

## Second defeat of year for York to Waterloo, Guelph sides

# Yeomen b-ballers find little homecourt advantage in weekend action

by Riccardo Sala

Mark Bellai and Clive Anderson have big shoulders, but you need more than an Atlas to carry the basketball Yeomen and get them to tangle with the big boys.

You also need depth. That was clear over the weekend when York suffered homecourt defeats to Waterloo and Guelph.

The Friday night game against the Warriors was a close one. Both sides exchanged the lead several times, with Waterloo pulling ahead late in the second half to a 87-79 win.

York's offence was led by the everpresent duo of Anderson and Bellai. On the defence, York had a hard time keeping the taller Waterloo off the board.

The loss was the second of the year to Waterloo for the Yeomen.

"I thought that we played hard the whole game. We let up a bit towards the end and didn't get the job done. We relied too much on some of our top players," York coach Bob Bain said.

Bain also commented on the officiating, especially a call in the last minute of play that robbed Anderson of a basket.

"I thought that the refereeing, especially at the end was very sloppy," he said.

Waterloo coach Don McCrae said, "(York is) pretty scrappy. The York team doesn't have great size but they sure have hustle."

"I was very pleased with the play of our two kids Mike Duarte and Sean van Koughnett. I

thought that they were the catalysts of our success. Duarte came up with five steals in the last eight minutes and that swung the game," McCrae added.

Saturday's game against Guelph was an 81-60 decision for the the Gryphons.

This was the second defeat of the season for the Yeomen against Guelph, which went to the CIAU finals last year.

"We didn't play very well. We got behind 42-19 at the half. It was our poorest half of the year," Bain said Sunday.

"We actually beat them in the second half," he added.

Overall Bain noted several things about his team's play Saturday.

"We didn't have the depth. The vets couldn't get going and the subs coming off the bench

couldn't get the job done," Bain said.

He singled out guard Wilton Hall for praise in the Guelph game, noting that Hall played a large role in York's second half redemption.

## sports

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Another positive sign for the Yeomen in the two games was the return of guard Jeff Krupski from the injury list.

The Yeomen travel to Quebec this weekend for a pair of games against McGill and Bishops.

## Ottawa, Carleton, fall to volleyball Yeowomen in six matches

by Riccardo Sala

Volleyball Yeowomen had a successful weekend with a pair of victories over Ottawa and Carleton.

York played Ottawa, the better of the two teams, on Friday night. The Yeowomen shut out the Gee-Gees 15-11, 15-2, 15-8.

The Yeowomen had Ottawa's number for most of the night, though their opponents made it close at times.

Mosher noted afterwards, "We played well enough to win. We were a little bit tentative in the first game."

For Lionel Woods, Ottawa's assistant coach, the Friday performance was not one of the team's better ones.

"It was a poor match, there's not much I can tell you. We didn't play anything close to our potential," he said.

The Gee-Gees are, in Mosher's estimation, one of the top three teams in the OWIAA East Division, along with York and UofT.

Carleton was a different story. Forecasting the outcome of Saturday's match against the Ravens, Mosher felt that it would be an easier matchup than the one against Ottawa.

It was. The Yeowomen swept Carleton 15-2, 15-3 and 15-0.

"We didn't make too many mistakes," Mosher noted.

The Raven match also allowed Mosher the luxury of slotting some of his less used players into the lineup. With Mary van Soelen, a team leader, injured from the Winnipeg Invitational the weekend before, that left room for Amanda Agnew to see more action.

The Carleton walkover likely won't be repeated with York's next opponent, Uof T. That game takes place next Tuesday night at Toronto.

The Blues are one of the best teams in the province. Mosher feels confi-



Roberto Di Maio

**BLAST FROM THE PAST:** digging through the files we came up with this photo of Risa Litwin on the beams. The Yeowomen are back this year, having won the CIAU silver last season and boasting the addition of Olympian Janine Rankin to the fold this year

## Yeowomen gymnasts look forward to successful year

by Josh Rubin

Silver's nice, but gold is still a cut above.

