

S P O R T S

Yeowomen win fifth title in six years

By DAVID BUNDAS

The volleyball Yeowomen captured OWIAA gold after defeating the defending champion, Ottawa Gee-Gees, in the Ontario finals at Tait MacKenzie last weekend.

York got into the final after trouncing Guelph 3-0, and breezing past the University of Toronto 3-1. Ottawa didn't have any difficulty reaching the finals either. They didn't lose a game playing McMaster and Waterloo before coming up against a stubborn Yeowomen team.

The Yeowomen are a confident squad, fighting back after dropping the first and third games to Ottawa, to defeat them in the fifth game 15-11. "There was no way we were gonna lose that last game," coach Merv Mosher said after the win. "The girls have practiced hard for seven months and we're a very confident team. In this game, consistency means everything and the players knew we'd come out on top in the end."

The volleyball team is the third women's team (along with hockey and gymnastics) to capture OWIAA gold, and credit must be attributed to York's women's athletic program. This is the Yeowomen's fifth volleyball title in the last six years. It's no wonder that the Yeowomen never lost faith, after completing the regular season with a perfect 12-0 record. Conversely the Gee-Gees had a little more trouble over the season at 9-3.

"It's hard to pin-point what made the difference today," a dejected Ottawa coach Al Jeffery said. "We didn't lose confidence and I didn't want to make any substitutions (in the final game) for fear of breaking up the harmony of the team, but perhaps our serve reception and passing could have been a little better," Jeffery said. "It was a real war out there."

Key substitutions by York's coach of the year, Merv Mosher, helped York win the title. With the score 12-5 for York in the fourth game, Ottawa rallied to close the gap to 12-9. Mosher then called a time out and inserted Georgia Fullerton into the York lineup. It proved to be the right medicine, when Fullerton went up for a powerful spike for the sideout. York followed with three consecutive points for the win.

"Georgia's an outstanding athlete who would be a regular on the team but for her bad knees," coach Mosher explained. "She's like our short reliever, our terminator."

York rookie Christine Pollitt, a graduate of Gordon Graydon high school in Mississauga, was nothing less than joyous after the hard-fought match. "It really feels great now that it's over," she said. "We never gave up; we knew we could beat them and it was just a matter of going out and doing it."

Three of the tournament allstars were York athletes. Megan Hurst,



GOLDEN SMILES: (Standing) Merv Mosher, Doris Skrlj, Bente Rassmussen, Cheryl Piper, Julie Richards, Chris Pollitt, Barney Chen, Jill Graham. (Kneeling) Georgia Fullerton, Terry Green, Megan Hurst, Lindsey Adams, Susan Stapleton, Linda Wolsey.

Cheryl Piper and Christine Pollitt were joined by Patty Cox (McMaster), Nellie Lozej (Ottawa), and Sandy Skotnicki (U of T), for the awards. Leslie Irie of Ottawa was chosen as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Each of the all-stars

received quartz clocks for their efforts.

In the bronze medal match, McMaster surprised the Lady Blues to take the medal in four games.

The Yeowomen travel to Winnipeg for the Canadian finals on

March 12-14. The host team is ranked first, followed by Manitoba, Laval, Sherbrooke, Victoria and York. York has played each of the ranked teams in exhibition play and coach Mosher feels that it is a fair ranking order.



GOALMOUTH BATTLE: Nick Kiriakou (8) looking for the rebound. The action is front of McMaster goalie Joel Smith was a typical scene in a hard-fought game.

York dumps McMaster

By ROBERTA DI MAIO

York's hockey Yeomen are ready for the Ontario semi-finals after defeating the McMaster Marlins in two straight games.

Last Thursday night over 200 fans gathered at the York Arena for a very physical game that went into overtime before the Yeomen could muster a 2-1 victory.

"York was brutal," Marlin coach Bob Carey said. "It was disgusting to see all that slashing, pushing, shoving and especially to see deliberate intent to injure our goalie." The Yeomen were forced to play much of the game short-handed due to the physical play and the numerous penalties dealt to them. "The penalties hurt us," York coach Dave Chambers said. "It was a tough game, but we had good penalty killing tonight."

Brian Gray, one of the team's assistant captains, was the first to score for the Yeomen before McMas-

ter came back to even it at 1-1 early in the second period. Greg Rolston, who scored several timely goals in last year's playoffs, potted the winner with four minutes gone in sudden death overtime.

Marlin goaltender Joel Smith played an outstanding game, and must have taken a few bruises considering the number of times he had to pick himself up after being knocked down by Yeomen players.

On several occasions, the Marlin goalie was bumped as he came out to cut down the angle on a Yeomen shooter, with other York players rushing the net for a tip-in. "The referees are already used to York's physical style of play and they're looking for us to do something in order to put us in the box," Morocco said.

York's Rick Morocco offered his team's side of the story after the game, "Smith is very good, but he

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