

SPORTS

York steamrollers opposition at OUAA meet

by Josh Rubin

Forget that stuff about not using the "d" word, the Yeomen gymnasts are part of a dynasty.

At the OUAA championships in Kingston last week, the Yeomen steamrolled their opposition en route to their 20th provincial title in a row.

Led by the stellar George Zivic, the Yeomen had an almost complete deadlock on the individual rankings, with York athletes finishing from second all the way down to eighth.

The sole exception to the York monopoly was McMaster's Scott McDonald, who outpointed Zivic 55.3 to 54.75.

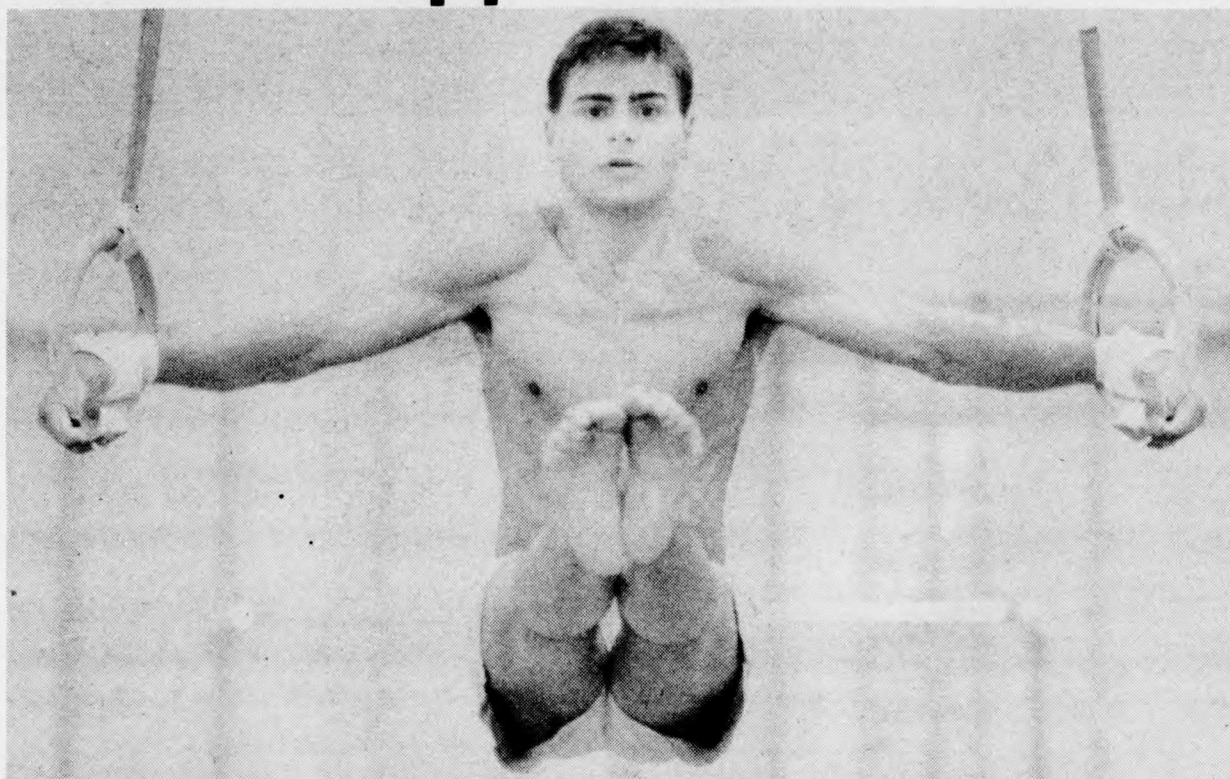
For Zivic, who is used to winning at the OUAA and international levels, the result was a disappointment.

York assistant coach Masaaki Naosaki suggested after Saturday's all-round and team competition that Zivic could have simply been tired.

"George had a very heavy international schedule before Christmas," explained Naosaki.

With the scores tallied up, the Yeomen had 164 points.

Western, their nearest competitors, were only able to manage 135, edging out McMaster (134 points) for second place in the battle of the mere mortals.



HE'S A GOLDMINE: York gymnast George Zivic on the rings earlier this year. At last week's OUAA championships, Zivic garnered three gold medals. He got top honors in the rings, vault and parallel bar competitions, but still wasn't satisfied with his performance. Earlier this season, the talented Zivic got a gold medal for his performance on the rings at Manila's Pacific Games.

Sunday's event finals also had a York flavor to them, with at least five Yeomen competing in each of the six events.

And with only eight competitors in each category, there was bound to be some hardware heading back to Toronto.

