

# Committee's snub stops OU's season

By C.J. Risak  
staff writer

The soccer season is over for Oakland University. For all that matters to the powerful Pioneers, it might as well have ended two months ago.

OU lost twice and tied once in the first week of the season, its two losses coming in the National Invitational Soccer Tournament II host. That put the Pioneers into a deep hole, one that proved too deep for them to climb out of.

Or so they discovered Monday. That's when the 12 teams selected to compete in the NCAA Division II tournament were announced, and that's when it became official that OU would not be one of them.

THE DECISION hit the Pioneers and coach Gary Parsons hard, coming after they had overcome their final foe,

Wright State, 4-1, at OU Saturday. The Pioneers got a goal and an assist from Meally Freeman, Marty Hagen and Gray Histed. Chan-Ho Allen also had a goal and Mike Vigh and Mark Christian earned assists.

That win was the 13th over the final 16 games of the season for OU. The team finished 14-3-5 and collected victories against University of Akron, Michigan State and Illinois State, all ranked in the top 10 of the Great Lakes Region among NCAA Division II teams.

"What really hurts," said Parsons, "is that the team had come on and played great soccer the last half of the season. We were playing our best right now."

"I honestly think we had a chance to go all the way. I definitely think we're a better team at this point of the season than we were last year."

OU MADE the playoffs last year,

though. This year, the two early losses proved insurmountable.

"Really, you could look at it and say we were out of it after the first weekend," Parsons said. "Maybe if we could have beaten Gannon (OU's only loss after the early slump) we would have made it. But Gannon was ranked second in the nation (Division II)."

The selection process left Parsons "not only surprised but a little bit appalled." Two teams from each of six regions were chosen to the tournament, with a three-coach committee making the selections. The coaches based their picks on a power rating of each team's schedule.

In the Great Lakes Region, New York Tech and Davis and Elkins were the teams given bids, leaving OU — ranked seventh nationally in the Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America (ISAA) coaches poll and second in the region — as the odd team out.

THE TOP SIX teams nationally made the tournament, as did squads ranked ninth, 13th, 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th. But the ISAA has no control over who makes the NCAA tournament.

"All season long, I've been saying if it came down to the schedule I thought we'd get in because ours was best," said Parsons. The committee disagreed, ranking both NYT and D-E ahead of the Pioneers even though OU played eight top-20 teams in Divisions I, II and III to five for NYT.

A couple of major flaws in the system became obvious by the teams that got into the playoffs," said Parsons. "In every region there aren't two teams that deserve to go. There are some weak slivers that get in. Teams shouldn't be rewarded for being from a weak region."

Parsons was critical of the "inflexible situation the national selection committee is locked into" by picking

two teams from each region. Instead, he offered a plan for one team representing each region and six at-large berths.

THE POWER ratings, too, upset the OU coach. "They made their final decision using that because they wanted to be as objective as possible," he said. The problem was that the regional selection committee — consisting of Wright State coach Greg Andriulis, Dowling (N.Y.) College coach Dick Jamison and Bellarmine (Louisville, Ky.) College coach George Taorman — each rated a team. Andriulis handed the team he was most familiar with, OU.

Jamison did NYT and Taorman was responsible for D-E. Parsons was convinced that, even though Andriulis told him after Saturday's game that OU was better than NYT (Wright State played both), the WSU coach gave the

Pioneer schedule a low power rating. "One team (NYT) got a real good shake and another (OU) got a bad shake," said Parsons. "The guy from Ohio was more stringent than the guy from New York."

ANOTHER INADEQUACY in the power rating system: D-E and NYT played one common opponent, Kean College. NYT lost 1-0 and D-E won 6-0, but NYT got the region's top seed.

It was a sour ending to an otherwise successful season for the Pioneers.

"I feel real bad for the seven seasons on the team," said Parsons. "They won't get the chance to prove the selection committee was wrong."

"The only thing we can be satisfied with is that we did the job on the field." Unfortunately, the Pioneers will never get the chance to prove how good they were.

## Ocelot cagers off to quick start

One thing about freshmen — they will surprise you.

Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach Rocky Watkins got a lot of surprises during the Ocelots' two games last weekend at the Macomb Community College Tip-off Classic. Not all were good, but there were enough to help Schoolcraft to victories over Lansing CC Friday and Kellogg CC Saturday.

Neither win was easy. The Ocelots blew a 16-point lead in the second half against LCC and had to rally from 12 points down in the final 2:52 to post an 83-79 triumph.

