

Field hockey women win big last weekend

By PAMELA JARVIS

York's field hockey Yeowomen kicked off their regular season with a win over the visiting Guelph Gryphons in last Saturday's home opener.

Supporters from both sides enjoyed the sunny weather as the Yeowomen used their home field advantage to down the Mustangs 2-1.

Both teams exchanged goals in the first half. Western opened the scoring late in the half but rookie Yeowoman Kelly Thornmeyer quickly replied with the equalizer.

In the second half, York muffed several scoring opportunities, including a goal-mouth scramble that left the Western Goaltender sprawling across her line. York's efforts were rewarded late in the second half when another rookie, Tammy Holt, notched the game winner.

In previous exhibition play last Tuesday, York overcame transportation difficulties and poor weather to shut out the Waterloo Athenas 2-0. Strong play by rookie goaltender Michelle Capperaud,

including a stopped penalty stroke, led the team to victory. Yeowomen scoring was provided by veterans Jackie Degeoi and Cathy Timmins who also assisted on each other's goals.

Integral to York's success is the play of the team's rookies. Nearly half of coach Beth Ali's roster is composed of first-year players. However, strong play is expected from the rookies as several have field hockey experience as high as the junior provincial and national levels.

The Yeowomen also look forward to having the "Seoul Connection" rejoin the team. This contingent includes York coach Marina van der Merwe, assistant coach Kathy Broderick, and veteran players Sharon Bayes, Sharon Creelman and Sandra Levy. The Olympic team members are expected to return to the lineup in early October.

The Yeowomen's season continues this weekend, travelling to Guelph for back to back games against the always fiesty Guelph Gryphons and the Waterloo Athenas.

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Howie's Hell

Johnson's mistake proves him a loser

By "HOWIE" HELL

Last week's gold medal victory by Ben Johnson and his subsequent disqualification demonstrate how strongly sport impacts our lives.

Leaving aside any moral judgement of Johnson, the important aspect of the week's events is how they have affected Canada as a whole. Canadians who are ignorant of sport and its ripple effect throughout society will say that Johnson is only one man and the country does not rise or fall with him.

But they are wrong.

It was Friday night in varying time zones across Canada when Johnson and 25 million Canadians ripped through a new time barrier.

It was a victory for Canada. Not since the War of 1812 had Canadians and Americans butted heads in such a significant event. We defended ourselves in 1812, and Johnson's victory seemed to be a reaffirmation of Canadian sovereignty, which has always existed despite the massive pervasiveness of the United States.

For this reason Johnson's disqualification came as a shocking blow to the country. No one wanted to believe it. Everyone waited for confirmation.

But it was true.

As quickly as people jump on the bandwagon, they will jump off. But that is the role of the fan.

And this is just.

Johnson has disappointed his fans — the ultimate sin of the athlete. The athlete revels in the glory of victory, but must be prepared to accept the abuse when he or she loses.

So when the media and fans chastise Johnson, accept it — this is the price he pays for being an athlete. Why do baseball players have multi-million dollar contracts, why did McEnroe throw tantrums and remain popular, and why do US college players receive scholarships that go beyond tuition?

Because they win.

As for Johnson's break in regulations, the condemnation for that will be felt the most by Ben. Are Canadians going to be mad at Johnson for doing steroids, or will they be more mad that he got caught?

The substance abuse just proves Ben's commitment to bringing home a gold. Was it bad judgement on Johnson's part? Perhaps, but it is symbolic of the price athletes are willing to pay in order to win and receive their accolades.

The Olympics have always brought home that point. Athletes are usually only subjected to representing their cities country-wide, or perhaps within the continent. The Olympics, however, more than other sporting event, emphasizes the representative nature of athletes and their fans.

The athlete is off to war defending his or her country in the forum of sport. Defeat is humiliating, and a country tries to disassociate itself from it.

Ben Johnson's name now becomes synonymous with defeat, and that is his greatest loss.

There is a fine line between winning and losing, but athletes know they must walk it when they begin to play.



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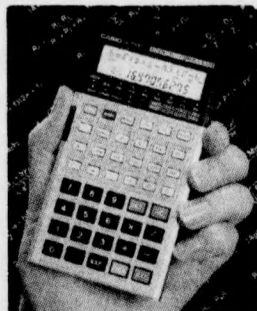
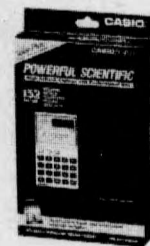


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