



Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Women's basketball begins season Nov. 15

The 2004-05 schedule for Oakland University's **women's basketball team** includes a trip to California and a match-up with the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Golden Grizzlies have nine members from last year's squad, including all five of last year's starters, returning to lead OU, while the team also welcomes four newcomers to the fold, including freshmen Monique George (Detroit, Mich.), Bethany Jury (Plymouth, Mich.) and Jenna Schroeder (Clio, Mich.), and junior college transfer Lakeshia White (Flint, Mich.).

Oakland kicks off the season with an exhibition game at home against Western Ontario on Monday, Nov. 15. The regular season gets under way Nov. 19 at Ohio and then at Central Michigan Nov. 23 before the team heads to San Francisco, Calif., for the Odwalla Classic Nov. 26-27.

Wrapping up its string of non-conference games, Oakland will travel to Illinois State, Akron and Michigan, while hosting Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Niagara and Buffalo. The Mid-Con season officially starts for the Golden Grizzlies on Jan. 3, when the team heads to Tulsa, Okla., to square off against Oral Roberts. Senior night for OU is Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. when the women host Western Illinois in the team's final regular season game. Four seniors will bid Oakland farewell that night, including Amanda Batcha (Waterford, Mich.), Ashley Holenka (Shadyside, Ohio), Petra Manakova (Prague, Czech Republic) and Leigh Tully (Sarnia, Ontario).

The Mid-Con Championship is set for March 5-8 where the Golden Grizzlies will look to get back to the championship game for a chance at the league title.

Last year head coach Eileen Hilliard saw her team improve by four wins to a 17-11 record and a fourth-place finish in the Mid-Continent Conference at 10-6. With all of her starters back, it is reasonable to expect that OU will be among the favorites in the league for the upcoming season.

Oakland's squad already has established itself as one of the best overall programs in the Mid-Con in just six short years, winning an average of 16 games a season since becoming a Division I program and joining the Mid-Con. In the five seasons that Oakland has been eligible for the Mid-Con title, the Golden Grizzlies have two regular-season titles and one tournament title and an NCAA appearance under their belts, not to mention playing in the Mid-Con Tournament championship game three times.

Individual tickets for Oakland's men's and women's basketball games are on sale at the Oakland Athletics Ticket Office. Women's reserved tickets are \$5, with general admission priced at \$2. Men's reserved seat tickets are \$12, with general admission tickets available for \$5. Student tickets for all games are \$2. Tickets can be purchased at the Ticket Office at the Athletics Center or by calling (248) 370-4000. Tickets also are available through **Ticketmaster**.

Season tickets for both seasons also are still available. Reserved season tickets are \$150, with the price for faculty, staff and alumni at \$125. Student season tickets are \$20. All season ticket packages include both men's and women's games.

For more information on OU's basketball teams, visit the **OU Athletics** Web site.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, November 10, 2004
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