

York loses to UofT as football coach announces retirement

by Paul Brooks

Nobby Wirkowski, head coach of the Yeomen football team, has announced he will step down from his position at the end of the season. The news came one day after last Thursday's Red and Blue Bowl loss of 27-9 to the University of Toronto Blues.

Wirkowski denies that this latest setback, which drops York's record to 0 and 5, influenced his decision.

"This has nothing to do with the team or this game," he said. "I'd already decided to retire at the end of the season, so why go another year? This will allow some younger guys to come into the organization, inject some youth."

The game, at Varsity Stadium, was much closer than the score would indicate. Played before a boisterous crowd, including a large contingent of York supporters, the first half had both sides playing strong defence. The most offence during the game was a prolonged brawl between the team mascots on the sidelines.

The game remained scoreless until the Blues ran into penalty trouble. Twice late in the half, a Yeomen drive was kept alive by Blue fouls, and York took advantage as Mike Raymond scampered 16 yards up the middle for a 7-0 score with 1:36 left. They took this lead into the dressing room after the Blues had a late touchdown called back because of another penalty.

In the second half, the weather changed for the worse and so did the Yeomen's fortune. With the rain coming down harder, a Blue's fieldgoal cut into the lead. Later, with York unable to get its offence in gear, UofT began a drive within

Yeomen territory, culminating in Lorne King's nine-yard dash for the touchdown with just over a minute left in the third quarter. The Blues had their first lead at 10-7 and would not relinquish it.

York scored a single, but things fell apart in the final quarter. Just over two minutes in, the Blues scored again, this time on a one-yard rush by King, and it was 17-8. After countering with another single, the Yeomen had one last chance, but with two and a half minutes remaining in the game, quarterback Dean McLaren's pass was intercepted at midfield to squash any comeback hopes.

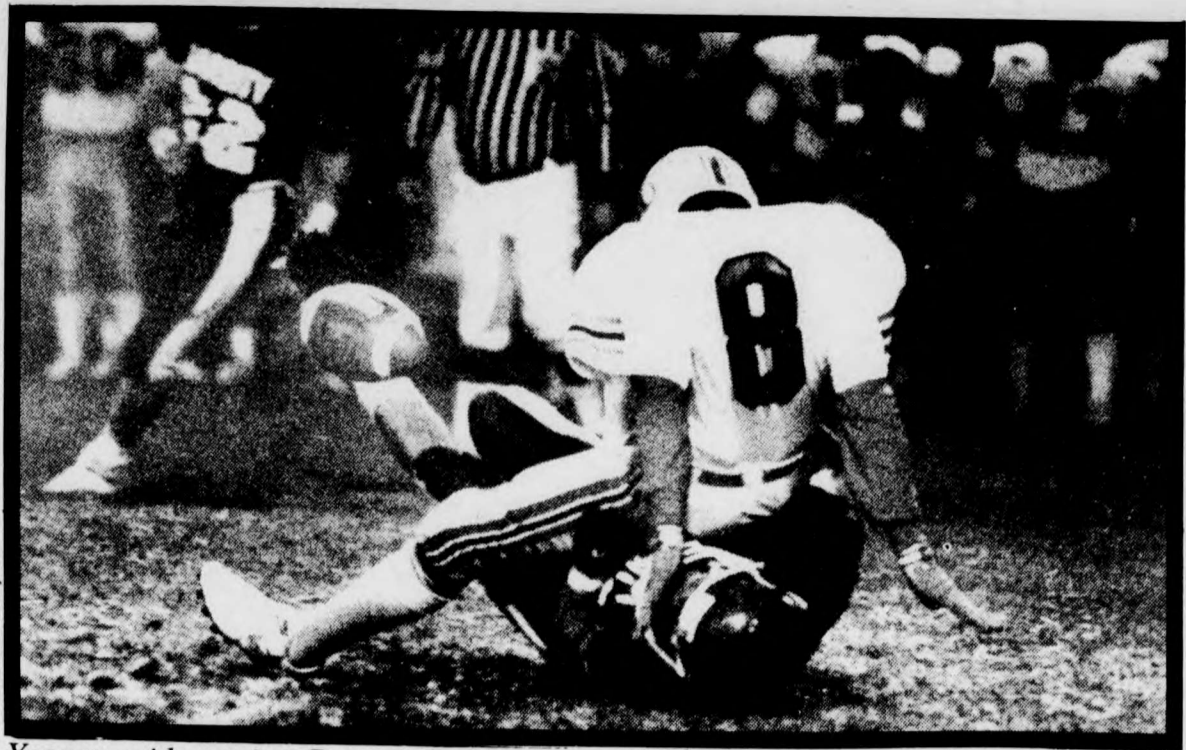
"Dean did alright," Wirkowski said. "He had a lot of pressure on him in this game, but he's going to be a hell of a quarterback."

