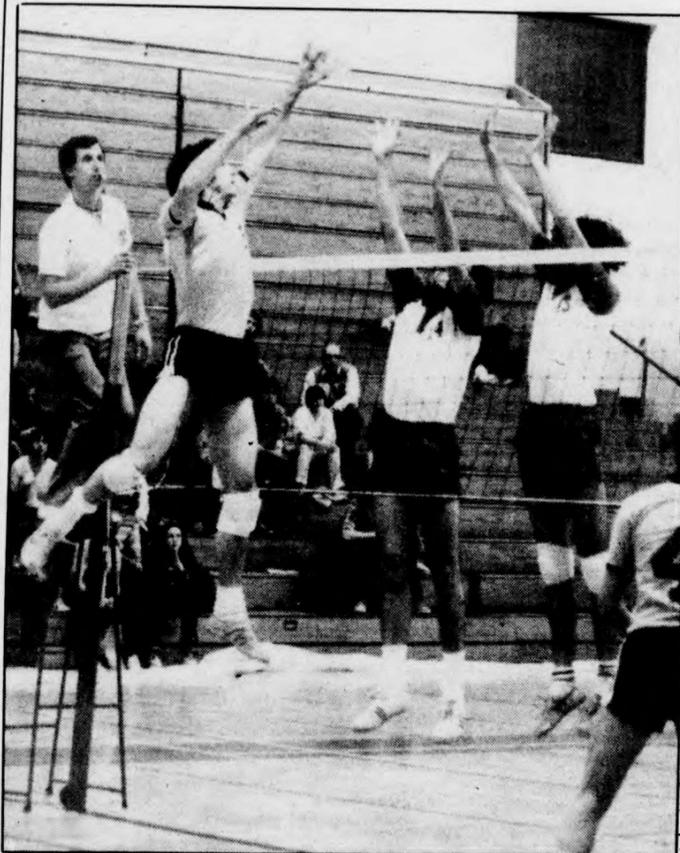




# Sports



Ottawa's Paul Gratton shows his amazing jumping ability as he tips the ball over the hands of two York blockers.

## York sheds no tears over Onion's loss

### Rose 'Bud' Crawford

York University is steadily building up a reputation as a power house of men's volleyball.

Earlier this year the York Yeomen captured their second Ontario University title in as many years.

Last Sunday, the York Yeomen (consisting of number of the university players along with some high school players) club team defeated the Ottawa Onion Patch Club and the Guelph Oaks to take the Ontario Volleyball Association "AA" championship at the Tait McKenzie gym.

The victory earned the Yeomen a berth in April's national championships as the Ontario representative.

The first test for the Yeomen in the OVA championship was a semi-final game against the Guelph Oaks who came into the four-team tourney as defending champions.

The York squad had a relatively easy time with the Oaks winning the match in three games straight (15-12, 15-4, 15-6).

The final match pitted the Yeomen against the Ottawa Onion Patch Club, which had defeated the University of Toronto Blues in the other semi-final game.

York's biggest challenge in the final was to stop the devastating attacks of Ottawa's Paul Gratton, a member of the National Team who at 6'4" boasts a 40" spike jump. The Yeomen met the challenge handily and in the process won the match 15-5, 15-5 and 15-13.

York was led by Ed Drakich, a grade 13 student at Melvern Collegiate. On defense, Drakich came up with nine digs while his offensive efforts resulted in five kills on ten attacks.

York's John May, a member of the varsity team, was the top man on offense with ten kills on 25 attacks.

Drakich's talent has not gone unnoticed in Ontario volleyball circles. In fact, he's a very highly touted recruit. One of Drakich's most ardent recruiters is his own coach, Wally Dyba, who also coaches the York University Yeomen and who would like very much to see Drakich on his roster for next year's OUA season.

However Drakich has expressed interest in attending the University of Waterloo for its engineering program. Although this does not coincide with Dyba's plans, he still manages to see the positive side of the situation.

"If he (Drakich) goes to Waterloo, then York will have some good competition in Ontario to prepare for the nationals."

