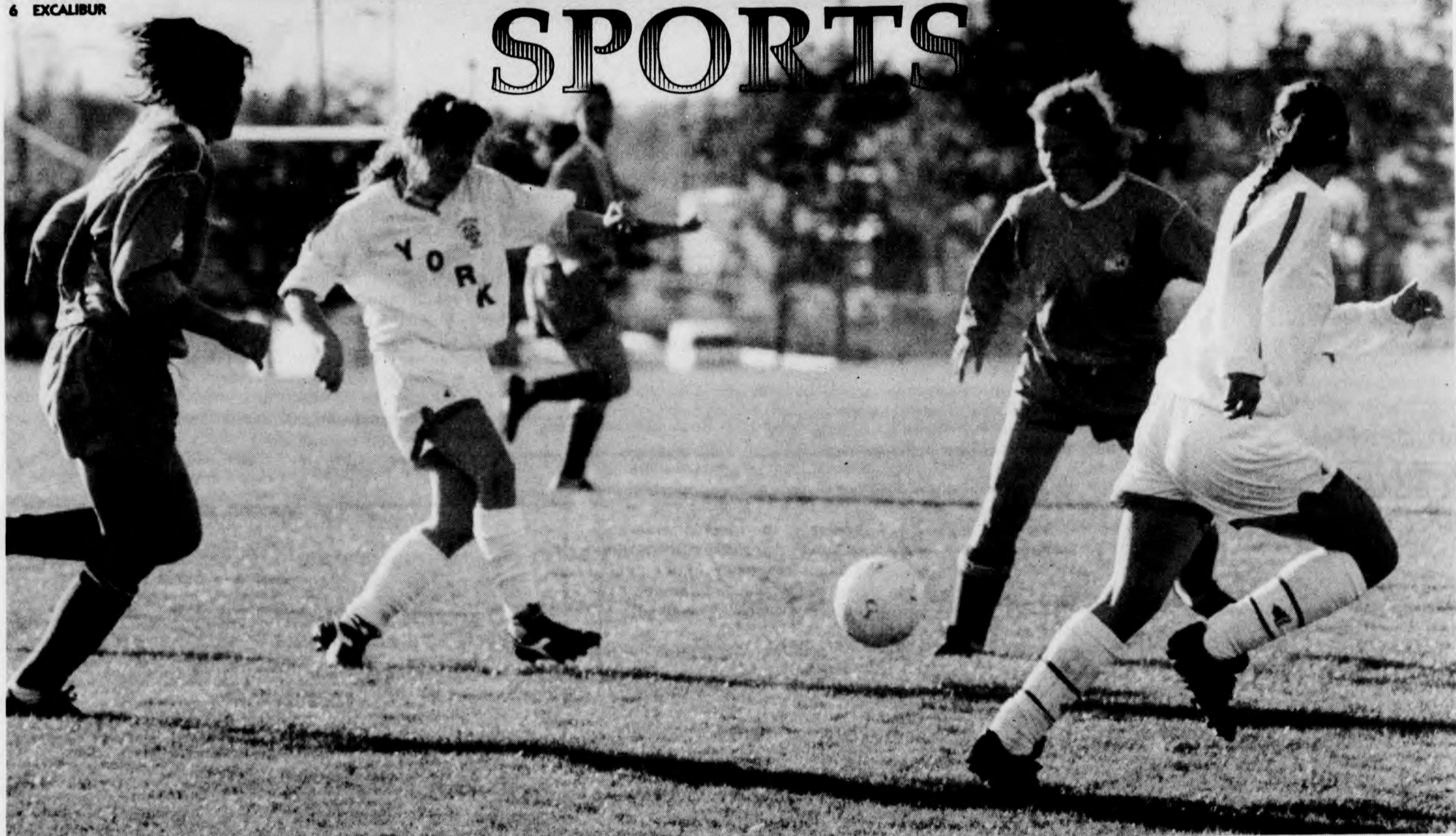


SPORTS



With their 2-0 shutout over Toronto, the Yeowomen shook off their only loss so far this season, a 3-1 setback to Queen's.

Clive Cohen photo

Soccer Yeowomen shake off those pesky Blues

by Riccardo Sala

Nothing cures a loss like a win.

The soccer Yeowomen made this clear last Tuesday with a 2-0 win over UofT.

During the UofT match, they showed no ill effects from a loss suffered two days earlier at the hands of the Queen's Lady Gaels.

York coach David Bell blamed the loss to Queen's on injuries to

key York players like Kristin Bell and Portia Barriffe.

"Queen's really played their hearts out. They needed a win. We weren't as hungry," Bell said.

Offered a chance for redemption against UofT, the Yeowomen didn't pass up.

York played this one tough from the start. Using their speed and coordination they drove the ball

into Toronto territory, but were met time and again by the disciplined defenders.

Their passing, which they have used to devastating effectiveness against weak teams, became less of a factor against Toronto.

The pressure paid off for York however, when Barb Sajben put a soft header past a diving Blues goalie.

