## Oakland coach can't help be optimistic

Greg Kampe sounded almost optimistic.
The Onkland University mens basketball coach's addresses to the media at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference preseason media meeting had been consistent in his first three seasons: downcast, gloomy, a forecast of impending adons.

three seasons downest, gloomy, a forecast of impending doon.

After listening to his always-brief speech, one was left with the feeling that if the world ended before the season started, it would mercifully save the Pioneers, OU hasn't played like that at all during Kampe's three-year tenure. After back-to-back 13-15 records, the Pioneers posted a 20-8 mark in 1986-87, going 10-6 in the GLIAC, their first winning season ever in the conference.

That is why even a coach preferring to present a pessimistic preview would have trouble with this season's OU squad.

THE PIONEERS are loaded. And they can be counted on to challenge for the GLIAC title — and a berth in the NCAA Division II tournament — even though they've lost two (perhaps three) of their top eight players from a year ago.

The absentees will force OU to adopt a different look. Dave Hintz, the 6-fool-7 junior centers who made the all-GLIAC defensive team a year ago, severely injured his knee in a pick-up game over the summer and is lost for the season.

Also on the sidelines is 6-6 sophomore forward Stacy Davis, who has youlnarily left the team. Davis has reportedly had trouble adjusting to his role with the team, and his weight has hurt his progress.

The losses of Hintz and Davis have taken the inside power from the Pioneers. But eight other players — including five returnees — give OU enough talent to make it a contender.

"I LIKE to say we have a starting eight," said

### **OU sports**

Kampe. "That's how deep we are. When you have as many good players as we have, starting isn't

Kampe. "That's how deep we are. When you have as many good players as we have, starting isn't impartant why we're going to change our style of play to an up-tempo type of game, baseline-to-baseline pressure."

The Pioneers will also be primarily an outside scoring team. "We're going to be a very perimeter-oriented team." Kampe predicted. "When we need a basket, we'll go to Blittinger."

That's Scott Bittinger, the 6-2 senior guard who was all-GLIAC lists sesson and a member of the conference's all-defensive team the two years prior to that. Bittinger averaged 184 points and three assists a game as a junior.

"He's the senior, he's the guy we'll go to in the clutch," said Kampe.

This season, Bittinger — who has often split his time between point guard and off-guard — will be established at off-guard, thanks to the addition of Brian Gregory, Gregory, a 5-9 sophomore from Mount Prospect, Ill., played as a freshman at Navy with David Robinson and made it to the NCAA final eight.

"He's our Islah Thomas," said Kampe. "He'll have nights when he'll pop in 30 points. He's a true, legitimate point guard, the first we've had since I've been here."

GREGORY'S ABILITY isn't the only bright ad-

GREGORY'S ABILITY isn't the only bright addition for OU. Andre Bond, a 6-4 sophomore guard/forward from Willow Run, is another super scorer. Bond went to Kent State for a year, then dropped out of college for two years before coming to OU.

And there's 5-9 freshman guard Rickey Miller, another shooter. Bittinger, Gregory, Bond and Miller give the Pioneers "four guys who could

shoot better than 50 percent from the three-point line," Kampe said.

O'U won't have to rely solely on its outside game, however. Even with the loss of Hintz and (possibly) Davis, the Pioneers have capable inside players. Problem is, they aren't real big.

Leading the returning frontcouriers is 6-7 junior center John Henderson. Henderson was a pleasant surprise for O'U year ago, coming off the bench to average nearly 10 points and five rebounds a game.

"TO BE honest with you, of all the guys here he's the one I'm happlest with." Kampe said of Henderson. "Here selly developed. If you remember a subsequent of the selly developed if you remember a subsequent was relieved. If you remember a subsequent was the selly developed. If you remember a subsequent was the sell you have that by his work in the may not lead us, but he'll be darn close." Also back is 6-3 junior Mike McCan, "Kampes prize recruit of last year. McCan "played great carly and great late (in the season), but was down in the middle," his coach said. McCan — who attended Indian Hills Community College for a year before transferring to OU — still paced OU in rebounding, getting 8.5 a game. He scored 6.9 points.

In an effort to maximize his potential, Kampe told McCan "we want him to rebound and stop somebody on defense. Anything else he does is a

somebody on defense, Anything else he does is a bonus."

bonus."
Another valuable frontcourt player is 6-7 senior
Pete Schihl, who started 23 games last season and
averaged 10.1 points and 4.8 rebounds.
Wallace Davis, a 6-3 sophomore guard, will also
contribute, as will 6-6 sophomore center Skip
Townsend. Rob Aivin, a 6-3 senior guard from
Birmingham Groves, is out indefinitely with a

knee injury.

As for the coaches' pre-season poll — OU was picked to finish third in the league — Kampe was surprised. "I thought we'd be picked much high-

But, as he knows well, it isn't where your team is picked pre-season, it's where it ends up post-season.



## girls basketball

GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE DISTRICT PAIRINGS CLASS A

ALWESTLAND JOHN GLENN active recently John GLENN readey, Nov. 19: Westland John Glenn Libona Franklin (B). 7 p.m. odey, Nov. 23: Garden City vs. Livonia soon, 7 p.m.; Livonia Ladywood vs. A-B 18-70 n.m.

