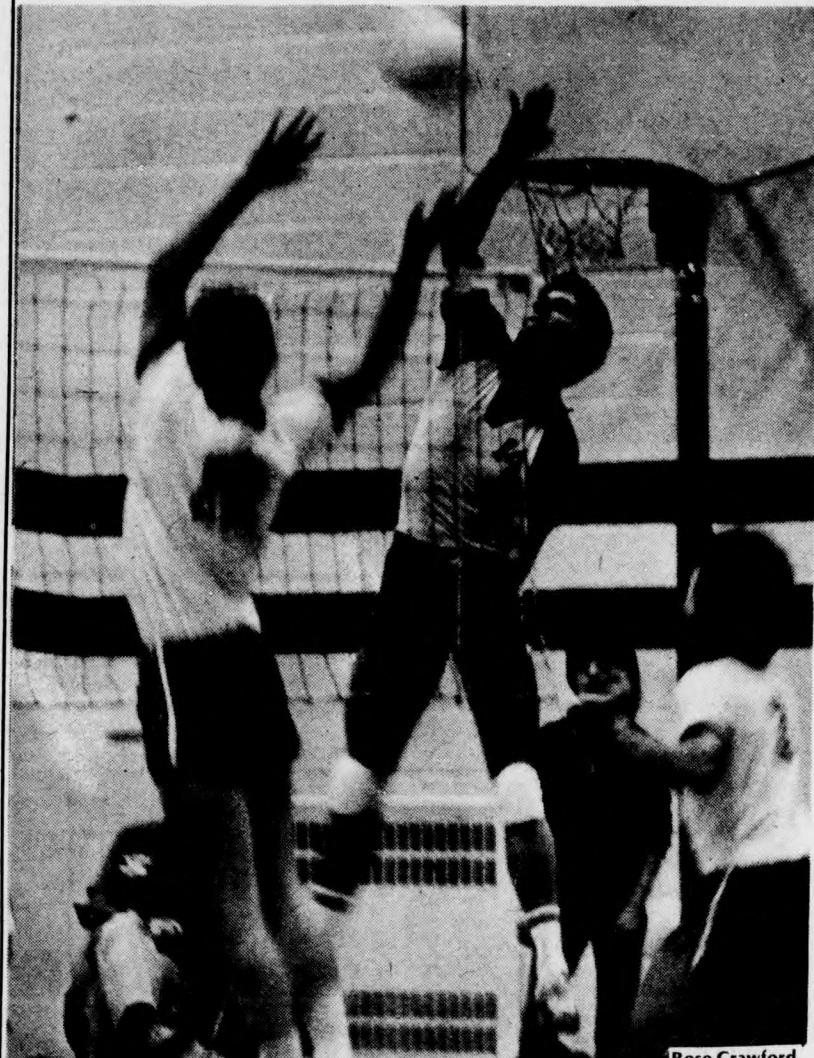




## Dyba's Yeomen struggle to win



Mark Ainsworth (14) goes up for the kill during volleyball action against Laurentian. York won 3-2. *Rose Crawford*

### Jules Xavier

The Yeomen Volleyball team has been playing uncharacteristically this season.

Ranked number one in OUAA play they've had to struggle for wins although they have managed a 5-0 record thus far.

This has left coach Wally Dyba puzzled about the team's play.

He feels he has a stronger and better team than last year's OUAA champions but this hasn't shown on the court this year.

Teams which would have been easily defeated last year have had York fighting hard to come away with two points.

Last Wednesday York had to come from behind after splitting the first four games with their cross-town rivals, U of T Blues. In the deciding fifth game York outlasted the Blues 18-16 in a very hard fought and exciting match on both sides of the net.

Again, the Yeomen had to come from behind in the deciding game Friday evening when they hosted the Laurentian Voyageurs.

York took the first two games 15-9, 15-7. The Voyageurs did not let up though and continued to press, taking the momentum away from the Yeomen and the next two games 15-9, 15-11.

It was evident that York was a tired team as they continually aided Laurentian's cause with their sloppy play.