Still, some observers were surprised when the Yeomen took gold in all of the finals.

Zivic took first place in three of

the six finals he entered, including golds in vault, parallel bars and rings, the latter of which being Zivic's specialty.

The up and coming J.P. Kraemer took top spot with his floor routine and also came up golden in the horizontal bar competition.

The other gold went to York's Richard Smith in the pommel horse.

With the strong performances at Queen's, the Yeomen are heavily favored for the National University Cup, which they will co-host with the Yeowomen March 15 and 16.

According to head coach Tom Zivic, they also "demonstrated the strength of the best teams we had in the '80s," when a substantial chunk of Canada's national team was also from the York squad.

And Zivic says that's not the scariest part.

"We only have one freshman and we don't expect to lose anyone for next season," said Zivic.

Those hoping to see the Yeomen and Yeowomen in action can catch them at the National Cup, which takes place at the Tait main gym March 15 and 16.

Friday's events kick off at noon, while competition runs all day Saturday.

Ticket information is available by calling 736-5183.

Playoff races heat up in CIAU hockey derby

by Josh Rubin

With the CIAU hockey championships a month away, some familiar teams are still in the playoff picture.

York fans are well aware that in the OUAA East, UQTR leads the pack while the Yeomen battle it out with the Concordia Stingers for second place.

In the OUAA West, the powerful Waterloo Warriors sit 10 points ahead of second place Laurier with only one game left to play.

On the East coast, playoff matchups have already been determined.

Making the AUA's Kelly Division playoffs are Dalhousie, which squares off against St. Francis, while the other semi-final matchup pits Acadia against St. Breton.

The defending national champs from Moncton will meet the University of New Brunswick while perennial powerhouse UPEI takes on St. Thomas.

Out West, the CWUAA playoffs

picture is not as clear.

Leading the way in the Western league are the Calgary Dinosaurs, who also boast the nation's top scorer in Wayne Hynes.

But breathing down the Dinos' necks, only three points back, are the Alberta Golden Bears, whose most famous alumnus Randy Gregg was in town last week for a Nationals '91 press conference.

According to Gregg, who is a veteran of the NHL and Canada's 1980 Olympic team, CIAU hockey has some important value lessons for players at all levels of the game.

"In pro sports, some guys decide to make sports their life. It isn't, and it's much more important to go on afterwards. [CIAU hockey] is very good at developing total people, not just hockey players," said Gregg.

Those wishing to take a look at the people and the players can do some from March 22-24, when Nationals '91 takes place at Varsity Arena.

Badminton bronze for Yeomen

by Franko Fernandez and Nathan Cohen

Led by a bronze for the men and a fourth place finish for the women, both York badminton squads saw playoff action last week.

The Yeomen came from behind in two singles matches in the OUAA playoffs at Ryerson to upset Western for the bronze.

The Yeowomen, meanwhile, were swept 6-0 in the semis by the eventual champions from Ottawa.

This year marked the first time in their four year existence that the Yeowomen joined in the OWIAA playdowns.

The Yeomen, however, managed to take home some hardware.

After getting dumped by Queen's 5-1 in their semifinal, the Yeomen took on the Mustangs, who were crushed 6-0 by the UofT juggernaut.

After splitting the two doubles matches against Western, the Yeomen won three of the four singles matchups.

But after top York seed Eddie Watt and number two Doni Chandra both lost their first games, the match was on the line.

Chandra lost the first game to Western's Derek Manchuk 11-15, but took the next two by identical 15-5 counts, leaving it up to Watt to clinch the medal.

In a battle of player-coaches, Watt lost the first game 15-12, but stormed back to win the next two 15-8 and 15-0.

The win left York head coach Fred Fletcher with some mixed feelings.

"We were confident [Eddie Watt] would win but it was good to see [Watt] come through," said Fletcher.

For the Yeowomen, their bronze medal matchup with Western was a bit of a disappointment.

After both Roula Roubis and Sharon Johnston lost their matchups for York, there was still a chance for the Yeowomen to force a tie, as both of their top seeds were still in the middle of their final games.

York's number two player made the match score 3-2 when she dumped Allison Spaxman 2-1.

But the Yeowomen's hopes of forcing a tie-breaker were dashed moments later when Pia Sorensen was beaten by Western's top seed Cheryl Takioka.

Not all went badly for Sorensen on the day, though, as she teamed up with Johnston to take the doubles crown.

All in all, Fletcher was still satisfied with way both his teams played.

"They played well and should be proud of their showing," said Fletcher. "We have high hopes of doing even better next year."

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