

sports



Photo: MARIO SCATTOLONI

Cardinals stop V-Ball Yeomen in Excalibur Classic final

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

The fifth annual Excalibur Volleyball Classic is in the books now, the championship trophy the hard-earned property of the Ball State Cardinals who turned back the York Yeomen three games to one in the title match Sunday afternoon.

For coach Don Shondell and his Cardinals, the tournament victory was a momentous one—it marked their first Classic title in three appearances at York (from Muncie, Indiana) including a silver medal finish in last year's competition.

It also broke a deadlock between U.S. and Canadian teams in the winner's circle with the Penn State Nittany Lions having taken the first two titles back in 1980 and 1981 before Albert and Manitoba evened things up in 1982 and 1983.

"We really thought when we came up here that we looked good enough on paper to have a shot at winning this whole thing," said Shondell. "But there is a big difference between looking good on paper and playing good on the floor."

"Last year's second-place finish kind of set a pattern for our whole year. We went on to finish second in everything we entered so this year it was extra important because it establishes a pattern of firsts that we'd like to keep up."

The Yeomen, the "sleeper" team in the tournament, climbed the ladder to the championship match after emerging with a 2-1 record from pool play Friday and Saturday.

York handled Canadian opponents Dalhousie and Alberta, but lost a tight five-game set to the second American entrant, Ohio State.

They went on to face their Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) and cross-town rivals U of T in the championship semi-final where they dumped the Blues three games to one before advancing to the final, losing 15-11, 10-15, 15-13, and 15-8.

Ball State meanwhile, ran a 2-1 Record in pool play, their only loss coming to U of T, three games to two, before upsetting Mid-Western Intercollegiate Volleyball Association rival Ohio State in the second championship semi-final.

For York coach Wally Dyba, whose team holds down the nation's number nine ranking, the championship loss doesn't denote the positive play and high level of intensity his squad kept up throughout the three-day affair.

"On the whole, I'd have to be very pleased with the way we played," Dyba said. "But it was disappointing the way we played in the final. It just wasn't our day. We go in streaks which is the function of a young team."

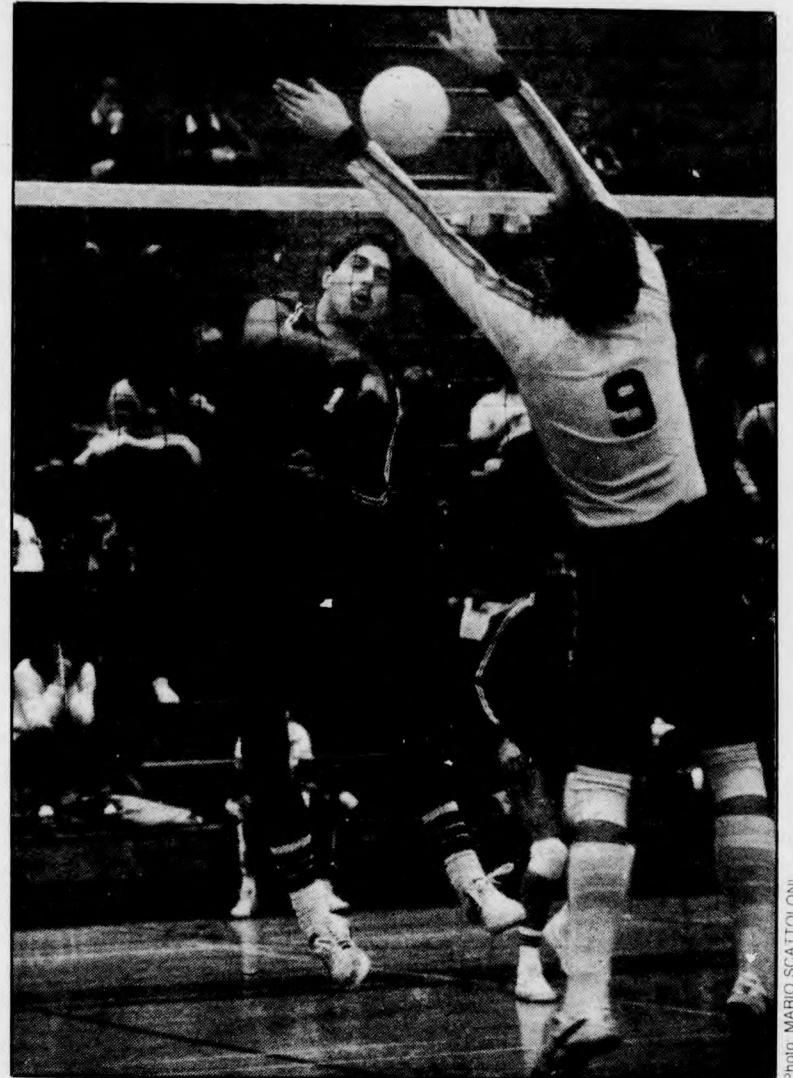


Photo: MARIO SCATTOLONI

Tony Martino (left) lines one up during York's championship loss to Ball State. York lost the 5-game final 3-1, but played some fine volleyball over the three-day tournament.

