

S P O R T S

Sudden death loss in semi-final gives York quick exit

Poor York showing hands Patriotes championship berth

By EDO VAN BELKOM

When the going got tough this year in the playoffs for the Yeomen, it usually took a while before they got going. And with a single game elimination format to get into this year's final game, they got it going just a bit too late.

If the Yeomen came out flat in their first game of the regional playoffs against the Dalhousie Tigers then they were in a hole for their national semi-final championship game with the University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres Les Patriotes (UQTR).

Les Patriotes came out and dominated York from start to finish outshooting the Yeomen 14-7 after one period and 35-24 for the full 60 minutes.

It was a credit to York goaltender Mark Applewhaite that the Yeomen were down by only a single goal after the first, but a quick UQTR team was able to move around York's defence at will, tallying three second period goals to York's one. The teams traded goals in the third frame to make the final 5-2.

"We didn't play as well as we can," explained head coach Dave Chambers, "we certainly tried, but we weren't as intense as usual, usually we're a little tougher."

"They made us look not sharp, because they played so well. They had good speed, and gave our defense a lot of trouble."

A large problem exhibited by the loss was the need for players to finish off the play around the net, and the ability to score some goals. The Yeomen have gotten by on the narrowest of margins during the course of this year's playoffs, something that wasn't good enough in the national final. Only a few players have been able to put the puck in the net on a consistent basis and these players have done much to carry the team as far as they went. One only needs to look at last year and the final in particular to realize the contribution that present Olympic team member Don McLaren made to the success of last year's squad.

UQTR 5 - York 2

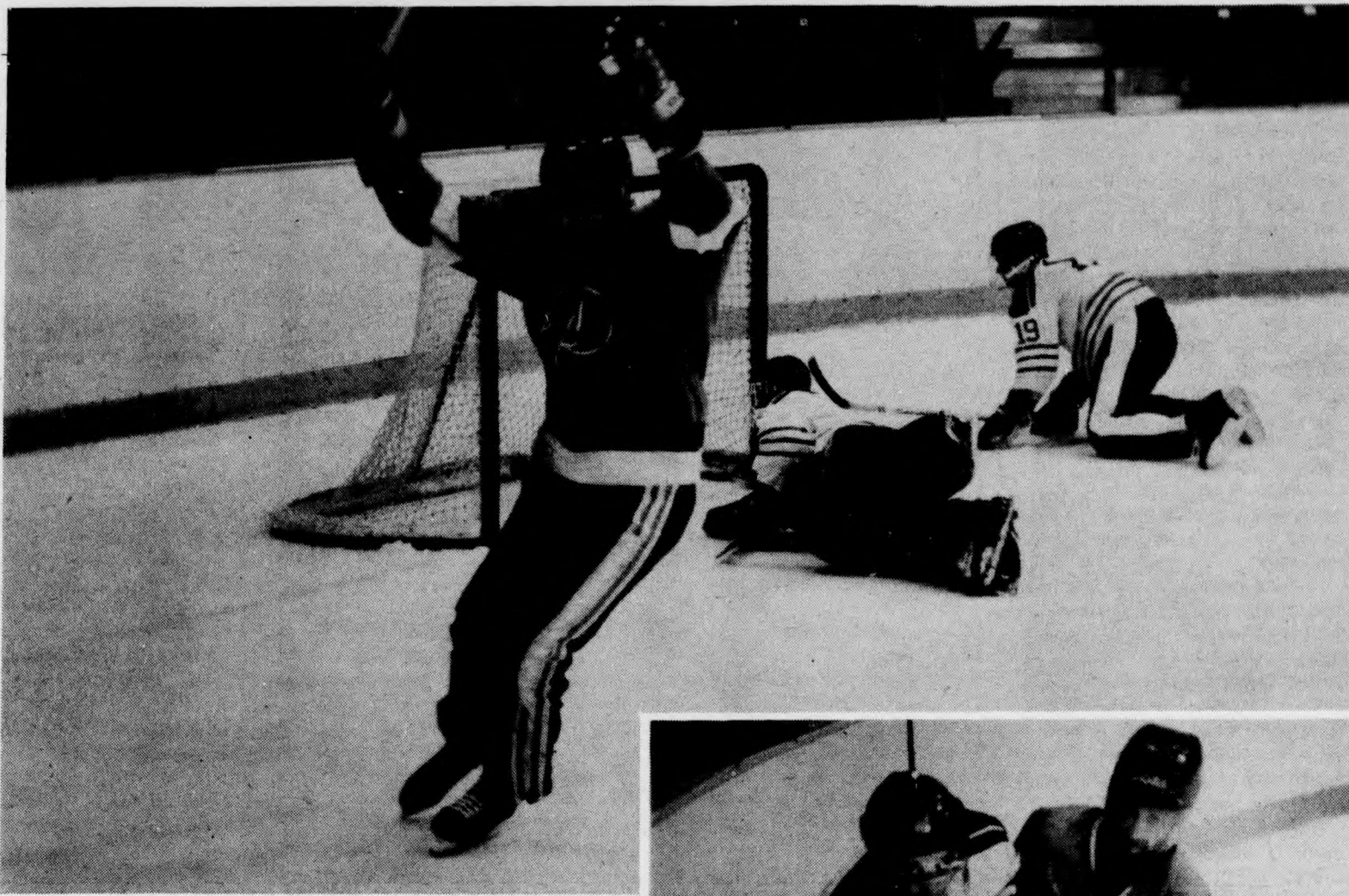
"We missed some open chances," Chambers said, "We weren't sharp around the net, their goalie wasn't tested enough."