A series of fights in the stands was reflected by the play on the field, as the final two minutes were marred by needless penalties. Under this choppy play, the Blues rounded out the scoring on a late touchdown pass and a fieldgoal as time expired.

"We started well," reflected Wirkowski. "But we just could not get any offence generated. Defensively, we did all right, but we committed too many stupid penalties."

His teams' efforts drew words of praise from rival UofT head coach Bob Laycoe. He felt that coming off a disappointing loss to Waterloo, York coaches and players had to be commended for "coming out in the first half and playing one of their best halves of football this year, if not their best."

The Yeomen's next match, their last home game with Wirkowski, will be Homecoming when they face the Western Mustangs at Shriners Stadium, October 14.



Andre Souroujon

Yeoman wide receiver Dwayne Paul lets himself down easy during York's 27-9 loss to UofT.

Yeowomen face the Blues: field hockey team keeps perfect record

Sharon Creelman

How sweet it is! Last week the Yeowomen field hockey team defeated their cross-town rivals, the UofT Lady Blues 1-0.

Ten of the Yeowomen were part of the squad which came up short in last year's Ontario Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association (OWIAA) final against the Blues.

Tammy Holt notched the only goal of the match with just under five minutes remaining in the first half of play. York goalkeeper Michelle Capperault registered a well-earned shutout.

The first 35 minutes were evenly matched, with both teams showing they could mount potent attacking combinations. The Blues had many opportunities from penalty corners but neutralized several good shooting chances with poor execution.

UofT head coach Liz Hoffman felt her squad was neither out-hustled nor outplayed. They were

guilty, however, of "failing to capitalize on the scoring chances they had," said Hoffman.

For York, it was a case of making the most of its scoring opportunities. A defensive lapse in the Blues' backfield left Holt unmarked at the top of the circle and she made no mistake. UofT goalkeeper Tina Farrar could only watch as Holt put it away.

York coach Marina van der Merwe was pleased with the team's performance. It was York's first game of the season on the artificial turf at Lampport Stadium. Coach van der Merwe said her team "is much more at home on turf." This will undoubtedly help the Yeowomen in the long run, as both the Ontario and Canadian championships will be held at Lampport Stadium this season.

Van der Merwe praised goalkeeper Capperault for her "wonderful" shutout performance in the York net. Capperault's play was brilliant, especially in the second half as Toronto continu-

ously pressed forward looking for the equalizer.

The Yeowomen got themselves into trouble in the second half by backing into their own end, which allowed UofT to create some good scoring opportunities. Capperault and the York defence were able to prevent rebound chances by effectively clearing the ball after the initial shot.

Capperault faced a number of shots in the game, but according to the stalwart keeper, she "enjoyed being that busy."

It was "the first real test of the season" for York, according to van der Merwe. The win lifts the Yeowomen's record to a perfect 3-0 and as yet, they have not allowed a goal against in regular season play. Prior to the game, they were ranked third in the country behind the Lady Blues.

The Yeowomen will be back in action on October 14 in London with a pair of games against the Waterloo Athenas and the host Western Mustangs.

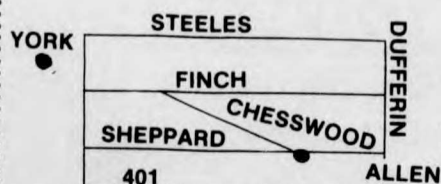
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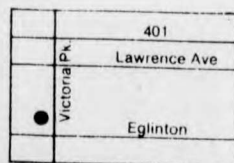
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