

York gymnasts win National Cup in Calgary

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by Riccardo Sala

York's gymnasts ruled the roost at the National University Gymnastics Cup in Calgary two weekends ago.

Both the Yeomen and Yeowomen came away with national titles to add to their respective Ontario crowns, won several weekends before.

On the women's side, Janine Rankin established herself as the premier female university gymnast in Canada. The Olympic veteran and first year Yeowoman came away with gold medals in the bar, beam and floor sections of the competition. She also added a silver in the vault, giving her a total of five gold medals for the weekend's work.

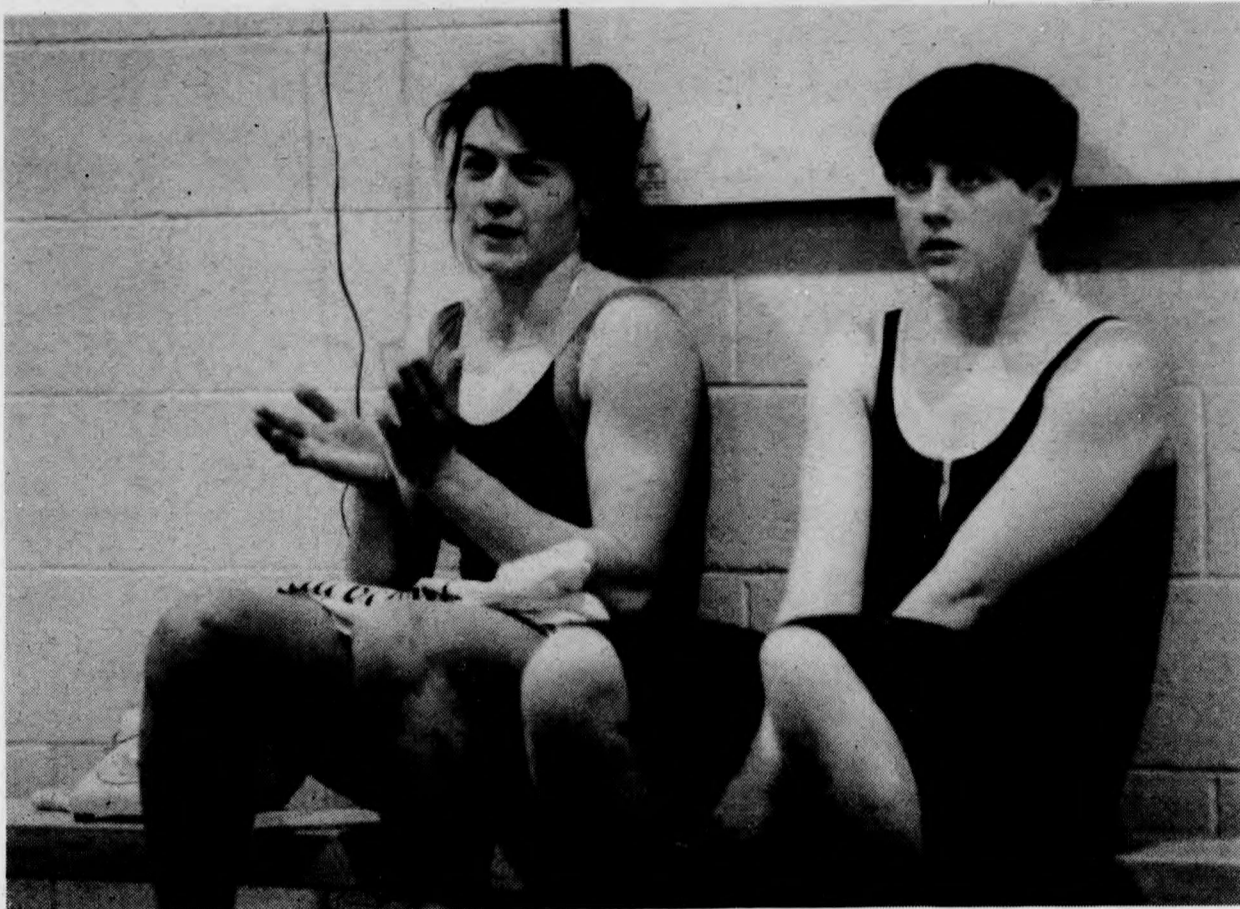
Teammate Rebecca Chambers finished fourth overall in the individual categories, winning bronze in the bar and balance beam competitions. York's Trista Bernier came sixth. The presence of three Yeowomen in the top six meant that half of the six gymnast All-Star team was made up of York gymnasts.

The championship for the Yeowomen was their first national title since 1984, when gymnastics was still under the aegis of the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union.

McMaster followed in second place while Queen's took the bronze.

"We did have momentum (from winning the Ontario title several weeks before) going into Calgary, but we didn't know how the other teams from outside Ontario would be like. Calgary had a good team, it's just that they didn't have a good meet," Chambers said.

The Yeowomen's Natasa Bajin was chosen coach of the year, as were her counterparts on York's men's



OH NO IT'S US AGAIN: Trista Bernier and Rebecca Chambers earlier in the year at York's Gymnastics Academy. Chambers' fourth and Bernier's sixth place finish at the University Cup at Calgary two weekends ago, coupled with teammate Janine Rankin's gold in the individual sections, gave the Yeowomen their first national title in almost ten years. On the men's side, a strong team performance by of George Zivic, JP Kramer and Mike Hood also gave the Yeomen a Canadian crown. Yeowoman coach Natasa Bajin, as well as Tom Zivic and Masaaki Naosaki of the Yeomen were named coaches of the year photo by Clive Cohen

team, Masaaki Naosaki and Tom Zivic.

