

# New talents look for future as Pioneers

By C.J. Riasak  
staff writer

Some coaches are rebuilding, others are refining and a few more are restructuring their Oakland University tennis as recruiting season draws to a close.

OU's men's swim team, the NCAA Division II runners-up the last three years, must replace seven swimmers. They have coach Pete Hovland has signed eight. The women's swim team lost just Glenn Johnson (from Plymouth Canton) to graduation. Three new additions should help immediately.

Last year, baseball coach Paul Chapoton couldn't find any pitching prospects worth signing. Now, coming off a 31-16 campaign, he has already signed three pitchers and prospects are good for adding a few more.

Women's basketball coach Bob Taylor lost just one player, senior starting forward Leah Fenwick, from last season's Great Lakes Conference champion. Three more signees, in addition to redshirt Jennifer Golen (from Rochester) and fall recruit Leisha Sadler (from Manistee), should make OU a little-favorite

IN SOCCER, the story is different. Coach Gary Parsons must rebuild his defense after losing three starters and midfielder John Stewart. Also, starting forward Sel Eren has decided not to return to school. Parsons has five recruits to offset the losses, including two from Trinidad.

For the men's basketball team, there is little to report. Coach Greg Kampe, who has been filling in as athletic director since Paul Hartman suffered a heart attack last month, lost just one player. But he was a big loss: forward John Henderson, the team's leading scorer.

With Stacy Davis, who was forced to sit out last year after practicing with another college team, returning next season, Kampe's biggest problem might be replacing assistant coach Bob Lees, who resigned.

Back to the pool. Hovland's hopes for an NCAA title rest with swimmer of the year Hilton Woods, who will be a junior in the fall. Key losses from last season's squad are Erik Strom, who won the 500-yard free at the NCAA II meet; Eric Dresbach, a six-time All-American last year in the butterfly and freestyle; and Dave Rogowski, a five-time All-American last season in the free-style.

**HOVLAND'S TOP** three signees are out-of-staters who could offset the losses. Jeff Ross, from Vista, Calif., was the state community college champion in the 1,650-yard free at Palomar CC. He also placed third in the 500 free at the state meet. He

will enter OU with two years of eligibility.

Matt Michaels, a sprint freestyler and breaststroker from Oberlin High School in Ohio, was second in the state meet in the 100 breast and was a YMCA national finalist in the 50 free and 100 and 200 breast.

Jeff Van Norman, from Troy, Ohio, was another YMCA national finalist in the 200 individual medley, 200 free and 200 breast.

There are five others Hovland has added:

- Jon Hecott of Holland High School, who was Michigan's Class A champ in the 50 free and was second in the 100 free;

- Carl Boyd Jr., from Mount Pleasant, Pa., who was second in the 100 backstroke at the high school state meet and was a YMCA national finalist in the 100 and 200 back;

- Ennis Pritchett, from Saginaw (Arthur Hill HS), who finished fourth in the 50 free and seventh in the 100 free at the Class A state meet and was a junior national qualifier in the 50 free;

- John Blanchard, from Grand Blanc, a Class A finalist in the 500 free;

- Adam Cooper, from Swartz Creek, a backstroker and individual medley specialist, and brother of former OU All-American Jeff Cooper, currently assistant coach for OU's women's team.

The biggest addition for the women's team could be Sheila Dempsey of Peoria (Central HS), Ill., a transfer from the University of Iowa. Dempsey will have two years of eligibility remaining, and her times in the 100 and 200 back are faster than anyone on the team clocked last season.

Coach Tracy Huth has also signed a swimmer from his home state of Washington. Jennifer Barrett, from Liewood (Mariner HS), she was second in the high school state meet in the 100 breast and has a faster time than any current Lady Pioneer in the 200 breast. She'll also swim the 200 IM.

Huth's third recruit has a familiar name: Beth Surawiec, from Novi HS, a cousin of current Pioneer Jim Surawiec (from Farmington Hills/Redford Catholic Central). Both will swim the back and individual medley.

**THE BASEBALL** team lost its top outfielder, Rob Alvin (from Birmingham Groves), and its best pitcher, Duane Moore. Also gone is reliever John Jacoby.

But Chapoton may sign as many as nine pitchers. The three who have signed are Rochester Adams' left-hander Tony DeRuvo, who set a school record for strikeouts and was the Most Valuable Pitcher at the George Gary Tournament, right-hander Matt Byrd of Brighton (South Lyon HS), and right-handed sophomore Jim VerVaecke of Macomb (Fraser HS).

In women's basketball, losing a player like Fenwick would hurt almost any team, but Taylor has stockpiled plenty of talent at Fenwick's forward position. Sadler is a 6-footer who will play the position, and two of his three spring recruits are forwards.

Nicole Leigh, 5-10 from Waterford (Kettering HS), averaged 16 points and 11 rebounds a game, and was a Class A all-state selection. She was also all-academic with a perfect 4.0

grade-point average. Stacy Lamphere, 5-11, was a Class B all-stater for 24-1 North Branch; she averaged 18 points and eight rebounds a game, and is her school's career scoring leader.

Taylor's third recruit is 5-6 point guard Mary Miles of Liberty, Ind. Union County HS. The OU coach spotted her at the Indiana High School All-Star game and invited her to visit the campus. Miles, who averaged 18 points and seven assists a

game, chose OU over Purdue.

**OU'S SOCCER TEAM** made it to the NCAA semifinals last year before losing. Getting that far again will be a challenge, and could depend on this year's recruits.

Gone are Stewart, an All-American at sweepback as a junior, and starting defenders Dan O'Shea (from Livonia Franklin), Raul Delgado and Matt Paukovits.

Two Michigan all-staters and a

pair of players from Trinidad could be called on to fill the holes. Derek Williford, from Class A champion Livonia Stevenson, was an all-state sweepback. Jeff Forshey, from Ortonville-Brandon, was all-state in Class B as a defender.

Emmanuel Charles and Gerald Walker are both from St. Augustine HS in Trinidad, the same school that produced current OU wing Earl Parris.

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