

So close—yet so far

Jules Xavier

"We didn't do our best," was York coach Natasa Bajin's reaction to her teams frustrating finish at the Canadian University Gymnastics Championships held over the weekend at the University of Manitoba.

The closeness

Manitoba, the surprise of the meet, emerged as the overall team victors by a slim .974 (93.617 to 92.633) margin over the University of British Columbia. McMaster,

York and Alberta followed respectively. York missed first by a mere 1.734 points.

"It could have gone either way," lamented Bajin. "Manitoba went from third to first. I'm surprised we moved from third to fourth. It was that close between the top five schools."

Mistakes

Bajin pointed to the number of York mistakes which hurt their chances, but still, Bajin felt "confident" in her team prior to

arriving in Manitoba.

"It's important how good you compete, not how good you are," Bajin said wisely. "You must put yourself together at that exact time."

Positive side

On the positive side, Bajin praised team members Linda Kunasko and Beth Johns for their fine individual performances.

Kunasko, ranked 20th in Canada, moved to the 11th position while teammate Johns moved from 17th to 13th. Laurie McGibbon (5th) was York's top gymnast.

"Linda did a very good job. She placed well (4th on vault) and had no big problems," commented Bajin.

Different atmosphere

Kunasko was up for the meet. "It's a different atmosphere at the Nationals. I guess I did well because it meant more to me."

Johns was "really pleased" with herself and contributed her improvement to her "amazing bar routine." "I did a good routine for once in my life," she acknowledged.

Bajin now turns her attentions to next year. "It was one of our best seasons. Maybe we need another year to put it all together," she concluded optimistically.



York gymnasts Beth Johns (left) and Linda Kunasko (right) finished with excellent results at the Nationals in Manitoba.

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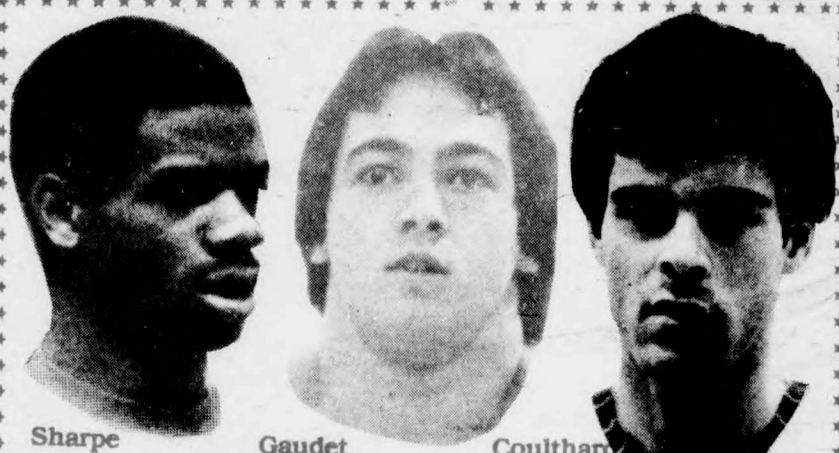
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Sharpe Gaudet Coulthard

Athletes of the Week

Excellbur's Male Athletes of the Week are sprinter Tony Sharpe, gymnast Dan Gaudet and basketball great David Coulthard. Sharpe won four gold medals and set three records on the Ontario Indoor Track and Field Championships. Gaudet was the all-round winner in the Canadian gymnastics championships while Coulthard, with 49 points, led the Yeomen to another Ontario basketball championship. Female Athlete of the Week honours go to distance runner Nancy Rooks. Rooks picked up three gold medals and set three records at the Ontario Indoor Track and Field Championships.

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