

# S P O R T S

## York unbeaten and on top of the OUAA

By EDO VAN BELKOM  
and JAMES HOGGETT

The York Yeomen hockey team is on top of the world.

Okay, so maybe not on top of the world but they are on top of the OUAA standings.

A pair of wins last weekend, 5-4 over Toronto and 6-2 over Brock have kept them in the unfamiliar position of looking down on the rest of the competition.

With one third of the 1986-87 schedule of 24 games completed, York sits alone in first place with a 7-0-1 record good for 15 points. Western is the only other undefeated team in the league and have two games in hand on York. Their record is currently 5-0-1.

Although first place is an unfamiliar one for head coach Dave Chambers, it is a position he could come to enjoy. "We want first place this year," he said. We've had to come from behind the last two years and we could use the extra home games come playoff time."

York has finished fifth and third in the two previous seasons.

Last Thursday night the Yeomen squared off against perennial arch rivals Toronto and received their biggest scare of the season.

U of T jumped out to quick lead at the 50 second mark of the first period, but the Yeomen fought back to take a 5-1 advantage by the middle of the third period.

The wheels then nearly fell off the Yeomen machine when they got sloppy in their own zone. U of T capitalized on the York miscues, scoring three to narrow the margin to 5-4 but that's the closest the Blues came.

"The offence played very well," York coach Dave Chambers said after the game. "We've learned a valuable lesson here tonight that you

can never let up against a team like Toronto. We've seen now how easily a 5-1 lead can dwindle away."

Last Saturday night, York downed the Brock Badgers of St. Catharines by a score of 6-2. Despite the impressive four goal margin, the spread should have been much wider, according to Chambers.

Brock is a team that has several talented hockey players but has never, in recent years, moved up in the standings. They have consistently been near the bottom in the OUAA.

"We didn't play as well as we are capable of playing," Chambers said. "We played well enough to win, but the team wasn't totally up for the game. When we reach a high score we tend to let up."

It was only a year ago that Chambers was saying the same thing about a victory over the Badgers. What followed was a mini skid that saw the Yeomen lose crucial games to Toronto and McMaster and their bid for first place overall in the standings. Chambers recalled the statement but added that the same should not be a problem this season.

York was first to get on the scoreboard, but Brock tied the score at one before the end of the period. The Yeomen took the lead in the second with the only goal of the period.

It wasn't until the third period that York took control, scoring four times while the Badgers could only reply with one of their own.

York plays a pair of away games this weekend Friday at Brock and Sunday at Waterloo.

Chambers said the game against the Warriors could be one of the toughest of the year. York has yet to come back from Waterloo home ice in the past two years with a victory, losing the last two confrontations by identical scores of 4-3.

One thing that could turn the



CALL IT A STALEMATE: York's Brian Small and a Brock player joust for position.

tables this year in Waterloo will be York's defensive corps. The Yeomen have allowed the second fewest goals against (20) in the league. Western, with two fewer games played, have allowed only 12.

### FROM THE GOAL MOUTH:

Remember the talk of an east /west divisional set up? Well, it's gone. It seems one division would have been much weaker than the other and some playoff bound teams would have been very undeserving, just like the CFL structure prior to this season. You don't have to wonder

which division it would have been when the east was supposed to have housed York, Toronto, Laurentian, Queen's, Ryerson and RMC . . . The November 21 issue of *The Hockey News* has York winger Greg Rolston as the OUAA performer of the week for his nine points in two games against Queen's and RMC in Kingston recently . . . As of November 9, the Yeomen had no fewer than five players in the league's top 10 scorers. Brian MacDonald was first with 10 goals and five assists. Greg Rolston, Brian Gray, and Nick Kiriakou were third, fourth and fifth respectively while Rick Morrocco was eighth . . .

Rob Crocock, who missed all of last season with a wrist injury, was elected the team's second alternate captain, joining alternate Brian Gray and captain Bill Maguire as the team's leaders . . . Rob Crocock, who missed all of last season with a wrist injury, was elected the team's second alternate captain, joining alternate Brian Gray and captain Bill Maguire as the team's leaders . . . One third of the York roster, 7 all tallied, are former Belleville Bulls of the Ontario Hockey League. They are Crocock, Kent Brimmer, Brian Small, Tom Vannatter, MacDonald, Jim Mayne and Darren Gani.

## Yeomen spike their RMC opponents and extend their win streak to four matches

By CHRISTINE GOMES

The Yeomen Volleyball squad may be young and inexperienced but that didn't prevent them from downing the RMC Redmen Saturday and extending their league-leading undefeated record to 4-0.

In their second meeting of the season York fought back from a 2-1 deficit to beat RMC in five games before a sparse crowd at the Tait gym.

A very vocal and enthusiastic RMC team, who now slip to 1-3 for the season and fourth in the east division, also lost to U of T the same morning of the York match. But RMC didn't offer the long haul from Kingston and a match against U of T that morning as excuses for their defeat. Instead, RMC Redman John Hopkins pointed a finger towards the referee as their main reason for the loss.

He said that the Yeomen "carry the ball when they tip it," implying they illegally redirect the ball with

their hand. RMC coach Jacques Thibodeau agreed with the claim and added that "the refs favour the home teams," referring to both the York and U of T matches.

Yeomen Danny Attard explained that the refs are trying not to be so restrictive anymore and that "(the refs) are starting to let the teams play." York coach Wally Dyba verified his players' statement and remarked that "I don't think the ref decided the match."

In fact, from a spectators' view it appeared to be anybody's match. York took the first game 15-12 to start off the intense and exciting match. Then York dropped the next two games, 15-9 and 15-10, in which their inexperience was shown through missed serves, confusion and inconsistency. But due to sheer effort the Yeomen battled back to win the next two games 15-7 and 15-9 to take the match.

Coach Dyba was pleasantly surprised by the Yeomen's performance

in Saturday's match as he has been in their other previous matches. Dyba's surprise stems from the fact that the Yeomen are in a rebuilding process this year. They have six freshmen and four second-year players on his 11 man roster. In addition the remaining experienced player is the only one on the team who has ever started a game before this year.

Dyba commented that while the Yeomen "don't have the basic fundamentals yet" they do have "tremendous raw ability." This ability combined with hard work and experience should produce a national ranking in the next year or two, Dyba hopes. Though he has "no great expectations this year" Dyba has made this year's goals an 8-2 season record and a trip to the OUAA east final. The Yeomen have a chance to continue towards these goals and further improve their record when they meet third place Laurentian this weekend in Sudbury.



A BOOMING BLAST: A leaping York Yeoman spikes the ball past two blocking Redmen. The Yeomen defeated the Redmen three games to two, and remain atop their division with an 4-0 record.

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