



Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Hockey club mentally ready for season

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Last weekend's training and conditioning camp in Traverse City left Oakland University's **Men's Ice Hockey Club** team in top condition for the 2003-04 season. In addition to being physically prepared, the team also is mentally ready to defend its Greater Midwest Hockey League title.

"The biggest thing we're trying to improve upon is the mental aspect of our game preparation," said head coach Craig Furstenau. "We were guilty last year of not playing consistently with a mental edge. Our goal for this season is to change our overall mental aspect and play with full intensity for 60 minutes. With the talent we've assembled, if we can maintain that kind of mental intensity, we'll do just fine."

Oakland's team, which finished 21-9-4 last season with a No. 11 ranking in Division II of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, is more talented than ever due to the addition of a second club team last spring. Oakland's new Division III team gives more students a chance to play at a competitive level and Furstenau the ability to draw upon its players when needed.

"We carried 25 players last season but were only allowed to dress 20," Furstenau said. "Having the second team gives more players an opportunity for the future and helps by providing players in the event of injuries or if a certain player isn't performing the way we expected."

With the talent on the main squad, Furstenau may only have to draw from the Division III team occasionally. Some of the key returning players include seniors Karl Borgquist (defenseman), Ron Kolito (forward) and Shaun Zeldes (goaltender). Several freshmen also are expected to provide additional offensive power.

"We're really excited about our incoming freshmen forwards," Furstenau said. "Jordan Ingram played in Canada last year and has a good fast shot; and John Paul Ferrari and Joel Dupuis should add some scoring punch. Anthony Magdowski is a junior transfer student who also plays forward. Those guys really add a lot more speed and skill to the team."

"We've also added a lot of depth. Last year, we had just three solid lines, but with the higher skill level, we'll be comfortable with four lines. Overall, the team's skill level is twice as good as last year. We've also added some size with some six-foot players. With all of these changes, I expect we'll do at least as well as last year and have another shot at the national tournament."

Oakland begins its season on the road Friday, Sept. 26, against the University of Michigan-Dearborn. OU's first home game, to be played Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester, also will be against UM-Dearborn.

The Division III team will play its home games at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills and begin its season there Friday, Sept. 26, against Lansing Community College.

For more information on both teams, including schedules, statistics, standings, rosters, photos and more, visit the **OU Men's Ice Hockey Club** Web site.

SUMMARY

Last weekend's training camp left OU's Men's Ice Hockey Club in top condition for the coming season. The team is now physically and mentally prepared to defend its Greater Midwest Hockey League title.

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