

# Yeomen football whipped 52-1

by Paul Brooks

It was not a fond farewell for York football head coach Nobby Wirkowski. His team was buried by the Western Mustangs in a 52-1 loss during the last home game at Esther Shiner Stadium.

Just over five minutes into the game, Western's David Sapunjis pulled in a 56-yard pass from Chris Gaffney and it was quickly 7-0. The ensuing kickoff was fumbled away by the Yeomen, setting up a Mustang field goal to make it 10-0.

Things did not improve as Sapunjis scored again, this time on the play of the game, returning a punt 66 yards for the touchdown and a 17-0 lead. Two minutes later Western's John Davis recovered another Yeomen fumble, for a touchdown that gave Western a 24-0 lead with over four minutes remaining in the first quarter.

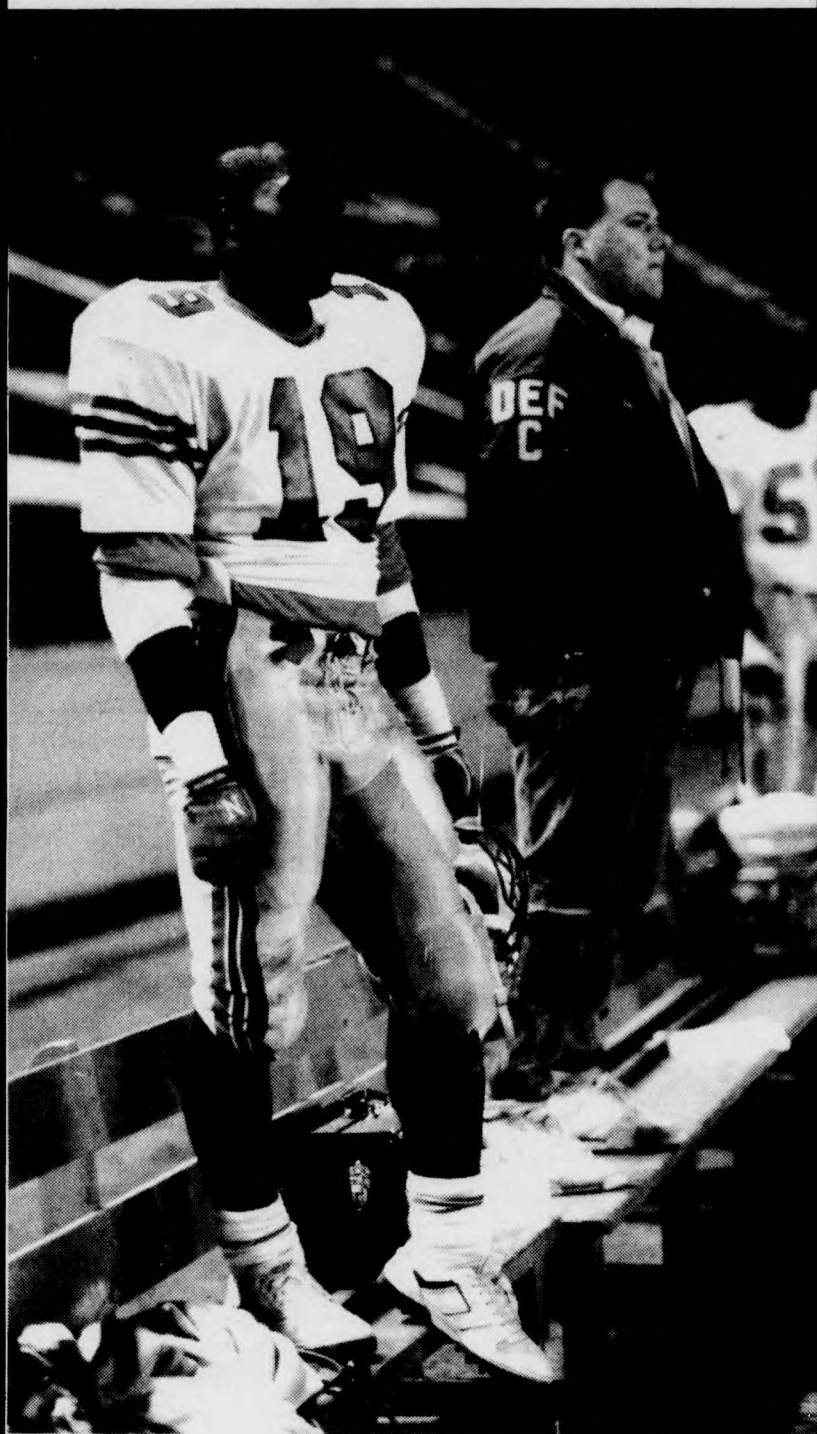
Western ran the count up to 32-0 before the first quarter mercifully came to an end. The Mustangs, who rested most of their starters for the second quarter contained the lead at 35-0 at the half. It was a half which saw York commit five turnovers and be penalized eight times for 90 yards.

