

van der Merwe keeps on truckin'

# Field hockey coach gunning for Barcelona

by Riccardo Sala

The York coaching duet of Marina van der Merwe and Catherine Broderick are back at the helm of the field hockey Yeowomen.

As coach and assistant coach, respectively, of the national field hockey squad, van der Merwe and Broderick were in Australia and New Zealand the past two months, orchestrating Canada's qualifying efforts for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

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The jaunt was a success. In Auckland, New Zealand, the Canadian team was one of five competing for five remaining Olympic berths.

Canada finished the qualifying round with a third place finish. Next stop: Barcelona.

"It was magical. We just did the job, everything worked together. We just did it right," Broderick explained.

York's presence on the national team extended into the player roster. Four Yeowomen, Joel Brough, Tammy Holt, Sandra Levy and Sharon Creelman made the trip down under wearing the Maple Leaf.

These York players formed part of a Canadian squad that faced some stiff competition in its pool from the



York field hockey coach Marina van der Merwe, back from olympic qualifying with assistant Catherin Broderick in Australia and New Zealand.

likes of China, Ireland, Italy, Great Britain and Argentina.

"For us to make the top five, it meant that we could lose only one game," explained van der Merwe.

Canada started off on the right foot, defeating China and Ireland. In the next game, a weak Italian side shocked Canada with a 2-2 tie.

With a loss to Great Britain in their next match, Canada had to defeat their next opponents, from Argentina, by two goals to advance to Barcelona. With a 2-0 win over the Argentinians, van der Merwe and company were bound for the Olympics.

Van der Merwe described the scene

after the pivotal win.

"The excitement and the euphoria were something that you had to see and feel to believe," she noted.

In a crossover round after their qualification, Canada played twice more, losing a 1-0 heartbreaker to the host New Zealanders, then dumping Great Britain 3-1 for the tournament

bronze medal.

With the exception of Tammy Holt, who didn't see action because of a sore knee, York players were in the thick of the action all tourney long.

"Sharon Creelman [is now] regarded as one of the best defenders in the world, Joel Brough came into her own and demonstrated moments of brilliance, and Sandra Levy was a constant [offensive] threat," van der Merwe said.

Only the University of Victoria (UVic), with four players, formed as large a part of the national roster as the Yeowomen did.

With the qualification for Barcelona, van der Merwe and Broderick's next challenge is to prepare the national squad for their Olympic jaunt. The duo of van der Merwe and Broderick has coached the Canadian team since the 1984 games in Los Angeles, when women's field hockey became a full medal sport.

But they also have York duties, including coaching the Yeowomen for the OWIAA indoor championships.

Van der Merwe will be taking back the reins from Regina Spencer, who coached the team to a fifth place finish at the CIAU championships during her absence, a showing which van der Merwe attributed mainly to the absence of Holt and Brough.



MAO YOU SEE IT, nao you don't. Yeoman gymnastics coach Masaaki Naosaki gives his star pupil Curtis Hibbert some pointers. This year, Hibbert and Naosaki will be joining both the men's and women's squads at a new training base near highway 7 and Keele.

## Bouncing back

by Josh Rubin

Nobody can accuse Masaaki Naosaki and the Yeomen gymnastics squad of resting on their laurels.

Despite a silver medal for their squad at last year's national championships, Naosaki and co-coach Tom Zivic are still pressing for more.

"We have to want to go for gold," Naosaki said flatly in an interview last week.

One of the main problems facing the Yeomen will be one of morale.

While the York side didn't lose a single athlete from last year's roster, Canada's failure to qualify for the Barcelona Olympics has frustrated some Yeomen who had been expected to vie for spots on the national squad.

Among those affected were Zivic's son George, as well as London, Ontario native J.P. Kraemer, who headed to September's World Championships in Indianapolis as a substitute member of Team Canada.

According to Naosaki, the change in goals was simple to understand, but not so simple to accept.

"We told them that they have to

adjust to reality and compete for York University this year," Naosaki said.

They'll have a new home to do it in, too. This year, both the men's and women's gymnastics squads at York have moved their training regimen over to a new gymnastics academy at Highway 7 between Jane and Keele.

The new academy, run by Naosaki and the elder Zivic, replaces what was for both teams a chaotic existence in the Tait McKenzie building.

