

SPORTS FEATURE

Yeomen Hockey Alumni lace up for tournament

By JAMES HOGGETT

Old hockey players never die, they just go gray and lose a little hair.

Such was witnessed in the recent Varsity Graduate Alumni Hockey Tournament which was held at Varsity Arena on Bloor St. on the weekend of December 12-13.

The tournament featured teams from Canada and a couple from the United States. Each team fielded former players who had graduated and moved on to pursue their careers. Watching these former university hockey stars was a little like watching an NHL old-timers game. While most were still young enough to play in the major leagues they have long since past their "hey-days" in the university hockey league.

"I think it's a fabulous idea," said Brian Burch, former York Yeomen. "I think they should have done this a long time ago."

Burch played for the Yeomen from 1975-78, and graduated with an Economics degree. At the age of 33, Burch owns a printing company called IPI Graphics.

David McCarthy, the tournament organizer along with Paul Titanic, head coach of the Varsity Blues, was quite pleased with the response for the tournament. "People loved it," McCarthy said, "the hockey has been good, the overall response to the tournament has been great and we're hoping to do it again next year."

The idea for the tournament was Titanic's who was interested in re-kindling events for the alumni which have been largely non-existent over the past few years. Last August, 30 invitations were sent out to schools in both Canada and the United States inviting them to participate in the tournament.

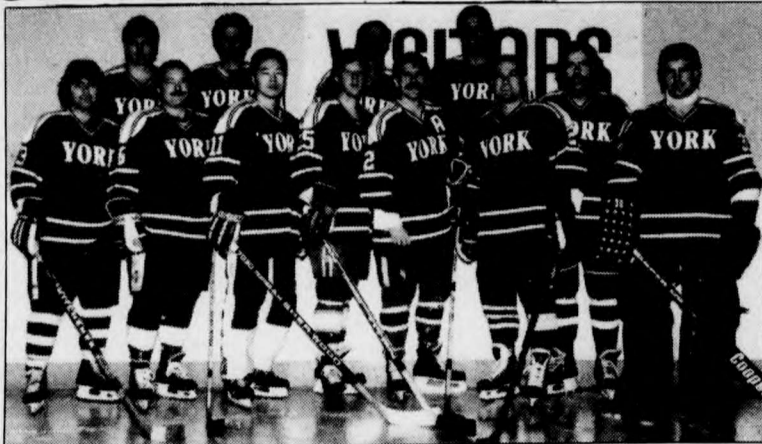
"The over-all response was good," McCarthy said. "We've put together nine teams this year and we hope we can increase the number next year; maybe to 12 teams."

The nine teams were split up into three divisions with the winner of each division advancing to the playoff round plus one wild-card entry. Teams would engage in stiff competition for a chance to take home the Varsity Graduate Alumni Trophy.

York Alumni's first game was against Cornell University. Cornell was no match for the powerful Yeomen as they handily defeated them by a score of 4-1.

Ex-Yeomen goalie, Pete Kostek also sang nothing but praise for the tournament. "Something like this has been talked about for years, its nice to see UofT finally getting it together," said Kostek who played in goal for the Yeomen from 1975-77. Kostek graduated from York with a degree in Economics. Now at 36 Kostek is a sales manager for an insulation manufacturer.

York's next opponent was



YORK ALUMNI TEAM—Front row (l to r): Brian Burch ('78), Tim Haunn ('82), Bob Fukumoto ('79), Gord Cutler ('82), Chris Kostka ('78), John Winder ('79), John Titus ('74), Peter Kostek ('77). Back row: Bob Wasson ('77), Aidan Flatley ('78), Peter Titanic ('75), Dennis Howard ('77).

Guelph. After regulation time, both teams were deadlocked at 3-3. After an overtime period and the game still tied at three, both teams went into a shoot-out round.

Unfortunately, Guelph finally came out on top winning 2-1 in the shoot-out. This win clinched a playoff berth for Guelph and sent the Yeomen home early. The other division winners were Western and Princeton-Dartmouth, with Concordia being the wild-card entry.

In the semi-final rounds, Western downed Concordia 8-4, and Guelph hammered Princeton-Dartmouth 8-1. This set the stage for the championship final against Western and Guelph.

