

SPORTS



Photo: Mario Scattoloni

York's Annabelle Mazzera makes no mistake with this one. Action took place in third period of sudden death semi final game against Guelph. The Yeowomen won the game 3-2 and now move into the championship final against arch rival U of T.

Cardiac kids move into final with victory over Guelph

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

Since their spectacular win at the Concordia Invitational in Montreal two weeks ago, the Yeowomen Hockey Team have used determination, intensity and a little bit of luck enroute to a coveted berth in the OWIAA finals against U of T this Sunday.

The Yeowomen began their whirlwind tour to the top by sweeping the competition in Montreal. This was by no means an easy task as they faced teams from New Hampshire, U of T and Potsdam (N.Y.).

Overtime win

Their first game was against NCAA top-ranked New Hampshire which ended in a 1-1 tie after regulation time. Only after one overtime period and a shoot-out (in which each side is allowed five shots on goal) did York emerge 3-2 winners.

Against perennial nemesis U of T, the Yeowomen stunned the Lady Blues as they exploded for four goals in less than a minute and went on to a 5-3 win. However, the *piece de resistance* was saved for the final game against Potsdam. The Yeowomen not only endured the three periods of regulation time, but also two overtimes to win the match 5-4 and the tournament title for the second year in a row. Sue Howard and Debbie Lamb were selected to the tourney All-Star Team. Lamb was also lauded as the tournament MVP.

Back to business

After leaving Montreal, the team had to get back to business with their last league match against Queens. The Golden Gaels, who had no chance of making the play-offs with their 3-12 record, still managed to put on a feisty display of hockey. On the other hand, York didn't look like the same squad who had previously beat Queens 11-1 in their last meeting.

York never took a commanding lead in the game as the score was tied 7-7 until the final minute of play. Then with a mere 10 seconds left on the clock, Sue Howard scooped up

the puck in the York end and make a furious dash for the opposing blue line. She took a desperate shot at the net—and the puck rattled the mesh just as the buzzer sounded to give the Yeowomen an 8-7 win. "The attitude in the change room was a little more relaxed than usual," said Assistant Coach Wall Clost, Jr., "but it's one of those games where we'll just take the win and run."

However, the Yeowomen were well aware of the fact that they couldn't carry that relaxed attitude into their crucial sudden-death semi-final with Guelph. After beating the Gryphons 6-2 last week, York entered Tuesday night's game at a disadvantage because left-winger Judy Butler was unable to play as she had broken her foot the day before.

Nevertheless, York jumped to an early 1-0 lead in the first period on a goal by Sue Howard, but Guelph turned the tables in the second 15 minutes by netting two goals and

carrying their 2-1 lead well into the third period. However, Annabelle Mezzera tied the game 2-2 with her timely goal at the six-minute mark, forcing the game into overtime.

Mezzera nets winner

As they are no strangers to overtime play, the Yeowomen put on their championship form and began to press for the winning goal. Guelph, who was equally ripe for the victory, provided a few hair-raising moments as they were thwarted on several break-aways by Donna Thompson's stellar performance in goal. York's Mezzera then continued her heroic performance of the night by popping in the winning goal for the 3-2 victory.

But the question remains, will the 'Cardiac Kids' be able to continue their success into Sunday's final? "If we can just relax and play the way we are capable of playing, we can beat U of T," affirmed Debbie Lamb.

First for everything

Bitter sweet defeat

MARK ZWOL

Some things are just meant to be. If the York Yeomen volleyball team had any dreams of playing in the OUAA championships this year, they were destroyed last Saturday by that old red and white nemesis, the U of T Blues.

After two hours of intense action on the Tait centre court, the crosstown rivals upset the defending OUAA titlists in a well-deserved five-game match victory, 13-15, 15-9, 7-15, 15-13 and 18-16.

For coach Wally Dyba, the match loss denotes some disturbing facts he'd like to forget: One, this is the first time in six years that the Yeomen will not represent the East division of the OUAA in the league championships; and two, it's a particularly bad time for York to come up with their second only loss to league opponents in three years.

The Yeomen had seen the likes of the Blues before, handing them their only two regular season defeats earlier on this season. But the Blues,

led by Ed Drakich, ace attacker, blocker and pro in just about every other category on the 60-foot court, jumped all over an inconsistent and oft-times lacklustre York attack.

One-man show

In fact, it was largely a one-man show for Drakich, who finished up with 17 kills, 10 stuffs (most of these single-handedly) and 8 digs. The only other U of T player close to him stat-wise was Paul Lester with seven kills.

"We played great together out there," Drakich said. "We've never beaten York in this building (Tait) before, and it was just a super win all around."

