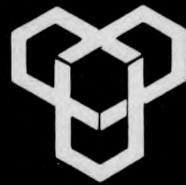




SPORTS



Yeowomen go silver at Cup

by Josh Rubin

What a difference a year makes.

The Yeowomen gymnastics team proved that old sports adage this past weekend, erasing memories of

last year's sixth place CIAU performance with a silver medal at this year's competition.

For the 500 or so fans at the Tait McKenzie gym, performances from York rookies Trista Bernier and Sta-

cey Umeh were the highlight of the meet.

On the meet's first day, Bernier finished sixth in the all-round competition, garnering herself a spot on the All-Canadian team in the process.

According to Boris Bajin, husband of York coach Natasa Bajin, it is Bernier's constant effort which has been the key to her success.

"Consistency is one of Trista's real strengths," Bajin said. "You have to be consistent before you start putting in more difficult moves."

Umeh, meanwhile, led all competitors in the qualifying section of the floor routine, edging out Calgary's Lisa Jefferies for top spot.

The most gutsy performance of the day, however, belonged to team captain Becky Chambers, who took third in the vault qualifying round and came in 13th overall, less than a month after breaking a bone in her right foot.

The next day, however, didn't go quite as well for the talented pair and the rest of their teammates.

Though Bernier took second in the vault competition, which is her specialty, Umeh missed the medals with her floor routine, placing fourth.

The affable 20-year-old suggested it was a case of the nerves which cost her the chance for some hardware.

"Yesterday (Friday) I was more relaxed. Today (Saturday) I was really hyper," Umeh said.

According to Natasa Bajin, however, Umeh was simply tired.

For next year, Bajin is even more optimistic, calling this year's batch of rookie's "the best generation I've had in the fifteen years I've been coaching here."

Bajin is particularly enthusiastic about Bernier and Umeh.

"They just don't make mistakes in big meets," Bajin said.

Along with 18-year-old Heidi Clark, Bernier and Umeh are likely to keep the Yeowomen competitive for several seasons to come.

Rounding out the York squad were Giovanna Lett and the graduating Susan Huff.

Yeomen edged at CIAU gymnastics

by Josh Rubin

At least there was a silver lining, but a cloud still hung over the Tait McKenzie gym this past weekend.

Hosting the CIAU championships, the Yeomen gymnastics squad missed out on a gold medal by less than a single point.

The Yeomen, defending national champions, were edged out by last year's silver medallists from Calgary 166.70 to 165.95.

A subpar performance by George Zivic left the Yeomen in need of some heroics to salvage pride during the team competition and J.P. Kraemer obliged.

The 21-year-old physical education major finished second in the all-round standings, winning the qualifying portion of the floor event in the process.

Zivic, on the other hand, came out on top in both the vault and parallel bar.

However, whereas Kraemer's lowest placing in any of the six events was a fourth in the parallel bar, Zivic dropped to 15th spot on the high bar and was ninth on the pommel horse, putting him in fourth place in the all-round competition.

Afterwards, a disappointed Kraemer reflected on how close to their western rivals the Yeomen were.

"It's a really harsh loss," Kraemer said. "If we had stuck a couple of extra land-

ings, we would have won it."

Head coach Tom Zivic agreed with Kraemer, but added he felt the Yeomen were still the superior squad.

"I'm not disappointed with finishing second," Zivic said. "I'm disappointed finishing second when we had the better team."

Kraemer sparkled again the next day in the individual event finals, copping a gold with his floor exercise and also getting three bronze medals.

Zivic was no slouch either on Saturday, adding a pair of silvers and a gold medal to his collection of hardware.

Other standout Yeoman performances were had by the Hood brothers, Mike and Colin, who finished one and two respectively in the high bar competition.

Other York gymnasts competing on the weekend were Trevor Jones and rookie Seth Bitting.

The elder Zivic was at a loss to explain his son's relatively poor performance on the weekend.

"We still haven't figured out what went wrong," said Zivic senior. "But George had a lot of pressure on him this weekend." As for the rest of the team's performance the Yeomen's mentor had a simple explanation.

"Calgary's top three athletes performed well, and ours didn't, with the exception of J.P.," Zivic said.



Jay Howard

OVER TALL BUILDINGS in a single leap, Trista Bernier grabbed herself an All-Canadian award at this past weekend's National University Cup at Tait McKenzie. Also starring for the Yeowomen was Stacey Umeh. Yeoman J.P. Kraemer finished second.

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