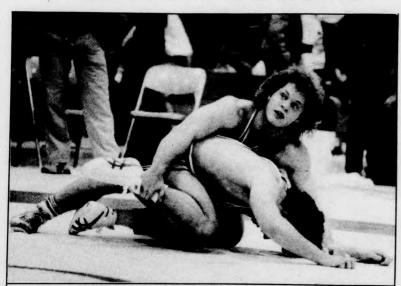
SPORTS

Back to work for York wrestlers



The faces are different this year but the goals remain high as the wrestling Yeomen prepare for another year of competition.

by Riccardo Sala

The aerobics classes are gone.

Up on the fourth floor of Tait-Mackenzie, the judo room represents a fresh outlook for its new tennants, the wrestling Yeomen. Forced to practice out of the building's squash courts, last year's team was a visible notch below the 88-89 squad that had won the Ontario and national titles.

Talk towards the end of last year about the future of the programme was largely pessimistic. Over the summer Kimin Kim left as coach. Several veteran wrestlers moved on to schools which they felt would provide them with a more stable wrestling programme.

Starting with last Wednesday's opening workout the wrestlers have a new place to practice. The judo room was the original location of the wrestling team when it first set up shop at York several years ago. However, as the team grew, they were forced to move into the larger confines of a University City YMCA room.

After that came the squash courts. This year, however, recreational groups that used the judo room were moved. That freed up the room for the wrestlers.

This year the Yeomen will be coached by John Cho. A veteran York wrestler himself, Cho is balancing apprentice teacher duties with his coaching job. "I think that the administration is taking more interest this year in

athletics than in other years," Cho said, echoing the feelings of fellow Yeoman Roy Suh Wah Sing.

Besides Cho and Sing, there were three other wrestlers practising that Wednesday afternoon. Aaron Hume "the team dinosaur," Herb Eisenberg, a former Western wrestler at York for his master's degree, and a rookie named Mike.

Cho explained that it's only been three days that the team has been practicing but added he expects larger turnouts as the season draws closer. "York has a reputation as a wrestling school, and when people find out there's still a programme they will start showing up."

Cho was also confident that the team would be able to field a full slate of athletes. "Right now we have wrestlers filling eight of the ten (OUAA) weight categories," he added.

Despite Cho's apparent enthusiam, gamblers shouldn't put money on York's wrestlers to do anything great this season. The departure of many experienced wrestlers (including the stellar Courtney Lewis) has created a hole that will take time to fill.

However, enough veterans are returning to give the squad a solid base. Also, the ineligible Lewis will be practicing with the team as will some other non-varsity wrestlers.

For the Yeomen, this will be a rebuilding year. The allocation of a decent facility is a welcome sign of administration support. Who knows how far it will take them?

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•Mark Zwolinski, sports writer at the Toronto Star (and an Excalibur alumnus), will be giving a sports writing seminar Monday, September 24 at 1:00 pm in Excalibur's newsroom. All interested students are welcome to attend.

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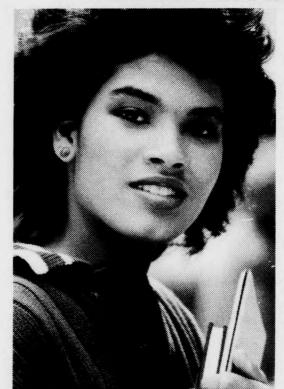
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