



Howie's Hell

Rumour has it that the entrance requirements for York University are expected to rise once again in September. Our informants tell us that the mark required for admission into this institution is now well into the 70's. I know, we've already all made it into York so, who cares? Well, we in sports should care because there is a claim that a direct correlation exists between how well an athlete performs on the field and what his or her GPA is. The argument follows that along with rising academic standards comes a decreased success in varsity sports.

The dumb jock theory seems to permeate all athletics. The theory owes its origins to the great academic wasteland of some top-ten schools in the United States. Most people know these American universities because they have been convicted of violations by the NCAA. But in the States the atmosphere surrounding sports is completely different than that of Canada. Whereas the American athlete is placed on a pedestal, the Canadian athlete—and this is especially true for York—must fight for recognition.

The vast majority of athletes performing on our varsity squads are not in it for the fame and glory. York athletes simply love sport. There is a personal satisfaction that a Yeomen football player gets from playing that is not measured by trips to the Rose Bowl. Of course, that doesn't mean that athletes at York wouldn't like some recognition, but it is doubtful that any varsity athlete would abandon sports simply because he or she did not receive acknowledgement.

Let's face it, sports at York are an afterthought. In terms of facilities,

for example, one only has to take a quick look to see the CIAU champions playing in the Ice Palace. The Ice Palace (if that isn't the misnomer of all eternity I don't know what is) is hardly a palace. Its palatial elements are more fitting for a team of the Toronto Maple Leafs calibre.

And then there's our football stadium. What football stadium you ask? Of course, nobody has ever seen it on campus because it's located at Bathurst and Finch!

Despite the fact that they don't receive the recognition owing them, our athletes persevere. Why? This question does not require a multitude of answers. The simple reason behind the success of Canadian university athletes is dedication, both on and off the field. There is no relaxation of academic standards for the Canadian university athlete. He or she must meet the demands of school and sport. And this is precisely why the dumb jock theory is irrelevant to Canadian universities.

Fred Murrell, an all-Canadian guard for the UoT basketball Blues, exemplifies this point. Despite the time he invested into basketball, Murrell also managed to graduate from dentistry. At York, former hockey Yeomen Dirk Reuter is now a student at Osgoode. The list goes on to include many former athletes in other graduate schools, who prove that the dumb jock theory in Canada is plain and simply a myth.

The obvious conclusion is that increased academic standards will not affect the quality of athletics at York. York can raise admissions standards to the 80's, but there will always be individuals with enough commitment to play varsity sports and succeed in university.



Members of the York Community are reminded that implementation of Phase II of the York Smoking Policy will occur on September 6, 1988. As of that date smoking will no longer be permitted in private offices. In effect, the only areas where smoking may take place will be in the designated smoking areas or outdoors.

Anyone with comments or suggestions concerning the suitability of existing or alternate designated smoking areas is asked to communicate these to Leon Wasser, Department of Physical Resources, C8 E.O.B. (4539). Those smokers who wish to participate in a Smoking-Cessation Program should contact Joan Chaplain, Department of Occupational Health and Safety, D36 E.O.B. (5491). Participants will be responsible for the registration fee but the fee will be refunded upon completion of the program.

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