

# Cugliari a team leader through words and actions

By MEL BROITMAN

Appearances are often misleading. In sport and particularly football, physical size can be a strict determinant of evaluation. Yet it is always a special individual who can overcome a lack of physical stature and still inspire to great heights. Such is the case of Dominic Cugliari, who at only five feet, seven inches tall is among the giants of York's tough defense.

The fifth year physical education and history major is a perfect example of how far emotion and desire can go to carry an athlete to greatness. Cugliari, now in his final year of athletic eligibility has become a cornerstone of one of our country's finest defensive units.

Seeing Cugliari in full equipment on the field is no awesome sight, and he certainly doesn't strike the fear of intimidation into opposing offenses. Yet the secret of Dominic Cugliari appears when the York defensive back takes off his battered Yeomen football helmet and reveals the seemingly permanent grin residing on his face. For Cugliari is almost always smiling. His general "joie de vivre" shines through in his emotional and gutsy style of play. The intensity of his play also casts him into a role of a leader on the York club.

"I'm a take-charge player, I'm emotional and I believe that's the way to play the game as long as it's controlled. By showing that emotion it rubs off on the other guys," says Cugliari. "It's the way to live life," he adds with a smile. Attitudes like Cugliari's not only help win football games but perhaps more importantly create an enjoyable atmosphere on the club. Coach Frank Cosentino is well aware of Cugliari's value to his team. "He leads not only by his words but also by his actions," says Cosentino, who claims that Cugliari plays a lot taller than his 67 inches would indicate.

Cugliari originally joined the Yeomen as a rookie quarterback hopeful from Central Tech High School where he had been a city all-star. After a year of a back-up role that saw him gain only limited playing time, Cugliari switched to

the defensive secondary where he progressed quickly and started there in his third year. Following an outstanding fourth year last season, he was invited to a professional try-out camp at BC Place along with other collegiate stars.

Unfortunately for Cugliari, the pro scouts never saw his big heart through his small frame. As a result, Cugliari's only real contact with the professional ranks left him with a bitter taste in his mouth. As Cugliari claims, "They already knew who they wanted to pick, and two or three days is not enough time for a just evaluation."

Where before the try-out, Cugliari entertained thoughts of professional football, he left those behind in Vancouver. "If I can go on and play football it will be a bonus, but if I don't I will go on. If anybody tells you that he doesn't want to play professional football, he's lying," says Cugliari about the experience.

However, Cugliari is still fully appreciative of the opportunities he has had in his tenure at York. "These have been five of the best years of my life. I have a lot of new friends and have met a lot of great people... establishing the relationships that I have is something that I can cherish for the rest of my life. I can look back later at these five years with fondness," Cugliari says proudly.

