

Sporting Goods

by Michael Krestell

By the time this column goes to print, the York Yeomen football team will have been drubbed by the University of Toronto in the annual Red and Blue Bowl.

Actually, around CHRY it is being called the Red Black and Blue Bowl because there is little doubt that the Yeomen will emerge with serious bruises from the contest.

As a matter of fact, since 1970, the Yeomen have beaten the Blues just three times in this annual butting of helmets, the last being in 1986. Over the last 20 years, the Blues have outscored York 565-229.

The demise of York football is well known around the hallowed halls of Tait Mackenzie and the rest of the country.

The gridiron Yeomen are winless since autumn of 1988; they haven't won a playoff game since... well ever; were a whisker away from being the No-Men this year because the programme was almost cancelled in the spring; and haven't had a winning season since 1985 (5-2).

A glance at the OUAA standings before this weekend's play showed UofT and Waterloo tied for second place with two wins and a loss. There are some valuable lessons to be learned from

both of these schools.

Between 1983 and 1988, the Blues were as bad as the Yeomen are now. As for the Warriors, before last year they finished above five hundred just once (1978, 4-3) and were the not so proud owners of the nation's longest losing streak, 33 games.

But then something happened, the cloud of doom disappeared and both teams are now legitimate playoff contenders.

UofT lured UBC Thunderbird coach Bob Laycoe to Varsity Stadium and the Warriors hired Dave "Tuffy" Knight. These men reversed their team's fortunes and in fact Laycoe now has the Blues ranked fifth in the country.

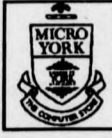
If you can predict the future by looking at history, then things bode very well for the Yeomen. Long time Guelph and Laurier assistant coach Tom Arnott was hired to handle the football program in the spring. No offence to Nobby Wirkowski, but the team needed a new coach and Arnott is perfect for the position.

I know it's frustrating seeing the Yeomen languish at the bottom of the standings year-after-year, but at least the first step on the road to recovery appears to be the right one. You see at York, the first step has often been either backwards or worse, never taken.

Sporting Goods is a weekly column written by the CHRY sports department, examining Varsity athletics at York.

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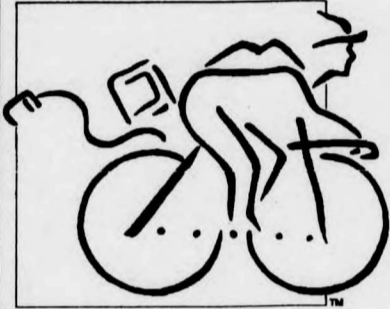
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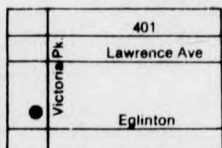
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