

S P O R T S

York's John Park selected coach of the year

By JAMES HOGGETT

Despite poor training facilities and underfunding, John Park, coach of the wrestling Yeomen, has put together a highly successful season, winning the Ontario finals and placing second in the Canadian finals.

As a reward for the tremendous improvement over last season, Park was recently selected CIAU coach of the year.

"(Although), I would have much rather of won the CIAU's," Park commented, "it's nice to be recognized by your peers and I guess it's a reflection on the team's hard work as well, not just the coach."

Park first came to York as part of a three way contract between the Coaching Association of Canada, York University and the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association in the 1984-85 season.

"The thrust of my job appointment," Park said, "was first to develop a quality varsity programme, and also develop a larger club programme that serves the whole Toronto area."

Park first started to wrestle when he was in the ninth grade in 1970 and has been involved ever since. "I competed right up until 1980 until the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. I was ranked number one going into the trials and as soon as they announced the boycott, I stopped."

Last year York placed ninth in the CIAU's, this year they finished second — 20 more points in the nationals this year as compared to last year.

"I've been very pleased with the team's performance this year," Park said. "We have a very young team, the majority being first and second year students."

"I thought we had a very good chance of winning the CIAU's but it probably came down to inexperience. We put six into the finals and only won two. But I can't be displeased, they wrestled as well as they could."

Steve Sammons, a second year student from Collingwood placed first at the CIAU's in the 51 kilogram weight class. "I was very pleased with Steve's performance for two reasons," Park said. "First he had major shoulder surgery done last year for a recurring dislocated shoulder problem. Secondly, Sammons did not really start training properly till about October because of his surgery in June." Park added that Sammons did not even start competing until January.

Pat Findley, a second year student from London, placed first in the 86 kilogram event. Findley, a former Canadian junior champion who placed fourth in the world juniors two years ago, was expected to do well at the CIAU's and didn't

disappoint his team.

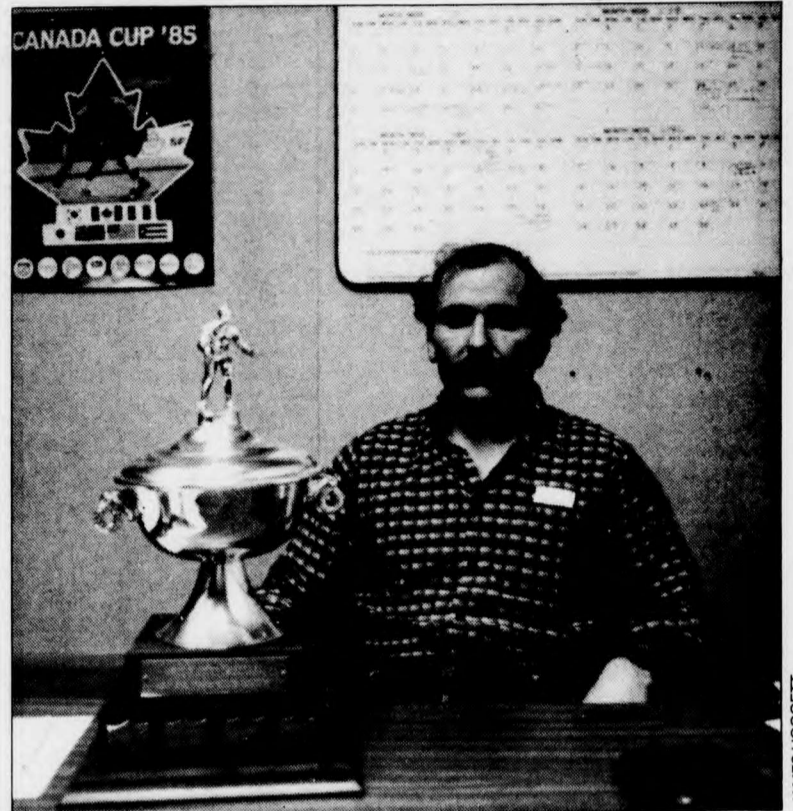
Next season Park feels that the team has a good chance of finishing first in the CIAU's. "We'll have everybody back eligibility-wise and programme-wise except I might 'redshirt' a couple of guys to get them ready for the '88 Olympics."

Facility and funding-wise, however, the Yeomen wrestling team is not doing as well. "We don't train on campus anymore," Park said. "We train in the University City Recreation Centre, and have been there since January."

"We've suffered for two years in our room at Tait MacKenzie and we just couldn't stay there anymore because it was just too dangerous and it wasn't fair to the guys on the team."

One other big problem facing the Yeomen is funding. "Nobody's funded to the extent they would like to be," Park said, "but we have enough to get by." The Yeomen are in the process of purchasing their own wrestling mats; for the time being, they have been borrowing a set from Newtonbrook High School.

The Yeomen supplement much of their programme through bingo nights which they hold every Friday. "I'd like to see a better commitment to the wrestling programme from the University," Park said. "Right now they're getting a real good deal out of



THE SIGN OF SUCCESS: John Park sits with OUA Porter trophy. It was presented in 1952 by A.M. Porter.

it because Sport Canada is paying for most of it and the University's paying very little."

"I'd like to see that improved but given the constraints I think we can just manage to get by."

York athletic award winners

By ROBERTA DI MAIO

York athletes have hung up their sneakers and sweats for the 1986-87 season but gathered last week for the annual end-of-the-year banquet. Black ties and high heels took the place of team uniforms, setting the mood for the evening events.

The Yeowoman Athlete of the year was a surprised, Sharon Bayes. Bayes has been outstanding in net for the

field hockey team for the past three years. She also played on the National Team, contributing to their bronze medal win at this year's world championships. Bayes took part in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and has set her sights on the 1988 games in Seoul, Korea.

The Yeoman Athlete of the Year award went to football player, Terry Douglas. "I didn't think I'd win it," Douglas said during his acceptance

speech. But it was a fitting close to the athlete's university eligibility. Douglas, who has dazzled onlookers as a running back for the past five years, attributed his success to his coaches and teammates. The Fine Arts major also showed his versatility by designing the York University logo on the Yeomen football helmets. Yeowomen Field Hockey coach, Marina van der Merwe and Rugby coach Mike Dinning were the evening's MCs. They, along with Dinning's team (who held up score cards after all speeches) helped to add life to the ceremonies.

Other winners included: Glen Cooper, who took the Tom Zivic Award as the outstanding gymnast; Rick Scragg (Men's Basketball) was the recipient of the Tony Moscato Award for his work ethic and dedication; and John Cho (Wrestling team) took the Charles Saundercook Award as the athlete who best demonstrates the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship, enthusiasm for life, and consideration for others.

The most improved team was the Yeomen Wrestling squad, who were tops in Ontario this year, and second in the nation. Congratulations to all the other winners and nominees.



ROBERTA DI MAIO

LOOKING DAPPER: Are Athletes of the Year Sharon Bayes and Terry Douglas (left) and Chris and Cheryl Thompson (above) who were honoured for their contributions to womens athletics at York.



ROBERTA DI MAIO

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