

Lose to Guelph 76-75

York creams Voyageurs

By IVAN BERN

I'm Coming Baby, I'm Coming. These are the most suitable words I can think of to describe what the York Yeomen Basketball team demonstrated, in a collective sense, in their last two basketball games. They really are coming, and they might very well reach their climax with CIAU championship laurels at Acadia in March.

Wednesday night, the team travelled to Guelph to face the ever tough OQAA Gryphons. This was the first real test of the season against competent college opposition, and it was fortunate that it was merely an exhibition match. The team went down to defeat by the count of 77-76, exhibiting their most impotent offense of the season. The game was a typical see-saw battle, with neither team able to establish any semblance of superiority over the other. After leading at the half by four points, 39-35, the team came out pressing, and built a 13 point cushion. But the momentum soon swung back the other way, and the lead changed hands continuously, until with 42 seconds remaining, the Yeomen led by one, 76-75 with Guelph in possession. The finale was definitely in the old Hollywood cliff-hanger tradition. Guelph worked the ball around, and with 12

seconds left, tried a jump-shot, which miraculously missed, and York rebounded and called time. With only a half-dozen seconds remaining, York was in a pretty commanding position. Guelph's only strategy was to foul a York man, hope that the shot would be missed, and then try for a desperation hoop at the buzzer. This is precisely what happened, except for one minor difference: York's Don Holmstrom received the ball in bounds and three Gryphons immediately pounced on him; when he arose, blood was streaming down both legs. The only trouble was that the referee, more than lightly intimidated by mad Guelphonians, decided not to call a foul, and the Guelph team went and scored an unmolested layup just as the buzzer went. Final score 77-76 for Guelph. Leading scorer for York was Sandy Nixon, with 35, and it was mainly his touch that kept the squad in the game.

Saturday night, however, back in the friendly confines of Tait-McKenzie Gym, the team was out to redeem itself against a supposedly superior Laurentian Voyageur team. This was a key league game, which could decide first place. And the squad truly

came to life. Grabbing a quick 8-4 lead on the sheer strength of Stan Raphael, and super team defence on Laurentian's 6'7" centre John McGibbon, the Yeomen completely threw off the Voyageurs game plan. With Holmstrom hitting from the outside, and Falcioni and Nixon making mincemeat of the Laurentian press, the squad opened up a 43-26 lead with 3 minutes to play in the first half. Some costly turnovers helped Laurentian close the gap somewhat, and score at halftime was 45-34 for York.

When the second half began, the Voyageurs came out running, and dissipated the lead to 49-44. It was then that Nixon, who had been shooting miserably, hit two quick buckets, to spark the team on. With 7:22 remaining in the game, however, he fouled out, and with the score only 71-57, the game was far from over. But it was then that the Yeomen showed their true stuff. With Coach McKinney freely substituting in Marv Morton, Bob Wepler, Butch Feldman, Barry Turnbull, and George Dubinsky, York really opened up, and won going away by a 98-69 count.

The game was certainly an encouraging sign for all of the team's fans.

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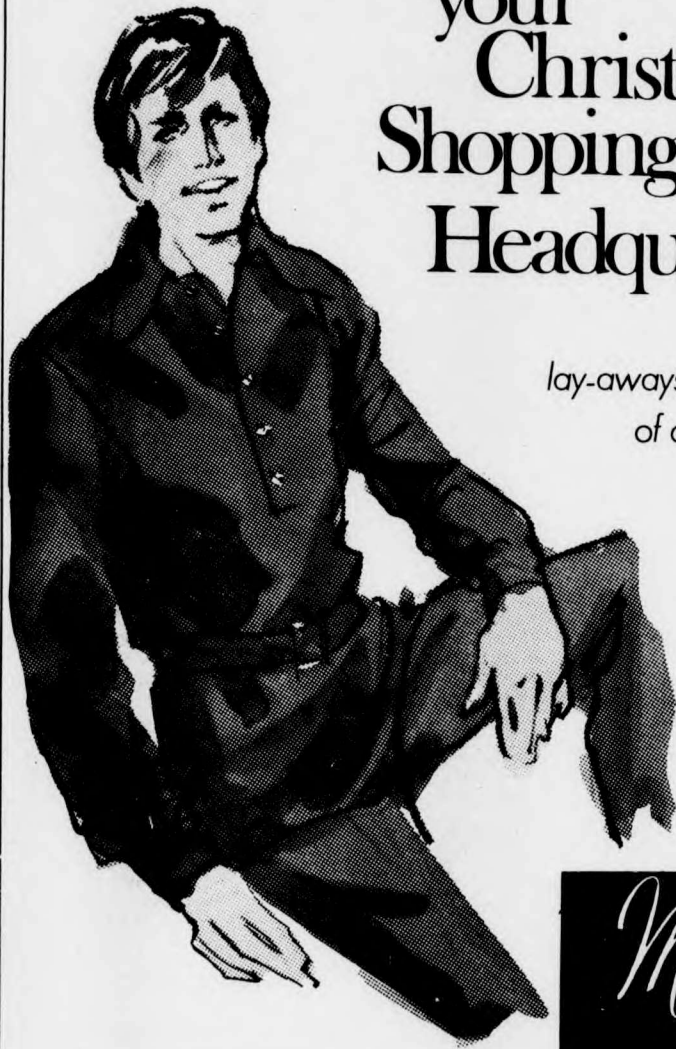
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