

S P O R T S

Yeomen gymnasts are Canada's best

By ROBERTA DI MAIO

York University was well into the swing of things at the Canadian Gymnastics championships as the men took their 14th consecutive Canadian title.

Last weekend, the CIAU gymnastics championships were held at McMaster University in Hamilton and Friday was the day when team competition played a big part.

York finished the team competition with 156.85 points, Calgary was second with 154.90, the University of Saskatchewan third with 153.60 points and in fourth was the University of Toronto (U of T) with a score of 153.30 points.

Prior to the CIAU finals, York coach Naosaki knew that U of T and Calgary were both going to be tough teams to beat. "U of T is going to change strategies for the Canadian finals," Naosaki predicted.

Naosaki was right. U of T in fact did change for the Canadian finals. York was feeling the pressure going into the finals because of the slim 1/10th of a point spread between them and second place team U of T in the OUAAs championships.

Unfortunately for U of T, University of Calgary coach Jon Kolb checked all the athletes' eligibility and discovered that U of T's Mike Inglis did not meet academic requirements. Inglis, who came in first overall at the Ontario championships, lost his title and the points awarded at the time. This resulted in Toronto finishing behind York by 7.45 points instead of the original 1/10th.

Peter Morgan, a York gymnast who came in second at the Ontario finals, was then awarded the first place Ontario all-round champion title.

York's Bert Matherson was ineligible himself for the CIAU's. "Bert competed in the United States while he was going to school there three years ago," Naosaki said, "and according to Canadian rules, he could not compete in the Canadian finals this year." This, however, bore no effect on the Ontario competitions.

York had five team members competing for the team on Friday and only the best three made it into



14 IN A ROW AND COUNTING: The Yeomen gymnastics team are once again the National champions. The team poses while holding the winning banner at McMaster last weekend. Despite the fact that Bert Matherson was deemed ineligible for the CIAUs, York defeated all opposing teams.

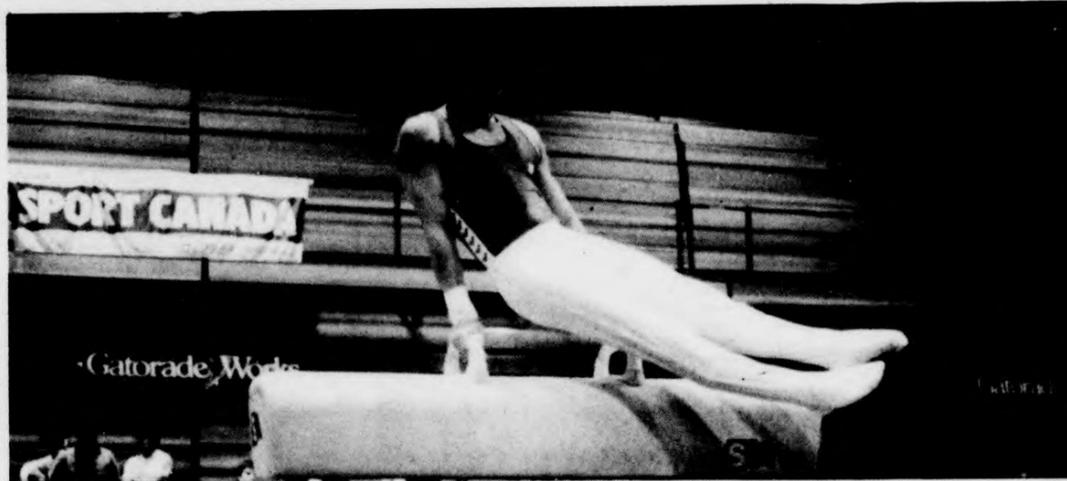
the individual competition for Saturday's meet.

York's 22 year old Glen Cooper has been swinging to York's gymnastic's beat for three years now and said that York's relaxed atmosphere on Saturday attributed to the lack of pressure.

"We were relaxed because we had already done what we went there to do," Cooper said.

Cooper and Peter Morgan made the all Canadians.

John Ecclestone received two silver medals for York as he finished with combined scores of 18.20 on floor and 17.20 on rings.



Yeowomen 'fall' to third place at National finals

By ROBERTA DI MAIO

The women's gymnastics team fought off adversity on their way to a third place finish at the Canadian gymnastics final last weekend.

York's performance at the Canadian finals is to be admired because it came despite several minor setbacks incurred at the meet on Friday.

"If we didn't have one fall, we would have won," said coach Natasa Bajin. "Our best gymnast, Risa Litwin had pain in her back all season and it made competing worse and worse for her."

Litwin, who suffered a fall in the Ontario championships two weekends ago, fell again on her bars routine. Litwin's determination did not allow her to give in as she finished the Canadian championship with 17.50 points on the bars.

York came in third in the team competition with a final score of 101.70, while Manitoba took first place in team competition with 102.65 points.

"I don't know what the judges were basing their scores on," said veteran Barb Nutzenberger. "I saw other routines and some gymnasts got ripped off."

Nutzenberger is graduating this

year and with a smile said, "We were going for team results this year and my personal goal was to finish in the top six."

This was her last opportunity to represent York University as she will take on other coaching responsibilities at the junior level. Nutzenberger was pleased with York's performance. "Third in Canada is great considering the West is strong with ex-National team members."

Nutzenberger attributes most of her success to coaches like Tamara Bomp. Bomp, now in her 15th year at York, is also a Rhythmic Gymnastic's Judge. "The coaches have been good," Nutzenberger said, "they're always in there and Tamara has shown me discipline on the beam and also how to add life to my floor routine."

Coach Bajin also said coaches have contributed to York's success. Bajin's husband Boris also helped to finalize some difficult tricks as he used to coach gymnastics as well.

"I'm pleased that the girls have done so well with such a small difference in scores," Bajin said. "It was very close until the very last event."

Bajin is hoping to get a few more gymnasts for next year's team and will be doing some recruiting.

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