

Sports

Volleyballers swept away

by Tracey Reid

For this year's volleyball team, experience is in short supply, and without it, the players and coaches feel they are often unable to play the way they would like. Such feelings were evident after York's 3-0 loss to UofT last Tuesday.

"We have to execute better at key times," said Yeomen head coach Wally Dyba. "We're the youngest team in the league. Virtually everybody on UofT's team has at least one year of university experience. Not our guys. But we'll get there."

UofT's experience was obvious during the match. In the first match, the Blues came out swinging while the Yeomen became frustrated by the Blues' powerful hitting. UofT relied on Edgar Lueg and Andy Chuma to blast hit after hit at the scrambling Yeomen.

But, while the Blues were strong most of the time, they had their share of frustration. At certain points the Yeomen, behind the always reliable Adrian Adore, Dexter Abrams and James Dalziel, pulled together and showed sparks of life.

Although UofT was winning 14-8, the Yeomen refused to give in and frustrated UofT. However, the Blues were able to get the point they needed, and took the game 15-10.

In the second match, both

teams were on the run, chasing well-placed hits and returning even the deadliest ones. With Abrams serving, York was able to gain four points to take the lead.

But it was soon UofT's turn to shine and the Blues took over, making it 14-8. York made a few points but couldn't gain any momentum, finally giving in to the Blues, 15-10.

In the third game, the Yeomen came together. Abrams, whose hitting became more consistent, began placing the ball just out of reach of the Blues. The Yeomen had more power, looking much better than they had in the first two games.

But, when several close calls didn't go their way, the Blues became frustrated. The Yeomen did not give up and pushed UofT, forcing the Blues to fight for their 15-10 win.

Blues players and coaches were happy with the team's performance and the win seemed to be a relief.

"It was a long time coming," said UofT setter Howie Grossinger. "Especially after last year."

Grossinger, along with Chuma and Lueg, is one of the Blues' more experienced players. All three played strongly and were able to catch-on to the Yeomen's strategy of trying to take UofT's strong cross-court shots away by putting Blues' blockers on the

outside and moving the setter to the middle.

"The guys were clearly aware enough to see that and exploit it," said Blues head coach Orest Stanko. "I was very pleased, aside from a few lapses at different times. The lapses weren't as lengthy as they normally have been in the past though. They were three, four and five point lapses, whereas in the past we've had nine or 10 point lapses. We seem to be establishing a little more consistency in our playing and it's coming at the right time because we're peaking for the playoffs."

The playoffs are also foremost in the minds of the Yeomen.

"We're coming along," said Dyba. "We'll get there. We don't have to win now. It's the playoffs that count. But I thought it was a reasonably good match. We made critical errors at critical times, but Donny (Clearwater) came off the bench and did a super job and Dexter's starting to play like we think he should. We're doing some nice things. I'm not totally disappointed."

Even less disappointed was Dalziel. "There were a lot of really positive things that happened for us. We didn't roll over and die when they got to 14. That's what counts. We went down swinging, we didn't give up. It was fun to play. It's always been fun to play, and losing's all part of it."



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