

Yeomen down Varsity Blues in a spectacular 1-0 upset win

By JAMES HOGGETT

The York soccer Yeomen finally got back on track by grabbing three out of a possible four points over the weekend, keeping their playoff hopes alive in the process.

York's first game was at home against the University of Toronto and featured York's best performance of the year. In the first half both teams tested each other with both having a number of good scoring chances. Despite the pressure, both teams could not put the ball in the net and the first half ended scoreless.

The second half, however, was much different, as York totally dominated the Blues. With only 12 minutes left in the game York's Mike Mazza fed a pass to Anthony Robbins who drilled a thundering blast into the U of T goal from about 30 yards out. This was all the Yeomen would need as the goal burst the bubble of the first place previously undefeated Blues.

York however was not content to sit on their lead as they kept the pressure on the U of T goal. York's Anthony Daley had a chance to put the Yeomen up 2-0 as he moved in on the Toronto goal and fired a shot at an empty corner. But Blues defender dove across the goal mouth and deflected the ball. The game ended 1-0 for the Yeomen.

"This was an essential game for us," Carlos Abascal, assistant coach and manager pointed out. "We needed the win if we wanted to have

any chance in making the playoffs."

"I feel great," Anthony Robbins said after the game. "We really needed the win and what makes it even better is that it was against first place Toronto."

Coach Norm Crandles was equally ecstatic over the upset win. "This was the kind of game we have threatened to put together all season," Crandles said. "We have overpowered Toronto totally. We manoeuvred the ball well and executed our plays perfectly. By far this was our best performance all season," Crandles added.

Another contributing factor to York's impressive victory was a solid performance by the defence which virtually shut down the Blues in the second half. Netminder Paul Bottos played another strong game and can be credited for keeping York in the game, especially in the first half. "It was Paul's best game for York in four years," coach Crandles said.

This game was so important for York to win that they even had a few of their players playing injured. Robert Bernardi was suffering from a damaged ankle and Mike Mazza, who set up York's winning goal, played despite suffering from a case of bronchitis.

York's other game was on the road against the Trent Nationals. Absent from the Yeomen lineup was Robert Bernardi, George Katsuras and Anthony Robbins, all due to injuries.

With this many holes in the York

line-up, the Yeomen could only muster a 1-1 tie against the Nationals. Goaltender Paul Bottos was never really tested as Trent only managed one good scoring opportunity, one which they capitalized on. Mike Mazza scored York's only goal on an individual effort, beating three Trent defenders and drilling the ball in from about 10 yards out.

"We got three out of four points over the weekend which is not that bad," Crandles said. "All together I'm quite pleased despite the fact that we were missing our starting strikers due to injuries."

In order to fill the holes in the Yeomen offence Crandles had to shuffle some players around. Players were so scarce that Crandles played back-up goalie Ralf Torre as a right striker.

With the three points the Yeomen picked up over the weekend, they are in good shape to overtake the Laurentian Voyageurs and grab the final playoff spot. York has three games remaining in the regular season and finds itself just four points back of fourth place Laurentian. Because of a fluke of luck, the Yeomen have a good chance of catching the Voyageurs as York's final game of the season will be against Laurentian, a game scheduled previously but not played due to poor field conditions.

The Yeomen continue their road trip this weekend as they travel to play Carleton and RMC. York needs wins in both these games to keep their playoff hopes alive.



JAMES HOGGETT

A THUNDERING BLAST: York's Anthony Robbins scores winning goal which lead York to its upset win over Varsity Blues.

Playoffs in sight as York wins third straight

By DAVID BUNDAS

It took a full quarter of play and an 11-0 deficit before the York Yeomen finally put on their game faces to respond to the homecoming crowd and rally to defeat the Waterloo Warriors 30-11.

The Warriors surprised the sluggish looking Yeomen, scoring on a 24 yard Dean Albrecht field goal on their second possession, before going further ahead with a 23-yard

touchdown grab by Richard Chen. Their two point conversion moved them in front 11-0 with 41 seconds left in the first quarter.

York's offence took some time before they got it together, but the Yeomen defence and specialty teams picked up the slack. Jamie Williamson, who stymied many a Warrior threat, led the charge with the first of his three interceptions of the day. He picked off a Mike Wright pass to give

York the ball at the 35 yard line.

Five plays later the Yeomen were on the scoreboard when Terry Douglas hauled in a play-action pass from Adam Karlsson to cut Waterloo's lead to 11-7.

With the success of Tom Kapantrias on the specialty teams, opposing teams have been trying to keep the ball out of his hands by kicking to whomever else is on the field with the rookie speedster. But York's

answer to that was quite simple, inject another rookie speedster.

Keith McFarlane returned four punts for 124 yards and Kapantrias had one for 19 yards to continually give York good field position. McFarlane scored his first points as a Yeomen streaking up the middle on a 54 yard punt return for a touchdown to move York ahead for the first time 13-11 with 2:22 left in the half.

After two Alan Meyers' field goals from 20 and 15 yards out moved York ahead 19-11, another sparkling punt return by McFarlane gave York the ball at the Waterloo 19 yard line. Adam Karlsson took little time in hitting Steve DelZotto on the next play for the touchdown.

Meyers showed good form coming off an injury, booting another field goal, this one from 37 yards out, while punter Steve Platsis rounded out the scoring with a 50 yard single to make the final 30-11.

The win marked York's third victory in a row, putting all the Yeomen in high spirits, but none more than a jubilant Keith McFarlane. "I'm a rookie and the coaches have been taking me along slowly," McFarlane said, "but it really feels great to help out."

Coach Frank Cosentino was pleased with his player's first effort on punt returns. "McFarlane was certainly a spark for us," Cosentino said. "We now have a twin threat on punt and kick returns."

