

sports



Take that you swine: Yeowoman Erin Sernasie thrusts at her opponent. York was lucky to come out of the Invitational "alive" losing early in most events. The Invitational, the biggest competition of its sort in Ontario, was a success, featuring almost 200 competitors.

York outduelled at home in major fencing tourney

By PETER BURNS

The York Invitational Fencing competition last Saturday and Sunday was a great success, despite poor showings from the Yeomen and Yeowomen fencing teams. The invitationals are the biggest competition of their sort in Ontario. Almost 200 competitors from every university in the province were in attendance at the York tournament, one of the largest fencing invitationals in Ontario. There were 16 teams in each weapon category; sabre, foil and épée.

On Saturday, Carleton slashed their way to a win in the mens' sabre competition, while Windsor and the UofT A-team cut into the 2nd and 3rd spots, respectively.

In the mens' foil tournament, also on Saturday, Rensselaer, from northeastern New York, poked their

way to the top with UofT's A-team and B-team placing 2nd and 3rd. The Yeomen fencers "foiled" (get it?) in their efforts to make the finals in either weapons category.

The épée and women's foil competitions were on Sunday. Unfortunately, York fared no better than on the previous day. The Yeoman épée team and Yeowoman foil team were clipped well before the final rounds.

The foil, used by men and women, is a thin pointed sword designed to give someone a nasty poke. To score a hit you must nail your opponent in their valid target area, namely the torso.

The épée is stiffer and heavier than the foil, but it serves the same purpose. The target area in épée matches extends over the opponents whole body.

Finally, the sabre is for slashing and stabbing. Valid hits are scored when a fencer is struck anywhere from the groin up. All these weapons are blunted for obvious reasons. With the proper gear, fencing is a safe sport and injuries are rare.

The Yeowomen fencers, although not officially recognized by the women's Department of Athletics, represented York at the tournament. The women's teams having been denied funds to purchase equipment, the Yeowomen were forced to supply their own for this competition.

Mourad Mardikian, assistant fencing coach, explained that this can be a fairly expensive venture, costing each competitor over \$250.

According to Mardikian, most of York's fencers are in their first and second years, and have had little fencing experience prior to university.

Still, Mardikian appeared to be confident of future success for York fencers. Last year the Yeomen fencers placed 3rd overall in Ontario.

Next week York will go to Ryerson for the OUAA sectional fencing tournaments. The finals are to be held at Western February 13 & 14.

Basketball Yeomen capture home opener

By RICHARD CLARKE

After opening the season with two losses in Ottawa, York's basketball Yeomen returned home Saturday night hungry for a victory. The appetites of both players and fans were satisfied, however, as the Yeomen came up with an impressive 79-61 defeat of the Laurentian Voyageurs.

The Yeomen attack was led by sophomore Lance Winn, who scored 24 points in going six for nine shooting from the three-point range, and co-captain Jeff McDermid whose perfect 12 for 12 at the free throw line paced his 22 points on the night.

York got off to a slow start and was down early despite receiving good defensive play from Stafford Lowe and George Brown. Two three-pointers from Winn, however, sparked the Yeomen offence and helped them to a 36-32 lead at the half.

After the game, head coach Bob Bain had nothing but praise for Winn's wizardry on the court. "In the first half Lance kept us in the game offensively and played good defense . . . he came to play and played well," Bain said.

The Yeomen lost a little composure at the start of the second half, with bad shot selection and costly

turnovers giving Laurentian some valuable momentum. Pressure from the Voyageurs saw the Yeomen once again go to Winn, and he responded with two baskets to put the Yeomen back on top, 44-42—a lead they would never relinquish.

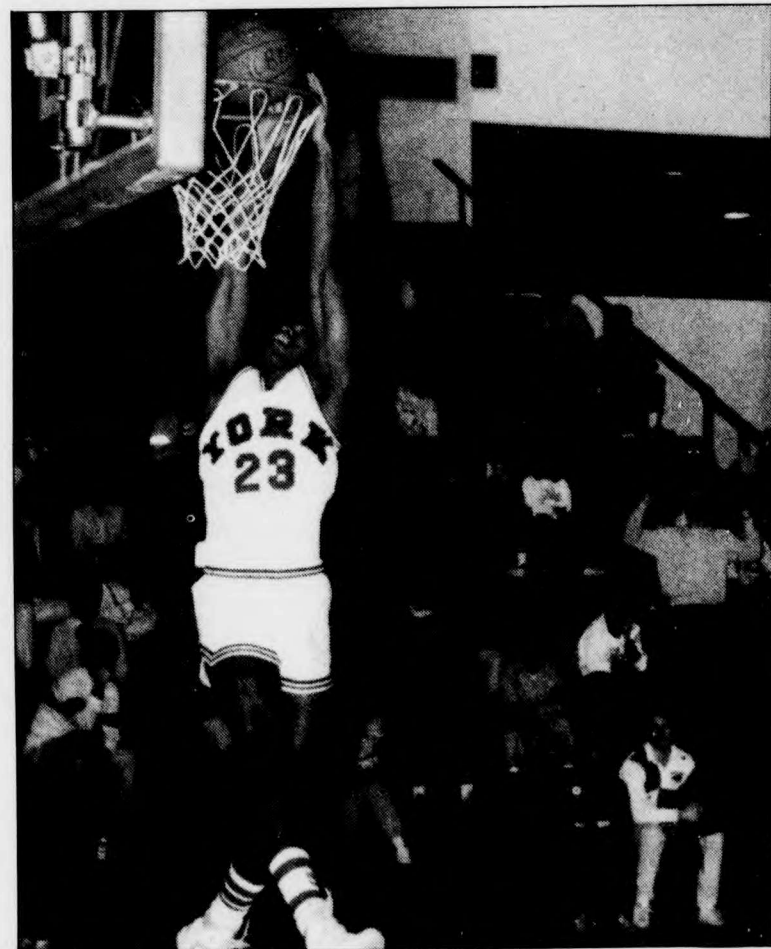
But the game was hard-fought and aggressive, and remained close until the final buzzer. At one point the teams almost came to blows. But following subsequent technical fouls, and a York timeout called by coach Bain, the Yeomen gradually began to pull away from the Voyageurs.

York 79 Laurentian 61

"With 5:45 remaining we knew we had to take control," said Bain, "and that was the ball game."

A couple of late three-pointers from Lloyd Pollard kept the Voyageurs within striking distance, but a three-point play by Mike Sherwood, a few keys shots from James Kritz and Stafford Lowe, and a strong defensive effort from the whole team sealed the victory for the Yeomen.

"It's nice to win a game at home," Winn said following the victory, "but Tuesday night (at home against UofT) will be the big test."



Moving in for the dunk: York's Mike Sherwood.

This Week in Sports at York

Yeomen

Basketball vs Queen's
Swimming vs Ryerson
Track & Field: York Invitational

Fri. Jan. 22, 8:00 pm
Fri. Jan. 22, 7:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 23, 1:00 pm

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