

Underfunding hampers wrestling team

In the sport of wrestling (the *real* sport, not Hulk Hogan and Company) a points system governs the scoring of a match. Special bonus points are awarded to a competitor who gains a position of advantage from a previously disadvantaged one. A 'reversal' of this type is a good metaphor to describe the fortunes of York's own wrestling programme.

Working with a small budget and inadequate facilities, the Yeomen wrestling team are evolving into a national contender. While other schools (the University of Toronto for example) have virtually given up the fight to maintain top wrestling programmes, York has met the unenviable task head on.

Almost all the credit for the upswing of York wrestling must go to third year head coach John Park. Dave Chambers, Director of Men's Varsity Athletics, makes no bones about it. "The wrestling programme is what it is today because of John Park," Chambers maintains.

And where does the programme stand? Presently the Yeomen are threatening to join Concordia and McMaster as the heavyweights of the Canadian inter-university sport. The York club boasts Paul Hughes, the defending CIAU champion in the 61 kg division and this past summer's gold medal winner in a similar weight class at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland.

It's hard to believe that Park and his athletes are accomplishing so much with so little. "Our main problem is the facility," claims Park. "We really don't have a very good place to train." The strain exercised on the Tait McKenzie Athletic Centre by York's growing athletic and recreation programmes has left the wrestling team with the use of a multi-purpose room clearly unsuited to their needs.

According to Park, the present training room has its defi-



MEL BROITMAN

nite shortcomings. "In all wrestling rooms the walls are padded to a height of six feet, but in our room there is no padding at all," he said. "With the blackboards and bare walls it is really quite dangerous. We've had a few people (get hurt)," Park added. Even the mats the Yeomen use are borrowed—from Newtonbrook High School.

Of course, as in most York sports, poor facilities is only half of the problem. Insufficient funding is the other. This year the wrestling team receives \$6,000 to operate. But as Park says, "We're on the bottom end of the scale (funding-wise). We would need around \$25,000 to properly run the programme."

But Park hasn't waited for the money to come to him. In a welcome display of initiative, he and his team have gone out and found alternative sources of revenue. "We do a lot of fundraising on our own," Park said. "We have bingos every Friday and we can make anywhere from \$800 to \$1500 a night."

Obviously wrestling's low profile has not helped in solidifying a substantial funding base from the University. Park is well aware of the difficulty in competing for spectators in an already over-saturated market. Wrestling is a top spectator

sport in places like Iowa and Saskatchewan but those locales have decidedly less to offer than Toronto.

Yet John Park doesn't feel that success should necessarily be dependent on fan support. As he states with a keen insight, "You can't justify sports at York by fan appeal. You judge on performance, just like music and fine arts programmes. An excellent recital doesn't usually attract too many people either."

