

SPORTS

Volleyball men nab Mizuno/Excal championship

By TOM BARLOW

Eight of North America's best volleyball teams competed in the tenth annual Mizuno Excalibur Volleyball Classic held last weekend at the Tait gym.

The York Yeomen established themselves as one of the continent's most talented teams, capturing the championship in grand style without losing a match.

York defeated California's Long Beach 49ers 15-5, 5-15, 12-15, 15-11, 15-12 in the semis to advance into the final round against the UBC Thunderbirds. In the finals the Yeomen posted a straight set 15-11, 15-13, 16-14 victory to clinch the championship.

In the bronze medal match, the Laval Rouge et or downed Long Beach 15-12, 9-15, 15-9, 16-14.

York's defeat of the NCAA fifth-ranked Penn State Nittany Lions in the preliminary round was a turning point for both teams. Penn State, the defending champions, never recovered and were forced out of the tournament by a spirited U of T team.

For the Yeomen, winning the emotionally charged five-set match provided a motivational lift and sparked new found confidence.

York's Jacob Wiktor, the tournament MVP, was a dominant force

at the net for the Yeomen. Wiktor's towering blocks often seemed impenetrable and his spiking unblockable.

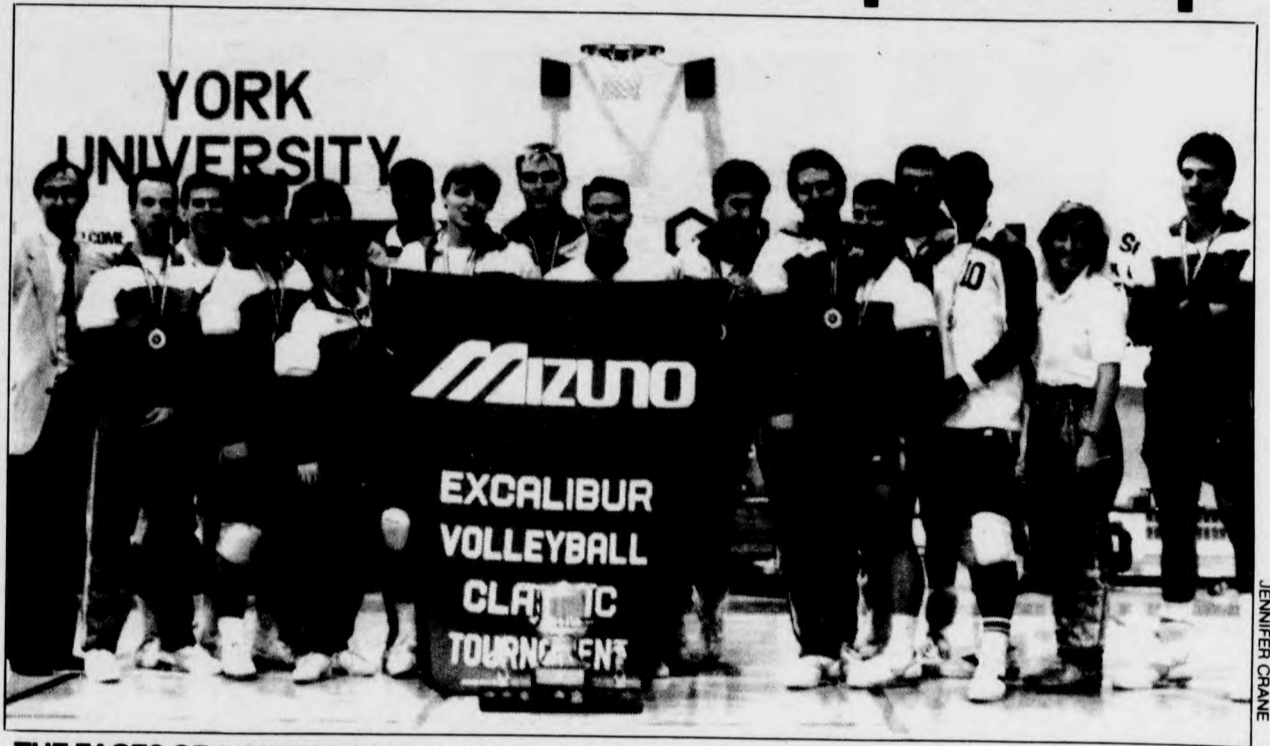
The entire York team shone as head coach Wally Dyba frequently and confidently used his talented bench. Veteran Yeoman Bruce Dunning demonstrated his intimidating serving ability as he tied the tournament record of seven aces in a single match during the final against UBC.

