

Fearless predictions

Streaks to end for both basketball Yeomen and Broitman

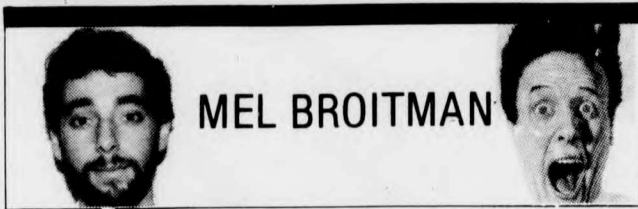
It last happened on January 8, 1974. Impossible as it may seem, it has been 13 years since the University of Toronto last defeated the York Yeomen in a men's basketball game.

Absurd. Ridiculous. Think about it—how could such a one-sided edge have built up in York's favour? After all, U of T is the country's largest school and is based in a city with the best high school basketball played anywhere in Canada. Sure the Varsity Blues have had some fine teams in recent years, but they all have failed to erase the blackest mark against their record. They haven't beaten York.

According to York and Yeomen alumnus Mark Jones, who played five seasons with the red and white, the rivalry is pretty serious business. "York and U of T is *the* game. You can go without a winning year, but beating U of T salvages the season," says Jones. Considering the dynamic turnover with college teams, it doesn't make sense that the Blues shouldn't have won at least once. But as Jones says, newcomers to York basketball are quickly assimilated into the tradition. "Even the rookies coming in to the program all learn about York/U of T and are taught that we just don't lose to U of T."

The fire in Jones' eyes when speaking of the York/U of T rivalry illustrates the Yeomen determination to continually thwart the Blues. Conversely, Jones claims the Blues are a hesitant bunch. "I'm sure there is a big mental block when they play us. We can see it in their eyes."

Obviously the York domination begins with veteran head coach Bob Bain. "We want to perpetuate the streak as long as possible," states Jones. "The intensity starts with Bob (Bain) and goes right down to the last guy on the bench."



Bain is less emphatic about the streak. No matter who the opposition, Bain states frankly, "I just don't like losing." This year the York coach is in the unfamiliar position of going into a Blues game as decided underdogs. Yet Bain doesn't appear fazed by the prospects. "Sure things swing. We might struggle for a year or two, but I have no doubt in my mind that we will have good young recruits next year to help us make it back."

Unquestionably, the University of Toronto will enter tomorrow nights clash with great anticipation. They're anxious to shirk the second fiddle status they've been playing for 13 long years. The Blues are led by new coach Gib Chapman who replaces Brian Heaney. The highly touted Heaney amassed a wealth of talent with sharp recruiting skills in his years as coach. Unfortunately he failed in the only place it counts: On the scoreboard.

Blues coach Chapman doesn't buy all the talk about York's demise as the elite club in the OUA Eastern Division. "I think that's a fallacy," claims Chapman. They've got four out of their top six players back from last year in Levinsky, McDermid, Sherwood and Rosenberg."

Chapman expects the nine-team OUA East champion Yeomen to be as tough as ever. "York has done a very good job of convincing the media that there has been a big turnover with the team," Chapman says. "York is certainly not the weak, young and inexperienced ball club that many people see."

Tomorrow night at Varsity Arena seems like as good a time as any for the Blues to finally emerge victorious. But then it appeared that way in last year's OUA East championship game at York. The Blues led by five points with possession of the ball and less than three minutes to play. Even the partisan York home crowd were about to throw in the towel. Yet somehow in the mayhem of the final 175 seconds, the Blues let it get away from them. The depth of Toronto's shock and disappointment was mirrored by York's relief and joy. Watching that game, I couldn't help but feel that the Yeomen pulled it out for the last time. The streak lived on, but only until next time.

Thinking back on last year's dramatic come from behind win, Bob Bain says, "I never felt that we couldn't do it; that we couldn't pull it out at the end." After a 13 year drought, the Blues hope to familiarize Bain with another feeling, one that U of T basketballers are finally ready to pass on to their rivals.

Editor's Note: We have worked Mel to the bone since July (see the 'before & after' pictures above) and we are giving him next week off. His consecutive column streak is snapped at 17, but we didn't want Broitman to turn into another Alfredo Griffin.

INTRAMURAL ROUND-UP

STANDINGS

MEN'S TORCH HOCKEY

Team	GP	W	L	T	F	A	Pts.
Founders	13	10	1	2	66	31	22
Bethune	13	10	1	2	57	27	22
Calumet	13	8	5	0	47	42	16
Glendon	13	7	5	1	60	46	15
Vanier	13	5	7	1	54	58	11
Osgoode	13	4	9	0	40	54	8
Winters	13	0	13	0	32	84	0

* END OF REGULAR SEASON

PLAYOFF RESULTS

Game #1 (Best of Three Series)

Founders 6 Glendon 0

Calumet 5 Bethune 4 (Overtime; shootout)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	GP	W	L	T	PTS
Founders	7	6	1	0	12
Mac	7	5	1	1	11
Bethune	7	5	2	0	10
Alumni	6	5	1	0	10
Stong	7	4	2	1	9
Glendon	8	3	5	0	4
Osgoode	5	2	3	0	4
Calumet	6	1	5	0	2
YBS	6	0	6	0	0

MEN'S TORCH BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	T	P	GP
Bethune	7	0	0	14	7
Stong	6	2	1	13	9
Osgoode	6	2	0	12	8
Founders	4	3	1	9	8
Mac	4	3	1	9	8
Winters	3	3	1	7	7
Calumet	4	2	0	8	6
Alumni	3	3	0	6	6
Vanier	2	7	0	4	9
Grads	1	7	0	2	8
Glendon	0	7	0	0	6

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