

S p o r t s



André Sauroujon

I think I can: Determination shows on the face of York forward Tammy Holt during the Yeowomen's CIAU semi-final match against UBC.

Field hockey Yeowomen capture national silver

by Pamela Jarvis

The underdogs survived." That's how head coach Marina van der Merwe described her team's silver medal performance at last weekend's CIAU field hockey championship.

York reached the nation's final six on a wild card after losing the Ontario final to UofT last week. However, the Yeowomen proved their mettle in the final, staying even with number one ranked University of Victoria until the Vikettes scored in the dying seconds to snatch the gold medal.

"The fact that (our) team came up to that potential is mind-boggling," praised van der Merwe. "They played phenomenally well."

Sunday's final was York's fourth game of a tough threeday schedule. In the preliminary round, York edged Atlantic champs University of New Brunswick 3-2 and dropped a 3-0 decision to UVic.

Tammy Holt, Tracey Minaker,

and Kelly Thormeyer scored against UNB. Red Stick scoring ace Joan Robere notched a pair for her team but UNB could not pull even.

The afternoon match featured York and the UVic Vikettes, a team rich with senior and junior national team talent. The Vikettes had been ranked first nationally throughout their undefeated season.

York held UVic to a single goal in the first half. York goalkeeper Michelle Capperault stopped a penalty stroke in the second but the Western champions put on quite a display of hockey, scoring two more goals in the shutout.

"I think we were in shock at how good UVic was," commented York sweeper Joel Brough.

A second place finish in their pool matched the Yeowomen with UBC in the semifinal crossover while UVic faced UofT. The semifinal matchups were identical to the previous year with opposite results.

York shocked UBC (last year's silver medallist) with an unexpected lineup change. The Thunderbirds were caught com-

pletely by surprise and they never regrouped.

The York front five pressured and swarmed the UBC defence and assisted the 4-1 backfield. The talented and physical UBC side had a few chances in the second but Capperault and the York defence continuously stopped UBC's normally smooth penalty corner. The Thunderbirds' big guns were effectively silenced. Holt lifted the eventual gamewinner over a diving UBC keeper in the 26th minute, spoiling the anticipated all-West final.

"It was an extraordinary marriage of a super game plan and super athletes playing to perfection," said van der Merwe.

A UVic win relegated defending champion Toronto to the bronze medal match, where UBC prevailed in penalty strokes.

In the championship final, York employed the same lineup and came out fighting against UVic. It was good hockey, with end-to-end play in a scoreless first half.

York was awarded a penalty corner in the second after Holt was up-ended by the UVic keeper. The Yeowomen scored on the ensuing goalmouth

scramble with Holt receiving credit. The Vikettes answered shortly after with a short corner goal of their own.

From there on in it was a nail-biter. UVic kicked the attack into high gear but the Yeowomen refused to roll over. The national title came down to the last minute of play, when the Vikettes were awarded a penalty corner. The ball was sent once again to midfielder Carmen Kirkness. Kirkness found the York net for her second of the game, putting the game out of reach with 26 seconds remaining.

"For me, we're a 70 minute team and we proved that today," said UVic coach Lynne Beecroft. "This team has gone down to the wire before. We have a lot of strong players who have come up through the provincial programme. In the long run it pays off at a national championship."

Van der Merwe was pleased with her team's determined effort against its internationally seasoned opposition. "Our athletes are short on top level experience. Each of our players was stretched to the absolute max — academically and athletically," explained van der Merwe. "It

reflects their ability to think . . . to absorb a conceptual framework and implement it."

"We played extremely well against UBC, but there was some difficulty in repeating the next day," said van der Merwe. She was quick to stress the cohesiveness of the York team. "We had one Tournament 11 MVP (UVic had four or five) . . . obviously a support system was needed to get to a silver medal final."

Four Yeowomen were named as all-Canadians. They were goalkeeper Capperault, Holt, Brough, and Jackie DeGoeij. Holt was York's sole Tournament 11 MVP.

"It's nice to be singled out but it really was a whole team effort. Every person put in 110 per cent," said Holt. A second year forward with Junior World Cup experience, Holt was somewhat disappointed that the team was edged for the gold but had no regrets.

"We played with a lot of pride in the final. UVic put on the pressure but our defence played well," said Holt. "We fought as hard as we could. We showed that we're not a team to be pushed around."

End of the line for soccer Yeowomen

by Paul Headrick

The soccer Yeowomen's season came to a disappointing end on Friday in the opening game of the provincial championships, with an inspired Sir Wilfred Laurier team defeating York 6-3.

York head coach David Bell wasn't dissatisfied with his team's performance in defeat. He said, "The whole team did their best and fought hard."

York conceded the first goal of the match, struck back quickly to draw even, saw Laurier pull

ahead and then tied again. Laurier made the score 3-2 before the half on a penalty kick. In the second half Laurier scored first once again, only to have the Yeowomen pull back to within one goal, but Laurier increased its lead to two on a counter attack, then scored again late in the game with the Yeowomen throwing everyone forward.

York's star striker, Sam Hellens scored all three goals for the Yeowomen, while coming up with what Bell called "an extraordinary effort." Hellens battled back from a serious neck

injury in the final regular season game, and was also fighting off bronchitis.

Bell said that the result might have been different if the Yeowomen had been able to take the lead, but as it was the Laurier attack was too strong. Bell said, "They were playing with a lot of heart. They had the best attack I've ever seen. Their first touches from the back line forward were great, and their runs were perfectly times."

The Yeowomen have the consolation of knowing they were beaten by the best team in the

provincial tournament. Laurier continued to handle the opposition and will represent Ontario at the national championships.

Though not unhappy with his team's playoff effort, Bell remains puzzled by their poor results during the end of the regular season, in which they lost key games to Toronto and Queen's. Said Bell, "Looking back it's hard to put your finger on any one thing. We had a loss of intensity and it's hard to explain why. We got so pumped at the beginning it was hard to sustain."

Four Yeowomen were selected to the provincial all-star team: goalkeeper Cheryl Punnett, sweeper Patty Mitchell, midfielder Portia Barriffe, and forward Sue Gough. The Yeowomen played Western in a consolation game on Saturday and lost 2-1, the lone goal coming again from Sam Hellens. Hellens set a scoring record this season for the Yeowomen, counting nine goals in the regular season and four in the playoffs. Heather Gough set a club record for fullbacks with seven regular season goals.