

### SQUASH—IT'S MORE THAN A VEGETABLE

The Yeomen squash team travelled to Kingston this past weekend to compete in the Queen's Invitational Tournament. Three other universities, Wilfred Laurier, Trent and R.M.C., were also represented (in addition to York and Queen's).

Each player was required to play four best of five matches on Saturday—a real test of skill and stamina—but when the results were tallied, York reigned victorious.

Not only did they win the team award, three York squashers, Doug Whittaker, Dave Jenkin and Tim Dickins, walked off with individual honors by going undefeated through tournament play.

The other team members were Eric Sparkman and Kingsley Hurbs.

## Shortstops

### HOCKEY WOES WORSEN

Washington Capitals, look out!

When it comes to injuries the beleaguered York puckmen are second to none. Yeomen have no less than six first-stringers out with injuries, a fact that has been strongly reflected in the team's performance of late. Two recent road trip losses to Waterloo (9-1) and McMaster (4-1) brings the team record to 3-6-1, good enough for a dismal eighth spot in the OUAA standings.

Although only the first six placed teams go to the playoffs, Coach Bruce Reier is still confident that his squad can turn things around in the second half of the season, if they can only get everyone healthy and avoid any more injuries.

Frank McCarthy (10 goals, 6 assists) and Jeff Black (6 goals, 9 assists) presently lead the Yeomen scoring.

### WRESTLERS STRIKE GOLD

Last Sunday, the York wrestling team was represented by a trio comprised of Jim Mendicino, Tony Cosentino, and Jonathan Graham at the Ontario Central Eastern Junior (under 21 yrs. of age) Takedown Finals held in Oshawa.

Wrestling at the 126 lb. weight category, Jim Mendicino began the afternoon with a slow start, winning his first two matches and losing a third. However, as the afternoon wore on, it was clearly evident that he was by no means ready to give up. With a display of stamina and determination, Mendicino returned to the mat to win a fourth match, and clinched the gold medal in a fifth and final match by destroying his opponent at a score of 12-2.

At 149.5 lbs., Tony Cosentino was unfortunately beaten out of the standings after three matches. But in that same weight division, Jonathan Graham wrestled his way cleanly to a first place victory. Graham assured himself of a spot in the championship match by winning each of his preliminary bouts by a pin. In the contest for the gold medal, he met with and defeated Canadian Junior champion Graham Dadsell by a points decision.

In the words of York coach Albert Venditti, "John had an excellent day showing a great desire to win." Due to his first place finish and over-all excellence in competition, Graham was awarded the trophy for the most outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

As first place finishers at this meet, both Graham and Mendicino will advance, as part of the Central Eastern Ontario team coached by Albert Venditti, to the Ontario Championships, to be held December 15, in Scarborough.

With a junior squad achieving results like these, York seems to be well on its way to emerging as a formidable opponent for the more traditional powers from Western and Guelph in the upcoming meets.

## Foiled again

### Richard Aaron

Let's get serious about fencing for a moment. Haul the ship facade out of the gym, please. Send the movie extras home. And for heaven's sake, remove that frilly shirt and eyepatch.

Do you have any idea what's left to fencing when the Hollywood props disappear. The answer is plenty! Errol Flynnisms aside, fencing is still intended to be a sportsmanlike activity. Traditional etiquette such as the salute before a match and adjudicating in French add a delightful flavour to the sport.

The standard garb for fencers may seem a tad peculiar. Face mask, white jacket and pants (more properly, coulottes), along with a protective glove for the weapon hand, ensure immediate recognition. Yet, for all the acknowledgement, public awareness of this sport is very slight. Whereas in Europe fencing is a recognized pastime, in our neck of the cabbage patch, fencers are considered a little bit eccentric.

The physical side of fencing is not to be ignored. Increased agility, speed and strength are all measurable benefits.

Perhaps more importantly however, are the psychological aspects. Fencing on a serious

level is a strict discipline, which isn't the same thing as saying it cannot be enjoyed. It is a thinking person's sport. You are one on one with your opponent, and trying to out-tactic and out-finesse him should tax an athlete's ability to the fullest. The vast selection of attacks, defenses, counterattacks, counter-counterattacks, ad nauseum, combined with fanciful and controlled footwork provide for a tactician's motherload.

In the true spirit of something for everyone, mention should be made of the more grizzly incidents. A jagged, broken blade piercing a thin cotton jacket might appeal to a few. Yet it is hoped that some of the more staid curiosities have been picqued into actually witnessing some fencing in action and perhaps getting involved with a sport a lot more accessible than they thought previously. The York team invites applicants interested in competing next school year to begin practising today. Drop by the Tait upper gym any Tuesday or Thursday at 6:30. If, instead, you prefer to investigate the sport as an observer first, remind yourself to take in the York Invitational Tournament the weekend of January 12 and 13.

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