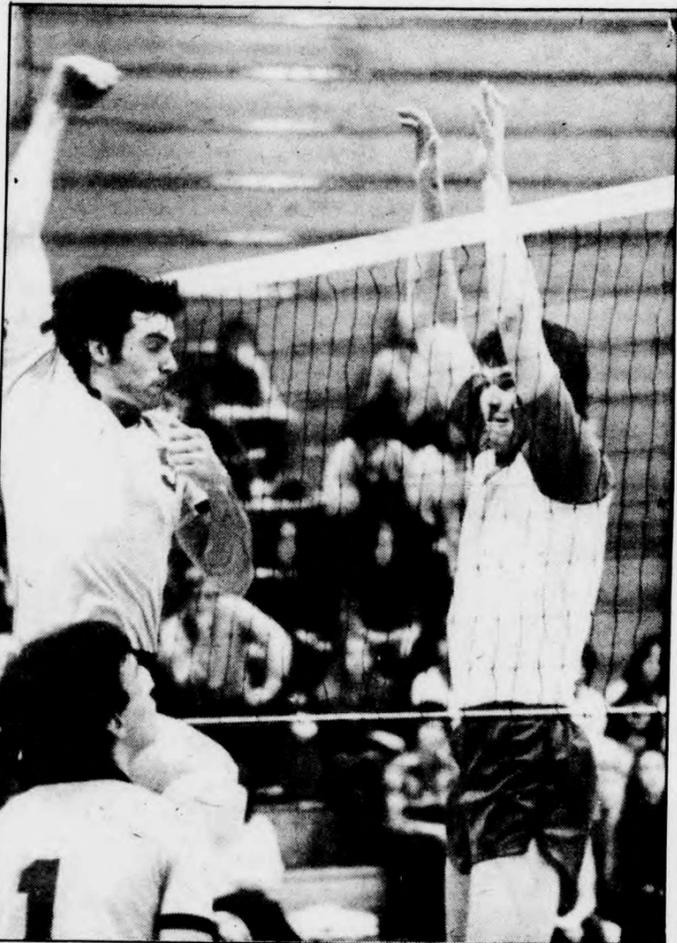
Another outstanding member of the York Yeomen club team and a possible future member of the university squad, is John Barrett, also a high school student attending West Humber.

Barrett is already an alternate on the junior national team.

In the game against Ottawa Onion Patch, Barrett hit for five kills in five attacks. No doubt Dyba would like to see Barrett on the York line-up. In fact he has nothing but words of praise for Barrett.

"He has improved like you wouldn't believe. He has international potential."

**Note:** The York women's club team will also be travelling to Montreal as the Ontario representatives as they defeated the Ottawa University Club team, a team they lost to in the OWIAA's.



York's Larry Simpson reaches high in his attempt to block National team member Paul Gratton's overpowering spike. Gratton boasts a 40" spike jump though his effectiveness was neutralized by York.

## Canada has improved

### 'Sparky'

Canada's National Field Hockey Team, sporting 5 members from York University, have a 3-2 record following their 2-1 victory over Austria yesterday in World Cup action in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

York's Laurie Lambert and National teammate Cathy Haig provided the scoring for Canada.

The team dropped out of medal contention a day earlier losing to a strong Australian team 4-1.

University of British Columbia student Dana Sinclair, who scored the winning goal against York in the CIAU finals in early November, scored Canada's lone goal early in the first half.

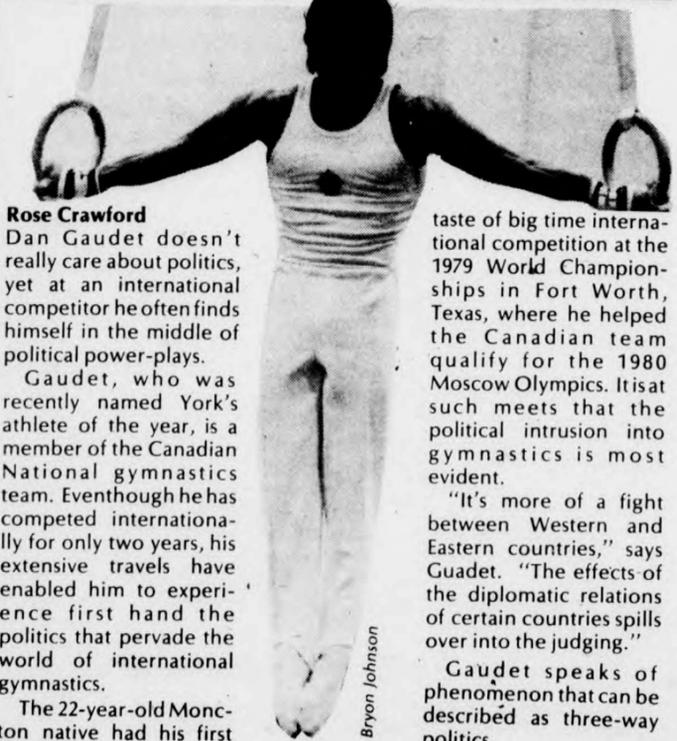
Canada started the World Cup tournament with victories over Spain and Belgium by scores of 3-0 and 2-1 respectively. Their first loss, a 4-0 setback came at the hands of the world champions from Holland.

