

1985-86 Athletic scrapbook filled with snapshots

The curtain is falling on another season of York University varsity athletics. Once again we are thoroughly privileged to witness dedicated athletes and coaches struggle for individual and collective success. *Excalibur* photography editor Roberta Di Maio has captured many of this year's exhilarating and depressing moments on film. I unfortunately am without a camera, but am still able to 'pen' my own personal pictures.

-Click!- "A crisp October evening and Varsity Stadium is filled with gridiron warriors clad in shades of red and blue."

For the second consecutive fall, the York football Yeomen dominated and defeated their bitter rivals from the University of Toronto. Hard to believe that just two short years ago York had never beat the Blues or made the playoffs in their history. The football program was saved from imminent extinction by Frank Cosentino and Nobbie Wirkowski, much to our good fortune. Despite another early exit from post-season play, we can only be delighted at the promise for a bright future.

-Click!- "A gleaming smile emanates from behind the face-guard of a battered Yeomen football helmet."

York defensive back Dominic Cugliari ended an inspiring five year career of varsity football. It will take a very big pair of shoes to replace Dominic the football player, but an even bigger heart to replace Dominic the person.

-Click!- "York's Ice Palace relatively empty. It is game time with the defending national champions stepping out on to the ice to defend their title."

It took five months for the secret to get out. The York Yeomen play great hockey. Hopefully the large crowds which filled the Ice Palace for the playoffs will return for the start of next fall's regular season. For the entertainment value, there is not a better brand of hockey being played anywhere in Canada.



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BROITMAN

-Click!- "A York Yeomen hockey player sits in the penalty box."

Uncharacteristically for a Dave Chambers coached hockey team, this year the Yeomen took far too many penalties. Especially those of the cheap high-sticking and slashing variety. The loss of poise and composure was York's achilles heel all season long. The highly talented Yeomen proved that fast skating and slick puck handling does not necessarily guarantee on and off ice maturity. There will be changes.

-Click!- "A tall, freckled and red-haired young man standing behind a bench of Yeomen basketballers."

The basketball Yeomen claimed their ninth consecutive OUA East title, but ended the season on a sour note. The injury to all-Canadian forward Tim Rider severely crippled any hopes of a second straight OUA pennant. Without the team's big rebounder and high scorer, the Yeomen once again came up empty at the CIAU regional playdowns. We are left only to speculate on what might have been with a healthy Tim Rider. No one suffered worse than Rider himself, who was forced to experience the agony of being physically unable to help out his teammates and end a brilliant five year career as a reluctant spectator.

-Click!- "A crammed Tait McKenzie gym filled with York students shaking baby rattles!"

York athletic promotions, invisible until the new year, emerged as a significant factor in the machinery that drives York's athletic program.

The large and enthusiastic crowd that turned out for "Rattle the Blue Night" proved once and for all that the potential need only be harnessed to create an energetic atmosphere at York sporting spectacles. Oh yes! York humbled their cross town rivals to the delight of the home fans and a national television audience.

-Click!- "A sombre looking group of York Yeomen hockey players skate off the ice in silence. Their faces are a collage of frustration and determination."

For the second straight year, the Yeowomen were beaten in the OWIAA Championship by the University of Toronto Lady Blues. Along route the Yeowomen provided thrilling hockey and were a great advertisement for young females dreaming of the NHL. Their opening loss in the final to Toronto showcased the game's potential as a drawing card on campus. The Lady Blues scored with seconds remaining and again in overtime to claim victory in the now traditional 4-3 overtime games involving both York and Toronto teams at the Ice Palace. Unlike the men, the Yeowomen keep coming up on the short end. It has only made them hungrier for another shot next year.

-Click!- "A near capacity crowd at Varsity Arena look on as the air is thick with tension."

Forty-two-hundred people watched York and Toronto battle it out in the third and deciding game of the OUA hockey semi-finals. The Yeomen prevailed by the slimmest of margins in a series that has reestablished college hockey in this city. The intense rivalry has become the CIAU's own version of the Habs and Les Nordiques. The usually conservative and mild-mannered York fans were so consumed by the series that their fanatic support became a factor. The three playoff games, all decided by a single goal and two in overtime, was undoubtedly this year's sporting highlight at York.

Yeowoman of the Year

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Not surprisingly, Flint and Lockyer have had a solid coach-player relationship. "Frances is one of my closest friends. She has always been sincere with me," Lockyer said. "I felt that she matured as a coach because she became more receptive to the players and willing to take chances. After my first three years, I considered leaving, but the last two years have been amazing."

As Lockyer has completed her five years of eligibility, there have been many memorable games in her career. Three games in particular stand out in her memory. The earliest of the three is York's one-point win over Toronto for the 1982 OWIAA title.

Two losses this season also shine. "The Taipei game (at the York tournament) was really something. The Taipei players were so nice and their skills were really impressive. At Toronto (a 74-63 loss to the eventual National champions), it was the best we could've played," Lockyer said.

While Lockyer knew that the rookies could learn a lot from her experience, she also learned that the rookies had a lot to offer her. While she will not be returning to the lineup, she feels that York could secure a CIAU berth next year since the Yeowomen will be more of a veteran team.

A Geography major, Lockyer entered York on an academic scholarship. She is interested in a career in transportation planning, but she would also like to tour Italy and Greece. An examination of the professional leagues there is also in her plans.

The shoe fits for football Yeomen

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The four are hopeful of working out some sort of arrangement with a couple of prominent Toronto doctors, one a chiropractor and the other a pediatricist, who would refer their patients to Running For Less. The store is still in the talking stages and many details still have to be worked out.

"Athletic injuries is an area we're looking to get into," Ganas said. "We've been looking quite seriously at knee braces and other types of preventive gear."

Also, there have been negotiations with the Board of Education that would have Running For Less supply equipment for high school football teams.

If things continue to go well, another Running For Less could open on Bloor Street, in the High Park area. That would help to increase retail sales.

"We know that this location isn't the greatest (for retail sales)," Cugliari said, "But it was all that we could afford at the time. If the Bloor Street spot happens, it should really help our retail sales."

The prices at Running For Less, which also sells various types of athletic clothing, are competitive. They don't have nearly the overhead bigger competitors have and since they run the store themselves, there's no staff to pay.

"We've looked, I know our prices are better," Cugliari said. "Our expenses aren't as big, so we can afford to pass on the savings."

Not having forgotten their roots, York students and faculty are offered a 10 percent discount upon presentation of their validation card.

So as beach season looms closer and last year's swim suits feel tighter (they must have shrunk over the winter) the time is approaching to shed that extra weight that mysteriously appears every winter. If jogging apparel is what you need, drop by to Running For Less. The prices, though not rock bottom by any means, are good. The shoe selection is especially good.

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