

## Hockey Yeomen aim for three

by Josh Rubin

It's taken them since mid-November, but the hockey Yeomen are finally showing signs of waking up from their mid-season daze.

After an abysmal weekend showing against Queen's, the Yeomen dropped into third spot in the OUAA East this past Sunday, forcing them to play a sudden death division quarter final against the Concordia Stingers.

Against the Stingers, the Yeomen prevailed 8-2 thanks in large part to some strong defence and Neven Kardum's five points. Also contributing offensively was York's rock-solid defender Guy Girouard, who came in with a goal and three assists. Girouard also made life miserable for the Concordia forwards, dishing out some punishing hits.

Some Yeomen, such as forward Pat Howie, were too rambunctious for referee Al Dawe. Thanks to his three stick infractions on the night, Howie was forced to miss the Yeomen's next game against Ottawa.

Concordia coach Paul Arsenault felt his team was intimidated by playing the two-time defending national champs. "The guys certainly could have played a lot better than they did. It really frustrates me when they think they couldn't have won, when I know that they could have."

After thrashing Concordia on Tuesday night, the Yeomen went on to host the Ottawa G.G.s in the first game of a best of three divisional semi-final.

In this game, the Yeomen had something to prove to the team that had beat them out for second place in the OUAA East. Prove it they did, albeit giving Yeomen coach Graham Wise a few grey hairs on the way to their 7-5 win.

With what seems to be the hallmark of this season's team, the Yeomen started out slowly in this one, and the G.G.s took a quick 2-0 lead on goals by Mike Fiset and Matt Hendricks. The score at the end of the first period could have easily been higher, were it not for some outstanding glove saves by York goaltender Ted Mielczarek.

In the second period, the Yeomen came alive, skating smoothly and stopping the G.G.s dead in their tracks with some heavy hitting.

York got on the board at 5:28 of the second, when Luciano Fagioli got the first of his four goals on the night.

Less than two minutes later, however, the G.G.s regained their two goal lead on a giveaway by York defender Ian Ferguson. Ferguson's gaffe, however, did not stop Mielczarek from making some great saves through the rest of the period and game.

But the Yeomen continued to press, and tied the score at three going into the final frame.

Forty-three seconds into the third period, the Yeomen took the lead for the first time in the game on the strength of Fagioli's third goal of the night.

Fagioli's marker seemed to be the spark the Yeomen needed to really come alive, and after six minutes of the third period, they

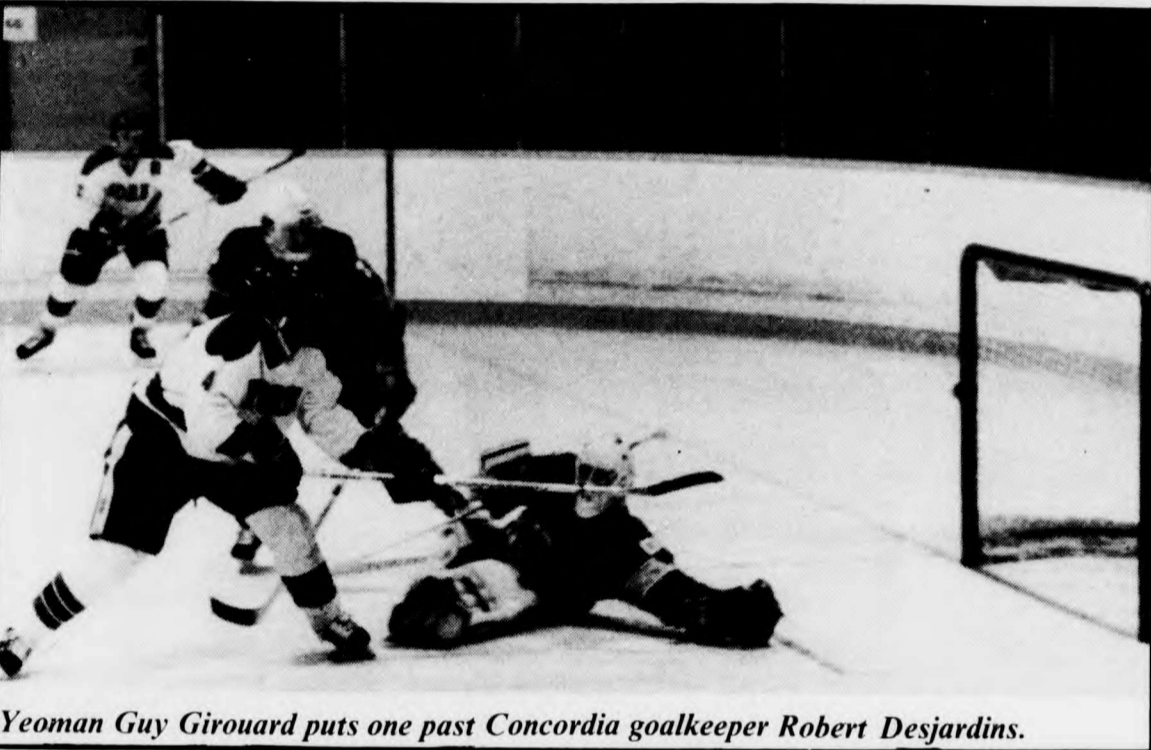
were leading 6-3. For the next few minutes, the Yeomen fell back to their blueline and just protected their lead.

