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SPORTS



OCC resupplies hoop talent



By C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

When talking about Oakland Community College basketball during the summer, this much is certain:

- There will be an abundance of talented players to choose from;
- Plenty of trials lie ahead for all of the hopefuls, both off-court and on;
- Only a handful of those mentioned here will be around when OCC opens its season in November.

Something else that's certain, regarding the early outlook on the 1992-93 Raiders: There's a lot to replace. Gone are Rashe Reviere, the team's leading scorer and top talent (he'll attend Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa.), Darin

Brandt, Khari Maxwell, Dale Kraft (Alcorn State), Rod Hall and Scott Ross.

Three players who contributed heavily last season are certain to return: Kevin Woodmore (from Avondale), Bill Thurston (Rochester HS) and Bill Knight. Troy Coleman and Myron Banks may also be back, if they pass their summer school classes.

So coach Lynn Reed must replace most of his team, which finished 14-18 last season and — when opposing defenses stopped Reviere — had trouble scoring.

"I think this is going to be one of those teams whose success depends on

how much they improve and work together," Reed said.

Again, he has the horses. Candidates are divided into three teams playing in summer leagues at Flint Jordan College, at St. Cecilia's in Detroit and at Jefferson Junior HS in Pontiac. There's much to be optimistic about.

Five potential players are "redshirts," or those who couldn't make OCC's team last year but could make an impact this season. The biggest of these is 6-foot-10½ Zorren Ivey, from Ulica. "He's thin, but a great passer," Reed said.

See RECRUITS, 2C



C.J. RISAK

Donahue hopes to coach again

I suppose this is a fear harbored by all, which is why it's usually confined to the deepest recesses of our minds. And there it remains for most of us, a fear that fortunately is never realized.

Losing your job — for whatever reason — is horrifying.

But imagine losing it after enjoying what could only be termed as an unqualified successful year? How would you feel if, after breaking all company sales records, and doing it without violating any company rules, you came in one day and found out you were sacked?

Obviously, your first question would be *Why?* The answer given: *Financial problems.*

How do you argue with that? You can try, insisting that what you did generated more revenue than it cost. You could provide all sorts of supporting data, but if the decision by the people in charge has already been made, it won't do any good.

It's too late. You're through.

Glen Donahue has faced all this in the last three months. Last winter he coached St. Mary's College's men's basketball team to a single-season school-record for victories, guiding them to their second-straight NAIA District 23 championship and the ensuing NAIA National Tournament.

In five years, he took a program on the brink of collapse (former coach Rick Zalenski left just a few weeks before school opened in 1987, leaving an opening which Donahue filled) to one of the best in the nation.

Success isn't enough

And, unlike others (Zalenski, who left to coach Bristol College in Tennessee, put that program on probation a year later), Donahue did it while following the rules. Of the 15 players he coached and were eligible to graduate, 11 got their degrees; two others are expected to in December.

St. Mary's had never been so successful in basketball. And with the possible return of Joachim Jerchow, a native of the Netherlands who was a standout as a freshman at St. Mary's in 1989-90, combined with six returning seniors (including All-American Jimmy Bolden, from Detroit Country Day), it seemed the team would be even better.

Then came that fateful April announcement, one that shocked everyone and completely upended Donahue's world: Due to financial restrictions, St. Mary's basketball program was canceled. Immediate-ly.

Now what? Here he was, a 57-year-old retired school teacher, without a job in a market with precious few openings. "I've looked at everything," Donahue said Tuesday in the office at St. Mary's he still works out of, running summer basketball camps.

"I'll consider a high school job, but I don't want to do it unfairly. I don't want to take a high school job for a year and then leave for a college job. And I've been coaching college for so long. I'd be like a duck out of water (in high school)."

Always a coach

But, Donahue added: "I want to coach. Always, in my life, I planned on coaching until I was 70-plus."

Considering he has nearly 600 career wins in his 31 years, including more than 500 college wins in 24 seasons, one might think he could find a job easily. But the late date in which he started searching combined with such a small market has left him still looking, still hoping.

It's the mark of the man that his first concern was for his players and coaches. Amazingly, nearly everyone on the roster has a place lined up to play and finish their schooling. Bolden, easily the district's best talent, has committed to NCAA Division I Wichita State.

It will be Bolden's third college. He played a year at NCAA I South Florida, didn't like it and transferred to St. Mary's. It's a credit to both Bolden and Donahue's program that his final choice was based more on academics than basketball. More of his credit is transferred, so Bolden could complete his degree faster.

Finding a place for a senior to play for only a year is not easy, but Donahue managed. Terrance Hughes is bound for Georgia Southwestern; Jeff Szczepanski, Spring Arbor; Fred Russell is considering Biola College in La Mirada, Calif.; and Kevin Karafa, a redshirt senior (junior eligibility), Northwood Institute.

