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## Welcome to the Ice Barn

opinion

by Zubin Hooshangi

wo weeks ago I attended the York Yeomen's winning hockey match over the McGill Redmen. It was the first official home game of the season, and the turnout was good, considering the fact that 'home' implies skating under the roof top of the Ice Palace.

With a name like the Ice Palace, one would expect this so-called 'palace' to be a glittering wonder of the world. Sadly, the Ice Palace is anything but palatial, and instead, fans must cheer inside a building that resembles a rundown warehouse. As a visitor from Montreal remarked during the game: "This place is a dump! We would all probably be better off playing in a barn."

Understandably, the facility is an embarrassment for the third largest university in Canada, who are unable to even supply a speaker system that permits one to understand what is being announced inside the arena.

At times, ear plercing sounds emitted from the malfunctioning box of wires, causing afflicted spectators to scream, "Kill the Mike!!!"

In addition, the spectators' benches are sparse in numbers and dangerously close to the ice. A flying puck can easily blind a spectator, as there is no glass barrier high enough to shelld the spectators from the action on the ice.

Washroom facilities are designed for one person at a time, and a snack bar and tuck shop are non-existent as there is no room to place them.

Surprisingly, there are facilities for the players to change and shower in, and there is a coffee machine immediately near the

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entrance of the building, which many are reluctant to use for obvious reasons.

The 'press box,' if you can call it that, resembles some sort of tree fort that a couple of grade five kids put together after school.

On the whole, the 'Ice Barn,' 'Ice Dump,' or whatever else you want to call it, was no doubt designed as a practice rink, not as a spectator arena where people are charged three dollars per person to shiver and guard all evening against flying pucks or hockey sticks. Obviously, many stand, as the game cannot be fully seen sitting down.

A curious spectator, pointed out "I don't understand how people write exams in here ... it's so claustrophobic, and there's this peculiar smell . . ."

Between periods, everyone rushes outside, or stands patiently inside the packed lobby, due to the malfunctioning heating system, which lately seems to be blowing out cold rather than warm air.

Ultimately, it is not a question of whether York University's arena is an embarassment, or whether the library has only one copy of a highly demanded economics book. In fact, the question is how the administration of such a collossal institution should aid, by funding, the very students who pay high academic fees every year and for whom the institution exists.

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# Soccer Yeowomen drop to third

by Dannis Koromilas

he Yeowomen soccer team was dethroned of its second place position by Queen's in its last regular season

The 2-1 loss will result in York settling for third place and facing Laurier in the opening round of the playoffs.

Queen's opened the scoring halfway through the first quarter with a superb solo effort by centre Lisa Napolitano, who carried the ball across the congested York goal mouth and drove a hard, low shot into the corner of the net.

York responded with determined offensive attacks on the Queen's net, but couldn't manage to get a good shot at the Queen's goalie.

The game continued evenly until the half, with York goalie Cheryl Punnet having to come up on a few close plays by a strong Queen's offence.

Queen's furthered its lead early in the second half with Karen Jessup sneaking a shot inside the left goal post.

York's defence showed signs of faltering as they seemed to lose

communication with their teammates, of ten, passing the ball to Queen's.

York finally scored its first and only goal of the game when Beth Munro powered the ball over the Queen's goalie. The ball hadn't crossed the goal line, but bounced off the ground and hit the goalie's legs and bounced into the net.

York followed up the goal with some impressive footwork and give-and-go passing up the side-lines, but continued to run into a flurry of blue jerseys whenever they tried getting inside. The play got chippy, and York bore the brunt of it. The Yeowomen's Sue Gough was forced to leave the game with an injured ankle after being kicked by an opposing player.

York battled on late in the game with a barrage of shots at the Queen's goal until York player Sam Hellens was sandwiched by two Queen's defenders ad then shoved to the ground. An ambulance was called, even though Hellens managed to walk off the field on her own.

After the game, York coach

David Bell looked ahead to the playoffs against Laurier. "We could've played a lot better. We have t get in there and fight and start getting to the ball first. Laurier coaches were here today scouting and have gotten a look at us, we still haven't seen them. We are just going to have to get on top of our game next week."

Bell complained about the hit made on Hellens suggesting there should have been a card issued, but nothing came of his protest.

Assistant coach Shane Altenstad pointed out the team must begin focusing on its immediate task, which is to advance to the CIAU's in halifax. To achieve this goal, they must return to concentrating on the basics, like passing and controlling the ball.

"We've cancelled the next practice, just to give time for every one to heal, but after that, I'm expecting big things from not just one or two players, but the entire team," said Altenstad.

The soccer Yeowomen are definitely going to have to pull together before their playoff encounter, if they want their season's objectives realized.

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