

ROBERTA DI MAIO



COLLEGE HOCKEY GURU: Clare Drake, University of Alberta coach, is shown here leading an on-ice session at Chesswood Arena. Drake is the winningest coach in North American college hockey history.

Hockey Symposium: Big-name coaches delight organizers

By LORNE MANLY

The presence of some of the top minds in hockey today attracted 245 coaches from all over North America to York University's Elite Hockey Coaching Symposium earlier this month. The seminar, held June 13 through 15, was the most successful in its four-year history, according to both the organizers and the participants.

Jean Perron, the coach of the Stanley Cup Champion Montreal Canadiens, Philadelphia Flyer coach Mike Keenan, and New York

Ranger coach Ted Sator, were three of the major reasons behind the critical success of the seminar. The coaches attending the symposium were treated to both theoretical and on-ice demonstrations of the latest coaching techniques in ice hockey throughout the weekend, and also heard presentations on hockey injuries, team management, nutrition, and the psychology of coaching.

It was this mix of the theoretical and the practical that made this year's seminar the best ever, according to York hockey coach, Dave

Chambers, who was the coordinator of the symposium. Last year there was only one day that included on-ice demonstrations as "the rink wasn't available," Chambers said. "But since people want the on-ice drills," efforts were made to secure ice time for both Saturday and Sunday.

Robert Paquette, the coach of a junior team in Switzerland, felt this year's edition was the best he had attended. "This is my third year here," Paquette said, "and it (the seminar) has been progressively better every year. The guest speakers were very interesting, each one an expert in their field," Paquette added.

"The symposium was excellent," agreed Steve King, a student in the coaching program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. "In particular, there were three people that impressed me the most. Thomas Tutko, the sports psychologist (from San Jose State), Sherry Bassin (the general manager of the Ontario Hockey League's Oshawa Generals), and Jean Perron," King said.

Perron also impressed Paquette, who was the coach at the University of Ottawa before leaving for Switzerland. "Perron was one of the best speakers," Paquette said. "His style, his knowledge of the game, and the way he presents his material were all excellent."

Graham Wise, the administrator for the series of York seminars taking place this summer, was very pleased with both the turnout and the guest speakers. 245 coaches attended this year, as compared to 156 last year. "All the provinces in Canada were represented," Wise said, "and there were coaches from Colorado, New York, Connecticut, California and even two from Switzerland. Pete Mahovolich, from the Adirondack Red Wings, was here as was Mike Murphy, who is the assistant coach of the Los Angeles Kings," Wise added.

"The speakers were excellent," Wise continued. "Tutko was exceptional and Keenan and the Philadelphia Flyer coaching staff (E.J. McGuire, Paul Holmgren, and Bill Barber) were very professional. All the speakers carried themselves professionally (as) the seminars were well prepared, researched, and presented... and from all reports everyone was happy with it (the symposium)."

Cyclists wheel around campus

By NICK LAPICCIRELLA

On Sunday, June 22, York University was host to top level amateur cycling that drew riders from many parts of Ontario.

Presented by the Miele Club in conjunction with corporate sponsors Carlsberg Light and Greenpark Homes, the race marked the first time that York University has been host to a competition of this kind. According to race organizer Tony Polsenelli, "the main problem is that it is difficult to obtain permission from various civic and local community officials in staging such a race."

As well, the difficulties in obtaining insurance and adequate security (to make sure traffic is detoured safely) have placed roadblocks in the way of running more races.

But cycling enthusiasts believe the sport's time has arrived. With the introduction of annual international race held at Queen's Park and the

visits of racing stars such as Francesco Moser, cycling is attracting more and more participants.

"This is just the beginning," remarked John Calliman, one of the race's participants. "It's something good to get into, you are not only exercising your body in races such as these, you are exercising your mind as well."

Polsenelli also pointed to the mental aspects of the sports. "Cycling is a very good discipline for athletes," Polsenelli said, "and it teaches them to be self-sufficient because once you're on the track there's not much anyone else can do to make you win or lose."

Canada, however, will not become a world power overnight. "To develop truly international stars," Calliman said, "you also need the support of corporate sponsors and the general public must come out and get behind the racers." Last weekend's race was a step in the right direction.



BREAKIN' AWAY: Two members of the Canadian Olympic cycling team prepare for Sunday's top-level amateur cycling race at York University, which was presented by the Miele Club in conjunction with Carlsberg Light and Greenpark Homes.

