

S P O R T S

Listless Yeomen in danger of playoff elimination

By DAVID BUNDAS

The Yeomen football team dropped their second decision in a row with a disheartening loss to the Windsor Lancers, to a baseball sounding tune of 9-8. Saturday's game, however, was not a tough defensive struggle as the score would indicate. Ten Yeomen penalties for 100 yards squandered several drives and left them with poor field position for most of the day.

Yet with a few exceptions the Yeomen played well enough to win, and now find themselves almost out of playoff contention. If you looked at the statistics before the final score, you'd probably think the Yeomen won the game. After 312 yards of offence (190 in the air and 122 rushing), Douglas gaining 93 yards on 13 carries, DelZotto catching five for 97 yards, and Ganas snarling six out of the backfield for 38 yards, most would call this a fine day's work. Comparatively the Lancers managed only 242 yards total offence with just 98 yards in the air.

Windsor scored on their second possession when they marched downfield on a drive starting at the Lancer 16 yard line. Quarterback Ed Slabikowski cleverly mixed pass and run with kicker Graeme Flett capping the drive with a 42 yard field goal.

An interception by Windsor defensive back Richie Holland gave the Lancers the ball at the York 49 yard line on a Glen Humenik pass that was tipped by his receiver and another Lancer defender. Flett settled for a single point on a 47 yard punt which took an odd bounce into the end zone, to make the score 4-0 with 12:05 left in the half. Flett added two other singles on missed field goals to make the score at the half 6-0.

Flett picked up where he left off in the third quarter when he chipped in a 28-yard field goal after only two minutes and 45 seconds to make the score 9-0. York finally got on the scoreboard when rookie Adam Karlsson got into the game late in the

third quarter and led them on an impressive drive downfield. The drive featured catches of 30 and 21 yards to DelZotto, before a screen to Ganas took them to the 2 yard line. Ganas bowled over on the next play, with Allan Meyers covering to close the Lancer lead to 9-7.

Meyers cut the lead further with a single on a muffed 45 yard field goal attempt with 2:18 to go in the game. The Yeomen could have elected to punt and rely on their defence to hold the Lancers deep in their own zone, hoping to gain one more shot, but elected to go for the field goal and the lead.

The Yeomen had one last opportunity to win the game but a penalty thwarted their efforts once again. A nifty return by Tom Kapantrias gave them the ball at the Windsor 46 yard line but a couple of incomplete passes combined with an illegal procedure call and a sack by Lancer Jim Spradbrow gave Windsor the win.

Windsor Head Coach Gino Fracas was generally pleased with his team's effort and had words of praise for his quarterback Ed Slabikowski. "It's the first time in six or seven years that we've had a competitive man at the helm," he said. Slabikowski played safety for Fracas at Windsor for two years before playing for the Montreal Allouettes for one year and remaining on the taxi squad for another two years. He became eligible for further collegiate play when he continued his studies at Windsor, and impressed coach Fracas with his arm strength, throwing the ball sixty and seventy yards in practice. "He's still learning but he's already added a new dimension to our game," Fracas remarked.

There were a couple bright spots for the Yeomen on a rather cloudy day. Return specialist Tom Kapantrias, a rookie speedster out of Humber College in Toronto, gained 129 yards on seven punt returns and 23 yards on one kickoff. Unfortunately for him, bad penalties three for blocking from the rear) nul-



ROBERTA DI MAIO

SPARTAN ENDURANCE: Return specialist Tom Kapantrias nearly broke this punt return on the final play of the first half. The rookie was stopped short as were the rest of the Yeomen who fell to Windsor for the first time since 1983.

lified two other long gains and left the team with poor field position. Kapantrias explained the penalties, saying, "It just goes to show you that a team effort is necessary to win, and today we made too many mistakes."

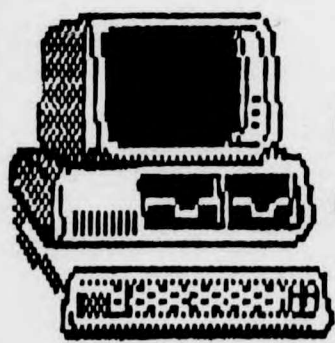
Coach Cosentino agreed that inopportune miscues led to the defeat, adding, "We really hurt ourselves today (Saturday). Almost every time we got something going penalties hurt us. We've stressed this in practice but it's a case of players being overanxious and trying too hard to make a tackle when they're not in position to do so."

Another encouraging sign was the play of rookie quarterback Adam Karlsson. He seemed to benefit from

his time on the bench, able to view the action and then enter the game with a fresh approach. He came in throwing, effectively mixing passes to his backs and outside receivers and his statistics were impressive after the game. Playing slightly over one quarter he completed 10 of 13 passing attempts for 115 yards. After the game, however, Karlsson seemed more concerned with the plight of his team. "It's a rocky road from now on... it looks like there's gonna be a lot of overtime in practice this week." With the Yeomen heading into London Saturday for a game against Western, who have been overpowering this year, they'll need it.

Bundas Odds: Playing Western on the road the Yeomen need an upset victory to turn around their season. Although I look for York to be fired up, the Mustangs are a powerhouse again this season, led by allstar QB Steve Samways, and should hand the Yeomen loss number three. Western by 14. Take Western.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In case you're not keeping track, Bundas' odds are now a sparkling 0-2 on the year. Bundas, after last week's debacle where he bet the house and lost, is out on the streets. Hopefully no one else took his advice. Maybe this week he'll redeem himself. But if he blows it again, his new beat will be Osgoode Hall touch football games.



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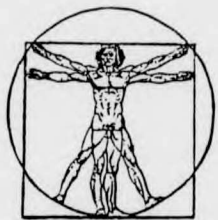
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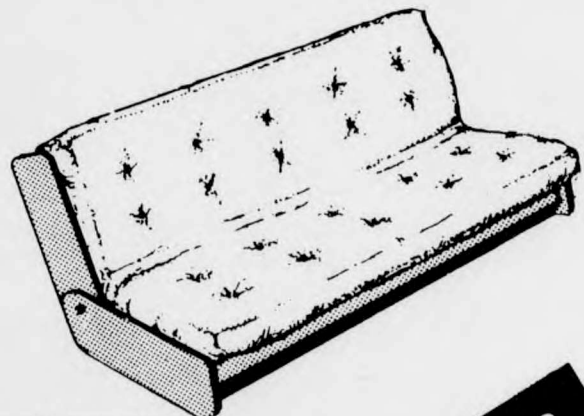
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