

York administration argues against creation of "Big Four"

"Selfish conception" or the "pursuit of excellence?"

By S.D. GOLDSTEIN

York's Vice President (Academic Affairs) and the Provost have rejected the proposal for a new provincial inter-university athletic division sought by Queen's, Western, McGill and the University of Toronto.

VP Bill Found interpreted the changed "as a much broader move by those institutions to represent themselves as exclusively high quality universities," read the Board of Governor's (BOG) minutes for their December meeting.

"Such a representation would reflect poorly on the other universities in the province," the BOG minutes read. "Both he (Found) and Professor Meininger noted that York has not supported this action and was instrumental in having the matter discussed in COU (the Council of Ontario Universities) last Friday."

As a result the BOG minutes say that COU has struck a committee to investigate the proposed breakup.

"The Big Four" are currently part of the Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA), and are seeking to establish their own independent conference.

The idea of a second conference has been around since 1976, but it is not until now that anybody has taken these universities' complaints seriously.

"The fact that the COU had found it necessary to appoint a committee," Chapman said, "is proof that our complaints are legitimate."

In the case of the University of Toronto,

their first complaint is that they are geographically closer to the universities in the Western Conference, yet are placed in the OUAA's Eastern Conference.

"We play universities like Ottawa and Carleton, while 40 miles away we never get to play Waterloo," Chapman said.

This year it has cost Chapman's department will over \$50,000 in transportation costs, and, in the face of university underfunding, this escalating amount must be reduced, he said. The only way to cut down the costs, Chapman said, would be to not compete against the other schools, a solution no one wants to face.

The University of Toronto's athletic department has 41 activities, while there are only about eight activities in the Eastern conference, says Chapman. Chapman feels that this lack of competition is stifling his teams' attempts to become the best.

It is only the lack of competition that Chapman finds stifling, but the lack of equitable competition as well.

"U of T has been the men's swim team champions for 25 years," Chapman says. "We are beginning to ask ourselves if we should bother playing these smaller universities."

Statements of this nature have created the image that the new conference is a selfish conception, but Chapman is frank.

"If that is what they want to call it, then so what. I see nothing selfish in the pursuit of excellence," Chapman says.

"We are not saying that we do not want to participate with the other universities," continued Chapman. "What we are saying is we do not want a league to mandate us to play 40 games and then not play against universities that we feel are important to play like Queen's and McGill." Under the present system, Chapman says, with 16 institutions it is just not possible to play Queen's or McGill and remain within the present scheduling as set out by the OUAA.

Other critics think that the big universities have a responsibility to the smaller universities to teach them how to play by competing against them. The educational experience that can be gained by playing better teams is invaluable.

"There's nothing educational in U of T beating Ryerson 19-0," Chapman said. "It is not good for the morale of any team to lose in this way. Neither side benefits from such a game. The guys with 19 do not and certainly not the guys with zero."

Without a doubt the biggest concerns coming from a new system would concern the ability of a new conference to formulate its own rules concerning academic standards for athletes, scholarships, sponsorship, and media coverage.

Under the present system, there is universal regulation. A new conference could lower the academic standards now in place, recruit ath-

letes with first-person scholarships as they do in the US, and exploit the sporting event with media coverage to make money in advertising.

Chapman does not deny the fact that a new conference will have a free hand, but does deny that any of the above possibilities would take place.

"If anything, the reverse will be true," he said. "We could raise the academic requirements that are needed to play on a Varsity team."

Concerning scholarships, he said, "I'm against the American system. I just do not want to see athletes being discriminated against when it comes to academic scholarships."

"Presently we are not getting our fair share of the money coming from the television sports network," he said. "The money raised through the sponsorship of the event goes to the OUAA, not the teams playing."

Chapman is against tobacco companies sponsoring sporting events, but would allow beer companies' advertisements, "as long as they were in good taste."

The women's division of the OUAA has made concessions, but Chapman feels the men's division is adamant about maintaining the status quo.

"No smaller university is going to vote to change things," Chapman says, "because they benefit the most under the present arrangement."



A Yeowoman digs the ball as other team members do their homework.

Yeowomen volleyballers third in nation, now gunning for fourth Ontario championship

By LORNE MANLY

At York University the exploits of the hockey and basketball teams gain most of the attention but there is another York team quietly working its way to a dominant position in the country. That team is the women's volleyball team, currently ranked third in the nation, and coach Merv Mosher is confident that his team can move up in the OWIAA standings.

