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NEWS: Flip the page — jello toss and study room loss
ARTS: Somewhere inside — greasy dogs, angels and adultery
SPORTS: Right below you — the Yeomen fall 29-12 against Windsor

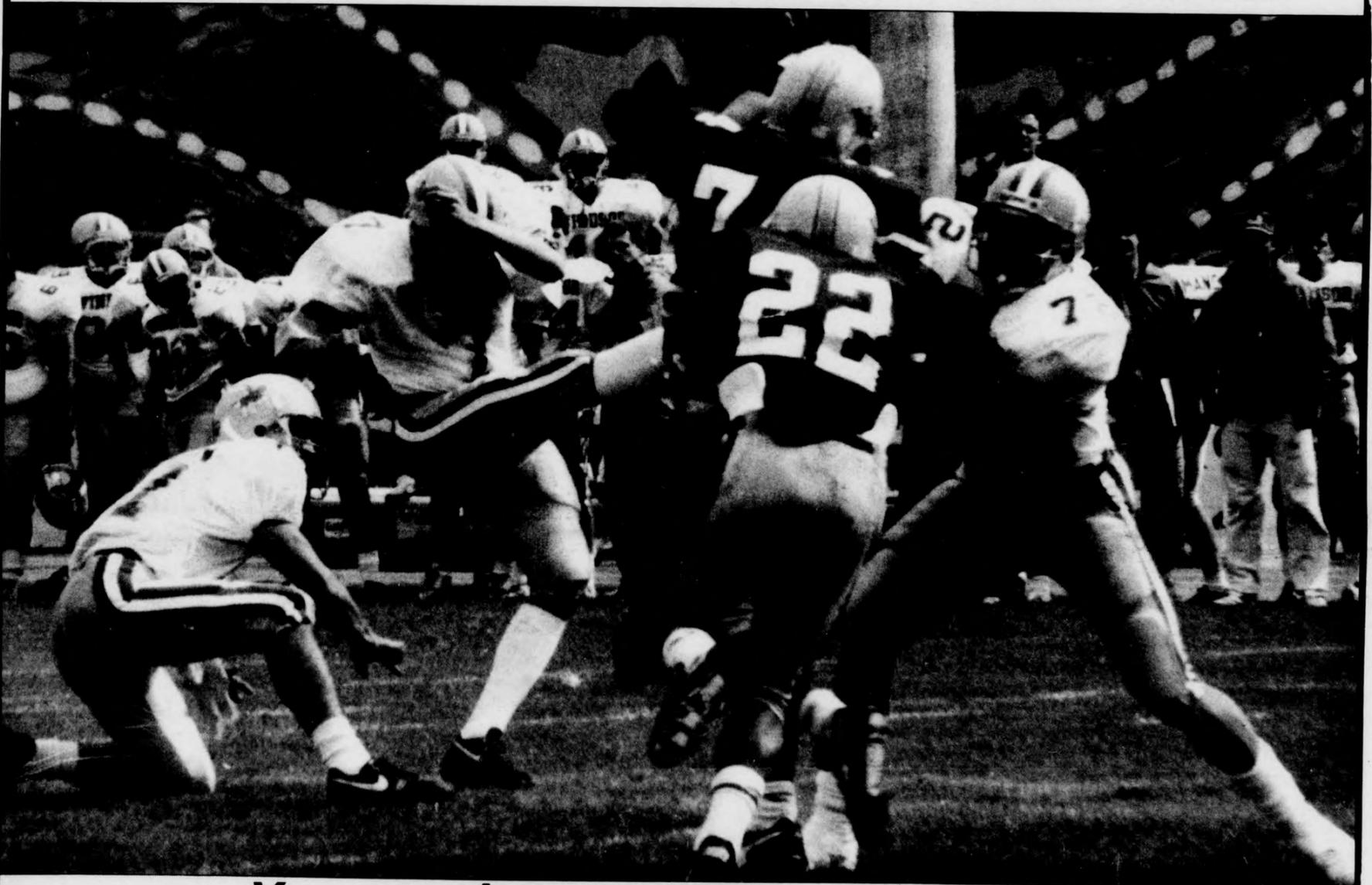
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Yeomen drop season opener at home

by Debbie Levy

First, the bad news: we lost. The inexperience of the football Yeomen was painfully apparent in the squad's 29-12 loss to the Windsor Lancers in last Saturday's season opener at Esther Shiner stadium.

Now, the good news: it can only get better. The majority of this year's crew are rookies, both the players and coaching staff. And although, they will have to make adjustments, the eager squad views the new influx of personnel as a fresh start with a coach who know what it's like to win.

The head coach, Tom Arnott, as well as the six other special teams coaches are all with the Yeomen for their first year. With them, however, they bring extensive previous experience — Arnott's last engagement being with the successful Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks.

Arnott remains optimistic about the upcoming season at York. Yet despite this, the Yeomen will have a tough time changing old habits. They must

meet the challenge in reshaping veterans and breaking in rookies.

As the game on Saturday opened, the Yeomen defense looked superb and their offense was striking. The defense, led by veteran Kevin Julyan, did not allow the Lancers a first down until their third possession. Meanwhile, the Yeomen offense led by second year quarterback, Dean McLaren, moved confidently down the field, drawing first blood with a field goal. The home crowd was anticipating repeat performances; they did not come.

After the Yeomen took an initial 4-0 lead, the Lancers grabbed the rest of the half. Scoring two touchdowns, a field goal and a safety, the score had slid to 21-4 at the half.

On their first possession of the second half, the Yeomen fumbled the ball and the Lancers recovered. The turnover resulted in a safety and subsequently led to a Windsor field goal.

The game was relatively one-sided, but not because of a discrepancy in ball-playing talent. The name of this

particular game was PENALTIES and lots of them: the Yeomen lost 103 yards over 60 minutes.

Four out of the six Lancers' scores in the first half were chalked up because of Yeomen penalties. More often than not it was the offside call, which showed the eagerness and inexperience of the York defense. Twice, when the defense had successfully kept Windsor out of the end zone, they drew offside penalties, giving the Lancers two extra chances.

And what about the lack of Yeomen scoring? The Lancer defense was able to rise to the occasion even when York established good field position. Adding to the lack of initial offence was Dean McLaren's trouble controlling the ball. Chalk this up, forgivingly, to the fact that it was the first game of the season. McLaren's arm is as good as the best QBs in the league.

Jason Bitter, also in his second year, came in relief for the second half, and although he too had some trouble with his control, showed tremendous potential once he relaxed.

York's offense didn't do as poorly as the final score indicated. Although Windsor was able to score 29 points, most of these came from field goals; rarely did the Lancers pass the Yeomen 25-yard line. Yeomen linebackers McKenna and Bournakos were constantly pressuring Lancer quarterback Walt Tazzman.

The York squad didn't come out roaring to demolish their first opponents, but they did show more potential than they have in years. The team played with heart and renewed confidence. In the last two minutes of the game, Bitter rallied the Yeomen as they marched down the field to paydirt. We also caught a glimpse of rookie wide receiver, P.J. Edgeworth, who made two key catches on York's last possession.

If the defense can tighten up a little and eliminate the penalties; if the quarterbacks begin to settle down and throw consistently; then the York Yeomen might prove to be real contenders for the CIAU Vanier cup.