

Sports and Recreation

Tall teams trouble York

Bruce Gates

Two things were made abundantly clear during the York Yeomen's two basketball games last weekend:

First of all, it is obvious that the Ryerson Rams, the perennial doormats of the OUAA East, do

not belong in university basketball—at least not for a while. York proved this last Friday by holding the Rams scoreless for most of the first half (the halftime score was an incredible 38-3 in favor of York), before going on to slaughter them 81-31.

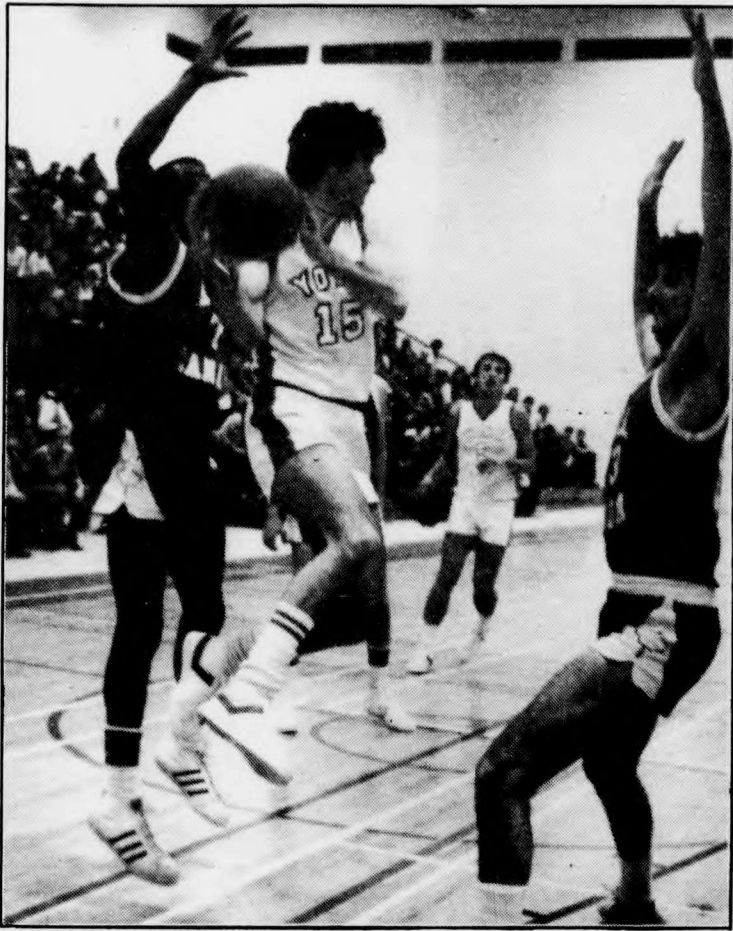
The second thing made clear was that York will continue to have a great deal of trouble against talented, tall teams. The old saying that a big man is better than a good small man was brought to light last Saturday when the Yeomen hosted the Athletes-in-Action, one of the top touring basketball teams in the country.

Not only are the athletes good, they're also tall. Take away the smallest guy at 5 ft. 10 in. and the average guard towered at 6 ft. 6 in. Add to that a 6 ft. 11 in. centre, a few 6 ft. 8 in. forwards, good outside shooting, speed and domination of the boards and you have a 95-79 win over the Yeomen.

Despite this height handicap, the Yeomen several times pulled to within two or three points of the Athletes, and they briefly held the lead in the first half. But as soon as the Yeomen's main weapon, the outside shot, drew a few blanks the Athletes shot them full of holes.

York was especially in tough under the backboards against the towering men in yellow, although on several occasions they held their own, wrestling the ball from the arms of some of the Athlete behemoths.

If nothing else, York finally got a really good workout, which is something they'll need in order to prepare for their crucial Feb. 17 game against Carleton. York hosts the Ottawa Gee Gees tomorrow night at Tait.



David Coulthard, York's All-Canadian guard, struggles to keep possession of the ball during last weekend's 95-79 loss.

Queen's swims to synchro title

Elliott Lefko

To an outsider, synchronized swimming is 'water ballet.' After watching last Saturday's OWIAA tournament at York University, I realize the term is only half true. A more accurate description would be water gymnastics.