The Yeowomen have a 5-1 record and are only one game behind in the tough east division of the OWIAA. Two major goals for the Yeowomen this year are winning the Ontario Championships which will be held in Ottawa on February 22 and 23, and the National Championships that York will be hosting March 7-9.

"We're not counting on winning these (tournaments) but it's our goal," Mosher said. We want the CIAU championship." York has won the OWIAA championship the last three years in a row and is aiming for number four.

The Yeowomen have a very experienced team, with five of the players being four year veterans. Donna Kastelic is one such experienced player. She has been a first team All-Canadian, an Ontario all-star and has played on the Senior National team in both 1982 and 1983. She was



the tournament all-star in Dalhousie, the MVP at the Invitational in Ottawa and an all-star nationally. Adding to the excellent play of the veterans is rookie Mary Ann Boyles. She was on the Junior National team the last two summers, and is playing well for the Yeowomen this year.

Coach Mosher is in his sixth year of coaching at York and hopes to

wrap up his fourth consecutive OWIAA championships and then to have his team capture the National title.

The Yeowomen enhanced their league record over the weekend by defeating the University of Ottawa Gee Gees 3-1 and the Carleton Robins 3-0.

York's Ice Palace offers best hockey deal in town

Some of the most entertaining hockey in the city is being played right in our own backyard. The Yeomen and Yeowomen ice hockey teams play a brand of hockey that would please even the staunchest supporters of professional hockey. Radio York's Sports Director Mel Broitman explains:

They tell me that Toronto is this great country's hockey capital. That's a rather large claim to make, and in my five and a half years in this city I have wondered about the validity of this statement. Being subjected to Ballard's Band Box is enough to turn even the most ardent hockey fanatic's stomach. How often on a cold wintry night I've debated whether to watch the Maple Leafs, only to give in and be later disappointed, disgruntled and disgusted.

Fortunately this year I've discovered the drug for my puck addiction and I urge any of my fellow hockey nuts to take heed. Lying in a virtual wasteland, amid the frozen tundra that makes up much of the York University campus is an edifice that was until recently aptly named the Ice Palace.

A hockey rink of modest proportions, its claim to fame rests in its Siberian temperatures. Yet, for the brave afficio-

nada of our national pastime the Ice Palace is home to a brand of shinny that deserves high praise. If you've had trouble keeping your eyes open at the Gardens this year, you will welcome the opportunity to watch our grand game once again displayed in its full and passionate self.

The York Yeomen and Yeowomen call this icebox their home. For every spectator whose toes are frostbitten, their hearts are warmed by the efforts put forth by these two clubs. The Yeomen are a talent laden hockey team that has improved to the point where they are now considered a legitimate threat on a national level.

They have the privilege of playing for a coach who is regarded as one of this country's finest hockey minds. Dave Chambers has brought his international expertise and experience with him and has transferred a sagging outfit into an outstanding collection of players.

The Yeomen play with speed, size and finesse. Win or lose a died-in-the-wool hockey fan gets his or her money's worth. Simply contrast the product and inflated prices of the Carlton Street mint against those of the humble Ice Palace and you'll explode in fits of laughter at the absurdity. Economist, logician or just plain sick and tired Leaf fan, you will make the Siberian trek to the Ice Palace with a smug grin on your face.

But the hockey doesn't just stop with the men. The real pearls are the lady pucksters. I had never seen a women's hockey game till this year. Having the responsibility of cov-

ering sports for Radio York, I was recently involved in a couple of live broadcasts of Yeomen games. Of all the events I have witnessed this season, none approach the level of entertainment that was provided at those thrilling games.

Twice the Yeowomen shook me out of my Maple Leaf doldrums with exhilarating performances. Both were dramatic come from behind 4-3 victories that were decided in the closing minutes. It's a shame that the crude castigations of women's athletics were not in attendance.

Personally, the Yeowomen provided me with a lot of uncertainty in the pressbox. I doubt that women's ice hockey has ever been broadcasted with live play by play action before. My colleague Robbie Sheffman and I spent much of the game querying the ramifications of the accepted and traditional verbiage associated with the grand game. Is it a defenseman or defenswoman? Perhaps even a defensperson? On a power play, does the puck still come back to the pointman? And is the short-handed team still a man short? We had to ad-lib and considered ourselves pioneers in a new field.

Obviously we're open to any suggestions as to the use of terminology in future broadcasts. It's important to resolve this debate in the near future. The way the women have continued to improve it won't be long before Canadians settle in front of their television sets on Saturday nights from coast to coast, and hear the announcer exclaim, "She shoots, she scores!"