

Several highs, some lows, as varsity sports wraps up season

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BADMINTON

Fred Fletcher, coach of York's badminton teams, had a good year to report. At least as far as the Yeomen were concerned. Led by player-coach Eddy Watt, the Yeomen capped off a good season with their best finish in years, a fourth place at the Ontario University Athletic Association championships. The Yeowomen weren't as hot and failed to make the Ontario finals.

FIELD HOCKEY

The field hockey Yeowomen managed to keep themselves in the sportspages all year long. In the outdoors season, the Yeowomen were led by Regina Spencer, while regular coach Marina van der Merwe was in New Zealand with the Canadian team.

York was clearly one notch below archrival UofT in the outdoor campaign. In the Ontario final Toronto exacted revenge for a loss one year earlier that had given York the OWIAA title. The Yeowomen reciprocated when the field hockey campaign moved indoors, with York winning the provincial championship there.

At the outdoors CIAU championships, York had to settle for fifth spot, two places below last year's bronze medal finish.

TENNIS

In tennis it was a banner year for Eric Bojeson's Yeomen. They took their first Ontario team title since 1975, while the pair of Alex Nestor and Peter Bedard won the doubles crown.

SOCCER

York's soccer teams were easily the most dramatic on campus this year.

For the Yeowomen the end of the year was a time to gather at the Grad Lounge and ponder the seven storey leap while quaffing Guinness. Go figure. This was a team that scored over sixty goals against its opponents while only letting in four (three of them penalty shots) on its way to a perfect 10-0 regular season record.

At the OWIAA championships at Hamilton, smart money that had York in the final didn't turn out so smart after all. In the quarterfinal against Western, York's All-Star keeper Cheryl Punnett got her nose busted, and the Yeowomen lost the match in penalty kicks. Talk about bad luck, malocchio or whatever. We're still scratching our head over this one.

York has been one of the better teams in Ontario, if not Canada for the past several years, but has never won a title. That begs the question-if coach David Bell can't do it with this team, what WILL it take?

The men had considerably more competition in their campaign, but in

the end their season was done in by happenings off the field.

When two York players came forward to reveal that they had been suspended from another league over the summer, the Yeomen in turn were penalised the points from all their games until then. That meant York would have to win all their remaining games in order to make it to the finals, something that they almost did, except that a tie against Carleton put the Yeomen one point short of their goal.

The soccer Yeomen are a team with a lot of character, a must in this league, which features some of the strongest competition on the Ontario varsity scene. The team is largely intact for next year, and memories of a sabotaged year may be the extra spur needed to get this talented squad to the top.

AND FOOTBALL...

York's football team is the last one on our program. This is probably the hardest for me to be objective about, especially since my little brother's on the team. Of course he had to go out and bust his hand in practice just before he was about to make his performing debut in the Blue Bowl.

Not that he would have been the team's saviour in that 65-7 thrashing by the Blues. Nobody could have helped the Yeomen at that point, and Tom Arnott's expression after the game was a story in itself. He lightened up in later games, as his charges picked themselves up a bit. No wins mind you, but Arnott still had a team at the end of the year, which is more than could be said for the previous season when half of them deserted. It probably helped even more when his old school, Laurier, took the Vanier Cup.

The football Yeomen were basically an all-new team this year. With the enigmatic Adam Karlsson quarterbacking, the Yeomen put up several strong showings until he busted his arm against Western. Karlsson was a former York player several years back, and his return to the lineup after several years away was straight out of The Outlaw Josey Wales.

Arnott will have half succeeded if the team returns intact to training camp in August. I've seen him several times around campus, busy showing potential recruits around York.

So this article ends with the football team, usually the first program that Excalibur covers when they start printing in September. It seems every year sports editors, going back to the early seventies, have been keeping their fingers crossed for that year's version of the gridiron, looking for the miracle man to lead the team out of the desert. Good luck.



SHELLY DUFFIN from Dundas, Ontario at last weekend's high school meet at York. Over 1,500 competitors made it to the meet, one of the largest in North America. Highlights of the meet included Michelle Hastick winning the long and triple. "She's a real talent, and we're pleased that she's coming here next year," York assistant track coach Vicky Crowley said of Hastick, sister of Andrea, one of the cornerstones of the Yeowoman track team in previous years. Photo by Michelle Bosener

Wood, Rankin honored as athletes of the year

by Staff

A pair of Olympians have been named York's athletes of the year.

At last week's athletics banquet, pole vaulter Doug Wood, who holds the commonwealth record, beat out gymnast George Zivic and basketball Clive Anderson to take the award on the men's side, while national gymnastics team member Janine Rankin took women's honours.

At last month's national university championships, Rankin won five gold medals after recovering from an earlier bout with mononucleosis.

Wood, meanwhile, has shattered his own Canadian record three times this indoor season, and at last month's CIAU meet in Winnipeg, equalled the Commonwealth record of 5.65 metres.

With his strong performance this season, Wood will be aiming for the medal podium, though he readily concedes the gold to world record holder Sergei Bubka.

"I think a vault of 5.80 on the first attempt will win the bronze," said Wood, adding he feels a medal is within reach, as most vaulters find themselves soaring an additional 10-15 centimetres outdoors.

Rankin, who is finishing off her first year at York, says she has enjoyed competing at the varsity level.

"It's a whole different atmosphere, and people are really pulling for each

other," said Rankin, a veteran of three world championships.

While at York, Rankin has been working with her long-time coach Mary Lea Palmer, but says she has

also learned from York coaches Boris and Natassa Bajin.

"They're really competitive and always want what's best for their athletes," Rankin said.



will be going to press monthly over the summer as we bring you all the goods on York's athletes at the Olympics.

As well, watch out for Josh Rubin and Clive Cohen in your local sports pages as they give us the dirt on the Barcelona Olympic Games. Excalibur cronies, the both of them, Josh and Clive will be the first student journalists in the long saga of humanity to cover the Olympics.

Remember, you saw them here first!

