

It's dynamite hockey as York Yeomen hit the ice again

The mingled sounds of shouting and pucks hurtling into the boards, echo through the York Ice Palace.

It's a dead serious business, fascinating to watch. Twenty Yeomen are being put through their paces, under the close scrutiny of their new, young coach, John Marshall.

Right-winger Barry Crump, sets out from

one end of the rink, catches a pass on the fly at the blue line and races toward Brian Mitchell, lurking in net at the other end. Defenceman Chris Lawrence is in hot pursuit, checking and flailing at Crump all the way. Crump zeroes in, tries a foxy deke and blasts from twenty feet out — Mitchell's glove flashes up, he makes the stop.

The entire team pairs off and has at it. Goalies Steve Bosco, Glen Weier and Mitchell are drilled mercilessly. The Yeomen scrimmage and skate widths of the ice at full tilt.

After two hours, a well worked-out hockey team steps off the ice. Sweaty, red-faced and a little bit more in shape.

This goes on five nights a week. A wide

assortment of undergraduates, business admin majors and law students, bust their asses in the murky light of the Ice Palace; for the chance to play with the team, which last year, was rated number one in Canada for nine straight weeks.

They were robbed of the Ontario Championship last season when U of T's Varsity Blues upset them in the playoffs. The Blues were spurred on by their home ice advantage and the all important support of a home team crowd.

Last year's disappointment well behind them, the Yeomen are aiming for the all Canada crown once more. To make it, team members will have to lead a disciplined life. They must make daily practices, often play two games on a weekend, and reserve their free time for study.

You wonder what sparks their dedication. Most players, says Coach Marshall, carry the burden well.

What is the result of all the practice and strategy?

College hockey Yeomen style, is rough and tumble, played to the hilt. The Yeomen proved themselves contenders when, at U of T's pre-season tournament (October 28-29) they whipped Waterloo Warriors 7-3 and wrested the tournament pennant from a considerably tougher Varsity Blues Squad, with a 4-3 victory.

A stand-out in the Waterloo match was high scoring right-winger Romano Carlucci who scored twice. Asked if the era of the slap-shot hadn't seen the quality of sharpshooting deteriorate, he pointed out that a slapshot can be just as accurate as a wrist shot, "if you work on it". It is that shot which has made Carlucci one of York's deadliest forwards, along with left-winger Gary Gill, center Bob Schnurr and right-winger John Goodish.

Many of the Yeomen have been at it fifteen years or more. Schnurr, a veteran of the Kitchener Rangers and the Peterborough Petes, feels college hockey compares favourably with the better known brand put out by Junior A teams.

"The university and Junior A leagues are pretty close in the calibre of play, though the guys in this league are more mature and physically stronger," remarked Schnurr after a recent practice.

"University hockey is improving as the years go on. There are no job openings in the pro ranks, so a lot of guys move from Junior A to University. I couldn't say now whether we'd be able to beat the best Junior A teams, but we'd sure as hell give them a pretty good run."

The Yeomen did more than give the Blues a pretty good run when they beat them that Saturday. It was an exciting game, sparked by the Varsity-York rivalry. Schnurr and Goodish each got a pair of goals and the Yeomen had the lead for the last seven minutes of play.

"The Yeomen looked like professionals in those final minutes," wrote Ian Wasserman, who covers the team's games for Excalibur. Wasserman is, by the way, the Voice of the Yeomen and does the play-by-play of the team's home games live on Radio York.

The next Yeomen game, and the opening of the regular OUA season, was November 5. York hosted the Laurentian Voyageurs, whose coach, Billy Harris, was a Leaf center in the 1960's glory days.

A crowd of perhaps 400 turned up, charging the Ice Palace — which is really just a tacky old indoor rink — with real Saturday night excitement. The lighting in the Palace usually gives you the impression of peering through a haze. Perhaps it was the added electricity from the crowd, but that night the place seemed bathed in brilliance.

The fantastic thing about college hockey as a spectator sport is the close-up view it provides the fans. You can hear the skates scraping ice and the muttered curses of players when they're slammed into the boards.

