

## sports

## Yeomen bust Blues' bubble

By DEBBIE KIRKWOOD

No, it wasn't the OUAA finals, but you couldn't find two teams more motivated than York and U of T last night as they clashed in the feature match of the annual double-header contest held at Tait McKenzie.

Word had it that there was to be a 'changing of the guards' as a supposedly revamped U of T basketball team was going to end the seven-year domination of the OUAA by York, and the seven-year humiliation of the U of T by our squad.

This game was therefore their first chance to dethrone the kings. The basis of their optimism was two-fold. The addition of guard Sam Hill and high school sensation Roger Rollinks supplemented their attack with some much-needed offensive, but more importantly York's play thus far has been mediocre—judging by past York squads—because York is in a rebuilding stage of its own.

All these factors came together to form one of the most interesting basketball games to be seen at York in some time. Inspired by the "Star Wars" type opening (a chronology of past "Blues Busting" defeats) and the largest crowd of the season (over 1,000 people), the York Yeomen fought their way to a 69-59 victory.

From the opening basket, an intensely motivated York squad seemed to psychologically intimidate and fluster the Blues. How else could one explain the nation's 9th ranked team falling to a 15-4 deficit within the first five minutes? Particularly intimidating were York's twin

towers **Tim Rider** (6'7") and **John Christensen** (6'9"), who paralyzed U of T's offense, making them literally afraid to put the ball in the air. York effectively shut down the middle forcing Toronto to generate their offense from the outside.

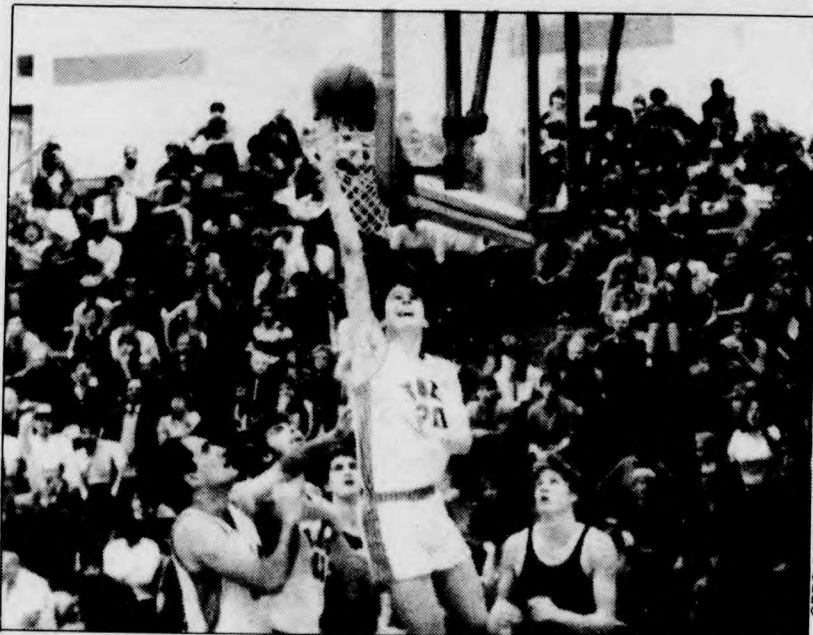
The game was physical throughout, especially in the first half as a combination of U of T frustration and poor refereeing allowed the minutes to play.

U of T had their chances but in the end they simply ran out of time. **John Christensen** lead York with 19 points while **Mark Jones**, **Ron Hep-**

**burn**, and **Tim Rider** each scored 12 apiece. **Bill Manos** did a particularly impressive job in shutting down one of the Blues' main offensive weapons, **Roger Rollinks**.

game to get out of hand. This culminated in technicals being handed out to U of T following an injury to **Roger Rollinks**.

In the second half, as York's intensity waned U of T began to mount a slow but steady comeback. Coach **Bob Bain** tried to regulate the tempo of the contest with time-outs but U of T's persistence closed the gap to five points with less than three



**ONE WIN, ONE LOSS:** Yeoman **Jeff McDermid** lays one up as the men defeated U of T 69-59. The Yeowomen weren't so lucky.

