

Photo: STUART MOSCOE

Supernatural title for York

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

York Yeowomen gymnastics coach Natasa Bajin's little crystal ball was right on target with its predictions for last Sunday's Ontario Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship meet.

Since a one-point team title loss to McMaster in the OWIAA qualifying meet at Queen's, Bajin had been bestowing large doses of confidence on her team while waiting for yesterday's championships at York.

The Yeowomen responded by taking the overall team title to end the Marauders' five-year reign as Ontario university champions.

The eight-member York squad held a tight lead throughout the race for the team title, rolling up 134.92 points to McMaster's 130.6.

The University of Toronto Lady Blues took the team bronze with 111.82 points followed by Queen's, who logged 100.43 points.

"It was like waiting for something I already knew was going to happen," Bajin said after her team's victory. "We've been rebuilding our team for the past couple of years now, trying to bring along the right amount of young athletes to complement our veterans."

"This year there is just the right combination between young and old. I felt they were capable

of doing it all."

Bajin, who led York to team titles at McMaster and Western earlier this year, was backed by solid performances from a squad that placed at least one gymnast in the top three through four scheduled events.

Rookie Kathy White led the assault with a first place 8.93 score on the beam and an 8.83 second on the uneven bars.

Barb Nutzenberger finished second behind White with an 8.56 on the beam while adding a pair of fifths on the uneven bars and floor routines.

White, a first-year Fine Arts student at York, totaled 34.88 points through four events to take the silver medal in the individual all-round competition.

Sara Aggis, the lone competitor from Wilfred Laurier, tallied 34.80 points to take the bronze.

But the all-round individual championship belonged to McMaster's Debbie Kirby who closed out her university career with a third consecutive individual crown at 34.99 points.

Rounding out the field in the individual competition were Nutzenberger with 33.92 points, McMaster's Niki Travers with 33.29 points, and Western's Hayley Martineau with 33.16.

Six York Gridiron grads rise to CFL standards

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

York University landed six graduates from its football program on the road to professional careers in the Canadian Football League during last Wednesday's college draft at the Westin Hotel.

York's output was the highest by any Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) school in this year's annual draft, hosted by the nine professional Canadian franchises.

The six players are Trevor Williams, Nord Williams, Mike Joyce, Neil Fraser, Dave Majanga, and Dirk Leers.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers, who had Hamilton's pick through a trade, chose Trevor Williams as the third player overall making him the highest selection ever out of York.

The selection was a tribute to the 183 cm, 88 kg (6 ft., 195 lb.) defensive end who now eclipses Bill Hatanaka's selection as the sixth player chosen in the 1976 draft by the Ottawa Roughriders.

The Toronto Argonauts also invested in this year's Yeomen crop, taking safety Mike Joyce and defensive end Neil Fraser.

Last year's draft saw linebacker Marc Hopkins selected in the first round—the 26th player overall—by the Montreal Concordes.

Ironically, York's football program has been one of the least successful contingents in the Ontario University Athletic Association.

Through its 11-year history, York has failed to make the playoffs while going through three head coaches.

After a 2-5 season in 1982 the Yeomen, then fielding a rookie-laden lineup, appeared on their way to reversing their perpetual losing trends.

However, the 1983 season saw them repeat their dismal 2-5 record, a result that prompted head coach Dave Pickett's resignation in late October after three years at the York helm.

Pickett, 32, a former CIAU all-Canadian and Hec Creighton trophy winner, inherited York's football program from former CFL star Frank Cosentino.

Despite a maligned history, prospects from past Yeomen editions have steadily gained the margin of respect from CFL scouts which should benefit a recruiting program.

Title hopes are squashed

By ELISSA S. FREEMAN

Being the bridesmaid isn't very glamorous—but it's something that Bob Cluett and the Yeowomen squash team have had to deal with all year long.

As defending Ontario champions, the Yeowomen capped off their season with a second place finish to U of T at the Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association final held at Queen's last weekend.

The Lady Blues smashed their way to first place with 111 points, followed by York, who garnered 94 points. Queen's and Western tied for third spot with 73 points apiece.

"We never had our top five players in good health all year, and this weekend was no exception," said Cluett.

Both Rhonda Firmi and Anita Halpern were suffering from the sniffles, while Halpern also had to deal with a torn thigh muscle suffered at the Can-Ams two weeks ago.

