

## York Gymnastics programme excels

## Curtis Hibbert: gunning for Barcelona

by Riccardo Sala

Curtis Hibbert is a familiar face on the victory rostrum of gymnastic competitions around the world. The 23 year-old part-time York student has been a consistently excellent performer and has helped put Canada on the gymnastics map.

Hibbert was in Bolzano, Italy recently attempting to qualify for

the World Cup. Held every four years, this year's event takes place at the end of October in Brussels. The Bolzano event was the last of eight qualifying meets, including one in Toronto on March 29.

Accompanying Hibbert was coach Mataaki Naosaki.

"Curtis was ranked ninth in the world. At Bolzano he came in third," Naosaki said. Teammate Alan Nolet came in 27th. Rankings

are important for the World Cup as only the top 18 men and women are allowed to participate.

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This is followed by the 1991

World Championships in Indianapolis. The next and major goal for Hibbert is the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. After these games Hibbert will likely retire. A strong performance in Barcelona would be the fitting end to an excellent career.

Curtis Hibbert's performance is reflective of a gymnastics programme at York that is the strongest in Canada. York gymnasts

have captured the national crown many times.

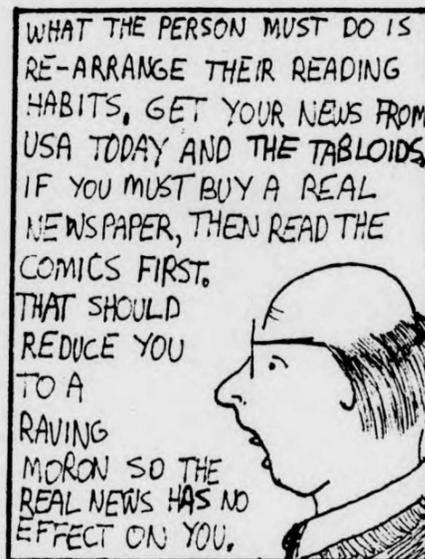
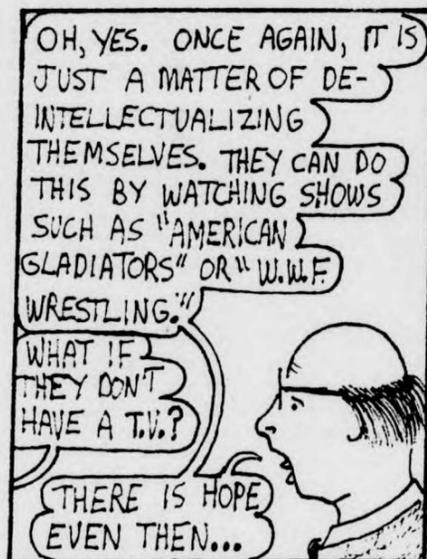
"Eighty per cent of Canada's national team will be from York for the World Championships," Naosaki predicted, adding, "by 1992 it could be 90."

There are three carded athletes on the York squad, including Hibbert.

The gymnastics programme keeps busy during the summer, holding court for six days a week at the Newmarket Fitness and Gymnastics Academy. The team's current accommodations at Tait Mackenzie are too small for the programme, Naosaki said.

Many Yeoman and Yeowomen gymnasts keep busy with various meets. In early July, head coach Tom Zivic will accompany Curtis Hibbert for a demonstration tour of Australia.

Before that, June 14 to 19, Zivic will accompany his son George and fellow gymnast J.P. Kramer to Scotland for an international meet.



## Classified and Community Events

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