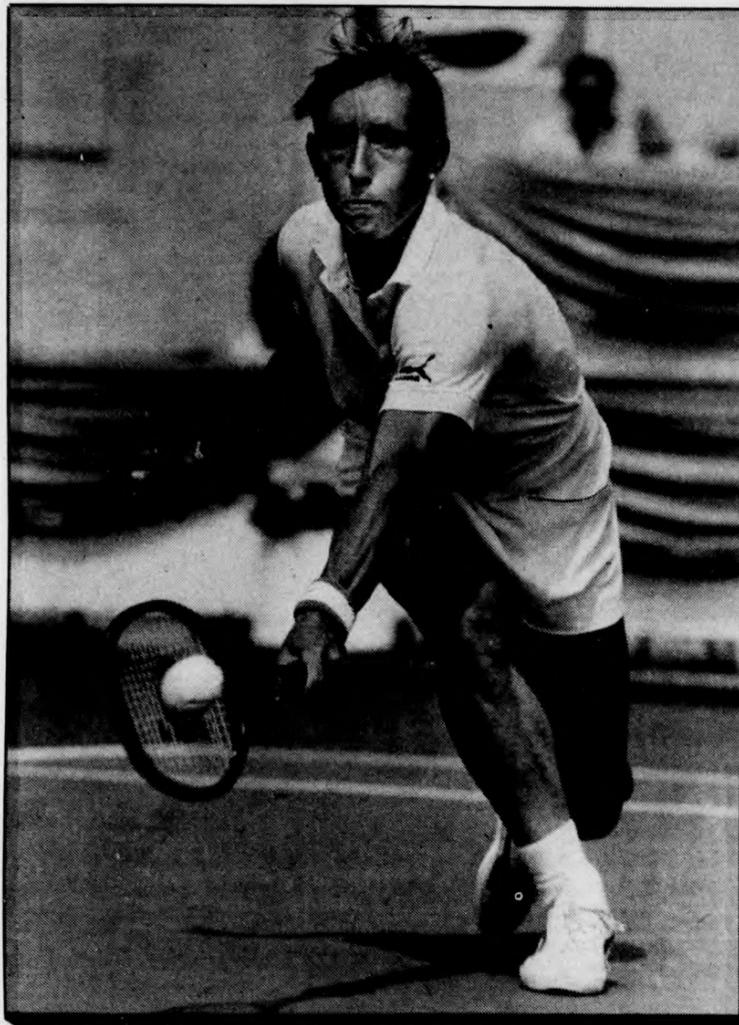


sports



PHOTOS: GARY HIRSHORN

A new champion is crowned while an old one takes her last bow . . . Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King make their respective marks at the Molsons Tennis Challenge held at York in August. Navratilova was crowned champion with a straight set 6-2, 6-1 victory over number two seed Chris Evert Lloyd. King meanwhile, entered in the doubles competition only, and made perhaps the final Toronto appearance in her long and illustrious career.

Yeomen aim for playoff berth in '83

By MARK ZWOL

After last year's final game in the York football season—a dismal 18-7 drubbing at the hands of the Waterloo Warriors—the entire Yeomen squad, all 45 of them, sat down and had a heart-to-heart talk about their performance for 1982.

It was a downer to say the least. A 2-5 record matched the previous year's showing and left the Yeomen with an eleven-year-old monkey on their backs—failing to gain that elusive OUAA playoff berth.

Dave Pickett had to bite the bullet with youth and inexperience in the starting line-up since his inception into the head coaching ranks back in 1981—no fewer than 14 freshmen on the field with little or no playing time under their belts at the OUAA level.

While highly-touted rookies like running back Darrel Sampson, and quarterback Paddy O'Neil have proven Pickett's Southern Ontario scouting jaunts worthwhile, he has basically been left with pages of stats and reels of game films that show only small leaps toward the development of a strong football program at York University.

For instance, the 1982 Yeomen (as a team versus seven other squads from the OUAA league) were seventh in rushing with 649 yards, and sixth in passing with 988 yards. Their total offence ranked dead last at 1498 yards.

Defensively they were somewhat stronger, allowing a seventh ranked 1302 yards rushing while giving up a third ranked 1107 yards via the pass.

In addition, the only two red and white jerseys selected to the OUAA all-star team were filled by defensive players—Trevor Williams at defensive back, and linebacker Marc Hopkins, who now starts for the CFL's Montreal Concorde.

However, this season should see some big changes in all those

beleaguered stats that have plagued the Yeomen name for the past eleven seasons.

This is "the" year. It's the one Pickett has been looking to since he took over from Frank Cosentino three years ago, there are no more major problems with inexperience. The rookies have been through the training camps. They've seen the likes of the Western Mustangs, the U of T Blues, and the Acadia Axemen.

"This is the year we've been pointing to for a long time," Pickett said. "In the past we had to go with a large crop of younger players, but that's all in the past. There are no excuses now. I think we are a better team than our 2-5 record shows, and the players know what they have to do from here on in."

Pickett also benefited from a large turnout at the summer training camp with approximately 40 veterans and 50 newcomers attending—one of the larger camps held at OUAA schools this season.

The veterans, mostly from last year's squad, enjoyed a new OUAA ruling allowing universities to run spring camps, which gave them the opportunity to run a number of drills and plays indoors, at the Metropolitan Toronto track complex.

