

Sports cont'd

Yeowomen volleyballers look to nationals

by Anton Katz

Yeowomen volleyball coach Merv Mosher is confident about his team's chances in next weekend's Canadian Interuniversity Athletics Union (CIAU) final at the University of Windsor.

"If we can play to our potential, at our level," Mosher said, "we can play with anybody."

The Yeowomen qualified for the Canadian finals by winning the Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association (OWIAA) championship.

At the tournament, hosted by the University of Waterloo February 23 to 25, York defeated the Ottawa Gee Gees in the final, three games to one. The Yeowo-

men had made light work of their two previous opponents.

In the quarterfinals, York defeated Western three games to one while in the semifinals they swept UofT three games to none.

York's accomplishment was significant as both UofT and Ottawa came from the OWIAA's tough Eastern division.

Yeowoman Chris Pollitt was named a tournament all-star while teammate Mary Van Soelen, a power hitter for the Yeowomen, was named tournament MVP. Both are also eligible for the CIAU all-star awards later this week.

The CIAU championships, to be hosted by the University of Windsor from March 8 to 10, will see representatives from each of the CIAU's five conferences. The eight participating teams will

include the five conference champions, the host university and two wildcard teams. Mosher assumes York will be ranked fifth, and therefore play the fourth seed, the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Looking at possible matchups, Mosher likes York's chances against most of the participants. The Yeowomen have won one of two matches against Regina this year, and have also taken some games from perennial powerhouse Manitoba.

Despite York's early season loss to UBC, Mosher still feels confident. "We've improved thousands of percentage points since then."

In the last five years, no Ontario representative has finished higher than fifth in the national tournament. Mosher would like to

reverse that trend and feels this is possible, as there is no heavy favourite to win the championship. The University of Victoria, however, is ranked number one in the country.

York's presence in the tournament is the culmination of hard work and discipline. Entering the season with five rookies, York seemed an unlikely candidate for the Ontario championship. But the rookies have matured, playing an important role in the

team's perfect 10 and 0 record.

It is the third time in four seasons that York has gone undefeated. The team's record over those past four years is an incredible 43-1.

This year's outfit has a great sense of purpose. Mosher said the Yeowomen are proud to represent York, and its fine athletic traditions. "We've worked and trained very hard this year. Now it is time to execute and play to our ability."

York on track for CIAUs

by Josh Rubin and Riccardo Sala

Excellent results by York track and field athletes throughout the year have translated into success at the provincial championships this past weekend in Windsor.

The Yeowomen, second to UofT in last year's provincials, came home this year with the OWIAA crown.

The Yeomen landed third spot in the OUAA finals behind the championship UofT squad and second place Windsor.

In OUAA competition, York took four golds, two silvers, three bronzes and had three fourth-place finishes.

York landed a team gold in both the 4x400m and 4x200m relays.

Other golds for the Yeomen came from pole vaulter Kevin Lake and 300m runner Vagner Castillo.

The Yeowomen also managed to get seven golds, three silvers,

three bronzes and one fourth place finish.

Two of York's golds came from Nicole Sinn, who won both the 1000m and 600m runs.

In the field events, Andrea Hastic set an OWIAA record for the triple jump with a jump of 12.02m. Lisa Mayes was first in the shot put with a 13.21 m throw.

The next challenge for the York track and field athletes comes this weekend at the CIAU championships in Winnipeg.

York assistant coach Vickie Croley feels that competition for the Yeowomen will come largely from the University of Manitoba and also UofT, a team bolstered by the likes of Commonwealth Games veteran Catherine Bond.

For the men, she sees the main competitors being UofT and Windsor, both of whom beat out the Yeomen at the Ontario finals over the weekend. From outside Ontario, the University of British Columbia will also be a threat.

Nine Yeowomen and twelve Yeomen are making the trip West this weekend for the nationals.



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