

Sports and Recreation

Blues sweep fencing meet but York novices surprise

Gary Cohen

An overpowering U of T fencing squad took top honours this past weekend at the 5th Annual York Fencing Invitational.

The Blue barrage chewed up the competition to sweep all categories, except men's foil, where U of T finished second behind R.M.C. But for the minor setback, the Blues were unstoppable as they rolled to victories in the men's epee, men's sabre and women's foil divisions.

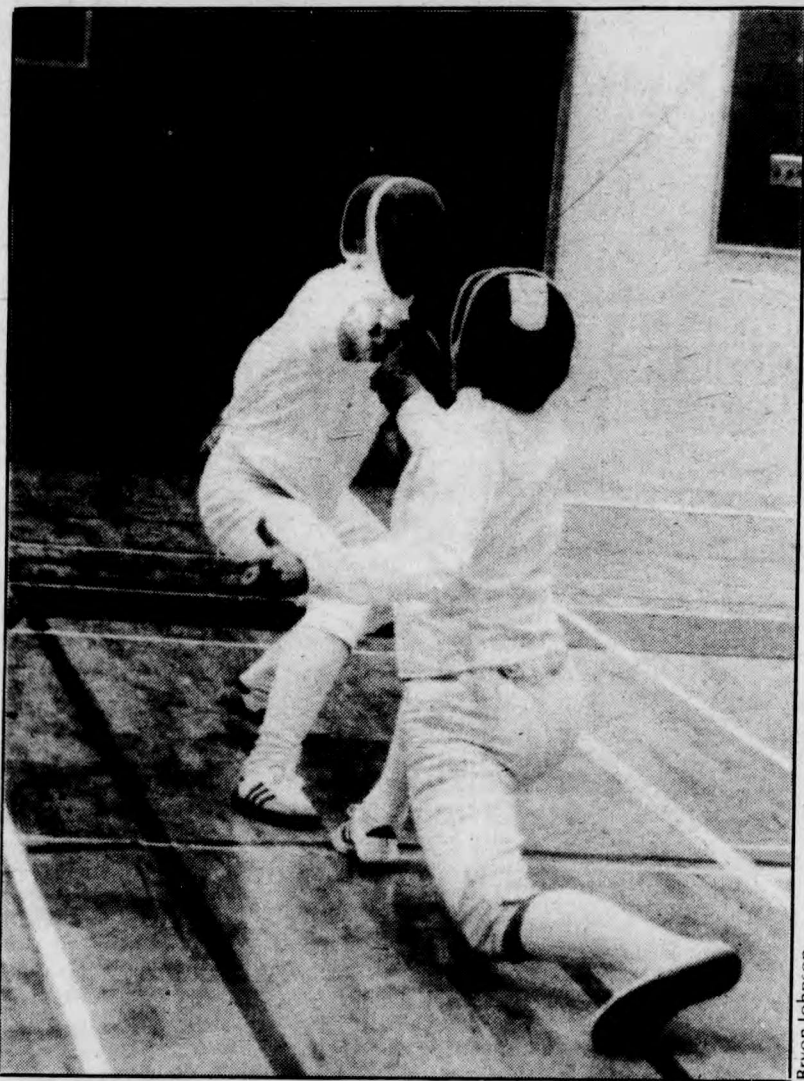
Despite the tough opposition, York's fencers, an inexperienced group fraught with novices, finished an amazing third in the overall team standings behind second-place R.M.C., much to the satisfaction of coach Richard Polatynski, who has had the unenviable task of building his team from scratch.

The evidence shows that progress is being made in constructing the team. The women's foil team, which Polatynski noted consists of "three rookies who are much improved, but lacking in experience," placed a respectable fifth in their division.

In the men's epee division, York copped second place, the team's best showing of the meet. "We had two men with minimal experience in epee and one with none at all," said an enthused Polatynski, "yet we were able to beat R.M.C., one of the top epee teams in Ontario."

If there were any shattered expectations for the York team, they came in the men's sabre and men's foil groups. In sabre, the men finished a dismal ninth, but York hopes in this category had not been that high. The big let-down came in the foil division, where York had to be content with fourth place.

