## **Cosentino leaves-Pickett takes over**

#### **Mike Leonetti**

Even though the York Yeomen failed in their bid to gain a playoff berth for the first time in their history, this past season will still be an integral part of the new tradition being sought for the football program.

When the Yeomen reassemble next summer, they will be missing a very important member of the team, head coach Frank Cosentino, the man who has done a great deal in brining respectability to the football program at York. However Cosentino is certain he is leaving the job in good hands and that York will continue to grow as a football force in years to come.

The reason for the change at the helm is due to the fact that Cosentino will be taking a oneyear sabbatical in which he will be devoting his time to writing. He has yet to decide if he will return as athletic director, but will have a teaching position when he returns. He leaves the head coaching job with no regrets.



Dr. Frank Cosentino

As for the year just passed, Cosentino did not see anyone major turning point. "You can look at many different points throughout the season and point out many 'ifs'. We learned that you must be prepared to grasp your opportunities." When asked if failing to make the playoffs was his biggest disappointment, he replied, "it was disappointing in the sense that I did not see the players get the playoff experience which we need. We have come a long way but we need more experience."

The Yeomen have indeed come a long way. When Cosentino took over the team had only won four games in its seven years of existence. Cosentino took over with the idea of changing the losing tradition building for the future.

"We wanted to start a new tradition and lay a foundation. We have had many firsts like beating Guelph, Western and Windsor which gives us a frame of reference for the future. We have to develop a kind of tradition where York will expect to win. But this is done over a long period of time and there are still corners to turn."

Cosentino believes the moment is right to turn the program over to

a person who will devote more time to it.

That task will fall into the lap of Dave Pickett, an assistant to Cosentino for the last couple of years. Pickett certainly has impressive credentials. He played for the University of Saskatchewan as well as the University of Windsor and in 1973 he was the winner of the Hec Creighton Award as the most outstanding collegiate football player in Canada.

He has been an assistant coach for the past six months and has been with the Yeomen since 1977. Picket admits, "It won't be easy to follow Frank and I am looking forward to it. It is important that we continue what has been started. Our goal will be to make the playoffs."

Pickett would like to see the team build more confidence. "There has been great improvement but we need to build our mental toughness that comes with a winning tradition. This is difficult to do with a young team." Pickett will be spending time talking to high school players hoping to entice them to York. He believes that he can be successful in this venue because of the Yeomen record of the past three years. He confidently states, "York is now a viable alternative for someone considering football." How well Pickett performs this task will determine in large part how well York will do in the future.

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16EXCALIBUR, November 6, 1980