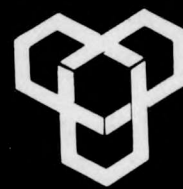




SPORTS



Referee scandal rocks UQTR

by Josh Rubin

Is it jealousy? Is it rotten refereeing? Both, maybe?

Whatever the reason, there's controversy brewing in the OUAA hockey this season.

Most of the controversy is centred around the refereeing at the home rink of the Trois Rivières Patriotes.

In an informal *Excalibur* poll of league coaches, over half feel that officiating at the UQTR rink has been biased.

The Patriotes, who are 13-0 so far this year, have traditionally fared much better in front of their raucous fans at Jean-Guy Talbot arena.

According to UofT coach Paul Titanic, the reason they do so well isn't just the standard home-ice advantage.

"It's the only place in the league where you know that when push comes to shove, the referees are going to side with the home team," Titanic said.

Titanic's comments were echoed by one source, who added that at the season's start, UQTR was threatened with being booted from the league if their officiating wasn't improved.

That suggestion, however, was discounted by league convenor Bill Oliver.

"I've been in hockey a long time, and the officiating in Trois Rivières is no worse than anywhere else in the league," Oliver said. "The only discussion there was is when we reaffirmed that good referees are needed for the game's integrity."

Yet Oliver admits receiving letters about one referee who allegedly made racist remarks to Anglophone players in a game at Trois Rivières.

However, Oliver claims the official involved has been barred from future OUAA matchups.



Excalibur file photo

Three (selectively) blind mice?: Officials at Trois Rivières' Jean-Guy Talbot Arena, pictured here, have been accused of a home-town slant to their work. While some dismiss the accusations as jealousy over UQTR's 13-0

record in league play. However, even league convenor Bill Oliver admits he received letters about one "racist" referee in the Trois Rivières rink.

Oliver also says that UQTR simply couldn't influence the officials at their rink.

"As OUAA convenor, I call . . . a group based in Montreal and they hire the officials on a contract basis," added Oliver.

Trois Rivières athletic director Jean-Francois Grenier confirmed Oliver's claim.

"We never know who's going to be refereeing until the night of the game," said Grenier.

Grenier feels every team has some problems with officiating in their own rink.

"But," Grenier added, "that might take on a greater significance because of our success."

One francophone coach in Ontario blamed the situation on jealous English coaches.

"I don't see any problems in Trois Rivières when I go there," claimed the coach.

But York coach Graham Wise

feels "It's a French-English thing."

In November, Wise and his charges faced several controversial penalty calls which they claim helped put the game out of reach.

It must be pointed out here, however, that the Yeomen lost that one 8-4.

But whatever happens, rest assured that come playoff time, all eyes around the league will be focussed on the town at Trois Rivières.

Yeowomen volleyballers crush Ryerson at Tait

by Nathan Cohen

Suffice it to say that it wasn't much of a test.

At last week's match with the Ryerson Lady Rams, the York squad dominated, sweeping the match 3-0.

With scores of 15-2, 15-7 and 15-5, York head coach Merv Mosher had a hard time getting his troops up for the game.

After all, the Yeowomen have a 7-0 league record and are ranked number 1 in the CIAU.

"In a match like this, it's awfully difficult to gauge how well we're doing," Mosher said. "We can really see much better at the big tournaments."

Mosher was referring to tourneys such as York's own Tait McKenzie, where this year, they dumped the

UBC Thunderbirds for the bronze medal.

Still, Mosher is happy with his team's play so far this season.

"I'd say we've improved since at this stage last year," Mosher said.

The Yeowomen, however, are looking forward to the national championships, which take place in Calgary March 7 to 9.

At the CIAUs, they will be hungry

to improve on last year's third-place finish.

"The players know that getting the gold will be difficult, but they see it as a definite possibility," Mosher said.

But more immediately, Mosher's mashers have a crosstown matchup against the always tough team from UofT Feb. 5.

The Yeowomen round out their schedule with a pair of matches at Tait McKenzie.

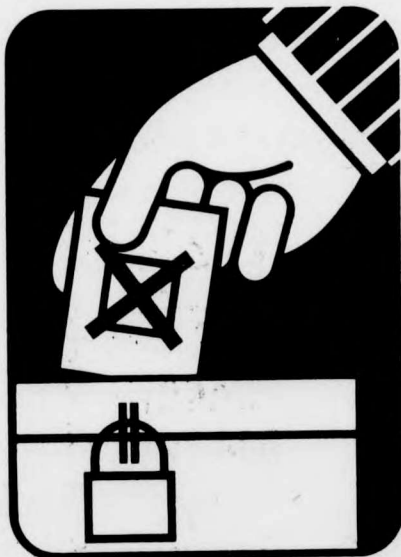
On Feb. 8 they take on the Ottawa GGs, while the next day they meet a side from Queen's.

After that, it's on to the provincial championship.

Hey you sportswriters!!!

If you have written an article for *Excalibur* this year (or even if you haven't), come to Wednesday's staff meeting. It's in the newsroom at 4 pm and we'll be discussing important stuff about our upcoming editorial election.

Thanks,
Josh



Next issue:

- Yeomen UQTR preview
- Hockey women meet Mac
- Track at Windsor
- Figure skating comes to York
- Much, much more

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