A standout performer for UQTR was all-Canadian defenceman Christian Thelland, who was a member of the National Student Team. Jodion describes Thelland, who played about 45 minutes in each of UQTR's games as a 'general' and added, "he's usually at his best in the big games."

Thelland, who played on the Toronto Maple Leafs farm team when it was in Cincinnati and also spent two years playing professional hockey in Finland, said, "I like pressure. We have a young team and when there's too much tension the old guys like me have to take charge." Leadership is something the Yeomen sorely missed without last year's John Campbell and Scott Magder, both five year men.

Chambers chalked up the loss as part of a learning process, "It's all experience. We'd still like to improve a bit for next year."

FINAL NOTES: Rick Morrocco was York's MVP in the game while UQTR's Mark Gervais was selected for Les Patriotes on the strength of two goals . . . Randy Gregg of the Edmonton Oilers was the honorary chairman of the tournament. Gregg played four seasons with the Alberta Golden Bears from 1975 to 1979. In 1979 he was selected as an all-Canadian and won the Joseph E. Sullivan trophy as the outstanding university hockey player in the country. He signed with the Oilers after playing two years of professional hockey in Japan . . . When Dave Chambers was asked by an Edmonton reporter what he thought the turning point of the game was he hesitated and then quipped "When they dropped the puck." . . . Former York University president Ian Macdonald was on hand. He is the chairman of the planning and development committee for Hockey Canada.



Above: Mark Gervais of the University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres Les Patriotes puts one past York goaltender Mark Applewhaite. Gervais scored a second goal for UQTR and was named their MVP of the game. Right: Les Patriotes standout defenceman in the game was Christian Thelland, an all-Canadian and tournament all-star.



PHOTOS BY ROBERTA DIMAIO

Alberta crowned national champions for seventh time in 15 attempts

Golden Bears win first two games after three weeks of practice

By EDO VAN BELKOM

The 1986 CIAU hockey championship was a rematch of the Super Bowl, with the Bears once again downing the Patriots.

The teams might have had the same names with the same result but that's where the similarities end. The national university hockey final was a close contest, there was a lot of hitting, not many people watched it and the championship team didn't deserve to be there.

After losing out in their semi-final match with the Saskatchewan Huskies the Alberta Golden Bears had three weeks to practice, prepare and heal their long list of injuries. They had three weeks to prepare for just two games, while everyone else beat each other to a pulp.

The final game pitted the University of Golden Bears against the University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres Les Patriotes (UQTR) before 2,964 spectators at the Northlands Agricom.

Alberta 5 - UQTR 2

The first period was a scoreless hard hitting affair that set the tone for the rest of the match. Twenty two minutes in penalties were handed out in the period, 86 minutes by the end of the game.

Alberta got on the board quickly in the second on a pair of fluke goals at 19 and 46 seconds. UQTR closed the gap to one on a power play with just over three minutes to go in the period.

Alberta scored first in the third period to go up 3-1 but Les Patriotes closed to within one once again on the power play with under 10 minutes to go in the game, but shortly after put out the Trois Rivieres flame. Another power play goal by Alberta late in the game making the final Alberta 5 - UQTR 2.



PUT IT THERE: Alberta Golden Bear's captain Ron Vertz points to the exact spot the new Alberta crest will sit. To the left of Vertz' finger is York's insignia.

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