

CHRY: Specializing in Sporting Goods

by Michael Krestell

It is one thing to be underrated in life, but it is another thing to be ignored. Unfortunately, for most York Yeomen and Yeowomen athletes, the latter is the case when it comes to their sporting endeavours. There are a few exceptions, Curtis Hibbert to name one, but the exceptions are few and far between.

The typical York athlete works hard on the playing field, and even harder in the classroom. The rewards for academic efforts are obvious, but in return for their sporting efforts they receive not much more than a pat on the back from teammates and the satisfaction of knowing they gave one hundred per cent.

You see, unlike their counterparts in the United States, athletes are not here on a scholarship. York University is not footing the bill so they can draw much needed attention to the school.

The mainstream media rarely



recognize the athletes' achievements. When they do, it is usually confined to the back pages of a sports section or the final mention on a sportscast.

York's facilities are grossly

inadequate — just ask the wrestling team that was forced to practice last year on the squash courts. I'm not sure what the squash team did. Talk to a member of the basketball teams who must share

gym time with the volleyball teams, or anybody else who wants to use the university's one and only gymnasium.

Or, how about the hockey teams who toil in the Arctic

weather simulator known as the Ice Palace? Football, soccer, field hockey, rugby — players of these sports don't even have a building on campus to complain about.

Talk about an atmosphere that's not conducive to winning. In fact, it is shocking that York athletes compete on a high level, let alone win, when you examine the barriers to success that they must constantly overcome.

So, what can you do about it?

Well, go out and see a game. Any game. You name it. Just attend a sports event. I am confident that the calibre of play will amaze you. But, if it doesn't, remember: the athletes are your peers, and they are performing for the pride of your school.

In high school, whether you liked sports or not, you went to see your team play because these were your classmates giving it all for school pride. Why not do the same at university? You would be amazed at how far a little fan support can push an athlete.

You never know — you may even shock yourself and have a good time. I know I did. In my first year at York, I had never even heard of a Yeoman, let alone see one play hockey. Now, I am hopelessly hooked on all university sports.

Seeing a hockey game led me to see a Yeowomen basketball game, then a Yeoman volleyball match, then . . . well, I guess you get the idea. The point is, there is a lot more to being a university student than going to class each day, then going home or back to rez to watch the soaps.

Varsity sports fall into this category — you will never know what you are missing until you get out and see it.

The athletes are performing for you as well as themselves. The university doesn't offer much in the way of rewards, but you can. Get out there and make a little noise. I know the athletes will appreciate it, and, like I said, you may even have a good time.

Sporting Goods is a weekly sports column. If you would like Mike to cover a specific topic, call Excalibur sports and tell us.



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