

By LORNE MANLY

The York Yeowomen field hockey team visited Sauk Valley, Michigan this past weekend and returned triumphant in all of their four exhibition matches. The Yeowomen, gearing up for what looks to be a very promising season, thrashed their opponents from four American colleges, outscoring them 34-1.

Leading the York assault on the unsuspecting Americans were veterans Sharon Creelman and Karen Hewlett, who had ten and five goals respectively, and rookie Sam Brand, who netted seven goals. Yeowomen goaltender Sharon Bayes nearly held York's opponents completely off the

Yeowomen outclass U.S. colleges

scoresheet, allowing only one goal which came in their 6-1 victory over the University of Ohio. The Yeowomen took the other three games handily, beating Hope College 10-0, South-western Missouri 3-0, and Lake Forest Collegiate 15-0.

Coach Marina Van der Merwe was very pleased with her team's performance over the weekend. The goals of the weekend's tournament were to give Van der Merwe an idea

of the best positions for the athletes and to get the players used to the team unit concept. "We have a strong team," Van der Merwe said, "and we hope to make use of that strength and mould the team into a very tight unit. The strength of the least talented player must be nurtured," Van der Merwe added.

In field hockey, according to Van der Merwe, "one has to diminish the idea of stardom. Everybody must be

able to score but the players have to understand that not everyone will." Van der Merwe is trying, through her coaching, to instill in her players the maxim that "everyone's contribution is critical." As Van der Merwe said: "The idea of assists is very important. That is the basic thrust (of her coaching) besides being technically and physically fit."

Van der Merwe feels that the York squad has a "pretty good chance" to

reach the Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union (CIAU) championships which will be held November 1, 2 and 3 at Lamport Stadium in Toronto. Last year the Yeowomen, with a weaker team, surprised everyone by reaching the national finals before falling to the Victoria Vickettes 1-0. This year the Yeowomen have a solid chance to finish first in the country.

This weekend, September 21 and 22, the team travels to Waterloo for the four team Waterloo Invitational.

The Yeowomen will play the University of Central Michigan, the University of Waterloo and Laurentian University.

York football still second string in television's eyes

Now that York's football team has entered its "new era of excellence" one might be led to believe that the team has earned a higher profile for media types like TSN and CHCH TV in Hamilton, but this is just not so. There still are a few problems that have to be overcome until York can compete with the U of T for television exposure.

For example, when the 1985 OUA football schedule was spat out of the league offices in Guelph there were a total of 11 games scheduled to be televised, two by TSN and nine by CHCH. Both games televised by TSN and three of the nine CHCH games will feature the University of Toronto. In total the U of T will be on the tube on five out of a possible 11 dates.

York on the other hand will be on TSN once and CHCH once. The game on TSN doesn't really count because their opponent on that date of October 10 will be the University of Toronto.

This brings us to problem number one—reputation and history.

The U of T has won the Ontario title 23 times since 1937, the national championship a few times and even a couple of Grey Cups in the early part of the century, so they have reputation and history. But from a York point of view that's all well and good, but it's also in the past. Last year the Varsity Blues came up empty, failed to make the playoffs



EDO VAN BELKOM

and were humiliated by York for the first time in their history. In fact, if it hadn't been for the saving graces of the University of Waterloo Warriors, U of T would have finished dead last.

So one good season for York and a bad one for the U of T is not enough to turn the tables. Mary Notley of the Consumer Relations departments at TSN was at a loss for words when asked why TSN is televising the U of T exclusively—"the only reason I can think of is that it (U of T) is a very well known university"—and she softened the blow by saying that she could put in an official request for more York sports. But this measure won't do much unless every student called and demanded York coverage.

And now for the second problem—poor facilities.

The Varsity Blues just happen to play out of the best facility for university football in the country. Evidence of

that can be found in the fact that the Vanier Cup (Canadian Championship) is held there on an annual basis. The defending national Champion Guelph Gryphons' Alumni Stadium is also an excellent facility both for playing and televising the game of football. Its high grandstand and elevated surrounding field provide ideal locations for cameras. It also has good press box facilities. As a result the Gryphons will be featured on CHCH for two home games

Now you might think that North York Civic Stadium is a good facility, good enough for television, but it's not, according to David Wilson, producer and director of CHCH's OUA game of the week. "We did do a broadcast last year from there, but we had to put up scaffolding and the cost was just too much," Wilson says.

In all fairness to Wilson and the OUA game of the week, they do have the responsibility to show each team at least once. That's why on Saturday, September 21, Windsor at Waterloo will be featured instead of York at Guelph. "We're showing that game, just to get those teams out of the way," Wilson said.

So the bottom line to all this is that until York has the facilities to match the new level of play, we will have to be content with being second string in the media sweepstakes to Toronto's other university as well as some of the other older and more established institutions in the province.

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