

York hockey Yeomen take OUAA cup for first time

National Championships to be held this weekend at Varsity arena

By EDO VAN BELKOM

When the York Yeomen and the University of Western Ontario Mustangs advanced to the OUAA hockey finals, one of the teams was destined to become a first-time recipient of the Queen's cup.

Western has had strong teams in recent years, making it to the final in three of the last 5 years, while the last time York was a regular finalist was almost a decade ago. But when the 1985 winner was finally decided, it was the Yeomen who came out on top.

The final series began at Western last Wednesday with the Mustangs taking advantage of a lacklustre performance on the part of the Yeomen, winning the opener by a 5-1 score.

Western 5—York 1

Yeomen head coach Dave Chambers said his team did not play as well as he would have liked. "We played well in the first period but we got down a few goals and we didn't play with much intensity after that," Chambers said.

The second game of the series was played Friday night at the Ice Palace and saw a much more spirited performance from the Yeomen. York came out like gangbusters, taking the play to the Mustangs and scoring a goal in only the second minute of the game. Rick Simpson, who has found his place on the left side of Brian Gray and Don McLaren, centered the puck for Gray and the slick center took his time and made no mistake.

Western tied the game later in the period when they scored with only 18 seconds remaining on a Yeomen penalty. But York went ahead before the end of the period on a goal by McLaren, who blasted the puck from a bad angle, through a crowd in front, and into the net.

Western tied the game for the second time early in the second period on yet another power play.

York went ahead 3-2 when Western's goalie had trouble controlling a long shot and Scott Magder rushed in and poked the loose puck into the net. Western tied the game for the third and final time when Mark Applewhaite made two brilliant saves only to have a loose rebound put behind him.

Neither team managed to score in the final frame, though they had their chances. Western carried a slight edge in the play but Applewhaite's goaltending kept the Mustangs off the scoreboard. At the other end York had a number of good chances resulting from penalties called against Western, but the Yeomen were also unable to convert their chances.

With the score tied at the end of regulation time, the full house at the Ice Palace saw the second overtime win for the Yeomen in less than a week, when McLaren scored at 8:46. Defenceman Rob Crocock started the play off by keeping the puck inside the Mustangs' end. Then the puck made its way onto McLaren's stick and he found the opening in the net that ended the game.

York 4—Western 3

McLaren downplayed his role as overtime hero saying, "Adam's goal (Adam Parson's overtime goal against U of T) was a little more heroic because he beat them out. We still have to beat them (Western)," he said.

With the series tied 1-1 the Yeomen travelled back to London to play a Sunday night game in Western's Thompson Arena. With the help of a number of hardy York fans the Yeomen shocked the huge partisan crowd by jumping out to a quick 4-0 lead, scoring their first three goals on only four shots.

The line of Scott Magder, Lawrence Smith and Gary Corbiere played some of their best hockey of the season scoring three of the four



A MOMENT TO SAVOR: Don McLaren (left), John Campbell (centre), and Scott Magder proudly display the Queen's Cup and the championship banner awarded to York last Sunday night at the OUAA final at Western.

goals. Smith notched two goals, Magder a goal and two assists, while Corbiere had three assists. Rick Simpson had the other marker for York.

The second period was scoreless, and as time ran down it became more evident that the Yeomen would walk away with the title.

In the third period Western mounted a mild comeback, scoring with only 1:26 gone in the period. McLaren replied for York with a quick wrist shot to put the Yeomen up by a 5-1 score. Western replied for the final time only a minute later to close out the scoring.

York 5—Western 2

Applewhaite was spectacular in the final period, projecting an aura of confidence as he coolly made one brilliant save after another. "I was

really relaxed out there," Applewhaite said. The guys were playing super, that helps me to feel confident."

Chambers had nothing but praise for his goaltender. "He came through when it counted; when we needed him he was there. That's the sign of good goaltending," Chambers said.

As time slowly disappeared, Western's enthusiasm waned and the game was almost conceded to York. Celebrations began at the York bench and a release of tension on the part of the Yeomen fans signalled York's first hockey championship since the OUAA's inception in 1971.

The Yeomen will now advance to the Canadian championships being held at Varsity Arena this weekend. For a complete schedule of York games keep reading. Notes . . . Don McLaren was named

the playoff MVP . . . The final series was physical with Mike James and Scott Magder getting their bells rung in the second and third game respectively. Both were able to continue playing . . . A busload of York fans made it up to London for the final game . . . The championship trophy, the Queen's cup, has been given to the top Ontario team since 1906. It looks that old too, sporting decades of abuse.

Schedule of CIAU Championship games: Varsity Arena

4:00 Friday, York vs. Ottawa
12:30 Saturday, York vs. Ottawa
Final game, 1:00 Sunday
Tickets are \$5 per game or \$15 package for all the games.
(All York games will be broadcast by CJRY, the voice of York University)

York's victory comes as surprise to all but the faithful

By EDO VAN BELKOM

The York University Yeomen stole the OUAA championship on Sunday by defeating the University of Western Ontario Mustangs two games to one in the best of three final playoff series.

The winning of the provincial title might come as a surprise to those who didn't follow the Yeomen closely and saw them only as a fifth place finisher in a six team playoff format. But those people who watched the team throughout the year, through their inconsistent play early in the season to their later development into an intense and spirited team, the championship was anything but a surprise.

The people who decide the national rankings, did not think much of York and left them out of the rankings completely until just recently. They only achieved national recognition when they swept the defending national champion U of T Blues in two straight games. Even after that, York was ranked only fifth. The Toronto media thought even less of York in that series, after the first defeat of U of T the *Sun's* headline read "York pulls off shocker," while the *Star's* read, "York flat but Blues flatter."

One must admit judging the solely by their record, 15 wins and nine losses, the Yeomen's season was not earth shaking by any stretch of the

imagination. But by looking at some of the teams they defeated in the course of the year, and by the decisive scores they put on the board, one can get a better idea of the season they had.

In regular season play, York beat U of T by a score of 6-2, second-place finishers Wilfred Laurier 10-3, and

Laurentian by the same 10-3 margin. York seemed to get motivated against the top teams, playing to their maximum potential, and as a result won big.

On the other hand this same team lost to Guelph four times this year (two games in exhibition play) and two regular season games to West-

ern. In these games they seemed to rely solely on their talent and as a result the level of intensity they needed to become a consistent winner was lacking.

Goaltending seemed to be a sore spot in the early season, while three goalies were being tried, and no one was sure who the number one net-

minder on the team was. But with the departure of Don Crupi and an injury to Rob Bryson the whole load came rest on the shoulders of Mark Applewhaite. Shaky at the start of the year, he became more consistent as he was eventually called upon game after game. With the increased workload he began to gain confidence until the culmination of the season with the outstanding performance throughout the playoffs.

The rest of the team began to absorb some of the confidence he exuded; from the defense corps to the forwards, everyone began to believe in being a winner.

But anyone who has followed the team closely this season will agree that the one man who made this season's success a possibility is Yeomen head coach Dave Chambers. He decided that York's hockey program was going nowhere and took on the task of rebuilding the team, from scratch. He brought in 19 new players, with varied talents, gave them specific jobs and molded them within a single season into champions.

The winning of the Ontario title is a prize that has long eluded Chambers, but one that ranks at the top of his lists of achievements in his long and fruitful coaching career. The next plateau for Chambers is the national crown.



WHO'S MINDING THE NET? Captain John Campbell says of York goaltender Mark Applewhaite: "He has a stabilizing effect on the whole team."