

York ski team hits slopes to get off to early start

Believe it or not, York has a varsity ski team and it's hitting the slopes early this year—the grass slopes, that is—in hopes of getting an early jump on the competition in the newly formed Ontario university ski series starting in January.

Along with the arduous dry-land training every successful skier must go through, the team is trying a new technique of training called grass skiing.

Using roller skis which are only a little longer than the ski boots themselves, the team members are hoping to simulate snow conditions enough to be a couple of months ahead of their opponents.

The idea was the brainstorm of third year player-coach Mark Poray and second year man Jim Wiggins. The two spent most of the summer testing the skis and training on them. They were later joined in the fall by last year's captain Rick McFadden and veteran Vesa Simanaian as well as several promising newcomers.

The ski team operates on a very small budget which barely covers entry fees in the six races of the series. The skiers receive no financial aid in equipping themselves for a

sport where equipment costs can run as high as eight hundred dollars.

Last year, for example, Poray, who doubles as a ski instructor, broke a ski in a fall during a race where he was representing York. He was not reimbursed by the school but provided with a new pair of skis by Fischer manufacturers.

In looking at his roster, Poray is optimistic about the team's chances of success this year. McFadden, a top Ontario junior racer, had a disappointing season but will be a strong contender for a stop in the individual championship.

Wiggins, who started racing only last year, suffered a major setback after a high speed argument with a tree but is back and ready for the series.

The ever-improving Simanien could be this year's four-way champion, competing in both Alpine events, the slalom and giant slalom, as well as jumping and cross country.

Also on the team are Herb Feller and Lou Slosel, last year's top racer at Conestoga College. All should help the team in making them contenders for the series championship.



"Snow seems kind of lumpy," ace skier Vernon Gessner mutters to his companion as the two of them barrel down the slopes. "Well," ace companion Barney Schusser (bachelor of companionship at York) replies, "that could be because we're sliding down a deserted cow pasture, and there just ain't no snow." Vernon strokes his five-day old beard and ponders this development, little realizing that he is on a collision course with a cow...

Men turn in fine efforts

By RICK SPENCE

Although they may never threaten the highly-paid stars of the NBA or the NHL, York's intercollegiate male athletes still manage to put up fine performances, especially in hockey and basketball.

In last week's hockey action, McLaughlin clobbered Calumet 11-2 Osgoode mangled MBA 9-2, Calumet humbled the graduates 6-0, Stong stifled Founders 5-0, Osgoode belted Be-

thune 4-1, McLaughlin vanquished Vanier 2-1, MBA defeated Grads 3-1, and Vanier and Bethune tied 3-3.

In coed basketball, Stong won the right to meet Glendon in the finals by beating McLaughlin 42-38.

In men's basketball, Stong I battered Bethune I 48-33, while Stong's second team lost by default to Founders. Bethune's second team bested McLaughlin 43-37, Osgoode overwhelmed Calumet 61-45, and Winters defaulted to Calumet.

Women's basketball featured defaults by Winters, Bethune and McLaughlin to Founders, Vanier and Osgoode respectively.

Women's hockey was highlighted by a score, as Founders shut out Vanier 6-0, along with the usual defaults of Winters to Stong, McLaughlin to Bethune, and Glendon to Grads.

The inner tube water polo championship was decided last week as Founders won it all by sinking Stong, 6-5. Bethune finished third.

Puckwomen win in Guelph match

By DEBBIE CATE

Last Wednesday the hockey Yeowomen edged the Guelph Gryphons 4-3 in league play at the Ice Palace.

Cathy Brown opened the scoring for

York at the four minute mark of the first period, only to have Guelph bounce back and blast one home two minutes later. The Yeowomen regained the lead when Barb Ollerenshaw broke through the Guelph defence to make it 2-1 on an unassisted goal.

Play was slow in the second period and both teams, tiring quickly, switched lines at every opportunity.

The short rest between periods fired up the Yeowomen and six seconds into the final frame, Ollerenshaw zig-zagged through the Gryphons and deked the goaltender to score on a backhand shot. The strong Guelph team came back to make it 3-2.

The play then see-sawed until Liz Bowes tapped in a rebound from a blistering slapshot by Wendy Stringer with five minutes left in the game. The 4-2 lead took the pressure off York with Guelph rounding out the scoring to make it 4-3.

PUCKNOTES: Due to injuries and absenteeism, York played without three of its forwards. Home ice, however, gave the Yeowomen the advantage as Guelph was unaccustomed to the extra 12-foot width of the rink and to the slickness of the ice... York lost to Guelph 5-1 in last year's semifinals... York hosts their arch rivals, the University of Toronto Blues Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Ice Palace.

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