

Lady Blues 'cream' Yeowomen for provincial title

by Riccardo Sala

After a couple of less than pretty qualifying matches the field hockey Yeowomen put their all into the OWIAA championship game this Sunday against the UofT Lady Blues.

Sadly, it wasn't enough as the Varsity Blues trounced York, the defending provincial champions, 6-1 for the Ontario crown.

It was a teary end for the Yeowomen.

"They played with pride, and played for 70 minutes with heart and soul," said York coach Regina Spencer afterwards.

The Yeowomen made it to the Sunday final by virtue of victories over Laurentian and Guelph during play on Friday and Saturday.

The 1-0 decision over Laurentian in the quarterfinals Friday was an ugly win for the Yeowomen, who one week earlier had defeated them 6-0.

Part of the reason for the showing was the Laurentian standout goaltender, Lyne Miron, Combined with a pesky defence that refused to let York run away with the ball, Miron's play was a sobering blow to the Yeowomen.

It wasn't until 11:14 in the second overtime period that York finally scored. Yeowoman Cindy Gahunia successfully connected off a rebound after a penalty corner for the goal.



Michelle Bosener

WHO'S GOT THE BALL?: York Yeowomen netminder Michelle Capperauld dives vainly for the ball as the UofT Lady Blues crowd her crease en route to a 6-1 Toronto win during the OWIAA final Sunday.

The Yeowomen taking to the field in Saturday's semi-final against the Guelph Gryphons were a visibly different side from the team that had squared off against Laurentian the day before.

"It was a better game all around

On the other end was Michelle Capperauld, who played another of her standard top calibre games in the York net, making several key saves.

Guelph coach Karen Lee was pleased with the outcome nonetheless.

"I felt that we were as good on the field as York were. Realistically we knew that we were underdogs (against York) going in, but we didn't step onto the field expecting to lose," Lee said.

After their two preliminary games, York wound up where it had aspired to be all season long—a subway final with UofT for the OWIAA title.

The Sunday game brought with it the best weather of the three games, as well as a large contingent of York supporters. Despite the pro-York crowd, the Blues came up with shock therapy early when Claire Thurgur scored in the first minute of play.

Thurgur's goal, her first of three on the day, put the Blues up 1-0.

Things didn't improve from there. York was playing its best field hockey, but was no match for Toronto in this

one. The Blues dominated the York zone, and an injured Michelle Capperauld and the Yeowomen were hard pressed on defence.

By the end of the first period the Blues had worked themselves to a 3-0 lead.

The few times the Yeowomen made it past the midfield, the attackers were too few, and found it hard to sustain any pressure in Toronto's end.

Toronto notched three more goals in the second period, despite a renewed push on offence by York attackers.

The Yeowomen finally got on the scoreboard in the 67th minute when Sherri Field scored on a penalty stroke.

For Toronto goalie Tina Farrar, who (except for Field's goal) had a perfect day, the game was especially sweet.

"It was definitely the best game we played all season," Farrar said. Then with relish she added,

"It wasn't the (OWIAA) banner

that made us happy. It was the fact that we creamed them. There's no doubt today who's the better team," she explained.

The tissue box was on York's bench after the match, a teary end to the provincial campaign.

"We've got alot of aches and pains," Spencer said.

"I think that Toronto capitalised on every chance they had, which was important. Overall it was a good steady game, we gave up a few unnecessary balls because of timing and footwork," she said, adding,

"We had a game plan but not the personnel to contain them (U of T)."

Along with their provincial silver, the Yeowomen also garnered some individual honours; Jackie Degoiej, Gillian Sewell, Capperauld and Field were selected for the 1st team provincial all-stars while Gahunia was named to the second squad.

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Ironically, earlier in the game Gahunia had damaged her achilles tendon, causing a slight scare in the York bench. Despite losing on the score board, Laurentian won a moral victory.

"The team played phenomenally. They put in 150%," said Laurentian coach Camie Koshowski.

"All week we knew that we were playing York, and we knew that we couldn't play in lag time. We cut the game into five minute sections. That makes the game psychologically shorter," Koshowski explained, outlining the game plan to contain York.

than yesterday," Spencer said after a 1-0 York victory.

The Yeowomen had listened to the wakeup call given them by Laurentian.

Though Guelph was a technically better team than Laurentian, York found their stride earlier in this match, attacking with more intensity and discipline.

The work paid off in the last minute of the first period when Yeowoman Annette McClelland blasted a hard shot from the corner past the Guelph netminder.

Women hoops squad thumps Humber in road exhibition

by Sydney St. Nicholas

Oh what a difference a year makes.

