

Two points out of fourth

Win streak seventh heaven for Yeomen

MARK ZWOL

Demonstrating the kind of two way hockey that has characterized their much improved second half of the season, the York Yeomen defeated the Laurentian Voyageurs 6-4 Saturday night.

These days the club is flying high on a seven game winning streak which has led them from an eighth place deadlock to sole possession of sixth place in the OUAA standings.

"We've turned things around in the second half of the season," said Coach Bob Hedley. "There's not an area in our game that hasn't improved - we're getting to the puck in the corners and bringing it out of our end effectively. It also has a lot to do with our guys having a lot more time to play together as a team."

Not a spree reminiscent of pre-season promises, the win streak took form two weeks ago when York

nailed down victories over Queen's, 6-3, and R.M.C., 3-0, in Kingston. Since their 4-2 loss to Laurier a month ago, the Yeomen have won seven of their last eight games with five of those victories coming on the road.

Big line connects

The big line of Ken Norris, Bill Ellison, and Scott Magder, led the York attack on Voyageur netminder Peter Kiernan. Ellison had a pair of goals (one of those shorthanded) and two assists. He leads the team in individual scoring with 32 points--14 goals and 18 assists.

Sparkplug centre Ken Norris added a pair of goals, (his twelfth and thirteenth of the season), both of which broke deadlocks in the score.

Other goal scorers for York, were Ed Citton, and John Lovell. Norm Bathston, who had a pair, replied for Laurentian.

Stewart backs it up

The score could have easily shifted in favour of the Voyageurs, had it not been for Dave Stewart's solid goaltending. He kicked out 24 of the 28 shots that he faced, as his arms and legs seemed to form an impenetrable wall.

Stewart wasn't particularly pleased with the second and third goals of the game, both of which occurred when a Voyageur centering pass veered off a skate into the net.

"You don't like to see those kind go in," Stewart said. Those funny bounces are bound to happen at some point during the game.

But York tightened its backline

play as the wingers picked up the checks, allowing the defence men to stand up at the blueline and close the middle off.

"A team can get a hundred shots on goal, but if you pinch play in the middle of the ice and force those shots to come from the side, that team isn't going to score many goals," Hedley explained.

York's powerplay had several chances to get into gear when play got a little choppy, especially in front of the two netminders. With Laurentians' Doug Backon, in the box for hooking, Ken Norris put the Yeomen ahead to stay at 10:29 of the second period with a bullet drive that beat goalie Peter Kiernan on the short side.

In retrospect, the Yeomen penalty killing unit performed well, thwarting all four of Laurentian's

powerplay opportunities. With the teams playing six men to five, Bill Ellison grabbed a loose puck in the Laurentian zone, pulled Kiernan out with a neat fake to his left and then shifting to his right, he tucked an easy back-hander into the gaping net.

Playoff bound

Six teams are granted playoff positions in the OUAA league. While the win over Laurentian

improves York's record to 8-6 overall, and gives them that sixth and final playoff position. They are only two points behind fourth place Laurier, but the Yeomen have two games in hand.



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