

Ryerson still loses big—but not for long

By EDO VAN BELKOM

The Yeomen beat the Ryerson Rams last Sunday afternoon at the Moss Park Arena, blowing them out of the water by a score of 9-2. This result was predictable, almost a foregone conclusion, but according to Ryerson head coach Jim Cairns results like these will soon become a thing of the past. "There is no question about what we intend to do, we are on a three year program and we expect to make the playoffs next year."

Bold words from a coach whose team had a record of 0-24 last season, but before you start rolling on the floor in uncontrollable fits of laughter there are a few facts to be considered.

Next year the OUAA will be switching from its current format to an East-West structure that will allow a total of eight teams to make post season play instead of the current six. Rye High will need only to finish ahead of other perennial also rans as RMC and Queen's. But Cairns believes he can do even better than that and hopes "to give Laurentian a run for their money next year."

This optimism might seem a little premature

for a team that has had a drought of nine years in which the Rams have not won more than four games.

A large part of the problem in the past has been getting players to come out for the team. "The program at Ryerson over the last 10 years has been low key," Cairns said. "It was viewed as a program not worth anyone's while."

"To some extent it's still true but not to the same degree. There are only three or four players on campus this year who haven't come out to play."

Another problem that has kept high calibre hockey players away is the heavy workload students have at Ryerson. Each week a student spends between 28-30 hours in the classroom which does not include labs or homework. On top of this, varsity hockey players spend an extra 25 hours a week on playing hockey split between practice, off-ice training, classroom sessions and actual games.

If Cairns is successful in turning Ryerson hockey around it won't come as big a surprise as you might think. Cairns is the first full time coach at Ryerson and this enables him to spend most of his time on hockey. Cairns has the

freedom to allocate 75% of his time on hockey and 25% at his staff position of Physical facilities co-ordinator. Cairns' predecessor, Brian Jones was a full time faculty member and never had the time to actively recruit high calibre players which is an essential ingredient of any competitive OUAA team.

Cairns was hired in August of 1984 and as a result had no input into the personnel of the Rams 0-24 season. But this year Cairns is proud to say that all 15 rookies on the Rams roster this season are "Jr. B or better" in calibre.

The improvements are beginning to show with three victories and one tie this season in OUAA play to go along with two exhibition wins over the surprising Waterloo Warriors. Although Cairns admits that Warrior all-stars Peter Crouse and Steve Linsemen were not together in the Waterloo lineup for those games, he is still proud of the accomplishment.

Cairns is intent on keeping up the development of the program and with substantial financial backing from the institution for upgrading facilities, it might not be too long before the Rams lock horns with the Yeomen in the post season dash for the Queen's Cup.

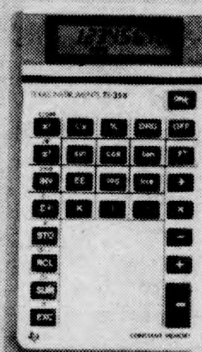
Fencers prepare for Invitational

The York Varsity fencing team was at the Carleton Invitational last weekend posting strong finishes in all three weapons. The men's foil and epee teams both finished in fourth place among the 12 competing teams, while the Sabre team placed a respectable fifth.

Larissa Banting, a woman fencer with the York men's team also did well, combining with two women from Ryerson to form a women's team, earning a silver medal in the women's foil event.

York fencing coach Richard Polatyuski was quite pleased with his teams result and feels the Carleton Invitational provided good preparation for this weekend's Invitational that will be held here in the Tait Gymnasium.

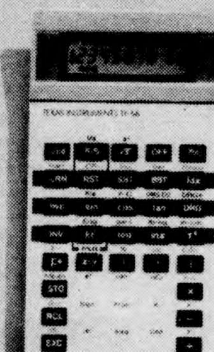
The York Invitational fencing tournament is a two day event, the largest of the season and is expected to bring competition from every university in Ontario.



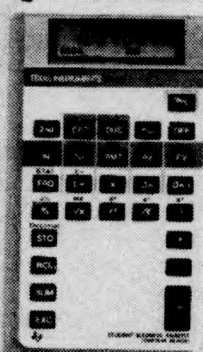
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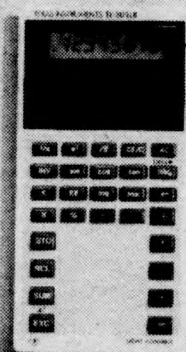
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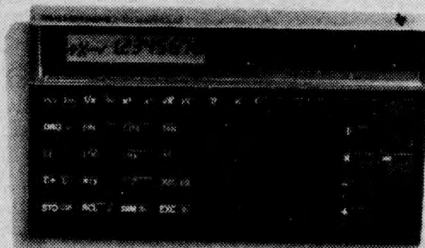
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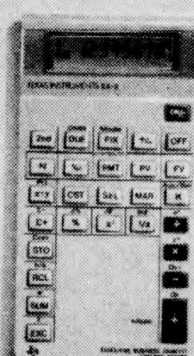
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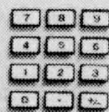
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