



JOHN STORMZAHN/staff photographer

Jennifer Golen (center) of Oakland University helped her Lady Pioneer teammates to their ninth win in 11 tries Thursday by

scoring eight points in 14 minutes of play in a 90-73 rout of Grand Valley State.

Long-range shooting leads Lady Pioneers

By C.J. Risaak
staff writer

The unexpected has reigned supreme for Oakland University's women's basketball team.

Not that the Lady Pioneers weren't figured to be among the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference leaders. Together with Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan, OU was supposed to fight it out for first.

Still, no one would have predicted the Lady Pioneers to be 9-2 overall with both losses coming on the road in overtime — and 2-0 in the GLIAC with their All-American guard, Jennifer Golen, hobbled by one injury after another. But that's what Thursday's 90-73 win over visiting Grand Valley State elevated them to.

The latest mishap to befall the sharpshooting (lifetime 55 percent shooter) scoring machine occurred at Merghurst College Dec. 20. Diving for a loose ball, Golen broke the little and ring fingers on her right (shooting) hand.

She still plays, of course. "She's one tough nut," credited OU coach Bob Taylor.

BUT GOLEN'S effectiveness — she was sidelined at the start of the season after arthroscopic surgery on both knees — has diminished. Against Grand Valley, she played

just 14 minutes, scoring eight points.

And yet, the Lady Pioneers keep winning — often from long range. They average nearly 26 three-point shot attempts per game, and they convert about one-third of them (32 percent). Against the Lakers, OU was 11-of-23 (48 percent) from three-point land.

"I really like it because it creates spacing problems (for the defense)," said Taylor. "It opens things up."

The Lady Pioneers opened things up against Grand Valley late in the first half. Two Angela Frick free throws with 5:34 left put the Lakers up 26-22, but OU outscored them 21-4 the rest of the half to take a 43-30 lead into the intermission.

Patty Robak led the assault. The 5-foot-9 sophomore forward drained three three-pointers and a pair of free throws in the run, scoring 11 of her 18 points. She also had seven rebounds and three steals in the game.

THE SECOND half was anticlimactic — more a question of how much rather than who. Grand Valley, which fell to 3-7 overall (0-1 in the GLIAC), never got closer than 10 points.

Which should indicate that OU, even with Golen-hobbled, is for real. Depth is a strength; nine players saw 14 or more minutes of action against Grand Valley. Five scored eight or more points.

Stacy Lamphere, who has stepped up nicely to fill the scoring void created by Golen's injuries, led OU with 20 points (she's averaging 19.2). Jessie Powell had 14, and Golen and Katie Kalahar each scored eight. Doreen Delkowski, who started in Golen's place, grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Grand Valley got 21 points, five assists and four steals from Frick; 20 points from Helle Mathiesen, and 11 points from Marie Thomas. But the Lakers' shooting was abysmal: 23-of-63 (36.5 percent), including just 3-of-25 on three-pointers (12 percent). OU was 31-of-66 from the floor (47 percent).

"Now it's time to see if we're contenders or pretenders," said Taylor. "I still think we have a ways to go."

If the Lady Pioneers do indeed get much better, there's no telling how far they will go.

OU men hold off persistent Lakers

By C.J. Risaak
staff writer

Greg Kampe knew what was coming. He could predict what would happen at the end of Thursday's men's basketball game against Grand Valley State.

He didn't like what was coming. And likewise, he didn't like what caused it.

But he wasn't about to defer. For the first five minutes, Kampe's Oakland University team was unbeatable. The Pioneers cashed in three three-pointers and two three-point plays, combining them with a pair of more conventional baskets for a surprising 19-0 lead. From that point on, just one question persisted:

Could they hold on? They could; but barely. Grand Valley showed why it was chosen to repeat as Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion in the pre-season poll, whittling the lead down to two points with 1:19 still left to play. But the Lakers never caught OU and were finally forced to absorb a 78-74 lashing.

"YOU CAN'T play much better than we played in those first five minutes," said Kampe, whose team improved to 8-4 overall and 2-0 in the GLIAC. "I hate getting those big leads to start the game. I hate getting ahead eight, 10 points because you know they're going to come back."

"But you can't turn down 19-0."

OU's three-guard offense got going fast. Eric Taylor popped in two of the three-pointers and converted a three-point play in the opening rally; Mario McInish added five points and Ty McGregor had three.

When Grand Valley's Brent Wichlacz, the team's second-leading

scorer, was forced to leave after cracking his head on a nasty fall following a missed slam, victory seemed certain.

Late in the second half, that perspective had changed. McGregor's two free throws with 6:58 left put the Pioneers up 70-61, but over the next 5:39 they managed a meager three points. When Charlie Mandt (from Troy HS) spun in a short shot with 1:19 to play, OU's advantage had been trimmed to 73-71.

"It was truly an amazing comeback," said Grand Valley coach Tom Villeneuve. "Getting back to within where the game was in doubt is amazing."

BUT THE Lakers' effort fell short. After a timeout with 40 seconds remaining, OU inbounded the ball to a wide-open Tom Eller for a layup and a four-point lead. Everything else, until Gorman's final-second layup, was free throws. OU made 3-of-4. Grand Valley was 1-of-2.

"I give Grand Valley all the credit in the world for coming back," said Kampe. "I was a little disappointed we couldn't put it away. That's something we have to learn."

OU fended off Grand Valley's ear-

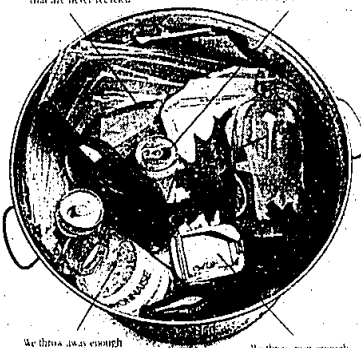
ly comeback attempts. A Bart Bitner layup brought the Lakers to within 33-24 with 7:43 left in the first half, but the Pioneers answered by scoring 10 straight points. At halftime, OU still had a comfortable cushion: 49-32.

Mandt helped ignite the Lakers' second-half comeback. He scored six points in the first 6:12 as the Lakers pulled to within 54-50. But the Pioneers recovered, eventually pulling back out to an 11-point lead with 10:43 remaining.

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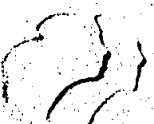
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