

SPORTS

Volleyball Yeomen earn bronze at CIAU finals

By PAM SERKOWNEY

The Yeomen proved their "medal" at the CIAU volleyball championship last weekend in Calgary.

A straight sets win over Ontario conference rivals Waterloo gave

York the bronze medal. The victory followed on the heels of York's triumph over the Warriors for the provincial title.

"It's a significant accomplishment. We're the first Ontario team in 16 years to medal at Canadians,"

said York coach Wally Dyba. "Our goal all year was to medal (at the Canadians)," said Dyba. He added that watching the hockey Yeomen win the national title was "very inspirational to our guys out there (in Calgary)."

York opened the championship with a 16-14, 15-13, 16-14 win over Laval. In previous CIAU tournaments there has been a pattern of upsets of third ranked teams, but the Yeomen overcame both Laval and the "No. 3" jinx.

"We knew what to expect from scouting and reviewing videotapes," said assistant coach Travis Oke. "The guys were a bit tentative, but

played well enough to win"

Jacob Wiktorek was the game MVP with 13 kills, nine digs and stuff blocks. Bill Knight had 10 kills and eight digs. Bruce Dunning served up three aces and also had seven digs. Rookie Dexter Abrams added 11 kills.

The semi-final match against Manitoba was much closer. After splitting the first two games with the Bisons, the Yeomen found themselves at game point (14-13) but were unable to clinch the game. Manitoba prevailed 16-14 and took the fourth game to win the match 4-15, 15-9, 14-16, 10-15. The Bisons defeated Calgary in straight sets to earn the

national title.

"We were hoping to be in the gold medal match but we had to beat Manitoba first," said Oke. "We needed everyone to play a great match. It was within our ability, our grasp, but it eluded us."

Wiktorek had 12 kills and 15 digs. Knight had 24 kills and Abrams added 18 kills.

The loss to Manitoba set up an all-Ontario battle for the bronze. Waterloo was the only team to defeat York during regular season play but bowed out in the OUA final.

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SKYHIGH: Yeoman Dexter Abrams powers over opposition blocks.

DOUG MARK - THE GAUNTLET

Soccer Yeomen to tour England

By RICCARDO SALA

Though the regular season may be over, the Yeomen soccer team is not through playing for the year.

On May 11 the Yeomen start a ten-day tour of England.

York Coach Eric Willis will have his players going up against teams from Oxford, Southampton, and London's St. Mary's College. A game against Cambridge is probable, though it has not been finalized.

This will be the team's third time in England since 1982 since 1982, when the Yeomen made their first trip abroad. This was followed by a second tour in 1985.

For Coach Willis, this will be the Yeomen's most successful trip yet, largely due to fundraising.

"I've been very impressed with the player's commitment to fundraising," said Willis. "These are players who already are busy with school

and varsity sports, and the effort that they put into raising money is impressive."

Fundraising for this latest venture has gained from past experience.

"We've gone from many small fundraising ventures in the past that netted only several hundred dollars each to two or three larger events that are much more effective, like hockey pools and indoor soccer tournaments," Willis added.

At \$15,000 and two years of planning, this trip is not small. Willis feels that the effort is well worth it, as it is a special experience for the team.

"Being placed in a foreign surrounding, the team comes closer together — they get to know each other," said Willis.

This will hopefully produce a cohesiveness and sense of "team" that will carry into September and the new season.

Part of the tour's appeal for the Yeomen is playing soccer in a country where the sport is as popular (or more so) than hockey is for Canadians. Also, there is the opportunity for competition against students whose view of varsity sports is different than North Americans.

"Sports in England are geared more towards character building. As well, the coach plays less of a role than he does here. There, most of the decisions are by the players," Willis said.

Considering the centrality of soccer to the British sports scene, the Yeomen have acquitted themselves well in the times they have played English teams.

"We've never lost to a visiting English team — tied them, but never lost to them," said Willis.

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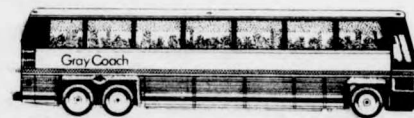
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