York football shocker as

Houlder drafted

by Josh Rubin

Could it be that hell has finally frozen over?

Whatever the cause, followers of Yeomen football got the shock of their lives last week when fourth year player Mark Houlder was drafted by the CFL's Edmonton Eskimos.

And Edmonton scout Bruce Lemmerman almost didn't have a chance to see the Yeomen's standout linebacker.

On his way back from an Atlantic recruiting jaunt in October, Lemmerman looked at his OUAA schedule during a stopover in Toronto and realized he could see the Yeomen's matchup with the Laurier Golden Hawks.

Lemmerman said he was impressed with Houlder's potential both as a linebacker and on special teams.

"He's a good deep snapper, which is a key to special teams," added Lemmerman.

But both Lemmerman and Houlder himself concur that Houlder is definitely a contender to be a linebacker.

"We're always looking to add depth to our club," added Lemmerman.

But Houlder should also know he'll be in for some tough competition, as he will likely be going head to head with veterans Larry Ruck and Mike McLean.

Lemmerman suggested he is so enthralled with Houlder that he would be invited back next season as well, even if he didn't make the team this year.

The 24 year old linebacker, who went in the sixth round of the CFL's annual amateur draft in Hamilton, claims he had no idea the selection was coming.

"It was a definite surprise," said Houlder, who describes himself as being both big and fast.

York head coach Tom Arnott, though, claims he wasn't too surprised by the Eskimos choice.

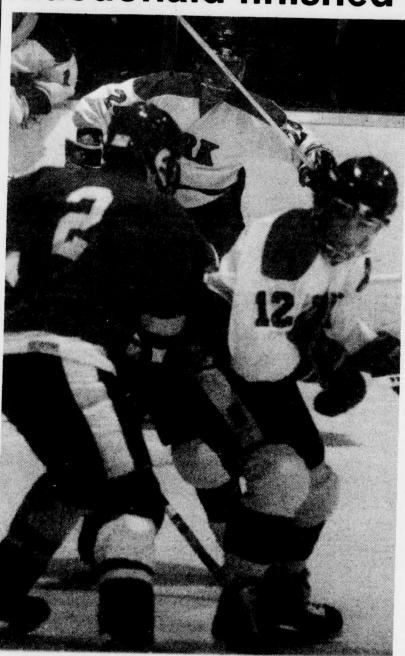
At 6'#2" and 220 pounds, Houlder says he can handle both run and the pass pretty well.

"He's a helluva sixth round pick, and it just goes to show you that the Edmonton people are really good at spotting talent," said Arnott.

Arnott added he was impressed with the way Houlder improved his play last season.

"He did what he was supposed to, and now he's been rewarded," Arnott remarked.

Macdonald finished continued



says that he is keeping all his doors open.

"There are a few options that I have open to me and I'm not sure which one I want to take," MacDonald said. "I'm finishing my Bachelor of Education this year so I may teach this June, but there is a possibility that I may pursue my hockey career in Europe for a year or two as well."

The impression given by MacDonald was that a stint in Europe is the most probable as he expressed enthusiasm in experiencing a different brand of hockey as well as a different culture.

Another option open to him is remaining in North America and playing semi-pro, although he is not as keen on that idea as playing in Europe.

Prior to coming to the Yeomen, MacDonald had skated with the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League at their summer training camp.

MacDonald will be taking with him memories of five years of Yeomen hockey glory. And what years they were — two OUAA championships as well as two national titles.

By far, his fondest memory is the 1987/88 CIAU championship victory over the Western Mustangs.

"That victory has to be the most memorable for me as it was my first national title," MacDonald said. "We were coming off of a remarkable season record of 28-1-5, and that just capped off the season right."