But that strategy backfired when the G.G.s scored two goals 10 seconds apart late in the period to close the gap to one. In the end, the Yeomen held on, with Brian MacDonald adding an empty netter to seal the victory.

The York powerplay went two

for four on the night, and Ottawa coach Michel Goulet put the blame on his own team, "We took too many stupid penalties, and that type of thing really kills the momentum."

Goulet's counterpart Graham Wise seemed pleased with the win, and felt that his team would need some strong forechecking to repeat at the G.G.'s home rink on Saturday.



Yeoman Guy Girouard puts one past Concordia goalkeeper Robert Desjardins.

## Soccer Yeowomen tour California and Hawaii

by Paul Headrick

The Yeowomen soccer team has returned from a reading week tour of California and Hawaii with a record of two wins, three ties and one loss. Head coach David Bell is hoping the intense competition of the tour will help erase the memories of a disappointing 1989 season and set the team up for a stronger 1990.

On the first leg of the trip, the team went to the University of California at Irvine for a round-robin tournament. Their opening match against San Diego State ended in a scoreless draw, as did their second, (played the same day) against Irvine. Bell's game diary for the trip says, "Irvine played a first of textbook control passing that made York look a bit silly," but he was pleased with his team's ability to adjust in the second half and disrupt Irvine's game, putting on pressure of their own.

Even though the Irvine match ended in a draw, Bell thinks his players won't forget the style Irvine demonstrated. Passing and team movement are aspects of play the staff was trying to work on throughout the past season, but the development the team demonstrated against the weaker sides in OWIAA play never seemed to show itself in tighter matches.

Bell admitted the gap between the weaker and stronger teams York faces in the regular season gave the coaching staff problems. He said, "The tour allowed the staff to build on things that need to be corrected game to game. When your intermediate games are so one sided, it's hard to tell whether things have been

corrected."

No game in the entire California tournament was won by more than a single goal, and the Yeowomen had a chance to win the tournament with a victory over UCLA in their final match, but it was not to be. UCLA scored first, with York tying it on a goal from Barbara Sajben off a Kristen Bell cross. It was Sajben's first goal as a Yeowoman, after missing two full seasons with a back injury. Bell is expecting Sajben to take on an important role next season, possibly replacing the departing Sue Gough in attacking midfield.

In the second half, UCLA took the lead. Bell's journal shows more than a touch of frustration in his description of the rest of the match, "From that point on, York fought very hard to tie, forced play into the UCLA end, and actually put the ball into the net on another excellent corner (Paula Ursini from the right side). The referee disallowed the goal, claiming the goalie had the ball under control, but even their coach admitted later this was wrong." UCLA won the tournament.

In Hawaii, star striker Sam

Hellens once again found her scoring touch. Hellens counted York's lone goal in their opening match, a 1-1 tie with Leahi, and counted both goals in the team's first victory of the tour, a 2-1 win over Kamalii. Beth Munro, Alison McEnteer and Sue Gogh each scored in a 3-1 victory over He Kini Popo (translation — "right on the ball"), the last match of the tour. McEnteer and Gough's goals came in their final games as Yeowomen, as both are graduating.

Bell said, "The team improved consistently from game to game," and the Yeowomen "learned composure under pressure." The team will be counting on sweeper Portia Barriffe to make a big contribution in maintaining that composure next year. Barriffe has been a dominant player since joining the Yeowomen, and Bell rated her as the best player on the field in at least four of the six tour matches. She will replace Monica Verroneau as captain next year. Verroneau, who had been a strong leader on and off the field during her two years as captain, is another veteran the team is losing.

In Bell's final assessment of the tour he said he felt the team learned a great deal, not just about their play but also about the cultures they visited [he has photos from the Polynesian Cultural Centre to prove it], and he noted, "it was very useful for team building and focussing on problems in team cohesion for next year." Bell was pleased with the group effort in generating the funding for the tour, and the fact that every team member was able to make the trip.

Despite the loss of valuable veterans such as Gough, Verroneau and Macanteer, Bell will still have a solid group of players left from what several opposition coaches say was the most talented team in the OWIAA last year. Kristen Bell (returning to form after an injury that hampered her play most of last season) and Paula Ursini give the Yeowomen unmatched strength on the wings and striker Sam Hellens will be

expected to set more scoring records. Beth Munro has the ability to dominate games in mid-field, and Portia Barriffe's athleticism at sweeper gives the entire team confidence. If the players deliver on the potential Bell is convinced they have, they may look back to the tour as the experience that brought them together as a team.

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