

Poor passing causes tie for Yeowomen



by Paul Headrick

The Yeowomen soccer team gave up its first goal and first point of the season Wednesday with a 1-1 home tie against the University of Toronto Lady Blues. York, shocked by an early Toronto goal, equalized quickly but couldn't organize a sustained attack to lift the team to a win.

After five minutes, the Yeowomen failed to move out of their own end on successive throw-ins. The Blues won a loose ball, and with the defenders overcommitted to one side, a long pass to the opposite wing created an easy goal for them.

York struck back after 15 minutes on a classic corner kick. Heather Gough made a run from the back and slashed through a crowded penalty box to meet the cross with a driving header. The Blues' keeper didn't move.

With a strong wind at their backs, the Yeowomen carried most of the play for the rest of the half. Their scoring chance came when a panicky Blues back-dropped on the ball in the box and a penalty was called. But, Monica Verronneau's low shot lacked pace and UofT's keeper sprawled to make the save.

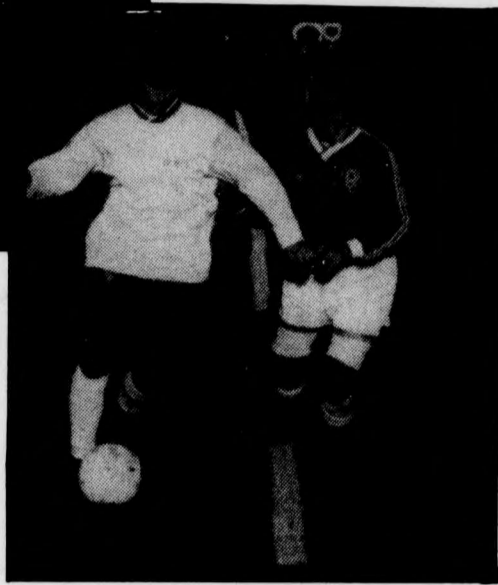
Rookie striker Sam Hellens generated York's best efforts with fluid play, seemingly able to collect the ball and turn on the UofT defenders at will. On one run, Hellens dashed through the defence only to see her hurried shot pulled high by the wind, making an easy stop for the Blues' keeper.

In the second half, territorial play became more even. Toronto twice saw sharp angled shots go off the top of the bar, and York's defence was caught flat footed more than once, recovering with impressive speed each time. The midfield offered less and less offensive support, and Hellens was left by herself to chase down long passes and attack alone.

Later in the game, with the defence collapsing on Hellens, Kristen Bell seized the opportunity to overlap, racing forward to gather in Hellens' chip down the wing, then delivering an accurate cross to Christina Bozanis. Bozanis did well to control the ball, but her rushed shot went high. There were few other coordinated attacks.

Head coach David Bell said after the game that York's performance was "disappointing," and he was particularly critical of the team's poor passing. UofT head coach, Niki Nicolaou, thought her team dominated in the second half and deserved to win. The Yeowomen's season record now stands at three wins and one tie. They play next at Ryerson on October 11.

I think I can: Try as they might, the Yeowomen just couldn't shake those Lady Blues



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