"Our performance in the men's foil was disappointing," said Polatynski. "We should have been in the top three. Carleton



Touche: U of T fencers were overpowering in sweeping to victory at the 5th annual York Fencing Invitational.

outclassed us by coming back after we'd built a big lead.

"The coach deserves part of the blame, though. I should have let my fencers fight their own fight and kept my nose out of it."

Overall, the two-day meet, which highlighted 38 teams representing ten Ontario universities, was very successful. But one blemish did appear to mar the proceedings. Some person or persons, anxious to flaunt their malicious, prepubescent mentality, engaged in the theft of equipment

belonging to the Trent and Carleton teams.

"Although the York Fencing Invitational was a success I think it's unfortunate that a dark cloud of thievery was hung over that success," said a disgruntled Polatynski.

"I've spent five years building up this meet and I think it's shameful that so little respect was shown to visiting athletes who attended it."

This reporter couldn't agree more.

Yeowomen tame Bisons

Greg Saville

Judging from the nonchalant look of the timekeeper at last Thursday's Yeowomen volleyball new year opener, one wouldn't guess that any audience excitement was generated by the University of Manitoba-York court action. But it was. Then again, that timekeeper has probably stoically watched before as the likes of Canada's second-ranked Yeowomen came from behind to defeat teams like the Bisons.

Yeowomen capped the match three games to one, much to the timekeeper's apparent tepidity, but also much to the spectators', (and York coach Merv Mosher's) delight.

It started with a sluggish Yeowomen squad trying to muster against what coach Mosher called "a team with an excellent defensive game." York eventually lost the game 15-9, thanks to players such as Bisons Janet Ledyard, who later went off with an ankle injury.

The second game saw the veteran Yeowomen, defending national champions, show their worth by pulling ahead in the opening minutes for a quick eight-point lead. Quick, that is, for the fans, but probably not for the players. They had their work

cut out for them against a stubborn Bison defense that would not quit. The Manitoba persistence, however, was to no avail as York managed a 15-9 win.

With the score settled at a game apiece, the third and fourth games showed stamina and expertise on both court sides, but Yeowomen, who Manitoba coach Sue Seaborn would later call "a very good and very well-rounded team," prevailed. York won both rounds, 15-10, 15-7.

Of special note was the spiking ability of Yeowoman Sandra Hart, who delivered slam after slam and seemed to inspire much of the team momentum. That momentum was paramount to York success as every play was set up and executed (fake spikes and all) with great discipline.

An obvious pat on the back to coach Mosher and assistant coach Shaughn Renahan here. The only more impressive aspect of the 80's Yeowomen was team spirit, and lots of it.

That spirit will, hopefully, be enough when they meet the nation's third-rated Ottawa GG's this weekend in Ottawa.

"It'll be a very important game for us," said coach Mosher, noting that last Thursday's game came after a rather lengthy, inactive stint over Christmas. A

slow start on Saturday against the "spectacle" GG's is something Yeowomen can't afford.

Then again, the mixture of spirit and veteran experience has shown to be the proper blend in making this a vintage year for York, so maybe it won't really matter all that much.

Spikes and Kills...The day after the University of Manitoba game, Yeowomen volleyballers went to Kitchener for the University of Waterloo Invitational tournament. In play that was not part of their regular season, but must be considered important come CIAU finals time, Yeowomen placed an overall fourth.

York was defeated by Dalhousie University, who they have already beaten this year, and were denied a possible bronze.

Kellogg-Michigan placed first, while Dalhousie and a strong Western University followed respectively.

"It's a totally different thing from regular league play," said coach Mosher after the tournament. "We played more than ten games." Actually, Yeowomen won 15 games and were in first place before losing in the semi-finals.

IT'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

The York Yeowomen ice hockey team was defeated 3-2 last Thursday in a home game against the McMaster Griffins.

York was ahead by a 2-1 score at the end of the first period, but the Griffins managed to tie the score by the end of the second. Then, very early in the third period, McMaster scored the goal that derailed the Yeowomen. Despite attempts by York coach Norm Dodgson to bridge the gap by pulling the goalie with 51 seconds left in the third, the score remained unchanged.

