

Broitman blasts Canadian ranking system

Rankings. They have to be the bane of college sport. Understood within their context and limitations, they are nothing more than additional sports hyperbole for idle chatter between faceoffs, hand-offs or jump balls. Taken seriously, they only serve to muddle the collegiate sports picture.

Just what do rankings mean anyhow? In America—almost nothing. In Canada—absolutely nothing.

The sole purpose of collegiate rankings is to create and circulate hype that may surround the sport. The pros don't bother with them. Rather it's mostly the American colleges who relish the quintessential question of our day. Who's number one? Oklahoma, Michigan or Miami?

The joke in Canada is, that we actually have rankings at all. Who cares who's number one? Certainly the student body and alumni of the University of Western Ontario don't lose any sleep over their second place ranking to the University of British Columbia (UBC) football Thunderbirds.

In the United States, at least Oklahoma will actually play Miami or Michigan. In Canada, however, UBC and Western can only meet on the last day of the season (Vanier Cup game).

In fact, Western will play only one of UBC, Calgary, Bishops or Carleton (all top-ranked teams). Economic realities dictate the absence of inter-conference play in Canadian college football. In addition, there are only 23 collegiate football



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teams in this country. With that in mind, what does it say for a Top Ten? The tenth ranked team in Canada, is barely better than average.

In America, college football rankings actually serve a purpose. They epitomize the farcical dilemma of voting for the national champions. At least we in Canada show some sense by deciding our champions on the field.

If football rankings are ridiculous, how about basketball? The same lack of inter-conference play found on the gridiron is evident in basketball competition. Schools in the Canadian inter-university Athletic Union (CIAU) jockey for ranked positions before Christmas. At that time, basketball tournaments held from coast to coast offer the chance for east to meet west but the teams have not yet reached top form.

The regular season begins with the rankings almost set in stone. For example, if York is ranked eighth at the beginning of January (their regular season) they have little or no hope of

significant upward movement in the rankings. Because there are perennially no other ranked teams in York's division (the OUAA East) Yeomen wins go all but unnoticed. Fourteen straight victories, perhaps the longest winning streak in the nation, and the Yeomen may only 'vault' two or three positions in the rankings. Then again, do 50 point margins over RMC and Ryerson legitimize a move up or down in the rankings?

The same example holds true for ice hockey. Even the idea of ranking hockey clubs seems foreign to me. Yet the CIAU doesn't stop there. Rankings exist for field hockey, soccer, volleyball and more.

Imagine the significance of it! Our women's volleyball team ranked eighth in the country. Now that's hype. That's excitement. Makes you want to head right down to Tait McKenzie and holler "We're number eight!" Should the fourth ranked team appear on the other side of the net, it would be a classic showdown! Our dreams of number one could only be satiated with a three game sweep in the match. After all, the CIAU women's volleyball rankings are at stake!

Oh well. If I've said anything at all, it's that two things should not be taken seriously: this column, and Canadian university athletic rankings.

Editor's note: Mel Broitman's column is ranked number three in the Canadian University Newspaper Association.

York Yeomen soccer team continues downward slide

By JAMES HOGGETT

The York Yeomen soccer team continued their downward slide, slipping to sixth place after losing to the powerful Laurentian Voyageurs Sunday.

The Yeomen lost 3-0 to the undefeated Voyageurs, leaving them with a 1-4 record. York is now second last in the Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) East division, ahead of only Trent.

Once again it was York's inability to capitalize on their scoring chances

that led to the loss. The Yeomen had a number of opportunities to put the ball into the net but were unable to finish off the plays. This allowed Laurentian to score their three goals on breakaways as the Yeomen were caught up field. This failure has cost the Yeomen the game in each of their four losses.

In the second half the Yeomen came out stronger, keeping the Voyageurs scoreless. This marks the fourth time this season that the Yeomen have held their opponents

scoreless in the second half.

"Laurentian is a very strong team," coach Norm Crandles said. "We would have been stretching ourselves a bit if we beat them. We were totally dominated, especially in the first half." If it was not for the fine goaltending of Ralph Torre, Crandles pointed out, York would have suffered an even worse defeat.

