

SPORTS

Komsic hits for 20 points

Women Cagers fight to split weekend doubleheader

Elissa Freeman

Last weekend turned out to be both good and bad for the Yeowomen Basketball Team.

After an extremely dismal 66-51 loss to the Laurentian Vees on Friday night, York bounced back on Saturday night, dumping Queens by a score of 79-58.

In the first 20 minutes of the Laurentian match, the Yeowomen played a fairly even game, which ended with the Laurentian leading 29-26 at the half. Offensively, Anne McEachern was particularly effective feeding direct passes to the shooters and displaying her own marksmanship abilities. Defensively, Paula Lockyer was also a standout, showing extraordinary man-to-man speed and agility.

However, it was a different story when the second half began. After the opening tip-off, Laurentian stormed for six baskets, leaving the Yeowomen to play catch-up ball the rest of the game. Laurentian continued to press, with diminutive Vees guard, Linda Palango, picking off several of York's errant passes. The further the Yeowomen fell behind, the more erratic their play as Laurentian pulled ahead, leading by 10 points at the 9 minute mark.

The statistics speak for themselves. York committed a total of 27

turnovers, 19 occurring in the second half. The shooting percentages were also way down. From the floor the Yeowomen were 29 percent and sank only 44 percent of their free-throws.

"We played in a fog," lamented Coach Frances Flint. "Our defense was like a sieve. But we have a very, very young team and these things are going to happen."

However, the cagers turned things around when they played against Queens. York completely dominated the opposition leading 47-27 at the half and maintaining that 20 point lead until the final buzzer, winning 79-58.

The 'Big' Three

This time the shooters came through in a 'big' way. Six-foot one inch centre, Senka Komsic, hit for an amazing 20 points, as opposed to barely managing 4 points against Laurentian. Veterans Kim Holden 5ft. 9 and a half, accounted for 11 points and McEachern, 6 feet, tallied 10 points and reached for 14 rebounds.

The percentages were also much more respectable: 50 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the free-throw line.

"I'm really pleased with the way they came back this weekend," said Flint. "We settled down and put forth a real team effort."



Think fast!...Ann McEachern gets ready to grab a pass during Yorks 79 - 58 rout over Queens. The win was sweet victory after losing to Laurentian 66-51

Yeowomen Squash:

Ready to 'smash' their way to success

Elissa Freeman

When surveying York's most prominent Yeowomen athletic squads, the informed sports fan immediately thinks of basketball, squash, volleyball and hockey. Wait a minute...squash? Does York have a squash team?

The team is led by Head Coach, Bob Cluett. Cluett, a York English professor of 16 years, has coached the Yeowomen since 1978. An 'above-average' player who has been involved in the game for 33 years, Cluett's athletic involvement reaches far beyond the confines of the squash court. During the nine years he spent teaching at Connecticut High school, he not only coached squash, but also hockey and football.

Experienced & Non-Experienced Talent

Unlike other varsity teams, squash is not governed by the 'eligibility factor', which stipulates the number of years an athlete can spend in a specific sport. However, those girls who join the squash team can play as long as they are students at York. Although the team has never been short of talent, if Cluett were ever to advertise for squash players, the sign on his door would read: 'Experienced & Non-Experienced Players: Apply Within.' Due to a unique system, girls who have never before played the game, are duly coached in both types of squash (hardball & softball) and also become members of the City League Team.

However, the squad has also been blessed with some enormously talented competitors that when combined with the other girls make up "the most talented aggregate of players that York has ever seen!" exclaimed Cluett.

Graduate student, Jo Ann Beckwith, leads the team as its number one player. Beginning her second season with the Yeowomen, Beckwith, a National Team Member for 2 years, also reigns as the 1981 Can-Am Softball Champion. Cluett describes Beckwith as a shot-maker; she plays a very strategic game. It is this ability to disguise her shots as well as her precise placing of the ball that led her to her Can-Am crown.

The number two player, Gail Pimm, is making her debut with the

Yeowomen this season. At the Quebec Open Champion, Cluett sees Pimm as a potential number one player. "She's a shot-maker that strives to move her opponent around. She also has a nifty placement of the ball." He credits Pimm with playing a near structurally perfect game and with incredible court intensity. "It turns her into a killer," says Cluett, "often her opponents are carved like a piece of baloney!" However, such intensity also gets the better of her, as she is, often criticized for her short-tempered manner on the court.

Nikki Partridge checks in as the number three player and has been with the Yeowomen for two years since transferring from Trent. "She's a super player," says Cluett. Partridge's record backs up his claim: she had a remarkable 25-4 record in '81 and went undefeated in the OWIAA's.

Another second year player, Ruth Castellino (ranked 5th), "has really come of age in the last few weeks!" As a player who started only two years ago, Castellino's credentials are impressive: she is one of the select few to have beaten Pattie Hogan, the 1981 Ontario gold medalist, and in Rochester, this softball specialist defeated the fifth-ranked hardball champion.