That seems to be the motivation for the Yeowomen gymnastics squad this year.

Head coach Natasa Bajin is looking forward to the upcoming season, and with good reason; they took second spot at the national championships.

This season, with the core of the squad virtually intact, the Yeowomen would be still a force to contend with, but the addition of 19 year old Ontario native Janine Rankin makes them a good bet to take the gold.

Rankin, a Canadian national team member since 1985, is a veteran of three world championships and the Seoul Olympic games.

In 1984, Rankin was the all-around national and provincial champion in the under 12 age group.

At the 1987 world championships in Holland, Rankin unveiled a new mount for the balance beam, which has since been named in her honour.

The decision to come to York was one which Rankin had been mulling over since early this summer.

Rankin says she decided to compete for York after weighing several factors,

among them the new facilities at North York based Gymnastics Academy, which Rankin and other York Gymnasts have access to.

"The whole situation was better. There's the facilities and classes," said Rankin, who is also a York student.

Watching over Rankin's 30 hour per week training regimen will be long-time mentor Mary Lea Palmer, who has been guiding Rankin since the age of seven.

Palmer, who Rankin credits for much of her success, has been at most international meets with the gymnasts, and hopes for more success this year's Olympics in Barcelona.

It was no easy task for Rankin and her national squad teammates to qualify for this summer's games. While the team finished in sixth spot at the 1989 world championships, they grabbed the final spot for Barcelona in Indianapolis, winning 12th place by the slimmest of margins.

Rankin will bolster an already strong team that includes team captain Becky Chambers, who has recovered from a broken foot, and North Bay native Trista Bernier, a vault specialist in her second year with the team. Bernier was one of the top rookies in the league last year.

## opinion

# Where have all the fans gone? Ness asks...

By Mr. Ness

What the hell is wrong with University athletics?

Why is it that York Varsity athletic teams are having a hard time drawing fans?

The defending OWIAA championship winning Yeowomen hosted one of the best volleyball tournaments of the year at Tait McKenzie in October and the fan support they received from our 45,000 strong student body was pathetic.

Last year the Yeowomen field hockey team captured the gold medal at the OWIAA championships, yet both this year and last year fan support

was dismal. The situation has been the same for the soccer Yeowomen, this year's OWIAA quarterfinalists.

The gymnastics and track and field teams are also poorly supported by the student body.

This neglect of varsity athletics is not unique to the women's teams or low profile sports, it also affects old favourites such as the Yeomen basketball squad. Once upon a time they had a fan base that made basketball at York an event.

The men's soccer and volleyball teams often play at home to empty stands.

Most varsity sports are feeling the pinch from university cutbacks.

Too bad they are also feeling a cutback from fans.

York's athletic department has aggressively gone after the fan this year with various types of promotions sponsored by outside sources. All York students get into home games free if they show their student cards. Groups are encouraged to participate in the Marriott Cup Spirit Challenge where two of the prizes are a trip to England and a laptop computer.

I don't think the problem lies with varsity athletics. The problem lies with the student body. Students have to take a more vested interest in their varsity teams. Maybe with a little more fan support York's sports teams can go all the way to the top. York has very good varsity teams, let's show them that we also have excellent fans.

**Fax**  
**TO:** The Excalibur  
**FROM:** University of Toronto  
Blue and White Club

Dear Sirs/Madam,  
After your humiliating defeat in the annual Red/Blue Bowl football game at Varsity Stadium last month you have an opportunity to get even when the Yeomen Hockey team visits Varsity Arena on Friday, Nov. 22 (7:30 pm)

On behalf of all UofT students we would like to challenge the York fans to outdraw and outcheer the home fans at this annual classic.

Both schools currently have strong hockey clubs and this game will not only go a long way in deciding playoff positions but will allow one side to have bragging rights until the next time.

Let's work together to put college hockey back on the map and fill the arenas like the good old days.

You have been challenged!!