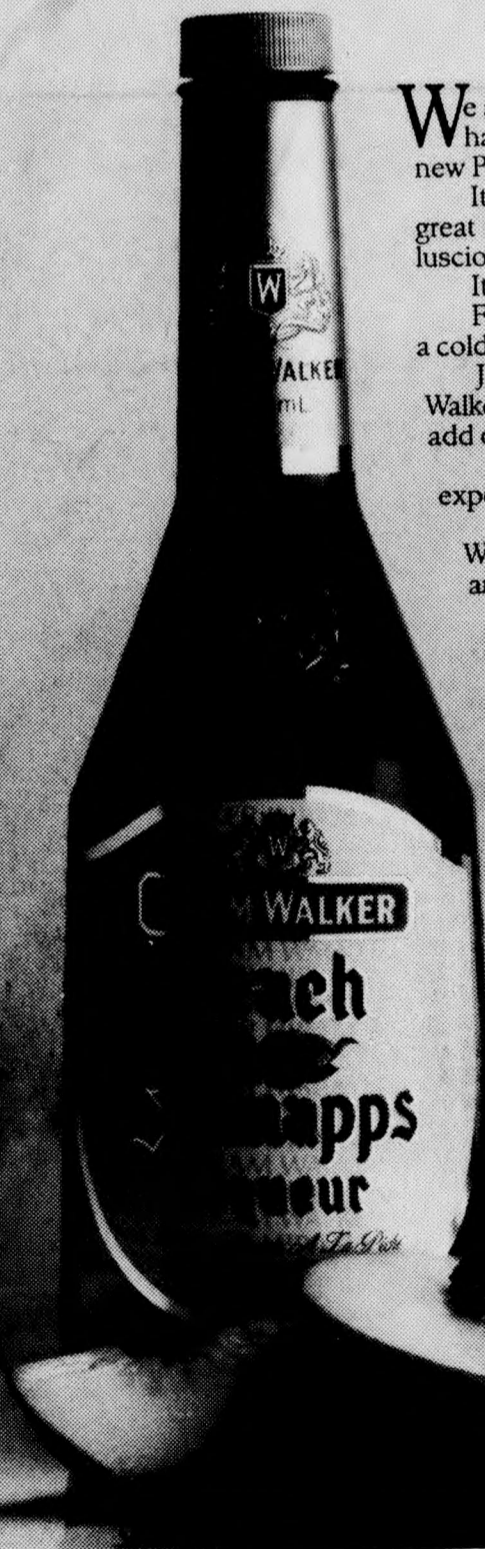
York University is extremely lucky to have John Park. His full-time status as coach is financially subsidized by Sport Canada and Sport Ontario. As a result, Park's presence at York, deems the campus a national training centre. Considering all the benefits the University receives from having Park as coach it's only proper that York reciprocates. A first step would be accommodating the wrestling team's dire need for training space.

Lately there has been talk of erecting a temporary facility to alleviate the problems of overcrowding at Tait. Of course talk is cheap, and buildings are not. And as Park says, he won't wait forever. "If this new facility doesn't come along, I'm taking the team off campus to train somewhere else. We train all year round and the athletes are very committed. Still, we would much prefer to be at York," Park states.

It would certainly be a shame if Park had to take his team off campus. His influence and input are desperately needed on campus.

York president Harry Arthurs speaks of his vision for the University, one where York will eventually be referred to as a remarkable example of an institution rising out of seemingly insurmountable difficulties to national prominence. Arthurs' vision may be 25 years away from being realized, but York's wrestling Yeomen are already making it happen.

From fuzzy thinking comes one peachy idea.



We at Hiram Walker are very happy to bring you our brand new Peach Schnapps.

It's a clever combination of the great taste of Schnapps with the luscious flavour of peaches.

It's great straight or all mixed up. For instance, you can easily make a cold Fuzzy Navel.

Just pour 2 ounces of Hiram Walker Peach Schnapps over ice and add orange juice to taste.

Or how about the chilling experience of a Peaches and Cream.

That's 1 1/2 ounces of Hiram Walker Peach Schnapps over ice and top it with milk or light cream.

Anyway you like it, our new Peach Schnapps has a cool, crisp, peachy taste.

And ideas like these don't just grow on trees.

New Hiram Walker Peach Schnapps.

Taste the Difference.

For some peachy recipe ideas write Hiram Walker Schnapps, P.O. Box 2343, Department P, Brampton, Ontario L6T 3Y9.

ATTENTION

Sports staff and photographers!

Important meeting Tuesday, November 11, 3 p.m.

COMING SOON

to serve York University



kinko's copies

65 Four Winds Drive
663-0042

TACHYON GRAPHICS

AND PRINT SERVICES

We Offer:

- Graphic design and Layout
- Paste-ups to camera-ready
- Photography
- File of York Photographs
- Copy writing and Editing

RESUMES \$1.00

(minimum of 75 copies) per printed page

Incl Grammar and Spelling check Design and Paste-up. Your choice of several paper stocks.

ONE-OF-A-KIND

Special Occasion Cards

Special **BASIC POSTERS**

8 1/2 x 11" \$20

8 1/2 x 14" \$25

Personalized **INVITATIONS**

TYPESETTING
From your **WORD PROCESSED DISKETTES**

We're on Campus!

101B Vanier College
or Telephone 736-2100 X2218