



SPORTS



Beat those basketball blues

by Mike Raycraft

Perhaps there is nothing better for York teams than a clash with their cross-town rivals UofT.

Tuesday evening the tradition continues when the Varsity Blues travel north to Tait McKenzie to battle York in a basketball double-header starting at 6pm.

For coach Bill Pangos and his 1-1 Yeowomen, the match with UofT should provide some special incentive for both teams.

"This game will be emotional" Pangos said. "I'm sure UofT is ready to come back and avenge last year's loss. It is our first league game at home and our players, as I am, are looking forward to it."

Yet York will have to rely on more than free-flowing adrenalin if they plan to topple the Blues, ranked 7th in the nation.

"We will have to be on top of our game for the full 40-minutes. A let-down of any kind will allow . . . UofT to take advantage," Pangos said.

Part of the Yeowomen game plan

is to try to contain 6'4" UofT sensation Denise Scott.

"We are going to have to nullify her size advantage by . . . forcing her to take the outside shot," said Pangos.

But with or without Scott the Blues are a much better team than last year and York will have to do more than concentrate on one player.

"We are going to try to keep them off balance by throwing different defensive set-ups at them," Pangos said.

But the Yeowomen will still be looking to the likes of Cathy Mara and Jennifer Cushing for big games.

Pangos also added that a home win against their arch-rivals would give his players some much-needed confidence for the stretch drive.

As for the Yeomen, coach Bob Bain is downplaying York's battle with UofT.

"Although it is a rivalry and the players see it as such, it is just another game and what really matters is what gets added to the W or L columns," Bain said.

Don't get the idea however that

Bain and his squad will be taking the Blues lightly.

With a 1-2 record there is no need for the Yeomen to take any team lightly, especially when the York unit maintains play-off aspirations.

Bain, in his 17th year with the Yeomen, knows better than anyone that the road to success will pass through the Blues.

Yet, according to Bain, for their match against the Blues, York isn't hiding any special game plan.

"Versus UofT we will be just trying to do what we do best and that is to play a fundamentally sound style of basketball," Bain said.

Led by the likes of Mark Bellai and Clive Anderson, who are averaging 20.3 and 21.6 points per game respectively, this year's edition of Yeoman basketball has the potential to go far this season.

Despite things like game experience and quickness which must still be ironed out, Bain feels optimistic.

"This is a tightly-knit group who are focussed and determined," Bain said. "I'm very proud of their work ethic and in the long run we are going to be a better team for it."

Men's hockey team stuck in Christmas-time funk — thrashed in 2 tourneys

by Josh Rubin

For a team that's always near the top of the league, the hockey Yeomen sure have been taking a beating lately.

After a Christmas tournament in Winnipeg which included a 12-1 drubbing by Manitoba, the Yeomen had hoped to find success closer to home.

Taking part in the Duracell Challenge at UofT, the Yeomen were up against some tough but beatable competition.

But in what has become a familiar litany of woes for York fans this season, shoddy defensive play and lacklustre effort gave the Yeomen a sixth place finish in the eight team field.

The Yeomen were 1 and 2 against OUAAs rivals during the UofT tournament, with their only win coming against the hapless Queen's Golden Gaels.

In their opening matchup with Laurier, the Yeomen surrendered four goals in the first period alone, before settling down, dropping the game 5-1.

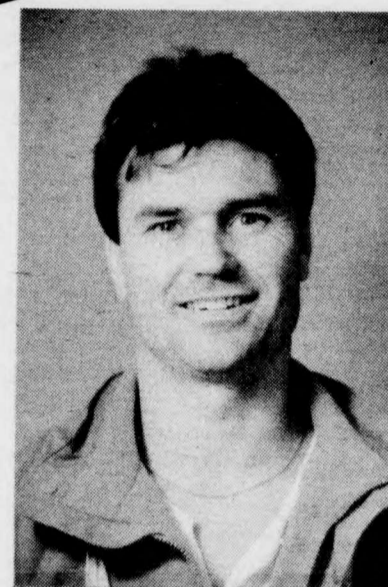
Next up for the Yeomen was the vastly overmatched Queen's squad which was battered mercilessly by the bigger York forwards.

Despite winning the game 8-4, the Yeomen still weren't pleased at giving up four goals against their Kingston rivals.

After his team closed out the tourney with a 6-4 loss to Waterloo, a frustrated Graham Wise suggested that motivation can be difficult.

"But as a coach, you've gotta get them up," Wise said.

Rookie defender Steve Catney also seemed frustrated by the Yeomen's problems.



WHY THE SMILE?: Maybe York Yeoman hockey coach Graham Wise knows something we don't.

"We've got to get into the game for the full 60 minutes," said Catney.

One of the few bright spots for the Yeomen was the new trio of Brian Macdonald, Jimmy Dean and Luciano Fagioli, which notched eight points against Queen's alone.

While the Yeomen historically haven't been a tournament team, their lapses at UofT are worryingly similar to the ones they have been facing all season long.

But three games against weaker opponents should provide the Yeomen with ample opportunity to prepare for a tough four game stretch which sees them take on Western, Windsor, UQTR and McGill.

The Yeomen's next home game is part of that stretch, a 7:30 start against UQTR February 1.

York Varsity Results Dec. 28 - Jan. 6

Women's Athletics

BASKETBALL

January 4 at Carlton
York 85 - Carlton 38
January 5 at Ottawa
Ottawa 45 - York 43

Men's Athletics

BASKETBALL

Nike Excalibur Classic Dec. 28-30

Championship Final:
UBC 84 - Brandon 78

Consolation Semifinal:
Ottawa 73 - York 72

LEAGUE GAMES

January 4 at Carlton
Carlton 97 - York 90
York's top scorers - Clive Anderson 32, Mark Bellai 30

January 5 at Ottawa
Ottawa 84 - York 79
York's top scorers - Clive Anderson 27, Mark Bellai 23

VOLLEYBALL

Mizuno Excalibur Classic
Jan. 4 - 6

Championship Final:
Calgary 3 - Laval 2

Seventh Place Match:
UBC 3 - York 2

WRESTLING

Montreal Open Jan. 5

York placed 6th
Scott Prokosh returned to action and placed 4th out of 11

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