

Can-Am opener for Yeowomen squash

By KATARINA GULEJ

Last weekend the fledgling York Yeowomen squash team opened their season at the two day Can-Am tournament.

The tournament, hosted by York, consisted of three teams from Canada — York, U of T, and Waterloo — and three teams from the States — Dartmouth, Vassar and Williams. Later this month the Yeowomen travel to the States for the second half of the tournament which will decide the winners.

York's sixth place finish can be seen as a good learning experience for the fairly inexperienced seven member squad. Many of the players are new to the game, causing a wide diversity of skill levels. The tournament gave the team a chance to put practice into play and prepare for tougher competition in regular OWIAA season play.

"The team did their best," said York coach Sally Lakdawala. "We're a starter team playing for the first time and we still have a long way to go."

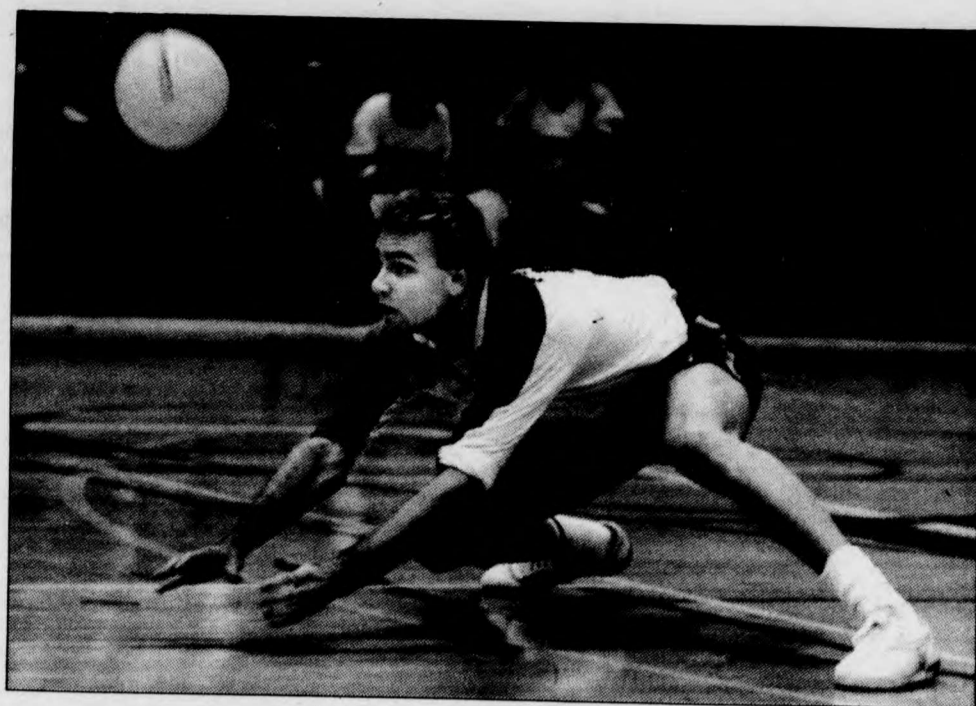
The team was lead by the performance of Rachel Devitt. The fourth year veteran demonstrated her superior skill, posting an easy 9-7, 9-7, 9-5 final victory over Stacey Tripe of Vassar University. Only the top-ranked individuals from each university played in the finals.

Devitt's winning style included "keeping the ball deep in the back court and forcing her to make short shots." Devitt said that her opponent was a good player who made her fight hard for every point using consistent drop shots and constantly keeping her moving. "She was a left-handed player so I had to use a different strategy. I had to keep the ball deep in her backhand," said Devitt.

Other members of the team who competed were Janmine Sweatman, Lisa Barichello, Breffny Boyd, Ronda Maracle and Sue Johnson. Michele Harrison did not compete due to injury.

Next weekend the team travels to Queen's. They play four teams in the first qualifying meet in the OWIAA East.

York's Jacob Wiktorek digs deep against U of T in last Saturday's match at Tait. York downed the Blues 15-6, 15-7, 15-6.



BARAK AMIRFEZ

Park's "twist'n'shout" wrestlers aiming for higher profile at York

By AARON MOSCOE

"Scoop! Scoop! Scoop! Keep the pressure on," shouted York coach John Park during last weekend's York Open wrestling meet.

York has one of the best wrestling clubs in Canada. Although it is not so well known at home, the 'Twist'n'Shout' have managed to attract numerous wrestlers from home and abroad.

John Park not only coaches this club but also the Canadian National Wrestling Team. When Park first came to York he was given a small judo room in the Tait McKenzie Sport Complex and promised great improvements. Having competed in the Panam Games, he now has the experience and knowledge to lead the Yeomen to victory.

In his three years at York, Park has turned our wrestlers into winners. York finished first in the OUAA's two years ago, while last year they placed an impressive second. Like most amateur sport programmes, the members of 'Twist'n'Shout' claim that their programme is drastically underfunded.

Lack of funding and cooperation

have made it increasingly difficult to keep the club running.

The Yeomen now train off campus. Six days a week the club rents a room at the YMCA for their training sessions. Taking matters into their own hands also means taking financial responsibility. Every Friday night the club holds a bingo to pay for the rent and to help send wrestlers to tournaments abroad. While the wrestlers are not the only ones holding bingos to support themselves, it certainly demonstrates their dedication.

"We've got a good programme. The guys work hard," explained Park.

Not only does the 'Twist'n'Shout' club work hard at supporting themselves, they also train four hours a day, six days a week, in preparation for their meets.

Like most other low profile sports, wrestling receives very little attention. Chances are you've never heard of the 'Twist'n'Shout' Wrestling Club let alone their trials and tribulations. Increased funding would be nice and certainly helpful; however this is not what they really strive for.

According to 'Twist'n'Shout' wrestler Richie Hart, if the University would like to maintain the status quo, it should continue funding only high profile sports. However, if it would like recognition as an all round institution, it should also realize the importance of the lower profile sports.

"All I want is recognition for effort," explained Park. Although he feels that his programme is underfunded, Park does not want to take any emphasis away from those teams that receive higher funding.

York has one of the youngest wrestling teams in the nation and claims to work harder than their competitors. Unlike football or hockey, there is no money to be made in amateur wrestling and other than coaching, no future either. What has enabled the club to succeed is the dedication of its members and their competitive spirit.

Last Saturday's York Open was dominated by the Yeomen as they finished first overall. Unfortunately, injuries plagued the team as some of their better wrestlers sat in the bleachers with the meagre crowd.



BARAK AMIRFEZ

The York Swim Team continued its climb toward respectability in two separate meets last weekend.

The Yeowomen nabbed second place in Saturday's McMaster Invitational. Shining for the Yeowomen were Adrian Sutton who bagged third in the 400 metre freestyle and Debbie Lukasic who also finished third in the 200 metre freestyle.

The Yeomen did not fair so well at the U of T Invitational held Friday night. Although the team failed to figure in the points, Trevor Irving put in a strong performance in the 25 and 50 metre freestyle while Earl Eagleson showed promise for the future with a solid effort in both the 100 metre fly and the individual medley.

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