Against Spain Sinclair, York's Sheila Forshaw and Laura Branchaud scored for Canada. Eloise Samuels came up with the shut-out.

Branchaud was instrumental in the win over Belgium as she set up Forshaw for the first goal and then scored the winning goal herself.

With the win over Austria yesterday Canada could finish as high as fifth if they win their next game. Placing this high could move Canada up in the world rankings from ninth to possibly fifth or sixth. The Canadian team have definitely shown a drastic improvement in their play since their last appearance in World Cup play.

## Pummel not politics Gaudet's concern



### Rose Crawford

Dan Gaudet doesn't really care about politics, yet at an international competitor he often finds himself in the middle of political power-plays.

Gaudet, who was recently named York's athlete of the year, is a member of the Canadian National gymnastics team. Even though he has competed internationally for only two years, his extensive travels have enabled him to experience first hand the politics that pervade the world of international gymnastics.

The 22-year-old Moncton native had his first

taste of big time international competition at the 1979 World Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, where he helped the Canadian team qualify for the 1980 Moscow Olympics. It is at such meets that the political intrusion into gymnastics is most evident.

"It's more of a fight between Western and Eastern countries," says Gaudet. "The effects of the diplomatic relations of certain countries spills over into the judging."

Gaudet speaks of phenomenon that can be described as three-way politics.

"If Canada and Cuba were fighting for the 12th spot (the last position which qualifies a team for the Olympics), judges from countries such as the U.S. and China would favour Canadian gymnasts because of their favourable relations with Canada. They would rather see Canada go (to the Olympics) than Cuba.

Canadian gymnasts are faced with the problem of not having a name in the gymnastics world which more often than not biases a judge's opinion against them. According to Gaudet, this is a very difficult problem to overcome.

"It's not just the simple task of improving the quality of gymnastics, you have to wait to become recognized. It's like playing an established champion, you don't just have to beat him, you have to destroy him before you're given due recognition."

This situation is changing however, as a result of Canada's 11th place finish in the 1979 World Championships.

"Canada is starting to get recognized," says Gaudet. "The

hardest thing is to break the top twelve, so now we're on the map."

Gaudet describes competing in the World Championships and consequently making the Olympic team as one of the highlights of his career. Competing against the cream of the crop did not intimidate Gaudet maily because of the realistic attitude he took into the championships.

"Most people thought I would break, but I just went in there and competed. I mean, even if I really hit everything in my routines, it wouldn't make any difference to guys like Kurt Thomas or Alexander Ditiatin. We (Canada) knew we were there just to qualify for the Olympics and not to beat Russia or the U.S."

Being robbed of his first chance to represent Canada at the Olympics was not all that tragic for Gaudet whose goal had been the 1984 games. Being selected for the 1980 games was for him an unexpected thrill.

"I felt more sorry for the other

athletes who had planned to end their career with the 1980 Olympics."

Gaudet's most recent international appearance was at the prestigious American Cup Meet where he recorded his best international performance to date. He placed tenth overall in a field of 25 gymnasts.

Gaudet's sporting interest has not always leaned towards gymnastics. Prior to the beginning of his career in the sport, he played hockey for twelve years and it was only his size, or lack of it, that put an end to his aspirations of someday entering the pro ranks.

He turned to gymnastics because of his desire to remain active and also to satisfy his competitive urges.

Gaudet's gymnastics career is only five years old, yet his accomplishments so far point to his high potential. Right now retirement is far from his mind.

"I can see myself going for at least another four years." And for Canadian gymnastics that is indeed good news.