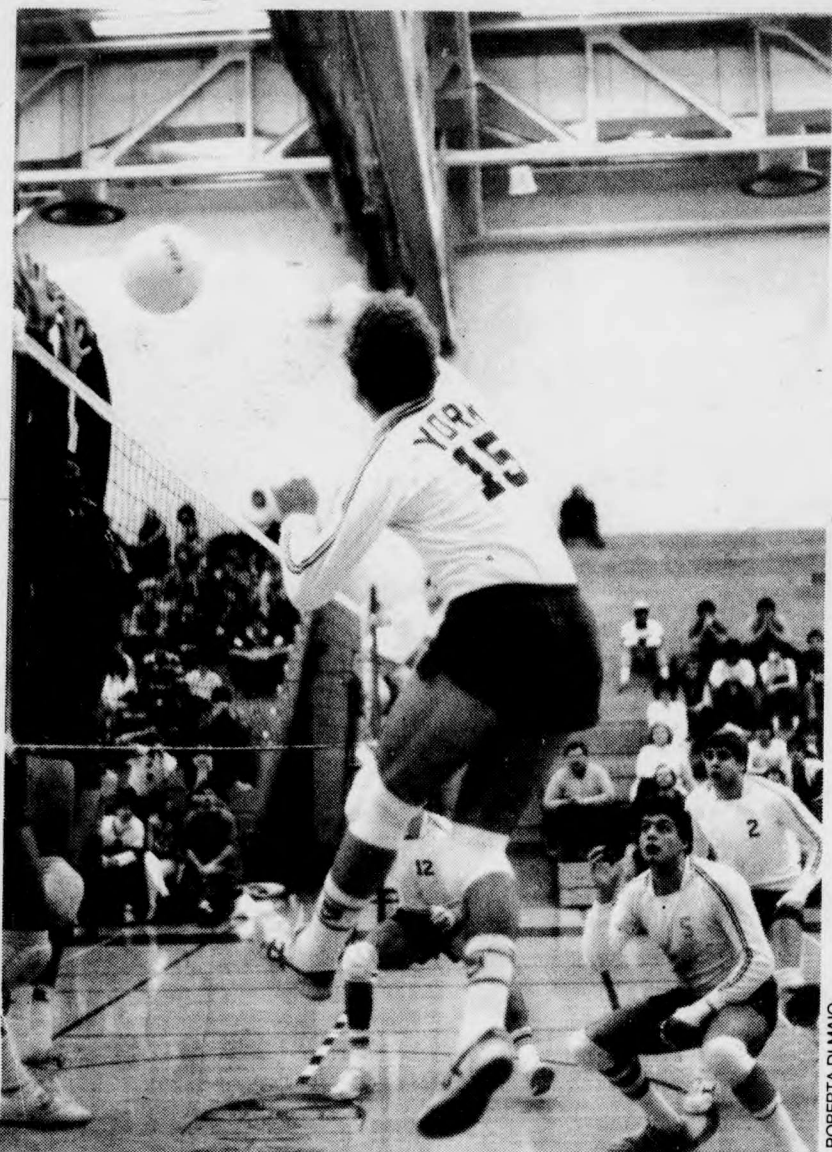


S P O R T S

Volleyball Yeomen down the U of T Blues to earn berth in final



ROBERTA DI MAIO

NAILED: York captain Dave Samek puts the hammer down in OUA A division final action against U of T. It was on a similar play that York gained the victory.

By LORNE MANLY

In a match laden with emotion, the York Yeomen volleyball team captured the East division crown Saturday by defeating their perennial rivals, the University of Toronto Blues, 10-15, 15-7, 15-4, 16-14.

The win enables the Yeomen to travel to Waterloo this weekend for the OUA A final and left the squad basking in the glory of their victory.

"It's awesome, it's incredible," said Tony Martino, a fourth year physical education major. "We were mentally prepared. The coaching staff did a great job and we came in totally psyched."

"We knew we could win," Coach Hernan Humana said. "We played an emotionally controlled game and we just overpowered them. Reading week was really helpful (in that) we focused just on volleyball... and we solved the emotional problems (that have plagued York in their matches at U of T in the past)."

Captain Dave Samek also believed that "the key to winning was our emotional stability," as the players never let their emotions get the better of themselves. "It certainly feels good to get this monkey off our back," Samek added.

The Yeomen looked disoriented in the first game, committing a large number of unforced errors as U of T won the game 15-10. But down 3-1 in the second game, York discarded the hesitancy with which they had been playing, turning the match around in the process.

"In the first game we still didn't play as if we believed we could do it," Humana, a former member of the Chilean national squad, said. "But in the second and third games of the match we destroyed them. We then had control of the game—it wasn't easy but we took them."

The Yeomen encountered trouble when trying to finish off the second game. York led 14-7 for 10 minutes but were unable to get that winning point against a stubborn U of T team until Alex Ketrzynski nailed a spike to clinch the game.