Karen Salmon, a third year competitor, is also a determined and tenacious player. She had an extremely successful season last year

which she topped off with a 6-3 record at the '81 Can-Am. Along with Castellino, Cluett believes that either of these two players, currently ranked 5th and 6th respectively, would play number one on half the teams in the province. The top seven are rounded out by two first year Yeowomen, Ronda Firmi number 4 and Anita Halpern, number 7. According to Cluett, Firmi's "huge, natural talent" and Halpern's "steady, mature and tough playing style" will add strength to this already talented squad.

Reserve Talents

Wendy Esaw, Heather Sampson, Nancy Stoess, Diane Getgood, Nancy Lum and Karen Kerr are the 'reserve talents' that comprise the City League Team. These girls who compete every Wednesday night against various squash clubs, are doing extraordinarily well as they have already stacked up a 3-1 win-loss record.

In the past, the Yeowomen Squash Team has been quite successful, winning 70 percent of the tournaments they entered and contesting nearly every major squash title. The only two team titles that have eluded them are the OWIAA and the Can-Am. Given the 1982 version of the squash team, the Yeowomen will more than likely break this 'tradition' by simply smashing their way to success!

A Blue affair for York

Mark Zwol

The way the water was thrashing around at last Thursday's practise for the pivotal Waterpolo game against U of T, it looked like someone had turned a bunch of piranha loose. As so often happens in sports, however, a team may jell one night, but turn into jellyfish the next. This all too frequent transformation was the fate of the Yeomen as they watched their play-off hopes go down the drain with a 6-3 loss to the Blues last Saturday.

"We just came up flat," said Coach Kevin Jones. "They didn't play well enough to win, probably not even as well as they have played earlier in the season, but then again, we played well enough to lose."

Once again, a red and white defeat

comes at the hands of the Blues. "We were all psyched up for this game, but I think you can get over-psyched," Jones said.

"As it turned out, we fell behind and just couldn't get up for a comeback."

Regulars, Dan Hudson and Joe Skelly, returned to the line-up, but that didn't seem to give the Yeomen any spark. Bryan Robertson had another stellar game in the York nets, but his supporting cast lacked any of the sting that characterized their OUAA championship drive last year.

RED AND WHITE CAPS: The season doesn't end without something left to shoot for... the Yeomen will travel to MacMaster this weekend for their final tourney of the season.

Competitive aim

Yeomen eye the top

Pat Copps

Rookie Head Coach Gerry Barker is a man with very high goals for this year's basketball team. These goals, however, are by no means unrealistic, because the Yeomen have a solid nucleus of veteran players returning.

"This team," Barker says, "will be competitive with any team in Canada, including the University of Victoria (CIAU champions last year)." This seems questionable coming from a coach who has lost perennial all-star David Coulthard, but Barker believes his team will rise to the occasion. "It just means that every player is going to have to be alert throughout the game instead of just having one man relied upon in tough situations." As a result, this year's squad should have a varied scoring attack with each player chipping in his fair share.

Coulthard missed

The loss of Coulthard, however, has had an impact on the Coach's strategy going into this season. "Without the pinpoint shooting of a Coulthard, you'll be seeing more of an inside game this year. We are very lucky that we have John (Christenson) and Timmy (Rider) coming back this year. Those two combined with Lester (Smith) makes us very big inside and should give trouble to much of our opposition." Christenson and Rider in top form, the Yeomen will definitely be hard to beat.

Also, the Yeomen will be going with a three-guard front, as there seems to be almost an over-abundance of guards on this year's team. This, however, doesn't seem to be a problem for Barker, especially with the return of Enzo Spaganola from a year's absence. "Teamed with Grant (Parobec) in the backcourt

these two guys are going to be drawing a lot of attention." They have the chance to be the best backcourt tandem in the country. Several other players will be vying for the third guard position, among them Mark Jones, who is also back after a year's absence.

Quicker defense

The defence this year, because the team is "much, much more quicker", will be more man-to-man than in the past.

Barker's one concern, and it is small, is that no player has really stood out as a team leader. "I'm sure that this will happen as the year progresses and the regular season gets underway."

The captains for this year's Yeomen are Christenson and the always vocal Lester Smith. Parobec also could be the one to jump out and take the leadership responsibilities.

On an individual basis, Barker feels that one thing is for certain: "Christenson is already playing like an all-star, perhaps all-Canadian." Also mentioned was Parobec's near-certain attainment of all-star status.

For now, Gerry Barker is concerned with developing his players into a strong team.

On road to OUAA'S

"Well, the main thing is to win the league and go on to win the Ontario's. I'll be more than happy to accomplish this. After the Ontario's, if we go on to nationals, that's just an extra bonus."

The Yeomen have won the Ontario Chamionship four times in the past five years, and if what Gerry Barker says is any indication, this year's team should be just as tough as York teams of recent years.