

With a lot of second year players sprinkled in with a few veterans the Yeomen hope to win a few games this season for third year coach Tom Arnott. Excelibur file photo

Football Yeomen hopeful

by Riccardo Sala

Long suffering Maple Leaf hockey fans can take heart with their emotional sidekicks at York who support Yeomen football.

As leaf groupies can look forward to a new chapter for the team with Pat Burns at the helm, it seems that York will be seeing the gridiron Yeomen take a turn for the better this season.

In short, we might finally have a football team this year. One indication of that came last

Saturday. In York's 57-22 pre-season loss to Wilfrid Laurier, the defending Vanier cup champions.

More a test than a game for York, nobody seriously believed that the

Yeomen stood a chance of winning against the National champions. The matchup, nonetheless, showed that York has made some gains during the off-season.

"I was real pleased with the offensive line", said York coach Tom Arnott.

Led by third year receiver P.J. Edgeworth, the Yeomen notched 415 yards against the Laurier Hawks. Edgeworth gained 240 yards on 9 receptions, including a 94 yard touchdown. Edgeworth's performance would have been an OUAA record if the league recognized exhibition games. The record of 215 yards in a game is held by UofT's Rob Crifo and Waterloo's Walt Findon.

While Arnott gave free reign to the offense, quarterbacked by Parry Apostopoulos and Marcello Lio, he put limitations on York's defense. partly in preparation for this Thursday's season opener against McMaster Marauders.

We didn't want to show anything to Mac. We used only one coverage, maybe two, and one of those will definitely not be in the game against Mac, " Arnott said.

One thing that the York coach could not control were costly errors that made the loss spread greater than it should have been.

"I think that a fair score in that game would have been 36-28 for Laurier," Arnott noted, reflecting on missed chances for York (two missed field goals), and the Hawks ability to capitalize on Yeomen errors. Laurier's special teams notched two touchdowns, while the defence intercepted two more for scores.

York will have a more realistic appraisal of it's progress when it takes on McMaster at Esther Shriner stadium Thursday September 10 at 7pm.

The Yeomen defeated the Hamilton side two years ago and almost accomplished the same last year.

"McMaster is probably a bit better than last year," Arnott said. The team is largely the same as last year, with senior quarterback Anthony Alfano. Fullback Rob Ferry is back on the Marauder lineup after sitting on the injury list last year.

The Marauders were defeated by Ottawa 43-13 on Saturday. McMaster receiver Tony D'Agostino, so effective against York last year, wasn't playing in that game and is a question mark.

As for the Yeomen, Arnott has a much better team this year than he did in his first two seasons. While half the Yeomen are freshmen, the rest are second year veterans with a handful of third to fifth year players. A disastrous first season for Arnott, which saw most players leave the team half way through the season. left York with one of the youngest lineups in the league last year.

Arnott noted a couple of weeks agoduring training camp and repeated after the Saturday game, "we have a real football team now'

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Friday February 19 hockey UQTR @ Yeomen 7:30 pm Saturday February 20 hockey Ottawa @ Yeomen 2:00 pm

All games will be preceeded by a ten minute pre-game show. For further information please contact CHRY Sports Director Pat Mete at CHRY's offices at 736-5293.

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