Both teams played superb close-checking hockey. After regulation time, the score was tied at three. When a winner was still undecided after overtime, the teams went into a shoot-out round with Western finally coming out on top 3-2.

"I'm very pleased about the win," said Jim Dent the oldest player in the tournament at age 43. Dent played for Western from 1965-68, and graduated with an Economics degree. Today, Dent is working with Royal Trust as a director of trust services in Ontario.

"The tournament has been a lot of fun," Dent said, "I've really enjoyed

seeing guys I haven't seen in years and getting together to play some good hockey. I hope they do this again next year."

Mike Gazdic, who scored the winning goal for Western in the shoot-out, was amazed at the way everyone played. "I was really surprised at the high calibre of play put on by all the teams," said Gazdic who attended Western from 1979-83 and studied Business Administration. Gazdic is now director of purchasing with Neilson's Limited.

"I think our goaltending is what made the difference for us," Gazdic said. "Mike Teskey (who is currently assistant coach for the UofT hockey team) really kept us in the game."

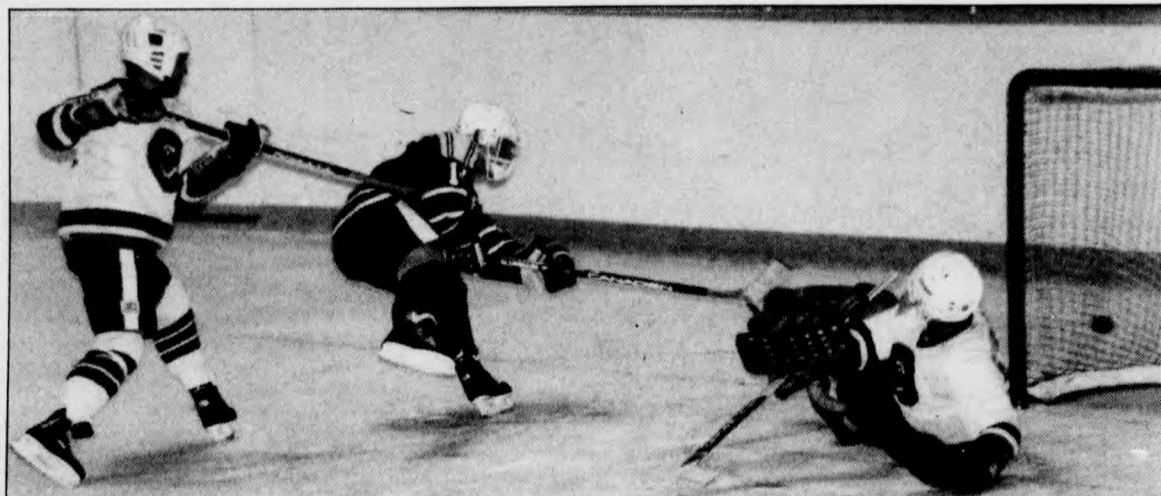
"I think the tournament went quite well for the first time around," said organizer Paul Titanic. "I was very impressed with the level of play, especially in the championship final."

Judging by the positive response from the players and from the fans who turned out to the games, the tournament definitely has a future.

"We will be doing it again for sure next year," Titanic said. "Next year I'm hoping to make it bigger and better, with more teams and maybe even divisions divided up according to age."



It still feels good to win: Jim Dent of the Western Mustangs Alumni team is presented with the Varsity Graduate Alumni Trophy by co-organizer David McCarthy. Dent graduated from Western in 1968 with a degree in Economics and is now employed with National Trust.



Close but no cigar: Ex-Yeomen Peter Titanic just misses on this golden opportunity as his shot goes just wide of its mark. The Yeomen just missed the playoff round losing to Guelph 5-4 in a shoot-out. The tournament was won by Western as they defeated Guelph 3-2 in the finals.

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The scholarships are available to graduate students (or to senior baccalaureate students accepted to graduate programs) in all disciplines, and participation is strongly encouraged by students in the arts, social sciences and law, as well as the natural sciences, medicine and engineering. Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status is required. Applicants are required to have the recommendation of their university and a faculty advisor.

The 1988 ISU Summer Session will be held on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from June 20, 1988, to August 20, 1988.

For additional information and application forms, please contact the Office of the Provost, S919 Ross, 736-5275.

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