

SPORTS

Gee Gees halt it at forty

Yeomen win streak ends

MARK ZWOL

Things can change over the course of a week as the York Yeomen basketball team learned when their undefeated streak this season was halted by the upstart Ottawa Gee Gees with a 76-73 victory last Friday night.

York had dominated Ottawa in a game the previous week when they trounced the Gee Gees 92-62. After going into the half with a one-point lead, 38-37, York's defense virtually closed the inside game off in the second, allowing only 15 points over the remaining 30 minutes of play. However, York ran into a pair of hot shooters in Rohand McClean and Geordy Gibson in the rematch at Ottawa. The two forwards, who netted a combined 43 points, wore down the Yeomen's zone defense, especially in the final quarter, with their outside shooting.

Ironically, the Yeomen enjoyed one of their more productive nights in team scoring with all five starters well into double figures by the game's final whistle.

"They showed us a much better offense," coach Gerry Barker explained. "Two of their guys (McLean and Gibson) got hot from the outside, something they weren't doing last week, and that hurt our zone. Their big man, Rob Taylor, also did a good job for them."

The loss chalks the Yeomen's record-breaking win streak against OUAA east division teams into the books at 40 consecutive victories, a feat which dates all the way back to January of '80.

Bounce back against Carleton

York rebounded the following night in the second of their two-game series in Ottawa when they tripped up the Carleton Ravens by a 89-74 score.

Enzo Spagnuolo led a much more spirited Yeomen effort with 19 points. York went into the half with a 12-point margin, 53-41, and a ball-hawking defense closed the door on any bid for a Raven comeback.

The weekend split tapers the Yeomen won loss record to 8-1. Until Friday's encounter with the Gee Gees, York had remained the only unbeaten team in the 15-school OUAA league, but with five games left to play in the regular season, the Yeomen appear to be well on their way to a sixth successive OUAA east division title and fourth straight league championship.

According to coach Gerry Barker, Friday's loss to Ottawa shouldn't bear any significance on the outcome of the season. "Sure, our guys were upset over the loss; we were hoping to win two over the weekend. But if

we win our remaining five games, the loss will be insignificant," Barker explained.

"Actually," he continued, "there is a positive side to it (the loss). It kind of brings us back to reality, gives us a chance to settle down. We know that if we don't play hard and work hard, there are teams out there that are going to beat us."

REBOUNDS: Both the Yeowomen and Yeomen basketball teams are in action this Friday, February 11, when the Carleton Ravens return for a rematch at the Tait Gym. Game times are at 6 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

Edged by three points

York second at tourney

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

At last weekend's Can-Am Squash Tournament in Dartmouth, New Hampshire, the Yeomen valiantly struggled only to come up short in their bid for the championship title.

Missing top players

Queens University finished first with 41 points, edging out York who accumulated 38 points. Dartmouth was third (27 points), McGill checked in at 4th (21 points) while two U.S. colleges, Vassar and Hamilton College, brought up the rear with 14 and 7 points respectively.

After virtually tearing up the squash circuit in their eight previous meets, the Yeowomen travelled south of the border missing three of their best players: Rhonda Firmi, Anita Halpern and squash superstar, Jo Ann Beckwith, who had National Team commitments.

Pimm was Number One

However, the rest of the team pulled together and fought tooth and nail—only to lose out to Dartmouth

(three games to two) in the tenth and final round, while Queens breezed past Vassar 5-0 thus giving them the championship.

Karen Salmon, Ruth Castellino, Heather Sampson and Nancy Lum represented York, but it was Gail Pimm whose light shone the brightest. Pim went 5-0 and emerged as the number one player in the tournament.

"We had a very inexperienced team down there," commented coach Bob Cluett. "And considering that several of the girls had never played hardball before, the fact that we finished the ninth round tied with Queens, is unbelievable!"

Yeomen waltz over Ryerson

CHRIS B. DODD

With the fierce playoff race in the OUAA hockey standings approaching a climax, the Yeoman's 14-1 win over Ryerson last Sunday afternoon was a vital if easy victory.

It was a game York simply had to win if it is to capture the sixth and final playoff position. The romp over the cellar-dwelling Rams gives York a record of 10-9, and lifts York into seventh place.

Bill Elisson led the way with a barrage of four goals. Perry Edwards picked up a hat trick and Mike McCauley added a pair.

The team was seemingly unaffected by the absence of defenseman John Campbell, Les Smith and Steve Weatherbee all of whom were sidelined by injuries. "It's a great accomplishment to win without players of that calibre," said coach Bob Hedley.

NOTES: With only five games remaining in the schedule, there is a heated battle among nine teams for the six playoff positions. The league has 12 teams. York has a light schedule, as it plays its next three games against Brock, Waterloo and RMC—three teams which aren't involved in the playoff race.

Goaltender Dave Stewart, who had been benched recently, returned to the net Sunday. Stewart has been a workhorse all season, but had begun to slump. "We'll alternate them (Stewart and Jim Chambers) until we find a steady goaltender to lead us into the playoffs," said Hedley.

The next game for York will be Friday February 11, when they travel to Waterloo.



