



SPORTS



York track teams gunning for national gold

by Josh Rubin

WINDSOR — CIAU track teams beware, York is ready for the national championships.

Led by sweeps in the men's pole vault, 300 metres and a win in the 4x200 relay, they drove that point home at a weekend meet in Windsor.

At the eighth annual Can-Am Classic, both the men's and women's squads were

faced with a tough array of opponents, both CIAU and NCAA.

Without Nicole Masil and France Gareau, who both ran at the Ottawa Winternationals, the Yeowomen also put on an impressive performance.

Lesley Tashlin, part of the perennially strong York sprinting corps, took the 60-metre race.

The Yeomen sprinters, on the other hand, didn't have much luck, as both Dexter John and Trevor McAlmont

finished out of the medals.

The loss was especially disappointing for John, who doesn't "like losing to nobodies."

All the York runners, though, enjoyed what some considered to be the finest track facility in the province.

"The track here is harder, which allows people to run faster race times," said one athlete.

For pole vaulter Doug Wood, who took home gold

with his leap of 5.10 metres, the meet was good training for his next goal: the World Indoor Championships this March.

Wood, the Canadian record holder at 5.60 metres, left no doubt as to whether or not he would attend the CIAU championship meet, scheduled for the same time.

"If I make 5.50 [the standard to attend the meet], I'll be going to the worlds," Wood said.

With athletes such as Wood,

Masil (who took silver in the Winternationals 1000 metre), and Gareau, York coach Sue Wise is in a Catch22.

"I want them to do well, but not too well," said Wise, alluding to the fact that York could be sending a much weaker team to the CIAU meet if some athletes do well enough to go to the World Championships.

Some other York athletes also qualified for the CIAU meet at the Can-Am, including long-jumpers Chris Elliot and Chris Vaughan.

Bishop's Beaters

by Mike Raycraft

Sometimes a little rhythm can go a long way.

Sparked by 17 second half points from Clive Anderson, the Yeomen basketball squad overcame an early seven point deficit to polish off the Bishop's Gaiters 69-62.

Last Friday's victory was York's first at home on the new year, improving their league record to 2-4.

Sharp-shooting Mark Bellai led the Yeomen with 28 points, followed by Anderson with 21.

Bishop's forward Pierce Tibblin countered with 21 for the Gaiters. York started out strong until Tibblin was able to get the Gaiter offence in gear.

What had once been a 15-14 Yeomen advantage quickly turned to a 34-27 score in Bishop's favor near the end of the first half.

Digging in, the Yeomen were able to re-establish their game, cutting the lead to 34-32 heading into the second half. This in essence was the game's turning point.

Led by Anderson, York took off in the second half.

Combining stingy defence with precision shooting from the floor, the Yeomen went on a 24-11 run.

That left them a 56-45 lead with just over eight minutes to play.

Consecutive three-pointers from Anderson seemingly put the game on ice at 64-54.

Yet Bishops was determined to go down fighting. With just over a minute to play, the Gaiters provided an exciting finish, closed the gap to within five, 66-61.

A couple of Bishops fouls and converted York free-throws put the lid on any Gaiter thoughts of a last-second win.

"Tonight we executed our game plan well," said Anderson afterwards. "We wanted to get the ball inside to Chris (Pollman) and Marty (McCrone). We did and they responded well," added Anderson.

Pollman, who was particularly strong at both ends of the court in the second-half, played a big role in limiting Tibblin's effectiveness as the game wore on.

The Bishops forward was held to only 7 points in the second-half.

"We played a lot better defence in the second-half, and we were able to execute a lot more, Clive took over and just lit it up. He couldn't miss," said Pollman.

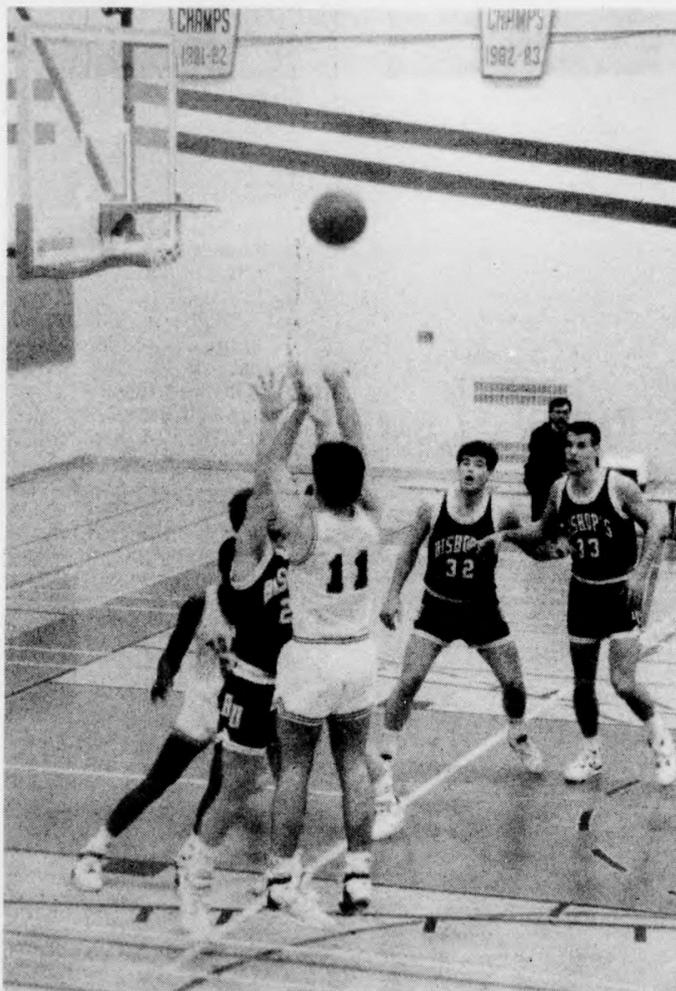
"This was a good team game," said guard Jeff Krupski. "We did a good job of re-bounding, particularly in our own end."

