

Yeowomen open pre-season on a somewhat damp note

By GARRY MARR

The York soccer Yeowomen opened their pre-season last weekend at the Toronto Invitational tournament. The Yeowomen did not fare to well, sporting a record of 1-3-1 for the two day tournament.

Coach David Bell described his squad as having "a lot of talent this year," as well as "more depth than last year." The Yeowomen hope to improve on last year's first round playoff loss to Western.

The Yeowomen come into this season with many new faces. This could be seen as inexperience, but luckily for York most of their rookies have played in other leagues and know the game.

Anna Figliano, in her third year with the team, said that "these are the best rookies that have come in since I have been with the team."

The Yeowomen spent much of the first day of the tournament trying to work together as a team. They played well, but lost to Guelph 1-0, and also to Western 2-1.

In the Guelph confrontation York was out matched by the eventual victor of the tournament. Guelph's Margot Scharer scored the only goal, but there were numerous opportunities for more.

It was first year goalie Cheryl

Punnet who kept York in this game. She made some big stops including a penalty shot by Margot Scharer. "I think I have the best goalie in the league," commented Bell on Punnet's outstanding performance.

York's second game against Western was definitely a physical one, as deomstated by the Western goalies tackle on Gaye Elliot. However, York was not intimidated. The majority of players were up for the challenge; most notably defender Jackie DeGoeij, DeGoeij's play was outstanding both days. The first year student, who Bell recruited from Western, showed a great deal of resiliency after being consistently knocked about.

The second day of the tournament further tested the Yeowomen's endurance with three grueling games.

In the first game York dominated Laurier throughout but were only able to secure a 1-0 lead. DeGoeij's free kick went to Figliano, who eventually passes to Elliot for the score. Late in the second half Laurier, swithching to five forwards, was able to tie it up.

In York's second game they demolished a weak Brock squad 4-0. Catherine Dooley, Susan Gough, Anna Figliano and Teresa D'Anto-

nio scored against a timid Brock goalie. Back-up goalie, Anne Aiello, earned the shutout with a few tough saves.

In their final contest of the day, against crosstown rival Toronto, York had very little left. The Yeowomen were given a 5-0 drubbing by the Lady Blues.

There were some questionable calls that seemed to perturb York assistant coach Jorge Almeida and the rest of the team. At one point when one of the players was asked the score she responded by saying it was "1-0 plus four offsides."

Referee Al Birnie responded by saying that he was in the best position to make the calls. However, he agreed that the fourth Toronto goal was questionable and that "I blew the whistle too soon on that high long shot by York that was called offside."

Toronto coach Nicki Nicolaou said "York was totally outplayed." She sees her Lady Blues as the favourites in the division and feels York needs "more power up front."

With the help of a few players, who are due to return from injury York may have that power up front and be ready to challenge Toronto and the rest of the division on September 26, when the season opens.



ALEX KASZUBA

CONFERENCE TIME: Coach David Bell meets with his players to discuss a new strategy of attack. The Yeowomen had to play under very adverse weather conditions which might account for their poor performance at the Toronto Invitational. The Yeowomen's next game is against Trent next Saturday.

Defence key to York victory

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turnovers deep in York territory.

Cosentino said the problem was caused by "the inexperience of a new center for the first two quarters. In the third we changed to a different center, but then (after the turnover on the missed third down snap) we switched back to the first center."

York's defence was led by third

O'brien who was York's Labatt's Player of the Game. The soon to be 21-year-old John O'Brien made numerous tackles, and tipped a pass into the hands of defensive back Pat Mulligan for an important interception.

Cosentino has a lot of faith in his entire defence whose play he describes as a "controlled assert

iveness."

As the York coach explains, "We have a strong defence, with mature and competent people so we (the offence can take chances knowing that the defence has the sort of consistency to help us out as a team."

That defence may help York rise to new heights of success in the OUA this season.

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