



Rob Cabral

AT THE NET: action from last Tuesday's volleyball matchup between the Yeowomen and UofT at the Blues gym. York won the match in four sets with strong performances from the team as a whole. This was York's last game of the year. After the holidays, the Yeowomen travel to UofT for a tournament.

V-ball women best in the city

Judy Passley

It was the "University Game of the Week" as Hamilton's channel Eleven zoomed in to catch the volleyball Yeowomen serve a win against crosstown rivals UofT Blues Tuesday night at the UofT gym.

York won in four sets, with scores of 11-15, 15-11, 15-6 and 15-4.

The Yeowomen led the first set 11-9, but turned the game over to UofT with an inability to return Toronto's hard serves. That allowed the Blues back into the game and gave them a surprising 15-11 win.

York coach Merv Mosher reflected on the first set loss.

"As a result of middle hitter Mary Van Soelen's sprained ankle injury not being fully healed, the team was out of sync on the offense," he said.

In the second set, the key to York's success on offence was the stellar

performance of setter Susan Craig. She ran a 6-2 offense which was highlighted with good passing, good sets, and hard kills.

Van Soelen also rose to the occasion with key blocks. Teammate Kendra Irwin cemented the victory for York with some solid service points giving York a 15-11 win in the second set.

The Yeowomen were explosive in the third set, establishing a strong service game. Led by Irwin's deceptive serves York opened up a 6-2 lead.

York set up some impressive blocks at the net, making it difficult for UofT to penetrate the "wall", as the Yeowomen went on to an easy 15-6 victory.

The fourth set showed early signs that Toronto was ready for the challenge as Blues setter Jolan Starch served two quick points to put the Blues on top 3-1.

York extinguished prospects of a UofT comeback. Craig and Linda Garrat came off the Yeowoman bench and spiked York to a 5-3 lead.

York's Cheryl Guay picked apart UofT's back court scoring deceptive points with a mixed service game to put York ahead 10-2.

The Yeowomen never relinquished their lead and Mary Van Soelen took the charge out of the Lady Blues with a kill down the middle to give York a 15-5 victory in the final set.

York travels crosstown for their next action. The Yeowomen will be competing in the Toronto Invitational Tournament the weekend of January 18.

Mosher is optimistic about York's chances in the tournament.

"We (York) have a strong chance of winning the tourney," Mosher predicted.

Yeomen suffer first season loss.

by Riccardo Sala

The UofT Blues handed the volleyball Yeomen their first loss of the regular season last Tuesday.

York won the first set 15-7, but lost the following three 15-13, 15-6 and 15-12.

The second set was pivotal, York leading at one point 12-5, and then

losing momentum, then the game, to Toronto.

"At the beginning of the match we started off strong. We played with confidence and executed reasonably well.

As the match went on our confidence level seemed to decrease and UofT seemed to come on stronger," York coach Wally Dyba said Thursday.

"We can play better," Dyba added.

Veteran Adrian Adore led York in most departments in this match with 17 kills, 12 digs and three service aces. Teammate James Dalziel, with five stuffed blocks was the lead Yeoman in that category.

Facing Adore and Dalziel were last year's OUAA champions. The Blues boast among their own Mark Dunn, a power hitter with experience on the National squad.

Despite these credentials, Dyba doesn't think that a match against Toronto is a foregone defeat for York.

"On any given day anybody can win in the league. If everybody plays their best it'll still be us and UofT (in the OUAA East)," Dyba said.

He noted that other teams such as Laurentian and Waterloo ranked lower than York have beaten Toronto.

A win at Toronto, currently ranked tenth in the country, would have put the unranked Yeomen into the national standings, Dyba said.

The Tuesday match was the last one for York before the holidays. There'll be little time for rest though; right after Christmas, Dyba will have his team prepare for the Mizuno-Excalibur Classic.

That tournament takes place the first weekend in January, and will see the Yeomen take on competitors from over North America on their homecourt Tait MacKenzie.



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KABOOM!!: A York player goes for a spike against UofT watched over by teammates Oliver Flaser (8) and James Dalziel (14). The Yeomen lost the Tuesday night match in four sets, the first loss of the regular season for Wally Dyba's squad.

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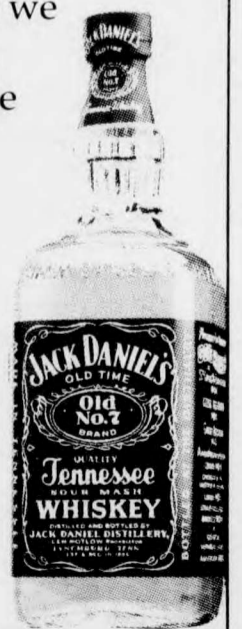
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