

Hockey Yeomen: the unranked champions

Beating Laurier: sweet revenge

By "HOWIE" MARR

They may have lost their last six battles to the Laurier Golden Hawks, but when the war ended the York Yeomen emerged with their second straight CIAU title and their third in the last five years.

The Hawks had shutout the Yeomen 3-0 just last week to capture the OUA title. In their Central division final the Hawks defeated York in two straight games. During the regular season Laurier held the advantage two games to one. But with 4,000-plus fans at Varsity Stadium and a national television audience, the Yeomen emerged victorious with a convincing 5-2 victory Saturday afternoon.

"We were thinking about the last six losses and hoping the law of averages would catch up with them here," said York coach Graham Wise.

"We definitely surprised a few people," said Greg Rolston, who was selected player of the game and a tournament all-star. "We never played the way we could. Tonight we showed them what we could do."

"We knew we had to get a couple of quick goals because they play well when they're ahead. We took advantage of a couple of breaks and then we buried them."

York's first goal came two minutes into the game when Rolston scored from Kent Brimmer. The key to the goal, however, was Guy Girouard who made a diving slide to keep the puck in the Laurier zone.

York stung Laurier again some 30 seconds later when Luciano Fagioli stole the puck from a Laurier defender and beat goalie Rob Dopson on a move to the left.

The Yeomen upped the score to 3-0 on a Bill Maguire power-play goal. Maguire was fed a perfect pass from Rolston as he moved in from his point position to bury the puck over Dopson's shoulder.

"I was just trying to hit the net," admitted Maguire.

The Hawks scored one before the first was over when Brent Bywater beat Mark Applewhaite from the slot during a Laurier power play.

The gap was closed to one on a short-handed goal by Dan Rintche

in the second period. Rintche was allowed to walk out from behind the net for a shot at Applewhaite, which the netminder saved. But Rintche finally scored after three or four unmoled pokes at the rebound.

With the score 3-2 it was time again for the Mark Applewhaite show to take over, as the tournament MVP stoned the Hawks long enough for the Yeomen to grab two insurance goals in the third.

