

# Grid coach assesses team's performance

Head Coach Nobby Wirkowski looked back on the past dismal football season, and provided an analysis of the team's performance, in an interview last week.

"We had stability with our offensive line this year, something we didn't have last year. We got stability at centre with Stan Kozik."

Wirkowski said Louie Battiston and Roco Dilello formed one of the best sets of guards in the league. Dilello made OUA eastern conference all star.

"Julian Belotti is a tough and well motivated tight end.

"Brian Love is a good fullback; he got the tough yards. You have to put the football in Bill Hatanaka's hands more often. It increases his chances of getting into the open field and going all the way." Despite a concussion and being infrequently used in the last three games, Hatanaka was able to make the all star team.

"Stu Scott is a good outside runner. If he can get a step on a defender he can take it all the way," Wirkowski said.

Steve Ince played split end and led the league in receptions. He caught 36 passes for 607 yards; that's an average of almost 17 yards a catch. He was another all star.

"We had two bright rookie quarterback prospects in Dave Langley and Paul King. Langley is a runner, King a dropback passer. Dave found out that college ball is a lot tougher than in high school.

"Gerry Verge has had his ups and downs this year. But when he's hot

he's hot. He can throw well, but he may gamble at times and get intercepted," the coach said.

The offence provided a great deal of passing yardage this year, but the running attack was sadly lacking. Consequently, York didn't have much ball control. The offence led the league in giving up the ball. York gave up 22 interceptions and lost the ball 16 times because of fumbles.

"We didn't get a concentrated pass rush from the front four. A good pass rush would have helped our pass defence. The three rookies will improve in that area next year, but this year Gus Banka had to do it all by himself," Wirkowski said.

"I was pleased with the linebackers. Rob Panzer gave 110 per cent this year." Panzer, York's fourth all star, will not be coming back next year.

"If we had any weakness this year on defence, it was in the deep secondary. The one guy who had a great year was Doug Ward. Paul Forbes would have preferred to play offence, but he played defence because we needed his speed there."

York only intercepted 10 passes all year, one of the lowest league totals.

"Duncan McLeod is a good punter and is going to be a good field goal kicker. All he needs is more confidence in himself. Our specialty teams were better than ever this year.

"The other teams found out that we could hit as well as any other team. Nobody manhandled us this year.

"I'd like to get another offensive tackle, so we can put Craig Lorrimer on defence, and another linebacker.

We have to look for defensive backs. We need a lot more competition in order to get the incumbents moving.

"We only need about five or six players. This time we have a lot of returnees at crucial areas. If everyone

comes back with optimism we will be contenders next year," Wirkowski said.

## Most serious injuries occur in football games

By SOL CANDEL

According to head trainer Ed Nowalkowski, football is the most dangerous contact sport on campus while wrestling is the safest. The injuries in football occur at a higher rate and are of a more serious nature when compared to other athletic activities.

In his two years at York, Nowalkowski has supervised the on-the-spot aid and therapeutic treatment to York athletes, and notes, "I've seen injuries in soccer, hockey and rugger but they all run a distant second to football."

Before elaborating on the football situation, he described some injuries he had seen in other hard-hitting sports.

One of the more serious soccer injuries was a complete dislocated fracture. The leg was not set correctly and needed an open reduction. This operation entails peeling away the flesh and resetting the bone with pins.

Last season during a hockey game with Queen's, Paul Cerre suffered damaged knee ligaments. Barry Jenkins had a cracked tibia bone last year while Rick Ball required shoulder surgery. In hockey, with flying pucks and high sticks, there are the inevitable facial lacerations and contusions.

In rugby, the most common injuries are lacerations, contusions and shoulder separations. "It's amazing," said Nowalkowski, "that the rugby players have the contact that they do with limited protection and they don't destroy themselves." Last season Paul Mullany had the most serious injury when he turned around on his ankle and fractured it. The fracture required special attention.

This year injuries in the rugby team have been minimal. The most serious injury has been a cauliflower ear. But the

rugby team has done a lot of damage to their opponents.

Football is the most dangerous sport played at York. "I could go on forever about football injuries," states Nowalkowski. In football, the less serious injuries, like sprains and dislocations, occur at the rate of a dozen a week. The reason for the higher rate of injury in football is that "there is more hand to hand combat."

The way to avoid injury in football is to be the aggressor. "If you are the aggressor then it is extremely unlikely that you will get hurt, but if you're the target the chances of injury are much greater." No one on the football team has required surgery this year. Some of the more serious injuries have been bruised kidneys, concussions and various bruises, sprains and strains.

Non-contact activities are not exempt from injury but the nature of the injury is usually less serious.

The Yeowomen haven't escaped the injury bug either. The members of the field hockey, volleyball and basketball teams get sprains and contusions, but these injuries are not usually painful enough to keep them from playing.

Wrestling emerges as the safest contact sport. In the two-year history of the York wrestling squad there has not been one serious injury. Even minor injuries come very infrequently.

"The wrestlers are in the best physical condition of all York's athletes, therefore they don't get hurt."

In a wrestling match the two combatants are supervised by a referee who stops the contest when he sees that someone may get hurt. The contact is of a very controlled nature as compared to other sports where people are colliding at high speeds.

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