## Yeowomen put up solid fight but come up empty in the end

By DEBBIE KIRKWOOD

Cross town rivals, the U of T Lady blues continued their winning ways here at York last night as they walked away with a decisive 72-51 victory in the opening match of the annual U of T-York double-header.

It wasn't that York (coming off of a victory this past weekend) played all that bad. Up until the 12 minute mark of the first half, it was a relatively close contest with both teams for the most part simply trading two-point baskets. Until this point in time York seemed to be out-playing the Blues as their particularly strong defensive effort caused numerous U of T turnovers.

However, the offense, exhibiting their lack of patience, failed to capi-

talize on the many chances their good defensive work generated. Consequently, by the 14 minute mark, U of T's unceasing offense finally settled down and whittled away at York, opening up a 13 point lead, and the Yeowomen never recovered.

Although York did a more than adequate job in shutting down the outside shot, a particular weakness that Toronto exposed was the middle, where at least 20 of Toronto's points were scored from.

**Annie Marie Thuss** played a particularly strong game for York, especially in the first half, including a last minute, crowd-pleasing basket. By the final buzzer she had collected 18 points.

## York loses game and goalie

By EDO VAN BELKOM

The Yeomen lost their first game of the new year last Sunday in Waterloo to the Warriors by a score of four to three. York goaltender **Rob Bryson** left the game late in the first period and will be out for four to six weeks with torn knee ligaments in his left leg. This leaves the Yeomen with only one goalie as number three goaltender was released before the new year and is now playing Jr. B hockey in Richmond Hill. Shots on goal were 50-24 for the Yeomen. **Don McLaren** scored two while **Scott Magder** netted the other goal for the Yeomen.

The Yeomen await the services of

goaltender **Ken Porteous**, a former Jr. A player who has been accepted at York but will not play for the Yeomen for a couple of weeks because of personal reasons. Another addition to the line-up will be **Mike James**, a forward last year with the Ottawa 67s and is property of the Chicago Black Hawks, though he has not signed a contract with that club.



**ROB BRYSON:** Out 4-6 weeks.

## Yeomen place second in Swiss tourney

By EDO VAN BELKOM

Switzerland was one of the busiest hockey spots in Europe the past month, hosting the Spengler Cup Tournament, as well as a tour by the Guelph Gryphons, the York Yeomen, and a number of other Canadian hockey teams.

The Yeomen won three of their five games and collected second place in the round-robin tournament. The tournament was won by another Canadian university squad from Alberta, as the Swiss teams did not offer the type of competition Canadian teams of York's calibre

are accustomed to.

Swiss hockey teams, as well as teams from other European countries are always on the look out for Canadian talent to strengthen their teams, but Yeomen assistant coach **Graham Wise** was not aware of any recruiting.

"It is definitely good exposure for the players," Wise said, but none, to my knowledge, were approached by any European teams."

Wise decided to loosen the reigns on the team imposing a curfew only one night.

"The boys kept things under con-

trol," Wise said. "They knew that the first thing they were there for was to play hockey."

Many of the Yeomen spent much of their time skiing on the slopes of St. Moritz, and to the relief of Wise all escaped without serious injury.

"Of course, I was worried about injuries but you can't say no because they would probably do it anyway," Wise said.

An added bonus on the trip came in St. Moritz, where York Board of Governors (BOG) member **Sonja Bata** heard of the Yeomen's presence in Switzerland and invited the entire

team up to her private chalet for refreshments. This only goes to prove that contrary to popular belief the BOG is not out of touch with the university.

There was a surprising amount of support for the Yeomen in Switzerland attributed to the large numbers of Canadians vacationing in the Swiss Alps. Attendance for the games ranged between 500 and 1,000 spectators, which is good considering that four of their five games were played in outdoor arenas.