JOSEPH COLLINS

Play Ball! Summer League breathes life into campus

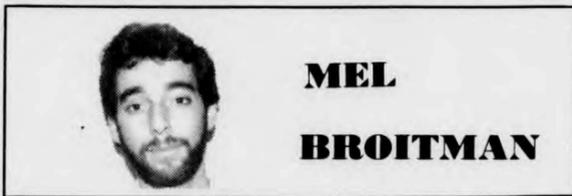
Despite the sharp dropoff in activity at York University during the summer months, the largest single recreational sport takes place on campus from May to early September. The York University Softball Club, once an organization with just four teams, has blossomed into a 30-club league with a three-tiered divisional format, involving over 750 people.

The Softball Club now functions as an organized league as its tremendous growth has forced changes to be made in its structure. However, its history, built on a tradition of a club-type atmosphere, still prevails today.

Presently the league is made up of three divisions with 10 teams each, ranked in order of calibre. Division One is the highest level of competition and includes the best teams. Division Two is semi-competitive while Division Three is set up for mainly recreational non-competitive play. The season is 270 games long with each team playing an 18-game schedule. Post-season play includes 18 teams competing in a series of three game playoffs which eventually determine Division Champions in mid-September. Each year the best and worst clubs are demoted and promoted from tier to tier in order to ensure a competitive balance.

Steve Dranitsaris, Assistant Director of Development, and one of the founders of the Club, took over as league convenor from 1979 to 1985, and during that time he watched the club expand from eight competing teams to 30. "One of the things we have to recognize is this is a very popular activity," Dranitsaris said. "We had to turn away seven teams that wanted to play this year, which is really unfortunate, because we wanted to let everyone who wanted to play, participate. But our facilities simply do not accommodate it."

Even the league's administration, once run by Alumni Affairs, has had to adjust. "The league basically got too big for people to do it voluntarily," Dranitsaris remarked. "When Joseph Levy took over Recreation York, I met with



MEL BROITMAN

him and David Demonte (Leisure Services Officer for Recreation York), and they agreed to take over the Summer Softball program as a recreational activity of York University," said Dranitsaris.

Yet the unique flavour of the league's non-profit, democratic approach will not alter under the wing of Recreation York, according to Demonte, who is also the new league convenor. "There are no inherent fees to pay for Recreation York," Demonte said. "We are the main central area as a service. We feel it is a viable program and the time we donate to it makes it our program... If we could do this in intramurals it would be a joy to work with. Unfortunately we just don't have the same mentality."

The attitude of the participants is the key to the league's flourishing success. Generally, the athletes are mature and have become accustomed to enjoying a league that is their own. Unlike student intramurals where most individuals appear and disappear over short intervals, the Summer Softball League has built continuity through a strong following of dedicated individuals.

The league touches all bases in the campus community. Teams and players come from the administration, faculty, alumni, students and relatives. Mal Ransom, Secretary of the University, has his team, The Young and the Restless. Atkinson has a team made up of professors led by Letty Anderson,

the master of Atkinson College. Even pubs like the Cock & Bull and The Open End are traditional league members. In fact, without Summer Softball it is likely that a few pubs would have to close down in the relatively quiet summer months. But the ever familiar combination of beer and baseball have kept many a drinking establishment in business.

The league suffers from the same malady that inflicts all York University athletics—limited facilities. The league needs another field and improvements on the already existing one. Unfortunately the University does not regard Summer Softball as a high priority. According to David Demonte, "The Administration has said no to a new backstop on the 'Pioneer' field. They would like to have all softball outside of the ring road. They feel the Vanier field backstop is an eyesore and a couple of years ago we were told that the Vanier field would be a parking lot and we were to seek another place. Fortunately that never came about," Demonte added.

Perhaps the University should take a closer look at the Summer Softball program. As York continues to grow it certainly needs the support of its developing and maturing Alumni. The relationship between the University and its active Alumni is very prominent in the Summer Softball Club. As David Demonte says, "Anybody who has wanted to come back to the University and participate in a social event has played Summer Softball. If you want to be active as an Alumni, that is where you start." Softball Club members are also notably involved in University fundraising activities like the Phone-a-thon.

Although the growth of Summer Softball parallels the maturation of York as a whole, the league's well-being is not wholly dependent upon the University. In Demonte's opinion, "It's probably the one institution on campus that doesn't need any help to survive. If we pulled out our support, they would do it themselves."