

S P O R T S

Last minute Laurier field goal deals Yeomen first loss

By DAVID BUNDAS

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks used a patient offensive attack to defeat the Yeomen 21-19 on a 25 yard field goal with 14 seconds left on the clock.

Hawks QB, Mike Wilson, completed 23-36 for 286 yards, most of which were gained on quick out patterns. His receiver's took advantage of York's, "bend but don't break defense," adding nicely to their statistics. Split end Ken Evoire hauled in 10 catches for 130 yards, while on the opposite side Joe Nastasiuk caught 7 for 94 yards. Laurier racked up 355 yards of total offence while York managed only 173.

The game was played under adverse weather conditions, and Laurier took advantage of that fact with the wind at their backs in the fourth quarter. York led 19-11 after third quarter scores by Joe Pariselli on a 10 yard run, and Tino Iacono's seven yard TD. But Laurier fought back on a three yard TD by Ken Evoire which cut the core to 19-18.

With 54 seconds left in the game, Laurier was forced to punt from York's 45 yard line on a play which very well may have decided the final outcome of the game. York put kicker Mike Boyd and punter Alan Meyers in the end zone to receive the

punt. Had the punt sailed deep into the end zone, rather than concede a single point to tie the game, Cosentino instructed them to punt the ball out. Meyers, who received the punt only 10 yards deep, brought it out with a baseball slide to York's one yard line.

Unfortunately, York was stalled in their efforts to move the ball. They ran Pariselli up the middle on two consecutive plays which took them to the four yard line and forced them to punt on third down with just 39 seconds left.

The short punt into the wind was fielded at York's 18 yard line, and on the ensuing play Hawk kicker Grant Fraser booted the game winner of 25 yards with a mere 14 seconds remaining on the clock. That made the final 21-19 Laurier.

Referring to the play which saw Laurier punting with 54 seconds left, Cosentino said, "It's one of those plays where you're damned if you do and damned if you don't." Cosentino added, "I never considered giving up a single point and playing for a tie."

Had York conceded a single point they would have had possession of the ball at their 35 yard line with approximately 40 seconds left on the clock.



THE ONE THAT DID IT: Laurier Goldenhawks kicker Grant Fraser boots the last-minute field goal that handed York its first loss of the season. The Yeomen play U of T tonight at Varsity Stadium.

A Point After: Defensive coach Nobie Wirkowski was impressed with the defensive squad's effort, saying, "this was one of the best games they've played in two years." The defence halted four Laurier drives on third down, as well as recovering two Laurier fumbles. Tino Iacono finished the day completing 9 of 17, for just 124 yards. His play

selection, both with and against the wind, was questionable. York rushers were 37 for 88 with losses of 39 yards for a net of a mere 49 yards.

Bundas' Odds: Tonight at 7:30 York takes its 2-1 record to Varsity Stadium to take on the winless Blues. This year's contest (sponsored by

Labatt's) is being billed as an intergalactic battle of the Empire (U of T) against the rebel forces (York). York finally squashed the Empire last year to the tune of 44-20. This year York is favoured by a converted touchdown. York should rebound from last Sunday's loss at The Blue's expense with a big game tonight. Take York to cover the spread -7.

Van der Merwe reinstated after bizarre week's events

By LORNE MANLY

Otto Jelinek, Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, denied accusations by Liberal MP Sergio Marchi last Thursday that he ran "roughshod" over the best interests of the national women's field hockey team by reinstating York University professor Marina Van der Merwe as coach.

March, the Liberal sports critic, said in his letter sent to Jelinek and made public last Wednesday, the committee voted on the issue. "By a margin of 3-1, the committee recommended that Miss Van der Merwe not be reappointed, and at least two of the three members contacted have since indicated their willingness to sign affidavits to this effect."

However, Jelinek told the *Globe and Mail* last week that he based his announcement on the recommendation of the committee. "I was never involved in their deliberations. There was no vote. I understand they reached a consensus. There certainly was no overriding of the committee," Jelinek said.

Victor Warren, president of the Canadian Men's Field Hockey Association (CMFHA), and a member of the committee, has signed a declaration stating that the coach's reinstatement was not a committee decision. But Warren contradicted Marchi saying that no vote was taken on the issue. Warren said he proposed that the women's association raise its own money to hire a coach for six months, and re-evaluate the coach afterward. He said the Government did

not approve the proposal. Bryce Taylor, the director of York's sports administration certificate program, and a committee member made the only other proposal—to rehire Van der Merwe.

Taylor also said there was no vote taken by the committee on its recommendation. "It was a matter of consensus that it was the only alternative and everyone (on the committee) agreed to try and make it work."

But Jan Meyer, president of the Canadian Women's Field Hockey Association (CWFHA) and a member of the committee as well, disagreed with Taylor's version of what was decided by the committee. "If Bryce Taylor felt a consensus had been reached he must have been sitting in on a different telephone conversation," Meyer said.

Meyer said she was not in a position to sign a contract with Van der Merwe. "I would be removed from office by the board immediately because I've been told quite clearly that if she is going to be doing anything with women's field hockey, it's with Sport Canada's approval or their backing, not with ours," Meyer said.

This is the latest episode in an unbelievable chain of events that began when Van der Merwe's contract as national women's field hockey coach was not renewed in June. Jelinek became involved when he was asked by Meyer to solve the impasse with Van der Merwe after she was picked by the CWFHA selection committee to be coach of the national women's

team only to have the association's board of governors refuse to ratify Van der Merwe's rehiring.