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## Current competitive structure needs re-examination

By MEL D. BROITMAN

*Picture perfect autumn afternoon. Upwards of 20,000 boisterous fans crowd into Varsity Stadium for the day's event. The tumultuous uproar emanating from the venue echoes off the high-rise towers, filling the downtown core with excitement.*

*It is a football game, not in the spirit of American collegiate elitism but rather a piece of vintage Canadiana. The universities of Guelph and Mount Allison are pitted against each other for the right to claim the crown as Canadian college champions. A poignant twist of dramatic irony in this, the year when cries of support for the "Big Four" have come from the very site of the event itself. It is not Toronto and Queens competing, but in fact two of the nation's lesser known schools. Perhaps "lesser known" is too strong a term for the Mount Allison Mounties. Where is Sackville, New Brunswick anyway?*

Despite the pleasant picture of Canadian inter-university athletics painted at the College Bowl, there is a great deal of concern regarding the immediate future, especially in Ontario.

"University athletics in Ontario are at the crossroads. The current methods are counter productive," says **Stuart Robbins**, chairman

and director of the Department of Physical Education and Athletics of York University.

The problem basically revolves around the imbalance of competition at schools in Ontario. The province has a large number of institutions ranging from giants like the University of Toronto, to much smaller schools such as Peterborough's Trent University.

From this disparity it naturally follows that athletic programs at some schools are in an altogether different sphere from others, and as a result a tremendous gap in competitive balance is created that does not benefit anyone.

Why, for instance, do York and Ryerson compete in women's volleyball and men's ice hockey? Almost without fail they post ludicrous final scores and athletes on both sides feel cheated.

When an obvious mismatch occurs in the OUAA or OWIAA there is a twofold effect on the participating teams. First of all the better club is frustrated, feeling that they have wasted their time and are harming their competitive development.

A perfect illustration of this point is the York men's basketball team of the previous five years. After pre-season tournament play in December the players simply went through the motions in their regular season due to a lack of competition in the OUAA's eastern division. By the time national playdown came around the team was not accustomed to stiff opposition and invariably missed opportunities for advancement and a shot at the national title.

The weaker teams that consistently incur these lopsided scores also suffer. They are not able to compete at their own level and cannot

develop the needed confidence to one day seriously challenge the premier schools.

A rift is developing between the so-called elite schools and smaller ones in the province and, in order to reconcile the issue, the spectre of the "Big Four" has once again risen to the forefront. The "Big Four," consisting of the University of Toronto, Western, Queens and McGill, would create their own league.

Perhaps 10 years ago this could possibly have been considered as a viable alternative, but presently it makes no sense. In the past the four had similar philosophies, regarding both athletics and education, but today many other institutions share the same concerns.

The proposed "Big Four" are not even all legitimate contenders in high profile sports. Sure, nostalgia buffs would love to see Toronto and Queens play football in Varsity Stadium with thousands of fans cheering them on, but those are dreams of the past and not the reality of the present. Students at Western do not want to go to Montreal; their rivals are Waterloo, Laurier and Guelph. And in Toronto there is great excitement regarding the emerging rivalry in all sports between U of T and York.

If the "Big Four" was to evolve, what would happen to the lower profile profile that need maximum participation simply to survive? Ignoring all the criticism directed at the elitist nature of the "Big Four," it still cannot be considered a step in the right direction.

There is, however, much validity with the general idea of athletic realignment. Almost all schools wish to participate, but not everyone can compete at the same level. Leagues could be restructured based on competitive balance.

In a tiered format, the various teams would be divided based on their athletic calibre. In this manner the stronger clubs could improve with direct and constant contact with teams of relative equality. Another division comprised of weaker clubs would allow them to compete at their own level and advance at their own pace.

Although there is hesitation among some schools that would originally be relegated to the lower division, the road to advancement into the premier level would be kept open. Annually team could move up and down a division based on previous final standings, much similar to professional soccer leagues in the United Kingdom.

In the late '70s tiering was introduced in OUAA football. It lasted only a couple of seasons but contributed significantly to the upsurge in the programs at York, McMaster and present champions Guelph.

"In some ways there was a seed sown back there," York football coach **Frank Cosentino** says, commenting on the success of the league's former weak sisters.

The University of Western Ontario has postponed any definite plans to set up the "Big Four" till the fall of 1986, so there is yet ample time for a solution that would please the great majority of Ontario universities. Let us hope that university officials will meet the challenge with the same dedication and perseverance that the athletes have always shown. There is much at stake here.

*First of a three-part series. Next: Athletic Scholarships.*