

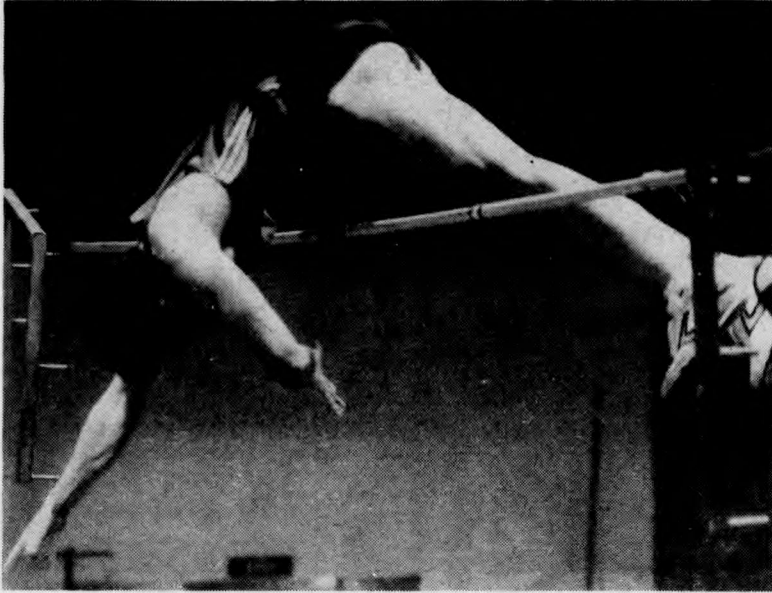
Gridirons, derbies and pommel horses: A year of York sports

by Riccardo Sala

This article is a look back at a year of York varsity athletics. It's a retrospective of sorts, and I'll be remembering most of this stuff off the top of my head since I'm too lazy to go digging up after all of it. This is called artistic license, but it's also known as editorial privilege, so sit back and enjoy the view.

GYMNASTICS

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the performance of York's gymnasts. On the women's side, the addition of Olympic veteran Janine Rankin to the fold gave this already strong team a huge advantage over the competition. Rankin was named York's woman athlete of the year. The Yeowomen went on to win the Ontario Women's Interuniversity



His Yeomen teammates were slightly off last year's pace at both the provincial and national championships.

Meanwhile, their Yeowomen counterparts never got up to steam. The young team hopefully will move up next year after this one year of experience.

HOCKEY

Something was amiss in the March sports pages. That of course was the hockey Yeomen, which in years past could be found making their way to the Nationals. That hasn't happened for the past two years, as the team goes through a rebuilding stage in search of the chemistry that gave them a three-peat of the CIAU crown in the late eighties. You can't fault the team for not trying, and hopefully fans can look forward to Yeoman hockey in March once again.

On the women's side the feisty Yeowomen had a losing season. Coached by Deb Adams, the team improved from last year, showing that they were better than at least one other competitor; Queen's. Against UofT, the Yeowomen signalled progress by keeping their losses increasingly less lopsided.

BASKETBALL

On to the basketball courts, where York had a less than stellar season. The Yeowomen fared the worse of the two squads. Despite strong performances by Cathy Amara and others, Bill Pangos' team could not shake off inconsistent play that dogged them throughout the season. At once capable of keeping nationally ranked Laurentian to a reasonable spread, the Yeowomen flopped against weaker squads such as Queen's.

On the men's side the story wasn't as bad. The Yeomen charged out of the gate to the tune of a 6-0 record to start the regular season. Unfortunately, the team that relied on hard work for success stopped working at

this point and struggled through for the rest of the season.

Individually, the team was led by Clive Anderson, whose 46 points against UofT was one of the highlights of the year for the Yeomen. As well, coach Bob Bain had strong performances from first year players Marc Gardner, Lyndon Phillips and Wilton Hall, who was voted the OUA Central Division rookie of the year. Look for more from these players next year, as well as from veteran Mark Bellai, who will be returning for one more season.

SOME OTHER STUFF...