Against Kellogg, Schoolcraft trailed by four late in the game before mounting a 10-2 run that earned the Ocelots an 83-79 triumph.

ALTHOUGH THE TEAM was far from the model of consistency Watkins would like, he was pleased with the victories, which, he noted, "came against two pretty decent teams, too." With three players currently ineligible — one after transferring and two others for academic reasons — Watkins had to use his freshmen more than he wanted.

"What we hope to do is bring our freshmen along slowly and let them gain experience at their own pace," the Ocelot coach said. "Right now, we're working on the development of our freshmen. When the (Eastern) conference season starts we want to play 14 and keep the game going at a fast pace."

Schoolcraft trailed KCC Saturday 77-73 with three minutes left when point guard Clarence Jones, who had been in

four trouble, sparked a comeback. Jones entered the game, immediately stole the ball and scored to narrow the gap to two.

A JUMPER by Derrick Kearney, who finished with 28 points Saturday night bagging 29 Friday against LCC, tied it with less than two minutes left. After Jones fouled out, KCC's Ronnie Tompkins — who scored 30 points — had his shot blocked by Brad Turner. Turner got possession and went the length of the floor for a jam that put Schoolcraft ahead.

Kearney and Harold Martin added insurance points for the Ocelots before KCC scored a meaningless basket at the buzzer. Kearney also had five steals, four rebounds and four assists. Turner contributed 19 points, seven rebounds, six assists, six steals and two blocks, while Martin added 11 points and five assists.

Against LCC Friday, Watkins went to his freshmen in the second half and it nearly cost the Ocelots, but he was happy a certain freshman was in the lineup when it counted. Mike White, from Plymouth Salem, hit the game-winning jumper with 10 seconds left.

"WE TRIED to play too many freshmen," he said. "They're good, but they're still freshmen, and we had too many in at the same time."

"Mike White's a bit different. He played well for us both nights, and he was the only point guard we had behind Jones."

Schoolcraft led 53-49 at the half and built that into a 16-point bulge before LCC stormed back and eventually went

ahead by 11 with 2:52 left.

"Our defense got back in it," said Watkins, who utilized a full-court press and exceptional defensive play by Jones, Turner and Kearney.

Kearney's 29 topped Schoolcraft. "He's a blue-chipper, you can tell," Martin led with 18 points. He also had eight rebounds, three assists and two steals. Jones scored 11 points, had three assists and two blocked shots and Kearney finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and three steals.

Bob Bringham led OLSM with 14 points. Amos Brown had 12 and Greg Washburn 10.

The Ocelots play Jamestown (N.Y.) CC Friday and Southwestern CC Saturday at Flint Mott CC.

Schoolcraft jumped out quickly,

ADs conflict with survey

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THE INEQUITY of female participants and coaches may be evident now, but some of the athletic directors believe it will even out in time and is not something that will change immediately.

"The biggest problem is there isn't a supply of women coaches," Francis said. "There's a tremendous demand, but there are very few out there."

"We'd love to have them," Quinn said, "but it's going to take some time. Women's athletics, the viable program as we know it, developed over the past 15 years. Compare that with the development of men's athletics over a 15-year period of time takes you back to the Olympics in Greece. I think women's athletics have grown remarkably well, but it's not going to change overnight."

"I think women have come along a lot since they started," Gilmore added. "The girls who were the pioneers in the growth of women's athletics are near the childbearing age, and their children are going to be exposed to athletics and encouraged to participate."

The bottom line, as Quinn sees it, is that communities are offering opportunities.

"We always felt, and still feel, we're here to provide programs for all students that attend our schools," he said. "That's what we're here to do, regardless of sex."

## C'ville pulls off win

Talk about gutsy performances.

Clarencetown got a 20-point performance from senior Kelly Watson en route to a thrilling 35-34 victory over Lutheran West Tuesday in a Metro Conference girls basketball game.

Watson and teammate Ann Ledda were involved in a car accident last Thursday night. Both were shaken up, and Ledda, as she spent the week in a cast. But both were in uniform Tuesday and

contributed to the victory.

They were very fortunate. "C'ville coach Jack Grenan said, 'I'm going to have to go to church twice on Sunday.'"

The Trojans, after trailing most of the game, took a three-point lead in the final quarter on baskets by Diane Lindsey and Watson. Watson's hoop proved to be the game-winner as Lutheran West's buzzer shot was errant.

Lindsey scored eight

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