

# Sports Section

## Plagued by problems, ski team perseveres

By MARK PORAY

Although skiing has long been part of interuniversity athletics, it has remained relatively unknown because of lack of participation. In the past three years, however, it has expanded and good number of racers have improved skiing's status.

Until this year the York ski team was about as celebrated as the football team. York simply did not attract the talent that other schools have consistently done. In spite of these and other disadvantages, the York skiers put it all together to finish fourth out of 13 in the overall competition. They finished behind Carleton, Queen's and the U of T.

The new circuit, which consists of eight races in Ontario and Quebec, was co-organized by the Ontario University ski coaches and Molson's Breweries. It featured a physically

demanding schedule, with races each weekend.

While the other teams managed practices, lived and travelled in style, and were in general handled very professionally, York had to get along on a miniscule outdated budget, which was designed for only two races, lousy accommodations, and no practices.

But a winning attitude slowly developed as the members of the team came to know each other. Last year the team finished in ninth place out of twelve teams, but this summer they got together to train, and as a result put on a much improved showing. The team is hoping to do better next year, with an improved budget.

Coach Mark Poray is convinced this year's success is largely due to the attitude and leadership of team captain Rick McFadden. McFadden skied well despite some unlucky breaks which held him back.

Jim Wiggins was also instrumental in the team's success, excelling in several races and continually breaking into the top twenty, a feat all but unattainable by York a few years before.

Versa Simanainen, the six-foot Nordic hope of the team, was a pleasant surprise for his coach. He did better than expected in Alpine competition, and Poray had hoped that Simanainen would win the crosscountry and ski-jumping championships as well. However, the lack of funds prevented the team from being in attendance long enough to participate in these events. Nevertheless, Simanainen was the most improved skier on the team.

These three, along with Paul Woodhouse and Poray, accounted for the team's success. With their continued support, plus some help from the university the ski team might eventually be able to equal the success of some of York's winning squads.



Mark Poray, the playing coach of the York ski team, tries his hand at the giant slalom during the OUAA championships at Blue Mountain. York finished fourth out of a field of thirteen competing universities, improving on last year's ninth place.

## York gymnasts to compete in Germany meanwhile olympic trials begin at home

Two York students will be participating in a tour of West Germany with the Ontario junior gymnastic team.

Bob Carisse and Steve McLean, both first year students and members of York's Ontario championship winning gymnastics team, will be providing the backbone of the six-man team. The other four gymnasts are high school students.

The team will take part in four competitions in the two week tour, competing against German teams on their own home courts.

Preliminary selections for the Canadian Olympic gymnastics team will be held this Saturday in the main gym at Tait McKenzie. Some of York's top, award-winning athletes will be participating, including Scott Tanner, Dave Hunter, Naosaki Maasaki.

Competition begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for students.

## Warriors blank Calgary, advance to hockey finals

Waterloo Warriors, the team that eliminated York's hockey Yeomen from the OUAA playoffs, advanced to the Canadian finals by defeating the Calgary Dinosaurs, 2-0, in the best of three semi-final last weekend. Waterloo will face Sir George Williams Georgians in the final Saturday at Varsity Arena.

\$3.50 a plate

## Athletic banquet coming

The eighth annual Intercollegiate Athletic Awards banquet will be held on Monday, March 25, 1974, in the Stong Dining Hall. Tickets are available at \$3.50 per person. For information or tickets, contact Lyn Strilchuck, 3rd floor, Tait Mackenzie.

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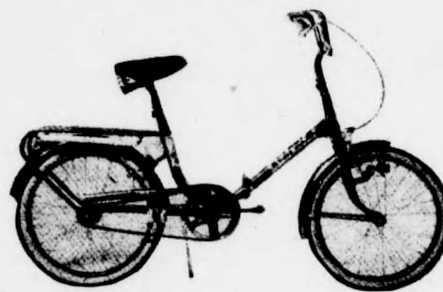


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