

Lacrosse struggles

by Riccardo Sala

Even though it is recognized, along with hockey, as one of few original North American sports, lacrosse has suffered on the Canadian university level due to its non-varsity status.

The Ontario University Field Lacrosse Association (OUFLA) is hoping to change this when it makes a bid this May to have lacrosse admitted to the OUAA pantheon of sports. A successful bid would make lacrosse a varsity sport in Ontario.

York is one of the ten Ontario universities that comprise the six-year-old OUFLA. Brock Simmons, a third-year student and lacrosse player as well as general manager of the York squad, explained why the OUAA bid was important. "Becoming part of the OUAA would make us a varsity squad, something which we aren't right now. Being varsity is important for many athletes, who would want to play lacrosse but keep away because the sport is not varsity." Simmons emphasized the financial independence of the squad and the OUFLA which is no small concern at cash-starved York. "We got a \$200 contribution from the CYSF, but we need to raise the \$3,000 needed to run the team. We're trying to get a bingo organized with the Mimico club, and we have a dance planned," Simmons said.

In describing the bid, Simmons painted a picture of a league that was bargaining from a position of strength. The OUFLA, run by veteran lacrosser Jim Price, "fits inside OUAA regulations. We have insurance, proper referees and proper coaches," Simmons said. The association is self-sufficient, and this helps to describe the relative lack of haste for the OUAA bid.

After the May presentation, the proposal will come to a vote in November before the 18 members of the OUAA council, of which volleyball coach Wally Dyba is the York representative. "It doesn't matter since we've still got our

league," Simmons said, regarding the length of time between the bid and proposal. The OUFLA is a *fait accompli*, an accomplished fact, and the OUAA stamp of approval is sought mainly for the status and legitimacy it gives as the venue for varsity sports in Ontario.

The York lacrossers have been in the OUFLA since its inception. Coached by Byron Cunningham, a veteran of play on the Manitoba provincial squad and the Orangeville team, this year's York squad ended the season recently in seventh place with a 3-5 record. The title went to Brock University with a perfect win record, followed by Western.

"We're looking for more coaching, and trying to get more new players to the team. We were just outcoached," Simmons said, summarizing his reasons for a less than stellar York squad.

The team practices two days a week for the whole year, starting in September and going through to May with a two month winter interval. Many players compete during the summer on the club circuit.

"The game is like soccer, with ten players including the goalie, and positions like midfielder, attack and defence. It's a team sport. You have to keep the ball moving and every player has to do his job or else the team breaks down," Simmons said.

"It's a gentleman's sport, and is very popular in the States with the Ivy League colleges. We went down to Syracuse and they had 35,000 people at the game. Anything goes but after it's over you go and shake the other guy's hand," Simmons added.

Popularly known as an aboriginal North American sport used for warrior training, lacrosse was an Olympic sport until 1936. The World Championships are held every four years, the last one being at Varsity Stadium. In 1990, the World Championships will be held in Perth, Australia with several OUFLA players on the national squad making the trip down under, Simmons said.

players of the month

The Molson Export Players of the Month were named last week at a reception at the Cock & Bull pub in Founders College. October's recipients were Tammy Holt (Yeowomen field hockey) and John O'Brien (Yeomen football).

Each month, one Yeowoman and one Yeoman are honoured for their outstanding athletic performance. The players of the month are chosen from a list of nominees by a three-person committee consisting of Frances Flint, representing the department of physical education, CHRY's Mike Krestell, and Excal sports editor Josh Rubin.

TAMMY HOLT: In her second season with the Yeowomen, Holt was York's top scorer for the month of October. The Yeowomen captured the silver medal at both the Ontario and Canadian championships. At the CIAU championship, Holt scored two of York's five goals, including the game-winner in the semifinal. She was named Player of the Game twice in four games, was selected as a Tournament 11 all-star, and was honoured as an all-Canadian. Holt was also named OWIAA Player of the Week recently.

JOHN O'BRIEN: A five-year veteran of the York gridiron, O'Brien was an OUAA first team all-star. He is a candidate for all-Canadian honours and the President's Award for the (OUAA) Player of the Year. O'Brien is also a strong candidate for the CIAU American Express Defensive Player of the Year.

Homo Absurdus

*We labour all day for our wages
From sunup 'til darkness descends
All down through history's pages
We've worked while the owner spends.
We're taxed by the powers that be ruling
That the guns we make may be bought.
And what 'though our children need schooling
We must pay for the wars we've fought.
So we make the guns and we pay for the guns
And we carry the guns to war.
Then we use the guns to destroy the sons
Of men who have done it before.
Poor souls! They paid for the guns they bore.*

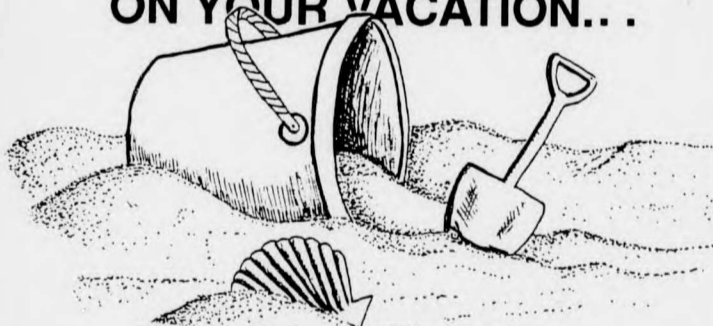
*We labour all day for our wages
'Til profits no longer we yield.
Then hunger and poverty rages
And we live like the beasts of the field.
The owners, with infinite kindness
Toss crusts as they pass us by.
But soon they distrust our blindness
So arrange that we fight and die.
So we make the guns and we pay for the guns
And we carry the guns to war.
Then we use the guns to destroy the sons
Of men who have done it before.
Poor souls! But think how the profits soar!*

by Nathaniel (Pete) Allworth Beach, 1906-1984 circa 1928.

(Beach was a member of the Students' Peace Movement when he attended Western University, in London in the late 1920s. This poem was rejected by the Western student newspaper because it was seen as too radical.)

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