

WATCH THE BIRDIE: Canadian National Badminton Team Member Doris Piche hits an overhead during last Sunday's China vs. Canada badminton exhibition held at York.

TANYA YALONETSKY

York swims to victory

By M. O'BRIEN

Inspired by the presence of Olympic athlete Alex Baumann, the York University swim team swam their hearts out Friday at the Tait McKenzie pool.

The women's team swam circles around Laurentian as they handily defeated the Voyageurs 68-10. The men's competition was much closer, as it came down to the last event. The Laurentian team captured first place (38-36) by edging York in the 4x100 medley relay.

York Coach Ryszard Buwaj felt his team had an excellent meet. He was hard-pressed to mention any stars, as he said everyone contributed. "The team was concentrated hard tonight. We had a slow start last week, but now we're starting to roll. Alex (Baumann) was a key motivator for the team. His presence got the adrenaline flowing."

The women dominated the events as they were first, second and third in the 50m and 200m freestyle, and the 200m breaststroke. Rookie Jennifer Mederak said the team was a lot more relaxed.

"We didn't feel as much pressure in this meet," she said. "The atmos-

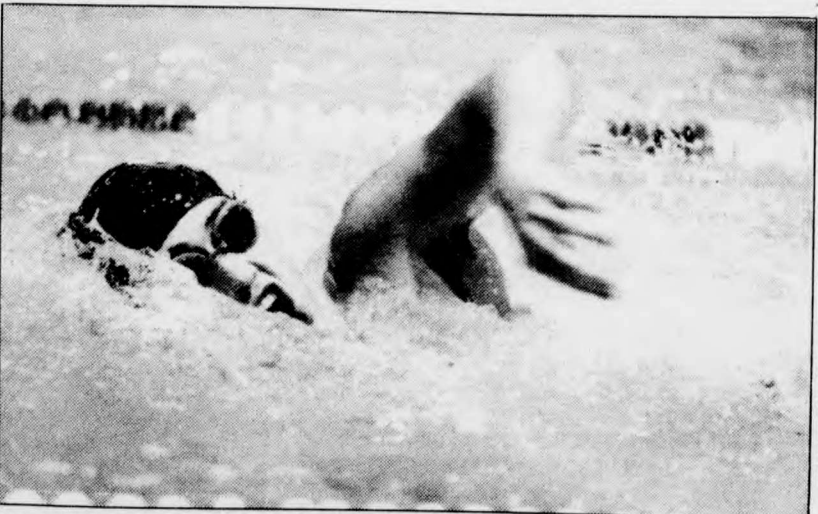
phere is excellent, indicating that as a team we're starting to come together."

The men, led by Trevor Erwin's scintillating win in the 50m freestyle with a time of 0:25:89, split most of the events with Laurentian. They easily beat Laurentian in the 4x100 freestyle relay. Jamie Peter gave a great effort as he finished second in the 400m freestyle and third in the 800m free.

Laurentian Assistant coach Alex Baumann, coaching at his first meet, was pleased with his team's performance. "The men swam particularly well, especially in the 4x100 medley relay," Baumann said that his own experience as a swimmer contributing to his coaching debut, as he was able to psyche his swimmers for the final race.

"The transition from athlete to coach was not a difficult one for me," said Baumann. "As a swimmer, I've had to endure intense training, painful injuries, and immense pressure. I can easily empathize with my athletes."

The York swim team hopes to continue its winning ways as they travel to Brock to meet the Badgers on the weekend.



BABAK AMIRFEIZ

YORK OUTSWIMS LAURENTIAN: Yeoman Declan Boyle swims to victory.

York sings silver medal blues

By PAMELA JARVIS

Field "hackey" would more aptly describe the Ontario women's field hockey championships at U of T last Wednesday.

The U of T Varsity Blues scored in the game's dying seconds to clinch their fourth consecutive title against York by a 2-1 margin.

After having gone undefeated in league play which included a win over the blues, the loss was extremely disappointing for the Yeowomen.

York blew out Carleton 9-0 and Queen's 7-0 enroute to the final.

Unfortunately the championship game was marred by uncharacteristically rough, physical play and glaring infractions.

The final was played before about 300 spectators at Lamport Stadium.

A contest between two teams as highly skilled as York and Toronto should have been a showcase for Ontario women's field hockey, according to York coach Marina van der Merwe. Instead, the game degenerated into a contest of hacking and retaliation.

"The promotion of hockey took a very regressive step," said van der Merwe. She felt that dangerous balls and stick and ankle hacking, which are not part of the game, were prevalent throughout and were overlooked both ways by the umpires. "U of T's play was unnecessary," said van der Merwe. "We retaliated, but we were certainly not the initiators."

Van der Merwe pointed out that the tactical potential of the game was

destroyed. "We tried the 'small' game in the first half but got nowhere with the hacking. All you could do was hit long."

York's key players were the main target of Toronto's roughhouse tactics. However, York captain Dale Peltola praised national and Olympic team members Sharon Creelman and Sandra Levy. "They tried to play a sound technical game. They played with a lot of class and didn't revert to unsound tactics."

Coach van der Merwe added that her players "can be just as hacky, but we won't let them." She chastised Toronto's strong-arm approach in the final. "They played a very negative game . . . their plan was to stop

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Yeowomen nab bronze medal

By VICTOR SERFATY

The volleyball Yeowomen defeated the Regina Cougars to capture the bronze medal in last weekend's Tait McKenzie volleyball Classic. York's loss to Calgary in the semi-finals put them into contention for the bronze against Regina, who lost to Winnipeg in the other semi-final match.

