

SPORTS

Soccer Yeomen gunning for post season glory

by Kerim Gomleksiz

The Yeomen demonstrated that they're the Kings of the soccer field by overpowering the Queens team 2-0 last Saturday.

Gino Pollastrone scored another one of his patented goals in the first half, precisely shooting it into the top corner.

Alwyn Fredericks who came on for

the flu ridden Stewart McAslan got York's second goal.

Against a strong York backfield, the Queen's offence couldn't muster many solid chances.

With two games left in the regular season and a dogfight for first place with UofT, the game against Queen's was a must win.

The Yeomen play UofT on Wednesday and Laurentian on Sunday, a pair of tough teams that they have already

proven they can beat.

But York's most recent game against UofT was last week's 2-1 loss in a mud-filled Varsity stadium.

Sunday's game against Laurentian is being played in cold Sudbury, and rumour has it that the officiating won't be much warmer than the weather. It could be even colder since York thumped Laurentian two Sundays ago.

These next two games will be vital

for the Yeomen to get homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

York coach Eric Willis is looking forward to meeting the Blues, who are tied with the Yeomen for first place in the OUAA East.

The Yeomen are ready to avenge last Wednesday's loss.

"The team is confident, and we're playing at home," said Yeoman coach Eric Willis. "The guys are going to be up for this game."

Volleyball women look to get even

by Josh Rubin

Merv Mosher has a good track record.

Seven OWIAA volleyball titles in the past nine seasons has kept his Yeowomen among the top teams in the country for a long time.

Mosher, who is currently entering his twelfth year with the team, came to York from the Canadian national women's squad, where he was an assistant under Moo Park.

These days, aside from his teaching and coaching duties at York, Mosher sometimes helps out with the national junior program, which is where he found current Yeowoman Mary Van Slolen.

Throughout his long involvement with university volleyball, Mosher has seen many changes in the game, most of them positive.

According to Mosher, these changes parallel the evolution of the game internationally.

"Today, there's a lot more offence — people are hitting the ball harder and you're seeing a lot of quick sets to the outside and other things which weren't part of the game when I first came here," Mosher said.

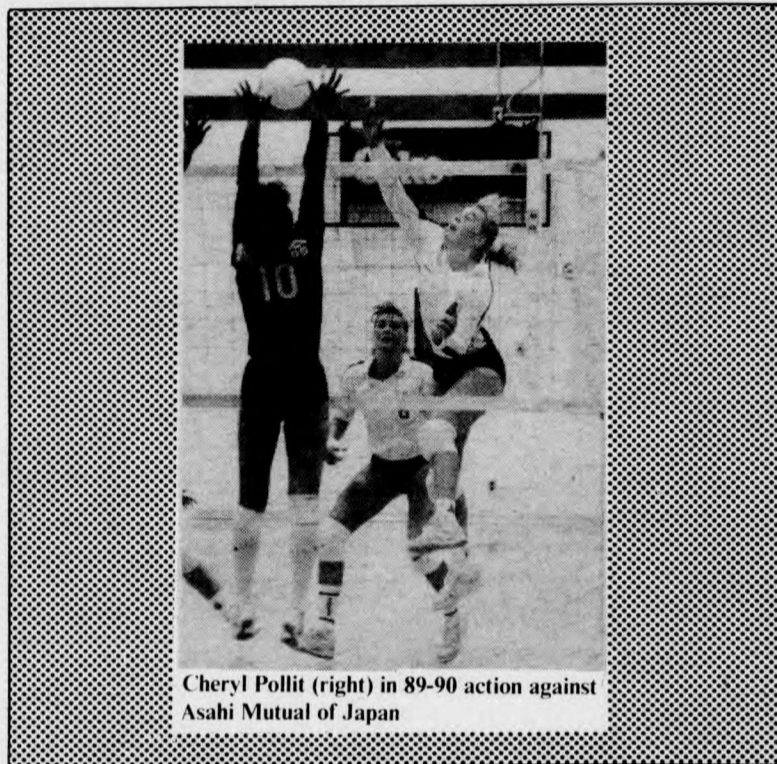
Another trend which has been developing is the growing specialization of players.

