

The hockey's great . . . but where are the fans?

If you are a regular spectator at Yeomen hockey games, read no further. Why don't you flip the pages and peruse *Excalibur's* classifieds? However, if you have never seen the Yeomen in action, or are a very infrequent visitor to the Ice Palace—I urge you to read on.

It's becoming increasingly puzzling that the York hockey Yeomen are toiling in virtual obscurity in their own backyard. Out of a population base of nearly 50,000, including students, faculty, administration and support staff, less than 400 showed up at the arena last Friday night.

The attraction that over 99 percent of the York community failed to recognize was a match-up between two of this country's finest university hockey teams. For two and a half hours, the Yeomen and Laurier Golden Hawks provided as entertaining and exciting a version of *our* game of shinny found anywhere.

Lisa Britton, York's athletic promotions officer, is sincerely stumped when queried about the lack of fan support. "I honestly don't know," says Britton. "The information is available and if people have the slightest bit of interest in sports you would think they'd be there, or at least find out about it."

It's not as if the product (Yeomen hockey) isn't marketable. The already excellent calibre of play in the entire league (OUAA) is on the rise, and this year's Yeomen possess a great deal of the talented individuals on display. No less than 10 Yeomen were chosen to face-off against Canada's Olympic team in a recent series of highly competitive exhibition games featuring the OUAA all-stars. The OUAA coach was none other than York's own Dave Chambers. Chambers is one of the top hockey minds in Canada and is respected internationally as a



MEL BROITMAN

leader in the field.

This year's OUAA standings are also another selling point. Five teams—York, Western, Laurier, Waterloo and Toronto are all bunched up at the top. The natural rivalries that have been created for York fans—games against Western, Laurier and, of course, York-Toronto—ought to stimulate fan interest by themselves.

From personal experience, I have come to realize that many potential Yeomen hockey fans need only to see *one* game to be won over. York Economics Professor John Ridpath claims that from the first game he witnessed last year, he was hooked. "I keep telling my class that it's the best hockey they can see outside of the NHL," says Ridpath.

Malcolm Ranson, the Secretary of the University, is an ardent supporter of the York puckmen. "I think it's the best hockey in Toronto, and that includes the Leafs," states Ranson. "They (the Yeomen) play with more intensity than any other hockey in town."

Why, then, is the Ice Palace not selling out for York home games? Perhaps the rink is the problem. Yet complaints of its inadequacies are not always justified. Despite the coolish

temperatures and lack of quality seating, the arena still offers a quaint and cozy atmosphere. When the building is full, as it has been for a number of playoff games, there is not a more exhilarating place to watch a hockey game.

It has also crossed my mind that the cultural make-up of York may not foster an absorbing preoccupation with hockey. But a simple walk through Central Square will still present several social circles locked in heated debate over the Leaf's Stanley Cup chances. And while I wish Ballard and the boys in blue no malice, I maintain that our Yeomen are more entertaining than the often listless Leafs. It's a shame that more of my hockey brethren have never even considered the Yeomen option.

Sadly, I would imagine that most of the hockey aficionados at York would rather put their feet up on the sofa and watch the game they love on a box. While I admit that tickets for the Gardens are hard to come by, and extremely over-priced, those living-room junkies miss out on the 'real' thing. Anyone can get a ticket to a Yeomen game, and the two bucks up front won't severely puncture the pocketbook. Everyone (and I mean *anyone*) I've spoken to has found the entertainment value second to none.

Common sense and awareness would dictate sellouts for most Yeomen home games. Then again, as Tom Graham, York's Facilities Co-ordinator aptly states, "I just think that it's a problem of a general apathy that exists here." Maybe I'm just too subjective when it comes to Yeomen hockey. But when I can easily count the number of fans at a game in which our national sporting heritage is reaching for greater heights, it's much more than just a reflection of apathy—it's pathetic.

INTRAMURAL ROUND-UP

TORCH HOCKEY RESULTS

FINAL
GAME #1 BETHUNE 2 FOUNDERS 0
GAME #2 BETHUNE 2 FOUNDERS 3 (O.T.)
GAME #3 BETHUNE 5 FOUNDERS 3

FINAL FOUR

1st BETHUNE
2nd FOUNDERS
3rd CALUMET
4th GLENDON

TORCH BASKETBALL FINALISTS

MEN: BETHUNE VS OSGOODE
WOMEN: BETHUNE VS FOUNDERS
-to be decided this week

MENS VOLLEYBALL

FINAL
1st. FOUNDERS
2nd. STONG

CURLING

FINAL
1st. MAC
2nd. BETHUNE
3rd. FOUNDERS
4th. WINTERS

THEME CONTEST

Next week
Excalibur will be
announcing the
winning entry.

York spikers prepare for Blues

By CHRISTINE GOMES

Usually, the York Yeomen and the University of Toronto Blues are vicious opponents when they meet together on a volleyball court. But both teams turned their attention away from each others' throats for a little while, when they teamed together to face Western and Waterloo at the East/West Challenge held at the Tait McKenzie Gym.

The four team competition allowed the best of the east and the best of the west to test each other before the OUAA playoffs which commence next month.

The Yeomen came into this competition the same way the previous east/west competition last October involving these same four teams—with optimism. Unfortunately, the Yeomen came out of the meet the same way they did last year—losing

both matches.

York's first match against Western was a see-saw battle with both teams trading games until Western eventually took the match in five games.

Due to U of T's unexpected loss at the hands of a fired up Waterloo team, the Yeomen and the Blues met for the consolation title. U of T continued their season long shutout over York by punishing the Yeomen in three straight games.

Coach Wally Dyba said that "the first match (against Western) was a long and close two hour match and then we had to come right back and play U of T. It was visible we came out flat."

U of T, presently ranked fifth in the country, wasn't suppose to lose to Waterloo who are ranked ninth. "We weren't prepared to play U of T," Dyba said. "U of T was dis-

gusted at losing to Waterloo so they were a little motivated and psyched up and they put the boots to us."

The final match of the day wound up with only the west participating as Waterloo blanked Western three games to none. Waterloo leads the west division with a record of 7-1 their only loss coming at the hands of the Mustangs, who are 6-2 for the season.

Coincidentally, York's only loss was to U of T earlier this season to leave them with a record of 8-1 to lead the east and the league. The blues get a chance to improve their clean slate to 8-0 and move into first along with York when the two teams meet this week.

"The Blues are sophisticated players who play a sophisticated game and we have to concentrate a fair bit to understand their type of offence," Dyba said.

Track and Field team show their colours at Windsor Invitational

By DAVID BUNDAS

The York track and field team took their show on the road over the weekend participating in the Windsor Invitational. A total of three women and nine men have qualified for the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union finals from York.

Here is a list of some of the more impressive results by York athletes: Anthony Miglietta set a new meet record in the long jump with an impressive first place leap of 7.08 m.; The men's 4 x 200 m. relay team came in third with a time of 1:31:21 (Louis DePaoli, Richard Hislop, Nigel Hunte, and Don McGregor).

Nigel Hunte also came in third in the 300 m. race in a time of 36.17 and Walter Hauer jumped 4.35 m. in the pole vault event for third place. The women were paced by France Gareau's victory in the 300 m. with a time of 39.60; Lisa Mayes (the sister of this year's rookie of the year in the National Football conference) won the long jump event with a winning leap of 5.74 m. and took home second place in the 60 m. hurdles in a time of 8.98 seconds. Hester Westenberg came in second behind Mayes in the long jump at 5.70 m. and in third behind Mayes in the 60 m. hurdles with a time of 9.02 seconds.

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