York's next game is against the Trent Nationals. Trent is the weak sister in the league sporting a 0-4 record. The Yeomen should have no

problem with the Nationals as Trent has a very poor defence which has allowed 13 goals. Trent's offence is not much better, managing to score a total of only two goals in the four games.

Crandles, certain of a York victory, said he will try some new things this game. "I'll be moving some players around to try and get some more mobility in the mid-field," he said. "This I hope will enable us to get the ball to the strikers, giving us the chance to score

some goals."

"This (the season so far) has been a real test of character," Crandles said, "but after this game against Trent, look for us to turn around our 1-4 record."

The Yeomen are not mathematically out of the playoffs. With seven games remaining in the regular season they have the opportunity to turn things around. However, if coach Crandles does not figure out a solution to their weak mid-field, they just might continue to slide.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

At this time of year begin the application procedures for external fellowships and scholarships. In recognizing academic achievement, these awards often support for graduate or continuing undergraduate study abroad. The University wishes to encourage and assist its students in the pursuit of these opportunities. Such awards bring honour to their recipients and at the same time offer material help in furthering learning and scholarship.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS: RHODES SCHOLARSHIP, FRANK KNOX MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP, IODE SCHOLARSHIP, CAMBRIDGE CANADA SCHOLARSHIPS, MELLON FELLOWSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES

- *The Rhodes Scholarship* is tenable at Oxford University. It is granted to students who have completed at least three years of study by the time of the award. The deadline for application is October 24, 1986
- *The Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship* is for a year of graduate study at Harvard University in any of a number of fields. It is anticipated that the deadline date for application will be February 1, 1987.
- *The IODE Scholarship* offers support for students at the graduate level and can be held in Canada or abroad within the Commonwealth. The application deadline is December 1, 1986.
- *Cambridge Canada Scholarships* are tenable at the University of Cambridge for candidates to pursue a course of research leading to the degree of Ph.D. Deadline for applications is January 31, 1987
- *Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities* support beginning graduate work for the Ph.D. in preparation for a career of teaching and scholarship in higher education in a humanistic field of study. Candidacy is initiated by a nomination from a faculty member. Letters of nomination must be received by November 3, 1986.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada has once again announced the availability of *Commonwealth Scholarships* in support of graduate and professional study in institutions of higher learning in twelve Commonwealth countries. For most of the programs, the field of study is unrestricted. Depending on the particular program, support is provided for one to three years. Selection of candidates is made by the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee.

Deadline dates for the individual programs are as follows:

- Australian Commonwealth Scholarships* (December 31, 1986)
- Ghana Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Hong Kong Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Indian Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Jamaican Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarships (For 1988)* (December 31, 1986)
- Nigerian Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Sierra Leone Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Sri Lanka Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- Uganda Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)
- United Kingdom Commonwealth Scholarships* (October 31, 1986)

AWARDS FOR STUDY ABROAD

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada has recently announced a number of opportunities for study abroad in a number of individual countries. Some of these programs are awards offered by the host country and some are exchange scholarship/programs. Levels and fields of study vary, as do other terms and conditions. In every case, a Canadian Preliminary Selection Committee will draw up a short list of Canadian candidates for presentation to the host government for final selection.

In all cases, deadline for application in October 31, 1986.

- The following programs have been announced:
- Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt Graduate Awards
- Government of Austria Scholarship Program
- Canada-Spain Graduate Exchange Scholarships
- Kingdom of Belgium, French Community of Belgium Fellowship
- Government of Colombia Graduate Scholarship
- People's Republic of China Graduate Scholarships
- Government of Denmark Graduate Scholarship
- Government of Finland Scholarship
- Government of France Graduate Awards
- German Academic Exchange Service Fellowships
- Government of Hungary Graduate Scholarship
- Government of Mexico Graduate Scholarship
- Netherlands Government Graduate Scholarships
- Government of Norway Graduate Scholarship
- Government of Portugal Graduate Scholarship
- Government of Switzerland Graduate Scholarship
- Yugoslavian Government Graduate Award

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS

Interested parties are invited to contact the Office of the Provost (S920 Ross, 736-5275) for additional information, application forms, and assistance in arranging advising. Information is also available on a wide range of other scholarships and fellowships. The Office of Student Affairs (124 Central Square) also maintains a current directory and, where available, application forms for external awards.