Gone are the cramped quarters. Gone is the fighting over mats. Gone also are the fighting over gym time with badminton and volleyball players as well as some recreational leagues.

With their new training grounds, the Yeomen will be trying to make up what Naosaki called "a ten-year gap" in training.

The centre's \$7,500 monthly rent is currently being covered through a combination of \$1,500 a month from York University and individual membership fees.

Still, that leaves a substantial gap, which Naosaki says he and Zivic have been forced to cover out of their own pockets until the membership money starts rolling in on a larger basis.

## Wait until next year...

by Riccardo Sala

It's time for three York teams to look back at a season filled with more than their fair share of heartbreak.

The teams concerned are both Yeomen and Yeowomen soccer teams, and the Yeowomen field hockey squad.

For the soccer teams especially, their year ended in ways no one could have predicted in September.

### Field Hockey Predictable

The field hockey squad had what was probably the most predictable season of the three teams. Coaches Marina van der Merwe and Catherine Broderick were in New Zealand with the National team (see accompanying article). Veteran stalwarts Joel Brough and Tammy Holt were with the Canadian team also. That left interim coach Regina Spencer with a team that on paper was simply not as good as last year's squad.

This was the first year of university field hockey for half the team. While veterans such as Jackie DeGoiej, Cindy Gahunia and keeper Michelle Capperault did their best in leading the team, it was obvious that this year's version of the Yeowomen was one notch below University of Toronto. Still, that didn't stop Spencer's squad from grabbing the OWIAA silver, as well as coming in fifth at the CIAUs.

The Yeowomen will be keeping sharp with several indoor tournaments over the winter.

There isn't too much that can go wrong with this team next year. The half of the squad that was new this year will be returning to the fray with one year of valuable experience under its belt.

The picture isn't as rosy for either of York's soccer clubs next year.

### Hard Luck

The Yeowomen had the type of season that must have left observers

wondering if coach David Bell's team wasn't a player in some Greek tragedy.

After going undefeated in regular season play, the Yeowomen were knocked out of the OWIAA playoffs in the quarterfinal game against Western.

This was York's best team since the soccer Yeowomen came on the scene in 1983. In the past several years they have been one of York's better teams, but plagued with a tragic inability to translate their prowess into any championship success.

The postseason loss to Western was the cruellest cut of all because of the loss of goalie Cheryl Punnett, a cornerstone of Bell's game strategy, to a broken nose early in the game.

It's very hard to foretell what next year will hold for the Yeowomen. Anyone who saw them play this year had no doubt that they were seeing one of the best teams in the country. There's no reason why they shouldn't be provincial or national champions.

Hopefully, next year they'll outplay their jinx — or whatever it is that's kept them from the OWIAA and CIAU banners that have eluded them for so long.

### Players suspended

The men's season was less of a mystery, and more of a crying shame.

York was penalized the results from its first five games for the inclusion of two players on its roster who had been suspended from other leagues.

That left the Yeomen in the tough position of winning their last four games in order to qualify for the finals. Eric Willis' team notched up three wins — including one over powerhouse Laurentian, before tying Carleton in the last game. That tie kept them out of post-season play. A crying shame, like I said.

York Varsity Athletics Schedule November 13-19	
Thursday November 14	
ICE HOCKEY Guelph at Yeowomen, Ice Palace - 7:30 pm	
Friday November 15	
BASKETBALL Waterloo at Yeomen, Tait Main Gym - 8:30 pm Yeowomen at Toronto Invitational, UofT (Friday to Sunday)	
HOCKEY Yeomen at UQTR - 7:30pm	
Saturday November 16	
BADMINTON Yeomen at OUA East II, Ottawa (Sunday also) Yeowomen at OWIAA East II, Ottawa (Sunday also)	
BASKETBALL Guelph at Yeomen, Tait Main Gym - 8:00 pm	
HOCKEY Yeomen at Ottawa - 3:00pm	
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING Yeowomen at OWIAA Figures Ranking Meet, Queen's	
VOLLEYBALL Laurentian at Yeomen, Tait Main Gym - 1:00 pm Carleton at Yeowomen, Tait Main Gym - 3:00 pm	
WATERPOLO Yeomen at OUA championships, UofT	