0 p.m. day, Nov. 25: Championship final, 7 er advances to the Southfield region-outh Canton district champion).

ALPLYMOUTH CANTON

ureday, Nov. 19: Phymouth Canton (A) vis. buth Salem (B), 7:30 p.m. urday, Nov. 21: Livoria Churchill vis. Novl. (; Northylle vs. AB winner, 7:30 p.m. nday, Nov. 23: Championship final, 7 p.m. er advances to the Southfield regional vis. and John Glenn district champion).

al REDFORD UNION
Thursday, Nov., 19: Redford Whon (A) vs.

stimbeld (B), 730 p.m.
Saturday, Nov., 21: Farmington Hälls Mercy
Detroil Henry Ford. 6:15 p.m.; Farmington
A-B winner, 6 p.m.
Monday, Nov., 22: Chambelonable final, 7:30
Monday, Nov., 22: Chambelonable final, 7:30
M. (effore advances to the Southheld regionvelocity of the Chambelonable final, 7:30
M. (effore advances to the Southheld regionvelocity of the Chambelonable final).

ALDETROIT CODY

Thursday, Nov. 19: Detroit Cody (A) vs. De-st Cooley (B), 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20: Redford Bishop Borgess vs. troit Mackentie, 3:30 pm. Monday, Nov. 23: Detroit Redford vs. A-B orse 2:30 pm.

IG p.m. idey, Nov. 25: Championship Itnal, (winner advances to the Southfield ), Redlord Union district champion).

### BI TAYLOR CENTER

y, Nov. 20: Taylor Center (A) vs. Taylor (B), 7:30 p.m. lay, Nov. 23: Wayne Memorial vs. Tay-nedy, 6:30 p.m.; Romukus vs. A-B

I Kennecy, the property of the control of the contr

ursday, Nov. 19: Walled Lake Western vs. Bioomfield Hills Andover (B), 7:30

sturday, Nov. 21: Walled Lake Central vs. Bloomfield, 6:15 p.m.; North Farmington, 28 winner, 8 p.m. readay, Nov. 24: Champlonship final, 7:30 (winner advances to the West Bloomfield anal vs. Brighton district champlon).

MUSICAL FUN artanoons dammus Every Thursday mga saranatrani it Quality Inn 1001 N. Woodward Mile the deed quare Like Ponting



CLASS B
at DEARONAL ALPHONSUS
Thursday, Nev. 19: Reclord Thurston (A)
vs. Royal Call Shrives (B), 7 p.m.
Friday, Nev. 20: Dearborn St. Abboneus (C)
vs. Dettort Benedictine (D), 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 22: Farmington Harmson vs. Arwhyney, 6 p.m.: Unonial Glaverscrible vs. C-D

30 pm., Nov. 21: Pontiac Catholic vs. A-B Baturdey, Nov. 21: Pontiac Catholic vs. A-B neer, 5 pm.; Southfield Christian vs. C-D neer, 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24: Championship final, 7 n. (winner advances to the Wyanddrits Mount rmel regional vs. Detrott DePortes district amplon).

CHARGO (APPeres district CLASS D (APPeres district CLASS D (APPeres district CLASS D (APPERE) TARK (A) AND ARD GENERAL (B) (B) (A) AND ARD GENERAL (B) (B) (A) (C) APPROACH CHARGO (APPERE) (B) (B) (B) (APPERE) (B) (B) (APPERE) (B) (B) (APPERE) (B) (APPERE) (B) (APPERE) (APP

# **Dashed hopes**

Bob Taylor figured be just about had it made.

had it made. With his second season as Oakland University's womens basketball coach just over the horizon. Taylor—who guided the Lady Pioneers to 21-7 overall record and an 11-5 mark in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference — scanned a superb recruiting class and smiled. "I thought that after last year, with our top nine players returning and a recruiting class like this, we could be a national contender," he said.

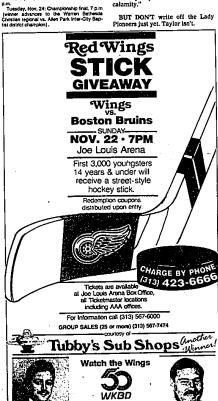
aid.

Then the bottom fell out. Margaret Boyle, OU's all-GLIAC point guard, left school for personal resons, Sonja Pearson, a starting forward, was lost to academic problems, and two of the promising recruits were out before getting to school, one to academic woes and the other to injury.

As Taylor put it, "It seems like a calamity."

"I'm not feeling sorry for myself," he added. "Seven of our top nine players from last year are back, and everyone's improved. Plus we've added a couple of players like Janice Kosman, who's been such a surprise, and Ann Serra."

How good OU could be may depend on how quickly the newcomers it in. The hardest loss was Boyle, who led the GLIAC in assists (7.5 per game) and averaged 10.4 points as a junior last season. Pearson — who could return in January II her grades





CHAINS CHANDAIN MUNTER BO PROOF CHANDAIN MINISKY A BLEMO EMPORTED BY THE HOUSE OF SEASPAIN MEN YORK IN Y