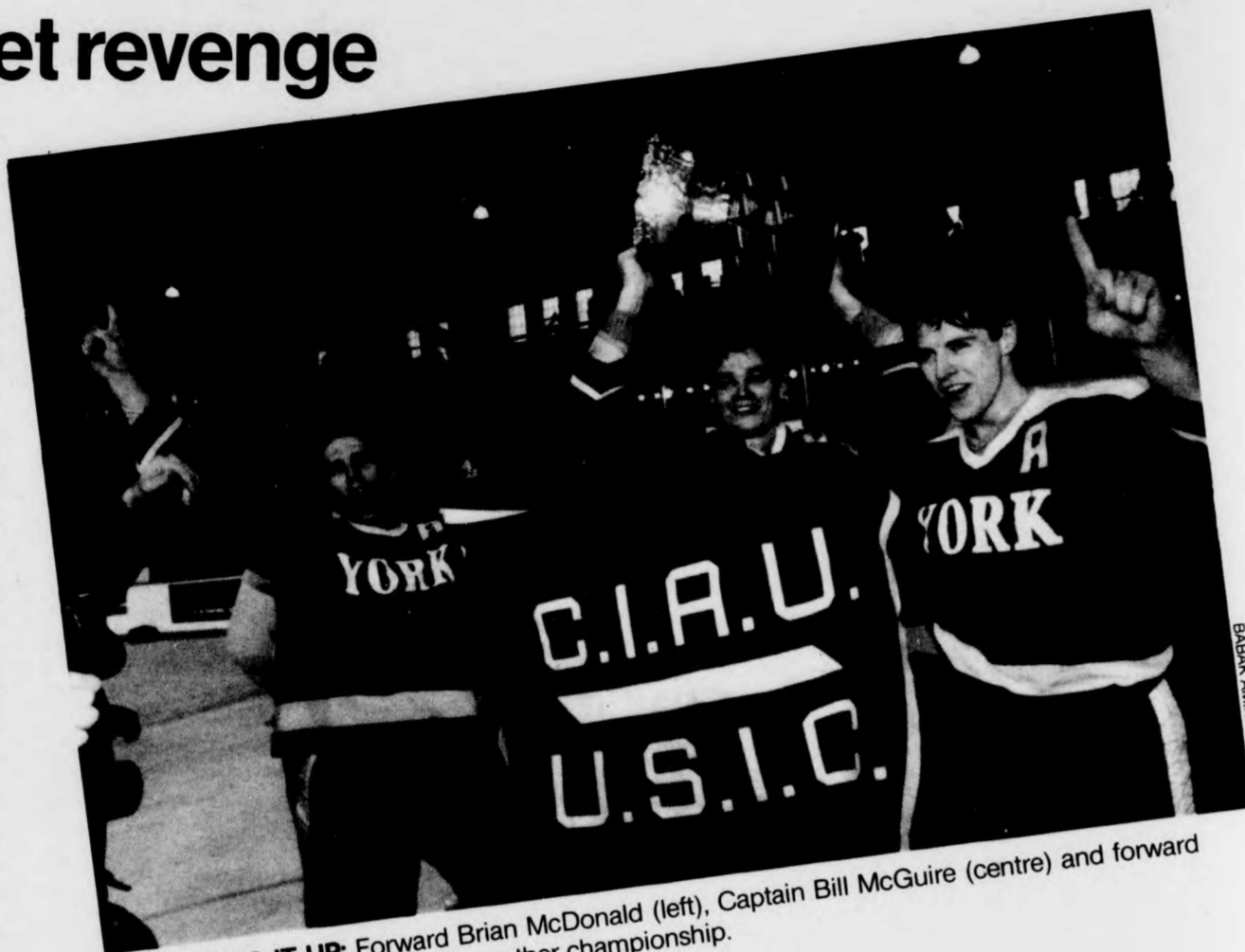
"It was a couple of saves that Mark made that just turned the game around," said Maguire. "Two guys on Laurier were laughing and shaking their heads after he stopped them."

"Mark's put on a goaltending clinic here for five years."

"I did feel a lot of pressure," said Applewhaite. "The guys rely a lot on me, but we do have a strong team."

York scored when it counted — including a Curtis Coyne insurance goal at the beginning of the third. Coyne fought off a check from the face-off circle and drove to the net to make it 4-2.

Brian MacDonald, who had returned to action last week after suffering a broken ankle, closed out the scoring.



WHOOPING IT UP: Forward Brian McDonald (left), Captain Bill McGuire (centre) and forward Kent Brimmer (right) celebrate another championship.

Rolston ready to hang up uniform

By JAMES HOGGETT

It was one helluva way to end a season and a career.

For veteran Yeoman forward Greg Rolston, last weekend's National final was an appropriate climax to a stellar swan-song season. And what a season it was. York's top goal scorer came through with a goal and two assists to lead the Yeomen past Laurier in the CIAU championship final.

For his efforts, Rolston was awarded game MVP in Saturday's final and selected to the tournament all-star team, along with his teammate Mark Applewhaite.

"I'm really glad I had the kind of game that I played," Rolston said. "It was definitely a thrill and an honour to be selected game MVP and to the tournament all-star team. It was a great way to end a career."

"He (Rolston) is a very intense competitor," said fellow teammate Bill Maguire. "The fact that he can come up with the big game,



TOP SCORER Greg Rolston

shows the type of player that he is."

Rolston, a four-year veteran of the Yeomen, was born and raised in Saginaw Michigan.

He started playing hockey in high school and played in a Detroit league, which according to Rolston, is where the best

hockey in the United States is played.

After high school, Rolston came to Toronto and played for the Toronto Marlboros during the 1984-85 season. At the end of the '85 season Rolston enrolled at York in order to pursue a degree in economics and play for the Yeomen.

"Greg has been a very excellent addition to our hockey programme," said coach Graham Wise. "He's always been a player who has come through when we needed him."