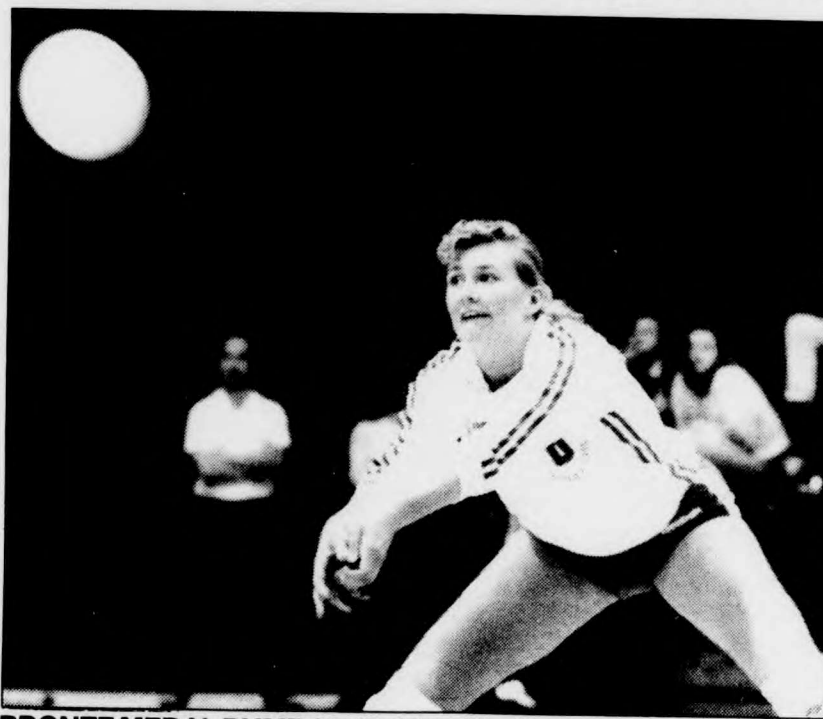
The bronze medal match turned out to be the match of the tournament. The Yeowomen came out flying, grabbing the first two games 15-7 and 15-11.

However, someone forgot to tell York it was a three out of five match. York completely slowed down and let Regina back in the contest. The Cougars staged a strong comeback, convincingly winning the next two games 15-4 and 15-3.

The fifth and deciding game formed the match's climax. Both teams went all out fighting for each point. Key time-outs and substitutions never let one team run away with the game. This worked to York's advantage since the closer the score, the rowdier the fans became. York finally won the see-saw thriller 15-11.

"When it was 8-8 we were looking for any extra energy we could get," explained Magaly Charbonneau, one of York's rising stars. "The crowd definitely gave us a big lift and may have gotten us over the hump."

Shining for the Yeowomen was rookie standout Dale Melnick. After the match, Melnick summed up the York victory. "It just came down to who wanted it more. We were playing at home and that really helped



BABAK AMIRFEIZ

BRONZE MEDAL BUMP: York's Mary Van Soelen passes during last weekend's Tait McKenzie Classic.

us. We seemed to lose communication in the third and fourth games but in the fifth the crowd and coach Mosher woke us up. We went back to attacking on points and talking out there."

When asked if his team performed up to his expectations, Yeowomen head coach Merv Mosher replied, "According to the rankings everything is turning out right. Winnipeg should win, being the number one ranked team in the country. Obviously you're never satisfied until you get the gold, but the girls are not disappointing me. They are living up to their ranking."

In the preliminaries York defeated Saskatchewan and Ottawa while dropping a match to Winnipeg, leaving York second in their pool.

Eight teams from around the country attended the tournament. As is usually the case, the quality of play was very high. In the finals, top ranked Winnipeg defeated Calgary for the gold medal (15-1, 15-9, 15-7).

Based on their showing in this tournament the Yeowomen Volleyball squad looks ready to capture its seventh (OWIAA) title in eight years.

The Yeowomen home opener is against U of T on November 8 at 8:15 p.m.

Rugby team ousted in first round

By RANDY UGOLINI

Mental lapses can be costly.

Just ask the Yeomen Rugby team.

Their playoff hopes were dashed after a somniferous lapse allowed Queen's to score an unanswered try and drop goal in last Saturday's 16-9 loss to the Golden Gaels.

The loss came in the first round of the OUAA playoffs. York entered the semis with a 5-2 regular season record, good enough for second place behind the Gaels.

The Yeomen approached Saturday's match high off of a 25-20 come-from-behind win over Queen's from the previous week.

However, fate would not repeat itself on York's frigid West Field last Saturday.

Heading into the wind, the Yeomen drew first blood. In the opening minutes, York scrum half Brian Macdonald completed a penalty

kick from just outside the 22 to put the home side ahead by three.

Queen's quickly retaliated with a drop goal from close range to even the score.

During the first half, Queen's took advantage of the gale force winds, using a kick and chase style offense. By keeping the ball in the air, the Gaels were able to gain large chunks of field at a time. In the final minutes, Queen's capitalized on a penalty kick from 22 metres out to give the Gaels a 6-3 cushion at the end of the half.

Being down by only three points after fighting the wind in the first half, the Yeomen's chances with the wind in the second looked promising.

"We figured if we were down by six or less after the first half we'd be in pretty good shape for the second," explained York fullback Grant

Purdy. "With the wind at our back, we thought we would just have to put some points in and hang on to win, but Queen's worked harder against the wind."

Wind or no wind, the Yeomen started the second half in a daze.

In the opening minutes, the Gaels scored an unanswered drop goal into the wind which barely crawled over the cross-bar.

Before York could regroup, the Gaels stormed back downfield scoring a try on a blind-side run which the Queen's fullback twisted over the line for the four points. When the Yeomen finally woke up, they were on the losing end of a 13-3 score and their hopes were fading fast.

Veteran Yeomen "lock" Dean Cluff explained his team's letdown.

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