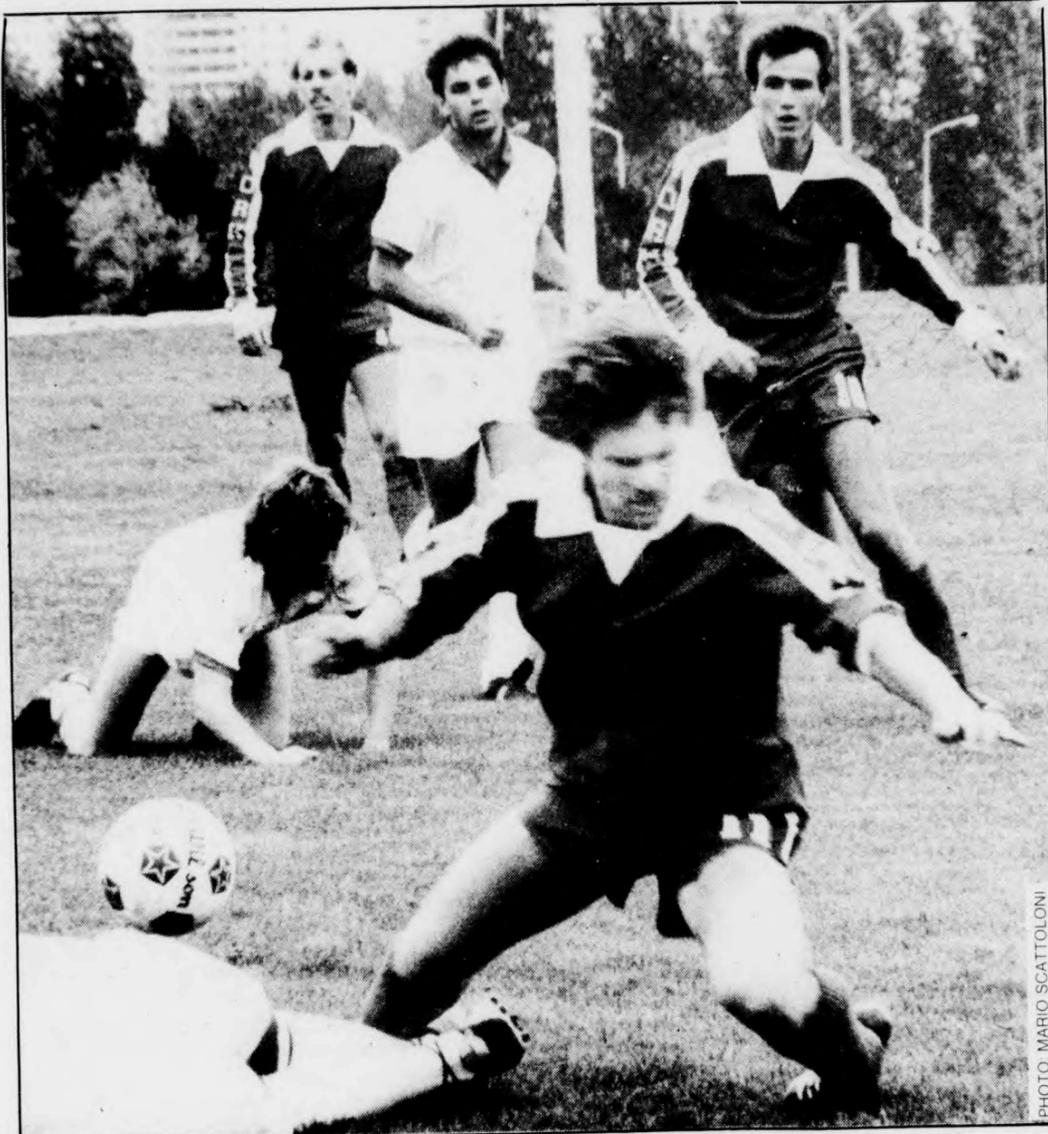


sports



The Yeomen battled to a 1-1 draw in their season opening match with Carleton.

