

Football Yeomen shake off the Varsity jinx

The year was 1963. York University was newly formed and only three years old. South of Bloor Street, the University of Toronto was embarking upon its 113th year of operation. Simultaneously as the fall term began back in '63, Bob Dylan recorded "The Times They Are A-Changin'."

In 1963, the University of Toronto football team was entering its 86th season of an illustrious tradition. The Varsity Blues had previously captured four Grey Cups, including the first ever in 1909. As well, the Blues had won the first Yates Cup, symbolic of provincial supremacy, in 1898, and subsequently won it 23 more times.

At York it was another story. The first Yeomen football coach, did not even surface at the university until 1967. Only three years later in 1970, did organized football begin at York.

When the two schools originally clashed on the football field, the Blues had a 93 year head start on the Yeomen. That first final score (36-0 for Toronto) flattered York, considering the Blues commanded almost a century of tradition on their side.

Obviously the Blues had a distinct advantage in those early years. But where they might have had the edge physically, they thoroughly dominated psychologically. It took York teams 14 tries to finally emerge with a single victory.

The frustration mounted for those York teams of the recent past. In 1979 for example, the Yeomen blew a 19-0 halftime lead, and lost 22-20. They might have prevailed and ended an eight game losing streak, if not for a York fumble on the Toronto one-yard line—on a quarterback sneak!



MEL BROITMAN

As Nobby Wirkowski said at last week's pre-game press conference, "All that (13 straight U of T wins) is the past, you can't change it, and you can't worry about it." But York's recent winning streak over Toronto has now catapulted them over the psychological wall which was cemented by the Varsity Blues' historic and traditional advantage.

Last week's epic confrontation between the Yeomen and the Blues poignantly marked the present situation. The psychological factor has shifted—into York's favour.

Talking with players, coaches and fans from both schools, a particular theme was prevalent. The Yeomen were anxious to play, expected to win and felt resolved. On the other hand, the Varsity Blues appeared nervous, afraid to lose and at best, tentative.

"As you can imagine, after going year after year and losing to U of T it seemed like something was always going to happen to work against us. But now it's three years in a row that we

have beaten Toronto and I think the mystique (of the Blues) is gone," claimed a jubilant York head coach Frank Cosentino.

In fact, last Thursday night, it appeared that the Yeomen had established an esoteric upperhand of their own. Every big break went in York's favour. As Terry Douglas' dramatic last-minute touchdown rang out into the night, one could not have imagined a script that would so completely uplift the Yeomen and so harshly crush Toronto.

"York has come of age the last couple of years. It's especially the psychological aspect that has strengthened itself over the past three seasons," said Mike Eben, now in his eighth year as Yeomen receiver coach.

"Our standard of play has arrived," said Dave Chambers, Co-ordinator of Men's Varsity Athletics at York. "The awe in which York teams used to hold U of T teams has changed," he added.

Ironically, Toronto teams won close and crucial contests over York on the rugby pitch and field hockey turf last Thursday. But in the big game of the year, the Blues came up short. That used to be an old habit of York teams.

Adding to the dramatic irony of last Thursday night, singer/songwriter Bob Dylan was in town to film a movie. His prophetic words of yesteryear are still resonating with their usual potency.

*As the present now will later be past
The order is rapidly fadin'.
And the first one now will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'.*

The Intramural Sports Round-Up

By STEVE MANWEILER

Flag Football (Torch)			
Women	Pts	Men	Pts
1. Osgoode	7	1. Vanier	4
2. Alumni	5	2. Mac	4
3. Founders	4	3. Osgoode	2
4. Bethune	3	4. Stong	2
5. Winters	3		

Coed Volleyball (Torch) Final Standings

1. Grads
2. Mac
3. Stong
4. Osgoode

Badminton (Torch) Final Standings

1. Founders
2. Bethune
3. Winters
4. Mac

Mens Soccer (Torch)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. Stong | 6 |
| 2. Mac | 6 |
| 3. Bethune | 3 |
| 4. Glendon | 2 |
| 5. Winters | 2 |

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