Fourth year player, Ruth Castellino finished out her squash career in fine form

going 4-1 during the tournament. Her only loss was to Gail Lapore of Queen's, even though Castellino was up two games to none and leading 5-0 in the third.

Cluett, however, is already looking toward the 1984-85 season. Both Firmi and Halpern have performed exceptionally well for the Yeowomen this year (sporting a combined 44-11 record) and will be back next year.

In addition, the squad's farm system will be moving two more players, Cheryl Miller and Darlene Aiger, up the ranks. This farm team participates in city league competition every week, which allows the lower-ranked girls an opportunity to improve their skills and gain competitive experience.

Also returning will be Karen Salmon, who has spent the year playing in England. She is expected to be a dominant force next year.

Such depth will no doubt be an asset to next year's squad. The eternal optimist, Cluett claims that, "we'll be even stronger next year."

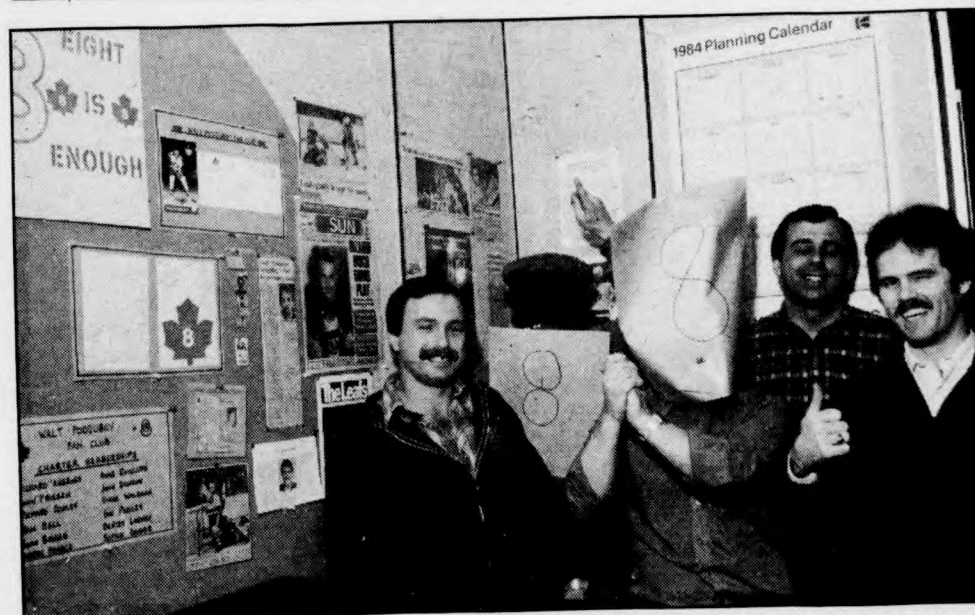


Photo: MARIO SCATTALONI

Five number eights, from left to right are: Steve (Walt) Waldman, Ted (Walt) Christensen, John (Walt) Dawson, John (Walt) Friesen, Derek (Walt) Pearce

Number eight still number one at York

By ROGER NEWLOVE

The dark bowels of Central Square have been exposed as the headquarters of the widely known fan-club of Toronto Maple Leaf Walt Poddubny.

After some prodding, several employees of the Department of Instructional Aid Resources (DIAR) reluctantly agreed to reveal the little-known facts surrounding the fan club.

DIAR employee Derek Pearce was the first to break down and divulge that the club is not as serious as one might believe. "It started as a joke," he said. In 1982 Poddubny broke his leg at the beginning of the season. Nobody knew much about him or why he was on the team, so we decided to send him a card for fun. We really didn't expect a response from him and we were surprised when we received a letter from him," he said.

Pearce pointed out that the main responsibility for the club lay with Richard Ambrose, another employee of DIAR. He said it was Ambrose's idea to send Poddubny a get well card. He said everybody in the office chipped in 25¢ for a card and they became the chartered members of the Walt Poddubny Fan Club.

"We anticipate that he will be one of the all time greats. He's a team leader on the ice and an inspiration off the ice," said Ambrose.

The activities of the club include cutting out newspaper articles on Poddubny and posting them on the wall. The club, however, has had no correspondence with Poddubny since the memorable card-letter exchange in 1982.

Ambrose said that the main reason he established the club was because of the status it gave him and then mumbled something about "picking up women."