

Nobby Wirkowski to coach our first football team THIS YEAR

By Ross Howard

Football comes to York this year, and with it one of Canada's top professional coaches, Nobby Wirkowski.

And with him comes a philosophy that football is the best sport to give a sense of involvement in university sports to all members of the campus.

"There are lots of people looking for an outlet but don't want to actually play heavy sports," he said. "They're looking for an involvement through participation as spectators. And sports like football and hockey are the greatest source of involvement for any student."

Nobby feels football will give a lot of students the chance to feel part of York, through mass rallies, game support, and interest in the team.

"This kind of involvement is good — any personal involvement in anything helps to effect and form your character is good —

and it's only compounded when you are part of hundreds of fans supporting a team," he said.

Vigorous support of sports at York will be a new thing, and the introduction of a full-time trained man to handle all inter-university athletics may be the key to success for sports at York.

Wirkowski, or Nobby as everybody knows him, still comes under the direction of Bryce Taylor, Phys. Ed. director, but Nobby's efforts in football alone may set new standards for the relationship between the phys ed directors and students.

In football, he has big plans for the team and York. He has already lined up a full staff of assistant coaches, and an excellent trainer. A training camp started at the campus on August 26, and will continue on an increasing basis up until the first game, against Laurentian University in Sudbury, September 21.

As Nobby emphasizes, this

year is strictly a beginning year, and successes won't necessarily be a regular thing for the team. He hopes to carry about 50 players right through this season, which will be only exhibition games. Further details on games will be released soon.

"Sure I know there has been a lot of opposition to football coming to York," said Wirkowski, "but some of that feeling has been overcome, and we hope to show other people that football isn't all grunt and groan."

"Football is like life — you've got to work and discipline yourself if you want to succeed. Players learn loyalty to their mates, to their coach and the school. They've got to be more alert than just rushing in and smashing heads.

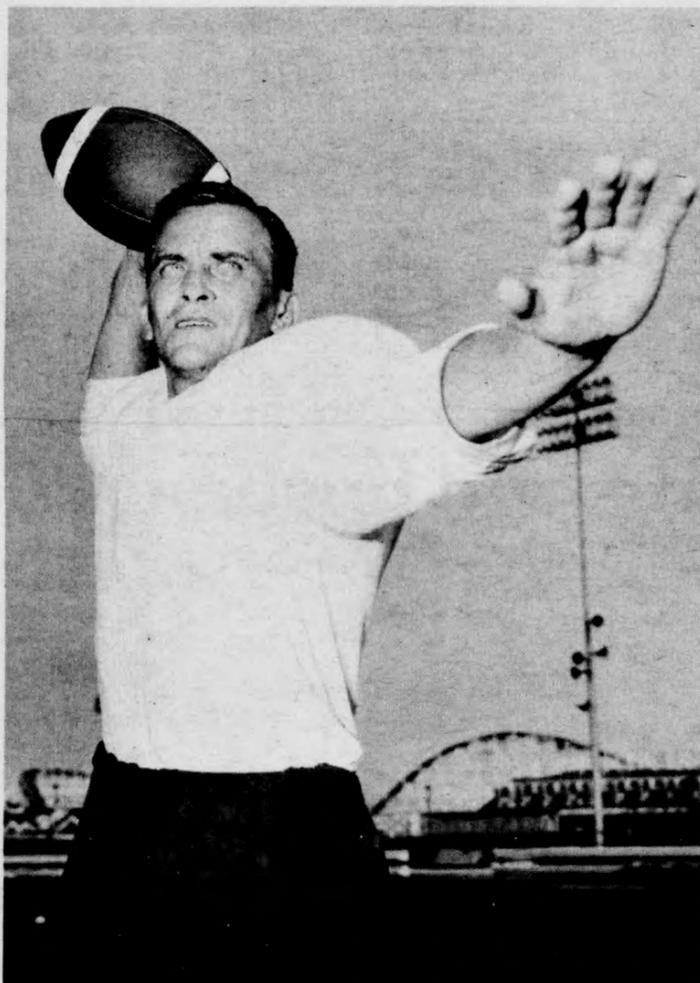
As coach, Nobby says, "I'm not going to be a little god to the players. I'm always open to talk to the players and I hope to get to know them very well — well enough to understand what is affecting their playing."

Wirkowski will put the York players through what will become one of the toughest conditioning courses and training programs here on campus, and at the same time wants the student body to learn to know the players and have some pride in their efforts.

But why here? Why does the former head coach of the Toronto Argos, a man with an unfinished contract come to York?

"York is still young. I saw it as a place to really have an effect on what happens in the future. Once we get a year of football established we'll begin to form a strong team. Grads and Senior students will be our best recruiters, as they tell others of what we have to offer. I think I can build a strong team."

As a former teacher at DeLaSalle in Toronto, Nobby says he had learned to enjoy teaching. He sees York as a chance to get back close to students, and gain more security than the professional coaching circuit offers.



Nobby Wirkowski has strong opinions about the value of football for York.

SCROOGE
SAY:
HEAVEN IS
MONEY
AT THE
COMMERCE



You name it

We've got it

Football, squash

Swimming, tennis,...

You name your physical interest, and we've got it here at York.

Well, almost. The York program of physical education facilities has been growing to provide an opportunity for almost everyone to get involved in a sport at some level.

York offers opportunities to participate in sports on three separate levels of competition.

Every student can participate in a growing list of sports as part of a team for his own college, against the other colleges; for the university against other universities; or for one of several teams organized within his college.

Each college has its own athletic council to set schedules and regulations, and to provide equipment for team sports.

At the university level, expert coaches train and direct players in sports such as football, basketball,

hockey, womens' field hockey, volleyball, swimming, badminton and tennis.

This year will be the first year York will have a complete set of buildings for athletic activities. The large Tait McKenzie athletic building has two gymnasiums, a large modern pool, squash courts, an archery range, and seminar and class rooms. Behind the Tait McKenzie's building, the new York arena will be opened this fall for hockey teams (both men and women, on college and university level) and other activities that may be able to use the building.

Using these facilities throughout the year will be physical education majors.

Complete details of what the phys ed complex has to offer are contained in the red-cover Athletics Handbook issued to all students at the beginning of the year.

Ontario Student Awards

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

OCTOBER 31, 1968

Any application submitted between November 1, 1968 and January 31, 1969 will be assessed during the winter term and the award based upon one-half the assessed need for the full academic year.