

SPORTS

Aussie rules comes to York

by Riccardo Sala

Riding a surge of interest in the sport, North York now has a team in the Canadian Australian Rules Football league.

The North York Hawks join four other teams in this league, which has been around since 1988.

One member of the Hawks, Phil McManus, is at York taking his Masters of Environmental Studies. McManus comes here via Curtin University in Perth, Australia.

"This is not a university league," McManus said, "but it's suitable for university students because it doesn't compete with school.

There is not much equipment and it allows players to apply skills learned from other sports."

The game is played on an oval field, McManus explained, guiding a neophyte (moi) through the game's intricacies. There are 18 players per team, with two reserves.

"The ball is moved by kicking, and throwing is not allowed. You can only punch the ball," McManus said, adding that "the sport is very different from rugby."

On the Canadian level the sport "is growing but we need to get a base of Canadian players as opposed to expatriating Australians," according to McManus. He

viewed the York community as a pool of potential. Other teams, such as the Toronto Panthers, look to schools such as U of T for players.

The season consists of eight games, not including the finals. The Hawks play a pre-season game this Saturday at 10am in Etobicoke's Centennial Park.

Practices are held Tuesday and Thursday at 6 pm at Esther Shiner Stadium (Bathurst and Finch). "We're always looking for more players," McManus said, so if you're interested, give him a shout at these numbers: Phil McManus 690-0957 or Peter Gordon (coach) 633-2301.



York's "Phantom" rules football team phases out during a practice

Tova Weisblatt photo

Volleyball!



Reaching for the top at Tait McKenzie: The Canadian men's volleyball team swept the Czechoslovakian national team in three games on June 18. The scores were 15-5, 16-14, 15-12. Above: Russ Paddock and Terry Gagnon block a Czech spike while the Czech player seems to lose his head in the melée.

Tova Weisblatt photo

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