

Rooks back in the running

G. Ubiquitous

Spearheaded by dominating performances from Nancy Rooks and Angela Taylor, the women's track and field team surged to a fourth-place finish at the Ontario championships this past Sunday at the U of T.

For Rooks, her win in the 1500m must have been a breath of fresh air in a frustrating season. Out of training due to recurring knee problems which have plagued her for years, Rooks only saw competitive action once (two weeks ago in a minor meet) before winning at the OWIAA's. Her performance seems to indicate that her knees are in splendid shape again.

Following Rooks across the tape was another strong York performer, Sharon Clayton, who recorded a personal best time to collect the silver.

Taylor, who continues to remind everyone who competes against her that she is a world-class athlete, ran the 50m in an unofficial record time (she was hand-timed) of 6.00 sec. flat. Taylor also participated, along with Rooks, Angela Pidone and Cathee Mann, in a second-place finish in the sprint medley relay. York registered a new varsity record in the relay with a time of 4:05.3. Also in a team event,

Marjory Watt, Pidone, Mann and Molly Killingbeck combined for a fourth in the 4 X 200 m relay.

Also parlaying a personal best time into a strong performance

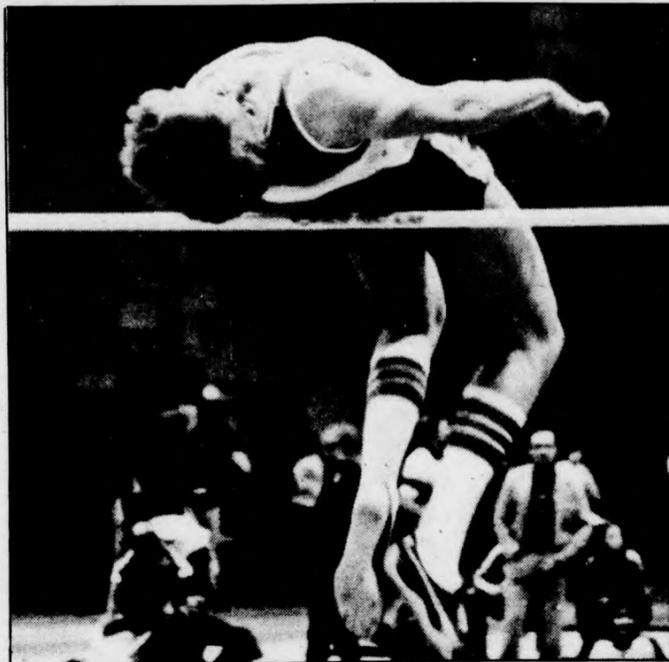
was Laura Blefgen who ran a 10:04 in the 3000m to place fifth.

On the basis of their performances, Rooks, Taylor and Clayton are headed to Saskatoon this weekend for the CIAU's. Another York qualifier for the nationals is Killingbeck who had previously notched good enough times in 300m and 600m races. But she will miss the CIAU's due to a pulled hamstring injury.

Overall team placements at the OWIAA's saw Western capture the gold with 114 points, followed by Waterloo and the hosting U of T team.

In the men's results of the combined competition York finished eighth overall in the 14 team field, while U of T cake-walked to its eighth consecutive OUA track and field title.

Best individual performances from York men came in the long jump, where Michael Dunstan placed fourth, the high jump, where Kirk Hochrein hurtled 1.98m for a fifth and the 50m hurdles, which saw York's Gerald Hann clock a fifth-place time.



York high jumper Kirk Hochrein in action during the OUA Track and Field championships at U. of T.

In team events York's strongest showings came in the 4 X 200m relay (a fifth) and in the distance medley relay in which Farooq Shabbar, Raymon Carvallo, Andy Nichel and Joe Campbell provided

enough speed to break the tape sixth.

None of the men qualified for the upcoming nationals in Saskatoon.

Canada: A team to be reckoned with

Jules 'Sparky' Xavier

Ranked eighth in the world, the Canadian National Field Hockey Team has been stationed at York since early January, training for April's World Cup tournament in Argentina.

National coaches Marina van der Merwe and Kathy Broderick (from York) blended together a

team comprised of players from coast to coast, each with their own diverse talents, none of whom are anticipating any problems with the move outdoors.

York's Sheila Forshaw, Laurie Lambert and Laura Branchaud are all members of the team.

Twenty-one year old Branchaud, who hails from Quebec,

looks forward to the World Cup with anticipation.

"Playing the various teams with their different styles of play will be good," Branchaud said. "Our indoor training has helped us to be quicker with our give and goes due to the close space playing indoors."

Manitoba native Jane Randles, a 25 year old graduate of the University of Manitoba, feels confident that Canada has a good chance of finishing with a medal in Argentina. She thinks Canada will be in the top of their pool, perhaps even first. "Our problems are with Australia and Holland in our pool then West Germany in the other pool," she said. "No one expected us to do so well in Europe so..."

"Other teams won't be looking at Canada as rookies, but as a team to be reckoned with."

Native-born Donna Phillips of Charlottetown, a twenty year old member of the University of New

Brunswick Red Sticks known for her aggressive style of play, is ready for the challenge ahead in Argentina.

Phillips agrees also that the indoor training has been beneficial to the team. "You've learned to think quickness playing indoors. It's like grid training."

"Fitness wise our play in Europe has helped us," Phillips said. "I think we've peaked at the right time."

Peaking at the appropriate time is essential to knocking off the West Germans, a team they've lost to four times in the past eight months in outdoor play. The team must better their fifth place standing in World Cup performance to be considered for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

During the time spent at York the team also travelled to Berlin to take part in the 8 team European Zone Indoor Hockey Championships.



National Field Hockey members: goalie Eloise Samuels, Jane Randles (upper left), Donna Phillips (upper right) and York's Laura Branchaud

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