

sports

Excitement, great volleyball in store for fans at coming tourney

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

The calling card for this year's *Excalibur* Volleyball Classic will resemble a greeting card when the eight-team tourney gets under way this Friday at the Tait Gym.

Two of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) top 10 teams will take their shots at six of Canada's finest teams in vying for the Classic trophy in the fifth running of York's international volleyball showcase.

Ohio State Buckeyes, third place finishers in the 1983 NCAA championships, will get their first taste of Canadian competition, while Indiana's ninth-ranked Ball State Cardinals return to York after taking the silver at last year's Classic.

The Canadian contingent features a pair of Quebec University Athletic Association teams in Laval et Or and Dalhousie Tigers, both of whom placed third and fifth respectively at the 1983 Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) championships.

Also, returning after a year's absence will be the perennial powerhouse Alberta Golden Bears, who took championship honors in the 1982 event.

The Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) is represented by three teams ranked in the current CIAU top 10 listings.

Heading the Ontario entries are the Waterloo Warriors, the number five team in the country, followed by the seventh-ranked U of T Blues.

The York Yeomen, who come into the tourney holding down the number nine position along with three of the last four Ontario University titles, round out the draw.

"It's anybody's tournament," says York coach and tournament director Wally Dyba. "It'll probably come down to who gets hot—the calibre of play is pretty close. A lot depends on how strong these teams coming in will be over three days of top-notch competition. Anything can happen."

Of particular interest should be the American vs. Canadian matchups.

Both Ball and Ohio State play in the Mid-Western intercollegiate volleyball association and are running neck and neck to repeat their finishes a year ago.

What has Canadian coaches and players concerned is the level of intensity the Americans seem to be able to sustain throughout three days of competition.

"Any advantage the Americans have would probably stem from their association with a sport-dominated society," Dyba says. "we don't have anything like that up here. We don't take sports in general as seriously as they do."

"They get 100,000 people out to see the Rose Bowl game. There's a very competitive fighting spirit that results. It's important to play and to do well there. It's not quite as intense up here," he says.

"With us it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. With them, you go out and try to win and give it your best shot with the moral sense of winning in mind."

"That's not to say they're a bloodthirsty bunch. But it is important for them to go hard all the time, whereas with us it's not as mainstream."

Matches run from 2-8 p.m. on two courts Friday and Saturday. Sunday's action has matches at 9 a.m. through to the 1 p.m. consolation and 3 p.m. final.

Admission is \$3 per day and \$7 for a tourney pass. A \$1 discount is available on advance purchase tickets and public information is available at 667-3734.

Basketball team gets it together

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

The York Yeomen Basketball team got what they were looking for and probably what they most desperately needed when they bumped off their archrival Waterloos Warriors 90-83 to take the championship in the Ed DeArmon Memorial Basketball Tournament at Ryerson over the holidays.

The win beats a year-old monkey off York's back—namely revenge for a 66-65 loss to Waterloo at the 1983 Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) final which snapped the Yeomen's title string at three.

It didn't come easy though.

York trailed by eight at the half but went up by nine with less than three minutes to play before watching the Warriors knot the score on a three-point play by Steve Savich with 16 seconds left.

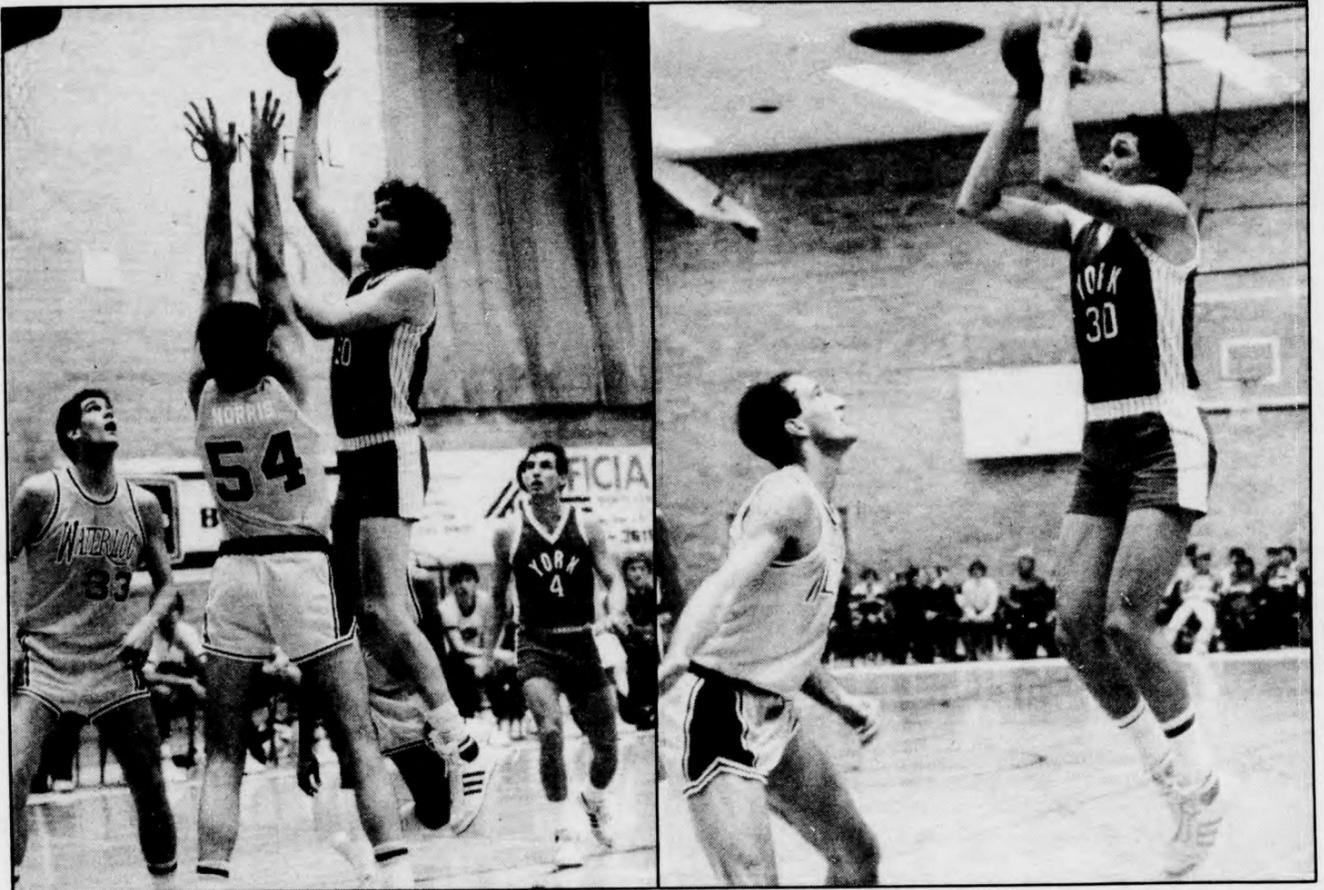
That sent the contest into overtime.

