

Turnovers costly as York continues its losing ways on Nobby day

Disappointed fans watch Yeomen lose a close one

by Rob Seaman

On Saturday afternoon, the York Yeomen football team battled the Windsor Lancers in a match that could almost be dubbed the miracle of "I know Nobby day." Almost, but not quite.

Searching for their first win in four seasons, the Yeomen came painfully close to ending their losing streak in this entertaining, see-saw clash, finally bowing 27-24 to the Lancers.



Perhaps inspired by ex-coach and Canadian Football League legend Nobby Wirkowski's ceremonial first pass, the Yeomen jumped out to an early lead. Nobby had claimed that the team had shown improvement in the first two games of the season, and on their opening possession they were able to move into field goal range. The kick was wide left however, and the Yeomen settled for a single point.

Luck also seemed to be on York's side early on. Windsor

running back Mike Scratch flew through a gaping hole in the Yeomen defensive line for a spectacular 44 yard touchdown run, only to have it called back because of a holding penalty. Two plays later Windsor was forced to punt.

York regained possession and drove the ball 83 yards for the major score. The finishing touch was a 31 yard pass from QB Parry Apostolopoulos to PJ Edgeworth, who made a frantic diving catch in the end zone. With the successful convert, the York fans cheered wildly as their team built up a one point lead.

Windsor quickly retaliated with two touchdowns of their own. The second was set up by a 28 yard pass and run play from Lancer's QB Rick Lachance to Troy Holmes. Holmes broke several tackles until finally he was stopped at the York four yard line. Scratch, who had 119 yards rushing on the day, brought it in on the next play. With the score now 14-8 in the Lancer's favour, the York fans quieted noticeably.

The Yeomen weren't done yet. Apostolopoulos closed another long drive, this one 78 yards, with a 22 yard pass to Stan Korda. With the York fans cheering enthusiastically, York headed to the Locker room at the half with a 15-14 lead.

The Yeomen added a field goal halfway through the third quarter to increase their lead to four points, but that's when the roof caved in.

After falling behind 20-18 (Windsor had missed a two point

convert after their third touch down) the Yeomen began yet another strong drive, completing several second down and long situations. They had driven well within field goal range when disaster struck. Apostolopoulos and running back Neil Denton got confused on a hand off, and the ball popped free. When the pile cleared, Windsor had the ball and the Yeomen and York fans alike seemed to lose hope.

Windsor pushed the Yeomen defense the length of the field and widened their lead with a controversial touchdown on third and goal from the York one yard line. Lachance kept the ball on a quarterback sneak, but the Yeomen defensive line appeared to have stopped him cold. The referee signalled that the ball had covered the plain of the goal line, and the lead now stood at eight.

With less than two minutes left, York did get another touchdown, a nice 3rd down play, but it was a matter of too little too late, as Windsor added a single point to finish the game 27-24 victors.

The York fans left quietly, wet and dejected, but having seen a great football game. In what must have been the Yeomen's best effort in recent memory, the team seems to be pulling together nicely. They can only view this as a stepping stone and not just another loss. If they can compete for four quarters, a win may not be too far off in the future. The Yeomen play next weekend in London against the Western Mustangs

Yeomen football team loses their 27th in a row. But who's counting?

Yeomen on pace to set record of futility

by Josh Rubin

Just how bad are these guys, anyway?

By "guys" I am referring, in case you haven't already guessed, to York's football team, the Yeomen.

By bad, I'm referring to the Yeomen's 27 game regular season losing streak, currently the longest one still active in the country.

But, being curious, I wanted to find out if these guys were just mediocre-bad, or truly, spectacularly, record-holding kind of bad.

Unfortunately, for those few fans the Yeomen have left, it is much closer to the latter.

Since universities in this country first began playing organized football over 100 years ago, only two teams have ever had a longer regular season losing streak.

One of those teams was the squad from Waterloo, who from 1984 through 1989 were on the wrong side of the score thirty three times.

Because the OUAA operates on a seven game schedule and the Yeomen have already played three contests, the Warriors' national record is out of reach for York this season.

But the Warriors also hold the dubious OUAA standard for most consecutive winless seasons, with four, a record which the Yeomen could tie if they keep their unblemished record until the end of

this year.