Krupski felt that Bishop's may have misjudged the York arsenal.

"I think they felt that Mark [Bellai] was going to be our only shooter, when they centered on him, Clive was able to eat up the floor," Krupski said.

Bellai still countered with 12 second-half points of his own.

"We played with a lot of heart," Anderson said. "We have a team here and we played a team game. It's nice to get a win."



JUMP!!: Flanked by Gaiter forwards Jeff Harris (32) and Dave Fisher (33), Yeoman guard Alex Brainis (11) goes for the ball. Underneath is Clive Anderson, who contributed 21 points to York's 69-62 victory.

Yeomen hockey revenge

by Josh Rubin

Call it Malice at the Palace.

This Friday, the Yeomen hockey team will be hosting the country's top-ranked Trois Rivieres Patriotes.

While there is never any love lost between these two teams, Friday's matchup should prove to be especially intense.

After starting out the season with 13 straight wins, Trois Rivieres has lost two consecutive games to lightly-regarded Western division opponents.

The Yeomen, on the other hand, will be looking to get even for the 8-4 drubbing they suffered at UQTR's rink in November.

This season, the Yeomen have been their own worst enemies, and that is something they will have to overcome to have a chance against the stingy UQTR defence.

"One of the key things is that we play a disciplined game," said York head coach Graham Wise.

Wise also emphasized that his charges can't get involved in one of their favourite pastimes.

"We can't be taking any stupid penalties with the kind of power-play they've got," Wise said.

For Trois Rivieres coach Dany Dube, the key to his team's success will lie behind the blue line.

"We were getting a little sloppy in our own zone over the weekend," Dube said. "We can't afford to do that against York and UofT."

As it stands, Dube may be missing two key defencemen for Friday's game.

Both Luc Filiatrault and Michel Bedard were out last weekend, and Dube doesn't know when they'll return.

Dube also expects a physical game from the Yeomen. "They're big boys and they like to hit."

For those hoping to get into what should be an exciting matchup, tickets are available at the door.

Friday's clash at the Ice Palace starts off at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. For the first 100 people, that price will also include a free scarf.

Yeowomen hockey squad all tied up by Mac-York's new puckstopper shines at Ice Palace

by Riccardo Sala

A slow start to the new year for the hockey Yeowomen has been partly corrected by a 1-1 draw with McMaster.

Last Thursday's tie at the Ice Palace was a good sign for the team, which fell to Guelph and Queen's the week before.

The game was one which York coach Deb Maybury felt her team "certainly could have won."

The Marauders probably felt the same way. Like the Yeowomen, they suffered from poor setups and shoot-

ing throughout the game.

Offensive opportunities for both teams fell by the wayside time and again.

One strong aspect of the game, especially for York, was the goaltending.

Maybury's squad was bolstered by the arrival of Brenda Denault, the team's first seasoned goalie this year.

"Anytime you go from having a defenceman to an experienced goalie (in net), it's definitely an asset to the team," said Maybury.

Not that Denault was put to the

test very often. Many McMaster attacks fizzled into useless wrap-around attempts. But the few times she was tested, Denault came up the winner.

The only exception came five minutes into the second period when the Marauders scored.

York's redemption came in the form of a sweep up the centre by Karen Moffitt and Michelle Campbell.

Moffitt connected from a pass to the slot and tied the game late in the second.

The game remained close till the end.

Despite coming close several times, York failed to notch the winner.

Every time the Yeowomen got through the defence, the McMaster goalie came up big.

Afterwards, Maybury noted "Tonight was the best effort of this half (of the season)."

Although the Yeowomen have a record of 2-8-2, Maybury and company are still hopeful of making the playoffs.