Meanwhile, York's defence has their best game to date holding Waterloo to six first downs and 17 yards on 21 carries on the ground. They also had four sacks (two for Carl Brillinger) and five interceptions. Defensive coach Nobby Wirkowski felt that shutting down the Warrior rushing attack helped York immensely. "It's a hell of a lot easier when you know what you're gonna face and after we stopped the run-

ning game we were able to concentrate on defending the pass," Wirkowski said.

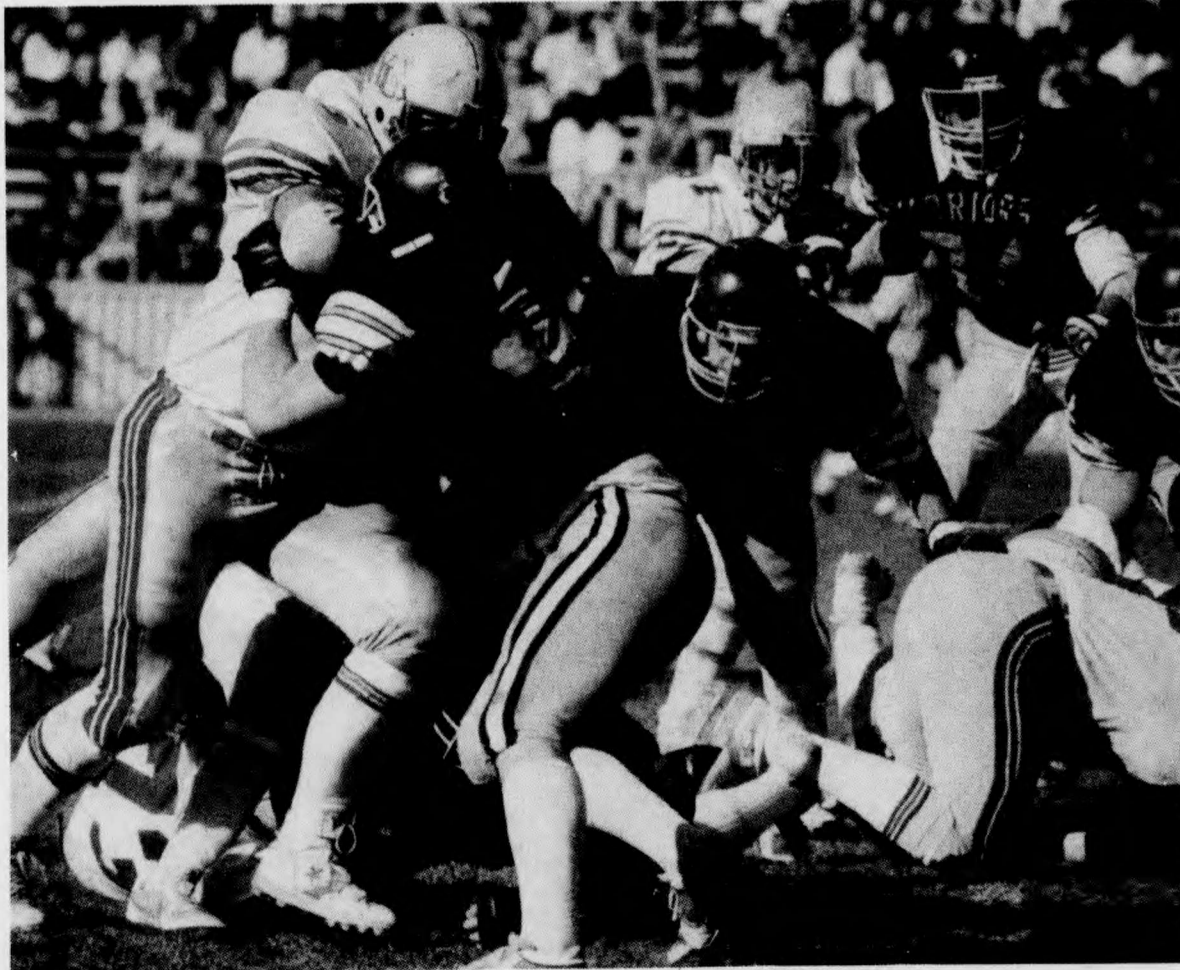
On the offensive side Adam Karlsson completed 18 of 30 for 233 yards and two touchdowns. He connected on 60 percent of his passes for the third week in a row. Terry Douglas carried 13 times for 60 yards and hauled in six catches for 48 yards to lead the team. York's execution was also very good with only three penalties for 25 yards.

Bundas Odds: The Yeomen travel to play Laurier tonight (October 23). A win puts them in the playoffs and a loss gives them very little hope. Western (6-0) and Guelph (5-1) have clinched the first and second, with York, McMaster, and Laurier tied at 3-3 left to battle it out for the remaining two playoff spots.

Laurier is led by quarters Mike Wilson and Rod Philip, and star receiver Ken Evraire. On the ground the people to watch for are Luc Garrisson and Rob Clark. The Golden Hawks are coming off a loss to Windsor and are sure to be inspired at home, therefore the spread favours Laurier by four points.

The Yeomen on the other hand have played an inspired brand of football of their own the last three weeks, and look like a totally different team than the one that started the season 0-3. The rookies who started the season green and untested have gradually matured into a team of fiery competitors and feature Tom Kapantrias, Keith McFarlane, Adam Karlsson, George Eliadis, John Romain, John O'Brien, and Sean Foudy.

Jamie Williamson's three interceptions against Waterloo is tops in the Ontario University Athletic Association this season and gives him six on the year for another best. With Devon Hanson back in the lineup at safety, York's defence is even stronger.



ROBERTA DI MAIO

BANGING HEADS: Yeomen front line does good job in protecting QB Karlsson.