

sports



Ron Sears

York forward Jackie De Goeij in action against the UofT Lady Blues last season. This year, the cross-town rivals are once again expected to battle it out

for OWIAA and CIAU supremacy. Currently, York head coach Marina Van Der Merwe is in Australia with the Canadian national squad.

Field hockey on youth kick

by Riccardo Sala

Field hockey took center stage at Lamport stadium this weekend as York and U of T hosted teams from across Canada in round robin tournament action.

Without the services of team leaders Joel Brough and Tammy Holt, the Yeowomen manged a pair of victories, two ties and one loss.

For York coach Regina Spencer the tournament was a chance to test her hand at coaching university-level field hockey.

Marina van der Merwe, who normally coaches the York squad is moonlighting in her other job as head coach of the Canadian national squad.

Van der Merwe is also taking assistant Cathy Broderick as well as Holt and Brough.

For the York players, it was also a chance to test their meddle against OWIAA opponents from Guelph and Waterloo, among others.

The Gryphons were York's second matchup of the tournament. The Yeowomen shut them out 4-0 on Friday with a pair of goals coming from Jackie Degoeij, while Sherri Field and Gillian Sewell notched singles.

The Guelph matchup followed a scoreless draw with Manitoba in York's first game earlier Friday.

Field brought her total for the weekend to four goals with a pair in Sunday's matchup, a 2-0

victory for the Yeowomen over the Waterloo Athenas.

York's only loss of the weekend came Saturday morning when they were shut out 1-0 by Alberta.

Later Saturday York tied New Brunswick 2-2, with Field and Annette McClelland scoring for York.

Spencer was pleased with the York effort, pointing out that this season "we're working with a lot of rookies."

"There's quite a difference in ability and talent," said Spencer of her team, which last year took home the provincial title.

The Yeowomen kick off the regular season Saturday against the Guelph Gryphons. Play starts at 10 am at Lamport stadium.

Tennis squads ace UofT

The Yeomen and Yeowomen were in action over the weekend during the second annual Challenge Cup tennis tournament against UofT. The Yeomen, missing top player Daniel Nestor, defeated the defending OUAA champs 8-2 while the Yeowomen, led by rookie number one player Lisa Dick, edged the Lady Blues 5-4.

Rockets in semis

The North York Rockets have blasted into the CSL semifinals. After thrashing Nova Scotia by a combined score of 9-1 in their home and home series, the Rockets must now take on cross-town rivals the Toronto Blizzard. The first game in that matchup is this Sunday at Esther Shiner Stadium at 4:30.

Rugby Yeomen thrashed

The Yeomen rugby squad was crushed 31-0 by the Guelph Gryphons last Saturday in the season opener for both clubs. More players are still needed, especially for the Yeomen's B squad. Anyone interested can leave a message for coach Bill Currie at 736-5183.

Guy's gone

Veteran Yeoman defender Guy Girouard will not, as earlier reported, be joining the York hockey team this season, leaving coach Graham Wise in an even tighter position on the blueline than originally expected

Soccer women sweep

David Bell and his players are happy after sweeping a pair of 2-0 matches from Concordia and McGill. Goals in the McGill matchup came from Sam Hellens and Kristen MacDonald while York goalie Cheryl Punnet registered the two shutouts.

Cross-country shortstaffed

With both the men's and women's cross-country sides having just two days to prepare, it was no surprise they both fielded less than full contingents. Top finisher for the women was Elaine Craig, who came in 30th overall while Yeoman Pat Dompagnlia finished 27th out of 130 competitors.

Footballers thumped

The York Yeomen football squad was crushed 52-28 by the Western Mustangs Saturday. Despite the lopsided score, it was still an improvement over last season's game, which the Mustangs won 64-0. Saturday, the Yeomen take to the road to play Windsor in what should be a much tighter matchup.

Wood nabs eleventh spot with vault of 5.50 metres

York vaulter flies high at world meet

by Josh Rubin

It was the best finish ever for a Canadian pole vaulter at the world track and field championship—and it came from someone who trains on the York campus.

At last month's world championships in Tokyo, York athlete Doug Wood had a vault of 5.50 metres to finish in eleventh spot.

The event was won by stellar Soviet vaulter Sergei Bubka who cruised to victory of 5.95 metres, well below his world standard of 6.12 metres.

For Wood, the Tokyo performance capped an outstanding summer in

which he broke his own Canadian record, setting a new mark of 5.61 metres.

An elated Zdenek Krykorka, who coaches Wood at the Metro Track and Field Centre was joined by York Track and Field coach Sue Wise in celebrating Wood's showing.

"Any time you qualify for the world finals, it's great," said Wise.

Though Wood has been flirting with elite performances before, his vaults simply weren't as high last year, and he came nowhere near his previous Canadian record of 5.60 metres.

This season's results have been a welcome improvement, but that doesn't mean that last year was a total loss.

"Last year we made a lot of changes, especially with the approach, so we were expecting some rough spots," said Krykorka.

This season, says Krykorka, the change has come not in technique, but in the amount and intensity of training.

"We didn't do as many physically strenuous workouts this year. We focused on quality and consistency," Krykorka added.

According to Krykorka, in an event

as psychological as the pole vault, consistency is of the utmost importance in building an athlete's confidence.

"Doug started out this season with a 5.50, and that gave him a boost for the whole year."

Wood's shattering of the Canadian record came at a Dutch track meet in June against what Krykorka termed some stiff opposition.

In attendance in Holland were athletes from several of the world's vaulting powerhouses, in particular Bulgaria and what used to be the USSR.

During the upcoming winter season, Wood will have to find some

tough competition to hone his skills for the Olympics in Barcelona next summer, which he qualified for automatically by being a finalist at this year's world meet.

Towards that end, Krykorka says Wood will likely be competing on the Mobile Grand Prix circuit in the U.S. this winter.

Next summer's Canadian championships may well be out for Wood — with a vault of only 4.60 metres needed to qualify for the final, Krykorka says there simply wouldn't be any challenge.

"Doug can qualify for the final in one vault; what can he gain?," asked Krykorka.