

sports

Playoff hopes shattered



ANDRE SOUROLLOU

DOWN AND OUT: Yeowoman Sue Gough tries to take out her opponent in a match over the weekend. The York Yeowomen soccer squad needed a victory in their final match to gain a playoff berth, but came up short, mustering only a tie against the Carleton Ravens. The Yeowomen played five games in a six-day period and earned the record of 1-1-3 for the five games.

By MARIO PIETRANGELO

Three heartbreaking ties last week prevented the Yeowoman soccer team from advancing to the playoffs as they completed five games over a brief six-day period. The Yeowomen required a victory in their final match to gain a playoff berth, but came up short with a tie against the Carleton Ravens.

Their rally for a playoff position began with their match against division rival U of T Lady Blues. York was hoping to avenge a 5-0 early season loss. U of T coach Niki Nicolaou, on the other hand, was hoping her squad could take advantage of a "weak" York offence and remain undefended on the year.

After a slow start, however, the Yeowomen controlled most of the play. York winger Mary Sweeney displayed flashes of brilliance with her dashes to the U of T goal. Lack of offensive support for Sweeney, however, kept the Yeowomen off the scoreboard and the game finished in a scoreless tie.

York's inability to score would come back to haunt them in their

following match against Ryerson. The Yeowomen outshot Ryerson by a wide margin, yet the final score was once again 0-0.

This scoring slump continued into the next game against Queen's, where in the opening moments of the game, Anna Figliano missed a goal on a breakaway.

The game continued, despite the heavy rainfall, and it remained scoreless after the first half of play. At first it appeared to be another scoreless game, but Queen's scored a goal that was mistakenly deflected into the net by Yeowoman Monica Veroneau. The Yeowomen tried to pressure their opponents by playing their defence deeper in Queen's territory. The strategy almost paid off with a Yeowoman kick hitting the crossbar. Later in the game, though, Queen's scored another goal on a breakaway to give them a comfortable lead.

Queen's coach Patty Peebles, was pleased with her team's performance. "We are beginning to gel as a

team," said Peebles, "and we are now in a position to challenge U of T for first place." She felt the Yeowomen played a strong game: "York deserved to score at least one goal, but then again, we could have scored another goal if not for a couple of good saves by the York goaltender (Cheryl Punnett)." Yeowoman coach David Bell indicated that his team's scoring slump was due to performance anxiety. "This is a young team and they are going to make mistakes," he explained. "We just have to think positively and the goals will eventually come."

Coach Bell's prediction came true in the next game, as York dominated Trent and won by a score of 3-0. Sue Gough injected a tremendous amount of energy into the York offence by scoring two goals.

Unfortunately, a sore right knee limited Gough's playing-time and compounded York's problems in putting points on the board. The other York goal was set up by Anna Figliano through a fine pass to Nancy Smith, enabling her to score on a breakaway. Smith said, "We've had so many chances, I'm so happy that we finally scored a goal. The goal helps to get your confidence back up a bit."

But the final game was a must win situation for the Yeowomen who, in order to capture the last playoff position, had a defeat the Carleton Ravens. Before the game Carleton Coach Dave Kent explained that the Ravens only needed one point for the playoffs, so he was just looking for a tie.

York took the lead on a shot by Sue Gough which deflected in off a Raven defender. However, York returned the favour, when a Carleton kick deflected into the net off defender Patty Mitchell. It was unfortunate because Mitchell's dazzling and energetic style of play prevented many goals during earlier games. The final score was 1-1, but that was all Carleton needed to eliminate York, and put the Yeowomen's sight on next season where they will most certainly be strong contenders for the OWIAA soccer championships.

Yeowomen tennis move up to sixth after weekend play

By GARRY MARR

The tennis Yeowomen, under first-year coach Eric Bojesen, moved into sixth place in their division with solid victories over Laurier and Windsor over the weekend.

The tournament, held at the National Tennis Centre, was to determine sixth, seventh and eighth place. The Yeowomen impressively beat Laurier 8-1 and Windsor 6-3.

York's line-up of Christine Smith, Anya Liaw, Larie Krol, Janice Beckenstein, Sue Dodds, and Bonnie Waterhouse played superb tennis to earn their sixth-place ranking.

For Anya Liaw, a fourth-year political science student, it is her fourth term with the team. The versatile veteran player likes Bojesen's coaching philosophy. "He is dedicated to building the team and is the most devoted coach the team has had."

Bojesen is one of a number of coaches the Yeowomen have had the last few years. Liaw thinks that Bojesen's commitment is a positive factor on the team. Liaw had a solid day at the tournament, wiping out her first opponent easily. "I played better this weekend than any other weekend," she said.

Christine Smith, in her first year with the team, was York's top-ranked player for the day. Smith, a former junior competitor, has been playing tennis for eight years. Smith described the calibre of play as high, with some of the number one players being former top-ranked juniors. Smith has a strong serve and forehand and thinks she is getting "good competition" in the York program. She says that it is "fun to play for a team with the team spirit behind you."

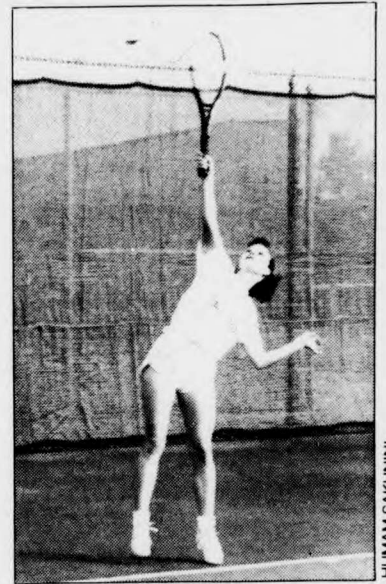
York's three and four players, Krol and Beckenstein, are also new arrivals to the team. Krol is particularly pleased with coach Bojesen's positive effect on her tennis game. "He's tough, but he cares," Krol said.

Krol won both her singles matches and was happy with her performance. Beckenstein also won both her matches, but did not compete in doubles.

Dana Katz, another new face to the York squad, was the six player competing in doubles for York. In singles Katz was placed in the six position for one match, and this proved to be well below her level of play. she responded with a 6-0, 6-0 thrashing of her opponent.

The 18-year-old Katz has been playing tennis for 10 years. She says she will be back next year and expects York to be competitive.

In the final five and six shots were Waterhouse and Dodds. The two, playing together in doubles for only the second time, won their match. Waterhouse played one singles match and lost it in a tough three sets. Dodds was able to overcome her opponents in both matches, but was pressed to the maximum three sets. Both players are happy with the team and are looking for a strong finish.



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