

sports briefs

By PETER BECKER

Gymnastics

At the Elite Canada gymnastics meet at Hull, Quebec, York's Brad Peters placed second in the senior men's compulsories while Yeoman teammate Allan Reddon took the bronze. Philip Chartrand of Laval took top honors at the meet.

York finished third at the OWIAA Gymnastics championships accumulating 130.25 points, just 1.70 behind the eventual winner, Western. McMaster placed second with 131.75.

Basketball

The Yeomen basketball team finished the regular season with a perfect 14-0 record with back-to-back wins over Queen's and RMC. The Yeomen also won their first playoff match against the Carleton Ravens, defeating the Ottawa team by 30 points.

The University of Toronto Lady Blues have won their second consecutive OWIAA Basketball title by beating the Laurentian Vees 77-74. Both teams will now advance to the CIAU championships at Lennoxville, Quebec.

Two Yeowomen have been selected to the OWIAA East Division all-star team. Paula Lockyer and Anne Marie Thuss are York's representatives. Coach of the Year is Laurentian's Peter Ennis.

Figure Skating

Queen's University edged out Western for the OWIAA crown, 110-107. York placed third with a 98-point total.

Badminton

Western defeated the University of Toronto 4-2 to win the OWIAA Badminton championships. Mustangs beat McMaster 5-1 while Toronto took Queen's 4-2 to advance to the final.

Swimming

The University of Toronto continued their domination of OUA swimming in the provincial championship held at Laurentian University as they won the event for the 25th straight year.

York finished sixth in the 14-team competition with 144 points.

Strong performances were contributed by Bruce Kauffmann who won the 50m freestyle event, tying the OUA record of 23.7 seconds. Kauffmann also finished third in both the 100m breaststroke and

100m freestyle events. Kauffmann will go on to the CIAU championships which will be held at Brock this week.

Synchronized Swimming

McMaster won the OWIAA Synchronized Swimming championships held at York. Marauders totaled 58 points while runner-up Western scored 40. The Sea Queen Trophy for the meet's outstanding swimmer went to McMaster's Joanne Taylor.



Bruce Kauffman tied the OUA record in the 50m freestyle.

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Two university tourneys vie for attention, at the same time

By MEL D. BROITMAN

Sometimes you have to shake your head in amazement. All too frequently in this great country Canadian ingenuity is expressed in seemingly deliberate attempts to trip over our own feet. Such is the case once again regarding the CIAU Volleyball championships slated for York University's Tait MacKenzie Athletic Centre on March 7, 8 and 9.

York is delighted at this opportunity to play host to some of the best volleyball ever witnessed in Canada, but the CIAU has thrown a monkey wrench into their own gears by scheduling the Mid-East Regional Basketball playoffs for Varsity Arena on the same weekend.

Coming off the heels of the 1984 Olympics, volleyball once again is gaining momentum as a drawing card. Our national team is swiftly becoming legitimate contenders on a global scale. At the university level the Manitoba Bisons (current CIAU men's champions) have already defeated the University of California at Santa Barbara and Pepperdine University (defending NCAA champions). For the uninitiated, these two schools are perennial US powers and are presently ranked one and two in the NCAA. It's quite an accomplishment considering Manitobans don't play year-round volleyball on the beaches of Lake Winnipeg (or do they?)

Here we have Canada's eight finest men's and women's teams converging on one gym in a

shootout for national and possibly international supremacy. York University officials have worked hard to give the event its proper promotion, but, in what is arguably the country's basketball hotbed, they are forced to compete for media and public attention.

University athletics are only now beginning to make some headway after years of dormancy in a major league sports city. In Hometown there has always been great interest in amateur basketball, and certainly The Mid East Regional will draw well. But in a shrewd move to insure success, Gib Chapman, the athletic director of the University of Toronto, has booked the Ontario High School Basketball Championships into Varsity Arena to complement the college tourney. The deck now seems loaded against York.

"Somebody's wrists should be slapped. These are two events that truly deserve single billing."

"The CIAU is trying to boost exposure on all university sports and to put two major events in the same city at the same time doesn't make any sense. Somebody's wrist should be slapped. These are two events that truly deserve single billing," says Angelo Kioussis, Athletic Events Officer for York University. Kioussis is still determined to bring the volleyball championship into the media's focus. "We are going to

try something unique to stir up media interest,"

Despite the apparent setback, the volleyball championship should still draw well. But, with Varsity Arena at the city's centre, its location can only hurt York and the volleyballers, and, of course, the simple fact that basketball is still a much more appealing sport to the North American audience will also weigh heavily against York's plans. In defense of the CIAU, we must allow for scheduling difficulties.

John McConachie, director of CIAU athletics, explains the dilemma: "Our problem is that we have eight national championships to run over a three week period. The feeling here was there wouldn't be too great an impact of one sport against the other. We felt that Toronto was a big enough city to support both, drawing from the different types of crowds." McConachie does admit that the entire situation could have been handled better. "The OFSSA tournament is a complication. We are going to have to go beyond our own area of responsibility and take a look at what else is going on. It's a matter of sophisticating our process," he said.

Regardless, the entire matter confounds logic. The Canadian university volleyball championships deserve a better fate than one half of a simultaneous double-bill feature. It seems unfair to athletes at both venues. Let us hope this honest mistake is a one-time affair.

And we wonder why university athletics suffer from a lack of support in this country. Still wondering?

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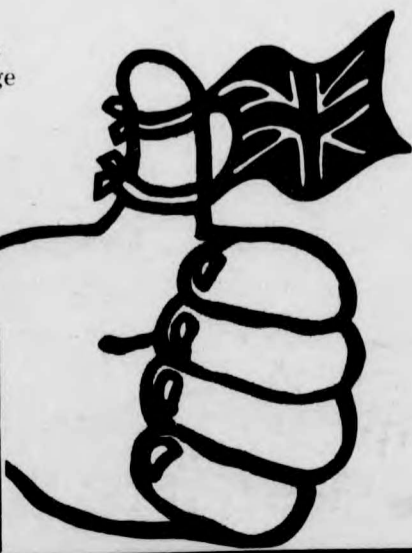
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