

# Yeowomen try to get synching feeling

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

As the strains of orchestral compositions swelled within the confines of the Tait McKenzie pool during the OWIAA Synchronized Swimming Meet, a rapt audience above watched some of the most graceful swimmers in Ontario.

Sporting brightly coloured swimsuits and sparkling hair ornaments which held tightly rolled hair in place, these women maintained perfect poise - as well as the ever present smile - as they gently rippled through the water performing numerous figures they hoped would please the judges.

## A demanding sport

The sport of synchronized swimming may appear facile, but its demands are such that it requires an extremely versatile and dedicated athlete. To be a synchronized

swimmer one must have an exceptional lung capacity for those long periods underwater, the leg strength of an accomplished water polo player, the endurance of the marathon runner, the flexibility of a gymnast as well as the grace of a

ballerina. Despite these exceptional 'qualifications', these talented women made it look very easy.

The day long competition presented teams from York, McGill, U of T, Carleton and Queens. Whereas McGill had the best individual swimmers, Queens took top honours for their overall team performance. U of T and York finished second and third respectively.

## 'A Chorus Line'

The York squad consisting of Anne Beetlestone, Jackie Henry, Mariam Sellick, Julie Skuce, Karen Ziegler, Judy Fudge, Chris Milani and Lisa Bourgeois put in a crowd-pleasing routine during the team event. Dressed in tiny top hats and black print bathing suits, the girls swam to the theme from *A Chorus Line*, complete with a 'floating' kick-line. Coach Pat Murray, who has been with the Yeowomen for ten years, was extremely pleased with the performance, especially since three of the girls had never swam synchro prior to this year. Despite their excellent routine, the girls finished a close third (67.4 points)

behind U of T (69.6) and Queens (70.0).

The duet competition featured a real treat for the audience. National team members and World Champions Penny and Vicky Vilagos, who swim for McGill, put on a veritable gold medal performance. Instead of using slow orchestral arrangements as the three previous duets, the twins from Quebec swam through a perfectly

synchronized routine to the fast, upbeat music from famous Broadway plays. Whereas the other pairs struggled to achieve the mirror-like magic of a duet routine, the Vilagos girls literally set and surpassed the pace with their exact and precise execution of difficult manoeuvres.

The York team of Karen Ziegler and Judy Fudge also put on a fine display and placed fifth out of the

seven pairs. Although it was suggested that the girls may have been marked lower because they performed after the Vilagos', Murray explained, "The girls had a few synchronization problems and because it was the first competition there is always that nervous apprehension."

The team's next competition will take place at Waterloo, February 11-12, where they will compete in the OWIAA Finals.

# Ailments hamper Gymnasts

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

Keeping an athlete in good health is of prime importance to any team. Injuries are inevitable, but when they plague a sport such as gymnastics, they are especially detrimental as individual performances constitute a

team's success. Such was the case with the Yeowomen Gymnastics Team at last weekend's Tait McKenzie Invitational.

With only four competitors, the Yeowomen finished sixth with 73.37 points. Gymnastic powerhouses

Alberta (91.29) and McMaster (85.84) finished first and second respectively.

## Small Team

Two of York's best gymnasts, Gretchen Kerr, who recently popped her knee during practise and Beth Johns, who is suffering from illness, were unable to compete. Mireille Gour, Linda Kunashko, Kim Myers and Lorie Herchuk represented York. Only Gour and Kunashko went all round.

The team did exceptionally well on the vault as Kunashko emerged with the highest score of 8.03. She was followed by Gour and Herchuk each with 7.6 and Myers who scored 7.2.

Kunashko continued her dominance with fine performances on the uneven bars (8.0) and on the balance beam (7.63). She also repeated last week's fourth place finish in the all round with a total of 31.03 points.

Despite a poor routine on the beam Gour made up for the loss as she amassed 8.03 points in the floor exercise.

## Individual approach

Coach Natasa Bajin was philosophical about her team's effort. "Even though we have many injuries and sicknesses, I'd rather have them happen now than at a later meet."

"Right now we are doing what is necessary for the individuals." **CHALK-UP.** . . . Next weekend the girls will participate in a ranking meet at McMaster. . . Congratulations to Kim Myers who completed a clean routine on the beam and scored 7.07 and to Lorie Herchuk for her 7.6 effort on the vault. Both girls didn't know they were to compete until the night before the meet. . . The Yeowomen will also host the CIAU championships March 11-12.

# Cagers still wait for first

CHRIS DODD

You can't blame the undefeated Yeomen basketball team for not being in first place. Having played fewer games than the Ottawa kGee

and the Laurentian Voyageurs, the Yeomen currently occupy 3rd place in the OUAA standings.

However the Yeomen took advantage of their opportunity to prove that they were the league's best team by crushing both teams within 24 hours.

Last Friday night, the visiting first-place Gee Gees were outclassed by York even more than the 78-68 score indicated.

## Blow out after half

The Gee Gees managed to stay with the Yeomen early in the game and took a 38-34 lead at half time after York had once led the sea-sawing half at one point by eight points.

Any thoughts of victory that entered the minds of the Gee Gees at half time were erased shortly after the second half began. York took total control of the game from the tip-off. The Yeomen particularly dominated the boards, using their size advantage to control the rebounding.

By the time 6-foot-9 centre John Christenson had performed his spectacular slam dunk midway in the second half, the Yeomen had taken an 11-point lead and put the game out of reach.

The Yeomen continued pressing to take an 18-point lead but they eased off near the end of the game.

# Yeomen fencers now team to beat

ADAM BRYANT

The past two weekends have spelt success for the Yeomen fencers as they travelled to Trent and RMC for the divisional and sectional competitions of the OUAA finals. And the pressure was on because they were the "team to beat" after winning the overall title at the York Invitational Fencing Tournament last month.

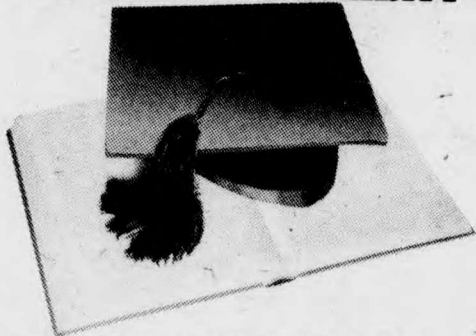
The Yeomen rose to the occasion, however, as 7 of 9 fencers advanced to the second round, both individually and as a team. The foil team of Scott Mitchell, Bernie Leung and Rex Lo all advanced to the second round in the individuals and combined their efforts to advance in the team competition. Equally successful was the sabre team of Mourad Mardikian, Chris Thomas

and Adam Bryant, as they all advanced in both areas. The epee team of Steve Wowk, Raymond Au and Reva Ali were upset by strong Trent and U of T teams, but Wowk managed to score well enough in the individual bracket to advance to the second round at RMC. But the ever-frank Yeomen coach, Richard Polatynski, was not pleased with the performance. "At Trent, the results were good, but performances were horrendous."

The trip to RMC provided greater satisfaction. Polatynski was quick to add: "At the OUAA sectional, the athletes redeemed themselves superbly. Not only were the results excellent, but the performances were excellent as well."

The foil team captured a second place spot, which guaranteed them a position in the final round and the sabre team worked to seize a first place finish. Foilers Mitchell and Lo progressed individually along with sabre fencers, Mardikian and Thomas. "Our boys done us proud," said Polatynski.

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