York left nothing to chance in the five minute overtime period, outscoring the Warriors 12-5 to clinch the title.

Tourney MVP Mark Jones netted 24 points in leading the Yeomen while Grant Parobec followed up with 19 and Tim Rider, 17.

Peter Savich topped the Warriors with 22 points along with teammate Paul Van Oorschot who added another 18.

Jones, Savich, and Van Oorschot were joined by York's Parobec and McMaster's Maurice Armstrong on the tourney all-star team.



New twists for York fans

The latest fan participation event at York—a "Pizza Patio shootout" at the Yeomen-Estonia basketball game at Tait last month—was a great success for the 17 participants who won coupons for a free pizza.

But then, there were only 18 participants. And the one unfortunate non-winner was the contest's only York entrant, basketball Yeowoman Anne Marie Thuss.

In fact, fewer than 25 of the crowd of about 500 were from York, the bulk of the remainder being high school students out to watch some entertaining basketball from the parade of Ontario and Canadian all-stars on the floor.

So, in an effort to create a better fan participation atmosphere and to keep those fans who do turn out coming back for more, the York Athletic Administrat on has organized a series of events for this month centering largely on fan activities and giveaways.

Here's a brief look at some of the events planned:

- On January 10, York's colleges will stage an intramural tug-of-war during intermission of the Yeowomen basketball game against Ryerson. Game time is 8:15 p.m. at the Tait gym.
- Both men's and women's basketball

teams take on their crosstown rivals U of T in a "Blow those Blues away" double-header in which 100 free dinners will be given away during the course of the two games.

The grand prize will be an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Montreal, where the winners will stay at the Ramada Inn and dine at the Bar-B-Barn restaurant.

The double-header is slated for January 17 with games starting at 6 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

• The popular "dash for cash" returns January 28 when the men's basketball team takes on the Laurentian Voyageurs in a league game that could decide first place. Two lucky ticket holders will be blindfolded and then turned loose for one minute to pick up as many \$1 bills as possible.

• And on January 29 the nine-time defending Canadian men's gymnastics champion Yeomen, who boast three Olympic team members, host Penn State in an invitational meet.

Other dates to keep in mind include a January 25 men's hockey game against Waterloo at 7:30 p.m. at the Ice Palace and a men's volleyball match up against the U of T Blues which takes place at the Tait gym at 8:15 p.m.

New track coach set to fill Millar's shoes

By ELISSA S. FREEMAN

York University's Department of Physical Education and Athletics and the Ontario Track and Field Association recently named Brian Maraj as its full-time provincial track and field coach.

Maraj, 26, will be responsible for developing track and field programs at York and at the provincial level. He will coach the York Yeomen and Yeowomen teams and will initiate and conduct courses, training camps, seminars, and workshops for the benefit of amateur athletes and coaches in Ontario.

Maraj succeeds John Millar who led the Yeomen to their first ever Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) championship in 1983 and now coaches at the University of Tennessee.

Maraj comes to York by way of Hamilton and London. He helped coach the University of Western Ontario track teams for three years, the women's team winning national championships in all three years. For the past year, Maraj administered and coached the London-Western Track Club in London, Ontario.

York skaters dominate U of T invitational

By ELISSA S. FREEMAN

It doesn't seem too unrealistic to predict the possibility of a provincial championship for York's figure skating team. York skated to six first-place finishes and captured the overall team title in last month's U of T Invitational.

Second place went to U of T, while Queen's, last year's Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association (OWIAA) champions, settled for third.

Many of York's skaters figured prominently in the individual events. Second-year film student Gia Gaddat showed her dominance as she took first place honors in the difficult open singles category.

Veteran Cathee Maron, a former track athlete, collected two first-place finishes in

both the intermediate and senior singles, while Beccy Simkin gathered the laurels in the novice event.

York also extended their talents during the dance competition. Cheryl Marinoff and Nancy Mackenzie skated their way to the top for the novice similar dance. Mackenzie also teamed up with Shelley Molloy for a third-place finish in the same category.

Jo-Ann Coutts took the intermediate solo dance and with partners Michelle Beehler and Bil Dunbar managed to capture two second-place finishes in the junior similar dance and junior mixed dance, respectively.

Jill Morton was a double bronze medalist in the junior singles and the junior mixed dance with Dunbar.