

Yeowomen are just waiting to blossom

Going into her fourth year as coach of the York Yeowomen basketball team, Frances Flint compares her team to that of a closed flower just waiting to blossom.

Realistically she feels the Yeowomen should reach the Nationals this year. "Last year was our year but we just missed through our inexperience. We have every capability to beat any team we play. It's up to us."

"We'll play more aggressive this year and make our opposition play our game as much as possible rather than them dictate to us," Flint maintains. "It's to our advantage because it makes us a tough team to play. There's no longer anything passive about York."

The framework from which the Yeowomen will work this year can be compared to freelancing. "They (York) will create their own offence thus they never do the same thing twice. This makes it difficult for other teams to mark us," Flint said.

Flint stresses skills as an important ingredient in her recipe for an Ontario (OWIAA) championship title. Collectively she rates the team's strengths as being their skills, speed and diversity which should cause their opposition problems.

Experience is another important factor that the

Yeowomen should benefit from. Though the team has six rookies on the twelve man roster Flint observes, "these rookies are experienced. Many of them have OFSSA (All-Ontario high school play-offs), regional and provincial team experience. They've got more experience than just a high school player."

One of the strongest features of the Yeowomen this year will be their 'creative speed'. Flint acknowledges this will make them an exciting team to watch compared to past years.

If there is a weakness in York's armour it's their lack of a big dominant center who would control the play inside. All-Canadian Barb Whibbs can fill these requirements if need be according to Flint.

It won't be an easy task for the Yeowomen as Toronto and Laurentian from the east should provide stiff opposition. In the west Guelph, the defending Ontario champions, Brock and Western will be the teams to watch. Flint thinks it should be a highly competitive season for the Yeowomen.

With an enthusiastic response Flint feels excited about what her team can achieve this year. "It's unlimited," she claims. "They've got desire and a competitive spirit and when it's put together—lookout!"

Flint made these assessments of her roster prior to York's



Jules Xavier

Six new faces:

Back-l-r: Ann McEachern, Nancy Harrison, Paula Lockyer
Front-l-r: Trish Stevenson, Dana Stewart, Marie MacDonald

season opener against the Ryerson Ewes last night. Thus far this season the Yeowomen sport a 6-1 exhibition record, 2-0 in league play.

Saskia Vriend "has the ability to play a consistent game."

Sharon MacFarlane "has excellent offensive moves and rebounding skills due to her vertical jump."

Fern Cooper "has the ability to analyze who's in the most potential scoring area. Her competitive spirit makes her a valuable team member."

Leslie Dal Cin "brings experience to the team. She has the toughness to play a physical game. She's fearless in taking a charge."

OWIAA All-Star Kim Holden "is flying this year. She has excellent body control and her jump shot is super. With her anticipation she can strike to the basic quickly. She's also worked hard on her defensive skills so she's defensively strong this year."

All-Canadian Barb Whibbs "gets the job done one way or another. She's playing with so much heart. A quality athlete. People don't see the physical punishment she takes covering the bigger players. She's a terrific person to coach with her get the job done attitude."

Rookie Marie MacDonald "is working slowly into the line-up following her second knee operation. She has a classic jump shot and her experience should benefit the team when she's ready."

Six foot rookie Nancy Harrison "has an uncommon touch with the ball. She plays an aggressive style and her vertical jump allows her to stuff anybody. She could be a top scorer and has great potential for the future."

Belleville dual Dana Stewart and Paula Lockyer are two more rookies. Dana "has the desire to improve as a player."

Paula "is another quality athlete who plays with flair." A cornerstone for the future, Lockyer "could be a potential all-star. She's a versatile athlete. Instinctively, she strikes to the basket immediately."

The final two rookies, Trish Stevenson and Ann McEachern are both from Collingwood. Stevenson "is a tough player who plays aggressively and will become a stronger player with more court time. A floor general in high school, her trademark was her aggressive play. She likes to grab rebounds inside."

McEachern "is a player with unlimited potential with great competitive desire. She handles the ball well and has a super vertical jump. She also adds height to the team (6'). She's stepped into a difficult role as a rookie. She has to play the taller players but uses her jumping ability to get over this."

McEachern not only excels in basketball but finished third in the high jump and fifth in hurdles last year at the All-Ontario track and field meet.

X-rated: Last night York slaughtered the Ryerson Ewes 104-25. Barb Whibbs led the team with 22 points.

—Jules Xavier

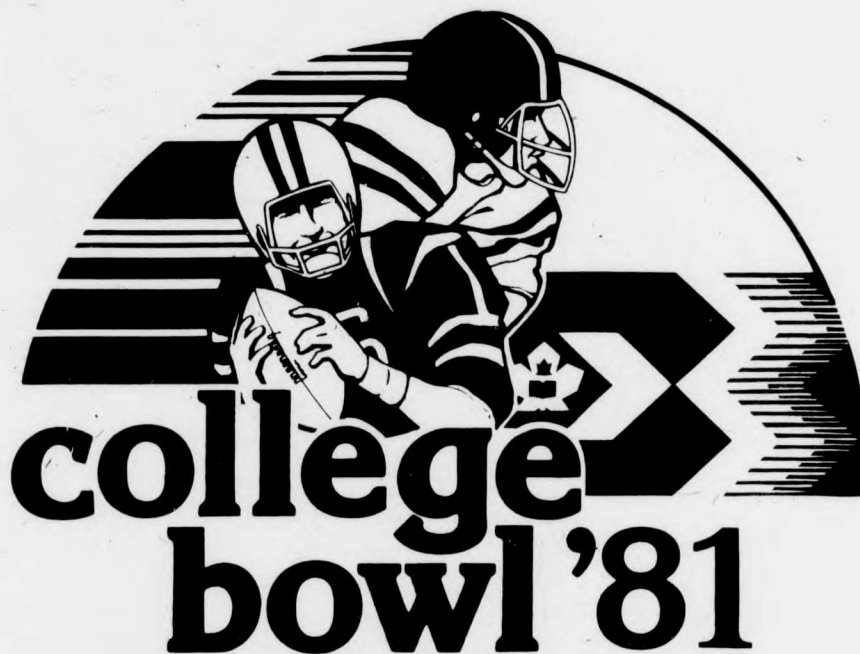
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