

Head coach Frank Cosentino

In their first playoff berth, Yeomen seek revenge for last week's crucial loss

By MEL BROITMAN
 York University has waited a long time for success on the football field. The 1984 version of the Yeomen have finally delivered the results that have been eagerly anticipated since the inception of the 14 year old program.

In all sports programs the leadership comes straight from the top. The University administration finally decided to re-evaluate and upgrade varsity football before the start of this year.

The perennially under-funded program received a real boost when the administration increased the financial support for football by \$12,500 bringing it up to the levels of other schools in the province.

This decision had a twofold effect on the team. Firstly, the Yeomen were able to acquire much needed equipment to physically maintain the club on the field. But perhaps more importantly, it was a boost to the team's morale. "The players feel appreciated," said this year's coach Frank Cosentino.

Of course, one could not even begin to measure what a positive effect the coaching change has had. Cosentino and Nobby Wirkowski returned to the program they developed in the seventies. They have stabilized the entire

program with a three to four year contractual commitment to their duties. But, most importantly they provide a steady maturing influence for the younger athlete.

The image of the team has greatly been enhanced by its new home; North York Civic Stadium at Finch and Bathurst. After their never-ending suffering at York's "Mile Wide" stadium the players have excelled this year in the cozy confines of a real stadium.

Not to be forgotten is York's opposition, who over the years, have grown accustomed to stomping all over the Yeomen at home and away. This season, however, the Yeomen record speaks for itself, and they command a new respect from their rivals.

Favorable scheduling has also helped out a little this year, as York had two of its road games in Waterloo against the hapless Warriors and lowly Laurier.

Still it is not possible to precisely pinpoint the reasons for York's first playoff appearance in its history.

"Football isn't a science; you can't say that if you do this and this, that it's going to work. You're dealing with people," explains Cosentino.

What we do know is that York University football has finally arrived in winning style. Post-

season play has become a reality after a long and often frustrating 14 years.

It's been worth the wait. But direct credit for this year's turnaround must primarily go to the players. There were significant changes made to the starting lineup when the new coaches began an intense recruiting effort last spring. As a result, many talented newcomers appeared, brightening the team's prospects.

The defense, which has been overwhelming, has only five starters returning from last year. The brilliant play of many of the rookies has complemented the steady play of veterans like Dirk Leers and Dominic Cugliari.

Offensively, there are only six starters returning. After sitting out a year, transfer students Phil Honey and Bob Harding have combined at tight-end to bolster the passing attack.

When Terry Douglas was healthy the rushing attack was the finest in the country. Despite the injury to Douglas, George Ganas and Joe Pariselli have provided strong running behind a solid offensive line anchored by veterans Dave Maganja and Mike Chesson. And after a slow start due to an injury, quarterback Tino Iacono is blossoming under the tutelage of Frank Cosentino.

All-Canadian nose guard anchors defense that kept opposition scoreless for half season

By MEL BROITMAN
 This has been a season in which the York defense has reached a new level of excellence. At the heart of the defensive unit is Yeomen nose guard and pre-season all-Canadian, Dirk Leers.

On the field he is a fiercely intense competitor who commands a great deal of respect from opposing clubs. Off the field he is a soft-spoken articulate young man who highly values his education.

Leers, a fourth year education student, hopes to someday teach mathematics and physical education.

"I enjoy school more than I enjoy football," Leers says. "I'd like to be a principal of a high school some day."

Leers did not originally play football when he first attended university. In his second year while training at the Track and Field Centre, some football players convinced him to try out for the varsity squad. Under the guidance of defensive line coach Rick Lyall, Dirk quickly blossomed into one of the finest linemen in college ball.

Last year Leers was drafted in the sixth round by the Calgary Stampeders of the CFL. Due to his height, only 5'11", he was selected as a linebacker. The experience was not an overly pleasant one for Dirk.