"The team did really well. Janine pulled the whole team and I guess everybody worked a little harder. That's the secret," Bajin said.

Winning the national crown at Calgary was also a sweet irony for the

Yeowomen. Hosting the National Gymnastics Cup at York last year, the Yeowomen were defeated by Calgary for the national crown.

Quarterbacked by the veteran trio of George Zivic, JP Kramer and Mike Hood, the Yeomen also made their weekend in Calgary one of triumph.

Zivic came in fourth in the individual competition with wins in the rings and parallel bars, a silver on the vaulting horse and a tie for third place with Hood in the floor routine.

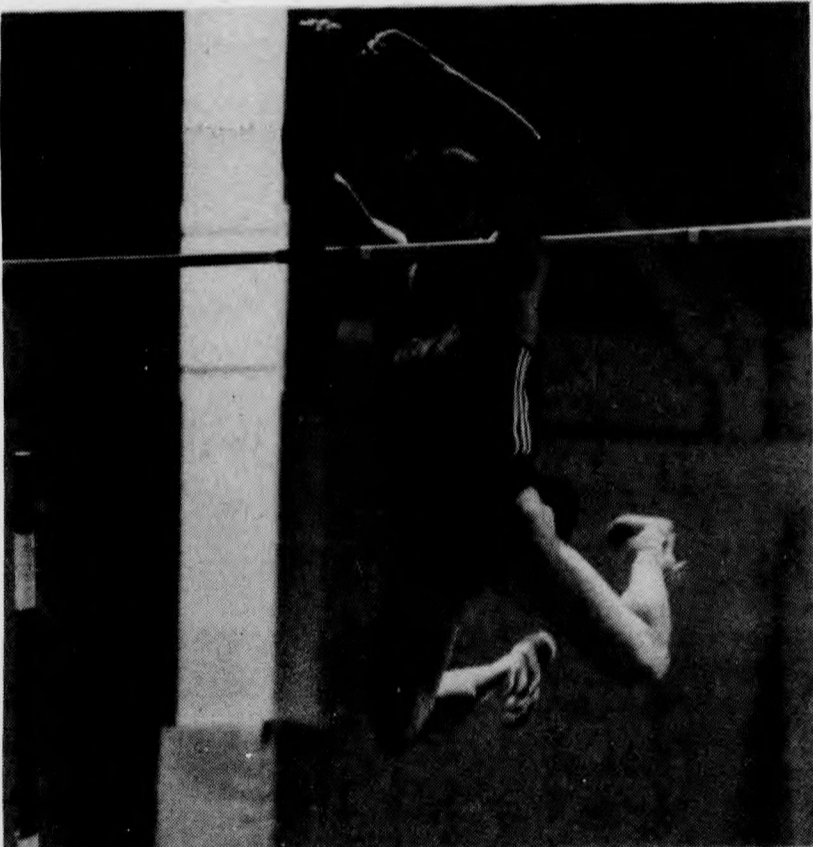
J.P. Kramer came fifth, with silvers on the floor and rings sections, and a bronze on the high-bar. Hood came sixth, winning in the vaulting horse, second in the pommel horse, and third place finishes in the parallel bars and the floor routine, tied in the last routine with teammate George Zivic.

Western's Mike Inglis, and Rob Doyle and Scott MacDonald from McMaster rounded out the top three individual spots. With York gymnasts holding fourth through sixth spots, that gave the All-Star team an Ontario flavour.

Voted as one of the coaches of the year, York's Masaaki Naosaki was pleased with the Yeomen's performance in Calgary. The level of competition was very high there, 70% of the gymnasts on the Canadian men's national team being present for their respective schools, Naosaki explained.

Including CIAU titles, this is the 17th national crown that the Yeomen have won over the years.

Added to their Ontario University Athletic Association and Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association titles, the wins of both the Yeomen and Yeowomen at the National University Gymnastics Cup add up to an almost flawless year for York's gymnasts.



DOUG WOOD: What else can you say about the guy? At the CIAU track and field championships at Winnipeg over the weekend, the York pole vaulter jumped 5.65 m, smashing the old CIAU mark of 5.26 m and tying the Commonwealth record photo by Mike Dod/the Manitoban

Wood reigns supreme at CI's

by Riccardo Sala

The Yeowomen track and field team came into the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union championships at Winnipeg definitely having known better days.

The Yeowomen were unable to crack the top ten in a tournament which saw Ontario champion Windsor not unexpectedly win the national title, followed by Manitoba and Western in second and third spot.

On the men's side, the Yeomen finished fifth, behind Manitoba and Windsor, which tied for the CIAU title, and Toronto and Alberta. The

Yeomen, with 35.5 points, were a half-point shy of fourth place Alberta.

The highlight of the weekend, not just for York, was Yeoman pole vaulter Doug Wood's 5.65 m jump. This equals the Commonwealth record, and the feat earned Wood most valuable honours for the National tournament.

Teammates Paul Just and Kevin Lake rounded out the medal spots for the pole vault.

In the long jump, York's Greg Britton was second, followed by

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JANINE RANKIN at the Academy on the high bars. The Olympic veteran and first year York gymnast established herself at Calgary as Canada's top female varsity gymnast. Her three individual gold medals made her the top competitor there and was the driving force behind the Yeowomen's first national crown since 1983-84. The Calgary triumphs were a great way to end off a season that saw both the Yeomen and Yeowomen take provincial AND national titles. There's still a lot of work though, as gymnasts like Rankin, and George Zivic and JP Kramer on the Yeomen prepare for their other role as National team members and a trip to Barcelona for the Olympics. photo by Clive Cohen