Only Marvin Morrison, a senior bothered by knee problems last season, is considering coming back to finish his education at St. Mary's (all scholarships will be honored, according to the administration).

See DONAHUE, 2C



Safe at home: Erin LaCrosse of the Farmington Hills Hornets slides into home plate before the throw can reach catcher Marlo Walker of the Farmington Fantastics Thursday. The Hornets won both ends of a doubleheader.

Hornets improve fast-pitch record

The Farmington Hills Hornets defeated crosstown rivals the Farmington Fantastics twice Thursday to boost their record to 6-2 in the Incredible Girls Fast-Pitch Softball League, 12-2 and 10-3.

Kristin Kozlarski pitched a two-hitter for the Hornets in the first game, and winning pitcher Amy Geary and Erin LaCrosse combined on a three-hitter in the nightcap. Both games went five innings.

The Hornets shared the wealth offensively in both games.

Jenny Myslinski, Laura Williams, Kelly LaCrosse and Kathy Schneider had two hits each in the opener. Myslinski and Williams also had two RBI.

The Hornets scored a lot of their runs on wild pitches, and Kozlarski, Amanda Ault, Kelly LaCrosse and Myslinski crossed home plate two times each.

Myslinski, Ault, Geary and Kelly LaCrosse paced the Hornets with two hits apiece in the second game. LaCrosse also had three RBI, Erin LaCrosse and Katie Hesano two each.

On Tuesday, the Hornets split a doubleheader with the Salem Shags, losing the first game 12-1 but winning the second 12-9.

Ault was 2-for-2 and drove in five runs in the nightcap. Heidi Wahl added two RBI while Myslinski and Ault scored two runs each. Geary was the

winning pitcher.

Kozlarski scored the Hornets' only run in the first game on Wahl's single.

Jenny Garvey tossed a three-hit victory for the Shags. She also had one RBI and scored two runs.

The Farmington Hills Diamonds won two games from the Livonia Spiffies Thursday, 14-3 and 9-6.

Melanie Cheney was the winning pitcher in both, tossing a two-hitter and striking out six in the first game.

Michelle Romig had two singles and two RBI, Jennifer Cassidy a double and two RBI.

Cheney pitched a three-hitter in the nightcap and struck out four. Allison Stein had a double and two RBI, and

Romig drove in two runs again.

The Farmington Hills Majestics (6-2) suffered their first losses Thursday when they dropped a doubleheader to the Canton Cobras, 5-4 and 14-6.

Colleen Baker pitched a two-hitter for the winners in the first game, and she also had two hits and three RBI.

Jennifer Lis had an RBI single and the Majestics scored their other run on a passed ball. Krista Miller was the losing pitcher.

Ariana Poniatowski had an RBI single, Miller a sacrifice walk and Debbie Sobczak, Allison Gunn and Lis received bases-loaded walks. Heather Jonna took the loss.

NFWB squad was surprise district winner

For a team that wasn't supposed to do much, the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Bronco 11-year-old tournament team has exceeded all goals.

Competing in a Bronco state district tournament in St. Clair Shores, NFWB rallied around strong pitching and steady hitting to capture the tournament championship. The team compete in the state tournament last weekend in Lansing.

"We're a pure 11-year-old team competing in a tournament against 12-year-olds," explained NFWB coach Bob Sopo. "We weren't picked to do very well."

NFWB was represented by two squads in the four-team state tournament as the 12-year-old team also won its qualifying tournament in Bloomfield Hills.

In Saturday's opening game of the double-elimination state tournament the NFWB 12-year-olds met a squad from Lansing. The NFWB 11-year-olds played South Farmington in the second game of the tournament.

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NFWB opened the double-elimination district tournament with a 12-8 victory over St. Clair Shores and

followed that triumph with a narrow 8-7 win over Waterford. NFWB advanced to the finals with a 4-0 win over Novi.

Garden City won the loser's bracket and had to beat NFWB twice to win the tournament. Garden City handed NFWB a 14-10 loss to set up a championship game, but Sopo's squad responded with a 10-5 victory to win the tournament crown.

NFWB received solid pitching performances throughout the tournament from starter Gary Penta, reliever Josh Gad-Hart and stopper Evan Feldman. Offensively, NFWB was paced by Mike Sopo (760 for the tournament), Marc Boggio (500), Jason Melvin (500) and Mike Basford (500). Basford also had four throw-outs from center field.

"The kids really came together," Sopo said. "Anytime someone made an error or got down, the other kids would rally around him and pick him up."

"We feel very proud to be there (state). We're going up there to win it. We're not going in with the underclassmen label, we're going in to win."