

York b-ballers hoping to continue recent strong showings

by Judy Passley and Riccardo Sala

After a promising road trip to Sudbury last weekend, York's basketball squads take on the Laurentian Voyageurs and Ottawa Gee-Gees this weekend at Tait McKenzie.

In the road games against Laurentian, the Yeowomen lost 64-51, while their Yeomen counterparts won 84-64 for their fifth straight regular season win.

While a loss, the effort against Laurentian was an improvement over the Yeowomen's 63-34 loss to Queen's the weekend before. Laurentian is currently ranked third in the country.

"It was a 100 percent turnaround at Laurentian (from the Queen's game). It's a good sign," Yeowoman coach Bill Pangos said Sunday.

In Friday's home game against the Voyageurs, Pangos' squad will be benefitting from the return of Cathy Amara to the lineup.

Amara has been on the injured list since mid-December.

There are several things that the York coach will be looking for in Friday's game:

"We have to work on our breaking press, and somehow work on getting to the basket with free throw opportunities," Pangos said.

Although Saturday's opponent, Ottawa, is lower in the standings than the Yeowomen, Pangos isn't underestimating them.

"They (Ottawa) are going to be a competitive team. They don't have their key post player, Danielle Lerose," he said.

Two Gee-Gee players to watch for are Fabianne Perrin and Vivianne Ellis.

"Both Ellis and Perrin are leading the team in scoring. The key in the game (Saturday) is stopping Ellis and Perrin," Pangos added.

On the men's side of the court, fans might be pinching themselves to see if the Yeomen's perfect 5-0 regular season record isn't an illusion.

Yeoman coach Bob Bain isn't calling the

weekend games against Laurentian and Ottawa yet.

"These are two tough games back to back," Bain said.

"Laurentian is an up and down team. They're very capable of doing well and on the other hand capable of not doing well. They (the Voyageurs) live and die with their outside shooting. The key to beating that is defence," he noted.

The Hahn brothers, Brad and Norm, are two names to watch for on the Laurentian side. Norm, a guard, was recently named the OUAA athlete of the week.

Ottawa is another team that runs hot and cold, according to Bain.

"Ottawa is very gifted physically. The whole team is a very good team. They do well at times and poorly at others," he said.

Countering the Gee-Gees, Bain has the dynamic duo of Mark Bellai and Clive Anderson on offence, as well as Marc Gardner on defence.

Gardner played well in Sudbury, while Anderson led the Yeomen offensively in that game with 24 points. Anderson leads the OUAA East division in scoring, and is among the leaders in the free-throw and rebound categories.

On paper, York is facing two weaker teams. The Yeomen have already shown that they can beat Laurentian, while Ottawa, in second place in the St. Lawrence section, was itself trounced once this season by Laurentian.

Realistically, the Yeomen should beat both Laurentian and Ottawa, wins which would give them a 7-0 record.

Action starts at 6:00 pm on Friday at Tait McKenzie, when the Yeowomen play Laurentian, followed by the 8:00 Yeoman game against the Voyageurs.

On Saturday, the Yeowomen play Ottawa at 6:00 pm, with the Yeomen facing off against Ottawa at 8:00 pm. Admission is free for all the games.



HEY!! Action from the York Invitational synchronised swim meet held at Tait McKenzie over the weekend. The Yeowomen finished in last place of the seven squads entered. McGill came away with the gold by one point over second place Western. The next challenge for these teams is the OWIAA championships at McMaster the weekend of Feb. 7.

photo by Michele Boesner

McGill swimmers win York meet

by Riccardo Sala

It might not have paid the gas bill, but at least McGill's synchronised swimmers came home with the laurels at last weekend's York Invitational.

The McGill club nudged Western by one point to grab the title. The hosting Yeowomen, competing in only two of six events, finished in last place out of seven competing clubs.

The result wasn't a surprise to York coach Pat Murray, who had said beforehand that her young Yeowoman squad would not be in the running at this tournament.

The tourney was a see-saw affair between McGill and Western. Going into the last event, the team competition, Western led McGill by three points. McGill won the team section, and nudged Western by one point, to win the tournament with 79 points.

York's highest finish over the weekend was a fifth place in the team section. The York septet consisted of Karen Wilson, Bonnie-Jean Hatte, Beth Lewis, Pat Kolesnichenko, Michelle D'Hollander, Amy Micks and Melanie Slauson.

York competed in one other event, the novice figures, with veteran Yeowoman Amy Micks coming in eighth behind the winning performance of McGill's Wendy Pollard. Yeowoman Melanie Slauson finished in ninth place.

Amy Micks was the only veteran Yeowoman competing this weekend. Sandra Thomson, a second year swimmer, is out with skiing injuries. Her absence alone accounted for York being unable to swim in two of the six events.

"We swam against very experienced competition," Murray noted.

For McGill coach Gerry Dubrule the win was a good sign for the upcoming OWIAA championships, held this year at McMaster the weekend of Feb. 7.

"We worked very hard because we had a very tough tournament at Queen's (before Christmas, where they tied with Western for the win)," Dubrule said.

An Ontario championship this year would be the first for McGill since the early eighties, when they won twice.

The McMaster meet is the real test for the synchronised swimming teams, the York tournament and others held beforehand being rehearsals for the championship.

"You get an opportunity to try it out. It's like a run through so that you get a chance to swim before judges and see what they like and what they don't like," Murray said.

Various sports at Vari

by Riccardo Sala

With the opening of Vari Hall, York has another excellent sports facility on its hands.

Sports facility?

It might not be obvious to most York students as they cross the cavernous interior, but Vari Hall is what sports fans at York have been waiting a long time for.

On a recreational level, the Hall is just what York's closet ball hockey fanatics asked for. With games scheduled on Sundays to avoid the possibility of student fatalities, York could have a ball hockey league.

Spectators could catch the action from the galleries.

This is also the long awaited facility to finally put Yeoman hockey fans out of their misery.

All they need is a couple of the cold nights we had last week. Flood

the Hall, keep the doors open, and presto, no more need for the Ice Palace.

Vari Hall would make an excellent ice hockey facility, and the same local TV stations which boycotted the Ice Palace would run to cover games in this new arena.

That's only hockey. Remember folks, this is the era of the multipurpose sports facility, and this one lives up to the name.

Basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball, the works. There would be a problem with swimming though.

Why stop with varsity sports though?

No we're thinking big over here. Maybe sometime in the future, Vari Hall will challenge the Skydome as the tractor pull capital of Toronto. Maybe Wrestlemania or the World Cup.

York really outsmarted itself on this one.

ACHTUNG!!

The UofT hockey Blues are at the Ice Palace this Thursday, where they take on the Yeomen at 7:30 pm. This is a pivotal game for York, and hopefully it'll mark another of the good performances that the Yeomen have been displaying since the beginning of the year.

This game is also part of the Marriott Cup Spirit Challenge, with points being awarded to each college on the basis of participation at these events. There are fabulous prizes as well as

giveaways at each Spirit Challenge event.



Bethune is leading the Spirit Challenge pack with 429 points, while Stong is far-off in second with 176 points.

Game time for the hockey Yeomen is 7:30 pm this Thursday at the Ice Palace. Admission is free so come on out and help to melt the ice.