Where he should be

After U of T surprised York in the opening game, the two teams exchanged victories to enter the third and deciding game deadlocked



MARK ZWOL

No disadvantage for this dynamite little package

There's an old saying that is often heard from fans. From football stadium bleachers to hockey arena greys the story is: good things come in small packages.

Joe Morgan ended the Los Angeles Dodgers playoff hopes with a screaming four bagger on the second last day of the 1982 baseball season. Then there's smokin' Joe Frazier's uproarious defeat of the gift to flap, Muhammad Ali. The list could go on, and not to mention, spark some heated arguments as to who is the best little man in the game.

But when the average sports buff is making his pitch for the best little package in the business, he is rarely going to consider the exploits of someone under six feet tall on a basketball court, at least not without shaking his head. Even in the college game, where teams like the Waterloo Warriors boast a 6-foot, 7-inch height average in the starting five, it is not likely that the little man is going to have much to say. But that's what old sayings are made for.

At 5 feet, 11 inches, Enzo Spagnuolo is at a definite height disadvantage when he steps onto the court. He has played in the Yeomen backcourt for the last three seasons and has stood in the shadows of the likes of Dave Coulthard and Paul Jones (older brother of Mark Jones, the other half of this year's backcourt tandem). A former Kipling High School grad, "Zo", as his mates call him, has stunted with the all-Ontario Junior team, and has lent his off-season services to the Toronto Estonia Basketball club. But it wasn't until the outset of this season that he had won himself a chance to start for the red and white.

"As a rookie coming out of high school, it's pretty hard to break into the starting line-up, especially when those guys (Coulthard-Jones) have been around for a couple of years. But this year, because our team is so much more balanced over previous years, my job as a starter has been a lot easier."

Aside from his crowd-pleasing exploits this season, the road to the starting five hasn't always been a smooth one for Spagnuolo. Between rare on-court smiles, ones that seem to peep out is a glimmer of satisfaction for an M.V.P. or game high scorer laurel, Spagnuolo fights off-court rumours floating around about his one-year sabbatical in 1981 and his relation to coach Bob Bain.

"No, there were no hard feelings between us. He is a good coach, I have no quarrels with him. The situation was tough, though. I was in my rookie season and I wasn't getting all the court time I wanted. They had Dave and Paul and a lot of other players. So I decided to sit it out. I was going to transfer to another school, I wanted to get into a different business programme, but then you run into a lot of things that waste your time, red tape kinda things. So I came back."

Confidence can kill ya

Before a Yeomen Basketball game, many of the fans who do show up, enjoy sitting down to watch the pre-game warm-ups. It's a traditional psyche-out for opposing factions both on and off the court. The players come out after their final team meeting prior to the game and put on a bit of razzle-dazzle amidst "ohhs" and "ahhs" from the onlookers. But this doesn't bother Spagnuolo.

"You have to take every game seriously and maintain a level of intensity. Confidence can kill ya. You go out and you play a role on the court—get the ball to the big guys. I just play my position, I don't notice the crowd."

The controlled type of game he plays is something Spagnuolo takes pride in. When he switches his basketball sneakers for a pair of street loafers, his compacency stays with him. He calmly admits to being "just an average student". But anyone who plays inter-varsity sports would testify to the trials of being "just an average student", especially with all the hours of practice and travelling. "It takes a pretty devoted effort," Spagnuolo says.

When it comes to his on-court antics, though, Spagnuolo seems to push the right buttons at the right times. Coach Gerry Barker has put the team's offensive reigns in his hands which leaves number four a lot of lee way to freelance. "If he sees a bit of daylight between him and the basket, he'll go for it," Barker explained. Fact is, with the ability to "stay with the rest of them", Spagnuolo puts his tools to good use. "I'm really only a .500 shooter," he adds. But "Zo" rarely puts one up outside the 15-foot area, and with a 14 points per game average this season, he has done "all right" for a guard whose share of the limelight is usually blocked out by guys nearly a foot taller than he is.

Spagnuolo is currently studying economics at York. With two OUAA championships and the M.V.P. award for his dazzling performance in the recent Excalibur tourney, Zo is looking forward to the end of February when the Yeomen vie for their sixth consecutive OUAA crown.

at two wins each. The Yeomen opened up the tie-breaker with a well-executed tandem up the middle that might have set the tone for the game had it not been for spirited play by U of T backcourters who made digs out of everything York threw at them. With the score 9-1 in favour of the Blues, the Yeomen pulled up their proverbial

number five socks, staging a comeback to knot the score at 16.

However, Drakich, as he had been throughout the five games, was where he should have been, making a one-armed stabbing save off a potential side out kill Ray Lamey. The Yeomen could only shake their heads in frustration when the play set up an ensuing U of T kill that iced the game and the match.