The game was end-to-end hockey all night. The Yeomen took the lead and held it, but the Voyageurs never gave up. Most college clubs never give up, no matter how far behind they get. John Marshall commented on this and threw some light on that amazing dedication of university athletes.

"There's not that external incentive, college players don't get big contracts. The only thing to motivate them is pride in their own performance. So they don't collapse the way a good pro club can."

Billy Harris evidently knows how to heighten a hockey team's motivations. Laurentian came on strong in the second period and York looked weak defensively. When the Yeomen reached for their towels in the dressing room at the beginning of the second intermission, they were ahead 3-2 and worried.

The locker room smelled of oranges, sweat and tension.

Marshall was blunt in his criticism of the team's performance and walked out after voicing it. He feared the Yeomen were going to blow their hard work.



Yeomen left-winger Glenn Wagner hounds a Waterloo Warrior at U of T's pre-season tournament October 28. The Yeomen beat the Warriors 7-3 and topped the Varsity Blues next evening winning the tournament.

Profile: John Marshall, your new Yeomen coach

By Paul Stuart

Yeomen Coach John Marshall is an affable, straight-forward, red-headed fellow. His trim frame gives him more the look of a track star or academic than that of a hockey player. In fact Marshall is currently finishing his doctoral thesis in psychology.

His subject: the affect of competition on children in minor sport.

A ten year veteran of college and minor-pro hockey, he played Junior A with the Marlboros and got drafted by the Philadelphia Flyer organization in 1967. He wound up playing hockey to the whoops and hollers of the good ol' boys in Nashville Tennessee.

What, I ask, was that like?

"Really weird," replied Marshall, with a flicker of a grin.

"They liked tough, rough hockey. They would watch a really close 2-1 game, which might have consisted of excellent hockey and though this was '67 - see nothing in it at all."

Sitting back in his sunny Bethune College office, he talked about his four years playing college hockey for Guelph.

"Nobody could understand why I was at the graduate level and involved in hockey. At least other graduate students couldn't understand it."

His old cronies at the Guelph psyche department might have understood Marshall's hockey passion, had they understood the mental challenge the sport provides. No matter who winds up Canadian champion this year, the factor which propels the winning team to the top will be the intelligence it can apply to the game.

Marshall, an easy-going conversationalist whose voice becomes a shade more serious when speaking as coach, outlined the way he

and assistants Larry Sadler and Ian Douglas devise Yeomen strategy.

"During the course of the week we work on gross systems. These are the general patterns for coming out of our own zone, fore-checking patterns and so on. Then we have to adapt the system to each team we play and adjust it between games."

The system can't fall into place overnight for the Yeomen, who have lost 12 members of last year's powerhouse. But Marshall is optimistic.

"We'll be rebuilding 'til about Christmas, after that I think we'll go." Marshall once played for York himself under famed coach Dave Chambers, last year's OUA Eastern Division Coach of the Year. When Chambers went on sabbatical to coach the Italian national team this year, Marshall was catapulted into the top job. Larry Sadler discussed Chambers' qualities as a coach.

"Dave is easy-going, calm, coolly analytical. Definitely not the hollering type. He didn't so much dictate to the players as listen to what they had to say."

"I remember last year when a player who was concerned about his role on the team, asked Dave if he could discuss his situation with him. It was seven o'clock when we stepped off the ice and they were still talking at ten thirty."