MARK ZWOL

March means OUAA pennant time for York varisty teams

It's now that time of the season when York's intervarsity teams shed their civilized, regular season veneer to don a more eat 'em raw visage for the upcoming playoffs. Anything that was going to happen—from player injuries to players quitting—has more than likely already occurred. The teams are either in first place or taking runs at it, and in the next couple of weeks, the story on the various benches will be the same: it's OUAA pennant time.

Several of York's intervarsity squads are in contention for the right to play in league championship games: Wally Dyba has his volleyball Yeomen sitting atop the OUAA East Division with a 14-1-0 record. The single loss, a match against Queens, was the Yeomen's first league defeat in three years. York has lead their division for the last six years, and you can bet they'll remain there this season, as surely as you can bet that the swallows will return to Capistrano.

And speaking of being on top, it's only a matter of time before the Yeomen basketball team takes hold of a coveted first place perch. Holding a 7-0 record, they are currently occupying third place in the OUAA East, owning a rather awe-inspiring win streak against league opponents. The Yeomen have 39 consecutive regular season victories, and if you throw in playoff games, the streak jumps to a staggering 52 wins in a row.

In recent years York has been touted as the team to beat, but this season some thought the monkier was a bit far-fetched. After all, a team losing the likes of a Dave Coulthard—the third leading scorer in OUAA history with 1133 points—might be looking lean come opening day tipoff. But with the Laurier and Excalibur tournament trophies tucked away in the Tait alcoves, coach Gerry Barker can shrug off that prediction. "We just went out and proved that we could play together as a team without Dave, and play well."

Yeowomen on the move

Nothing beats that good ole rivalry York has with its crosstown opponents, U of T. Last year's ice hockey Yeowomen paraded through the East Division with an undefeated 14-0 record, only to lose to the Lady Blues in the OWIAA championship rounds. This season, the Yeowomen are sitting in second place with a 9-2 record, and while Toronto, at 11-1, holds down the number one spot, York is looking to upset them in the first round of the playoffs.

The York Yeowomen basketball team doesn't have a 52 game winning streak to concern themselves with, but like their male counterparts, they are in the hunt for a playoff berth. As defending OWIAA champs, it took a little "reachin' back" to bring this year's team back to par. However, Paula Lockyer's last second 40-foot swisher at the McGill tournament in Montreal, seems to have given the third place Yeowomen the emotional high they'll need in March.

Big one is coming up

Back at the York pond, another hockey team is preparing for the final stretch. The Yeomen will travel to MacMaster on February 18, for what might prove to be a decisive game against the Marlins. MacMaster is currently in fifth place with 22 points, four ahead of seventh place York. Laurier and U of T lead the league with 33 points apiece, but only six points separate the third and seventh place teams. With five games remaining in the schedule, there should be a real dogfight for the playoff berths.

Anyone following the team might have become a bit cynical because, at 9-9, they've slipped into seventh place. Only the top six teams make the playoffs. However, before it can get into the big picture, an OUAA championship, York must win the little battles with midriff teams like MacMaster.

From an overall team standpoint, York and Mac have a lot in common. Both are playing at the .500 level, and both are hard skating, hard hitting outfits. The two squads have their share of firepower up front; with 32 and 39 points respectively, York's Bill Elisson and Ken Norris hover around the top ten in league scoring. The Marlin's Grey Bullen is third with 45 points.

Before their confrontation, the Yeomen would like to notch into the win column three of the four games they need to assure a playoff spot. "We'd like to go into the Mac game with a playoff spot locked up" explained coach Bob Hedley. "But I don't think our season will be lost if we lose. Any of the top teams can be had on any given day but, with that game being their last and our second last, all fingers point towards a playoff spot riding on that game."

Must pull socks up

The Yeomen have shown some improvement in the second half of the season, but in recent weeks have not performed well. Having Les Smith and John Campbell sidelined with injuries contributed to the losses against number two ranked Laurier and number three ranked Western, but now, with a full line-up, the Yeomen should get on track in time for the playoffs.

Sportlite

CORPORATE CHALLENGE TRACK MEET

The Department of Physical Education and Athletics has challenged Ontario's business community to participate in a *Corporate Challenge Track Meet*, to be held Saturday, February 24th at the Metropolitan Toronto Track and Field Centre.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Casio Calculators, Coca-Cola Ltd., CP Air, Labatt's Ontario Breweries and Sears, the event will have trophies and prizes ranging from t-shirts and wrist watches to a draw for a trip for two anywhere in Europe that same year.

The challenge will be to raise money for track and field events for men and women in three age categories. About 100 York volunteers, including University student-athletes and some of Canada's top track stars, will be on hand to officiate.

For more information and a brochure, call Dave Smith at (416) 667-2379.

OSGOODE LAW GAMES AT YORK

More than 700 law students representing at least 12 schools from across Canada will congregate at York University's Osgoode Hall for the Canada Law Games, February 16-20.

The Games, also known as the Law Olympics, are being organized by Loudon Owen and Patrick Egan, of Osgoode Hall Law School. Student will compete in hockey, curling, squash, basketball, volleyball, water polo, and indoor soccer.

The Games will coincide with two other meetings at the York campus: the National Conference on Legal Education, and a meeting of the Presidents of the Law Student's Societies. All sporting events will be held at the York campus, or at nearby sports facilities and the events are open to spectators. For further information on the Games, call Osgoode Law School at 667-3141.