Yeomen superstar Bill Knight was also a key factor in York's powerful showing at the tournament. Knight, a member of Canada's national team, is crucial to York's bid for a national championship. Coach Dyba considers Knight paramount for the team's success not only because of his awesome playing ability but because of his experience, winning attitude, and role as team leader.

The Yeomen are now unofficially ranked third in the nation.

Dyba is convinced that his team has yet to reach its peak and "can play even better" in their remaining regular season and playoff matches. If the team continues to improve as predicted, they stand to become the country's top-ranked team.

The Yeomen's next home game is on January 17 at 8:00 when they host Ryerson.



THE FACES OF A CHAMPION: Winning the Mizuno Excalibur championship, the Yeomen proved that their 1988-89 success is no fluke. The team is unofficially ranked third in the nation.

Yeomen dominate N.Y. tourney

By JOHN GLASS

York's Hockey Yeomen went 3-0 last weekend to clinch the first annual North York Hockey Classic championship.

The Yeomen's display of hockey clearly showed that they are destined for a promising second half of the season. The easily handled their opponents from both college and university squads in the first two games of the round-robin tournament before advancing to the finals on Sunday.

On Friday they crushed Georgian College 11-1. The win enabled York to advance to Saturday's game against the Laurentian Voyageurs.

Despite a power play goal by the Vees within the first few minutes the Yeomen answered with goals by Curtis Coyne and Brian McDonald. York carried a one goal advantage into the second period. The rough style of play by both sides turned to York's advantage as they were able to out-skate the tiring Vees. The

Laurentian side managed just one more goal in the second period.

The Yeomen provided solid defence and had little trouble stifling the Voyageurs attack and keeping their shots well out of effective range. Guy Girouard helped anchor the defence while tallying a goal and an assist on the night.

Offensively the Yeomen kept up the pressure in the Vees end and were able to capitalize seven times on various opportunities. A five goal lead in the third allowed the Yeomen to open up and coast to a 7-2 win.

The cohesive team effort by the Yeomen was instrumental to their victory, and would prove to be vital in their next game against the University of Western Ontario Mustangs in the final.

After defeating the Waterloo Warriors on Saturday night, Western faced off against York at Seneca College in a game reminiscent of last year's CIAU final. The well-attended game saw a fast-paced, see-saw match between the two rivals. York prevailed by a 7-4 score.

Greg Rolston, the tournament's most valuable player, opened the scoring at 13:13 with the first of seven York tallies. The Mustangs replied with two quick goals, one coming on the powerplay. Sharp passing and speed provided York with various two on one and three on two advantages. As a result they led by a margin of 3-2 going into the second period.

Constant pressure in the Western end enabled York to build up a commanding lead from which they never looked back. The Mustangs mounted a series of attacks in the third period were unable to successfully penetrate York's blueline. Throughout, York's defence restricted the shots from the point, making Tim Robertson's netminding duties a lot easier. Robertson was thankful for the help. "The defence blocked a lot of shots and helped close up the alleys," said the York goalie. Despite York's dominance, Robertson was never sure that any

cont'd to p. 12

Yeowomen fall in O.T.

By VICTOR SERFATY

Yeowomen basketball coach Bill Pangos will be talking about the one that got away. However, unlike the weekend fisherman, he will be telling the truth.

In a game that featured everything from great defence to three point buckets, the Yeowomen lost a 52-50 heartbreaker in overtime to the Laurentian Voyageurs.

The biggest lead either team held was four points; the Yeowomen took a 23-21 lead into the locker room at halftime, playing aggressive defence that shut down the Laurentian attack.

The offense was another story. The inexperience of York's first year players proved costly as poor shots

and passes resulted in countless turnovers.

The Yeowomen were led by fifth year guard Michelle Sund and first year guard Cathy Amara. Amara, who was highly recruited, showed flashes of brilliance at both ends of the court.

The important match-up at center was clearly won by Laurentian. The Vees' big centre outrebounded and physically dominated under the boards.

The fair-sized York crowd was treated to a very exciting game and were on their feet for much of the contest. The rough play under the boards and drives to the basket by Amara and Sund were crowd pleasers.

cont'd to p. 12

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