Almost rans for York soccer in tough season opener

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

Coach Norman Crandles' soccer Yeomen aren't the finely-tuned scoring machine he had envisioned for the 1983 OUA season. Not yet anyway.

While it was evident from last Saturday's opening game—a 1-1 draw with the Carleton Ravens—that the York club will have to polish its scoring edge, Crandles expects his side will shake things up and get their act together.

"Personally, I thought we deserved to win," Crandles said. "A little crisper finishing around the goal area would have changed things around. But I'm happy we took a point off a team that beat us twice a year ago."

For a season opener, Saturday's match-up turned into a real physical, end-to-end battle. From the opening kick-off both teams went at each other tooth and nail, fighting for every inch of play on the field.

"It was a very hard-fought battle," Crandles commented. "There was lots of end-to-end action and some good hard tackling by both clubs."

Goalkeepers played a large role in the game's low-scoring outcome. York's Glen McNamara, the more severely tested backliner between the two goalers, was called upon numerous times to make spectacular stops, and left several Raven marksmen shaking their heads.

York drew first blood in the goaltender's battle when Nick Grecos' perfectly placed corner kick rippled the mesh behind Raven

goaler Martin Zander in the 17th minute of play.

Grecos, a defensive mid-fielder, who also serves as the Yeomen corner kick specialist, curled his shot all the way in from the left sideline to beat a surprised Zander to the top right corner of the net.

Some confusion surrounded Grecos' goal when it appeared that a Raven defender deflected the ball into the net, which would classify the score as an "own goal" (scored off own teammate). After some consultation, however, the referee awarded Grecos the goal.

"We work hard on corner kicks on practice," Crandles said. "It's important to capitalize on them because you've got to figure you're going to get a dozen or so corners in a game."

The Ravens struck back in the 50th minute of play on a nicely executed head shot off a free kick to the right of the penalty box area.

The Ravens' Domenic Scenna, who was awarded the free kick, hooked his shot around the Yeomen defensive wall, where attacker Vito Vessio, who had slipped into the goal crease unnoticed, headed the shot past a helpless Glen McNamara in the York net.

York bottled up the mid-field area after that with some aggressive checking and ball-hawking from defender Frank Lipa and defensive mid-fielder Dave Gardener.

McNamara bailed the Yeomen out through the middle third of the game when Carleton buzzed around the 18 foot line, keeping the ball in the York half of the field.

The Yeomen applied pressure on the Ravens over the final third of the match, but just couldn't seem to click around the net.

Crandles was pleased though, now with his team's inability to put the ball in the net, but with the fact that they held on for the draw against a tough team, employing a new offensively-oriented system of soccer that is just beginning to make a comeback in North America.

"The system is quite simple—it's designed to put goals in the net," Crandles explained. "The system most favored in North American soccer in the last 15 years has been the four defenders, four mid-fielders, two attackers system."

"It's definitely an effective defensive system, the point being to come away from every game assured of at least a tie because the system's number one priority is to stop the other team."

"If your team scores a goal then it's an added bonus," Crandles went on to say, "but it usually results in boring soccer."

"The new system, or system that everyone is swinging back to, concentrates five forwards in the attack zone (instead of two) and three defenders in the mid-field."

"In my mind, the best defense is attack. With two men up front you don't have much attack. The system is kind of revolutionary for younger players but I think our guys are showing they can handle it."

"Hey, we averaged .9 goals a game in '81 under the old system and 2.4 goals a game under the new one. I think it speaks for itself."

Dome stadium at York: still in the air

CRAIG DANIELS

If you went up to the average student on campus and popped a question like, "What do you think about the idea of a domed stadium for the University?" they'd probably say something like, "You can't be serious? For York?" After a moment or two of reflection though, they might be inclined to add, "But you know, there is a lot of unused land on campus."

That there is a lot of free acreage available at York is a fact that External Relations and University Development Vice-President George Bell is keenly aware of, and if you ask him, he will tell you that he's serious about a proposed dome for York.

