

# Yeowomen close home season with defeat of Queen's

By MANOJ PRAJAPAT

The York Yeowomen closed out the home part of their regular season with a 9-0 shellacking over Queen's, Saturday afternoon at the York Ice Arena.

The Yeowomen are in second place, one point in front of McMaster with both teams having one game remaining, both of those games being against the league leading Lady Blues of Toronto.

Toronto has already clinched first place, the reward being a bye into the best-of-three OWIAA finals. York and McMaster have secured the two remaining playoff positions. What still has to be determined though, is home ice advantage for the semi-finals.

York coach Sue Gaston feels the importance of home ice is sometimes overblown.

"I don't think home ice is going to matter all that much," she said. "It's not crucial that we get it, although it would be nice."

The Yeowomen and McMaster have battled four times during the regular season with York winning three. However, two of those victories were by a single goal and the Yeowomen lost the last confrontation 5-3. Gaston though, isn't overly concerned and even sees the loss as

being sort of a blessing in disguise.

"Although the win probably gave them (McMaster) some confidence, I think it showed us that McMaster can play," she said. "We won't be taking them lightly. They've beaten both us and Toronto—they're a good team."

Earlier in the season it was clear that York's Achilles heel was their defensive play. But as witnessed by their play of late, the team seems to have that part of the game mastered.

"We've been playing super, there's always room to improve but

we're doing all the major things right," Gaston said. "We've been spending a lot of practice time working on defense and it shows. I should have been doing that right from the start."

If York does finish in second place, the playoff match against McMaster will be Monday, February 17 at 5:00 p.m. at the York Ice Arena.

Note: York finished its regular season last night with a game against Toronto. Details were not available at press time . . . . .



**END OF HOME SEASON:** The York Yeowomen broke away from the clutches of the Golden Gaels for a 9-zip victory.

ROBERTA DI MAIO

## York gymnasts place disappointing fifth in second OWIAA ranking meet at Tait

By ROBERTA DI MAIO

The York Yeowomen gymnastics team finished a disappointing fifth in a five team tournament at the second OWIAA ranking meet held at Tait this past weekend.

Coach Tamara Bompia attributes York's overall low score of 119.45 points to two injuries.

France Mercier injured her foot during her floor routine in York's first rotation. Mercier, a first year student injured the same foot earlier in the week during practice. Due to an OWIAA ruling, Mercier was forced to compete in last weekend's ranking meet in order to gain individual points.

Following the meet, OWIAA coaches agreed to allow Mercier to compete at the Ontario finals despite insufficient points, but according to Bompia, Mercier will not be fully recovered by this upcoming weekend's OWIAA championships.

Bompia stated "we should have provisions for these cases" referring to Mercier having to compete with an already injured foot.

Yeowomen Barb Nutzenberger, a veteran, was also forced to withdraw from the competition after her vault routine, York's second event in the rotation, due to a bad case of the flu. Nutzenberger placed fourth overall on the vault with a score of 8.65, all have qualified for the OWIAA gymnast" stated Coach Bompia, "entered the meet with enough points for the Ontario's." Her withdrawal only effected York's overall score.

Nutzenberger, Karen Pringle who finished second in balance beam and Anita Ganguly, who finished second on vault with a score of 8.65 points, all have qualified for the OWIAA Championships being held at Queen's University this weekend.

University of Western Ontario finished in second place with 124.1 points and McMaster, who according to Bompia has the strongest women's team in Ontario finished first overall with a score of 134.2 points.

York Yeowomen gymnasts can still regain their pride at the Ontario finals because as Bompia states "technically it was only a ranking meet and not the Championships."



**UPS AND DOWNS:** Karen Pringle performs her second place routine on the balance beam but the team finished fifth overall.

ROBERTA DI MAIO



**DISAPPOINTED:** The Yeowomen gymnastic team carry looks of dejection at the medal presentation at last weekend's ranking meet.

ROBERTA DI MAIO

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