"It's hard to put a finger on," Dyba continued. "We controlled the first two games and then changed momentum. The inconsistency that's plagued us in the past came up again."

A host of tournament records were set including a pair of defensive marks by York's Dave Samek, whose outstanding two way effort named him the tourney's MVP.

Samek, a third-year power hitter/setter, broke digging records set in 1982 by U of T's Ed Drakich with 27 digs in one match and a total of 65 for the tournament.

"From a coaching standpoint, it's a nice thing to have," said Dyba of his star pupil's dual-purpose ability. "He is talented enough to do it. In the U of T game we changed our normal pattern of offense when he came to the net which we normally wouldn't do as a rule."

Fifteen of Samek's 65 total came in the championship game match and he also led offensively with 14

kills. His brother Mike, who joined York as a Winter-Summer Student, turned in six service aces.

Brian Davis turned in another 12 kills while Walter Zanel added 14 blocks.

Ball State's Corky Robertson, a tourney all-star, led the Cardinals with 13 kills, nine digs, and three service aces. Teammate Brian Hyde, who was also named to the tourney all-star team, bagged another eight digs and 14 blocks.

Joining Robertson and Hyde on the all-star team was York's Brian Davis, Toronto's Ed Drakich, Waterloo's Brian Jackson, and Ohio State's Edwin Fernandez.

In other games the Ohio State Buckeyes paved their way to a bronze medal finish by downing the U of T Blues in straight games 15-7, 15-13, and 15-8. The Alberta Golden Bears settled for the consolation title, defeating Waterloo in five games 15-11, 4-15, 11-15, 15-6, and 15-1.

Yeomen settle for consolation

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

York's basketball Yeomen salvaged a consolation title in Acadia this past weekend with their 82-78 win over a tough Assumption College from Worcester, Massachusetts.

The win capped off a 2-1 weekend effort in the eight-team tournament for the Yeomen—their only loss coming to their nemesis of sorts, the Brock Badgers, in a 86-83 first round decision that sent them to the consolation bracket.

The Yeomen were the only Canadian team to emerge with a winning record—both Brock and Waterloo dropped two of their three games.

But for coach Bob Bain, the overall tournament effort is reminiscent of some of the more lacklustre displays the team has slumped into this year.

"We didn't play all that well this weekend," Bain said. "The first loss to Brock was a good example of a pattern you don't like to see

developing in a team's play. We led throughout the game but broke down in the later stages and just couldn't catch up."

Bain credited some of his team's shakiness to a tough, physical brand of basketball played in the Maritimes, which frustrated much of their quick playmaking and running games.

"It was a very tough, very physical style of basketball being played down there," Bain said. "The referees in the Maritimes allow a lot more of that stuff to go by unnoticed. We had a rough time adjusting physically."

The Yeomen turned things around in the other two games, dumping the McGill Redmen 84-72 before grinding out their consolation victory over Assumption, a team that had turned away Waterloo by 10 points the day before.

York goes on the road this weekend for league games at RMC and Queens before returning home for their seasonal clash with their cross-town rivals U of T, January 17.

Bobby Orr sports medicine clinic finally opens after five year delay

By ELISSA FREEMAN

After a five-year wait, the Bobby Orr Sports Medicine Clinic, located in the west wing of the Metro Track and Field Centre, opened its doors to the public on Tuesday.

Head sports therapist Edgar Nowalkoski describes the clinic as a unique venture. "It will be used specifically for the treatment of sports injuries," explained Nowalkoski. "If a student or athlete sprains his/ankle, the entire treatment can be completed at the clinic."

The treatment includes x-rays, consultation with expert sports medicine personnel, and a rehabilitation program.

According to Nowalkoski, former hockey superstar Bobby Orr gave the

initial monetary grant that allowed for the new addition to the Track and Field Centre.

After ironing out a number of financial problems, the clinic received \$75,000 from Metro Toronto to buy equipment.

North York controller Robert Yuill, the Centre's Operating and Programming Committee chairman, and Metro Parks and Property Commissioner Bob Bundy, "were extremely instrumental in getting things going concerning funding and efforts," said Nowalkoski.

The official opening of the clinic will take place some time in the spring and will be attended by Bobby Orr and local politicians.