Jelinek formed a four member committee consisting of Warren, Meyer, Taylor, and Canadian Field Hockey Council (CFHC) treasurer Denys Cooper to decide on a coach so no more valuable preparation time for the World Cup next July would be lost.

After receiving the recommendation that Van der Merwe was the "only possible alternative" Jelinek called Meyer. "I knew she (Meyer) wasn't happy but she said she would try to make it work," Jelinek said. "She was very pleasant to me. Then we released publicly the decision of the committee."

Meyer immediately accused Jelinek of government interference and said she would not follow the decision to rehire Van der Merwe. "They (Otto Jelinek and Sport Canada) hired her, they set the term of the contract and they can be the people that pay her, because it's not a decision that's ratified or approved or condoned by our association."

Jelinek's surprise with Meyer's announcement has now given way to frustration. "I've had it up to my neck," he said. "This has gone on long enough."

Jelinek, as a result, has called a full board meeting with the association this week "to rectify the situation once and for all." Marina Van der Merwe's position as national team coach hangs in the balance.

Final decision handed down yesterday

Marina Van der Merwe's reappointment as national women's field hockey coach has finally been made official. Yesterday, in a joint statement issued by Otto Jelinek, Minister of State for fitness and Amateur Sport, and the Canadian Women's Field Hockey Association (CWFHA), Van der Merwe was reinstated as coach with a special short term CWFHA committee struck that will specify the conditions under which the national coach will be involved with the national team program.

Jan Meyer, president of the CWFHA, said yesterday that although the CWFHA is not in unanimous agreement with Van der Merwe's rehiring, it is fully supportive of the special committee. Board members of the CWFHA make up this committee that will present its recommendations at the association's meeting November 16 in Calgary.

Van der Merwe, when contacted yesterday, expressed relief that the whole mess was over. "I really just want to get on with it (coaching)." The formation of the CWFHA committee doesn't bother Van der Merwe. "I don't feel uncomfortable," Van der Merwe said. "I'm always under scrutiny so it doesn't bother me. If it (the committee) succeeds in clarifying the job description it'll make by job 100% easier."

Amateur sport weaves web of intimacy big leagues just can't match

This past weekend was one like no other in the history of Hogtown. The American League East Division champions now are on display at Exhibition Stadium. Yet as the Toronto Blue Jays came one big step closer to finally bringing the World Series to Canada, a dear friend discovered what sports truly means to him. He came from the eastern shores of our land to witness a game and a team that touches him deeply. Along with millions, he had been swallowed up in a fall epidemic known as pennant fever. But when all was said and done, he was not one of the thousands by the lake. He willingly gave it all up for a sense of intimacy.

After a thousand mile trek, he traded seeing the Jays for a game of high school football. Despite all of his internal turmoil surrounding a summer of anxiety, and the months of build up to a climax, he chose instead a small and sparse field over a maddening crowd. Somehow seeing his brother's eyes gleaming out of a scratched and stained helmet replaced all of that which he thought he came for. He came to realize what a handshake could mean after a long afternoon of competition. And as he felt his brother's warmth at the end, that wonderful web of intimacy had spun its last thread.

I was also not present when George Bell made the final out. Instead of my familiar bleacher seat, Saturday found me at North York Civic Stadium watching the Yeomen tangle with Laurier. I was not just one of the thousands, but



MEL BROITMAN

rather one of a few hundred. However if my eyes were watching the Yeomen, my heart was still pumping the Jays on to victory. As much as I enjoyed the football, I couldn't overcome my longing for the seventh inning stretch at the old ball yard. Only when both games had ended did I too redefine my position. After a tough loss in a blustery drizzle I approached a losing and sombre looking head coach to shake his hand and recapture the day's tale. As I look back now I understand what my friend had felt. There is indeed something very special to an intimate gathering of players and spectators. It's especially heightened at the conclusion when either smiles of joy, tears of disappointment or expressions of relief are shared by all. At Exhibition Stadium I could never shake Bobby Cox's hand, yet instead Frank Cosentino's grip made all the difference.

Modern professional sports is suffering from a definite identity crisis. How can we fans relate to those who are paid a king's ransom to play a kid's game? And if we are among

the multitude of thousands present as witnesses, we are cut off in an arena from any 'real' contact. Fortunately such is not the situation in amateur sport. With a few exceptions, a handshake, a hug or an exchange of smiles can always follow a sports spectacle. Canadian inter-university athletics is a prime example of where one can find the intimacy of sport. If a small crowd is certainly not "big-time," it can still render a "great time." Just as a book doesn't have to be a best seller to allow for enjoyment, such is the case of Canadian college sports which offers plenty of entertainment and immediacy for players and fans alike. Canadian university athletes and coaches are not deified by their supporters. In place is a sincere appreciation for the individuals sacrifice and commitment to his/her sport. Last year as York athletics swept to several championship titles, there was still a lot of room and time to develop lasting relationships with the competitors. This aura of comradery is not wholly absent from sports at the peak of the public's attention. But sadly the opportunity for friendship beyond the borders of our television screens are rare.

I don't mean to belittle our beloved Blue Jays. On the contrary, I would love to shake Lloyd Moseby's hand and thank him for what he has given to me. Unfortunately I cannot scale the centrefield wall at the ball park. I did have my chance once, however I never saw Lloyd play high school ball.