

SPORTS

Victory march in the planning stages for gridiron Yeomen

MARK ZWOL

Football--in March?

Despite soggy outdoor conditions on the northwest corner of the campus, head coach Dave Pickett has his grid iron Yeomen pacing through the rigours of an all-out practice indoors--at the Track complex.

"Sure, it's not the same as being outdoors, but you can pass a football around in there without too much problems," Pickett said.

Aside from the regular crowd of joggers and mini-gym hangers-on, the Yeomen "take to the field" (actually, it's the infield area of the track) Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Pickett has assembled approximately 45 veterans and rookies for the workouts, and with the aid of his assistant coaching staff, can run any number of drills and scrimmages

without worry of being cramped for space.

"We are emphasizing speed and flexibility in these workouts," Pickett explained. "We can work with the football, but we get in a lot of drills--working without the football."

Last year a memory

For all those die-hard red and white fans, the 1982 Yeomen football campaign is a receding memory, gone the same way as hopes for the far-off '83 season.

As in previous years, 1982 promised a feat never before accomplished in York's brief 11-year football history--a playoff berth.

But the Yeomen finished the season at a disappointing 2-5, duplicating their net result for the

previous '81 season.

Yeomen fans had little to cheer about in '82, save the annual York-U of T brawl down at Varsity Stadium, which seems to attract the most boisterous cross-section of the football-loving public.

However, this year's version of the red and white seems to have been kicked off with a greater enthusiasm than others, with a focus on gritty determination thanks to these early-bird workouts.

"Most of the players spend a lot of time on weight-lifting programs over at the complex anyways, so these workouts fit in nicely. It gives them a more rounded-off season programme," Pickett explained.

The Yeomen will have a jump on the rest of the teams in the OUAA, who have recently been granted the right to hold spring training

workouts, commencing in May.

"We've incorporated a new offense and defence into our playbook and these workouts will give the players a chance to prepare for the May camp. We'll probably be the most prepared team in Canada by next fall," Pickett said.

Hopkins missed

But come the warm weather in May, the Yeomen's line-up card will be minus a familiar stalwart in the line-backing corps--Marc Hopkins.

Hopkins was selected by the Montreal Concordes in the second round of the CFL's amateur draft last January. He's busy prepping his 40-yard 4.6-second 230-pound frame for opposing would-be long gainer proteges in the CFL.

But Pickett didn't let graduation

deplete him ranks, having recently recruited highly eye-balled high-school licks K.C. Cotter and Terry Douglas to the York football programme.

Cotter is a healthy 6-foot 2-inch, 220-pound line-backer who spent the '82 season in a Simon Fraser uniform while Douglas is a slick running back from Scarborough.

"It's been a little difficult for them to make all the workouts because of academic priorities," Pickett added, "but they've looked pretty good so far."

In fact, Pickett is high on all his prospects this year, having a nucleus of 54 players returning as opposed to last year's rookie-laden squad which saw as many as 14 freshmen on the field for an opening kick-off.

"Last year we had a young team, and it's safe to say we were expecting to do better than we showed," Pickett added.

"We sat down when it was all over and had a sort of heart to heart talk and came up with this incredible desire to win which, I think, is showing up at these indoor sessions. We now look forward to May instead of September."



MARK ZWOL

Canada's Queen of treds didn't choose bumpy road to a world championship

MARK ZWOL

After posting world record times, wearing the gold at the 1982 Commonwealth Games, and five years of relentless competition and practise, Angela Taylor has seen an encyclopedia's worth of whits and whimsies from around the world.

But there are entries in those metres of experience that she'd like to forget.

With the aid of so many recent headlines, Taylor's confrontation with U of T sprinter Angella Bailey over an alleged steroid allocation, has left the memories of some of her finer accomplishments somewhat jaded.

The "incident" occurred at the York Invitational track meet last January after Bailey had edged Taylor out in the final heat of the 60m dash. While returning to the warm-up area, Bailey taunted Taylor and teammate/friend Molly Killingbeck with "you're over the hill", and she accused the York runners of using steroids to "keep up". The exchange resulted in a brief skirmish between Taylor and Bailey, which was immediately blown up into a war of sorts.

"I was just protecting a friend," Taylor explained. "I was sick and tired of hearing it. Since 1980 that's all I've been hearing and I just didn't want to hear it anymore. I don't even know why she would start something like that--she beat me in the 60m but she's not even close in the 100m and 200m events."

In fact, the billed "rivalry between the two Angel(l)as" never really existed for Taylor. "I have no rivalry with Angella Bailey," Taylor said. "I don't worry about her or her 11.20 in the 100m. She has yet to run 11.00 seconds so I'm not concerned with anything she does."

Bad reflection on Canada

The alleged use of drugs (any user of a long list of substances--from allergens to aspirins--can be banned from competition) seems to go with the territory for Canada's number one female sprinter.

"It reflects a Canadian mentality," Taylor said. "The mediocre athletes will never give you a break, they'll always bad mouth anything you do that

is positive. They think that because we're Canadians that we can't come up with the times--that we must be taking drugs. Really it's just that they aren't prepared to work for it."

Canada's unique tendency to shoot itself down, on the track as well as in Ottawa, makes matters worse for those involved in climbing the ladder to a championship title.

York track coach, John Millar, shakes his head. "That's (the drug accusations) the big trouble up here," Millar said. "When someone like Angela does well, no one is there to congratulate them--they look for ways to shoot them down or they'll pop in drug charges. No one has achieved the results Angela has and things will be sad because she works out three times as hard as anyone in Canada right now."

However, leaving things stirred in the wake of her successes is nothing new to Angela Taylor. She came out of high school in 1978 ranked seventh in the world, and by her first year at York in 1980, she had dethroned Angella Bailey as Canada's queen of the treds.

She ran times at or better than 11.00 seconds in the 100 metres, and she turned in a pair of world record times in the 200m and 300m events in 1980.

Taylor is now ranked number four in the world, and only three-tenths of a second separate her from the number one perch--held by her closest competitor, Evelyn Etcher of East Germany.

"Evelyn ran 11:20's in Germany and 11:30's outside. Comparatively speaking, I beat her in the 200 metres in Japan last year. But Elizabeth Ashford and Kim Gour have run 10.96's and 10.97's, so they'll be very competitive as well," Taylor commented.

Taylor should get her chance to set the record books straight at the world track and field championships in Helsinki this July. In the meantime she attends Winter/Summer courses at York while waiting for the opening of the outdoor season.

Bumpy indoor season

An all too familiar circumstance tainted her indoor season at York this year--a new ruling in the CIAU regulations determining the eligibility for varsity athletes scratched her from participation in the OUAA and CIAU championships.

Her current enrollment in the Winter/Summer programme, making her eligible for competition (after a year's absence in '82), was wiped out by the addition of a relatively impossible clause specifically outlining requirements for all varsity athletes to have completed three full academic courses for the competitive year.

"It's very funny that they should do this, but it is also very frustrating," Taylor mused. "Sometimes I wish somebody would go up and tell them how stupid the ruling is, but rules are rules."

Taylor plans to continue her studies, but with the 1984 Olympics coming up, she will undoubtedly focus her attentions on training. "It's always been my dream to win at the Olympics," she says, and with a will to win that is second nature to her, one cannot help but think Taylor will be second to none.

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