Five universities, including York, Guelph, McGill, Queen's and Windsor, participated in the gruelling activities.

The meet was divided into five competitions, mandatory novice and senior figures, solo competition, duet, and team. Queen's took the tourney

managing victories in the duet and team events, plus three seconds, and two thirds. Guelph was runner-up with two firsts, two seconds and a third.

The meet began with York's Judy Fudge's narrow victory over Mary Jackson of Queen's, in the novice figures. In this event, competitors are required to execute standard moves called dolphins, porpoises and swordfish. Fudge demonstrated considerable poise and agility in her victory and is not far from competing and winning with the older girls.

Guelph's Jane McMillan, probably the best synchronized swimmer in the province, showed her talents in winning the senior figures and solo event.

The solo, duet, and team events are all swam to pre-recorded music. Swimmers express the music through a routine made up of somersaults, knee bends, and such, combined in the case of the duet and team events, with coordinated movement. A good deal of the time is spent underwater, forcing the swimmers to the edge of their physical abilities.

Queen's Lynda Abbott and Cathy Beaumont provided the day's most inspired performance in their duet victory. More than once they commanded and received ovations during their exercise. Judy Fudge and Nancy Hamilton tried hard, but need more competitive experience.

Completing the afternoon was the majestic team competition. McGill began, followed by Windsor. Both teams showed the rudimentaries of this event which has a captain and group of girls running through an orchestrated pattern. They both finished their routines with smart salutes. Guelph was next, dazzling the audience with moves that would impress a Radio City Rockette. It was up to Queen's to steal the event and competition. From the first splash they had won. Led by Abbott and Beaumont, Queen's swam with a confident blend of strength and grace. They left to roaring applause.

The meet proved the artistry and skill of synchronized swimming. It gave York's young team a chance at some needed competition and introduced a potential Olympian in Judy Fudge.

Gymnasts hurting

Julio Raznici

York's injury-plagued gymnastics team emerged from a gruelling weekend road trip with one loss and one win.

Friday evening, before a sell-out crowd of five thousand plus, the Yeomen went down to defeat to Penn State, one of this year's strongest contenders for the NCAA championships. The margin was a substantial 268.35 to 253.25. Last year, at York, the Yeomen came within four points of upsetting the then sixth-ranked U.S. team.

Part of the reason for the relatively poor showing was the fact that two of our strongest competitors could not participate in all six events due to injury. Last year's second all-around, Marc Epprecht, scratched from rings and freshman Frank Nutzenburger from floor and vault. Both are recuperating in expectation of the first Olympic trials and the national championships at the end of February.

Dan Gaudet put in York's all-around best performance but falls on both pommel horse and parallel bars left him in only fifth

spot with 51.10 points. Dave Steeper was a point behind in eighth, while Rob Wild was ninth with 46.55. Last year's champion Bob Desiderio, who was a member of the USA's Pan American team, decisively repeated his win this time with 55.35 points.

Then, on Saturday, after a seven-hour drive, York's 'B' team eked out a win over U of T and Brockport State College in Brockport, New York. York was trailing badly after the first four events, but surged ahead in the final two to capture first place. The occasionally pitifully low level of performance, judging incompetence and the general disorganization of the meet, made it anti-climactic to say the least. A strong performance, however, was put in by Bill Chong. He came fourth all-around.

This weekend, the Yeomen will be tackling another of the top teams in the U.S., Temple U. It will be the last meet of the season to be held at home so spectators are urged to come and cheer them on Sun. at 2 p.m. in Tait.

MICHIGAN MEET BOOSTS MORALE

The morale of the track and field team was at an all-time high as the athletes walked off with twelve medals and set six varsity records at the Macombe Invitational Meet in Michigan this past Saturday.

The five athletes capturing first place finishes were Farooq Shabbar in the 1000 yd; Bill Milley in shot put; Derrick Jones and Sharon Clayton in the 1 mile; and Deb Boots, who post-entered in long jump, an event which is not her specialty, just minutes prior to her execution.

Second-place finishers were Greg McKenzie in the long jump and the women's 1 mile relay team. Finishing in third place were Martha Hallenda in shot put; Deb Boots in the 300 yd; Brenda McClaughlin in the 60 yd; Sandy Rozier in high jump and the men's distance medley relay team.