The only encouraging sign, as far as the Yeomen were concerned, was the sudden appearance of a violent lightning storm just before play resumed for the third quarter. It looked as though the rest of the game might be cancelled as the field and stands were evacuated, but after nearly an hour delay, the weather calmed, play continued and the Mustangs scored a quick 7 points.

It would be 45-0 before the Yeomen dented the scoreboard, making a single point on a long punt by George Velentzas. At this point, the lightning returned, clearing out most of the remaining spectators and creating a second delay. The game finally came to an end but not before third-string Western quarterback Eric Ursie scored on a one-yard rush with about a minute left, making their final score a gruesome 52-1.

York's next game will be against McMaster on October 21. It is their final match of the season, Wirkowski's last game as coach and, at 0 and 6, a victory is a must if the Yeomen are to avoid a winless season.

## The score speaks for itself



Some Yeomen look on as their teammates go down to defeat at the hands of the U of T Varsity Blues.

## column

# Red blood and Blue bruises Bowl

by Zubin Hooshangi

Curiosity and a passion for football brought me to Varsity Stadium the night of October 5 for the Red and Blue Bowl, when the Yeomen lost in a rival match-up against that other university in Toronto.

The game took place under rainy conditions, before TSN cameras, dampened spectators, shivering cheerleaders and two mascots that belonged in the Santa Claus Parade.

The stands were divided into two halves, one half consisting of crazy York spectators and the other half consisting of crazy UofT spectators.

About 10 per cent of the spectators (from both schools) were socially mal-adjusted Rambo clones, who had unfortunately come prepared to participate in their very own 'Red Blood and Blue Bruises Bowl.' The result was reflected in the numerous casualties that occurred in the stands.

Among the casualties was a gentleman who had all his front teeth rearranged after being 'accidentally' pushed down four bleachers, head first, by a psychologically unbalanced group of spectators.

Another incident involved two young men who started off a violent chain reaction of pushing, pulling, bumping, tearing and swearing that resulted in various conflicts and quarrels.

This, of course, attracted the attention of some police officers who decided on practising their batting average at the expense of randomly chosen spectators who, at the time, were caught in the middle of the chaos.

It seemed the officers' action in attempting to constrain all this unnecessary violence only triggered more pushing and pulling and further brawling.

In addition, the inebriated condition of many spectators, plus the wet conditions in the stands, proved even more hazardous. For instance, a girl was running along the bleachers and forgot or didn't

realize how slippery the surface had become, and painfully fell on the back of her head, simultaneously suffering a broken tail-bone. Fortunately, a few concerned spectators escorted the girl to an ambulance, where she was promptly aided.

With regards to the number of ambulances, I counted three waiting outside the stadium on Bloor St. after the game. In addition, a paddy wagon and four police cars were dispersed along the road.

Although most of the violence that occurred in the stands happened towards the end of the game, one must remember that there was more tension and casualties dealt out between the Ramboids in the stands than between the rival players on the field.

After casually remarking on how I felt about all this needless hooliganism, a spectator turned around and exclaimed, "Relax man! Everyone's just having fun!"

Fun!? Is it fun to have one's front teeth caved in at a football game, without even having been a player? Is it fun to be billyclubbed by police officers, with the possibility of being criminally charged for assault and even battery?

Understandably, sparks can sometimes turn into fire, especially at an athletic contest where both sides are supposedly arch rivals. But it must be remembered that feelings should be controlled, or else expressed in ways that do not endanger or demean anyone, and not in spectator hooliganism, for which British soccer fans have become famous.

If an individual does not have an outlet for stress and some of the other mental disorders that plague modern people, then there are various sports, such as hockey, kick boxing, karate and even sky-diving, in which you can relieve yourself from such violent urges.

Unfortunately, it begins with a few instigators in search of mischief, and ends up with mass chaos. Commented one disheartened Yeomen fan, "It's a few mindless goons who destroy the fun for the rest."

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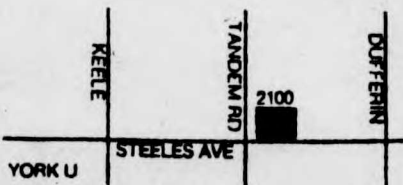
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