Oakland University cagers drop league opener

By DAVE STOCKMAN

Oakland University is playing an exciting brand of men's basketball, but all the Pioneers have to show for it this season is a 2-3 record after two weeks of action.

The Pioneers played three games last week, dropping games to South Alabama and Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) foe Hillsdale, and sandwiched a win over the University of Windsor in between.

With all but one of the players joining in the fun, the Pioneers dominated the Lancers to the tune of 89-65. Coach Jim Mitchell's roundballers raced to a 14-point halftime bulge, 40-26, and were never to be stopped as Eulis Stephens put on a one-man show in a two-minute span before the reserves filed in.

Stephens, who topped both teams with 24 points, dunked, slammed and cranked a pair of fast breaks which brought the home crowd to its feet in appreciation. Two other Pioneers were in double figures as Tim Kramer tallied 14 points and 11 rebounds, while Craig Harts dropped six-of-ten field goal attempts and two-of-two free shots to match Kramer.

Although he had only three points, "Dollar" Bill Scott played 29 minutes and mustered 10 assists and nine steals.

"Bill did a fine job shooting with his left hand and passing off," said Mitchell about Scott, who suffered a fractured elbow in the Pioneers' opening game.

The Pioneers also played without 7-0 Norwegian center Bjorn Rossow who suffered a sprained ankle in practice. Rossow's cast has been removed, but Mitchell indicates he won't be able to play hard until next year.

In the 101-79 loss to South Alabama, OU trailed by only three points at halftime, but couldn't keep up with its hosts in the final 20 minutes. Kramers paced OU's scoring stats with 24 points, hitting 10-of-15 from the field, and all four free-throw attempts. Stephens had 19 points to accompany 10 rebounds.

Last Saturday Hillsdale's Tim McKee scored 22 points in leading his team to a 62-58 win in the first GLIAC game for both teams. Stephens and Kramer once again led the Pioneers in scoring with 16 and 15 points, respectively.

The Pioneers, who battled Northern Michigan on Monday and the Central Michigan University Chippewas last night (Wednesday), host Northern Kentucky at the OU Sports and Recreation Building Saturday night at 8 p.m.

THE OU WOMENS' basketball team split a pair of road games to open its season last weekend. At Eastern Illinois, K.D. Harte popped in 23 points to lead the Pioneers to a 79-62 win, and coach Rose Swidzinski's team were on the short end of a 91-68 score at Indiana State.

Trudy Dalecki added 17 points for Oakland against Eastern Illinois, while teammate Helen Shereda notched 14 and co-captain Kathy Hewelt had 12. Hewelt took team-scoring honors against Indiana State with 17 points, followed by Shereda with 11.

The women play host to a talented Western Michigan team tonight (Thursday).

THE WOMENS' TANKERS dropped a meet to the University of Michigan last week, 111-22. Liz Hatfield was the only Pioneer to take a first for coach Shawn McCormick's 11-member team as she finished the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:36.2.

The men's swimming team was a little more successful at Michigan State. OU lost 83-29 as freshman Paul Doyle, a native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., set a new school record, and made the national cutoff time in the 200-yard backstroke. He went under two minutes, finishing at 1:59.55.

WSU cops Commuter Bowl

Wayne State University's intramural touch football team blanked the University of Detroit, 45-0, to become the 1977 Commuter Bowl champion in a game played Nov. 29 at Southfield's Lawrence Institute of Technology.

In winning, WSU copped the Commuter Bowl, a traveling trophy donated by LIT, for the first time in the five-year history of the competition.

This year's Commuter Bowl matched WSU's Wolves and Detroit's Signa Phi Nothings. WSU's Tony DeMarco scored a pair of touchdowns on passes from quarterback Dave Zelmanski. Zelmanski also ran for a touchdown, and passed to Tom Waelchi for another. Waelchi accounted for two extra points.

The Wolves capped a perfect 12-0 season with the bowl victory. The Nothings finished with a 9-1 record.

A game to determine third place in the competition had been scheduled between host LIT and Oakland University. It was cancelled because of bad weather.

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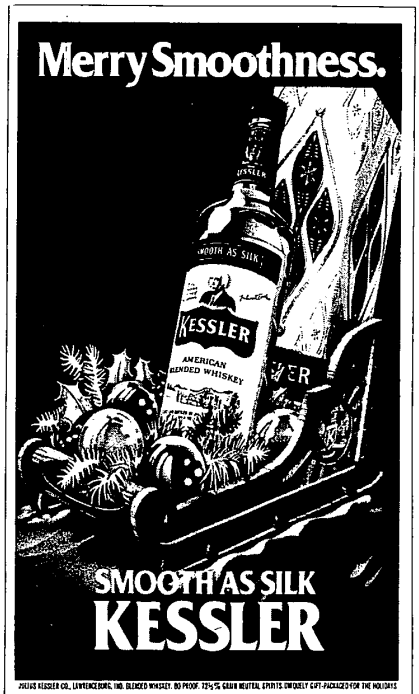
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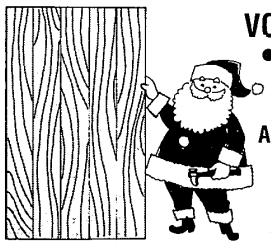
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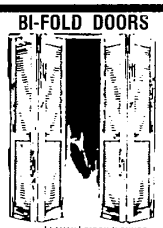

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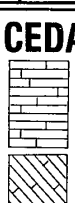
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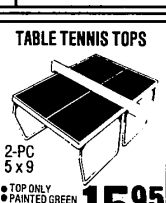
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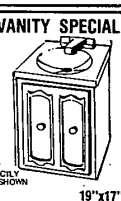
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