In the last two years, Rolston has been invited to two NHL training camps. Last year he attended the St. Louis Blues training camp, where he was a late cut. Instead of remaining in the St. Louis farm system, the 6', 200 lb. winger decided to head back to York to finish his education. This year, he attended the training camp of the Quebec Nordiques, where he met similar results.

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Mark Applewhaite: York's perennial MVP shines bright

By MORLEY CONN

Leading the hockey Yeomen to their third CIAU National Championship in five years was business as usual for York's All-Star goaltender, Mark Applewhaite.

"When it comes down to crunch time, you've got to bite the bullet," said Applewhaite.

In his five-year career with the Yeomen the 24-year-old netminder has shown a great tendency to shine, come playoff time.

As a rookie on the 1984-85 CIAU championship team, Applewhaite was chosen as a tournament all-star. In '85-'86, he nabbed OUA playoff MVP and CIAU tournament all-star in last year's second championship. He also played an important role in York's OUA championships of the past four seasons.

"Mark comes ready to play in those types of games," stated York coach Graham Wise.

But this year — his last with the Yeomen — Applewhaite had one of his best playoffs ever, earning CIAU tournament MVP and CIAU first team all-star selections as the tournament's best goalie.

"Over the whole season you work

towards the playoffs where you've got to perform at your best," explained Applewhaite.

In York's semi-final match last Thursday against the Alberta Golden Bears, Applewhaite stopped an incredible 51 shots in a 4-3 double OT win. In Saturday's final, Applewhaite's game was virtually flawless as he put aside 37 shots.

"Applewhaite was incredible tonight, the guy's a rock!" exclaimed York fan Andrew Murray, a second year phys. ed. student.

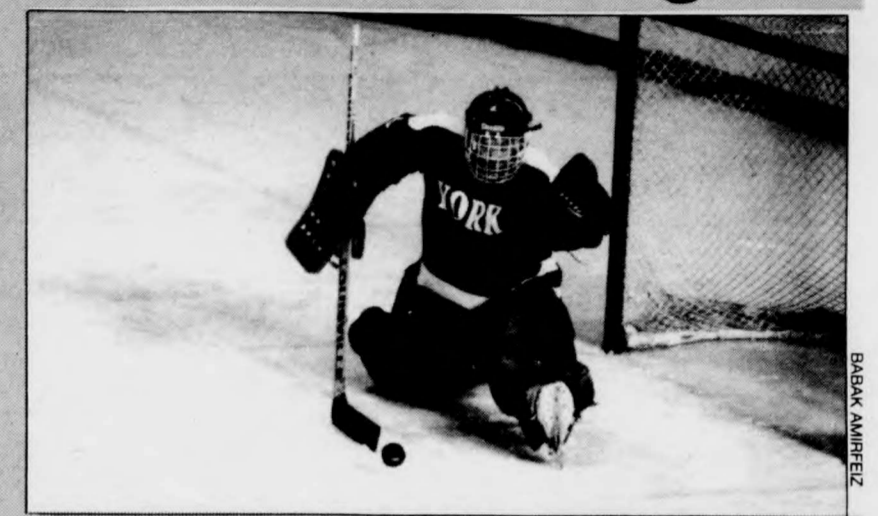
One particular play that typified his stellar performance occurred in the second period with the Hawks on the power play and Laurier's sharpshooter, Greg Puhalski parked on the far side of York's net. A cross-ice pass to Puhalski was off its mark, but the Golden Hawk recovered the puck and flipped it into the upstairs corner of the open net.

The apparent tying goal for Laurier was pulled out of the air by Applewhaite for a save that can only be described as 'unreal.' "I came across the net and did the butterfly," Applewhaite said. "I was just so into the game, concentration had a lot to do with my play."

Laurier's big guns on the point repeatedly tested Applewhaite with long shots while Hawk forwards jammed up the crease. In the OUA, play is blown dead when an opposing player enters the crease, but in the Nationals this rule does not apply. As a result, Applewhaite had to contend with opposing forwards trying to shake him up by backing in on top of him. "They'll run at me to intimidate, but things like that don't bother me."

