

## Lady pucksters remain optimistic

By ELISSA S. FREEMAN

It hasn't exactly been a banner year for the Yeowomen ice hockey squad. Their cellar-dwelling record of 1-9 (with six league games to go) is nothing to get excited about.

But despite a semi-spectacular showing at last weekend's Concordia Tournament in Montrea, there's a wave of optimism in the York camp.

The Concordia tournament saw York defeated by New Hampshire 5-3 in the first round. The Yeowomen regrouped, however, to blast Laval 8-2, but dropped the consolation final to Potsdam, another American squad, 5-1.

"We were really confident going into the New Hampshire game," explained defensive veteran Barb Boyes. "Although we lost the match, we played them a lot better than we did in last year's University Cup, when they beat us 6-2."

Rookie goaltender Connie Wrightsel started for York for the majority of games during the tourney, replacing Debbie Lamb, last year's tournament MVP.

"Connie's come up really big for us," explained Gail Stewart. "She was the 'hot' goaltender and that's who we decided to start with."

Against Potsdam, however, Lamb got the call early in the third period as the U.S. squad had already built up a 5-1 lead. Lamb managed

to stave off the opposition for the remainder of the game and as a result will be in net tonight against Guelph.

Although York has bowed to Guelph in every league match so far, the Yeowomen maintain a gritty attitude towards the rest of the season.

"No one has given up. We can still move up," said Boyes. "In the six games we have left, four of them are against McMaster and Queen's, who we should be able to beat, and the other two are against Toronto and Guelph where we could still pick up a point or two."

"Realistically, we can make the play-offs if we put forth our best team," said Stewart.

This is certainly a different attitude in comparison to last year's team who handily captured the Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association crown. Pre-season predictions had York riding high on the crest of their provincial championship. Many of their followers are bewildered at their current lack of success.

"Many people don't realize that we've lost a lot of players and we're carrying nine rookies this year," said Boyes. "We're really going through a rebuilding stage."

"Because we have new players, we don't have enough depth, so we've been mainly using two lines during the games," adds Stewart. "Since the periods have been extended to 20 minutes (from 15), by the time we get to the third period we seem to run out of steam."