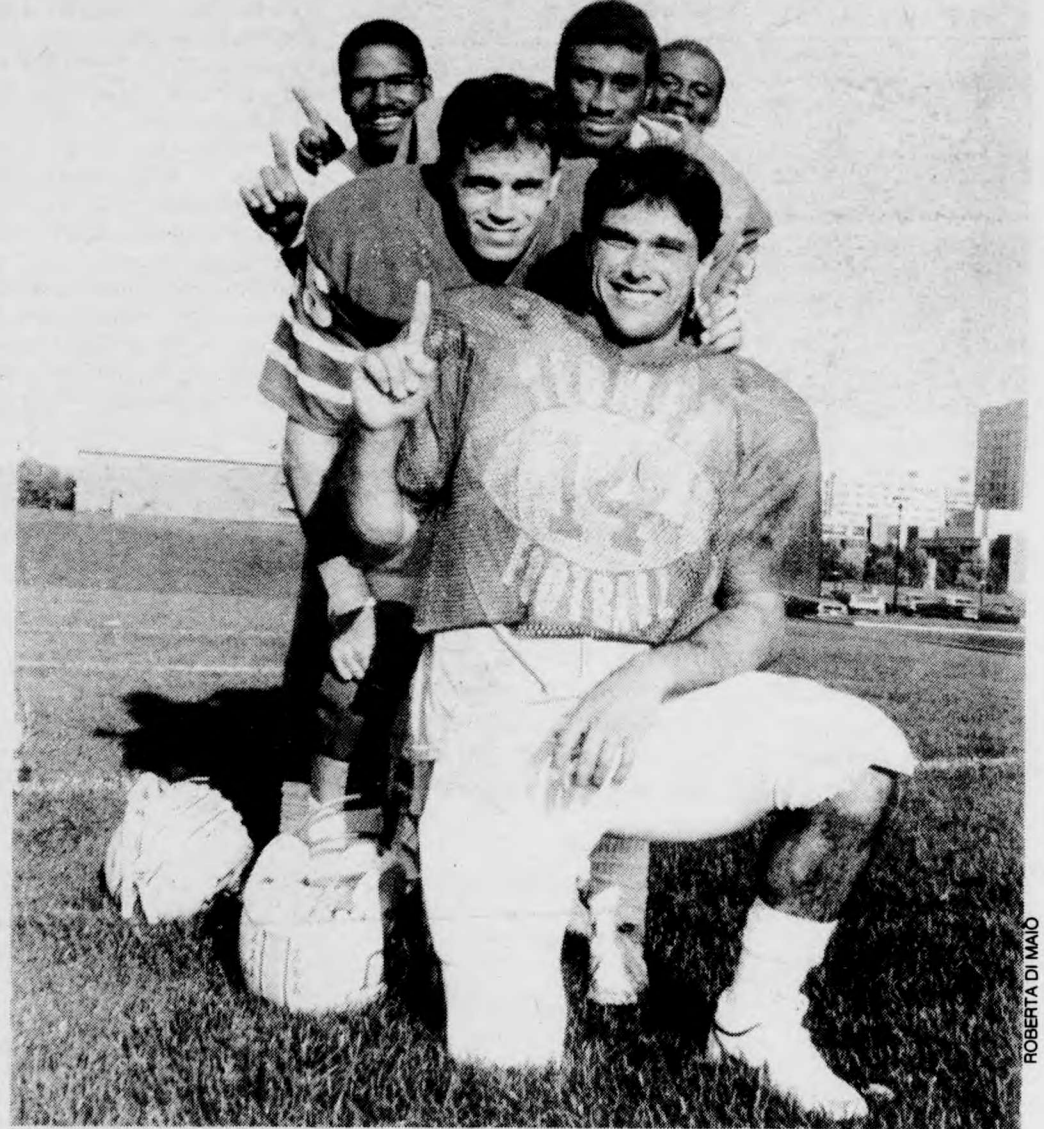
Cugliari also looks ahead to possibly returning to Central Tech as a teacher and football coach. If his hopes materialize it would be the completion of a cycle of the good relationships he has built for himself. Regardless, this young man with the 'perma-smile' will always bring a lot of happiness to his surroundings.

Strangely enough, Cugliari, a diehard Yeoman, could easily have been a Varsity Blue. He lives only 15 minutes from the downtown campus and admits he once hesitated about attending York. As Cugliari states, "In the summer of Grade 13 I had some reservations about going to York, but I've never regretted it since." Fortunately for York's football program, Cugliari chose the longer route over the shorter one.

Situated in a tie for first in the OUAA, the

Yeomen are a definite contender for national honors. Dominic Cugliari would like nothing better than to don his Yeomen jersey one last

time in the Vanier Cup on November 30. Just how close York gets may depend on how much Dominic Cugliari believes they can do it.



**NO. 1 WITH A SNICKER:** Dominic Cugliari (No. 14) is a big part of the Yeomen's stingy defensive secondary.

## Soggy field conditions hold York to scoreless draw

By JAMES HOGGETT

Last Saturday the Yeomen soccer team closed out their regular season with a game at home against U of T in a quagmire of mud. This made play difficult, as players were unable to complete many passes and have good shots on goal. It also explains why the game ended in a scoreless draw.

