

SPORTS

Grid Yeomen down defending national champs

York 24, Guelph 17 in first exhibition match

By DAVID BUNDAS

The York football Yeomen opened their pre-season schedule last Saturday on an impressive note, defeating last year's national champions to the tune of 24-17. The game was played on the road against the Guelph Gryphons before 1,200 enthusiastic fans at Alumni Stadium on a sticky day with temperatures in excess of 30°C.

The game afforded a good opportunity for Coach Frank Cosentino and his staff to assess the ability of several of the players. Many holes are present in York's starting squad, especially on the offensive line after the graduation of all-star linemen Dave Maganja and Mike Chesson, as well as centre Graham Catt, and offensive guard Bruno Fracassi. Running-back Joe Pariselli starts the season out of the fullback spot (vacated by George Ganas) with the return of speedster Terry Douglas. Both backs made impressive debuts, with Pariselli scoring on a beautifully executed 42-yard draw play, mesmerizing the startled Gryphon defence.

York opened the scoring after the defence jarred a fumble loose at Guelph's 46-yard line. Following an incomplete pass and a three-yard run by Douglas, Mike Boyd booted a monstrous 50-yard field goal, which cleared the uprights with room to spare. Guelph mixed pass and run on their next possession to go ahead of York 6-3 after flanker Al Anonech snared a seven-yard touchdown reception. The covert was partially blocked by a diving York defender. On the ensuing kickoff the Yeomen marched downfield on a 75-yard TD drive culminated by Pariselli's TD run, to go ahead 10-6.

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IN FINE FORM: Fine Arts major and Yeomen standout Terry Douglas eludes Gryphon defenders in his first game since being injured last year in York's victory of University of Toronto. The Yeomen travel to Kingston this weekend, where they will face the Golden Gaels.

ROBERTA DI MAIO

'84-'85 Athletics: first in a string of successes?

Fall is my favorite time of year. Even without the obvious physical splendor of the season, there are other reasons for my autumnal preference. Personally, the coming of September has always given me a sense of rejuvenation and rebirth. Perhaps it is because I was born in the fall, or maybe it is the countless school terms that have begun with the turning of the leaves. Regardless, I had never felt it so strong as I did last September, when after a short absence I returned to York University. What had once seemed like stagnant air on campus was then swirling with activity. A great deal of this new energetic spirit was emanating from the Tait McKenzie Centre, where York athletics was about to explode onto the national scene like never before.

I remember well last fall, wondering if all the hub-bub concerning the inevitable uprising of York sports onto a higher plane would move from public relations to the playing fields. I was excited about the administration's new commitment to increased financial support for the athletes and coaches, yet I must admit I harbored my own share of skepticism.

Yet when all was said and done, last season's athletic endeavors would silence even the harshest Yeomen or Yeowomen critic. York University had finally arrived as a legitimate contender in almost every sporting arena. A year that began with the rugby team winning the Ontario title in virtual obscurity, ended with the entire country witnessing the Yeomen ice hockey team capture their first national championship.

Certainly there were numerous highlights from last year. Among many were the women's field hockey team who



MEL BROITMAN

surprised everyone but themselves in advancing all the way to the national championship game. There were the usual strong showings by the men's basketball and gymnastics teams. Individually, track stars Desai Williams and Molly Killingbeck added more trophies to their already crowded collections. But amidst all the glory, two teams stood out in the successful campaign. On the gridiron and the hockey rink, Yeomen clubs scored impressive gains.

York football had always been among the most consistent of all York sports. They usually lost and had never qualified for the playoffs. In a sport that publicly denotes a university's athletic status, it had always been York's tombstone. That has changed. The Yeomen football team suddenly became a nationally-ranked squad and a serious contender in the OUAA. Presently, in fact, the Yeomen have to be considered a definite threat for the Vanier Cup. Last season's stirring five and two record, first playoff confrontation ever and resounding humiliation of the University of Toronto, catapulted York out of the shadows and into the limelight of university athletics. Winning is contagious, and the Yeomen football team left its mark.

The hockey team with a total of 19 new players entered last season simply hoping for a playoff spot. Coach Dave

Chambers' team rode the new spirit to not only post-season play, but right through it. Yeomen hockey provided the connoisseurs of our national game with thrill after thrill. The York Ice Palace played host to the unforgettable 4-3 overtime playoff victory over the Varsity Blues that climaxed a year of tremendous domination by York teams over their crosstown rivals. After prevailing over Western in the Ontario final, the York skaters swept past all opposition at the National championships and provided everyone at York with the perfect crowning to a glorious sporting season.

When I look back at all of last year's accomplishments, I distinctly remember conversations I had with Yeomen hockey coach Dave Chambers in the fall. Chambers couldn't help talking about his team's chances without a slight grin forming on his face. Eventually his grin grew wider and wider till one spring afternoon the modest Chambers could no longer contain a smile brimming from ear to ear. It was a long time coming for Chambers, who had been a part of York's long history of frustrations, and he clearly exemplified the feelings of relief and pride that we all felt.

Last fall a new rising spirit took hold in the York athletic program. For those of us who rejoice in York sports, that season will always remain very special. However, somehow I feel that in 10 or 20 years from now, when we look back one more time, 1984-85 will not stand out so much. It will merely be a year in a string of many successful athletic seasons at York. But enough about the past; with great anticipation bring on the new year, and 'let the games begin.'



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