U of T appeared to have forced a fifth and final game as the momentum swung in their favor early in the fourth game and the Blues sped off to an 11-5 lead. York, however, regrouped, and began a painfully slow comeback in which the Yeomen saved game point time and again until they finally pulled even at 14-14. The ball changed hands eight

more times before Samek iced the match with a smash, sending York to the final this Saturday.

"On the floor there was an incredible feeling when we were down 14-11 (in the fourth game)," Samek said. "The guys knew we were going to win the game, that we weren't going down. I can't really explain why we knew, but we just knew."

The squad may have kept their emotions on an even keel during the match but coach Humana could barely contain himself. "This is the first time I've got so excited," Humana said. "I'm quite famous for being calm... but in this game I was in every jump, in every pass, in every save. The players needed to feel me close to them today."

Samek felt that Humana's antics helped the team. "He was right behind us the whole match," Samek said. "He wanted to show that us and him on the side, were all one unit. He felt that this was the most important contribution he could make during the game."

The boisterous crowd seemed to get to at least one York player as Alex Ketrzynski threw the ball at one loud, beer drinking U of T fan who was taunting the Yeomen from the sidelines. Appearances, however, were deceptive in this case as the ball was not thrown out of frustration but done purposely to convey a certain message.

"I've never done that before," Ketrzynski, a former Olympian, said. "We have a reputation of being a really nice team, gentlemanly and

sportsmanlike. I thought the occasion called for a little animalism." Ketrzynski later apologized to the fan.

"There's always one guy there leading it," Samek continued. "Alex wanted to give a message to keep his mouth shut 'cause he won't be able to say much when we win. Saturday we had the killer instinct," and this action forcibly brought the point home.

The Yeomen are now preparing to face Waterloo this Saturday and are confident of their chances for winning the OUA A championship. "I have a lot of confidence for the final," Ketrzynski said. "They (Waterloo) have big physical players but they're more inconsistent that we are."

According to Samek, "Waterloo doesn't frighten us as much as U of T. They may be ranked higher than us but the two teams are really equal. U of T is a tight, emotional team while Waterloo is composed of really good individuals and they can break down more easily," Samek added.

The team is not worried about an emotional let-down after the draining victory over the Blues. "There won't be a dropoff against Waterloo," Martino said. "We know each other well, we came up through the ranks with each other. We played them a lot this year and there's always been a rivalry."

"We're going to kick them," Martino added with a grin on his face. It seems that the killer instinct from the U of T game has not yet faded.

Gymnasts continue to dominate OUA A

By JAMES HOGGETT

York Yeomen continued to dominate the Ontario mens' University gymnastic circuit by winning the provincial title at Queens University.

The Yeomen, who have held the OUA A title since the 1971-72 season collected 159.1 points while Toronto finished second with 150.15. Queens Golden Gaels placed third with 112.05.

York's Allen Reddon won the individual title with 56.6 points. Team-mate Lorne Bobkin was second.

Toronto's Ivo Horak and Danny Fedder finished third and fourth. Reddon took the gold medals in pommel horse, rings and silver in the floor exercise, vault, parallel and high bars. Bobkin took top spot in the vault parallel and high bars and tied Reddon for the silver in the vault.

Other good performances by York gymnasts were third place finishes in the pommel horse and rings by Peter Morgan, and a third place finish by Glen Cooper in the floor exercise.

The Yeomen will travel to McMaster University in Hamilton March 7-8 to compete in the CIAU championship finals.

NOTE: Reddon, who has won the individual all-round title twice in the last three years was named OUA A Athlete of the Week for the week of February 17.

York advances into semi-final round

Subway series with U of T begins Friday at Varsity

By EDO VAN BELKOM

The defending national champion York Yeomen's season almost came to an abrupt end Tuesday night as the Waterloo Warriors nearly pulled out a first round sudden death victory.

With less than a minute to go in

regulation play the score was tied at three. But York's leading goal scorer throughout the season, Greg Rolston, iced the game, netting the winning goal with only 43 seconds left of the clock, to give York the 4-3 victory.

Rolston scored two of the Yeomen's four goals and centreman

Brad Ramsden was in on both scores with two assists. Ramsden, who consistently feeds the puck to Rolston, said, "I always know where he is going to be."

Waterloo got on the board when Jamie McKee scored the first and only goal of the first period. In the second, Andrew Eagles caught York on a line change, putting the Warriors up by two. But York evened the score before the end of the period on goals by Brian Small and Rolston's first of the night.

Andrew Smith put Waterloo up once again in the third, just a minute into play. The score remained 3-2 for the Warriors until Brian Gray evened it at 5:40, setting the stage for Rolston's last minute goal.

"When they scored the third goal, I felt a hole in my stomach, and the team sagged," Ramsden said. "But when we tied it at three it really got us up."

Although pleased with the victory, head coach Dave Chambers felt his team can still play better. "We're not playing up to our potential, we'll have to play much better for the series against U of T," Chambers said.



LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU: Varsity Blue Phil Drouillard is left unmolested at the side of York's net. York plays U of T in semi-final action tomorrow night at Varsity Arena.



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