

Rooks paces team in Ontario finals; Yeowomen place fifth

The men's and women's cross country teams travelled to St. Catharines last Saturday to traverse over hill and dale in the OUA/OWIAA Cross Country Championships held at Brock University. Nancy Rooks finished second to Chris Lavallee of Laurentian University for the third time this fall. The race for the women was announced as being 4000 metres, but judging from the times of the finishers this would appear to be an exaggeration — 3500 metres might be more like it.

While Rooks was second, she did employ slightly different tactics this time around which was an encouraging sign. Rooks, who stands just a shade over 1.55 metres (5 feet), tried to go with the more experienced Lavallee in the early portion of the race, something she has steadfastly refused to do in the past. As a result the race was an exciting two woman battle right from the start. In the past Rooks has been content to pace herself more evenly falling behind by as much as a half minute at times and then trying to close the gap in the last half of the race.

Yeowomen to compete on Saturday were Sharon Clayton and Darlene Bartok who finished 13th (14:59) and 28th (15:53) respectively in the field of 47 finishers.

The team standings saw Queen's upset the Western for the women's title by a scant two points, 25 to 27. York finished fifth with 43 points.

None of the Yeomen were in contention with the leaders in the men's championship race.

The team title here was won for the second year in a row by the University of Toronto as they defeated second place Queen's 45 to 56.

Lady pucksters looking sharp

Optimism is the name of the game in the Yeowomen hockey camp as the team prepares for the new season. And after this weekend's Yeowomen hockey tournament at the Ice Palace, the team's new coach, Norm Dogson, should have a good idea of how York will do this year.

"This is my first year coaching here," says Dogson, "so it's pretty hard for me to estimate how we're going to do. But the girls are working hard and I think we'll have a pretty good year."

Dogson, who brings several years of coaching experience to York, plans to get the team to play a system, and his emphasis on the fundamentals of the game should help the Yeowomen improve on their dismal finish last year.

As a tune up for the eight-team tournament, which includes the University of Toronto, McMaster, Queen's, Concordia, Sheridan College, Seneca College and Guelph, the Yeowomen split a pair of exhibition games, dropping a right 4-3 decision to Sheridan

before bombing Humber College 9-3.

Against Sheridan, York found themselves behind, 4-0, early in the second period before rebounding with three consecutive goals of their own before time ran out.

But it was a different story against Humber college. Although the team started slowly, they finally caught fire and put together a solid team effort to riddle the Humber side with nine goals. Leading snipers for York were Alice Vanderley, Kelly Scero and Elaine Colford with two goals each. Singles were scored by Maureen Corrigan, Linda Bery and Carol Trewin.

And now, the Yeowomen hope to carry some of this momentum into their annual tournament when they meet the powerful University of Toronto squad in the first game Friday afternoon at 5 p.m. Coach Dogson feels this game against the U of T will serve as an indicator of his team's progress so far this year.

Says he: "We're playing the top team right off the bat, so we should have a good idea of how good our team is."

Pressure weekend: hoofers miss playoffs

The soccer Yeomen, defending Canadian champs, missed the Ontario playoffs by one point after they played their two crucial, end-of-season matches over the weekend against Western and McMaster.

In London, Saturday, forward Bill Walker scored the lone Yeomen goal as York came away with a 1-1 tie. The do-or-die contest

against McMaster in Hamilton Sunday saw York at the short end of a 2-0 score.

"It was an emotional game, with questionable refereeing," said coach Eric Willis.

Yeomen played a man short for most of Sunday's game after York's star player Mike Burke (former national team member)

was kicked out for arguing with the referee.

The team's final tally for the season was four wins, three losses and two ties. Only four playoff berths were available to the ten teams competing in the Ontario University Athletic Association soccer league and these went to Queen's, Laurentian, Waterloo and U of T. York placed fifth in regular season play.

Last year, Yeomen were undefeated, tying the first two games of the season, but winning consecutively the following 11 matches.

Willis attributes his team's change in league standing partially to a large turnover of talent. Only five of last year's players returned.

"We had a lot of talent this season, but had a difficult time in believing in ourselves," he said.

Jock Shorts

The York University Yeomen hockey team dropped two exhibition games last week. Their first defeat came at the hands of the University of Guelph Gryphons, losing 5-3 last Tuesday and then lost 7-2 to the University of Waterloo Warriors last Thursday. Yeomen coach Ron Smith announced that he released goaltender Glenn Weiers...York's rugby team lost 22-3 to Waterloo on Saturday Oct. 21...Due to space restrictions, because of lack of funds Excalibur was unable to print the full sport stories handed in and deleted the season previews of womens' speed swimming, men's gymnastics and men's basketball. See editorial page (Pg.9).

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