

Wins already equal last year's total

OU girls' cage program turns around

By MARTY BUDNER

Under the guidance of a woman named Rose, women's basketball has blossomed at Oakland University.

So far this season, the women's team has defeated Central Michigan University, which was rated among the top 20 college teams last year, the University of Windsor and Albion College. Entering the

January schedule, the Pioneers are undefeated and have already won as many as the Red Sox did last year in 15 outings.

The rebound in women's basketball has occurred primarily for two reasons. First, a recruitment program was initiated for the first time in women's basketball history at Oakland, and secondly, coach Rose Swadinski is operating as a fulltime employee instead of part time like last season.

There were only 11 people on the team last year, and four of those girls had never even played basketball before," said Swadinski, who coached winning basketball for 36 years at Farmington Our Lady of Mercy. "Basically, last year's group was recreational and not at all competitive."

But this year we undertook a full recruitment program. We tell potential recruits that, statistically, we are in the top 10 percent in the nation academically, and they will like our location—we are out in the 'boondocks' and not in the city. There is a genuine interest in the Title IX program here, the university is interested in providing a quality program," said Swadinski. "The great thing is that we have administrative support from President O'Dowd on down."

ONE OF THE PRODUCTS of Oakland's dedicated recruiting efforts is 6'1" center Helen Shereda, who was sought after by more colleges than there are residents in her hometown of Kalamazoo. Shereda was offered 63 scholarships, including UCLA, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Ball State.

The reason for her high priority is a basket full of statistics that would awe any mentor. In her high school career, Shereda averaged 13.00 points and averaged 33 points and 25 rebounds per game. I figure she is one of the finest all-around players in the state," said Swadinski of her prized freshman center. "She jumps well, boards well and has a 20-foot range with either hand."

So far this year, she is averaging 17 points per game with a high of 29 against Albion," said Swadinski. "She is an excellent team player, she is adjusting very well to our style and is very unselfish."

Besides Shereda, Swadinski landed two other starting freshmen and a gift that is currently being used as an all-star. This nucleus of talented recruits means that the Pioneers start most of their games with four freshmen, one sophomore and a team loaded with excitement.

Lynn Kienker and Kathy Howett, the latter a sophomore, are the starting guards and Jan Friberg and Gloria Seibel are the starting forwards. The sixth player

and co-captain, from Adams High School, is Beth Kemp.

KIERKEKOPPER IS THE TEAM'S wing person who possesses a fine jump shot and is an excellent feeder. Howett, the other captain, is the floor leader who plays the point position and is considered the team's fast player.

Fisher, a product of Garden City High School, is a 5'9 forward who has a good 15-foot shooting range and is always under the boards when needed. Scott has been averaging 15 points a game this season and works very well inside.

Kemp also plays the wing position and has been averaging 13 points a game coming off the bench.

"She (Kemp) is the most durable on the team and can run a mile under six minutes," said Swadinski. "She is learning to respond to pressure very well and I expect her to be in the starting line-up very soon."

Another player expected to see a good amount of court time is 6'1 reserve center Laurie Stasak from L'Ansonia Stevenson High School. "She is coming along extremely well," explained her coach.

Other players on the squad include Edna Gibson, from West Africa, guard Karen Depper, Wanda Starnone, Vern Stierger and Jane Thomas, also from L'Ansonia Stevenson.

COACH SWIDINSKI PREFERS to run a wide open offense with players shaking whenever they have an opportunity. She figures that if her team is strong fundamentally, the baskets will start going in sooner or later.

"We want everyone to be able to do everything, to know the fundamentals," said Swadinski. "Everybody has to do the little things, like box out, communicate and not turning your back on the ball."

"We don't want superstars. We want five girls who want to play. We don't want our team to rely on any one person, and we want to have equal distribution of points in every game."

It's basically a question of expectation. I expect to turn things around here," she said. "I expect a lot from them and in return we try and treat them right."

Oakland competes in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Pioneers are expected to battle Grand Valley, the defending league champions, Wayne State University and Saginaw Valley for the title this season.

The girls got a lot of confidence from beating Central at a when we put things to

gether we'll be very tough this year," said Swadinski. "There's an awful lot of potential talent out there and we expect to win the GLIAC."

And, for a coach who registered a 70-23 high school career mark and sent an annual state power into the playoffs at Mercy, that dream doesn't seem an impossibility.

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Rice shocks Central, Andover buries Milford

BROTHER RICE OVERHUNG ITS WINNING hook was to take down Central Catholic in Central, 41-15 on Dec. 11 in Farmington.

Central, a Central area rival of Birch or Rice, is the leader in the Michigan Western Hockey League's first division. Rice is the leader in the second division.

Rice coach James Watcher said the win was a "momentous victory." He noted that Central was a 4-2 record in the state prior to the game.

Central opened the scoring with a first period goal. Mike Schaefer of Rice scored the game-winning goal in the second period, giving Rice a 4-2 lead. This received assists from King Porter and Jeff Wardlow, respectively.

Central attempted a comeback, but only scored one goal in the final period. Coach Watcher gave credit to Rice goalie John Croft for "outstanding work. He turned back 37 of 43 Central shots. Rice players took 25 shots.

As time a Brother Rice team beats a Catholic Central team. Everyone feels super," Watcher said.

The victory lifts Rice to a 6-1 mark overall, while the league record remains 5-0. Oakland Central is 2-1 overall and 2-0 in first division play.

ANDOVER ICEERS bombarded Milford 12-3 Dec. 11 at the Hartland Ice Arena. Bob Suar had three goals and two assists for the Barons. Chris Charron and Alex Delveresta each scored two goals. Gary Mather, Tom Simpson, Joe Drudi, Mark Broadwater and Mike Puffer each scored one goal for Andover.

Don Keller accounted for all the Milford scoring with a hat trick.

Andover is now 2-2, while Milford falls to 0-3.

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