

sports

MEN'S SCHEDULE

HOCKEY
 Tues. Mar. 7 — OUA A playoffs at York 8 pm
 Fri. & Sat. Mar. 10 & 11 — OUA A playoffs Varsity Arena

BASKETBALL

Mar. 3, 4 & 5: CIAU National Championship
 @ Home of WCIAA Champion
 March 3 - Atlantic vs Quebec;
 Western vs Ontario
 March 4 - Consolation Game
 March 5 - Championship Game

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

VOLLEYBALL
 Mar. 3 & 4: CWIAU Championships at Laurentian University

York downed by Windsor in b-ball finals

By RON KAUFMAN

Saturday afternoon before a packed gym (noticeably absent of York fans) the York Yeomen came within fifteen minutes of winning their first championship. As it stands the Yeomen finished as runners-up based on their 85-79 win over Western in the semi-finals. However, the Yeomen were outstanding in defeat 79-61 and as Coach Bob McKinney said after the game, "We've got nothing to be ashamed of. Just quote me on one thing....We'll be back".

In the first half the Yeomen looked as if they were on their way. Two jump shots by Bob Pike and Don Holmstrom gave the team an early lead which they held throughout the half. With ten minutes to go York led 35-25 on three long jumpers by Holmstrom, Bob Weppeler and Butch Feldman. The Yeomen then suffered a few defensive lapses but still led 39-34 at the half.

The Yeomen had little trouble up to this point with the Lancer man-to-

man defence as Holmstrom and Vince Santoro quickly broke the press and got the ball downcourt. But in the second half, Windsor used a three-man pinch, a defence designed to trap the ballhandler at mid-court. This defence coupled with strong outside shooting by Jerry Sovran quickly reduced the lead and a three-point play by Peter Mingay tied the score with 16:24 remaining in the game.

For all intents and purposes, the game was now over.

As time ran out the Yeomen could do no better than reduce their deficit to ten points. Then their scrambling defence opened up the court for the Lancers who stretched their lead to the 18-point margin they held at the end.

Sovran led the Lancers with 20 points followed by Tino Lenti and Ward Conway each with 13. Holmstrom hooped 15 points for York followed by Feldman with 12 and Lane and Santoro with 9 points each.

York beats Western 85-79 in semis

By RON KAUFMAN

Throughout the season this column criticized York's winless record against western opposition. Friday night at Tait Mackenzie, the Yeomen had the last laugh as they defeated the favoured Western Mustangs 85-79 in an OUA A semi-final playoff game.

The win advanced the Yeomen to their first-ever championship match. Their opposition there was the defending OUA A champion Windsor Lancers who advanced to the finals with a relatively easy 100-78 conquest of the Ottawa Gee Gees. Windsor had previously upset top-rated Waterloo in a quarter-final game.

In semi-finals, the Yeomen outthrustled and outrebounded the Mustangs from the opening tip. Both teams were in foul trouble as the referees called a close game at both ends of the court. Western star Marnix Heersink had four fouls at the half as did York's Jerry Varsava. York's Ed Talaj, Alf Lane and Vince Santoro all accumulated three fouls.

The Yeomen took a 47-39 lead into the second half. Western had jumped out to an early lead as Gary Ghent broke into the clear on a fast break and scored three easy baskets. But York turned the tables as Bob Pike, Bob Weppeler and Lane completely dominated the boards to set up the Yeomen's fast break.

Once again the rookies led the way as Pike, Varsava and Talaj displayed great two-way play. Pike was especially imposing as he seemed to block every Mustang shot. All-star Western forward Raoul Kreek showed an extreme

reluctance to shoot after 'Piker' stuffed him three times in succession. Ottawa coach George Potvin remarked at half-time that Pike was probably the top jumper he had seen all year.

In the second half York looked to be in early trouble as both Lane and Santoro obtained their fourth foul in the first minute of play. When Santoro fouled out with over fifteen minutes remaining in the game, things really began to look glum. However Jerry Varsava, the smallest player on the team at 5 ft. 9 in. came in and duplicated his heroics of the quarter-finals setting up plays and netting long jumpers.

His amazing outside shooting opened up the middle for Talaj and Butch Feldman. Things got close again in the final minute but Pike iced the game with two quick baskets on passes from Talaj and Lane.

Varsava led the team with 16 points. Feldman, Lane and Pike followed with 12 points each. Don Holmstrom once again played a fine all-around floor game both on defence and offence. Kreek led the Mustangs with 22 points.

KAUF-DROPS....The best thing the Mustangs had going for them was their cheerleaders. The Yeomen cheerleaders maintained their perfect record of not showing up for a game all year....In the opening game, the Lancers totally out-classed Ottawa in the second half. Their bench depth was a definite factor....Their well-balanced attack was led by Jim Chase with 14 points. Merv Sabey hooped 25 for the losers. Windsor led 51-47 at the half.

B-ball women lose out Western goes to nationals

At the OWIAA Basketball Championships at Waterloo York met the host team in its first game losing 50-33. Their match against Queen's did not bring a win but it did demonstrate York's improvement over the season. During regular season play York lost by 33 and 22 points to Queen's. In the championships Queen's won 50-36 and were forced to take outside shots by a tight York defense.

