

SPORTS

Volleyball Yeomen win opener

Provincial playoffs could lead to CIAU appearance

By GARRY MARR

It was the first step of a playoff climb that could reach the CIAU finals.

The York Yeomen opened the playoffs with a convincing straight sets victory (15-5, 15-5, 15-5) over the Ryerson Rams in volleyball action Saturday afternoon at the Tait-McKenzie gymnasium.

The undefeated and fifth-ranked Yeomen took only an hour to dispose of the Rams, who entered the match as heavy underdogs sporting a 4-6 record.

For the Yeomen, the victory proved that the team can play with intensity when it has to.

"The goal all year has been to medal at the CIAUs," said York coach Wally Dyba. "There's no comparison to last year's team, we're definitely better."

The Yeomen proved how much

better as they cruised to a 7-0 lead in the first game before the Rams knew what hit them, BUt the Rams were not about to go down without a fight as they rallied for five straight points — two of them courtesy of York net violations.

The Yeomen fought off seven service exchanges before they were able to grab their eighth point and continue for seven more.

In the third, with the match clearly under control, Dyba was able to go to his bench. Bill Knight, Jim Mohrhardt, Bruce Dunning, Graham Shepherd, Dexter Abrams, and Greg Chin all started the match for York and played most of the first two sets.

Dyba had given the night off to Adrian Adore and decided to rest usual starter Jacob Wiktorek. Wiktorek, Cossarin, and James Dalziel were inserted into the line-up late in the third set.

Leading the Yeomen offence were

Knight with 10 kills and Dunning with nine kills. Mohrhardt contributed six blocks, while Chin chipped in with six digs.

York's next match will be against the University of Toronto Blues Saturday afternoon at Tait. Last year at this time, it was the Blues who sported the undefeated record.

But this year has been a very successful year for the Yeomen, who in addition to capturing first place in the East also won the *Excalibur* tournament in January which pitted them against top-ranked teams from Canada and the United States.

Dunning, in his fourth and probably final year with the team, says that this year's edition is the best he has played on.

"It's talent, plus the knowledge that we can win every match that we go into," said Dunning. "This team can go as far as it wants to if it plays with intensity."



ANDRE SOURJOUIN

"I GAVE RYERSON TWO THUMBS DOWN": Yeoman Bill Knight bumps it up against the Rams last Saturday. York won in straight sets to advance to the OUAA East Division final.

Wrestlers seek national title

By RICCARDO SALA

Although it has been a stellar season for the Yeomen Wrestling team, their greatest challenge lies on this weekend's CIAU finals.

The CIAU national championships are being held at York this weekend, March 3rd, and 4th. The nationals come just three weeks after York's victory at the OUAA finals at Brock.

The York wrestlers completely dominated the Ontario finals. Of the twelve weight categories, York wrestlers took gold in six. The gold medalists were John Matille, Courtney Lewis, Paul Hughes, John Cho, Stan Tsogas and Rich Hart.

The Yeomen collected an additional 4 silvers and a bronze for a total of 95 points for a decisive margin of victory over second-place McMaster with 72 points. Western finished third with 61 points.

At the CIAUs, York will host three conferences from across Canada: the Atlantic (including Quebec), Ontario, and the Canada West, which includes the prairies and British Columbia. The Ontario Conference makes up one third of the entire national circuit.

Each conference will be sending 36 wrestlers, or the top three in each weight category. York's excellence is reflected in the fact that 11 of the 36

Ontario wrestlers will be Yeomen.

"We've had a very good year," said York coach John Park, as he reflected on the success that his wrestlers have enjoyed this season. Park was recently named OUAA Coach of the year.

Besides their performance as a team, the Yeomen also have impressive individual talent. Wrestler Courtney Lewis for example, has beaten some of the best Canadian and American collegiate wrestlers in the past year. Lewis was recently selected as the OUAA athlete of the week for his efforts at the Ontario championship.

Success is not new to the Yeomen. "Last year we were second in Ontario and second in the nationals to Concordia," Park explained.

For the Ontario champions, the only element missing is the CIAU title. With momentum from the Brock finals, the Yeomen could make that final vault over the top.

"McMaster, Concordia or ourselves," is how Park predicts this weekend's outcome. "These are schools fielding many wrestlers."

There is nothing recreational about the Yeoman wrestling programme. Most of the wrestlers have had extensive pre-university experience, and take their sport very seriously.

Watching the team practice, the punishing nature wrestling is evident. The wrestlers are built like tanks, but they also possess endurance, agility and flexibility. The workouts are hard, and Park insists that his wrestlers keep themselves in shape in their spare time.

The team is very well run, a fact self evident by their success. New talent is always looked for and aggressively recruited. "For example, we have two wrestlers this year that are from Calgary," Park noted. As well there are numerous other wrestlers who have decided to make York their school in part because of the programme.

With the performance of the Yeomen, talk of a possible Olympic future for some of them is not far-fetched. Park is cautious about making judgements based upon performance at the university finals. For him, the real test for a wrestler with visions of Olympic glory is the Canadian Open to be held in three weeks. There, university wrestlers can go up against more experienced wrestlers not covered by the university circuit.

The CIAU Championships begin Friday, March 3rd at 12:00 and continue through Saturday at 11 a.m. The championship finals are scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m.

Yeomen skate to finals

By GARRY MARR

WATERLOO — What do you do for an encore after winning four consecutive OUAA hockey championships?

You set your sights on winning a fifth of course.

The York Yeomen moved one step closer to another OUAA championship with a hard fought 3-1 win over the Waterloo Warriors. The victory gave them the series by a 2-1 margin and guaranteed them a berth in the OUAA final four tournament.

Leading the way for York was last year's CIAU all-star goalie Mark Applewhite. Applewhite sparkled in net as he turned aside 34 Warrior shots.

The five year veteran had been unavailable for action in Game 2 because of a groin pull and was still feeling the effects of the injury throughout the deciding game.

"I was sick all game," said Applewhite, who remains questionable for tonight's match against the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks.

"We'll see how (Mark) feels," said York coach Graham Wise in regard to Applewhite's status against Laurier.

The Yeomen were able to secure a lead for Applewhite 58 seconds into Game 3. Greg Rolston pounced on a Bill Maguire rebound, quieting the 600-plus partisan crowd.

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