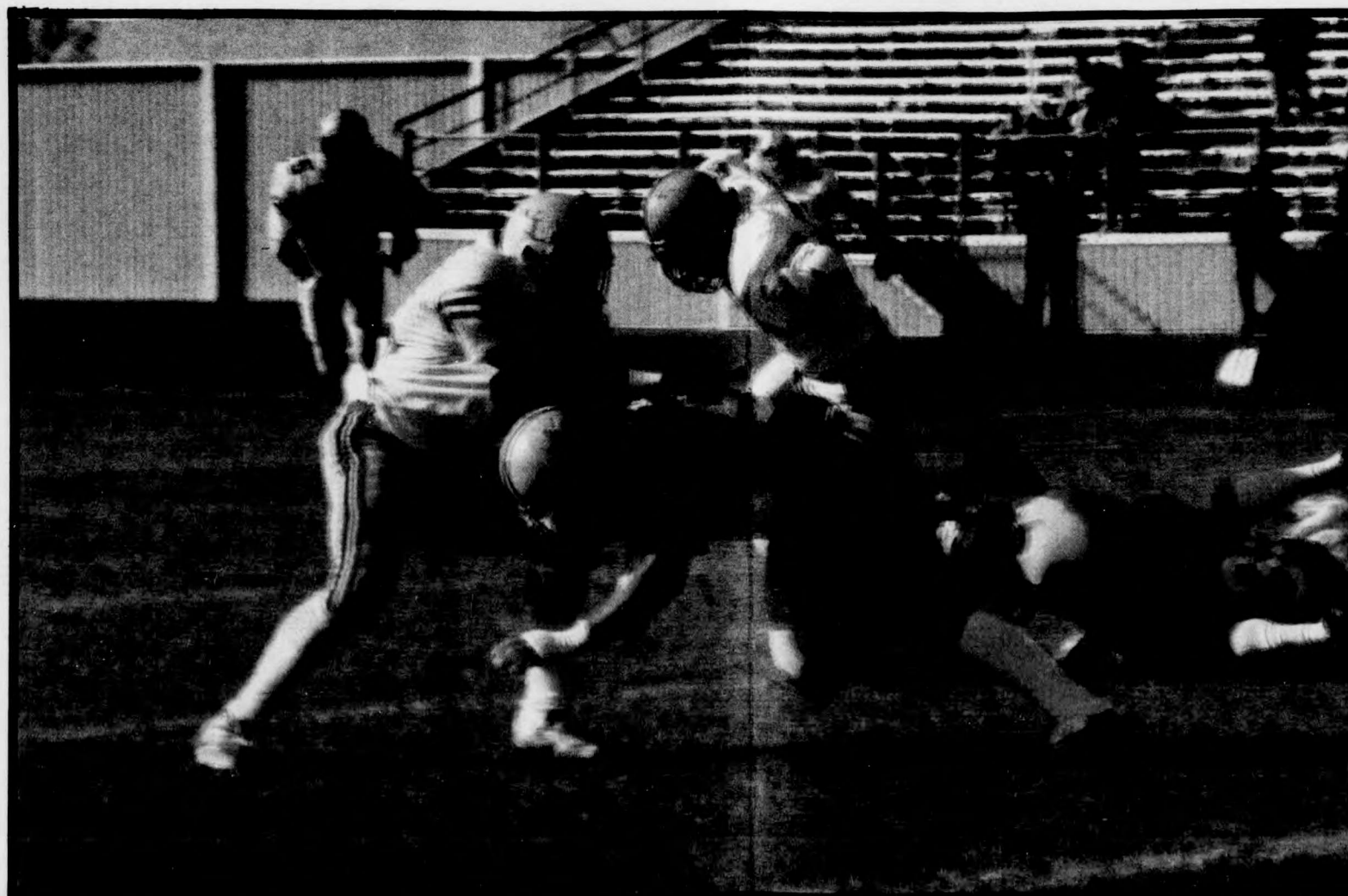
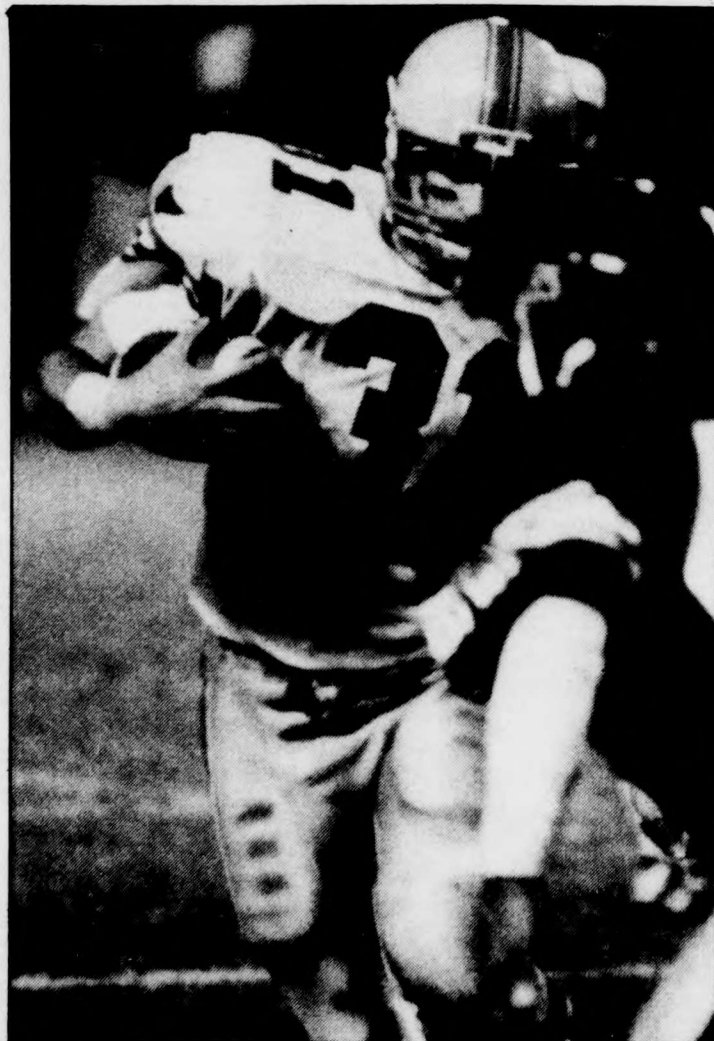
"My heart wasn't in it, I just didn't enjoy it. I never played the

position before. They think I'm too short. It has always been my problem . . . It is all political." So despite being one of the finest athletes at the Calgary training camp, he was released.

Even with another year of eligibility remaining, Dirk is not sure he will return to football next year.

He does, however, have some definite goals while he is still playing.

"I want to be the lineman of the year in Canada and to be on a winning team. I've never won a football championship in all the years I've played."



INTO THE DIRT. York defender smothers Windsor Lancer. Yeomen came out ahead this time around.



York's cheerleaders are rallying more fan support—even if they're not getting much from athletic department.

Cheerleaders' reason to scream

By PETER BECKER
 Now that the football program is finally paying dividends, school spirit should be at an all-time high. But for some reason, that's just not the case.

With the exception of a small band of students, the only visible show of enthusiasm at most games comes from York's eight to 10

cheerleaders. Leslie Terry, captain of the cheerleading squad, tries to keep the spirit alive even though they don't have a home base or a budget to work with. "Being a cheerleader at university is fun but it doesn't have the same recognition as in high school," Terry said. "We put a lot of effort into it."

We hope the fans can see that," Terry commented. "Although the athletic department hasn't been that cooperative, the fans are getting better, especially now that the football team is winning." The squad practises three times a week for about an hour and their majors vary from English to Dance.