York's 6 ft. 2 in. centre, Sue Tupling played exceptionally well in this last game of her four-year basketball career at York. Melanie Leigh led York scorers in the Queen's game with 20 points.

Western defeated Laurentian 57-37 for the OWIAA title and will advance to the Nationals in Saskatoon this weekend.



York's no. two goalie Eddie Buckman had a fine night on Tuesday playing for the Alumni team against his teammates. Buckman made some great stops but alas the regulars downed the old

guys 8 to 3 in a fine display of hockey. The atmosphere was light as the Yeomen prepared for the playoffs which start next Tuesday night at the York Ice Palace. Photo by Tim Clark

Latinovich scores three for Student Nats in weekend play

York's Steve Latinovich scored once against the Russians and potted two more against the Americans in weekend action at the Student Games in Plattsburg, New York.

The Canadian scholars were no match for the Russians Saturday as the 'Reds' hammered them 9-3.

The Russians took a big 6-0 early lead and then controlled the puck for the remainder of the game. The Canadians seemed to have trouble with the quick passing and tight positional play of the Ruskies.

Sunday night the Canadians started to work more comfortably together and played a much

stronger game to slam the Yanks 9-4.

Latinovich netted the first Canadian marker and U of T's Bob Munro added two more as Canada skated off with a 3-0 lead at the end of the first period.

The Americans started strong in the second, scoring two goals in 19 seconds. But John Wright of U of T, Latinovich and Steve Carlyle tallied for Canada to put the game out of reach.

NOTES. . . The top line for Canada is composed of Toronto players — York's Latinovich with Wright and

Munro from U of T. . . In the game against Russia, Canadian coach Clare Drake of the University of Alberta started his own goaltender Bruce Richardson ahead of all star Ken Lockett of Guelph. . . Richardson who wasn't even at camp was not sharp and the Russians pulled away early in the game with five spectacular goals. . . U of T coach Tom Watt who is with the team as manager couldn't understand the improvement in the Russians since his Blues beat them 5-1 in Toronto last week. Watt was quoted as saying, "They were so good today I'm beginning to wonder how we beat them."

Sportorial

By ALAN RISEN
**ONE BALLOON BURST;
 ONE STILL FLIES**

"I can count on the four veterans, but we'll go as far as the rookies improve," prophesized York basketball coach Bob McKinney in October.

No one could blame McKinney for his cautiously optimistic statement. He was starting the season in the new OUA A league with the most inexperienced team in the province.

The four veterans he mentioned — Don Holmstrom, Alfie Lane, Butch Feldman, and Bob Weppeler — were established collegiate players. But Vince Santoro, Jeff Simbro, Bob Pike, Bob Buchanan, Jerry Varsava, Eric Gawley and Ed Talaj — all had never stepped on a court in a university sweater.

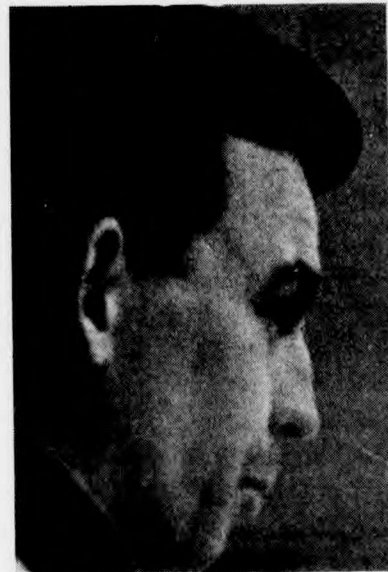
As the season progressed McKinney's words began to take meaning as the Yeomen first clinched a playoff position and then in the last weekend of the regular season schedule captured first place.

Certainly the fine two-way performances of the veterans steadied the team throughout the season. But in the final analysis it was the unexpected poise of Santoro at guard; the ability to move the ball up the court and the accurate outside shooting of Varsava; the excellent rebounding and jumping of Pike; and the extra offensive thrust of Talaj that advanced York into the finals.

But the true meaning of McKinney's words wasn't understood until the championship game on Saturday when the Windsor Lancers took advantage of York's inexperience to capture the provincial title. The Lancers forced the jittery Yeomen into countless turnovers and defensive miscues which resulted in a stunning 79-61 defeat.

Still, capturing the eastern division pennant and reaching the finals in the playoffs is a credible record for the team and its rookies.

**YORK PUCKMAN
 TAKE FIRST PLACE**
 Meanwhile back at the rink,



Bill Purcell

hockey coach Bill Purcell's balloon is flying higher than ever. Varsity's loss to Laurentian on Sunday meant that York finished the season in first place with 34 points. U of T, who trailed the Yeomen for the last half of the season by one point finished with 33.

Purcell rejected the idea that his Yeomen captured the pennant through "the back door".

"We knew all along that Toronto had two games in hand," Purcell told Excalibur. "But our boys kept fighting all season and won every game to stay ahead. The only game we lost — to Toronto at Varsity Arena — shouldn't have been a defeat. U of T scored in the last twenty seconds to win 4-3."

Does Purcell have any worries about facing the resurging Laurentian squad in the quarter finals instead of the Ottawa Gee Gees who they would have met had Toronto finished first? "Not at all," he assured us. "We have to be able to beat them all anyway."

