

# Sports and Recreation

## Arsenault returns, Mac coach to challenge York gym champions

By WALTER RIGOBON

McMaster University emerged as the surprise winner of York's Invitational women's gymnastics meet last Saturday, outscoring teams from York, U of T, Western, Queen's, Laurentian and Seneca College.

The overall standings saw York come in third place with 168.37 points. Western finished second with 172.24 and McMaster topped the points parade with 188.32.

Lorrie Appleton of McMaster was declared the junior overall winner. Jane Agiss was the lone York gymnast to earn a medal in the junior competition by placing second in the floor exercises. York's junior team finished third behind McMaster and Western.

York's Intermediate gymnasts were just barely edged out for first place garnering 89.57 points to McMaster's 90.62.

The overall intermediate champion was York's Molly Larin who finished third on the beam, second in vaulting and third on the parallel bars. Yeowoman gymnast Marlene Boyle finished third in the vaulting and second on the parallel bars.

The meet featured the triumphant return of former York gymnast and Olympic competitor Lise Arsenault in the guise of McMaster coach. In the short span of a few months she has transformed the McMaster squad into a powerful unit that has now become a serious threat to the hegemony of

York's women's gymnastis.

York's coach Sharon Tsukamoto who was a teammate of Arsenault on the Canadian Olympic team that went to Munich commented, "This was an important meet for us but it's just a hurdle before the OWIAA finals. This was our first competition of the year and gave us a good indication of where we stand"

Coach Tsukamoto, along with fellow York coaches Larry Bialogrecki and Tamara Bempa, felt that the Yeowomen can do a lot better.

Tsukamoto said, "Our major goal is the OWIAA finals in February for which we're defending champions. The Canadian finals in March are another event we're pointing towards."

Right now the girls are putting in about nine or ten hours a week of training."

Testimony to the above statement is that York has dominated gymnastics over the last eight years in both women's and men's events.

Although York failed to win their own invitational the full force of the team has yet to be unleashed. The seniors get a taste of action this weekend in a meet at Western.

One of the big upcoming events in gymnastics is a combined men's and women's competition against powerful Penn State on January 29.



Byron Johnson photo

A York gymnast during floor routine at meet held in Tait McKenzie last weekend, McMaster edged out York and Western to take top honours for new coach Lise Arsenault and threaten York's traditional hold on the Ontario championship.

## Windsor beats Yeowomen

Even though his basketball Yeowomen lost to Windsor last Saturday, coach Skip Letheren feels he has good reason to smile.

"Even after 40 minutes, they're still playing hard when the buzzer goes", he said after describing his team's 59-36 loss on the weekend.

Letheren is not overlooking his teams faults though, "our floor play is good but we're taking too many fouls due to inexperience."

Against the Windsor squad, York was able to stay within a few points but could not overcome a seventeen point deficit acquired in the first five minutes of play.

"They were doing it and we weren't we were hoping we could put it together but we just weren't putting them in."

Top scorer for the women this time was Debbie Sharman, a first year player who has been a valuable addition to the team effort.

"I've been impressed with all the freshmen", said Letheren, Rose Blois, Sharon Bedard, Vivian Cameron and Shelly McPhee have all played well." McPhee however

is still recovering from an operation after suffering torn knee ligaments early in the season.

According to Letheren there is still a chance the Yeowomen can make the playoffs, if they can win their upcoming games against U of T, Carleton, McMaster, Western and Queen's.

With Laurentian being the defending national champions and Ottawa the tenth ranked in the country", Letheren says, "you almost have to concede the first two playoff spots to them. Since they are both in our division, everyone is left to fight for the third place playoff spot."

The Yeowomen played U of T yesterday and are now preparing to take on Ryerson in an exhibition match that everyone is looking forward to.

"It doesn't count in league play," said Letheren, "but it would be nice to win, a win is always nice just to boost morale."

The match against Ryerson will be played at 6:30 p.m. in Tait McKenzie.

## Wrestlers second to Mustangs

By DAVE FULLER

There was little doubt in any one's mind at last weekend's Queen's Invitational Wrestling meet about who was best represented among the eight competing universities.

Western completely dominated the competition and according to York coach John Pickard they were in a class by themselves. "It's always been that way, Western and Guelph are the traditional winners, just like York and U of T in hockey."

The Mustangs were well in front of everyone else with strong placings in almost every class, "in some classes they finished first, second and third", said Pickard "they had 26 wrestler's there and they won eight of the 11 classes".

But the strong showing of the Western team did not put the Yeomen wrestlers off their form. York finished in the unofficial second spot well back of the leaders.