In addition, there will be a talented array of assistants rounding out the Yeomen coaching staff, including '82 returnees Gord Whitaker, offensive line, Rick DiLena, special teams, and linebacking coach Gerry Chown.

Newcomers to the Yeomen coaching staff are Bob Rainford, former U of T and Guelph coach, who will be handling offensive co-ordination; Rick Lyall, a former Yeomen who will oversee the defensive line; and former U of T players Trevor Davis and Tom Gretes, who will work with both the running backs and defensive backs.

While graduation has depleted the

ranks of players with several seasons of OUAA experience—most notably in the pass receiving corps where the loss of all-time leading York receivers Brian Gifford and Neil Delgarno will be felt—the Yeomen should be pretty sound on both offense and defense.

So here is a position-by-position rundown of what to look for in the 1983 York University football team.

• **Quarterbacks:** Newly acquired offensive co-ordinator Bob Rainford will have third-year man Tino Iacono and second-year pivot Paddy O'Neil to choose from. Iacono threw seven TD's last year while O'Neil saw limited action with a shoulder injury. Both are capable of handling a running/passing game.

• **Running Backs:** Five players are capable of starting here and should give the Yeomen all the power and speed they need. George Ganas, a third year fullback will likely get the starting nod, and will be accompanied by speedster Joe Pariselli, returning from a year's sabbatical.

Second-year men Darryl Sampson and Doug Terry add speed and blocking depth to the offense, as will highly-touted rookie Terry Douglas, from L'Amoreaux, who is capable of breaking the big gainers.

• **Receivers:** The loss of Brian Gifford and Neil Delgarno has left big holes in the Yeomen receiving corps. But second-year receiver Steve Delzotto will figure largely in filling their shoes. Returnees Mike Bridgeman and Dave Cynamon are being studied closely while rookies Andy Douglas and Greg Egle are looking for starting roles.

• **Offensive Line:** Anchoring the line is 81-82 OUAA all-star guard Rob Huber. Graduating all-star center John Ponzi is replaced by third year man Cesare Marti, who converts from center to guard.

Third year veteran and Yeomen defensive captain Mike Chessen

starts again at tackle while the remaining tackle position should be claimed by Neil Fraser, who was at defensive end a year ago.

• **Defensive Line:** Size and youth characterize York's line this year with second-year noseguard Rick Leers replacing graduate Nick Nasturzio at the hub. The ends are filled by rookies—Rick Lococo, a California import, and Mike Drew, from Central Tech.

• **Linebackers:** The linebacking corps look good despite the losses of Barry Sellars and Marc Hopkins. The outside positions will be filled by veteran Steve Ruple and rookie Casey Cotter, who played for the 1981 Oshawa Hawkeyes, and with Simon Fraser in 1980.

The inside positions are up for grabs. Fifth-year man Mike Lawlor has secured a spot, but returnees Steve Stone, Bill Docherty, and Mark Logan are competing for jobs.

• **Secondary:** Perhaps the most

talented of all the positions with safety Norbie Wirkowski back for a third year, along with 1982 all-star Trevor Williams at defensive back. Donovan Brown, Dave Soulierre, Devon Hanson, and Domenic Cugliari round out a smooth covering secondary for the Yeomen.

• **Kicking:** The kicking game is in the able hands of 1982 OUAA all-star Sergio Copobianco who averaged over 40 yards per kick last year.

The Yeomen will not get any breaks when they open their 1983 schedule on the road against 1982 Yates Cup champion and Vanier Cup runner up Western Mustangs. You'd have to go back to 1980 for the last time York emerged victorious over the Mustangs in regular season play with a 30-23 decision.

However, the Yeomen surprised the 'Stangs last season, losing only by three points, 27-24, and they look for a similar effort to get their season underway this year.

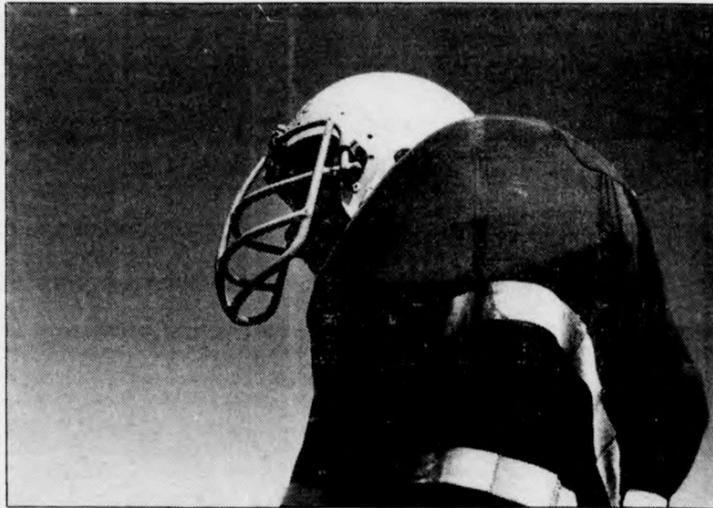


PHOTO: MARIO SCATTALONI

Looking ahead . . . The York Yeomen open their 1983 OUAA regular season schedule this Saturday September 24th with a game against the Western Mustangs.