

# Toronto's Ranson harvests gold in Ontario finals



Toronto goalie Karen Ranson locates the puck in OWIAA final.

## Jules 'Sparky' Xavier

The University of Toronto Lady Blues' dynasty in hockey as it has been called, exists for one reason.

That reason is Karen 'Lady Zero' Ranson who protects the area between the pipes for Toronto and has done an excellent job this season.

In 11 games Ranson has shutout her opponents in 5 of these while posting a very respectable 1.20 goals-against average. She is Toronto's strongest asset.

A much improved York Yeowomen hockey team advanced to the finals for the first time in their history this season. In 1979-80 the Yeowomen finished in the basement with a 1-10-1 record.

Ranson stymied the Yeowomen during the first five minutes of the

Ontario final and U of T went onto defeat York 4-1. This was the Lady Blues second consecutive championship victory, defeating Queen's 3-0 last year.

York's sharpshooters could not pierce Ranson's armour until the .57 second mark of the third period.

York's Barb Boyes fed Julie Hacking who beat Ranson with a low shot to her stick side.

By this time Helen Murphy, Wendy Hall, Lynda Relf, and Violet Keenan had given Toronto a comfortable 4-0 lead.

Throughout the game Toronto neutralized York's offense while at the same time they skated circles around a depleted York defence. **X-rated:** York's Karen O'Bright

with a two goal and two assist game was chosen the Female Athlete of the Week by the OWIAA for her performance in York's 5-3 come

from behind victory over McMaster...Sue Howard, Kelly Scero, Gail Stewart also scored for York.

## Look out next year

### Jules 'Sparky' Xavier

"Look out next year," says smiling Yeowomen basketball coach Frances Flint.

In only her third year as coach Flint has reason to smile as she has taken a team with a dismal 2-13 record (77-78) before she came, to a record of 20-9 this season. In her first year the Yeowomen showed signs of improvement with a 13-9 record.

The next year Flint acquired the services of Kim Holden and Barb Whibbs and their play was

instrumental in York's surge to the top of Tier 2 and subsequent movement into Tier 1. Their record that year was 28-8.

York's initial assault on Tier 1 teams was impressive as they were in first place much of the season. As the season finished York found themselves a very respectable second, only one game behind Laurentian. This qualified them for the Ontario championships with Guelph their first opponent.

Behind 22-18 in a defensive struggle at the half York could not gain on Guelph who won 52-44. Holden led York with 11 points while K. Grisewood of Guelph had 19.

Flint attributed the loss to York being uptight for the game as Guelph was already guaranteed a spot at the Canadian championships as they are the host team. With a win York would automatically represent Ontario.

With the loss though went York's hopes for the CIAU's. As a wildcard team their chances are slim as the CIAU committee will most likely not have three Ontario teams participating.

York salvaged third spot by defeating Western 67-66 with four seconds remaining. With 24



Jules Xavier

Kim Holden and Barb Whibbs made the Ontario All-star team with Whibbs topping Tier 1 balloting in only her second season with the Yeowomen.

seconds York worked a stall offence to run out the clock. At the eight second mark Whibbs sent a picture perfect pass to Elaine Stewart who made good on her shot after making a back door cut.

Whibbs led York with 26 points while Western's B.J. Forsythe had 18. "The game was a tough fight to the end," according to Flint. "We want the banner (OWIAA title) so much that we can taste it."

Flint had high praise for her team this year. "It's disappointing for them but the experience gained will benefit them next year. We have a young team with 5 rookies plus our few veteran and starting in Tier 1 where the better players and teams are has matured them."

Recruitment by Flint looks promising as she has been talking to a number of taller 6' players who would help Whibbs inside.

"Being ranked for the first time, winning our own tournament, winning four straight out U of T, holding first for much of the season, and placing Holden and Whibbs on the OWIAA all-star team," commented Flint when asked about her major hi-lites of the past season.

Whibbs was a unanimous choice at the top Ontario player and Flint feels confident that she should also receive All-Canadian status.

"There's a chance we'll lose... slim and none."

W. Dyba



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