthander Pat Sadowski (1-4, 6-6 ERA). John Jacoby, a senior righthander, returns as the closes (2-0, 4-98 ERA). "We're Improved over last year, especially our bench." said Chapoton. But he would make no rash predictions. "We need our eight every-day starters to have solid; decent seasons. We don't have one guy who can carry us." And Chapoton emained unconvince when the country of the control of the country of

Walczyk."

Until some of his younger players display Walczyk's consistency, Chapoton won't change his inind. "We have to see whether or not the progress we made last year was for real." he sald.

St. Hugo girls bounce to title in CYO play

For the first time in the 49-year history of the school, the St. Hugo's girls basketball team won the Catholic Youth Organization Southeastern Michigan Title. The champs clinched the title with a 29-22 victory over St. Mary's of Reford and finished the season with a 24-1 overall record.

the title with a 29-22 victory over St. Mugo's lead. Mary's of Redford and finished the season with a 24-1 overall record. Stephanie Storen paced the winners with 17 points. Mary Helen Diegel scored a season-high eight points and Laura Lalan chipped in with four white playing outstanding defense on St. Mary's 6-foot-2 center Deidre Wilson. "In my 10 years of coaching at St. Hugo davanable group of young women that I have ever had," said most coachable group of young women that I have ever had," said St. Hugo cach Bob Storen. "They worked hard for this title."

House of the work of the work of the season, finishing with 505 points. Storen led the offense throughout the season, finishing with 505 points. Store of the final six games of the season.

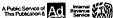
St. Hugo controlled the game from the start and had a seven-point ad-vantage at halftlme. St. Mary's pulled to within one point in the third quarter, but couldn't overcome St. Hugo's lead.

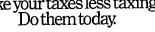
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Make your taxes less taxing.





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