

York hockey Yeowomen settle for consolation victory at Ice Palace

By MARIO PIETRANGELO

The York Yeowomen hockey team opened up their season in fine fashion by winning the consolation championship, of last weekend's York Invitational Tournament.

The Yeowomen, the defending OWIAA Champions, were a bit skeptical heading into the tournament, having lost 15 of 20 players from last year's team. The tournament showed that York will be in the thick of things again this year.

York and McMaster, the two superpowers of women's hockey last year, squared off against each other to open the tournament.

The game was a see-saw battle right to the end. Yeowomen rookie Sandra Downard scored with just 28 seconds left to lift York to a 5-4 victory. York's other goal scorers were Chris Clayton and Kelly Vandenthilart, with two goals apiece.

Later in the tournament, York played the talented Concordia team,

who had a perfect record of 16 and 0 in the Quebec league last year.

York got off to a quick start as Vandenthilart broke in all alone and scored on a hard drive.

Concordia came on strong in the second period, however, to take a 2-1 lead.

In the third period, York had some good scoring opportunities as the Stingers received four consecutive penalties. The York power-play proved to be ineffective, as they failed to overcome the one goal deficit.

The loss placed York in the consolation final against Queen's. Queen's was hoping for a third place finish, but some great goaltending by Connie Wrightsell foiled the Golden Gaels. York went on to win the game 2-1 on goals by Val Flemming and Liana Preston.

Yeowomen coach Sue Gaston said, "I was happy with the way our team played. We've come a long way in such a short period of time. We still need to improve, but I'm confi-

dent that with some more practice we will continue to get better."

The championship game matched the Concordia Stingers against the University of Toronto. The Lady Blues displayed great determination, coming back to defeat the Stingers 2-1.

"I'm surprised we won the tournament," said U of T coach Dave McMaster. "We were missing quite a few girls who are participating in the CIAU soccer championships. Our team looks very strong, and they are in great shape," McMaster added.

Yeowoman Val Flemming said, "U of T looks like the team to beat this year, and we've got our work cut out for us if we want to win."

York Captain Kim Downard thought the "tournament gave a good indication of what this league is like. It showed the high quality of hockey the teams here can play, and that is a good sign for women's hockey in the future."



SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES: Yeowoman Kelly Vandenthilart led the Yeowomen with three goals in last weekend's York Invitational Tournament. The Yeowomen came away with the consolation championship, downing Queen's 2-1 in the final.

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