

Puckmen make two holiday wins over Erie

By JOHN MADDEN

The hockey Yeomen made their annual trip to Erie, Pa., on Dec. 27-28 and tamed the Erie Lions 7-3 the first night and 6-3 the second.

The Lions are a community team, established six years ago to provide money for Erie's Zoological society. Hence, the nickname, "Lions". The players range from men in their late thirties to high-school sophomores and come from all walks of life. For instance, the goalie, Dick Homovec, is a 27-year-old high-school teacher.

The club plays only exhibition games, many of them against Canadian college teams. Before York's twin victories, they had managed at least a split in games against Canadian colleges.

Erie's coach, Guy Melini, who was one of the original Lions, stated that York's line of Murray Stroud, Bob Modray and Bruce Penny was the best line his club had faced this year. The three-some accounted for 14 scoring points in the two games.

In addition, Melini said goalie Bill Holden was the best goaltender his men had encountered this year. Holden made most of his big saves early in the games. He stopped 21 shots in the first period of Saturday's game and came up with an important leg save on a breakaway in the opening period on Sunday.

Three other Yeomen who stood out during the weekend are Andy Schweda, Dave Kosoy and John Robb. Schweda, who centered the second line, kept Erie's defenders alert with quick breaks.

Defencemen Kosoy was good both ways. He and his partner Bill Purcell, were especially effective in controlling the play in Erie's end. The York coach was making his annual appearance on defence.

Although not having as much ice time as some of his mates, Robb consistently hustled up and down his wing, nullifying Erie's wingers.

Both games featured wide open action with little body-checking. The Yeomen outshot the home side 52-50 the first night and 60-35 in the second night's game. Melini remarked: "I had heard York had a big team, and was surprised there wasn't more body-checking". He recalled that last year's contests had been rougher.

Melini also thought York's defenders were playing too far inside Erie's blue line, so he instructed one of his forwards to float around center ice behind the

Yeomen defence and wait for a breakaway pass. Center Bob Campbell made the system work a couple of times on Sunday but he was unable to beat Holden.

In Saturday's game, the Lions were able to stay close to the Yeomen for two periods. Goals by Mike Grace, Robb and Modray had given the visitors a 3-2 lead. However, Stroud broke loose for four goals in the final period to put the game out of reach.

Modray was mainly responsible for Stroud's fourth marker.

He stickhandled past two Erie forwards in his own end and carried the puck to the Lions' blue line where he passed to Licio Cengarle. Cengarle drew the defender and then flipped the puck back to Modray. Goalie Homovec blocked his shot but Stroud pounced on the rebound. It was Modray's third assist of the night.

The Yeomen spotted the Lions a two-goal lead on Sunday night but again rallied for four goals in the third period. They pumped 29 shots at Homovec in the final 20 minutes. On three consecutive occasions, Erie's defence let Kosoy skate up to the face-off circle instead of forcing him to shoot from the blue line. Homovec must have thought he was facing a red and white firing squad.

Cengarle scored twice while Stroud, Modray, Kosoy and Penny picked up singles. Schweda and Kosoy both had two assists.

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Ice Chips: Add George Corn and rodder Bowness to the list of married Yeomen. Both were married during the holidays. . . There were about 800 fans in Erie's arena the Saturday night but only about 250 on Sunday. . . A local basketball tournament was opening then. . . The Lions also sponsor a hockey youth program involving about 200 youngsters. There are six age levels, running from Mites (5-7) to Juveniles (16-17). The better players in all the division, except Mites, travel to tournaments in places like Detroit and Port Huron. This program constitutes the only organized hockey in Erie -- a city of 150,000.

The Yeomen's season's record is now 11-3-1. . . They have a perfect record at home, six wins and no defeats. . . The Yeomen had 52 shots against Brock and 54 against Trent. Thus, in their last four games, they have peppered 218 shots at opposition goalies. . . In that span, they have scored 31 goals and given up 12.

Basketball Voyageurs beat York

By BRUCE CLARK

The basketball Yeomen played the Laurentian Voyageurs the Saturday after classes finished. The game was surprisingly well attended (by York supporters) and it looked like an interesting afternoon's entertainment.

York looked like a winner for much of the game, but apparently they had forgotten a very important ingredient for victory — spirit. Laurentian fought hard (the game at times made rugger look tame) and through dint of hard work went ahead to stay late in the second half, finally coasting to victory 85-77.

A glance at both benches told the tale of the game.

The Voyageur bench was continuously alive: the players shouting encouragement and the coaches up and down (mostly up) exhorting their team to victory. By contrast the Yeomen bench resembled nothing so much as a high school stag line. Coaches, trainers and players could just as easily have been looking for a fourth for bridge as cheering their teammates in a tough, tight basketball game for all the noise and excitement there was. York lost to an inferior team who cared if they won or lost. Next local game for those interested is next Tuesday against Ryerson at 7:30 at Ryerson.

. . . too bad Tait was closed for much of the holidays; also too bad that the closing was not better publicized; a lot of people made the trip up and were disappointed. Phys. Ed. people, how about publicity in other places than Tait; EXCALIBUR sports is glad to carry such notices. . . Happy New Year?

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