

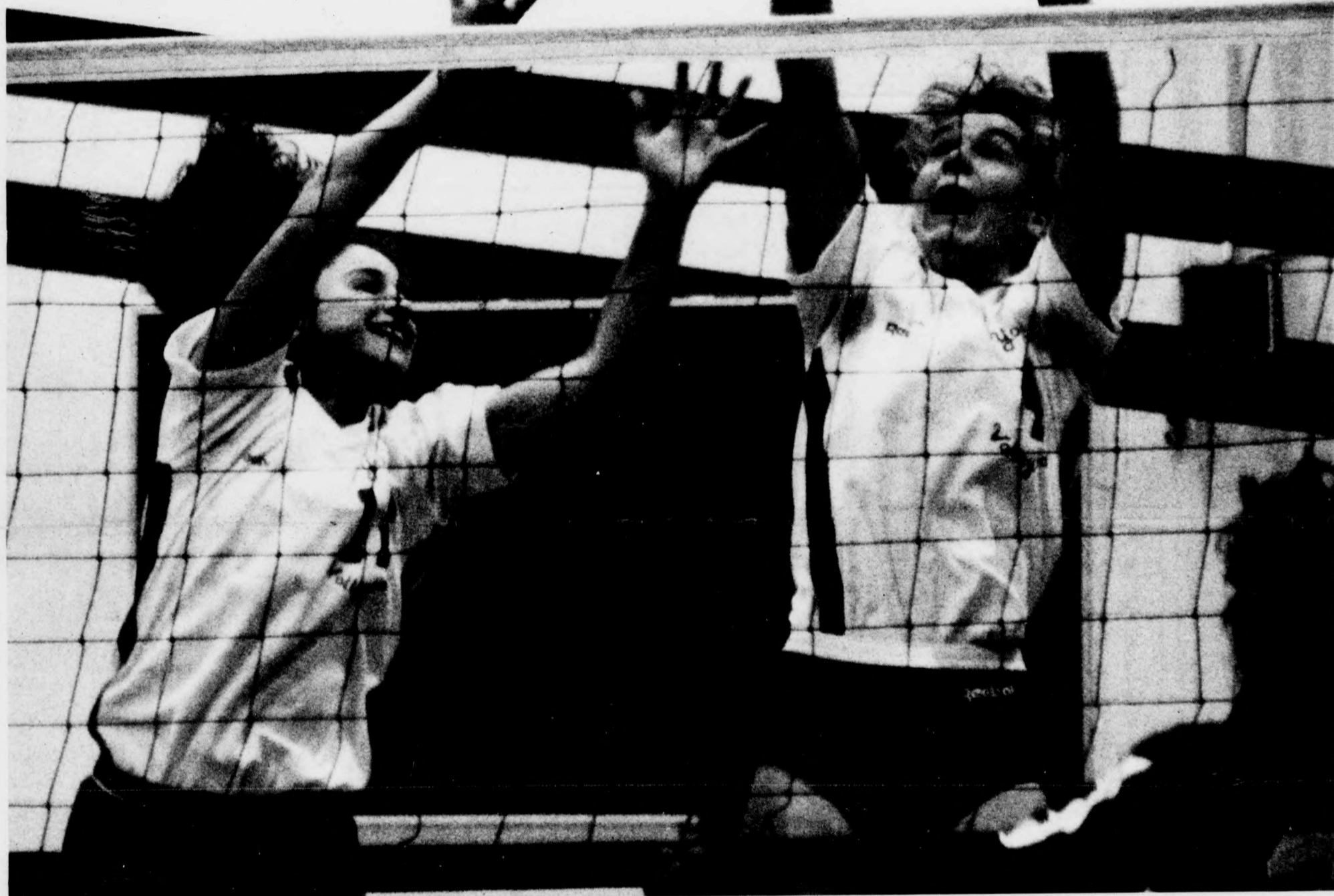
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# YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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# excalibur



JUMP!! Friday night action from the Reebok Tait McKenzie Volleyball classic with Yeowomen Magaly Charbonneau (l) and Chris Pollitt (r) go for the block against defending CIAU champs Manitoba. York won this game but lost Saturday to a Regina squad hungry to avenge last year's loss to the Yeowomen at the nationals. A win later on Saturday against UBC gave York the bronze medal.

by Josh Rubin

The medals they got weren't quite the colour they were hoping for, but at least the volleyball Yeowomen got some hardware to take home over the weekend.

After storming through the preliminary round of the 11th annual Reebok Tait McKenzie Classic, the Yeowomen came up short in their semifinal match against the Regina Cougars and ended up in third place.

The Cougars were hungry for this one. It was the Yeowomen, after all, who dumped them in last season's CIAU bronze medal match.

Hot on the heels of Friday night's upset of the defending national champs from Manitoba, the Yeowomen looked drained against the tough Cougar squad, and only managed to win one game.

Something which plagued the Yeowomen all day on Saturday was inconsistency; against Regina, they tied the match at one and were up 7-5 in the third game when the roof caved in.

Their blocking, which had been one of their staples on Friday became virtually non-existent after the second game against the Cougars.

According to Chris Pollitt, who provided much of York's offence against the Cougars, it was also a case of the Regina blockers adjusting to the Yeowomen's spiking. But, said Pollitt, "It would be fair to say our blocking stopped in the third game."

But the powers that be in volleyball deigned to give the Yeowomen a chance at redemption later in the day when they squared off against UBC for the bronze medal.

For the second straight match, the Yeowomen were facing a team they had beaten in last year's CIAUs. They dumped the highly-ranked Thunderbirds in the first round of the national championship tournament.

And also for the second straight match, the Yeowomen played a see-saw affair. After winning the first game 15-11, they dropped the next two, as UBC picked up the pace.

But with their backs against the wall, the Yeowomen took a commanding 10-5 lead thanks to some solid all-around play. UBC made it a close one, though, and the Yeowomen only won it 15-12.

The fifth and deciding game went, according to CIAU rules, on a rally point basis (for volleyball uninitiates, that means teams can score even when they're not serving).

The net result was a quick but exciting 15-11 win for the Yeowomen. This time, it was the Thunderbirds turn to play on again/off again. The UBC team ran into each other, and a general air of confusion took hold of the visitors' end of the court.

After the match, York coach Merv Mosher seemed satisfied with the bronze medal. "Sure, it's a letdown not to get the gold, but we know it's a good learning experience just to get the bronze," Mosher said.

Mosher was also pleased with the team's progress since last year's tournament, when the Yeowomen faced almost exactly the same teams, yet were blown away in the semifinals and lost the bronze medal match.

# York grabs bronze