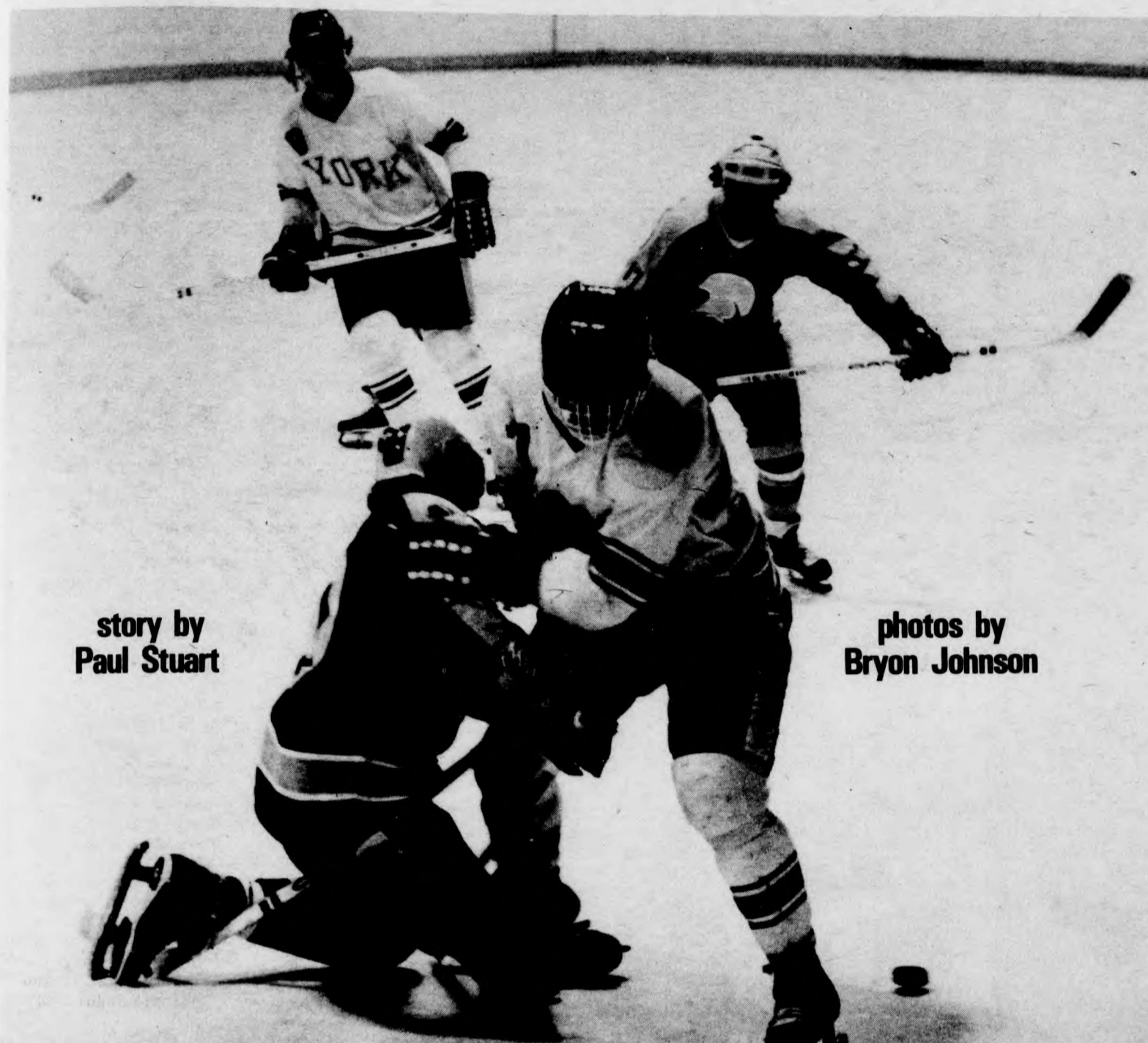
How do Marshall and Chambers compare as coaches? Sadler continued in his soft-spoken way:

"John is a little bit more effervescent, but he has the same qualities that made Dave a good coach. Both know how to generate a good working environment and both are a pleasure to work with."

For Sadler working with the Yeomen means coaching the goalies while fellow assistant Ian Douglas, who played in Sweden's first division, helps out with the defence.



Marshall behind the bench; ten years of experience and a big rebuilding job to get on with.



story by Paul Stuart

photos by Bryon Johnson

Glenn Wagner tangles with a Warrior while Romano Carlucci (8) scouts the play. The Warriors proved less formidable than the U of T squad. The Yeomen and the Blues have each won a game in their two confrontations, as their knock-em-down drag-em-out rivalry continues this year.

"We gotta think," he told them.

