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York cross-country runners looking forward to proving themselves in upcoming season

By MARIO PIETRANGELO

The York Yeomen and Yeowomen cross-country teams are both looking to achieve a level of respectability this year. Based on last year's performance, there is room for improvement, as both teams finished at the bottom of the pack.

Yeomen coach, Mike Dixon said "I expect a lot of improvement this year, we have a couple of runners who should be right up with the front runners at the Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) Championships." If this is the case, then with some strong support from the number three, four and five runners, the Yeomen should be able to begin their climb from the basement.

Yeowomen's coach, George Gulpe, is pleased with the turnout this year. He believes that finally the team has some depth. He commented that, "in cross-country running there is strength in numbers, because your runners can bunch up and work as a team, and they can help each other run faster." Coach Gulpe also stressed that in cross-country running improvement comes with time because, "you have to be dedicated. Hopefully these girls will stick with it, and we can begin to build for the future."

The York University Cross-Country Invitational held on Sept. 26, gave the Yeomen and Yeowomen an opportunity to test their mettle. The University women's race began just after 3pm, and it was time for the Yeowomen to put their best foot forward. At the halfway point in race, there were several Yeowomen right up with the leaders. Despite the quick pace the Yeowomen did not disappoint their many supporters, going on to capture the team championship.

Carolyn Lee led the Yeowomen with a tremendous effort by sprinting to a first-place finish, late in the race. She said, "I wanted to stay behind the other girls until the end, because it was very windy and by tucking in behind them I was able to conserve my energy." Other outstanding Yeowomen were Sherri Shurgold/7th, Lara Leitch/8th, and Robin Morgan/10th.

The University men's race was held immediately following the women's race. It featured defending Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) champion, John Halverston, from the University of Ottawa.

Halverston got off to an early lead and was able to hold off a late challenge by Steve Boyd of Track West. Halverston found the course to be to his liking, saying, "it was very flat and that made it very fast."

York's top runner was Carl Bessai/7th, who appears to be regaining the form which earned him a place on the Canadian team. Bessai mentioned that he "hopes to do well at the OUAAC Championships," and expects to run some very fast times in the indoor and outdoor track meets later in the year. Other Yeomen with a fine race were Rick Hamel/14th, Les Lachik/18th, and Tim Savage/22nd.



ADAM BLECHMAN

THEY'RE AT THE POST... The Yeomen and Yeowomen cross-country teams took to the course last weekend as York hosted the York University Cross-Country Invitational. The much-improved York squad had some impressive performances from Carolyn Lee, who placed first, and Carl Bessai, who finished seventh.

Yeomen continue downward slide as they drop second game in a row

By RUSSELL HOFFMAN

It was a battle of the defences and a sloppy Yeomen punting squad which finally led to Western's victory over York last Saturday.

The Mustangs defeated the Yeomen by a score of 28-14, at the North York Civic Centre where a number of mistakes were made at both ends of the field.

The Mustangs turned the ball over an incredible six times. Yet, the Yeomen kept pace with turnovers of their own and, on at least five separate occasions, led to poor punts or turnovers, giving the Mustangs good field position.

Although York's punting unit coughed up the ball four times in the first half, the defence kept the game close, and at the half, Western led by a slight margin of 11-7.

The first half was highlighted by the teams trading touchdowns as running back John Wright ran the ball into the endzone for Western, while York scored its major on a thirty-three yard pass completion from sophomore quarterback Adam Karlsson to wide receiver Dale Buisson.

In the second half with three field goals and John Wright's second rushing touchdown, Western jumped out to a 28-7 lead. Although

York narrowed the gap 28-14, they were unable to get any closer as Western's defence shut the Yeomen's offence down.

After the match, Western's coach Larry Haylor had this assessment of the game: "It was sloppy and full of mistakes, but maybe that was due to the real physical play." In all, Haylor was impressed with the Yeomen's performance: "York is a good football team," he said, "and the game was even tighter than the score. It was a very, very close football game."

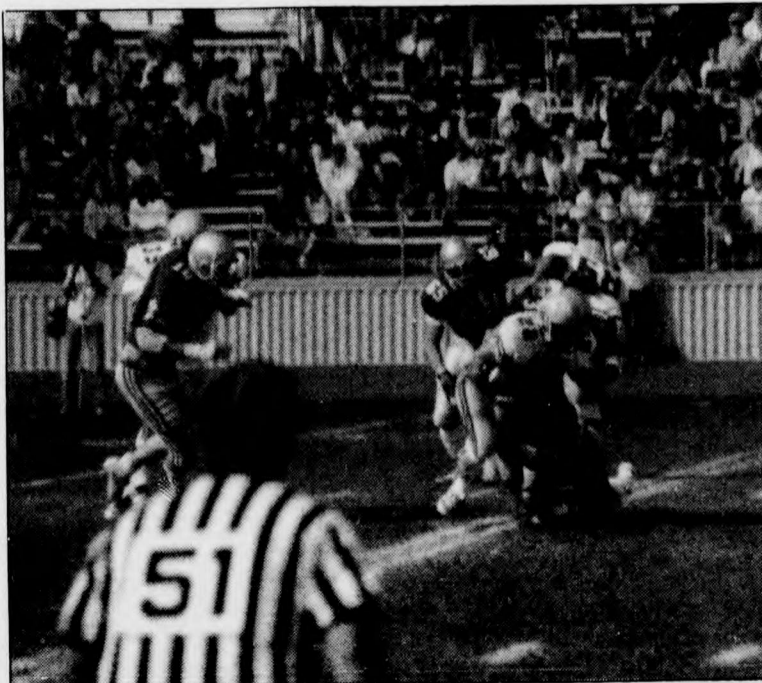
Many expected to see great offence from the Mustangs after their 75-7 trounce over the University of Toronto Blues, but Western's true strength lies in its defence. "We're the Mustangs of '87; we're young and inexperienced and its our defence that keeps us in ballgames," explained Haylor.

York coach Frank Cosentino agreed that Western's greatest asset is their defence which he describes as "the strongest part of their game."

York's defence also played a very strong game. "Our defence showed it can play with Western's offence," Cosentino said. He also credited coach Nobby Wirkowski with coordinating his team's strong defensive showing.

If the defence is the strength of the Yeomen squad then the team's main weakness is its poor third down snaps to the punter. The obviously concerned York coach simply stated that "our punting team was the one that caused the most problems for us today."

If the Yeomen hope to even their record with a victory in their next game against McMaster, they will have to overcome their problems of punting the football.



HASNAIN DATTU

LOSING WAS A SNAP: York dropped their second game in a row, this time losing 28-14 to the Western Mustangs. The Yeomen's downfall in both losses has come from misplaced snaps by the punting unit.