

# Sports and Recreation

## Gymnasts first of a kind for York

It took a while, but our women finally brought a national title home

### Rose Crawford

On March 1 in Moncton, New Brunswick, the Yeowomen Gymnastics team accomplished something no previous York women's team has ever accomplished before. The five-member team captured a national championship.

Bringing home the gold for York were Laurie McGibbon, Cathy Corns, Sue Baier, Carol Orchard and Molly Larin. Yeowomen accumulated a total of 95.30 points, 1.35 better than second-place finisher UBC.

The individual all-round competition was where the Yeowomen team showed its depth. All five team members qualified for the finals in at least one event each (the only team to do so). Corns was the only York gymnast to win an individual medal, taking the silver in the floor event. However, Laurie McGibbon was the most successful all-round Yeowoman

gymnast, placing fourth in a field of thirty-two. Following McGibbon in the overall standings were Orchard in ninth place, Baier in eleventh, Corns in twelfth and Larin in twentieth.

It seems quite ironic that the year Yeowomen lose the Ontario championships (after winning nine straight), they go on to win the national title. If this appears a little puzzling, it is easily explained. The Ontario title is based on the cumulative scores of the junior, as well as the senior, competition. The seniors won their section of the meet, but their score was not quite high enough to pull up the juniors' score.

For the national championships, things work a little differently. Gymnasts qualify individually by achieving a minimum score of 28.0 at one of the pre-determined qualifying meets (e.g. the OUAA's) during the season. Of all the gymnasts across the country who have the minimum point requirement, the highest thirty-six are chosen to compete at the nationals. All five Yeowomen were among the top thirty-six chosen to compete. Thus York was able to compete as a team (a school needs at least four gymnasts to qualify for team competition).

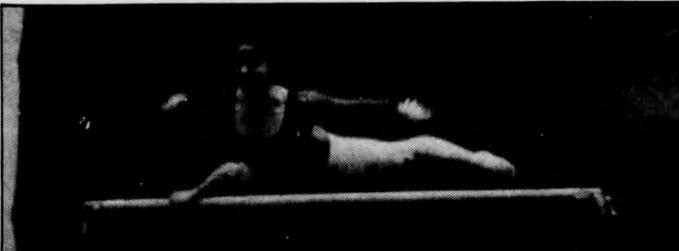
The timing of York's win was near perfect as three of the five senior team members will be leaving at the end of this year. Corns will be completing her dance degree, and Baier and Larin will be graduating from Physical Education. As well, Orchard is doubtful whether or not she'll return because of her heavy school and coaching commitments. The junior team finds itself in an equally unfortunate situation as only three of this year's eight gymnasts will be coming back.

The Yeowomen gymnastics team will suffer another important loss. Coach Steve McLean will be leaving York to pursue his studies in Europe.

"My last two years as the assistant coach of the Yeowomen

gymnastics team have been very enjoyable," said McLean. But when asked about his plans after he returns to Canada, McLean remained uncertain. "I imagine I will continue coaching in some capacity, but whether or not I'll return to York is still very much indefinite."

The five returning gymnasts will follow a light training schedule for the remainder of this school year, and through the summer, in preparation for next season. Head coach Natasha Bajin and assistant coach Tamara Bompia will be faced with the difficult task of rebuilding the Yeowomen gymnastics team and retaining the winning reputation it has enjoyed for the last nine years.



Laurie McGibbon, Cathy Corns, Sue Baier, Carol Orchard and Molly Larin combined to bring York its first women's national title at the CIAU's in Moncton.

Doug Bruce and Bill Young

## Basketball season is over, but the memories will linger

### Bruce Gates

The season's over. The countless hours of practice, drills and games are behind them now, but coach Bob Bain will carry around a lot of memories from the 1979-80 version of the Yeomen.

"I'm just as proud as hell this year of what we did as a team," the "Bainer" said Monday after returning from Calgary. "And I'm extremely proud of all our players who put out a lot and got a lot out of this season."

"I really don't know if I can coach another team that was as close and as together as this one was. They were just a super bunch of guys."

Togetherness was as much a part of why Yeomen did well this year as their talent. You don't win games on talent alone. It takes pride in your game, too.

And it was pride that helped York in the consolation final at the CIAU tournament. After the bitter disappointment of losing by one, 91-90, to top-ranked Brandon, the next two games were virtually meaningless—except for the pride of going out a winner. They beat Calgary, 88-76, in the consolation semi, and met Concordia 96-90, winners over Windsor for the consolation championship.

