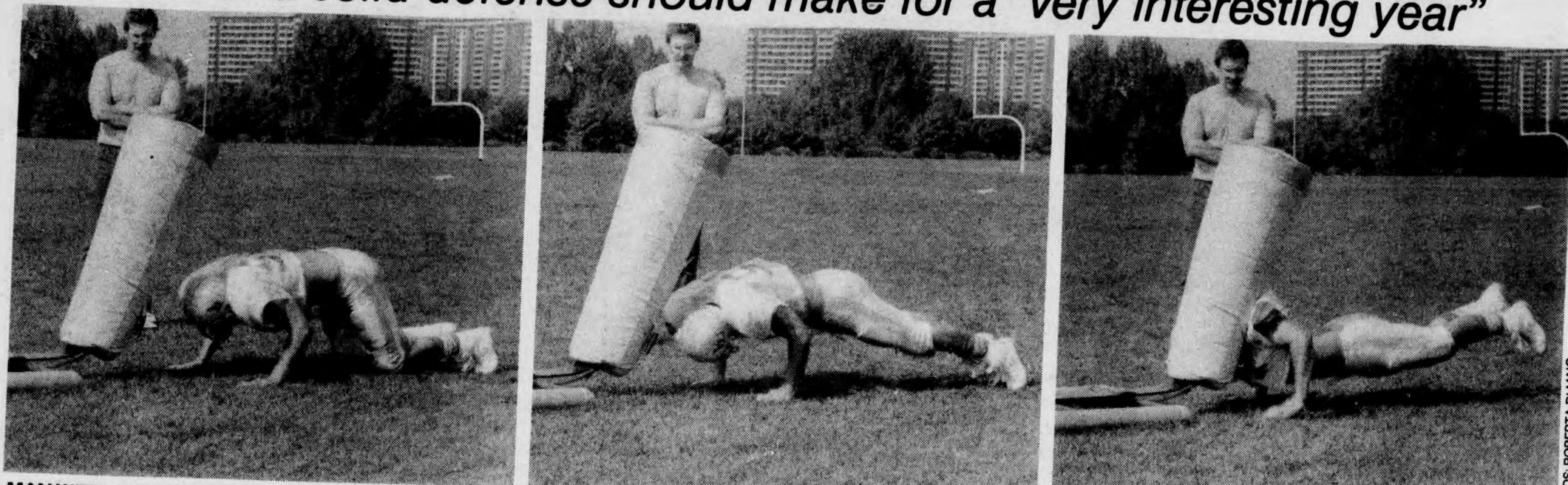


S P O R T S

Emotion high as Yeomen look to '85 gridiron season Veterans and solid defense should make for a "very interesting year"



MAN WITH NO NECK LOSES HIS HEAD: A Yeomen hopeful attacks a blocking dummy this week at training camp. After a few hours the head and helmet of the unfortunate player were successfully removed surgically. Both dummy and player are in satisfactory condition. The Yeomen begin their exhibition schedule this Saturday in Guelph.

PHOTOS: ROBERTA DI MAIO

By MANOJ PRAJAPAT

Optimism. You can sum up the feeling around the York Yeomen training camp with that one word.

The Yeomen are coming off an unprecedented season of 5-2 that saw them make the Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUAA) football playoffs for the first time in 14 years.

Everyone from the executive to the players are itching for the season to begin, including head coach Frank Cosentino.

"I'm definitely looking forward to this season. It's going to be a very interesting year," Cosentino said.

Although the Yeomen will be fielding a mostly veteran team, a few familiar names will be missing.

Defensive backs Collin Woon Sam and Donovan Brown will not be back. Also not returning are offensive linemen Mike Chesson and Dave Manglia along with running back George Ganas.

On paper the team looks solid, especially at quarterback. Tino Iacono is back as the starter for his 5th season and Glen Humenik returns as Iacono's more than capable understudy.

All-Canadian nose guard Dirk Leers returns to lead an impressive defence.

The defence, which was rated number one in the OUAA last year, will remain virtually intact. The only changes should be in the defensive halfback positions resulting from the departures of Woon Sam and Brown.

If there is going to be one question mark, though, it will be the inexperienced offensive line. But Cosentino doesn't see it as a problem area.

"I'm not concerned about it right now," Cosentino said, adding, "We have some good young people we feel can do the job. They're looking good now, but the real test comes when the season begins."

A real plus for the Yeomen is the return of outstanding running back Terry Douglas, who is coming off a knee injury which cut his season short last year.

After three months of therapy over the winter, he's reported to be in great shape and says the leg feels 100 per cent.

"The leg feels good. Right now, the only problem I see is getting used to the knee brace," Douglas said.

Forced to miss the playoffs last season, Douglas intends to be there this year.

"That's (playing in the playoffs) definitely a goal for me this year. Along with consistency. That's the main thing. "If we're consistent, we'll be there at the end," Douglas said.

Responding to a question concerning York's cross-town rivals at U of T veteran cornerback Daryl Sampson said, "Hey, we'll worry about Toronto the week we play them. We're just going to take this one game at a time. But yeah, I'll admit I'm excited about this team."

York plays its first home game Sept. 28 against Waterloo at North York Civic Stadium.

Sports Briefs

By LORNE MANLY

HOCKEY

• The Canadian Olympic team is 2-1 so far on their eight-game tour of Finland. Don McLaren, the former York star, has scored two goals in the three exhibition games. The Canadians won the first two games 5-3 and 5-4 over the Finnish National team and Saipa of the elite league, respectively, before succumbing to the Jyvaskyla elite league team 6-2.

UNIVERSITY GAMES

• York gymnast Brad Peters, won a bronze medal in the parallel bars event at the Summer Universiade in Kobe, Japan. Peters, who was fourth after the preliminaries, vaulted into

the bronze medal position with a near-perfect showing in the final round.

"I was really surprised that I could hit my routine like that," said Peters, whose only mistake was a slightly shaking landing. "I was so nervous."

Peters finished with 19.30 points out a possible 20.00, just behind silver medalist Chun Hun Li of North Korea (19.35). World Champion Dmitry Bilozherche of the Soviet Union won the event with 19.75 points. Peters was the lone Canadian gymnast to reach a final.

Sprinter Atlee Mahorn, a member of the York Optimists club, raced to a silver medal finish behind Cuba's Leandro Penalver Gonzalez in the men's 200-metres, despite barely being able to walk the day before.

Mahorn, 19, had a time of 20.65 seconds on a humid Monday evening at the Kobe Comprehensive Sports Stadium, 9/100ths of a second behind Gonzalez. "At mid-day yesterday (Sunday), I was really skeptical that I would run," said Mahorn, 5th in the 100 metres the week before. "I thought there was no way. I was just so sore and I was fatigued. But I got some physio and today (Monday) I was okay."

FOOTBALL

• The York Yeomen will open their exhibition season this Saturday in Guelph against the defending Vanier Cup champion Guelph Gryphons. The Yeomen defeated the Gryphons 11-7 in last year's season opener.



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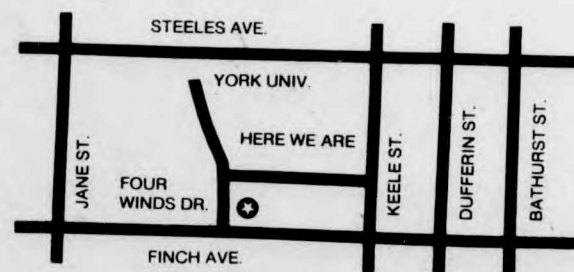
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