

Racing cars a passion for Troy driver

"A disappointing season but not a disaster," is how Oakland University basketball coach Gene Boldon describes this year's results. After four consecutive winning seasons, the Pioneer cagers dropped to a 9-22 record, the worst in the school's history, and a 3-8 conference mark. Boldon looks on the brighter side. "We gained some valuable experience, the rough treatment we received this year will make ours a better team next season."

A rough schedule and a young, inexperienced team were major factors in the team's poor showing this season. This year's schedule included the

University of Detroit, Illinois State, Northern Illinois, Brockport State, and the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay and Parkside. The conference was also extremely strong as Grand Valley, Ferris State, and Lake Superior all made a run for the league championship which Grand Valley eventually won with a 9-1 record. All three teams were selected to play in the district 23 NAIA playoffs.

The Oakland team was composed of ten freshmen on the 14 man roster. Junior Kevin Williams, a starter for the past two seasons, was the only player with any real varsity experi-

ence. He averaged 10 points and 11.7 rebounds this season and 10 points and 13.2 rebounds against league opponents. Another junior, Craig Covington, also saw plenty of playing time as a starter.

The young freshmen were led by guards Eulis Stephens and Lewis Bryant who won starting assignments for their aggressive play. Eulis averaged 13 points a game while Lewis carried an 11 point average after breaking into the starting line-up. Eulis' 18.3 average in conference action was good for fourth place among league scorers. The fifth starting position was usually shared between fresh-

men Perry James, John Gardner, and Derek Leonard.

Coach Boldon and assistant Steve Mahoney, former Madison Heights Lamphere coach, have been viewing high school tournament games almost nightly in search of talented ball players. "We need some front-line help, someone to assist Kevin with inside scoring and rebounding," said Boldon. Except for one trip to Kalamazoo, the recruiting has been limited to the Tri-County area, especially Oakland County. Such familiar Oakland County names as Weiss-Kettering, Miller-Lake Orion, McGowan-West

Bloomfield, Gervais-Kimbal, and McCool-Stevenson are players that Boldon believes would be an asset to Oakland's program.

Detroit public school players like Ketter-Henry Ford, Knight-North-eastern, King-Murray-Wright, and Harris-Kettering would also be welcome additions to our programs," according to Boldon.

"We have the nucleus for an excellent team next season," says Boldon. Strength at the guard position with returnee's Stephens, Bryant, and Covington, the continued excellent play of Kevin Williams, the return of leading scorer Tim Billingslea, and the addition of a couple of rebounders who can play defense should be enough to reverse the 5-22 record of this season.



Topo (left) and Gary Penisson discuss the damage to Topo's Torino which he crashed in the Daytona 500 stock car race last month.

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