Yeoman Rookie Camp:

Coaches and Players Optimistic About Season

Mark Zwolinski

Taking advantage of a new Ontario University Athletic Association ruling, the York Yeomen football team held its first rookie camp this summer. Coaches and players at the August camp agree that this year's club will be a serious contender for the OUAA title.

The Yeomen are coming back with great enthusiasm after last year's injury-ridden 2-5 season. And second year Head Coach, Dave Pickett, shares the Yeomen's optimistic outlook. "York's football tradition is not as strong as some other schools, but it is our goal to build confidence on this team. We fielded as many as fourteen freshmen last year which will improve every area of our team just by playing experience alone."

Pickett was named the Yeomen Head Coach in November 1980, previously serving four years as their assistant coach. A former standout quarterback with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, Pickett won the Hec Creighton trophy, awarded annually to the top collegiate player in Canada. His record passing mark of 2,251 yards for the regular season still stands.

Pickett brings ten years of Canadian University Football experience with him; yet at the age of 31, he is one of the youngest head coaches in Canada. As a coach, he has helped rebuild the Yeomen football programme, headed by former Coach Frank Cosentino.

A fine slate of assistants rounds out the Yeomen coaching staff. Robin Rushton looks after the defensive line and linebackers; Ron Gilchrist looks out for the defensive secondary; Gord Whitaker oversees the offensive line; Mike Eben co-ordinates the passing§receiving game; and, Rick Dilena will handle the special teams.

These coaches think that this year's rookie crop is impressive with almost forty freshmen participating. Coach Pickett singled out Paddy O'Neill and Darell Sampson as two of several outstanding first year players.

Junior Argo

O'Neill is a strong-armed quarterback hailing from Downsview Secondary School. He has also played for the Junior Argos and was recruited by Pickett during a high-school all-star game in June. "I've been throwing all summer and training for this camp. I'd like to start, but if not, I'll be the best back-up in the country."

Sampson is an 18-year-old running back from Lester B. Pearson Secondary School in Scarborough. His dart-like quickness impressed the Yeomen coaching staff during training. "Preparing for the camp has been tough_lots of weights and running. I'd like to help take the team to the playoffs and championships. I'm looking for a lot of hard work ahead, but I'm sure we can bring it together and be a winner."

The Yeomen though, will look to a talented veteran lineup to anchor the squad; graduation has not depleted the ranks. The defense has improved overall, backed by a stalwart linebacking corp. Marc Hopkins and Gord Ferguson head the defensive unit which Coach Robin Rushton sees as "capable of stopping the run cold."

More Rookies

York's offensive firepower will be co-ordinated by the hardworking Mike Eben. At quarterback will be sophomore Tino Iancono, an OUAA nominee for CIAU "rookie of the year" last season. Eben commented, "Tino Iancono had an impressive rookie season last year and, of course, the addition of O'Neill will not hurt us either."

The offensive line and running back positions will no doubt compliment the already strong quarterbacking ranks with 1981 OUAA all-star selections, Rob Huber and Peter Janiuk returning, as well as George Ganas, a punishing, staight-ahead running back who led the Yeomen in TD's

last season with seven.

The OUAA league poses some stiff competition this season, as Head Coach, Dave Pickett, pointed out, "Once again, the league should be tough this year and once again our opening schedule is tough. Playing powerhouse teams like Western and Ottawa should be beneficial to us."

The Yeomen play their home opener Saturday, September 11th against the Western Mustangs.

Coulthard Cut By Pistons

Mark Zwolinski

It was a bittersweet summer for York University's finest basketball player, Dave Coulthard. The Yeomen's all-Canadian guard was selected by the Detroit Pistons in the 10th round of the college draft in June, but didn't survive the final cut. He has, however, been recommended by Piston General Manager, Jack McCloskey, for tryouts with the Detroit Spirits.

Formerly the Alberta Dusters, this new franchise in the Continental Basketball League moved to Detroit in

early September. Their tryouts are scheduled for November 14th.

Coulthard, 24, has won virtually every major award in Canadian Varsity Basketball, including twice being named the Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union's most valuable player.

In his final season, Coulthard led the Yeomen to their fourth Ontario Universities Athletic Association title. In addition to a 30.2 points per game average, he topped the balloting for selection to the OUAA all-star team in every

one of his five seasons at York. A record 49 point game in the championship match against Windsor highlighted Coulthard's varsity career.

Coulthard played in the Southern California summer pro league prior to his stint at the Detroit camp. The league, playing out of Los Angeles, is used by many of the NBA's best players as a conditioner during the off-season.

Piston Coach, Scott Robertson, and General Manager Jack McCloskey, got their first real look at Coulthard during the three-week period

which began July 23rd. Coulthard impressed them with his shooting ability, but had problems adjusting to the league's aggressive style. At 6'2" and 160 lbs., Coulthard is small by NBA standards _ even for a guard.

A native of Tillsonburg, Ontario, Coulthard works for a prominent Toronto trust company. Having successfully completed his Masters degree in business, Coulthard must now choose between his current job and the possibility of a starting position with the

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