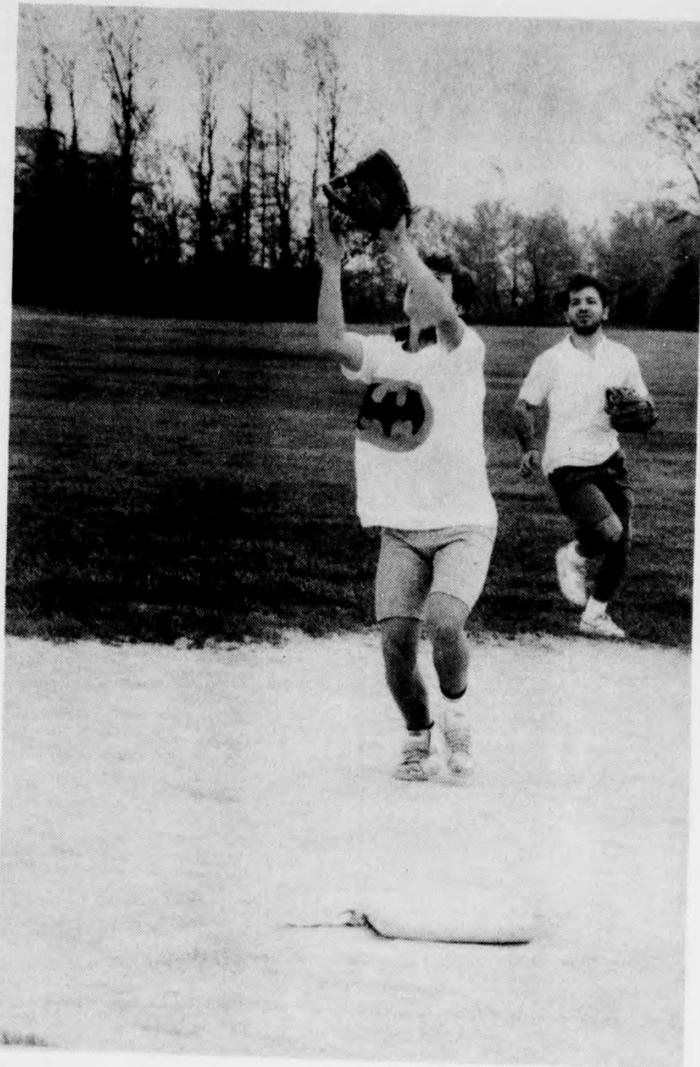


sports

B A T M E N AT Y O R K



Thomas Kim



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It's summer at York and students are enjoying the sun, sand, grass, dandelions, wide open spaces, construction dust, exhaust fumes, big ugly sculptures, hot stuffy buses, nosy photographers, prying reporters, parking authorities and the Bramalea Development.

Yeomen make national teams

by PAMELA JARVIS

Rest easy, sports fans. The future of Canadian men's volleyball once again lies in the capable hands of two of York's finest Yeomen.

Bill Knight, a spiker with four years of national team experience, and Dexter Abrams, in his second year as middle blocker for Canada, were named to the national A and Canadian B (or Universiade) teams respectively.

York coach Wally Dyba was pleased with the selections. "Having two of our athletes make the national team is a credit to York's athletic program," said Dyba.

"It reflects well on the program and the school that that calibre of individual would choose York."

Both Knight and Abrams were freshmen (albeit very effective ones) on this year's Yeomen squad that boasted a perfect 10-0 record in regular season play. The season came to a close with a provincial title and a third place finish at the CIAU championship.

"Having Bill and Dex making the national team . . . it's the final chapter in the success that the Yeomen have had this year," said Dyba.

In total, four members of the York team were invited to the week-long national team tryout camp held recently at the University of Calgary.

Adrian Adore, whose university season was plagued by injuries, attended the camp but was thwarted by a pulled hamstring.

Rookie Jacob Wiktorek was also invited but was unable to attend. "My impression is that all four could have made it," said Dyba.

The B squad faces an unsure schedule that may be hampered by funding cuts. However, the A team, according to Dyba, "is one of the strongest selected (nationally) since 1984. We could be opening the door for the World Cup and perhaps the Barcelona Olympics."

Dyba added that Knight will probably remain with the national team during all of the upcoming university season.

Dyba also pointed out that in the past, most of the United States team has been selected from NCAA players.

"We're definitely becoming more competitive," said Dyba. His York team captured the Mizuno Excalibur tournament this year, defeating top-ranked CIAU and NCAA teams.

For coach Dyba, the fact that virtually all of the national team members were selected from the CIAU talent pool bodes well for the future of Canadian volleyball on the international level.

"People should realize the importance of CIAU and OUAA volleyball . . . the CIAU plays an integral role in the development of the national team program," said Dyba. "I hope that the CIAU and OUAA programs can keep building and developing — if not, we'll see repercussions nationally."

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