Even though Yeowomen lost the match, their defence and goaltending has certainly improved. They managed to kill a penalty, the only one of the match, late in the third period, something which would have most likely resulted in an opposition goal in the past.

The next Yeowomen ice hockey game is scheduled for Feb. 2 at 2 p.m., on home ice against Queen's.

Shortstops

THINK YOU'RE A HOT SHOT?

York's Athletic Department will be introducing an exciting new concept in Inter-College Athletics when it launches the **Hot Shot Competition**—a basketball contest for hot shots and soft touches.

Play commences on Friday, January 18 and will continue to take place during half-time at men's and women's varsity home games.

The rules for this game of skill are simple (especially for soon-to-be university graduates):

- Entries in the tournament will be limited to twelve teams, including at least one team from each college. Teams will consist of two to six competitors - one man and one woman to three men and three women.

- All Inter-College eligibility rules apply.

- Participants must be at the varsity game so they will know when half-time starts. Two-minute warm-ups will be afforded each competitor at the beginning of the half-time.

- Contestants will shoot from various floor positions for one minute of non-stop time. Points for successful shots will be assessed according to the shooter's position (one point for lay-ups, four points for baseline shots).

- Each college will be asked to supply a judge to monitor the opposing team. Only two teams will participate in each shoot-out.

- Competitors will be representing their colleges and it is mandatory that team members display their college colours and uniforms. No jeans allowed.

The Athletic Department hopes their innovative idea will expand to include other sports such as hockey, soccer and football, but it will depend on interest shown by the colleges.

So, if you've got a good touch around the hoop and want a chance to display your skills, this is the competition for you. And if the glory isn't enough, prizes for the winning team will be supplied by Pony.

For complete details, contact the Inter-College Office at 667-2351.

ROUTINE WIN FOR GYMNASTS

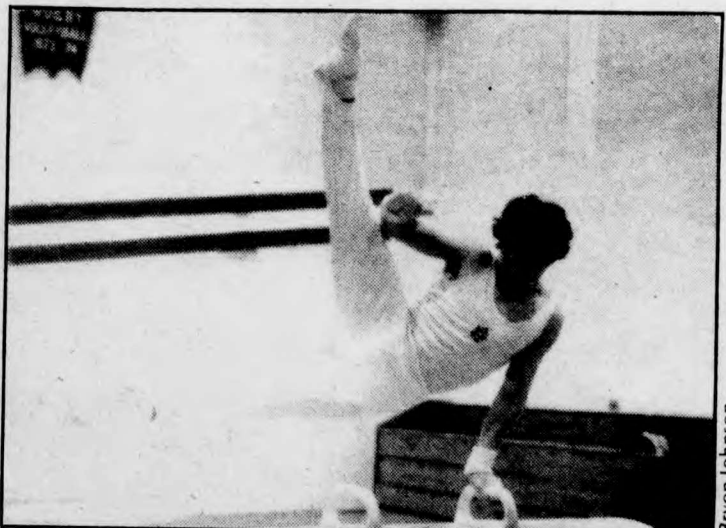
It was business as usual here last Friday as the men's gymnastics team once again topped the 11th annual York University Invitational Gymnastics tournament with an overall team score of 156.4. The team has religiously done so for the past ten years.

A half-dozen university teams attended the meet, including three from York - The York Alumni "Oldtimers," the York "Future," and York coach Tom Zivic's cast, par excellence, of Olympic aspirants, the men's gymnastics team.

Of four gymnasts on the York team with what coach Zivic calls "an excellent chance of making the summer Olympics," two were outstanding during the meet. Marc Epprecht won on high bar (9.10) and pommel (9.50), while Danny Gaudet won on parallel (8.85), rings (9.30) and floor routine (9.50). Gaudet also scored the meet's highest all-round tally, 53.80.

The only event won by another university was on vault, where Yves Dionne of Laval University scored 9.0.

York's gymnasts have firmly entrenched themselves as the nation's number one squad, and although their work wasn't inspired at this meet, it didn't have to be. The three York teams that participated in the competition still dominated, finishing first, second and fifth overall.



Marc Epprecht on pommel at the York Invitational.