

Rugby Yeomen fall short against Queen's

by Brian Amuchastegui

It was a case of too little too late. Despite a valiant comeback effort in the second half, the York rugby squad fell short in a 19-13 loss against Queen's University.

The Yeomen dominated Queen's, the defending Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) champions, throughout the game but failed to capitalize on key opportunities.

York head coach Bill Currie felt his team played a strongly matched game but were unable to capitalize on their offensive possessions. "We had a ton of possessions and played a lot of the game in their end," said Currie, "but they came down and took advantage."

The Yeomen started the game strongly, with their pack winning most scrums and forcing the opposition into a defensive formation.

Strong first-half performances by flyhalf Andrew Saunders and winger Martin Lee resulted in several scoring opportunities early in the game.

Queen's forward Andrew Armstrong opened the scoring on a well executed drop-kick to put his team ahead 3-0. The Yeomen controlled the play in Queen's territory but miscues by York forwards offset their chances. A strong rush deep into the York end culminated in a second drop-kick scored by Andrew Armstrong.

Queen's Neil Young raced his way past a flatfooted York defence to score the game's first try.

"Thorn-in-York'sSide" Armstrong converted the try to make the score 12-0.

With minutes left in the first half, York broke out of their offensive silence and scored a try to narrow the score to 12-4.

The second half unveiled a more efficient running and passing game by the Yeomen. Saunders finished a York drive from 10 yards out and added a conversion to close the gap to 12-10.

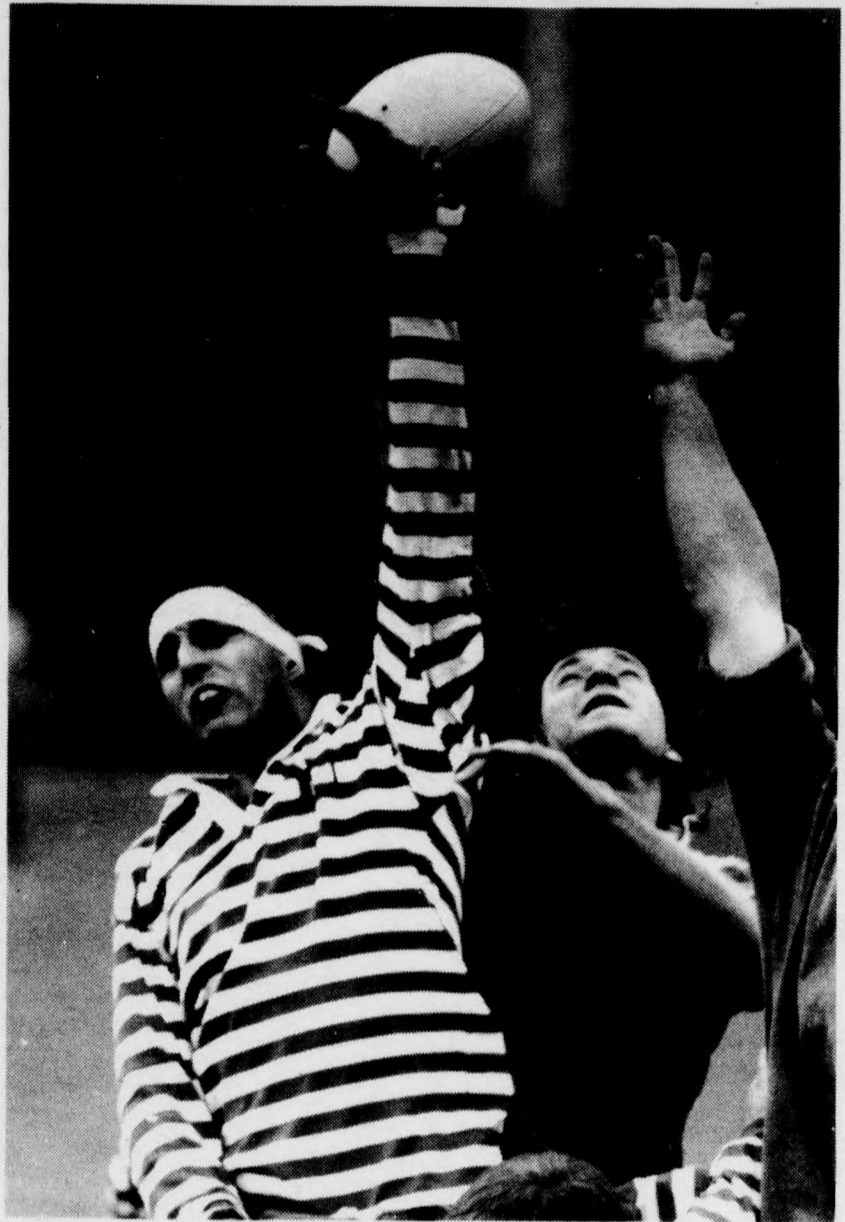
The Yeomen continued to press and their determination began to show. Twice within the second half they came within yards of scoring, but a failure to finish off key plays thwarted their attempts. Queen's increased its lead 16-10 on a strong midfield drive, outmuscling its York opponents down the field. A York penalty-kick by Saunders brought the Yeomen to within three points of the OUAA first division leaders.

During the final 10 minutes, the game see-sawed back and forth with both sides vying for field advantage. The homeside Yeomen battled to within yards of potential scoring plays, but on each occasion fell short.

A penalty kick scored inside Yeomen territory with just minutes left sealed a 19-13 Queen's victory.

York stand-out Saunders felt Queen's was fortunate in coming out with the victory. "We had a lot of opportunities in the second half," said Saunders, "but we just didn't capitalize down in their end."

York's next game is at home on October 21 against McMaster University.



Reaching for the sky: Like the team, this Yeoman is stopped short.



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