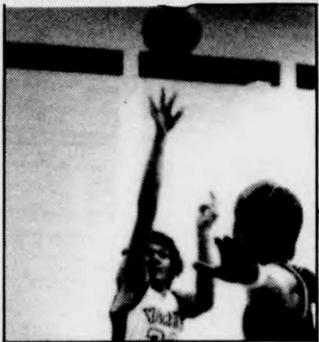
"The consolation was pretty well meaningless to me and to the players," Bain related, "but it wasn't until about three quarters the way through the final game that we realized we had a game to play and that there was some pride involved."

York trailed Concordia, 49-44, at half-time, but exploded late in

the second half to go up by 10 points and win the game going away, 85-76.

All-star forward Bo Pelech, who was selected earlier that week as a first team All-Canadian for the first time, led the attack with 20 points. Paul Jones followed with 19.

Dave Coulthard, named first-team All-Canadian for the second straight year (he was on the second team in his rookie season) suffered an eye injury early in the first half when he received an elbow to the face. He didn't return until the second half, and although he had some trouble with his vision, he managed to find the hoop for 16 points—the same number as teammate Ron Kaknevicius.



Craig Hildebrand

Coulthard, who scored a tournament-high 33 points (against Brandon) was selected to the tournament all-star team for the second time in three years (1978 and 1980).

But even with the consolation win, there was no consolation. Not after that close one against Brandon.

"After the game was when I really felt agitated and depressed," Bain lamented, "and that feeling probably increased as the night went on." And of course the players felt the same way.

"We ran everything perfectly but we didn't make some of the shots we could have," Bain continued. "But on the whole we did everything we wanted to."

But lingering in his mind was the slight feeling of betrayal by the officials: "We weren't robbed, as some said we were," Bain explained. "I just don't think we got any breaks from the officials. Brandon launched its comeback and had the momentum late in the game, and I just feel the officials got caught up in the comeback and weren't calling it even. It was just bad officiating more than anything else."

Otherwise, Yeomen may have ended up as CIAU champions in a year when nobody expected them to.

But that's history now. What Bain has to do now is plan for another season with the hope of getting York to the nationals for the fourth year in a row—this time at Waterloo. And who knows, if you've reached for that proverbial brass ring often enough, you're bound to grab it eventually.

**Time out:** Bain expects most of his players back next year, with the possible exception of star guard Paul Jones. "If he gets into med-school, he should go," Bain advised. But the Bainer certainly wouldn't mind seeing

Number 3 zipping down the court next year...Look for ball boy Matthew Farr to be a Yeomen guard in 1990...Credit should also be extended to York's other assistant coach,

Terry Haggerty; manager Dominic Martino; and trainer Maria Lima...It's rumored that the OUAA transfer rule may mean the end of American transfers to Ontario schools.

## Spikers court success

### Sandy Simonits

A very successful season for Coach Wally Dyba and the Yeomen volleyball team came to a finish at the CIAU championships in Saskatoon during March 7-9.

Whereas last year the Yeomen finished third in Ontario and were ranked tenth in Canada, this year, along with a 33-12 record, they captured the Ontario title and should end up with a fifth or sixth-place national ranking.

The format the championships took was a round-robin with the top two teams advancing to the final.

York faced the number one ranked Manitoba Bisons in their first match and almost pulled off the major upset of the tournament. After defeating the Bisons 15-10 in the first game, Manitoba raced ahead 10-2 in game two before Yeomen rallied to tie it at 13, but then the Bisons scored twice, snuffing the York rally to win 15-13. Manitoba was overpowering in the remaining games, winning 15-4, 15-7.

Against their next opponents—Sherbrooke—York was ahead 2-1 in games, 15-13, 12-15, 15-13, but didn't have enough at the end and lost 15-7, 15-4.

York fared even less well against University of Alberta by dropping three straight 15-7, 15-9, 15-11. However, York rebounded to defeat Dalhousie 3-1 (15-9, 8-15, 15-8, 16-14). At one point in the last game, Yeomen were behind 14-3 before scoring 13 straight points to win. In this match Yeomen spikers John May, with 14 kills in 21 attacks, and Mark Ainsworth, with 21 of 30, achieved the highest scores of all tournament spikers.

In their final match, York upset number two ranked Saskatchewan Huskies, defending CIAU champs, in straight sets (15-6, 15-8, 15-11). Up till this point the Huskies had been blowing out all the other teams 3-0, with the exception of a 3-1 win over Alberta, and were already assured of a place in the final, in which Manitoba Bisons gained revenge with a 3-1 victory to lay claim to the national title.

Second-year player Mark Ainsworth was named to the tournament's second all-star team.

Ainsworth was also named to the OUAA East all-star team for the second time, while other Yeomen named to the team were rookie Dave Chambers and veteran Lino Girardo.