The national record for consecutive 0-fer seasons is five, set by a hapless Acadia Axemen side between 1966 and 1970. The horrid Axemen also lost the first game of their 1971 campaign, but because the Atlantic conference plays just a six game schedule, the Axemen's total futility streak reached only 31 games, a streak which is nonetheless good for second spot on the all-time national list.

On the national level, then, it is the Axemen's 31 game mark which the Yeomen will have to content themselves with shooting for.

But there is another, higher purpose which the York gridiron squad can fulfill if they keep up their losing ways this year.

In far off Cheyney, Pennsylvania, the Cheyney University Wolves hold the longest active losing streak on the entire continent.

An NCAA Division II squad, the Wolves have lost 28 consecutive games, and in their three losses thus far this season, they have been outscored by a whopping total of 157-27, including their most recent setback, a 75-6 loss at the hands of Washington, D.C.'s Howard University.

Pathetic though their record may be, according to Mark Smith, a reporter with the Cheyney Record, the Wolves have a long and sometimes good gridiron history which includes

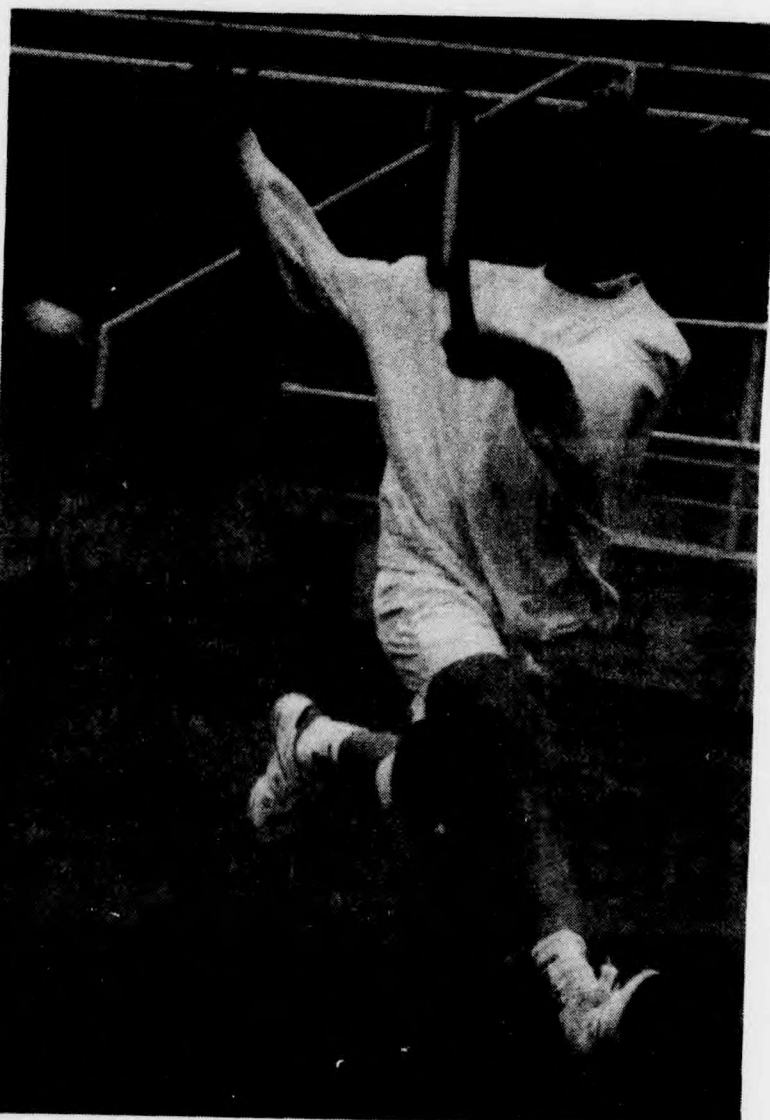
sending the likes of graduates Andre Waters and Jimmy Williams to the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles and Chicago Bears, respectively.

It is that tradition, says Smith, which actually gives the Wolves a shot at beating some smaller area rivals this season.

And if that happens, Yeomen fans, your team has a legitimate chance of taking over the continental leadership of shame from the Wolves this very season.

So next time you're there at a York game, shivering and wet in a mud-strewn Esther Shiner Stadium, take heart. You could be watching history happen.