The Yeomen dominated play throughout the first and second half. "This was our best-played home game of the season," coach Norman Crandles said. "We dominated throughout the whole game, not slacking off once. We kept the pressure on them constantly." Despite York's numerous scoring chances, they were

unable to put the ball in the net. York's best opportunity in the first half came when Tony Oliver worked himself free and blasted a shot at the goal. The Varsity Blues' goalie made a diving save to rob Oliver of the goal.

York's goalie Paul Bottos was also not without his sparkling moments as U of T came close on a few occasions. His best save came when U of T, on a corner kick, centred the ball in front of the York goal and a teammate picked up the pass and directed a shot at the York goal. Bottos reading the play perfectly, managed to dive and stop the ball.

In the second half the Yeomen came out stronger, playing what was their best 45 min-

utes of the season. They forechecked the Blues in their own end and did not allow them to bring the ball up any further than centre field. York's defence stood their ground and kept kicking the ball back deep into the U of T zone.

York had an opportunity in the second half to take a 1-0 lead when Mauro Ongaro, in front of the Toronto goal, fired a shot and a Toronto player stopped the ball with his hands. To York's surprise, the referee let the play go on.

In the dying minutes of the game, with York desperately trying to score, a Toronto player slipped by the defence and had a breakaway on the York goal. Leo Dowhaluk (in possibly his final game as a Yeomen) made the defensive play of the game by running down the Toronto player, taking him out of the play with a sliding tackle. York came close again when Greg Dac Bang ripped a shot off the goalpost and later Hunter Madeley desperately tried to head a ball into the corner but it went just wide.

"It was a very well-played game," said U of T coach Jim Lefkos. "I was very impressed with

York's play. I think we might have won if we didn't miss so many chances. Part of the reason for this, I think, was the poor field conditions. It definitely played a big factor in the game."

Hunter Madeley, a first-year student majoring in Psychology and Physical Education, also agreed with this appraisal. "I think we could have scored a few goals if it wasn't for the wet field," he said. "It was very hard to play with such poor footing."

Second-year Physical Education student, captain Tony Oliver thought the field conditions were in York's favor. "I would say the field went against Toronto as they tend to knock the ball around and they couldn't because of the wet field. This enabled us to control the game and have more scoring chances."

York coach Crandles was very pleased with the team's play this season. "We greatly improved from last year's record, almost a 50 percent point improvement. Next year we'll definitely be a team to be reckoned with."

## Soccer teams playoff hopes in hands of OUAA committee

By JAMES HOGGETT

In the space of 24 hours the Yeomen soccer team has been in and out of the playoffs, and at present their position is still unclear. The decision on the final standings is still in question.

After the game on Saturday against Toronto, York was eliminated from playoff contention by the Carleton victory over Trent. The final standings had Toronto in first, Carleton in second, and York in third place. However, it was later found that Toronto, throughout the season, had played an ineligible player. Apparently Mimmo Basile, (the ineligible player in question) had signed a professional contract making him ineligible to play for Toronto.

In an interview with York coach Norm Crandles, Crandles stated that U of T's coach, Jim Lefkos knew of the player's possible ineligibility. Lefkos had Basile sit out the first two games of the season while his amateur status was brought back into effect. Once Basile was declared an amateur again Lefkos played him. However, regulation states that once a player becomes a professional he cannot regain his amateur status and play for an amateur team until he sits out for one full year. After that year the player may resume competition as an amateur. Because Toronto did not abide by this, the league Convenor stripped Toronto of nine points.

This decision was based on a similar incident in the western conference. In that case Guelph was stripped of points for also using an ineligible player. They were further penalized one point for every game that player played. This decision was made by the league's Judiciary Committee, and they further decided that no points would be awarded to the teams who lost to Guelph while they used this player.

