

Tigers "pussycats" against Yeomen

by Anton Katz

Sloppy defence in the first period was not as detrimental as it could have been as the hockey Yeomen downed the Dalhousie Tigers 5-3 at the York Ice Palace.

"We got stronger as the game went on," said Yeomen head coach Graham Wise. "We have been working on defensive hockey and it's starting to pay off."

York drew first blood only 40 seconds into the first period. Forward Mike Futa scored off Kevin Bonello's pass from the left side. From then on, Dalhousie took it to the Yeomen.

At times, it looked like shooting practice as Dalhousie outlasted and outplayed the Yeomen. York goalie Ted Mielczorek was tested with a wide array of free and unchallenged shots. For its part, York couldn't coordinate any drives, failing to get the second man in on potential scoring situations. By the period's end, York could consider itself fortunate for being behind only 2-1. The Tigers hadn't capitalized on a two-man powerplay.

Aggressive play in the corners characterized the remaining two periods. Befitting the game's rough play, Dalhousie's Bill Wiseman's helmet went flying off while teammate Derek Pringle got a stick jammed into his helmet.

After an interchange of goals, York's Greg Roberts, standing in

front of the Tiger net, took control of a pass and slammed it home, equalizing the game at 3-3. Dalhousie continued to press forward, taking advantage of sloppy play by York's defence.

The war on the boards continued in the third period. Tiger Paul Kleinknecht drew a penalty for clobbering a York player behind the Dalhousie net. York's Ian Ferguson directed the play with crisp and clever behind-the-back passes. At 14:36, Ferguson was dead on with a hard slapshot from the point. With the two teams playing four men aside, he managed to get free in front of the visitor's net and tapped in a loose puck.

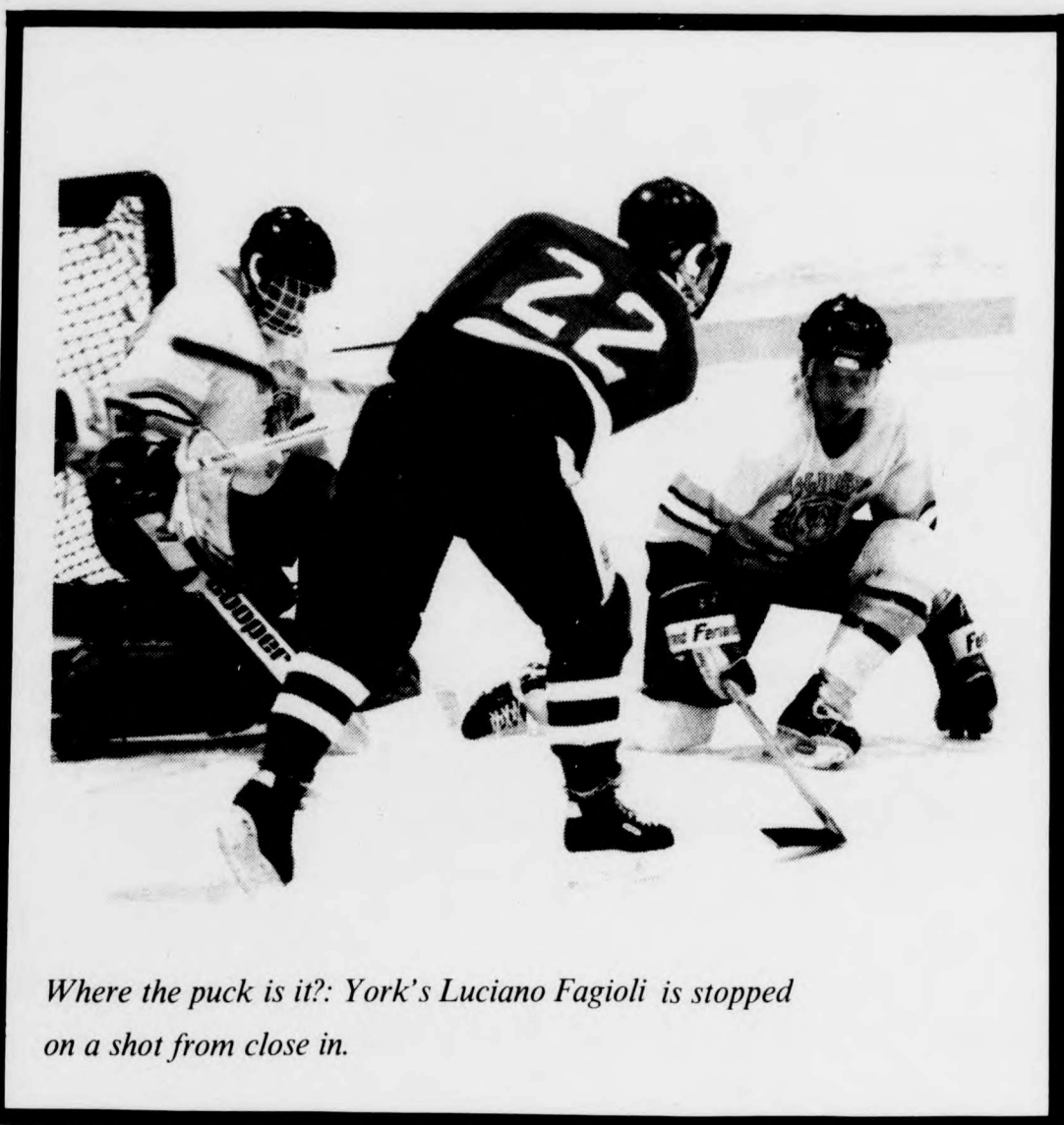
"The goalie was drawn away from the net and I had a clean shot," said Ferguson.