While there has always been someone with a big serve or spike on most teams, the players were still expected to do it all.

Today, though, players are often brought in for just a single point, to block someone from a particular side of the court or just to get a big serve or two into play.

In that sense, this year's volleyball Yeowomen are a bit of a throwback.

A well-balanced attack and defence sees everyone play not only their own part, but helping in other areas of the game as well.



Cheryl Pollitt (right) in 89-90 action against Asahi Mutual of Japan

"On most teams, there are one or two players who really stand out," Mosher said. "We have six players who are really capable of doing the job."

The foursome of setter Sue Craig, Chris Pollitt, Mary Van Soelen and Cheryl Guay, form a strong nucleus for this year's side.

They will be joined by Magally Charbonneau, Michelle McDowell, as well as the team's two rookies, Linda Garrett and Liz Weeden.

This year, the team hopes to improve upon last season's finish, which saw them take bronze at the CIAU championships.

With eight members of last year's ten player team returning, Mosher feels the team can only get better.

As always, Mosher expects the perennially strong teams from UofT and Ottawa to challenge York for the provincial title, while

on the national level Manitoba (defending CIAU champs), Montreal and UBC to be the squads to beat.

The UBC Thunderbirds, who have all six of last year's starters returning, are still looking to avenge their loss to the Yeowomen in last year's CIAU bronze medal match.

They'll have a chance to do it this weekend when eight teams take part in the Reebok Tait McKenzie Classic.

Since its inception in 1980, the tournament has always drawn some of the top teams in the country.

According to Mosher, a lot of OWIAA coaches use this tourney as a bellweather.

"The first [CIAU women's volleyball] rankings come out the day after the tournament is over, so you can bet [the ranking committee] will be paying attention."

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

by Riccardo Sala

Never go to a party hosted by the field hockey Yeowomen.

For starters, they never share the ball, especially with opposing players.

They like target practice, especially when the ball ends up in the net.

And to add insult to injury, they often make it look easy.

All of this became painfully apparent to the teams from Guelph, Western and Queen's last weekend. They were among the six participants in tournament at Lampport stadium hosted by York.

Guelph's shot at painful reality came on Saturday with a 4-0 loss to the Yeowomen.

Next in line was Western, those of the awesome football prowess but decidedly inferior field hockey know-how.

Western's fall from grace took the form of a 5-0 loss in which Yeowoman Karen Hewlett netted two goals.

Victim number three was the side from Queen's. Common sense would have dictated an orderly retreat back to Kingston and several extra hours to catch up on homework.

However, they elected to stay. The Golden Gaels started off with their characteristic hustle and actually controlled the ball for the first minute or so.

But from then on it was downhill for Queen's.

Watching York was an exercise in textbook play. The Gaels ran hard on the heels of Yeowomen attackers but to no avail.

Starting York's goal parade was Karen Hewlett, who notched her first of the game off a deflection from a Queen's defender.

Teammate Tammi Holt followed suit to make it 2-0 for York. Three more goals followed in the first half as York nailed a convincing 5-0 lead.

Instead of clearing the ball from their zone, the Queen's defenders allowed the Yeowomen to walk in close time and again.

In the few times that Queen's advanced the ball into York territory, fast reaction from defenders kept the Gaels from moving in for a kill.

In the second half, it was York's turn to become a little sloppy.

Content to just sit on their lead, the Yeowomen didn't add a single goal to their first period total.

Also cruising to a pair of shutout victories this weekend were cross-town rivals, the UofT Lady Blues.

This weekend, the Yeowomen get a chance to exact revenge for last year's loss to the Blues in the provincial playoffs as the OWIAA championship tournament takes place in Ottawa.

Despite the loss last year, the Yeowomen still advanced to the CIAU playoffs on a wildcard, and made it all the way to the championship match.

Consequently, most of the team isn't too concerned about the provincial tournament.

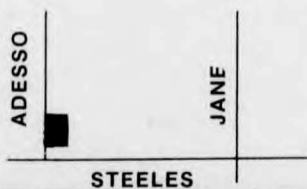
"We aren't worried about upsets," said York captain Joel Brough. "Even if by chance we didn't win the Ontario title, we would still take one of the wild cards."

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