NOTES: Tough as it may seem, there have actually been some squads worse than the Wolves and Waterloo. The NCAA mark for all divisions is held by Division III McAllister, Minnesota, which from 1974-79 went through a stretch where their record was an unbelievable record of 0-50. The record in Division IA (the top level of college football for our neighbours to the south), was set by Northwestern University between 1979 and 1982, when they went 0-34...your next chance to see the Yeomen in action is this year's edition of the Red and Blue Bowl, when they take on the hated UofT Blues at Varsity Stadium in a 7:00pm matchup on Thursday October 8.



Peter Bedard in action at the National Tennis Center this past weekend. York defeated Brock 7-0 and Western 4-3. The Yeowomen were also winners defeating UofT 9-0.

photo by Harry Rudolfs

York rules tennis courts

by Harry Rudolfs

York's women's and men's tennis teams romped to easy victories on the weekend. York Yeowomen trounced University of Toronto 9-0 while the Yeomen defeated Brock 7-0 and Western 4-3.

York's no. 1 position men's player Peter Bedard demolished Brad Haines of Brock 6-2, 6-0 and then rolled over Mark Sales of Western 6-0, 6-3. But the toughest of the men's matches was a two-and-a-half hour battle between Ben Woo, York's no. 3 position player, and Western's Ken Vandervelden. Woo prevailed 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 with the second set going to a 9-11 tie breaker.

The Yeomen were up 4-1 in their series against Western and narrowly lost their two doubles matches, which both went to tie breakers. Coach Eric Bojesen rested no. 1 Peter Bedard and No. 4 Glen Yeung in the final doubles.

Bojesen was ecstatic about his team's performance. "The women played very well and Ben Woo was outstanding," he said. "Western was the toughest team we've faced so far."

Coach Bojesen expects the defending champion Yeomen to finish first in the OUAA this year. "In the women's we're going to shoot for second. Both McMaster and Queen's are very strong," he said.

Bojesen attributes the success of York's tennis program to word of mouth and to a good academic program. "The academic program is attracting more people who play tennis," he said. "We have a good tennis program that is supported by the phys. ed. department and Tennis Canada provides us with good facilities."

The Yeowomen play at home Saturday October 3 at the National Tennis center. Game time is at 10:00 am.

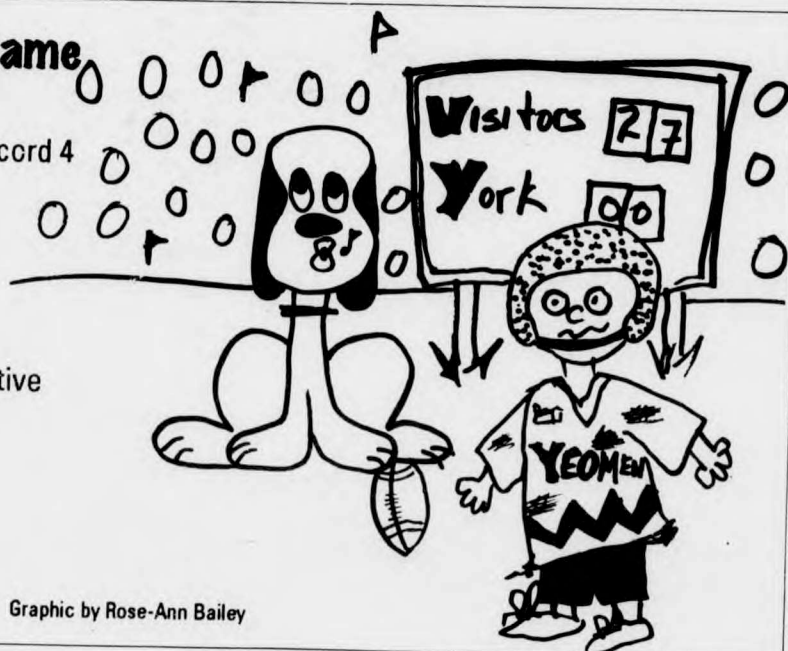
Milestones of shame

OUAA winless season record 4

Losses to go for York 4

First place CIAU consecutive losses 33

Losses to go for York 6



Graphic by Rose-Ann Bailey