S P O R T S Hockey Yeomen display their arsenal overseas

By EDO VAN BELKOM

Despite disappointing showings by Canadian hockey teams on international fronts over the holidays, a couple of teams that represented Canada acted like world beaters.

The national junior team, as you have probably heard, made a quick exit from the world championships following a bench clearing brawl in their game against the Soviets.

In Calgary, the Olympic team managed a bronze medal in the four team pre-Olympic Calgary Cup tournament.

But in Switzerland it was all Canada and York University as the Yeomen won all four games of their national tour while Yeomen head coach Dave Chambers guided Canada to a gold medal win at the Spengler Cup.

The Yeomen took two games from Swiss first division teams Kloten and Ambri by respective scores of 3-2 and 6-5. Kloten is the defending national champion and have five national team members on the squad. Ambri, with 11 nationals, also have two players familiar to most NHL followers in Dale McCourt and Mike Rogers.

In their two other games, York downed second division Zug 3-2 and third division Grasshopper Club 9-1.

According to Yeomen assistant coach Graham Wise, who was at the helm for the entire trip, the team could tell the difference between the time to play hockey and the time to

"What we try to accomplish on a trip like this is good team cohesion and hope everyone comes together as a close unit," he said.

"I felt the attitude of the whole trip was just excellent. We took a lot of players and everyone had a chance to play and make the most of it."

The Yeomen didn't do too bad off the ice either, skiing the hills of St. Moritz, while others made enquires about continuing their careers in Europe after they've finished university.

Meanwhile in Davos, Chambers led a salad set of hockey players, including many Canadian pros playing in Europe, to Canada's second championship in three years. The last title was won in 1984, a team also coached by Chambers and highlighted by Yeoman Don McLaren's hat trick in the final game against the

It seems that when the gold is up for grabs at the Spengler Cup, it is Yeomen who have the Midas touch. Last year with no Yeomen, no gold. Coincidence? Probably.

But this year along with Chambers were defenceman Lou Kiriakou (now eligible to play for York) and Brian Small who got the call to fill in for an injury for one game.

Chambers returned to Canada today (Thursday) and was unavailable for comment.

Toronto Star's Paul Hunter picked York to win the OUAA and CIAU titles this season in one of those great previews of things to come in 1987 . . . Lawrence Smith is out of the doghouse and joined the team on the Switzerland trip . . . Former Yeomen Carl Devine who was dismissed from the team earlier in the year (for missing curfew along with Lawrence Smith) is now reported to be playing pro in the English first division. eight Yeomen have been invited to try out for the OUAA all-star team for games against the Olympic squad in

February . . . Lou Kiriakou is supposed to join the Yeomen this month but played with the Olympic team, along with Dirk Rueter, Monday (Jan. 5) against the Soviets at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton. Keep an eye out for him on the blueline Thursday Jan. 15 when York will host Guelph.



THE HOCKEY BRAINS: (from left) Assistant Coach Graham Wise, Head Coach Dave Chambers, Goaltender Coach Steve Knish. Wise kept the Yeomen record perfect while taking over for Chambers in Switzerland.

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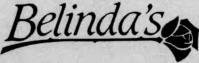
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