

One point ruins fourth OUAA crown

Warriors make York's Waterloo in last minute

MARK ZWOL

The 90-foot basketball court at the University of Waterloo resembled a boxing ring last Saturday afternoon, as the York Yeomen and the Waterloo Warriors exchanged baskets like two beleaguered heavyweights swapping blows in the fifteenth round.

When it was all over, Western division champion Waterloo, with the aid of a 6-foot, 7-inch height average in the starting line-up, had detracked Enzo Spagnuolo and Co., 66-65, in the title game of the OUAA championship.

Before a crowd of 3000-plus fans, including a diehard contingent of red and white supporters, the Warriors overcame York's three-point half-time lead and traded buckets with the three-time defending champs through the final two quarters of play until Waterloo's Philip Burns sank a 15-foot jump shot with 25 seconds left on the clock to nail down the victory.

The six-foot, 9-inch Burns solidified his reputation as the best "six man" in the league as he came off the bench to pace the Warriors with 19 points, 12 of those coming in the final quarter. He also took the game's M.V.P. award for his last second heroics.

"It's going to take a little while for all this to settle in," Burns said. "York beat us twice before and they played an awfully tough game out there. I'm just glad things turned out the way they did."

On the other side of the coin,

forwards Grant Parobec and Tim Rider led the Yeomen with 19 and 16 points respectively. OUAA East Division M.V.P. Enzo Spagnuolo netted 10 points, while his back-court mate Mark Jones added another eight. Centre John Christensen rounded out the scoring for York with 12 points.

Up in the air

Neither team seemed to be able to capitalize on turnovers in the edgy and oft-times sloppily played second half. In fact, second half scoring was held to an unaccustomed low (for these two teams), with Waterloo edging York 29-25 over the final 20 minutes of play.

Both teams ran into foul trouble in the late stages of the game with

Peter Savich, the 32-point hero of Waterloo's semi-final victory over Brock, and Paul Van Oorschot getting the gate for the Warriors.

York's Tim Rider, on the receiving end of some questionable calls by referee Ian Gill, rang up his fifth foul mid-way through the fourth quarter.

After a steadily-paced first half, in which both sides hit on or around the .500 level in field goal attempts, the shooting percentages dipped to .383 in the second. "Our shooting was bad in the second half," coach Gerry Barker said. "I don't think we've been that low all season long."

But varying defences told the story in the second half. York went into the third quarter with a threepoint lead, but before the final whistle blew, the lead changed hands a total of 19 times.

All five Yeomen starters were

hitting double digits in scoring, and they planned to keep isolating their hot-handed forwards for the open shot.

However, the Warriors confused the Yeomen offensive patterns, shifting their defense from a zone to a man to man, and forcing York to commit eight of their 11 turnovers in the second half.

Down to the wire

"Their one-three-one zone gave us trouble," Barker explained. "They set up in what appeared to be a man to man defense, but really, it was a zone. We like to swing our man through for the open shot but they just cut us off on all angles."

With both teams playing a tight defense, the one point margin York held on to was taken away when

Burns connected on the two most important points of his 19-point total.

York coach Gerry Barker immediately motioned for a time-out with the score at 66-65 and 15 seconds showing on the clock.

"We knew they were in foul trouble. They were still playing the one-three-one which meant we could penetrate early. So we let Enzo (guard Enzo Spagnuolo) bring the ball up and kick off to Parobec on the left. But Zo swung to far left and they came up and pinched off Parobec's attempt at a shot. It just didn't go our way."

The score stood at 66-65.

On road to CIAU's

The Wilson Cup, denoting OUAA Basketball supremacy, makes its way continued on page 14

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