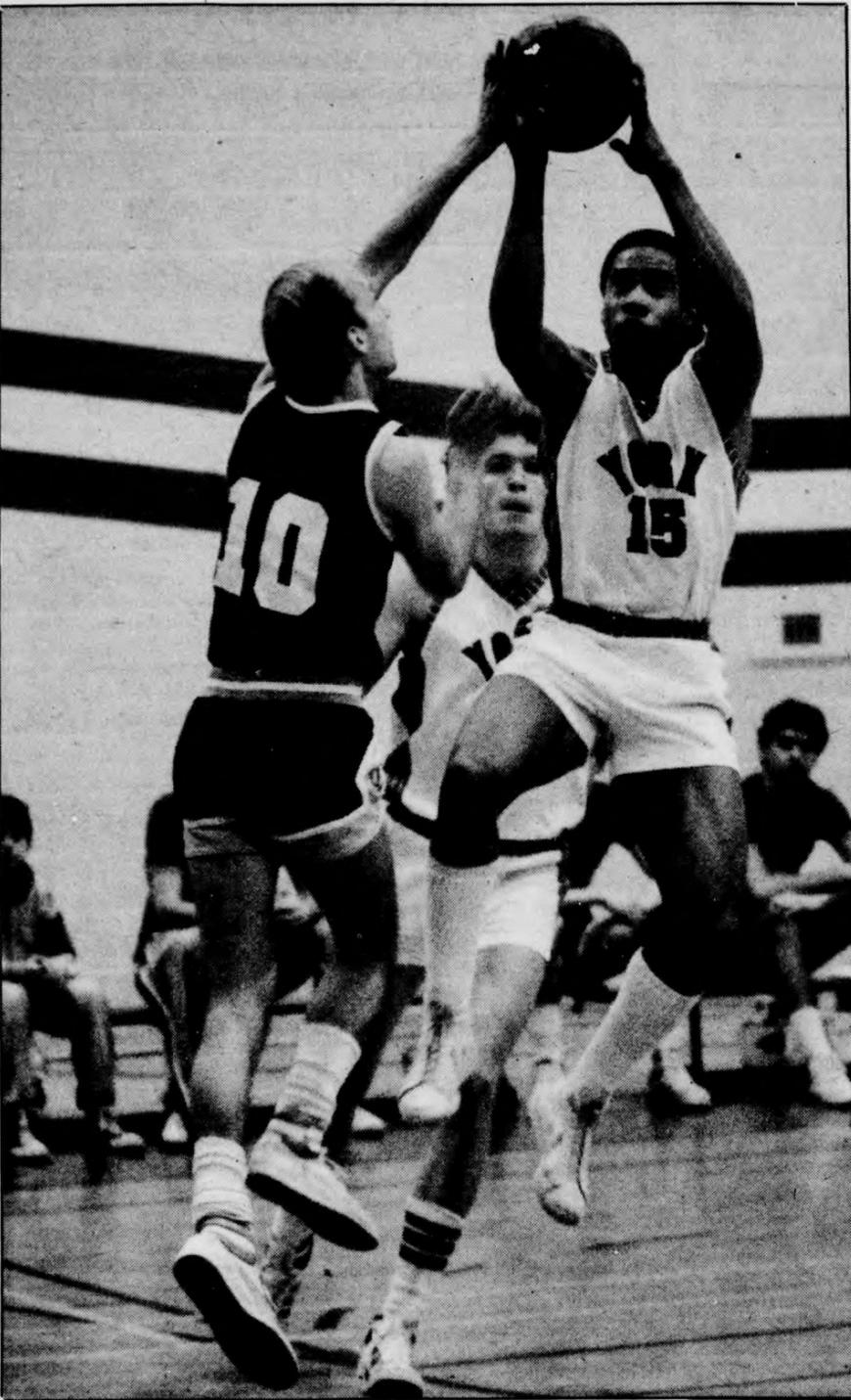


Photo: M. SCATTALONI

## Cagers get cold shoulder

The action was hot at Varsity arena Tuesday night.

And with \$15,000 worth of heating equipment scheduled for installation at Varsity today the York basketball teams faced off, once again, with their cross-town rivals from the University of Toronto.

The York Yeowomen really took it on the chin as they were drubbed 78-51 by the Lady Blues while the Yeomen salvaged a split out of the evening twinbill with a 79-72 decision over Toronto.

But, while the arena was cold, with the heating equipment yet to be installed, the action was hot in the men's nightcap.

The Yeomen, ranked number two in the nation behind the Victoria Vikings, got a taste of comig playoff conditions from the

"charged up" Blues.

The Yeomen found themselves in a real battle in the first half. Held to three point leads, York was overtaken at the half time buzzer as the Blues commanded a 39-35 lead.

"The Blues took a lot of our game away," said coach Bob Bain. "They definitely made things tough on us."

However, down 51-49 in the second half, the Yeomen showed their mettle by staging a six basket run that vaulted them into a 61-51 lead.

Christenson led the York squad with 21 points and Enzo Spagnuolo chipped in another 19. Ronald Davidson led U of T with 21 points while Roger Rollocks scored 20.

## Second place disappoints Cluett

By ELISSA S. FREEMAN

Sometimes placing second simply isn't good enough. Just ask Yeowomen Squash coach Bob Cluett, whose team was runner-up to U of T in Part II of the Ontario Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association (OWIAA) tournament at Waterloo last weekend.

"I was convinced we would win this tournament," said Cluett, "but there is still a possibility we can catch U of T in the finals."

Cumulatively, the top three leaders going into the finals are the Lady Blues, who lead the pack with 55 points. York is a close second with 48 points, and Queens, (OWIAA) defending champions are in third place with 37.

York's Anita Halpert won four out of

five matches. The one loss to U of T's Helen Kay halted her winning streak at 33 consecutive games. Halpern has established a new plateau, surpassing Karen Wilson's record of 27 games set in 1981.

"Anita had a bit of trouble in one of her matches, as she was overhitting the ball too much," said Cluett. "The ball would come off the wall and constitute a set-up as opposed to landing in front of the back wall—where you need a shovel to play it."

Two other Yeowomen, Rhonda Firmi and Ruth Castellino, also garnered a substantial number of points for York as the two veterans only lost one game apiece.

"Last weekend was a disappointment but I'm confident that we'll win the February tournament (at Queen's).

## Swimmers learn their lesson in Florida

By KATIE BRENNAN

It's amazing what 10 days of hard, concentrated training will do for an athlete.

That's what many of York's varsity swimmers are proving. Ever since the team's return from a tough training camp in Florida January 5, many personal best times have been achieved as well as several other time improvements.

Through much effort in meets against McMaster, Waterloo, Western, and Brock, several Yeomen and Yeowomen have brought their times down to very respectable levels.

Three men have chopped their clockings, Romulo Berendson in the 100-metre breast-stroke, Brian Wannamaker in the 100-metre butterfly, and Victor Verblac in both the 50-metre and 100-metre freestyle events.

Improvements among other swimmers include Ed Spivak, Ken Chow, Mike Brown, and Henry Ng.

Bruce Kaufman has been swimming extremely well, qualifying in two events (50-metre freestyle and loom breast-stroke) for the CIAU's to be held in March.

For the women, Christine Bogie, Alison Bradshaw, Nicole MacPherson, Laura Reitz, Debbie Dollery, and Natalie Philp show promise.

"The improvements have been occurring because people have gotten tough and are following the example that was set in Florida," says coach Neil Harvey "The trip has been highly beneficial."

Optimism runs high among team members as they prepare for the national university championships. The women's finals are to be held the first weekend of York's reading week at the University of Western, while the men's are slated for February 17 at Waterloo.

The U of T Blues come to the Tait Pool for a meet with the Yeomen this Sunday at 6 p.m.

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