Last year the York Yeowomen's basketball team was a small team which lived or died on the strength of their perimeter game. This year, with six rookie players at the forward spot, the Yeowomen can now play inside the paint. Last Wednesday, on the strength of that inside game, York defeated the Humber College Lady Hawks 79-51.

The first half saw the fast-paced game create scoring opportunities for both squads.

The only problem for the Yeowomen was the hard time they had finishing fast breaks. This didn't exactly please York assistant coach Al Scragg.

"Very poor decisions were being made," said Scragg, who quickly added "With 6 new faces in the post they are not used to the quick tempo of the university game compared to the high school game."

With all the scoring chances York had, the game should have been put away early, but at half time the score was just 34-33 for the Yeowomen.

Humber assistant coach Chris

Monfort credited her team with a solid first half. "We played a very strong first half and we executed well. That's why we were still in the game."

The second half started out very much like the first, but the Yeowomen implemented a zone defence which virtually shut down the Humber offence.

Yeowomen head coach Bill Pangos said the game accomplished "certain goals."

If one of those goals was his squad's new zone defence, then things are coming along nicely. The York defence only gave up 7 field goals in the second half and didn't allow Humber a field goal until 8 minutes into the half.

On the other end in the second half, the Yeowomen settled down and scored at will inside. Joanne Jakovcevic lead the rookies by example, accounting for 11 of her 13 total points in the second half. Jennifer Cushing also played very well in the second half, scoring 8 of her 10 points on the game.

Despite a better second half for his side, Pangos noted the Yeowomen have some areas in definite need of improvement.

"We have to execute better and look inside more," Pangos said, adding that despite their second half success, his defence also needs more work. With teams like Laurentian and UofT still to come, Pangos' concern is understandable.

Winning a game 79-51 would keep most coaches content, but Bill Pangos realizes that playing Humber College is a lot different than playing UofT.

"Overall we have a better team than last years team. The gap between the top teams and York is getting smaller but it probably won't be until the second half before the team really comes together," Pangos said.

Scragg agreed, adding "we have a young team and it is early in the year."

Veteran forward Cathy Amara, who notched 17 points for the Yeowomen, is expected to be a balancing influence for the relatively young squad. Also likely to be an asset is Kari Elmes who brought in 14 points against Humber.

The Yeowomen's next home game is on Tuesday November 15, against the Guelph Lady Gryphons. Game time for the Tait McKenzie matchup is 8:15pm. Admission for all York students is free.



Michelle Bosener

TEAR DOWN THE WALL: A pair of Yeowomen defenders attempt to block an Ottawa kill during a preliminary round matchup at the twelfth annual Tait McKenzie Classic this past weekend.

Silver spikers

by Sydney Saint Nicholas

Colour them silver.

This past weekend the Yeowomen volleyball squad were beaten 3-1 by the top-ranked Manitoba Bisons in the final of the 12th annual Mizuno Tait McKenzie Classic.

The loss was still an improvement over last season, when the Yeowomen finished third.

The matchup in the final was actually the Yeowomen's second meeting of the tournament with the Bisons, their first having come in a round robin affair Friday evening.

York won their first two matches relatively easily, sweeping both Sherbrooke and Ottawa 2-0.

Then came the Bisons. Taking advantage of early Bison miscues, the Yeowomen staked a 1-0 lead. But Manitoba, led by the fine play of Christine Toews, stormed back to win the next two games (and the match) by scores of 15-0 and 15-3.

As York coach Merv Mosher noted afterwards, "the team played very well the first game but then the Bisons turned it up a notch and showed us what they could do."

With the loss the Yeowomen advanced to the medal round in second place with a 2-1 record while Manitoba advanced with a 3-0 record.

On the other side of the draw, the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen finished 3-0 while the Universite De Montreal Carabins advanced with a 2-1 record, pitting themselves against Manitoba in one semi-final match while the Yeowomen played Winnipeg in the other match.

When asked what he thought about the matchups and the possibility his team could face York again in the finals, Bisons coach Ken Bentley proved to be prophetic.

"I think that the Winnipeg York matchup is going to be very close," said Bentley.

The Yeowomen and the Lady Wesmen then took part in what would prove to be the most entertaining match of the tournament.

After losing the first game the Yeowomen came back to tie the series at 1-1. In the third game, the Yeowomen came back from a 6-1 deficit before bowing out 15-12.

But the Yeowomen came back to take the match, winning the next two games 15-10 and 17-15.

In the final matchup against the Bisons, York opened the first game strongly, grabbing a 6-0 lead. But Manitoba then took it to the Yeowomen, taking the game 15-10.

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