The Voyageurs also defensively controlled York's big spikers while

Jim Claveau led the Yeomen with twelve blocks while Larry Simpson had five. The Voyageurs on the other hand continued to thwart the York attack with their excellent blocking game.

John May and Claveau were offensive standouts for York as may led the team with 20 kills while Claveau had 16. Kills are (for those non-volleyball enthusiasts) spikes which have scored a point or have had the ball sided out in favour of the team not serving.

In the fifth game the Voyageurs jumped to a quick 11-4 lead before York began to show signs of greater intensity, battling back to even the score at eleven.

This definitely unsettled the northern team. They never regained their composure, losing 15-11.

From a statistical point of view York did not play consistently throughout the night. Their serving percentage was low compared to their usual number. This was also evident in the other areas and reflected on the Yeomen's play.

Saturday afternoon Queen's played the Yeomen with York coming up big before a rather sparse crowd, winning three games to one.

After losing 15-5 the Gaels came back to tie with a 15-11 decision.

York was a stronger team this day and took the next game 15-7. They

played more aggressively with setter Dave Chambers playing solidly at the net.

Queen's was a tired team by the fourth game as York stormed out to a 10-0 lead. But in the true Queen's spirit they attempted a comeback and almost pulled it off as they closed to within 4, 13-9. The final out-come was in York's favour as they won 15-11.

May once again led the team with 17 kills against the Golden Gaels.

Yeomen wasted little time Tuesday night in putting Ryerson to rest. Rookies Peter Campbell and Eric Meslin led the way as York won 15-2, 15-3, 15-0. Third year veteran Doug Meisner also played a strong game tournament.

**Erratum:** *Excalibur Sports* would like to apologize to Al Clarkson for attributing his November 20 article "Puckmen win 3" to Jules Xavier.

*"It's not how big you are, it's how big you play"*

W. Dyba

## Snarling Bobcats tamed by Yeomen.

### Michael Allen

The York Yeomen Cagers, currently sporting an 8-1 pre-season record and a number 1 ranking in the Nation, courtesy of The Starting Line-Up, continued to roll up victories last weekend, dumping the highly touted Brandon Bobcats 70-53 and the McMaster Marauders 89-60 to win the Pinky Lewis Invitational Tournament.

Friday evening's win over the Bobcats in the tournament opener avenged a 91-90 loss that the Yeomen received at the hands of Gerry Abernathy's import-laden Bobcats at last year's CIAU championships. The Bobcats are basically the same bunch of "street-ballers" (or is it "brawlers"???) that Abernathy rustled up (literally) last year, but without the play-making spark of

NAIA All-American Freddy Lee, have slid into an "all for one and none for all" style of play.

The Brandon-York contest was a rather "chippy" affair throughout and, late in the fourth quarter, Brandon's Wallace Mainor gave the audience his rendition of the "Ali Shuffle" as he attempted to get at York's rookie centre John Christensen. Christensen showed a lot of class in walking away from the altercation but ended up ejected from the game anyway by a rather confused and intimidated official.

Head coach Bob Bain was

furiously at Brandon's tactics and although he reassured Christensen that he had "done the right thing" by avoiding the confrontation, he also commented, "We're not going to be intimidated. We won't take anything on the court that we wouldn't take on the street."

Saturday evening's Championship game between the Yeomen and the McMaster Marauders proved to be a bit anti-climatic with the Yeomen chalking up an 89-60 victory. The Yeomen were a bit sloppy in the first half, though, taking only a 6 point lead into the dressing room at half-time. But they came out hustling in the

second half and buried Don Punch's Marauders.

Co-captains Dave Coulthard and Bo Pelech led the Yeomen scoring over the weekend with Coulthard netting 46 points and Pelech 32. Both were honored at the tournament's conclusion with Coulthard being named to the All-Star team and Pelech being chosen as the Tourney's Most Valuable Player.

The Yeomen take to the road again this weekend when they travel to Guelph for the University of Guelph Invitational.

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