

# Nervous Yeomen scare Laurier

Walter Weigel Jr.

Can it be possible? York's Football Yeomen very nearly defeated the nation's #1 ranked Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks, losing 20-14.

The York Yeomen started the game with basically one problem: they were too respectful of Laurier. Rather than playing as they would normally, York allowed Laurier to take command of the first half. The York defence, one of the best in the league, had difficulties in containing Laurier's wishbone offence.

The wishbone is straight-forward enough, but it contains numerous options, making it difficult for defences to read. Using this offence Laurier rolled up a 14-0 halftime lead.

York safety Angie Kioussis explains: "We weren't doing our assignment. I went for the quarterback instead of the option man. They forced us to play man-on-man, individual versus individual."

The second half was definitely better to the delight of the York fans. Laurier fans were abnormally quiet, perhaps in a state of shock. The play seemed to be mostly in Laurier's end.

The offensive line that was "real nervous in the first half", according to veteran tackle Steve Shubat, came on strong in the second half. Their excellent pass protection allowed quarterback Mike Foster to march down the field on numerous occasions. Foster completed 16 of 38 attempts including two touch-down tosses, but he threw five interceptions.

With 227 yards in the air and 118 on the ground, York had over 100 yards more offence than did Laurier. Fullback Keith Vasselo rushed for 62 yards and halfback Maher Kassis 53 yards.

Laurier only managed 7 yards passing, completing one pass of seven attempts.

Much of the second half comeback was due to the York defence. They came up big often, holding Laurier to a meagre 18 yards. It is no wonder that 'Tuffy' Knight, Laurier head coach would remark: "York has an extremely strong defence." After playing three of the "strong" teams, the "weak" York team has allowed only 40 points against in three weeks.

The defensive line, coached by Arnie McCraig, did their part in halting Laurier.

"Even though they were pretty big," remarked 230 pound defensive tackle Tim Wakefield, "we managed to stuff up the middle."

Complemented by a fine linebacking unit and aggressive defensive halfbacks, the defence gave the offence opportunity after opportunity. Four times York was in excellent scoring range, twice from within the five yard line. Unfortunately, what seems to be York's major problem, they were unable to achieve any points from these opportunities.

**Gridiron Notes:** York must win its remaining three games against U of T, Waterloo, and McMaster to be assured a playoff berth. They play what may be the most exciting game of the season tonight at 7 pm against U of T at Varsity Stadium. Up to five buses have been sponsored by the Student Federation to take fans to the game. Buses leave around 6 pm from the ramp in front of the Ross Building. Cost is \$1 return. York President Ian Macdonald and Student Federation President Keith Smockum will lead the charge. Watch out you engineers.

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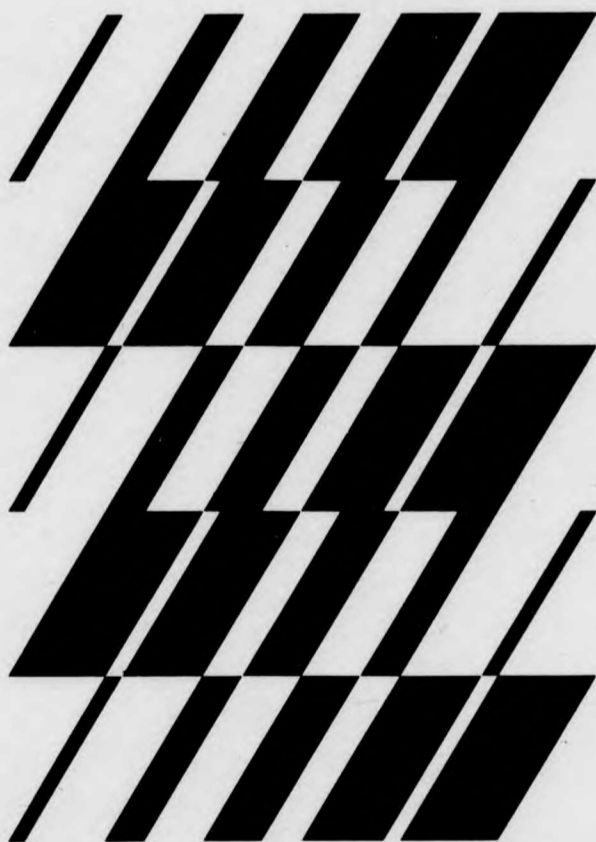
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