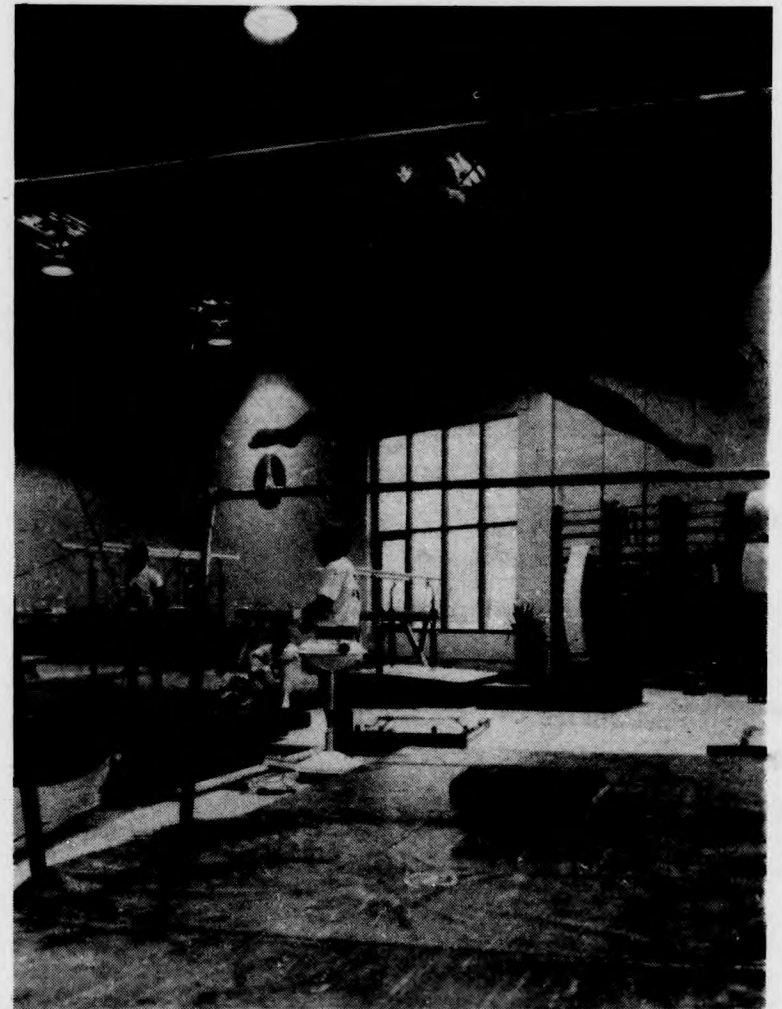
York didn't have a banner year on the figure skating, synchronised swimming and swimming fronts.

The figure skating Yeowomen went into the OWIAA championships at Kingston looking for a bronze. After recent showings that had them as high as fourth, the team, coached this year by Judy Chantler, felt third spot was within reach at Queen's. Instead, the Yeowomen came up short against competition that York skaters hadn't predicted. Maybe next year.

For the second year in a row, Lori Borean was the only York swimmer to make it to the Nationals. Except for Borean, the national standard eluded both Yeomen and Yeowomen throughout the year. Coach Cheryl Stickley is serious about increasing training time, and hopefully this and other changes will bear fruit for next season.

Pat Murray's synchronised swimmers were just too young and too few to make any impact on the Ontario scene. Returning from sabbatical this year, Murray had to work with a team that had only one returning swimmer on it. If it's any consolation, Murray has brought the school provincial titles in the past, and it's likely only a matter of time before she brings another banner to Tait McKenzie.

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Athletic Association championship, as well as the National University Gymnastics Cup in Calgary.

Ontario and Canadian titles also came the way of the Yeomen gymnasts. In total, it was a perfect four way championship sweep for York's gymnasts. You can't get any better than that.

VOLLEYBALL

The season was also a banner one for the volleyball Yeowomen, who took their third straight OWIAA title.

At the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union championships, which they hosted, the Yeowomen had to settle for a fourth place finish. Despite that, the tournament was an unqualified success for both York and the CIAU, bringing the best volleyball players in Canada Tait-side to appreciative fans.

The Yeomen volleyballers continued to slide this year, as the team struggled through a difficult rebuilding season. Hopeful signs included the performance of rookie Djordje Ljubovic. However the team will have to look forward to next season without the services of the departing Adrian Adore.

With luck, coach Wally Dyba will be able to fill Adore's large shoes and bring the team, traditionally one of York's best, up to the championship level it enjoyed up to three years ago.

TRACK & FIELD

Doug Wood dominated track and field news at York, the Yeoman pole vaulter setting Canadian records with seemingly every jump and being named York men's athlete of the year for his achievements.