Jim Stitt was the lightest Yeomen to place, winning three of his matches in the 126 pound class to place first. Originally slated for the 118 pound competition, Stitt moved to the next higher division in order to meet stiffer competition.

Dennis Daley was sixth in the 158 pound event winning three of his five matches, while John Sestito was forced to drop out of the 142 pound class after injuring the ligaments in his ankle. The injury is not too serious and he should be back in time for the Western Open on the 29th of this month.

Brian Ferris was in a tight battle for first place in the 167 pound division taking his opponent to a five-five tie before losing in the extra round on a decision.

"He wrestled really well", said Pickard, "he has really improved in his second year with the team."

Yeoman Doug Pound came up with a top notch performance, winning the 190 pound class with three victories.

Perhaps the most bizarre match of the day however, was between

York's heavyweight competitor Ted Hayward and his 6'8" partner from Sir Wilfred Laurier.

"I've never seen anybody that big before," said Pickard, "he was 340 pounds and had his head shaved, he was huge".

Hayward, who is no midget himself, checks in at 6'4", 260 pounds, but had no trouble throwing the Laurier giant and pinning him in the first minute. He eventually went on to place second to the wrestler from Queen's.

Also wrestling for the Yeomen were Eric Wiebe, Mike Sinclair and

Mike Eddy.

Football Yeomen Paul Sheridan, who Pickard had hoped would fit into the 220 pound class was forced to decline because of a pinched nerve. His absence will leave the class uncontested when the team travels to Guelph and Western for the two toughest tournaments of the season.

At the Ontario finals in February, Pickard hopes to see his team place within the top five in the province.

The team's next competition is at Guelph on the 22nd of this month.

## Sports Briefs

While the controversy rages in OUAA squash circles over which game should be the official league form of play; hard ball or soft ball, the Yeomen were able to take top honours at the Queen's invitational tournament held in Kingston last weekend.

Playing against Queen's, Laurier and the Queen's Alumni, York took 13 of the 18 matches played for their second tournament win of the season. The first was at RMC in November.

Top performers for York were Steve Jacobs, Pat Gamey, and Doug Jenkin all of whom were 3-0 against their opponents, in the third, fourth and fifth seed competitions respectively.

First seed Doug Hill won one of his three matches, while second seed Horace Hale did the same in his. Marvin Curray rounded out the York effort by dropping only one of his three sets at sixth seed.

According to coach Paul Frost, the team is among those who are breaking away from the official league position of playing the hard ball game. "Ninety nine percent of the squash played is softball he said," but there are those who prefer the hard ball and happen to be in position to influence the league's choice."

Although York will host this year's championship meet, they are bound by an earlier league decision to play the hard ball in the finals necessitating a switch from soft ball at the end of the year.

"We'll play the invitational at Mac in two weeks and then switch over to training for the hard ball tournament. Next year though, we are hoping for a change back to the soft ball."

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The Yeowomen hockey team ran into the third period blues again in their game with U of T last Thursday and wound up on the short side of a 6-2 decision.

"It was only 3-2 going into the third", said coach Laura Smith, "but we lost on wind. They've been doing that, they just don't seem to have it in the third period."

Dana Philips scored the two goals for York. "We've really improved though," said Smith, "the scores against the better teams have been lower this year, we are holding them to scores like 5-2 instead of 11-1."

The Yeowomen travel to Guelph today for a game against the Gryphons.

## U of T Blues edge York Yeomen 5-4

By IAN WASSERMAN

Tuesday night at the York Ice palace the inevitable happened as the York Yeomen went down to defeat at the hands of the U of T Blues 5-4. It was York's first regular season loss this year. York jumped out by two goals on markers by Bob Grisdale and Brian Birtch. But Warren Anderson and Larry Hopkins tied it up early in the second period before Ron Hawkshaw put York out in front as the second period ended.

Alex Jeans tied it up after 33 seconds of the third period but Bob Grisdale put York ahead for a short period until Frank Davis marked a goal to even the score. Then it was Dan D'alvise who scored the winner at 8:03 of the third.

York had many chances to tie the game but couldn't beat goalar Ken McKenzie. Several of the Yeomen has shots at wide-open nets but couldn't find the six by four. Even an overflowing partisan York crowd couldn't cheer the Yeomen on to the tying goal.

Both York and Toronto remained tied in first of the OUAA east with York ahead on goals four.

Both teams play nationally-ranked Concordia this weekend.

**Excalibur  
staff meeting  
today at 2 p.m.**