

Yeowomen basketball team sizes up competition

By RANDALL UGOLINI

For the past eight years, The Tait McKenzie Basketball Classic, York's annual women's 'hoop-fest,' has showcased some of the foremost talent in Canadian women's basketball. This year was no exception.

Last weekend's Sunday final saw the U of T Blues, ranked #1 in the tournament, edge the McGill Martlets 89-80 to claim the championship. Earlier in the day, the hosting York Yeowomen lost to the Laval Rouge et Or to clinch a fourth place finish.

The tournament represents a valuable phase in the pre-season preparation of the Yeowomen. According to captain Wanda Pighin, the tournament "is important because it helps us improve our ranking for the season which starts in January, and is an essential learning experience to prepare us for the season."

The Yeowomen's lessons began during their first game, a convincing 48-39 win over the Western Mustangs. With only four players on

their depleted bench, the York squad played a disciplined first half, retiring with a 29-19 lead.

York came out with their version of the "blitzkrieg" in the second half. Forwards Wendee Beach and Heather Reid dominated on offence. Beach netting 12 points to lead the games' scorers and Reid, York's game MVP, spraying shots from around the perimeter of the key. Defensively, forward Sue Deryck corralled loose rebounds under the boards. This flurry was shortlived as York decided to sit on their lead and soon found themselves in a five-point game.

After the game, Yeowomen head coach Bill Pangos attributed the team's offensive lapse to "a lack of execution. We only had 19 points in the second half, you need a lot more if you want to win." Defensively, he indicated that "we can't afford to turn the switch on and off, you must have the switch on. When it's off you're susceptible to mistakes that can cost you."

Tournament organizers were appar-

ently hoping for a York-U of T final, placing both teams at opposite ends of the draw. However, any such hopes were soon dispelled as the Yeowomen dropped their second game to the McGill Marlets.

Playing their best basketball of the tournament, York countered McGill's double teaming with their own brand of disciplined offence. At the half, the score was even at 34-34. In the second half, McGill's aggressive zone press put pressure on the Yeowomen, resulting in errant passes and key turnovers. As a result, McGill barely escaped with a 63-54 victory.

Shining for the Yeowomen were Wendee Beach who recorded 18 points and nabbed the York player of the game award. Liz MacDonald, York's premiere point guard also commandingly quarterbacked the offense throughout. Macdonald

explained that pressure is a central obstacle which the team must overcome. "When we get frustrated, things break down," she said. "We are learning how to handle the pressure, but it takes a lot of discipline and it's easy to break down mentally."

On Sunday, the Yeowomen faced the fiery Laval Rouge et Or for third place. York contained Laval's explosive offence during the first half with a solid zone defence to tie at 28.

However, the second half saw Laval completely shut York down. Applying pressure to York through their defensive press, Laval swarmed the zone. York was unable to penetrate inside. York was consequently relegated to forcing hasty, low percentage shots from the outside.

Frustration soon befell the Yeowomen and things broke down. Laval was scoring from everywhere on the

court, and at the final buzzer the score was 76-50. Outstanding Yeowoman Sue Deryck copped the York player of the game honours. Overall, coach Pangos was satisfied with his team's showing in the tournament, stating that "we have a gutsy team and they responded to the test pretty well."

The Yeowomen have one tournament remaining before the regular season. With the eventual return of star guard Michelle Sund, and the seasoning of the rookies (which make up a third of the team), the squad is confident that they can give the top teams in their division a run for their collective funds. Bill Pangos is confident of the team's potential, saying, "Our goal is second or third in our division. U of T and Laurentian better watch out because we cannot be taken for granted, and we are not going to stand still."

Sports editors wind up in slammer

By PETER PARKER

After repeated counts of scalping tickets at a number of sporting events within one weekend, *Excalibur* Sports Editors James Hoggett and Garry (sometimes known as "Howie") Marr were convicted and sentenced to three weeks imprisonment.

It is the most severe sentence ever handed down in Provincial Court history for this crime, and could set a precedent for future offenders.

The two sports editors are presenting serving their sentence at the provincial Don Jail where they are reported to be in good spirits and extremely apologetic for their crime.

"We ran out of money at McDonald's," said Hoggett, "and we still had to go for dinner, and Garry was forced to get the six-pack of Chicken McNuggets instead of the 20-pack. That's what happens on an empty stomach—people do crazy things."

After hunger consumed Hoggett's and Marr's minds, they quickly dove into their pockets and produced the six remaining Vanier Cup tickets which they were unable to give away at last week's *Excalibur* contest. "We tried, but no one was interested," said Marr. "So we thought, why not make a few bucks and scalp them?"

Reaction to the incident was mixed at *Excalibur*. When contacted, Editor-in-Chief James Flagal commented on his sub-editors' arrest by saying, "I'm really pissed off that I have to layout the entire sports section on my own."

Production Manager Kevin Connolly was sympathetic toward Hoggett and Marr, saying "It was a shame but understandable as they slaved many hours on the paper without pay. All they wanted was to make some money so they could afford lunch." Connolly added, "I really don't think it was a crime, after all, nobody was going to use the tickets anyway."

News Editor David Dollard was less sympathetic towards his two colleagues. "It was one of those sad occasions when two men desperate for money were forced to resort to scalping, something I thought had disappeared with the cowboys and Indians," Dollard said.

"I hope they nail those bastards to

the wall," added Dollard, "because the seats they sold me were shit."

Upon their release, Hoggett and Marr will be stripped of their editorial duties at *Excalibur* and demoted to writing classified ads.

Arresting officer Sean O'Shale commented that "these two are the most despicable criminals I've ever had the displeasure of dealing with." O'Shale added, "If I had my way, I would send them up the river for life."

Hoggett and Marr will both be released in time to spend Christmas with their families, but will remain on a two-month probation period where they must report daily to their probation officer, be held to an 11:00 curfew and be restricted from attending all sports events.



UP, UP, AND AWAY: York's Wendee Beach tries to stuff McGill's Leah Hayman as she drives for the basket. The Yeowomen had to settle for fourth place in the tournament.



"DAMN YOU, HOGGETT, I TOLD YOU THE GUY WITH THE NIGHTSTICK WAS A COP": Hoggett and Marr will be serving their sentence somewhere in the Don Jail along with the roaches.

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