Shortstops

ON THE SLOPES

The York U. men's ski team finished 70 points behind front-running Western to take fifth spot at last Friday's slalom ski race, hosted by McMaster U. and held at Medonte Mountain in Barrie, Ont.

York finished with 113 points, just one point behind fourth place Queen's. Meanwhile, the team from Western, led by men's individual winner David Tafel, outran their nearest competition, McMaster, by almost 40 points, coming in with a score of 183.

In the women's division, Andi Ciotti of the McMaster 'A' team took individual honours to help her team to a first-place finish. McMaster garnered 141 points to top second place Laurier by a hefty 37-point margin. York was not represented in the women's event.

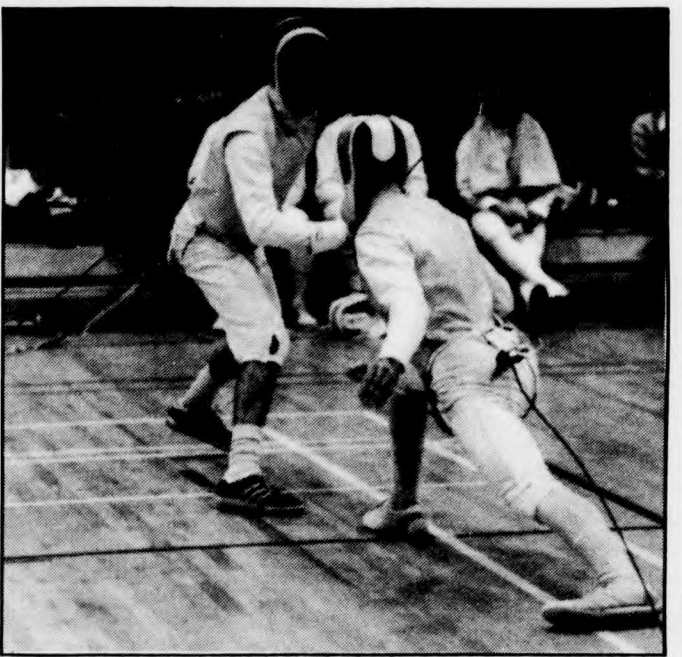
FENCER'S IMPROVEMENT "JUST SUPER"

"The improvement for York has been tremendous—just super," said Richard Polatynski, coach of the men's sabre and foil fencing teams, commenting on his novice fencers' performances at the Carleton Invitational (Jan. 19) and the Ryerson Divisionals (Jan. 26).

The foil team, consisting of captain Scott Mitchell, first-year fencer Warren Romano and Rod Kyle, who jumped to foil this year from his former weapon, the epee, placed second in a field of 13 at Carleton before qualifying at Ryerson for the East Sectionals at U of T this Saturday.

One sad note for the foilers was the loss of Rod Kyle who was hampered by an injury to his right shoulder throughout the Ryerson meet and was forced to drop out of the competition, disqualifying him from the sectionals. Still, Polatynski is looking for a medal from the foil team this weekend at U of T.

The sabre team also moved on to the sectionals after scoring a third-place finish the week before at Carleton. The team's progress must seem remarkable in light of the fact that the entire sabre squad—Ron Warne, Mike Labrie and Mourad Mardikian—consists of first-year fencers.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Fifteen York U. faculty and staff members will take on the CFTO-TV Bassett Hounds in the **Fourth Annual Benefit Hockey Game**, to be held at 8 pm on Fri., Feb. 1 at York's ice arena.

Admission, at the door, is \$1 and all proceeds go to the Canadian Special Olympics for Mentally-Handicapped Athletes Fund.

Also featured will be Miss Canada, Terry MacKay, and Elizabeth Purtle of the Ice Follies. For further information, call 667-2413.

Also this Friday, York will host the **Second Annual Snolympics for the Retarded**.

The event, organized by Harold Minden, Professor of Psychology and Physical Education at York, and 32 of his students, will feature 85 children, aged 12-17 years, from Toronto's schools for the mentally-retarded participating in a variety of winter events.

In case of inclement weather, the **Snolympics** will move indoors. For more information, call Harold Minden at 667-2444.