Right-winger Algis Vaitonis and center Tony Pallante were two new Yeomen in the tough position of not being dressed for the Laurentian game. But they were keen observers. Said Pallante of the team's effort that period:

"The positional play, the mental part of the game, fell apart. We're not pinning them in." And if you've ever wondered what it feels like for an athlete to watch his team battle from the sidelines, take Al Vaitonis' word for it:

"It's awful." Just before the team headed back to the ice, Marshall rushed back into the dressing room — he was all hand-claps and bravado.

They hit the ice and won the game, but "the system" suffered some neglect. Everyone on the team knew it. But thinking about a mental strategy while you're getting bashed and crashed and slashed is incredibly difficult.

Yet it's the fundamental challenge of the game to every good hockey player.

After his team went down 4-3, Harris called the Yeomen and the Blues "two of the strongest teams in Canada". And it was the Blues who were the next opponents of the Yeomen on the official schedule.

After the Laurentian game, the team returned to the eternal task of working "the system" into the styles of individual players. The Yeomen's moustachioed coaching staff has four lines and three combinations of defencemen to work with.

Glenn Wagner, who plays left-wing on a line with Schnurr and Carlucci, was asked how individual players tackle the problem of learning to play as a unit.

"First of all you have to get to know your linemates as individuals off the ice. You find out their attitudes about the game - how they feel about going into a corner or shooting from a certain area."

Defenceman Chris Kostka agrees: "communication is the whole key."

Forward lines and defence combinations are paired up in a complementary way. So you have a solid back-checking defenceman like Kostka teamed with Captain Dave Chalk, who rushes and is almost a fourth forward.

After a recent exhibition game at Guelph, which York came from behind to win 7-5, right-winger Gord Borland pointed out the psychological factors players must deal with in learning to play well together. The first fifteen minutes of the Guelph match had seen the

Yeomen allow the Gryphons five unanswered goals, Borland explained how the team's mental attitudes saved the day.

"When we got off the bus and went into the arena it was like a morgue. But when we were down 5-1 there was a feeling on the team that

wasn't really the score. When Bobby Schnurr got the second and third goals that gave us the spark we needed."

"We were really relaxed after the first period, each player started to play his own individual kind of game and that's when we

Yeomen lose 2 to Cornell in weekend jaunt to USA

By Ian Wasserman

Last weekend the hockey Yeomen travelled south of the border to meet the Cornell Big Red in Ithaca, New York. They came away on the short end of the series losing both games, 10-3 and 4-2.

The scores were not indicative of the games. As always, when travelling to the States, there are different rules to become accustomed to.

On top of this there were several players missing from the York lineup due to injuries and other commitments.

The Yeomen had only three regular defencemen in the first game and Glenn Wagner moved back to help shore up the blueline.

Many of the calls were going in favor of the Big Red forcing the Yeomen to play short-handed, which didn't help York's offensive game plan. The second period of the first game was played with York short-handed for the entire period.

York did manage to score three times however with Gary Gill notching one and Romano Carlucci scoring twice. The second goal was a patented "R.C. Slapper" that the goalie is still looking for.

York started out the second game on even terms, but it didn't take long for the Big Red to once again dominate the play.

Down by two goals early in the game the Yeomen were not going to let the game get

out of hand. The Yeomen rallied to tie the score by the third period, overcoming the situation.

In the third period Cornell took the puck down the ice to score to make it 3-2. York didn't give up easily as they continued to press. Dave Chalk was hit with a two handed over the head by Dave Roche and retaliated to be sent off to give the Red a power play as only the Yeomen were penalized. It didn't take long for Cornell to convert the opportunity into a goal.

Bob Schnurr notched both goals in the Saturday night contest. Coach John Marshall was happy with the performance of the Yeomen under the circumstances. "They showed a lot of class in that second game. They will never be counted out of a game. They always rally and take pride in what they are doing."

The Yeomen now look ahead to the return of league play tomorrow night at 8:00, when the Ottawa Gee-Gees come to the Ice Palace. On Saturday afternoon rookie coach Fred O'Donnell brings his Queen's Golden Gaels to York at 3:00. Then the second game in the cross town rivalry takes place at Varsity Arena on Wednesday at 8:00.

