

SPORTS and RECREATION

Take home top three places

Americans dominant at gymnastics qualifier

By DAVE FULLER
Canadian and American Olympic hopefuls gathered in Tait MacKenzie gym last Saturday and Sunday night as York played host to the United States in their first round of gymnastic qualifying competition.

Competing against the Americans were members of the Canadian national team who will begin their qualifying series next week against Rumania.

In an impressive bid to gain points needed for inclusion in this summer's games, the American

team captured the top three positions in the overall standings in both the men's and women's divisions, while Canada was relegated to the lower half of the score sheet despite many fine individual performances.

Topping the men's division was Bart Conners who gave a strong performance in the compulsory events, reaching an average score of 9.34. The next two Americans, Wayne Young and Tom Beach also scored in the low nines indicating a depth that has been lacking in former U.S. teams. In fact all six of the Americans achieved figures in the nines.

Seventeen year old Philip Delasalle led the Canadian team with a personal high of 9.3 in the free-style exercises, the highest ever for a member of a national gym team. A poor showing on the parallel bars however, dropped him to seventh place.

Coach Tom Zivic praised the teenager's effort, commenting that he was becoming known internationally as a top-flight competitor.

"He lacks maturity", said Zivic. "He is still young and he feels the pressure, but he's getting better, and just at the right time."

Veteran gymnast Naosaki Masaaki placed well in the compulsory events and Zivic hopes he will bring much needed stability and experience to the Canadian team, however, the Japanese athlete has still not been given official clearance to compete for Canada.

In the woman's division Debbie Wilcox led teammates Kathy Howard and Ann Carr to the top honours.

The American girls marked a team total of 375.2 points which yielded an impressive 9.32 average. A similar score in their upcoming qualifier against Rumania should guarantee a berth in the 12 team competition in Montreal.

Canadian coach Zivic was optimistic about his team's chances



Tammy Mannville of the U.S. shows good form at gymnastics meet held last weekend at York.

explaining that the rapid improvement shown by the Canadian men was quite encouraging. He added that two of their better performers,

Pierre Leclerc and Bruce Mann were being held in reserve until the qualifiers against Rumania and Poland.

Home is no advantage as basketball team drops two

By ALICE VANDERLEY

The York Yeowomen's basketball team had the pleasure of playing two games at home over the weekend, but when the final buzzer sounded, that was about all they could take pleasure in.

Playing against Queen's and Windsor, neither of which are powers in the OWIAA, the Yeowomen came out on the losing end of 49-39 and 52-47 scores respectively.

In Friday night's game against the Golden Gaels, York turned in a strong performance, highlighted by a tight, aggressive defence, but it proved futile in the end, as it was Queen's superior free-throw shooting that won the game for them.

Kaarina Bubalo, with 11 points, and Wendy Michalowicz, with nine, were York's top gunners.

Saturday afternoon, less than 18 hours later, the Yeowomen were back out on the court again, this time playing host to the girls contingent from Windsor.

It was a close, hard-fought game, and the score was stalemated with only a minute and a half remaining.

However, York, after rallying to overcome a 10-point deficit, were unable to pull the game out in the remaining seconds, thus acquiring the sour end of a 52-47 score. Free throws were again a major factor with the Lancers outshooting York, 22 to 11 from the line.

High scores from York were Mary-Lou Parissi with nine points and Gianni Cecconi who contributed eight.

The Yeowomen are now sporting a three-and 10 record; they've scored 447 points for, and have had 606 points scored against them.

Fencers are eliminated

In the "Sectionals" competition this weekend at Ryerson, the York Yeowomen fencing team were knocked out of contention for the OWIAA finals to be held in Ottawa later this month.

A strong Western team came first with Trent second, and Ryerson third.

The result was another in a long line of heartbreaking defeats for the Yeowomen this season, not being the only one they have lost by as little as one hit or one defeat.

The team, consisting of Cindy Park, Mary Lea Serpell, Virginia Taylor, and Catherine Pike, provided more than a mere competitive element to the tournament, but suffered from a lack of experience, the key to success in fencing.

Coach Marion Julier, herself a contender for a berth on the Canadian Olympic team, felt the squad has displayed excellent progress over the course of the season, despite the presence of three beginners.

Third-year veteran, Catherine Pike made the best showing of any team member, advancing to the finals at Carleton on February 27.

The top six fencers from a section are selected for the finals.

The top individual fencer in the section was Anne Buchner of Western; she has gone undefeated throughout the entire season.

The dominant team to look for as winners in the finals are the Varsity Blues, coached by Ken Wood. The girls from Carleton should also prove to be prime contenders for the championship.

York in first after weekend wins

By IAN WASSERMAN

As most of you know by now, the York hockey Yeomen did not play a doubleheader against the U. of T. Blues this weekend. Instead they travelled to Ottawa for a two-game series against the lowly

Gee-Gees.

York came out on top in both games winning 12-5 on Friday night, and 11-8 on Saturday.

