

# SPORTS

## York fencers 'foiled' during Invitational tourney

By PARRY RIPOSTE

The annual York Invitational Fencing Tournament, held last weekend, featured accomplished fencing teams from Ontario and Quebec. 11 Ontario universities, and Montreal's McGill Redmen competed in each of the three weapons categories.

U of T won the tournament with 74 points while Trent and Western picked up second and third with 64 and 58 points respectively.

The three weapons represented were foil, epee, and sabre. Foil and epee are similar in that they are "poking" weapons that register hits electronically. The target area in foil is only the torso while in epee the whole body is the target.

Sabre is a non-electronic slashing weapon, with the whole body being the target area.

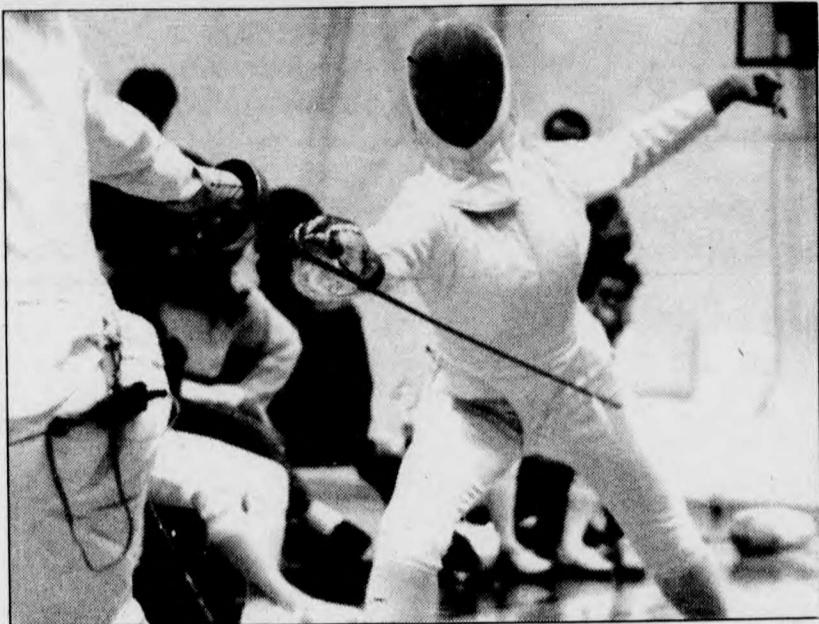
York was represented by men's and women's teams in both foil and epee categories. In University fencing, women do not compete in the sabre event.

Saturday's competition included the men's and women's foil and women's epee events.

The powerhouse McGill men's foil team fought its way to first and third place with its A and B teams respectively. However, the home team did not fare as well. Composed totally of first year fencers, York's men's foil team failed to crack top ten.

In women's foil competition the University of Western Ontario took top spot, followed by McGill and U of T. The York squad, made up mainly of first year fencers, but buttressed by returning veteran Larissa Banting, fought its way to ninth place out of 13 entries.

The women's epee competition, which started on Saturday and ran until late Sunday afternoon, was the scene of much of the drama during the Invitational. The York squad put on a spirited performance on Saturday to force their way into a Sunday semi-final showdown with RMC.



TAKE THAT, HEATHEN: York's Alison MacLean competes during last weekend's York Invitational Fencing Tournament.

Unfortunately, the more experienced RMC squad halted York's advance. When the smoke had cleared, the U of T team found itself at the top of the epee heap. Trent captured second while RMC grabbed third spot.

Besides the women's epee final, Sunday was also the scene of the men's sabre and epee competitions. The York men's epee was made up of only one veteran epeeist Tony Forsyth. Because of stiff opposition from other, more cohesive and experienced squads, the York team failed to make the finals. The event was won by U of T, followed by Trent and RMC.

The men's sabre competition featured an impressive showing on the part of the York squad. Like other York entries, this team had little experience with the weapon. Richard Tierney was York's only returning sabre fencer. Rookie sabreists Scott Davis and Darren Osborne also competed for York. The York squad came out flying, bringing the Brock

