

André Souroujon

A bronze finish: five-year veteran Heather Reid lays one up against McMaster.

Yeowomen clinch bronze medal

by Jacob Katsman

The Yeowomen basketball team has captured the bronze medal in this year's Brooks Tait McKenzie Basketball Classic by beating out the Concordia Stingers 71-53.

It was a small tournament this year, with only six teams participating. "Last year we had eight teams but it was more difficult to invite teams from the West this year because our tournament conflicted with their league play," said Yeowomen head coach Bill Pangos.

The Yeowomen went into their first game of the tournament with a 4-8 exhibition record and easily added another win with a commanding 75-49 victory over the Guelph Gryphons.

The Gryphons easily fell into the Yeowomen full court trap and failed on the offensive boards against a taller York team.

Constant free-throw shooting added points for York as the desperate Gryphons fouled the Yeowomen into the bonus situation early in the game.

York's fifth year veteran, forward Heather Reid, returned the physical play which earned her a seat on the bench with four fouls early in the second half.

As the score demonstrated, the Yeowomen did not need Reid's help, as player of the game Tammy Naughton and centre Joann Jakovcevic took the ball inside, crushing the offensive boards.

In the second round, York faced the McMaster Marauders, one of the top 10 teams in Can-

ada. "Our game plan was to slow the game down," said Pangos.

"McMaster is a good transition team. We knew we could not run with them and our guard Jennifer Cushing did a great job of controlling the tempo," Pangos added.

McMaster led 29-28 at the half but was able to capitalize on York's missed shots, closing off the Yeowomen's hopes for the tournament victory with a 64-57 win.

The battle for the tournament bronze saw York play the Concordia Stingers. The Yeowomen controlled the game right from the start and were easily able to adjust to Concordia's switching defence.

"Cushing scored 22 points in that game, which is rare for a guard," said Pangos.

York stung the Stingers convincingly, taking away the bronze medal with a 71-53 victory.

Tammy Naughton was chosen as one of the tournament All-Stars, while McMaster's Heather McKay took away the Most Valuable Player Award. McMaster captured the tournament gold medal with a 78-71 victory over UofT.

After the tournament Pangos said his team's major goal is to make the playoffs. Pangos explained that Laurentian is now the only team dominating Ontario. McMaster, Western and Lakehead are the teams to beat. Depending on the day, confidence and mental preparation of the athletes York can defeat any of the top ranking teams.

York basketballers: victims of inexperience

by Brian Amuchastegui and Riccardo Sala

To a cynic a seventh place finish would be a disappointment. But for a young and inexperienced team such as the basketball Yeomen, success cannot be measured in the victory column. That is why York's performance in the University of Toronto National Invitational Tournament is poor only on paper.

York's first game of the tournament was Thursday night against the McMaster Marauders. For those who expected the young Yeomen squad to be a real pushover, the game was a real eyeopener to the intense fighting spirit of a team on the make.

First to score were the Marauders but York put itself in front with two quick hoops in succession. The Yeomen kept a close lead for most of the first half until McMaster's Michael Preocanin scored to tie the game at 33-33. The Marauders scored twice in the last two minutes to take a 37-33 lead at the half.

In the second half York sustained an aggressive tempo, trying to gain a foothold in this hard fought and frustrating game. To open the half, York's David Lynch scored two baskets but soon after McMaster pulled away slowly from the Yeomen.

Every time the Yeomen rallied, the Marauders dug down and put

more points on the board, maintaining a wide margin of safety and closing off the game with an 87-67 win.

Assistant coach Michael Quigley said afterwards, "This was one of our better games and it wasn't until the end that they wore us out because of their bigger size."

"The referees let a lot go," Quigley added, "and that worked to McMaster's advantage because they're bigger and stronger."

The Yeomen were under pressure from the start in their second match against the Winnipeg Wesmen, whose defensive prowess forced York to the outside of the perimeter. York's inability to penetrate the Winnipeg defence kept York forward Mark Bellai and guard Kevin Gallivan busy lobbing three pointers.