A weak ground shot by Philomena Nevin provided York with their second goal soon after.

In an earlier game against York it was also shaky goaltending finished off UofT's hopes.

Likely realising that they shouldn't expect any clutch performances from their keeper, the UofT defence battered down the hatch in the second half.

Anytime UofT tried to get some offence together, the York defenders proved equal to the task.

York goalie Cheryl Punnett was stellar once again providing key saves the few times UofT pushed beyond York's defence.

In the end a two goal deficit was too large for the Blues to overcome and York eked out a 2-0 victory.

Hockey squad gears up for Laurier

by Josh Rubin

For yet another season, the key word in the OUAA East hockey race this year will be parity.

That's the word from York Yeoman head coach Graham Wise, who expects Trois Rivières, UofT, Concordia and McGill to challenge the Yeomen for the division lead.

While Wise isn't ruling out the Ottawa GGs, he admits that not much is known about the Queen's Golden Gaels.

Wise returns to the Yeomen after an off-season which saw him pursue the top job with the team at NCAA Division I Michigan Tech.

Wise won't be the only one returning to the Yeomen fold this year—only four members of last year's squad are going to be missing on the ice this season.

Lost to graduation are Ian Ferguson, Nevin Kardum and Don Matheson, while Brad Wadsworth didn't make the cut.

But with the addition of recent

OHL graduates such as former Bellville Bull Jim Dean, the Yeomen won't be as affected by the missing players as they were last year, when they lost eight players to graduation.

According to second year defenceman Brad Jones, the new arrivals should help solidify the team.

"We've got a bit more depth this year," Jones said.

Jones is part of a defensive crew that while still young, is more experienced than last year's.

Leading the team's blueliners will once again be third year veteran Guy Girouard.

Girouard has been noticeably more disciplined than last year.

"He's an excellent defenceman," Wise said. "I think he realized we need him on the ice, and not in the penalty box."

Up front, the only sure line so far for the Yeomen is last year's leading threesome of Mike Futa, Luciano Fagioli and Kevin Bonello.

Among the forwards will be Jim

Dean, who centred Brian MacDonald and Tim McNamara with devastating effect during the Yeomen's first exhibition match of the year, against UofT.

But taking McNamara's place currently is the feisty Pat Howie, who's also a good skater.

Perhaps the strongest position for the Yeomen this year will be between the pipes. Here Wise faces the pleasant dilemma of having two goalies who on any given night could play with the best in the league.

Battling it out for the starting position in net will be the same stellar tandem that platooned last year, Ted Mielczarek and Willie Popp.

While Popp says the two will play on a consistent, rotating basis, Wise claims he still hasn't decided what to do.

"We'll be using these last few exhibitions to establish who'll be playing in crucial games," Wise said.

Should Wise choose a consistent starter, don't worry: the rivalry between Mielczarek and Popp is strictly a friendly one.

According to Mielczarek, the two push each other's game to a higher level.

"Sure, you'd like to play as much as possible," Popp said. "But we're still really good friends."

For the Yeomen, the regular season gets off to a start this Thursday when they take on defending OUAA champs, the Laurier Golden Hawks. Game time at the York Ice Palace is 7:30.

Soccer Yeomen come up short against Blues

by Kerim Gomleksiz

A muddy field and a shockingly bad start combined to give the Yeomen soccer team a 2-1 loss at the hands of the UofT Blues last Wednesday.

The Blues pounded two goals into the York net in the first fifteen minutes and the Yeomen just couldn't settle down.

As the game progressed, the Yeomen began to take the play to the Blues.

"We definitely did not play as well as we could have," said Yeoman coach Eric Willis. "We came out flat and they scored two quick cheeky goals on two defensive miscues."

Yeoman Gino Polastrone, last week's OUAA player of the week, got one back for the team just before the half to make it 2-1. Despite keeping the ball in the UofT end for most of the second half, the Yeomen still weren't able to tie it up, thanks in large part to a spartan Blues defence.

Throughout the game, the Yeomen weren't able to connect on their free kicks and corner kicks either.

Another frustrated Yeoman was Hunter Madley, who was robbed twice by a hot UofT netminder.

"We lost but I don't think it was all that detrimental to the season," Willis said. "We're definitely still in it and I think we can beat Toronto and we look forward to playing them again."

The highly-talented Yeomen won't have to wait very long to redeem themselves as they square off again with the Blues on Wednesday in the return match of this home and home series.

Win tickets

This Thursday, the hockey Yeomen try to start their season off on the right foot when they host the Laurier Golden Hawks in a 7:30 start. If you would like to help cheer them on to victory, *Excalibur* has just the right thing: free tickets!!

All you have to do is correctly identify the CIAU Tournament MVP for 1984-85, when the Yeomen won their first ever national crown. The first five people who drop by the *Excalibur* office before noon Thursday with the correct answer win themselves a pair of tickets to the game.

Ask for Josh Rubin or Jim Hoggett.

(HINT: The Quiz answer might be someone in the defensive end of the rink.)