

SPORT SPOTLIGHT: York's Creelman

Waterpolo team sunk

By PAMELA JARVIS

York is the home of one of the nation's premiere field hockey players.

Sharon Creelman, a world-class veteran of the international and university field hockey circuits, is also the star sweeper of the York field hockey team.

Despite having picked up her stick only eight years ago, Creelman has mapped a surprisingly quick rise to the top of international field hockey. Her playing career includes selection to numerous high-performance teams and two trips to the Olympic Games.

She has been a provincial and Canadian all-star in all of her playing years. She was recently named CIAU athlete of the week and Molson player of the month at York. Creelman's university field hockey career culminated last week with a bronze medal finish for the Yeowomen at the national field hockey championships.

"My only regret is not winning a national championship," said Creelman.

Creelman switched from ice to field hockey while living in St. John, New Brunswick. According to Creelman, "My parents thought the boys were getting too big."

Creelman played her first year of university eligibility at the University of New Brunswick under coach Joyce Slipp.

After the UNB season, Creelman was selected to the senior national team. She then left school to go to the World Cup. Creelman moved to Toronto where she worked and

trained over the next two years for the Los Angeles Olympics.

"There was a lot of pressure at LA, especially from the media, because we were expected to win a medal," said Creelman.

In 1988 it was off to the Seoul Olympic Games. "We went in sixth and came out sixth," Creelman said. "There was less pressure than in LA. The expectations were lower because we were the underdogs."

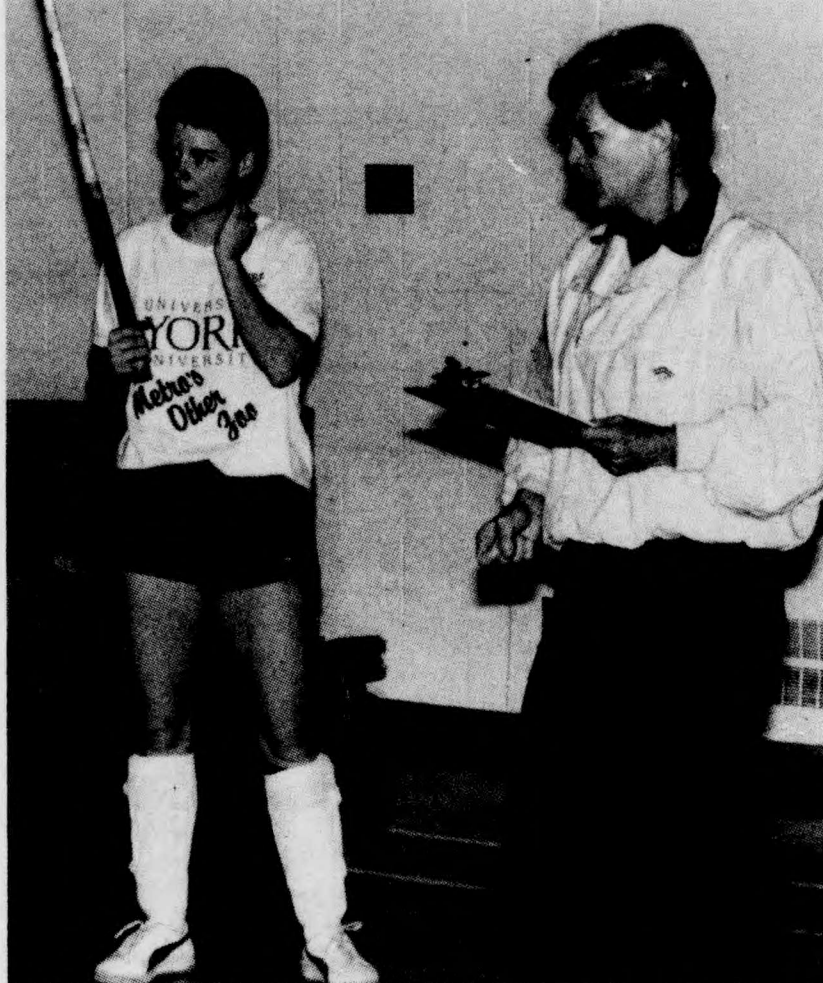
"She's one of the most respected players in the country," said Sandra Levy, a York Olympian who has played off and on with Creelman since '83. "Sharon gives 100 per cent for everything," Levy said. "Her stickwork is phenomenal... sometimes you get caught watching. She's a role model for less experienced players."

York teammate Joel Brough added, "When you see Sharon play, you want to play harder — up to that same standard."

Yeowomen Captain Dale Peltola feels that Creelman "leads by example." She describes Creelman as the team's "quarterback."

"She initiates all attack. Then she can turn around, analyse the game, and make changes."

Creelman came to York in fall '84 to play under the national coaching duo of Marina van der Merwe and Kathy Broderick. Creelman feels the York field hockey programme is a success because of the recruiting efforts of the coaching staff. She enjoys playing at York because "it has given me opportunity for improvement. It was a situation where I could show what I had



JAMES HOGGETT

SHARON CREELMAN (CIAU player of the week) and Coach

learned at nationals." With the York season over, Creelman hopes to stay fit and play in the 1990 World Cup in Sydney.

"The game changes so fast that you can't be assured of a position," Creelman said. She doesn't want to

return too early, but feels "it's harder to stay there once you get there."

"I play because I enjoy the game so much and feel that I am still getting better," said Creelman. "I will play as long as I feel I can contribute to the game."

worst teams in the east respectively. The Yeomen were outclassed by the powerful Ottawa team in their first game of the day. Although they trailed the Gee-Gees by one at the end of the first quarter, the Yeomen ended up bowing out 12-4.

"Regardless of the score, we played quite well," explained Jones. "Ottawa is a strong team. But we just ran out of gas."

Notching the Yeomen goals were Hickstein and Macdonald with two apiece.

In their final game, the Yeomen avenged their Ottawa defeat by crushing the lowly RMC Redmen 14-3. Shing for the Yeomen was Macdonald who potted six goals in the first two quarters before being taken out in order to give the other players a chance at the easy RMC gravy.

Collin picked up the slack, scoring three while Lisus added two. Williams and rookies Brian Gogarty and Mike Rahal added singles to complete York's scoring.

The Yeomen end their '88 season in sixth place, the same as in '87. However, with eight rookies on the thirteen man squad, '88 is considered a rebuilding year.

"We have a lot of rookies on the team," said Jones. "But these players are experienced because we try to get them into the games whether we're winning or losing."

With four of his seven starters returning next year, Jones believes his team will be OUA contenders in '89. "With our returning veterans we have the making of a strong team."

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