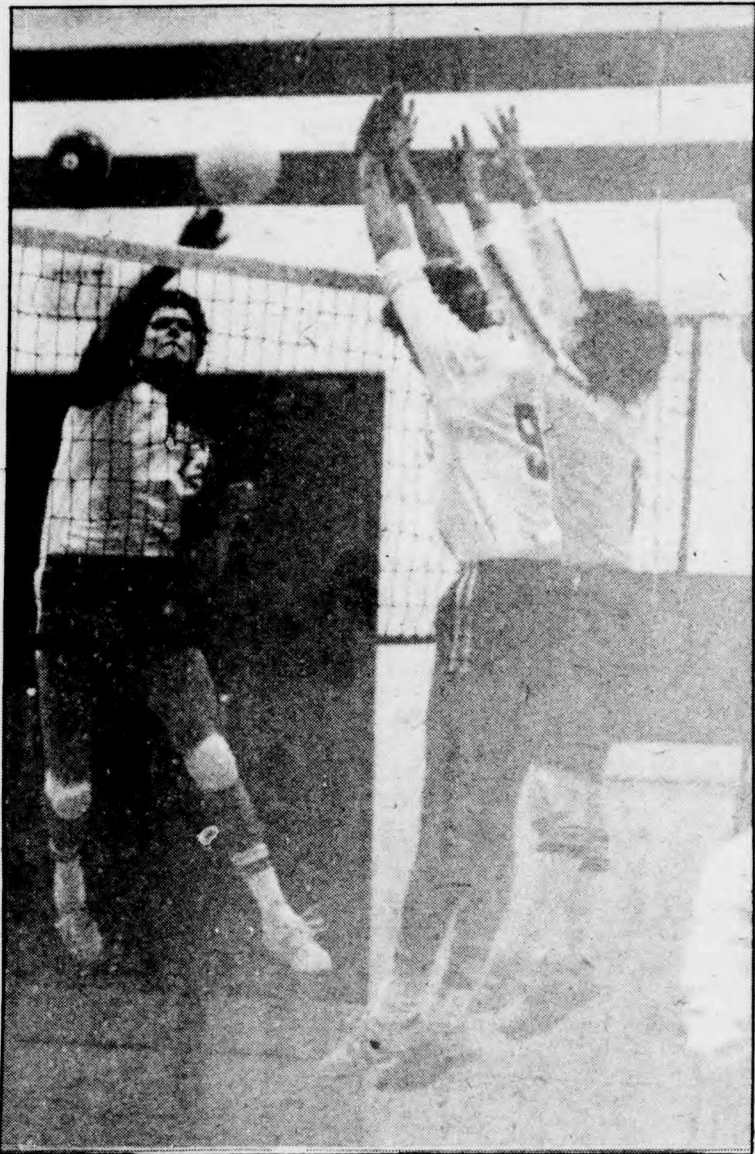




Lions roar to second tourney title



York's Mark Ainsworth goes up for a hit against the Alberta Golden Bears. York upset the fourth ranked Bears two games to one, 15-13, 13-15 and 15-13.

Jonathan Mann
Penn State's Nittany Lions snatched the Excalibur Volleyball Classic for the second year in a row this weekend, outclassing York's Yeomen, who were left with a disappointing second place finish.

The University of Alberta Golden Bears, the top rated Canadian team in the tournament were third, while the University of Guelph's Gryphons held fourth spot.

Unbeaten string

The Yeomen played well for much of the tourney, going into the finals with an unbeaten string of matches and a 9-3 record in games.

Penn did only a bit better, taking all their matches with a 9-1 record.

But it was Sunday afternoon's final that showed how different these two teams are. The Lions, yet to begin their regular season back home, traded games with the Yeomen, winning the first 15-13 and losing the second 15-10. The Yeomen effort was spurred on by Mark Ainsworth, whose scoring rally in the second game netted a tournament record.

As the third game began the Yeomen seemed to have gained control, but saddened fans watched as a promising 6-2 lead fizzled, leaving York behind 10-5 and two games to one.

The Yeomen entered the fourth game needing to win to stay alive in the best of five meeting. They rose to the occasion, keeping the score

keeper busy chalking up their 9-1 lead.

Nearing the victory, they relaxed, taking their next four points while giving up just as many. Finally, with the score 13-5 in their favour, things fell apart. The Yeomen gave up 10 consecutive points, turning an almost certain win into a less than proud 15-13 defeat.

The game over, a dejected York squad sat on the bench awaiting the awards ceremony, sharing with the spectators an inability to understand why things had gone so bad, so fast.

After the ceremony, dejected York Co-Captain Mark Ainsworth seemed no more certain of the reasons behind the loss.

He attributed it to "inexperience". Unsure of just what it was that cost York the fourth game after a 13-5 lead, he ventured that with a seemingly easy victory in sight "maybe we were a little too anxious."

Better than second

York Coach Wally Dyba, while happy with his team's performance against the Penn powerhouse felt that York could have done better than second place.

"You can be satisfied with it," he told *Excalibur*, "but if you're satisfied with it then that's as good as you're going to get."