Applewhaite was born in Georgetown, Guinea and moved to Canada with his family at the age of four. Currently living in Scarborough, the York goalkeeper is completing a BA in Economics and Business with plans to enter a graduate business administration programme at York next fall. But the chance to play in the NHL remains a strong possibility, especially after this year's final.

"I think he has the ability to play at a higher level," said York Coach Graham Wise. Applewhaite has attended two Washington Capitals training camps and showed a lot of potential this past September, except for failing the medical. A recurring knee injury from the beginning of



THE GREAT WALL: Goalie Mark Applewhaite

last year was responsible, although after arthroscopic surgery and numerous examinations the exact problem was never diagnosed.

In attendance at the final were a number of NHL scouts, including the Maple Leafs' Johnny Bower, and already a few teams have contacted Applewhaite expressing their interest.

Applewhaite credits the success of

the Yeomen to Wise. "Graham knows our system well and is a great coach to play under."

Unlike York teams of the past, this year's Yeomen were the underdogs. "It was tough! We've struggled all year, but the guys pulled together and showed a lot of poise," said Applewhaite. "Winning it this year was the sweetest of all because everybody wrote us off."

Game 1: beating top ranked Alberta

By "HOWIE" MARR

Number one rankings mean nothing to the York Yeomen.

The Alberta Golden Bears found that out the hard way as they were defeated 4-3 in double overtime against the York Yeomen Thursday night at Varsity Arena. Last week at the Queen's Cup tournament in St. Catharines, it was the previously top-ranked Trois-Rivières Patriotes who were the victims of York's march to the national championship in a 5-4 loss.

Danny Resko secured the winner for York at 2:08 of the second overtime period to move the Yeomen into the final against the Laurier Golden Hawks, who had beaten the Moncton Aigles Bleus 8-4.

"Kevin Bonello shot it in — Curtis [Coyne] and I were just trying to jam the net, hoping to make something happen," said Resko, who joined the team in the middle of the season after a four-year stint in the OHL with the Sudbury Wolves.

"The replay said I tipped it in," added Resko.

But the real story for York was the play of five-year veteran netminder Mark Applewhaite, who stopped 51

of 54 Bear shots to keep York in the game.

"Mark made some great saves for us in the second," said York coach Graham Wise. "He's played some great games for us in the past; he obviously came up big for us tonight."

But Applewhaite isn't taking all the credit for the win. "The team played well and came up with the goals when they had to," said a weary Applewhaite.

Greg Rolston opened the scoring on the power play with Alberta's Stacey Wakabayashi in the box for tripping. But the 1-0 lead quickly evaporated as the Golden Bears tied the game on their own power play just over a minute later.

With Greg Roberts in the box for tripping, Stacey Wakabayashi scored his first of three power-play goals on a shot five feet in front of the net that beat Applewhaite between the legs.

Twenty-five seconds later Ian Ferguson restored York's lead on a goal assisted by Tod Dungey and Kent Brimmer.

The Yeomen carried the momentum into the second and were

rewarded with a Luciano Fagioli goal 57 seconds into the period. A breaking Fagioli fought off a check from Ian Herbers and put the puck behind Alberta goalie John Krill to make it 3-1.

The Yeomen had a golden opportunity to add to their lead when Rolston picked up the puck in the slot and appeared to have a sure goal. But the net was pulled off the magnets by Alan Tarasuk, who received a two-minute delay of game penalty for the infraction.

The Bears killed off Tarasuk's penalty and responded with two more Wakabayashi goals to knot the score at three before the second was over.

Wakabayashi's second of the night — to make it 3-2 — came on a disputed goal. With York's Doug McCarthy sprawled on the ground on top of the puck, play appeared dead. But the referee didn't blow the whistle, and when the puck came loose Wakabayashi put it by Applewhaite, who was out of position to make the save.

Wakabayashi scored his third power-play goal with Mike Futa in the box for interference.



Photographs by:
BABAK AMIRFEIZ
and
ANDRE SOUROUJON

FOLLOWING-UP ON THE PLAY: Forward Kevin Bonello gets cross-checked into Golden Bear goalie John Krill during a third period jam-up.



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Randy Ugolini
& Brian Krog