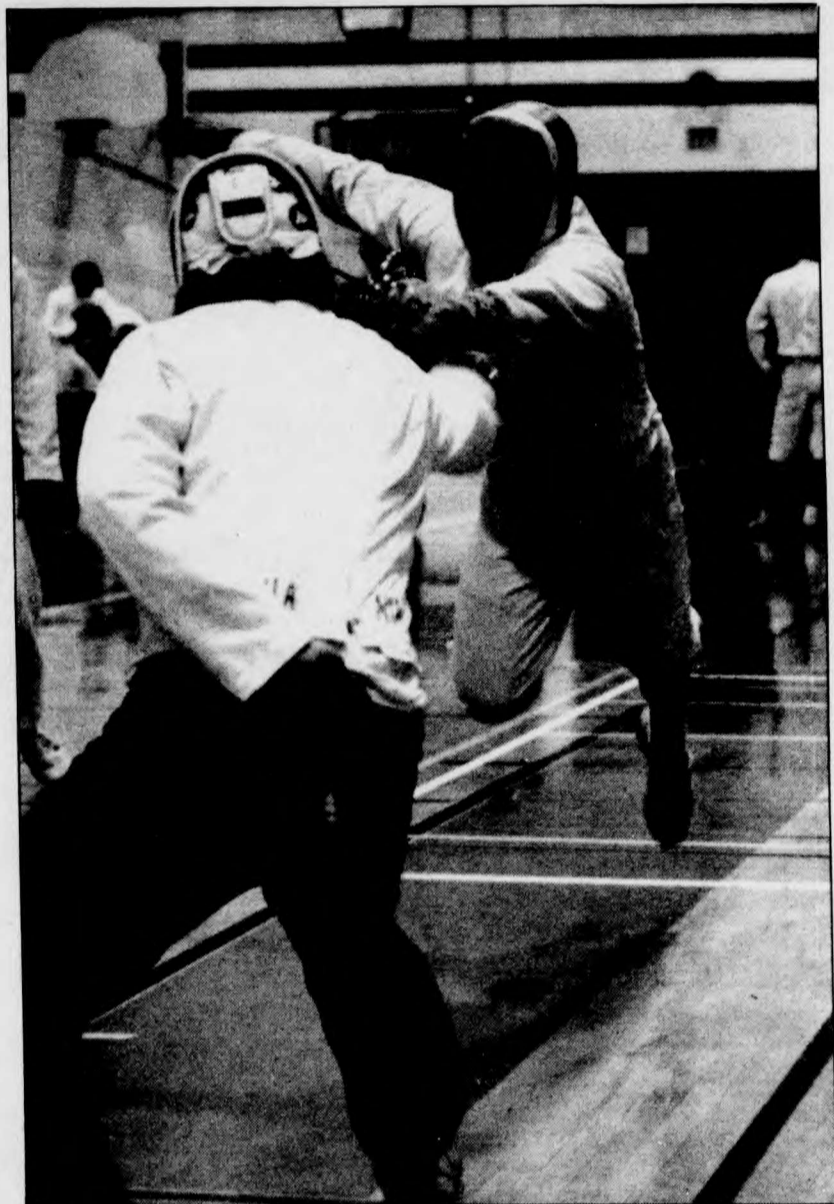
Badgers to their knees. This early success was blunted by U of T's 'A' team.

A loss to Trent later on prevented any hope of York making it to the finals. Top honours in the men's sabre competition went to the powerful Windsor Lancers.

On paper, the York squad was unspectacular. However, considerable factors have plagued this team since the outset of the season. York fencing does not receive funding from the University, and the team must cover their own expenses while travelling to tournaments. As a result, certain tournaments have been missed, and valuable competition experience has been lost, especially for first-year fencers.

However, the team continues in spite of this setback. If the impressive performance of the first-year fencers is any indication, York's fencing future looks bright.

The team travels to Trent this weekend for the first Central Sectional tournament.



... WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND YOUR BACK? York fencer Darren Osborn lunges at a Brock fencer during last Sunday's sabre competition.

## Rams no sweat for Yeowomen

By PAMMY JARVIS

They didn't even work up a sweat.

The Yeowomen volleyball team wasted no time as they disposed of the Ryerson Rams at the Tait Gym on Tuesday night. The Rams were excused 15-5, 15-1, 15-2 in a match that took less time than the pre-game warm-up.

It was York's last competitive match before heading to Dalhousie for tournament action this weekend.

"We worked on practising individual skills," said York coach Merv Mosher. "We did reasonably well on our side of the net."

Mosher also used the opportunity to gradually work his bench into the lineup.

"I put the rookies in one at a time to give them a chance to practise the system."

Ryerson coach Peter Stefaniuk said, "We concentrated on playing our game. We tried to have fun out there. Our biggest problem was communication."

Stefaniuk, a York volleyball alumnus, also coached a championship team at Monarch Park. His Ryerson women's squad consists mainly of rookie players. In addition, the Rams top player, Laurie Thompson, was injured.

"That factor really hit us," said Stefaniuk.

