

OCC recharges its uptempo hoop attack

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

It's a new season and there are some new faces, but Lynn Reed's Oakland Community College men's basketball team appears to be as fast-paced and frenetic as ever.

"We have some very talented guards who can really get after people," said Reed, whose team is off to a 1-1 start. "If our big man can improve like we think he can, we're going to be in good shape."

In the first two games — a 90-84 loss to Tri-State College's junior varsity team and an 89-83 victory against Flint Jordan — the Raiders showed both their biggest strength and their potentially fatal flaw: They can rain points on people and get rained on with equal regularity.

Against Tri-State, four players scored in double figures and OCC built leads as big as 17 points. But, it blew an 11-point lead in the final nine minutes giving up nine 3-point field goals.

Against Jordan, the team fell behind by 16 points in the first half and then rallied to win. Six players scored in double digits.

"We need to get a little stronger at the forward positions," Reed said.

Reed's up-tempo attack will be driven by sophomore guards Craig Martin and Harold Golsen and freshman Curtis Long.

Marlin, among the top five in the nation last year in both 3-point and free-throw proficiency, scored 22 and 17 points in the first two games. Golsen, from Detroit Murray-Wright, transferred to OCC from Macomb Community College. He

scored 19 against Tri-State and had an 18-point, 12-rebound effort against Jordan.

Long, a 5-3 speedster who triggers the team's press and break, scored 25 points in the two games.

The big man Reed is counting on is 6-10 sophomore Corey Young.

"He hasn't scored much, but he's looked good," Reed said. "He can be a real respectable player."

Tony Green, a 6-0 freshman from Pontiac Northern, has contributed some dead-eye 3-point shooting from the backcourt. Ken Clay, a 6-2 freshman from Detroit Renaissance, will also see some duty.

Up front, Reed is counting on Chris MacFarlane, a 6-7 freshman from Walled Lake, Mark Galbraith, a 6-5 freshman from Clarkston, Tony McNeal, a 6-5 freshman from Walled Lake and Will Marcoux, a 6-6 freshman from Redford Catholic Central.

Reed is waiting for two promising forwards to clear eligibility requirements: Sean Allen, 6-2 from Southfield, and Freeman Jones, 6-4 from Pontiac Northern.

"Those two would help a great deal," he said. OCC was 15-14 last season, but Reed likes the potential of this group.

"We've brought in some kids from winning programs, kids that are used to winning and know what it takes to win," Reed said. "I'm always optimistic, but I think we can be pretty good." OCC will play in a four-team tournament in Sinclair, Ohio, this weekend.

Pioneer kickers in regional finale

By C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

The stakes are climbing, each and every week.

Oakland University's soccer team advanced to the Central Region Final against the region's top seed, Gannon University, by defeating Northeast Missouri State 2-0 Sunday. The Pioneers travel to Erie, Pa., to play Gannon (15-2) at 1 p.m. Sunday.

It won't be the first meeting of the season between the two. On Oct. 2 in Erie, OU was victimized

by two late Gannon goals in a 3-1 loss. The two scores came 34 seconds apart, in the last three minutes.

And yet, Gannon's strength is its defense. Keeper Rich Bedoya, a junior, has 10 shutouts and is ranked fourth in the NCAA II with a 0.62 goals-against average. Senior sweeper Frank Mol is one of the team's top players; he scored the game-winner in the first meeting.

Sophomore Colin Peterson, a

OU SPORTS

forward, leads the team in scoring with 13 goals and six assists (32 points).

OU has some weapons of its own. Junior striker Eli Tomkin has been on target of late, playing a role in nine of OU's last 12 goals. He has 17 goals and nine assists (43 points) this season.

Should teams choose to concentrate on stopping Tomkin, the

path is clear for Mike Thornton (nine goals) and Mull Walton, both proven scorers. Defensively, OU is nearly as tough as Gannon. Senior keeper Mike Sheehy (Farmington) has 10 shutouts and a 0.66 goals-against average.

OU is 9-0-1 in its last 10 matches, which should make this interesting. The winner advances to the NCAA II First Four, with the Pioneers playing the Southern Connecticut State-C.W. Post winner in the semifinals, at a site to be determined.

Risak from page 1B

battling back from two games down to beat Henry Ford.

But the Hawks didn't surrender, either. They emerged from the loser's bracket and, playing without the services of sister Jacie Friend (who had to attend her sister's wedding), managed to beat the Owlets in back-to-back best-of-five matches to claim the regional title.

For a day.

That's when the trouble began. It ended with Henry Ford being disqualified from the NJCAA Tournament, which the regional title qualified them for, after using an ineligible player; the berth was filled by tournament host Miami Dade-Kendall.

Allegations flew from both camps, but there were far more

denials. Gray had a few choice words for Teeters, claiming he turned his team in and that "this is retribution for what happened to them."

Teeters countered by claiming he knew nothing of Henry Ford's problem until the day it was uncovered.

Gray added that he wasn't the one to blow the whistle on SC regarding Pfeffer.

Know what? I couldn't care less about the problems these two may cause themselves. My gut reaction is not to believe either of them. Teeters insisted he was not the one to initiate the process that ended with Henry Ford's disqualification, but more than one source has revealed Teeters knew the Hawks had an ineligible player.

His response? He insists he never knew. "If I knew a team was using an ineligible player and I didn't say something, I would be fired. And I would expect to be fired."

As for Gray, there's some doubt there, too. After all, his team played SC (with Pfeffer) the week before Pfeffer's eligibility problems were uncovered. Gray said he believed the NJCAA office discovered the mistake. But according to Mary Ellen Leicht, who handles volleyball for the NJCAA, SC's problem was phoned in to her office by an outside source.

The bottom line is, it's idiocy. Had both school administrations been on top of things, none of this would have occurred. Pfeffer's ineligibility was caused by a mis-

take made in the SC athletic office. Her credentials should have been checked and re-checked.

At Henry Ford, counselors and coaches are both supposed to make certain their players know they cannot drop below the minimum number of credits necessary to be eligible. A player did, and it cost the Hawks.

The losers in all this are easy to pick out: the players. They do all the work, and they don't even get a chance to reap the benefits. Worse, after a superb three-set showdown for the regional title, in which both teams displayed relentless tenacity, all that will be remembered of the '93 regional will be the off-court shenanigans.

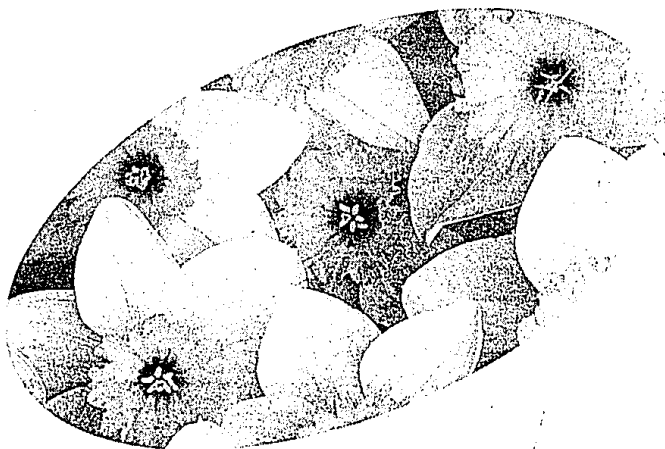
Gray was right when he said his kids deserved better. Both teams did — starting at the very top.

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