A valiant comeback effort by the Yeomen in the second half was stalled by their failure to sustain an offensive punch. York showed character and determination in the rally but fell victim to a more experienced and talented Winnipeg team, losing 94-86.

"Sometimes when you're really far behind you push and push," said Yeomen head coach Bob Bain, "but then the other team smartens up when they see how close you get."

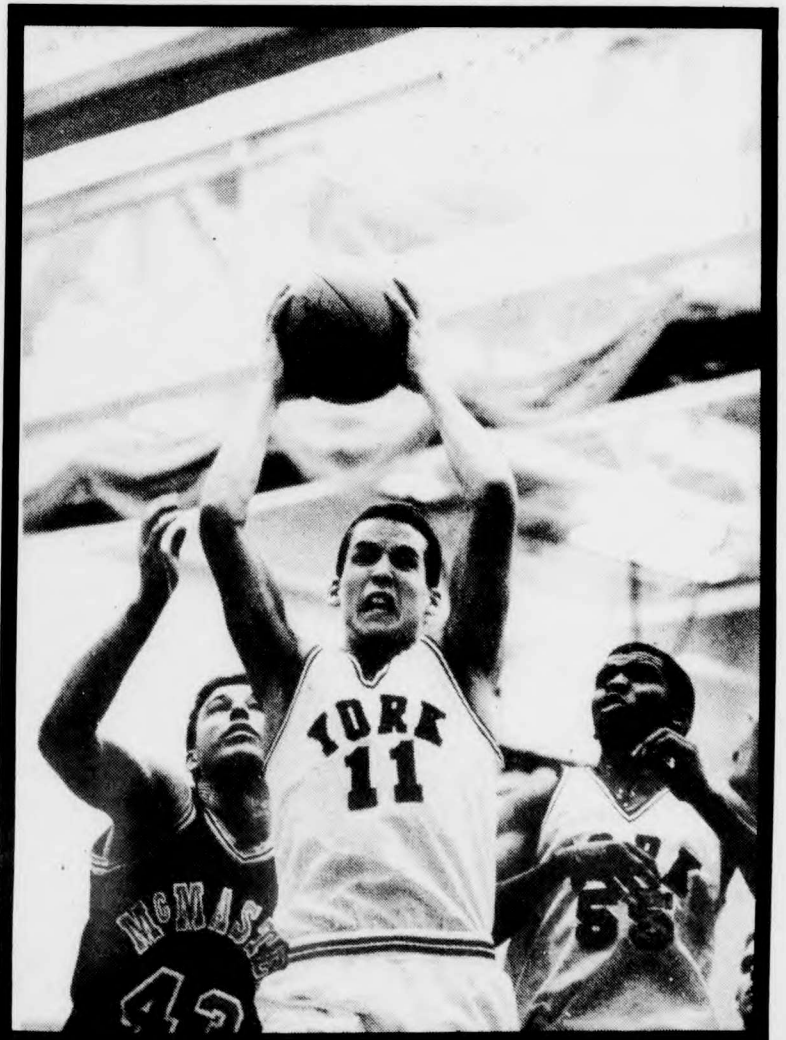
York's third and final game of

the tournament was against the University of New Brunswick Red Raiders. The game was a spirited affair with both teams running up the scoreboard. Near the end of the first half, the Yeomen shifted into high gear while the Raiders stayed in neutral. York led at the halftime 51-36.

Minutes into the second half it appeared as though the Yeomen would run away with the game. At 17:40 York held a commanding 22 point lead. The plucky Maritimers, however, refused to die. Recharged, the Raiders' offence began to whittle away at the Yeomen lead, but their efforts were not enough as York went on to win 98-87.

"It was nice to get the victory," said Bain, "because we worked really hard against teams that were for the most part more experienced and talented than we were."

Lack of experience seems to sum up the Yeomen's woes. York Bellai is a returning member of last year's squad. Guard Don Taylor played two years ago, but these two are the only veterans on an all new team. These are short term problems, and the possibility of the first year Yeomen remaining on the team throughout university could mean a long-term revival of the squad.



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Killerbound: Flanked by teammate Warren Harvey, Yeoman Sean McCormick crashes the boards against McMaster.