Stefaniuk feels that Ryerson is at a disadvantage in terms of competitive athletics. "We don't have an athletic department or a physical education programme."

He said that most of his athletes are involved in a more practical, co-op type of academic programme. As a result, "their time is very limited," said Stefaniuk.

However, Stefaniuk did have praise for the Yeowomen.

"York has a fine tradition," he said. "They are turning out strong, finely tuned athletes. Merv has developed a good programme; now they're reaping the benefits."

The Yeowomen have dropped only one match this season and Coach Mosher expects to defeat Toronto on the return visit. "We

hope to be undefeated in remaining league play and carry that momentum into the Ontario championships," said Mosher.

At this weekend's Dalhousie Invitational, Mosher said he "hopes and expects" to be in the final. The Yeowomen can expect some stiff competition from Laval at the tournament.

**Side-Outs:** Rookie Michelle McDowell had 9 kills for the Yeowomen.

Missing from the York lineup was powerhitter Mary Van Soelen. A broken wrist could keep Van Soelen off the court until close to playoffs.

## Super hype this weekend

By JOHNNY "THE CUCUMBER" EVERGLADES

Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium will host Super Bowl XXIII this Sunday.

The San Francisco 49ers face the Cincinnati Bengals in this year's NFL championship.

The teams met in Detroit in 1982 in Super Bowl XVI. The 49ers won 26-21.

San Francisco rolled over the Chicago Bears 28-3 in the NFC final. The AFC Bengals defeated the Buffalo Bills 21-10 to earn a Super Bowl berth.

The Bengals will be led by quarterback Boomer Esiason and rookie sensation Elbert "Ickey" Woods at fullback. Woods led the league in rushing this season. Nose tackle Tim Krumrie is also key to the running offense. Esiason can easily switch to the air attack.

The 49ers will be counting on the experience of quarterback Joe Montana. Montana is known for his passing skill. With wide receiver Jerry Rice injured, however, coach Bill Walsh could opt for a persistent running game.

The pregame coverage of the Super Bowl starts at 5 p.m. on most networks.

## York's volleyball men hope for dream season

By "SPIKE" JARVIS

There are regular volleyball players — and there are those with dreams.

The volleyball Yeomen kept their dream alive as they defeated Ryerson last Tuesday night. The unexciting score (15-3, 15-8, 15-7) did not accurately reflect the efforts of the valiant Ryerson squad.

The Rams refused to give up in the third set. The Yeomen really had to earn the last few points, to the entertainment of the sizeable and appreciative crowd.

"Ryerson is at a point now where we have to 'beat' them," said York coach Wally Dyba. Dyba feels that the league has definitely improved.

"If we let our level of play drop, we could find ourselves in a beatable position. We're working on establishing an 'attitude' and continuing to develop our consistency, which has improved."

Ryerson coach Hernan Humana said, "it's not an easy task to play well against York." He was happy with his team's play.

"Our pride helped us to fight back, but we were a bit intimidated. We made mistakes that we don't usually make. We gave the ball away sometimes."

Humana played on the Chilean National team for several years. He has also played, coached, and taught at York. He said he finds his first year of coaching at Ryerson a challenge.

"It's difficult to coach players with not much volleyball experience," said Humana. "It's frustrating because we don't have the support and backing of an institution.

The OUAA needs to develop programmes throughout the conference."

The eight-member Ryerson team has developed from zero," said Coach Humana. Their 14-12 record has already bettered any previous performance by a Ryerson men's volleyball team.

"We're going for the playoffs," said an excited Humana. "That would be history. Our ultimate goal is to finish third."

The Rams were led by the towering Bruce Jackson, who tallied 16 attacks, 7 kills, and 4 stiffs on the night. Jackson's blocking strength turned back numerous York attacks.

Presently, the Yeomen are ranked third in the nation. The team obviously has the potential to win the OUAA title and advance to the national championship. However, Coach Dyba refused to disregard defending provincial champions U of T.

"We have a dream, and we're following that dream," said Dyba cryptically.

The Yeomen head east this weekend for the Dalhousie Classic Invitational tournament. They will face top-ranked George Mason from the NCAA and the University of Manitoba, who are ranked second in Canada ahead of York.

**Behind the Attack Line:** York star Bill Knight was absent from play due to national team responsibilities.

Mark Cossarin had a big night for the Yeomen. Cossarin chalked up 23 attacks, 12 kills, and 10 digs. Dexter Abrams had 5 kills on 16 attacks and Jim Mohrhardt hit for 7 kills on 15 attacks.