PUCK PATTERN... Support the Yeomen 50-50 Draw tickets available at the arena and through the players on the team... Ed Tiller won the last draw and won \$125... Look for York captain Dave Chalk to be named to the Student National team for exhibition play in Europe.

came together and played as a unit".

After the Gryphons the Yeomen took on the Varsity Blues at the Ice Palace. Said center Aiden Flatley before the match:

"They may have more talent than us, but we've got a lot of desire."

Alas desire wasn't enough to prevent a 7-3 setback at the hands of a most unscholarly and ungentle U of T squad. Pictures of John Marshall taken in the last period of the game, show him looking like he'd just eaten the pancakes in the Complex Two cafeteria.

But now the Yeomen are over that sickening feeling of defeat and are fresh from a road-trip to Cornell University, where 10,000 fans usually turn up to watch them play.

The struggle continues. And thanks to a team effort launched with the help of General Manager Raymond Wintjes and Trainers Ernie Durocher and Ed Nowalkowski, the Yeomen have shown themselves to be contenders again.

Where do they get their determination?

One day after practice I was chatting with Dave Chalk. Known as "Chalker" to his teammates, the team Captain is an inspiring, hard working player. I asked him if his evolution into a high scoring defenceman had anything to do with the example of a former Boston Bruin with crumpled knee. He replied:

"My home town is Parry Sound and the greatest hockey player in the world comes from there. And there's only one. I watched him throughout the years he was playing with the Bruins and I saw him at training camp. I don't know him very well or anything like that, but I've always tried to pattern myself on him on and off the ice, even though I don't think anyone can."

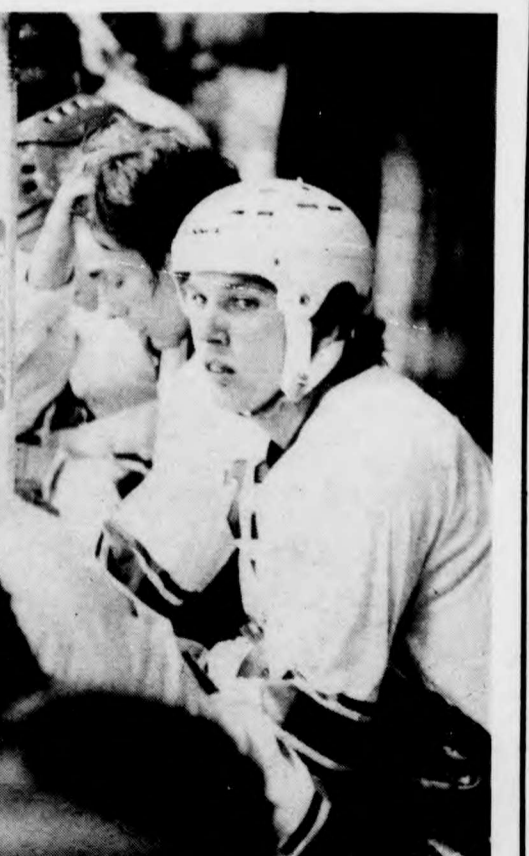
His eyes beamed. I realized that Dave Chalk, John Marshall and the rest of the team are in the game because they really don't have any choice.

Hockey gets into your blood. The first time I saw the Yeomen practise I had visions of Christmas and 1940's movies about shopping in downtown New York and ten thousand diamonds sprinkled across the snow when you step out into a clear winter's night.

Then there's the less cerebral attraction of the game. Like the animalistic satisfaction you get when a bloodthirsty Yeomen defenceman like John Winder or Roger Dorey plasters a hapless Varsity Blue into the boards, squashing him like a June-bug.

The team can use your support. Both in your attendance at their games and in purchasing tickets for their 50-50 draw, all proceeds from which go to buying equipment for players who need it.

But far be it to this cynic to hand you that "school-spirit" jive. The only reason to support this team is their dynamite hockey.



Taking a breathe. Biased referee may have caused York at least one win at Cornell.