In the remaining seven minutes, the Tigers never came close and a time-out and pulled goalie at 1:03 didn't help matters. York assistant coach Matthew Christie remarked, "Dalhousie didn't look nearly as fit as York."

Dalhousie coach Darrell Young looked at the situation positively. "It's a long season — I'd rather taste defeat now than in March," said Young.

The month of March has an important meaning for the Yeomen as they will be aiming for a third straight CIAU title.

York's next home game is October 20 at 7:30 p.m. versus McGill.



Where the puck is it?: York's Luciano Fagioli is stopped on a shot from close in.

Follow the bouncing ball: Field hockey Yeowomen keep up the pace

by Sharon Creelman

Follow the bouncing ball! Playing on a field which more closely resembled a mogul run, the field hockey Yeowomen split a pair of games in London last weekend, defeating Waterloo by a score of 2-0 and dropping a close 1-0 match to the host Western squad.

The Yeowomen were able to capitalize on two penalty corner opportunities in the first half against Waterloo. Tracey Minaker and Cathy Timmins tallied for York. Rookie goalkeeper Michelle Kleiss earned the shutout.

Hockey veteran Karen "Hewie" Hewlett was a constant threat to the Waterloo defence as she dominated the midfield and created numerous scoring chances.

The second half was much more evenly matched with neither team getting great scoring chances. Play began to bog down in midfield with both teams unable to gain control. The atrocious field conditions allowed both defences time to recover as the forwards

continually misplayed the bouncing, high-flying balls.

This loss was very damaging to the Waterloo squad as they are fighting for the final playoff spot in the West division. Earlier that day Waterloo tied Western, which was a must-win game for both clubs.

Waterloo head coach Judy McCrae felt the field conditions "helped to keep York off-balance." However, "as a team we failed to keep possession of the ball," explained McCrae. "We don't possess the dominating players that York does."

York head coach Marina van der Merwe was critical of the field conditions her team had to face. "The playing surface was debilitating to both the officials and the athletes."

In the following game, the Yeowomen were unable to corral the Western Mustangs on UWO's home turf. The 'Stangs referred to the pitch at Huron Flats as "Swiss cheese." Western converted on a penalty corner to count the only goal of the match.

The Yeowomen pressured throughout but were unable to connect on a number of scoring opportunities. York had a chance to equalize with five minutes remaining when Timmins got in behind the Western backline on a breakaway. Unfortunately the ball could not be controlled inside the striking circle and the chance was lost. Later, a chipped ball that rose just high of the crossbar had the Western netminder rubbing her horseshoes.

The adequacy of playing facilities has been a long standing problem in Ontario university field hockey. According to coach van der Merwe, it is up to the athletic directors in the Ontario conference to provide "proper facilities so that athletes may perform... teams that are ready to produce should be given the opportunity to do so."

Van der Merwe feels it's time for Ontario to go to a format similar to the Canadian West conference. This move would call for a series of weekend mini-tournaments

within the respective East and West conferences, with inter-conference play at the end to decide the winner.

This way, said van der Merwe, good fields could be used so that the quality of the game could be maintained.

"This past weekend we had more spectators than we've ever had — with parents, students and friends," said van der Merwe. "But what they had to watch was not good hockey. By playing games on proper fields we would make it better for the spectators and the athletes."

The loss to Western was the first of the year for the nationally ranked Yeowomen, who had a perfect 3-0 record heading into the weekend. The York coaching staff was able to rotate all available athletes into play at some point, giving many of the first year players some needed game time.

The Yeowomen play their three remaining games on the artificial turf at Lamport Stadium. This coming weekend the team will

face the Guelph Gryphons in game one. The second game will be a York-Western (grudge) rematch.

No doubt the Yeowomen will be anxious to go head-to-head with the Mustangs on their own turf.



YEOWOMEN

Excalibur

sports writing is not for couch potatoes. Come into Room 111 Central Square weekdays between 11 and 4 p.m. Ask for Josh or Jacob, or fill in a volunteer form.



FILA
TORONTO

FOR THE BEST
IN SKI AND TENNIS SPORTSWEAR

COME AND SEE OUR NEW
FALL AND WINTER ARRIVALS

24 BELLAIR ST.
YORKVILLE

323-9285

JJ'S TYPING SERVICE

tel: 736-5524

FAX service now available
665-1698

Wordprocessing
Laser Printer
WordPerfect

Typing

ON YORK CAMPUS
Room 107, 4 Assiniboine Road