

York's hockey and football programs revitalized by a recent \$25,000 special equipment fund

By NICK LAPICCIRELLA

In the past few years there have been two high profile sports that have been financially neglected at York: football and hockey.

Since football was first played at York, the team has yet to make the playoffs. The York Yeomen hockey team, one of the top teams in Ontario failed to qualify for the playoffs last year—the first time in their history.

Soon after Dave Picket resigned as football coach last season, Dr. Stuart Robbins, Athletic Director, asked Frank Cosentino, Dave Chambers and Marina van der Merwe to report on the lack of success that football and hockey had been experiencing. The main problem that consistently came up while investigating these sports were their lack of funding.

The report put forward three basic recommendations. First, to place the budgets of hockey and football on a par with, or close to, similar programs at other universities.

Second, the overall facilities are to be improved. For football it was a move to North York Civic Stadium; for the hockey program, a refurbished Ice Palace.

The third recommendation emphasized the need for full-time coaching for as many teams as possible.

Many people outside athletics felt that the reason football and hockey received more money was because of a change in university administration, but Frank Cosentino sees it as coincidental. "It did not matter who was at the top, changes had to be made if York was expected to be at

the top of the class in athletics," he said.

Details of the athletic department's funding were procured from York's Provost Tom Meininger. "York athletics received \$25,000 in a special equipment fund which is a one-time deal only," explained Meininger. "Half of the money was used for new football equipment while the money for York hockey team received \$25 00 for their equipment. The other sports departments shared the rest of the money for various needs and this includes all men's and women's sports."

The athletic department itself

received an eight percent increase over last year's budget. "One must remember that the money also goes to Physical Education in general which also helps the recreational students who use all the facilities," said Meininger.

Robbins feels the university has made the right decision in committing itself to athletic excellence. One only has to see the major contribution York made to the recent summer Olympics, said Robbins. Altogether the York contingent to Los Angeles numbered 25: 10 coaches, trainers and officials along with 15 athletes.

"The critical aspect of funding athletics," said Meininger, "was to make sure the program was kept up to the standard of excellence that was expected from a university such as York."

Asked if support would continue down the road, Meininger said, "It would be foolish to put in additional money and then stop a coherent policy for no good reason. Of course one must also realize money is allocated according to needs and if education and sports conflict, educational needs would take priority."

GLEN TANAKA



York Soccer Team loses to U of T, 2-1 on weekend

Rum flavoured. Wine dipped.

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Sports Briefs

- The Yeomen Rugby squad hosted Trent last Saturday and soundly defeated them 47-13. Mark Whitfield scored two tries, four converts and a penalty kick for a total of 19 points in the Yeomen effort.

- In women's field hockey play, the Yeowomen travelled to Waterloo for the first exhibition tournament of the year. The Yeowomen finished with two wins and one loss. Gail Stewart was the leading scorer for York, netting three goals.

- The Yeomen football team has introduced a method of acknowledging exceptional play. They started with the exhibition game at McGill three weeks ago by putting small 'Y's on the back of players' helmets. This week's recipients are Al Irwin, Carl Brillinger, Dom Cughari, Dave Maganja, Phil Honey, Terry Douglas, George Ganas, and Andre Mayers.

- The soccer Yeomen continued on their losing ways last weekend. U of T took York 2-1, and Carleton blanked the Yeomen 3-0. York is last in their division.

- In Waterloo this past weekend the Yeowomen tennis team won 26 of 36 singles games and 8 of 12 doubles games to finish a strong second behind McMaster at the Wilfred Laurier Invitational.

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