In Friday's match, the Yeomen fell behind early as the Gee-Gees banged in two quick goals. It was not until halfway through the period that the team woke up and realized just who they were playing.

At that point, left-winger Ron Hawkshaw added three quick goals to Peter Titanic's opening tally, and the Yeomen led 4-2.

York's Al Avery and Bill Fox of Ottawa traded goals later in the period and the teams went to the dressing room with the Yeomen leading 5-3 in what was still a close game.

In the second period, the Yeomen took total control of the match, posting three more markers on the board; two came off the stick of Gary Gill and the other from Peter Ascherl.

Both teams posted a pair of goals early in the third, until the Yeomen rapped in two more goals late in the period to wrap up the first victory.

More pleasing than the victory was the news that the league-leading Blues has just lost a 4-3

decision at the hands of the Western Mustangs.

Saturday afternoon, the Gee-Gees again jumped out to a fast one-goal lead, only to have it backfire on them in the next several minutes.

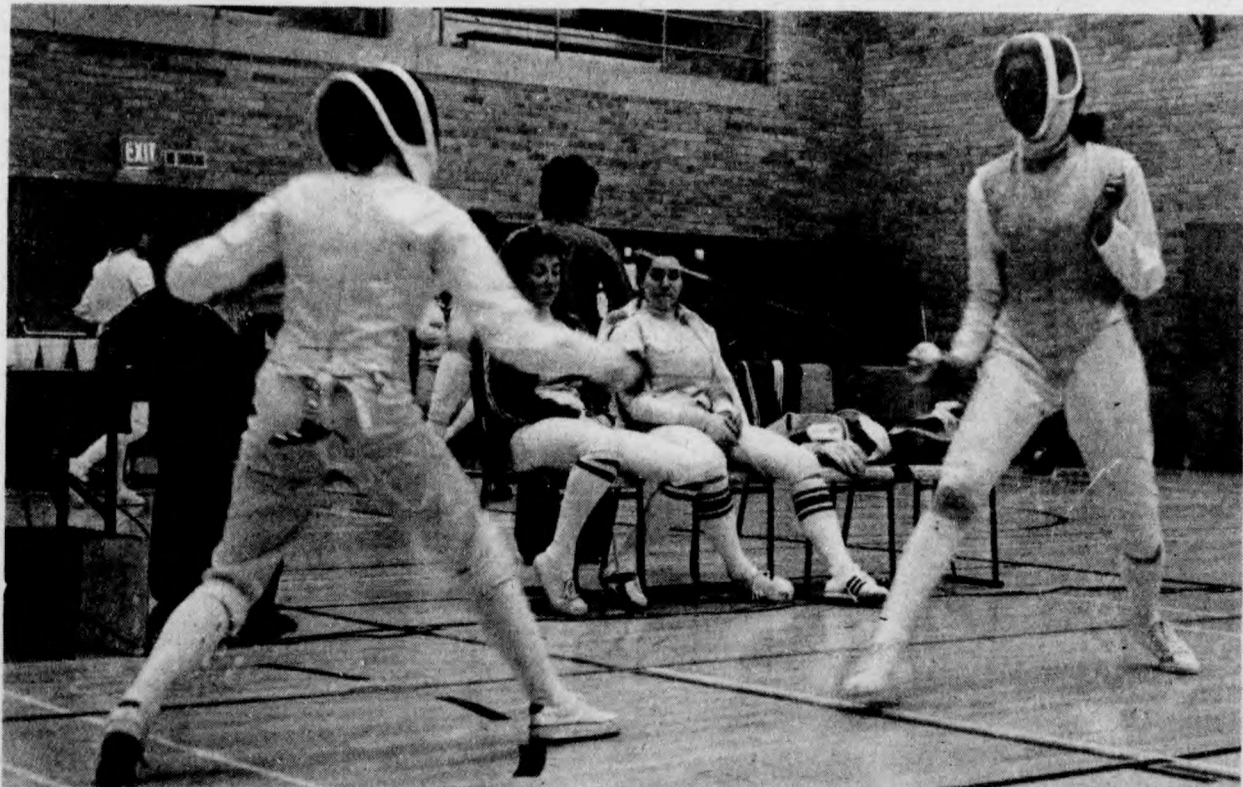
The Yeomen, their wrath incurred, exploded for a seven-goal barrage to take a commanding 7-1 lead. Rick Martin and Bob Wasson each netted two for York, with singles going to John Fielding, Avery and Ascherl.

Bill Perras of the Gee-Gees closed out the period with a high drifter from inside the blueline, beating goalie Peter Kostek on the top corner.

In the second period, coach Dave Chambers decided to give Kostek a rest and inserted back-up man, Wayne Weatherbee.

Again, the Gee-Gees banged in a quick goal but, once again, it was to no avail. York bounced back with counters from Martin, completing his hat-trick, Peter Roche with his first of the season, and Bob Wasson, also his third of the game.

The wins, coupled with U. of T.'s loss, puts York two points up on the Blues.



Cathy Pike (right) with competitor at Ryerson. York was eliminated from the fencing finals.

Dave Fuller photo