In the outspoken manner that has characterized his five year tenure as Yeomen Coach Dyba

said simply, "We don't wear silver, we only wear gold."

This year's Classic saw many of last year's records broken, including two by York's Mark Ainsworth. His serving yielded the most aces in the tournament (20) as well as the most in one game (7).

Records broken

The York squad broke a total of 5 records, matched only by the Golden Bears with an additional 5 as well. Victorious Penn State went home without any at all.

The Tournament's Most Valuable Player award went to Yeomen Setter Dave Chambers, while the York's John Mar was voted to the Classic All-Star team. Guelph's Tony Tenwesteneid, Alberta's Lawrence Sedore and Terry Danyluk and Penn's Ahmet Ozcan and Mike Gordon rounded out the All-Stars.

York plays next January 16 against Queen's. Be there. Aloha.

Jules "Sparky" Xavier's few remaining friends here at *Excalibur* would like to wish him a reasonably happy birthday, wishing him many more far away from us. We luv ya kid!!

"We don't wear silver...we only wear gold."

W. Dyba

York sweeps West

Rose Crawford

The York University Basketball Yeomen ended a three-tournament stint over the holidays and came away as the undisputed kings of Canadian college basketball.

Their Western Canada tour started off in Winnipeg on December 26-28, where the Yeomen participated in the "Wesman" Classic.

Not having played since December 5, they did not perform quite up to par and thus finished in second place in the tournament. After crushing the hosts Wesmen 101-68 and the Dalhousie Tigers 113-84, they suffered their second tournament loss of the season at the hands of defending Canadian college champs, Victoria Vikings, 83-75.

The Yeomen next travelled to Brandon where they were featured in the Brandon University Blue and Gold Classic.

Living up to their number one national ranking, the Yeomen easily defeated sixth ranked Guelph Gryphons 83-72 in the opening round. They then went on to defeat the Brandon Bobcats 73-69 to take the tourney.

The Yeomen were hoping for a re-match against Victoria in this tournament, but the Vikings were upset by Brandon 77-76 in overtime.

The weekend of January 2-4, saw the Yeomen win their second consecutive tournament, taking the University of Calgary Dinosaur Classic.

They opened the tournament with a decisive 82-63 victory over the Alberta Golden Bears. The Yeomen were led by a dazzling

performance by guard Dave Coulthard who sank a remarkable 34 point in only seventeen minutes of play, including 12 consecutive points in the latter part of the first

half to break a 25-25 deadlock.

York, once again, faced the Brandon Bobcats in the final game for the tournament title and easily defeated them 85-64.

A New World Record

York's Angella Taylor, participating in the Saskatoon Indoor Games over the holidays, set a new world record in the women's 300 metres.

Taylor covered the distance in a time of 36.71 seconds, trimming .42 seconds off the old mark of 37.13.

According to Taylor, her strength training helped greatly in the race and indeed it was a strong finishing kick that pushed her past second place finisher Marlene Ottey of the University of Nebraska. She finished with a time of 37.23 seconds.

Shortstops

Intercollege Sports News

The coordinators of intercollege sports, Arvo Tiidus and Meg Innes, have released their selections for the Most Improved Team Awards. The winners are as follows: Coed Basketball-Calumet, Flag Football (M)-Stong, (W)-Founders, Coed Volleyball-McLaughlin, Soccer (M)-McLaughlin, and Coed Baseball-Winters.

Athletes of the Week

After much deliberation, the editors of *Excalibur Sports* have chosen Yeomen Dave Chambers and Dave Coulthard as this week's Male Athletes of the Week.

Following his outstanding performance, Chambers was voted the MVP at the Excalibur Volleyball Classic last weekend.

Over the Christmas break, Dave Coulthard led the basketball Yeomen to two tournament victories and a second place finish in another, averaging 23 points per game.

Point guard Kim Holden of the Yeowomen Basketball team is this week's Female Athlete of the Week, due to her strong performance in the U of T New Year Tournament. She averaged 18 points in the three games played, leading her team in two of those games. Even in her final game following an injury to her ankle, she went back into the game and played extremely well.

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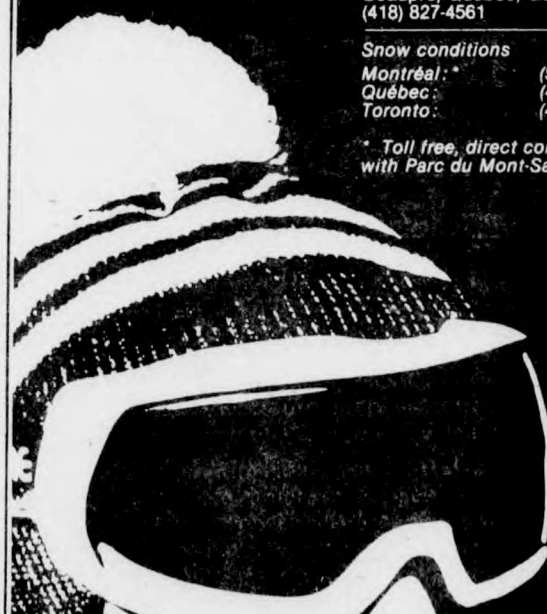
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