In fact, if all goes well, York should have an application before the Macaulay Commission by the end of this month. (The Macaulay Commission is the study set up by Queen's Park to look into the feasibility of a dome for the Toronto area.)

While there are a number of reasons that make the idea appealing, there are also a few that leave just the hint of a questionable aftertaste.

The York proposal calls for a "Sportsplex" type of building that would provide facilities suitable for major league football, baseball, and hockey, along with a swimming pool, and racquet courts. All would be accommodated under one roof, in the north-west corner of the campus, near the present football field.

The University has long been in need of new and expanded athletic facilities. As Stuart Robbins, chairman of the Department of Physical Education, said, "Both the arena and football field desperately need to be upgraded, along with many other items in the Phys. Ed. Department and the University at large."

At first one would think that something slightly more humble than a 60,000 seat domed Sportsplex would suffice, especially in terms of cost, and to a lesser extent, practicality.

It seems however that the situation is a rags or riches problem. Vice-President Bell points out that there are no funds available now, and it is very unlikely that there will be any in the future with the present funding cutbacks for sports, or anything else for that matter. Bell's plans call for a dome on campus as a way of improving the existing playing areas while spending little, if any, of the University's money.

"The idea," Bell explains, "would be that the University would donate the land for a stadium in exchange for certain student and University user rights, along with a place on the board of the corporation that would eventually run it. It would be an arrangement similar to the time-sharing agreement already in existence with the Metro Toronto Track and Field Centre."

To its credit, the proposal does have certain merits that would combine to enhance life on campus. A major spinoff would be that the construction of a Rapid-Transit Line into the campus would become a priority, the benefits of which are obvious. Secondly, the school would have a certain amount of control over the kind of community that would sprout around campus—the area to the north of Steeles Ave. would be relatively safe from any further heavy industrial development.

The idea is also sound from the standpoint of location and access. There is unquestionably enough land on campus for the stadium itself. Bell is suggesting that the undeveloped land just north of Steeles be used for parking.

The population in the north end of Metro and in the surrounding towns of Markham, Thornhill, and Richmond Hill, are growing rapidly, which will give the proposed complex a central geographical location for those living in Metro and the surrounding area.

Also, the York location keeps it plainly in with the city, whose teams will grace its playing surfaces. This is opposed to a situation like the one that exists in Detroit, for example, where the Lions and Pistons both play in the Pontiac Silverdome, almost an hour away from Detroit itself.

A new highway just north of Steeles running East-West is already slated for development. This, and the proximity of Highway 400 should avoid the present traffic snarls encountered at Exhibition Stadium, snarls which will only become worse if the new stadium is built by the waterfront.

Finally, in concert with the Track Centre and the National Tennis Centre, both of which are housed on campus, a stadium would serve, Bell points out, to centralize things athletically in the city, making it easy to stage an event like the World University Games, for instance.

But there are also some problems that need to be addressed. There are those who will question the need for a dome at all, let alone one on the York campus. Scarborough Council has gone on record as viewing a dome as too expensive when other important social priorities need to be met, such as housing and food.

A site at York of course cannot enjoy any of the tradition or atmosphere of a waterfront location—necessary ingredients for the sports purist.

And from the fan's and the player's perspective, a dome has a way of turning sports synthetic and plastic, with a kind of processed sterility that characterizes so much of professional sport in the U.S.

Without a doubt, Exhibition Stadium is a bad compromise for football and baseball and a new stadium is needed as badly for the city as it is for the Yeomen. Considering the determination of Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey, who sees a dome as a status symbol, and the financial picture at York, it is unlikely that either will receive the facility they really need.

In the case of the city, a new natural grass outdoor ballpark, similar in concept to Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium, would make practical and economic sense (imagine Torontonians going indoors to watch baseball in July). Similarly, York teams do not require a 60,000 seat stadium. (A crowd of 5,000 would set all-time York attendance records, but imagine what a 5,000-strong crowd would look like in a 60,000 seat facility.)

continued on page 13