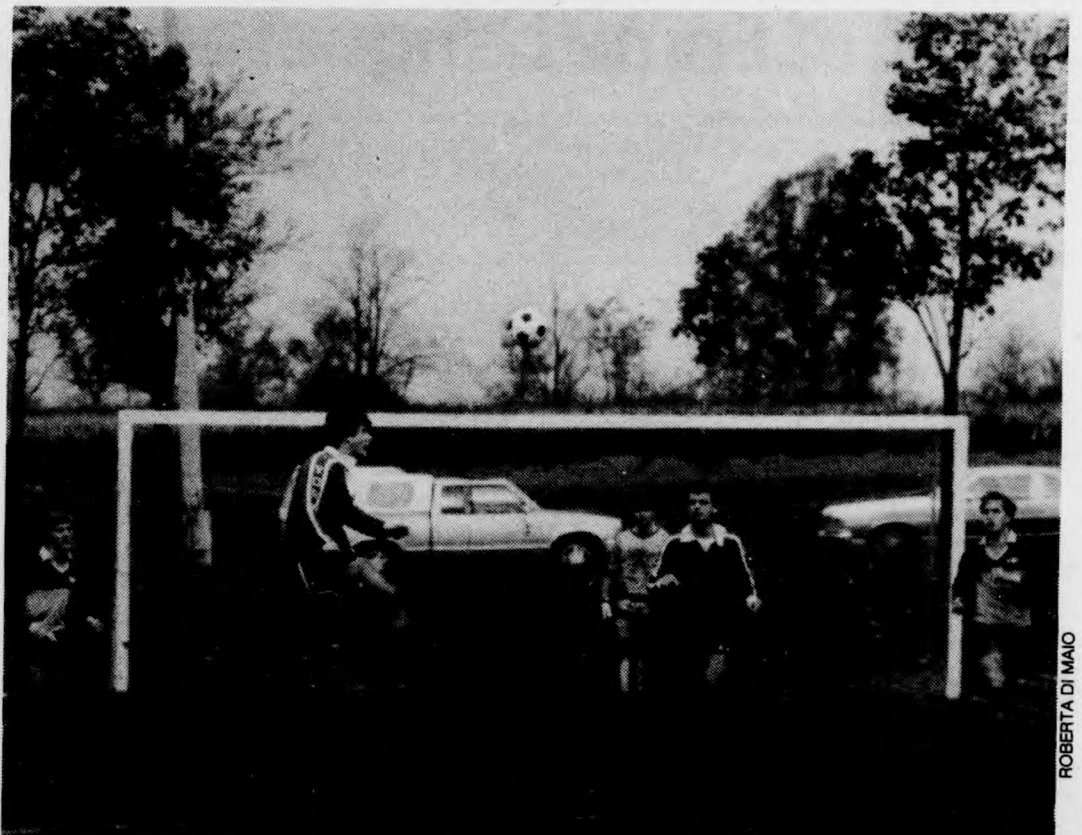
It was then that the seesaw battle started when Laurentian appealed the Convenor's decision by saying that the rules clearly stated that points should be awarded to the side who lost to the team using the ineligible player, in this case Toronto.

The Convenor then reversed his decision and awarded Laurentian the points. This moved Laurentian in front of York who had been tied for second with Laurentian. However, since York defeated Laurentian twice this year in league play York was officially in second place which gave them a playoff berth. But all this was wiped away when Laurentian was awarded the points.

This meant that points were being awarded to teams in the east but not in the west. Therefore both divisions are being run by two different sets of rules.

York's second soccer coach Stuart Robbins searched through the rule book and has appeared to have found a clause to support the Convenor's original ruling. As a result York has been granted an appeal of the Judiciary ruling.

As of now nothing is for certain. However all should be straightened out before the weekend when the playoffs are scheduled to begin in Ottawa on Saturday.



**UP IN THE AIR:** The Yeomen's playoff hopes are still in doubt. They may be in third, they may be in second. One thing is certain, a decision will be made before the weekend.