

Rugby Yeoman feels his sport wrongly portrayed as "brutal and insane"

By JAMES HOGGETT

Tim Smith, a flanker for the York rugby team, is no stranger to the sport. The 21-year-old, 5'8", 175-pounder has played rugby competitively for seven years and also plays for the Ontario Senior team. In the past, he has played for the Ontario under 21 and under 19 team.

Smith, a graduate from Chinguacousy Secondary School, is a second-year student who is majoring in Geography. Upon graduation, the resident of Brampton hopes to land a job teaching geography.

Smith feels the sport of rugby has been falsely stereotyped as a brutal and insane sport.

"In Brampton a few years back a kid broke his neck playing rugby so the school pulled out of the league. This I think was wrong."

"These types of injuries are rare in rugby, yet these are the injuries that people remember most. There are more injuries in football than in rugby yet no school cancels their football programme."

"Rugby is a gentleman's sport. Two teams go out on a field and play hard rugby for 80 minutes then after the game the players are still best of friends and go out to have a couple of beers. There are not too many sports that can say that."

The popularity of rugby in Canada is increasing but Smith feels we have a long way to go to catch up to the Europeans.

"In Europe the kids start at a much younger age than we do in Canada and their playing season is much longer. In Europe they will play 40 games a year while we only play six."

"In rugby there's more bumps and bruises but not as many head-on tackles. The difference is in technique. Rugby you hit just as hard but you tackle with your shoulder."



Spotlight will be a regular feature in Excalibur highlighting various York athletes and their views on their respective sport, the university, and the overall campus athletics programme.



TIM SMITH: Second year Geography major feels rugby is getting a bum rap by people who don't know the sport.

Smith is looking forward to a good season with the Yeomen.

"With the leadership of the veteran players and the coaching staff we should have a good season this year."

York rugby Yeomen mauled by Queen's Golden Gaels

By MARIO PIETRANGELO

The Yeomen rugby team clashed with the Queen's Golden Gaels last Saturday afternoon, keeping surprisingly close to last year's OUA A champions throughout the match. But the loss of top players Tim Smith and Scott Switzer, who were in Vancouver playing for the Ontario provincial rugby team, proved to be too much for the Yeomen as they were downed by Queen's by a score of 17-6. Presently, Queen's is sporting a perfect record of 4-0 while York's record is an even 2-2.

Before the match, York assistant coach, Bill Curry, said "our game plan is to try and minimize our mistakes. Queen's is a very experienced team and they are bound to take advantage of our mistakes." This conservative approach appeared to be successful for the Yeomen, and in fact they were leading by a score of 6-4, early in the second-half.

However, Queen's kept the pressure on York and they were eventually rewarded for their effort. They were able to score on a 35 yard drop kick, which just sneaked in between the uprights. Then a few moments later, Queen's scored another four points on a push-over try. The conversion attempt was not successful and the score at this point was 11-6.

The turning point in the game occurred on a York penalty kick; the ball hit the upright and landed just a few feet from the Queen's goal-line. Unfortunately the Yeomen were unable to come up with the loose ball, and a try plus a conversion would have given the Yeomen a 12-



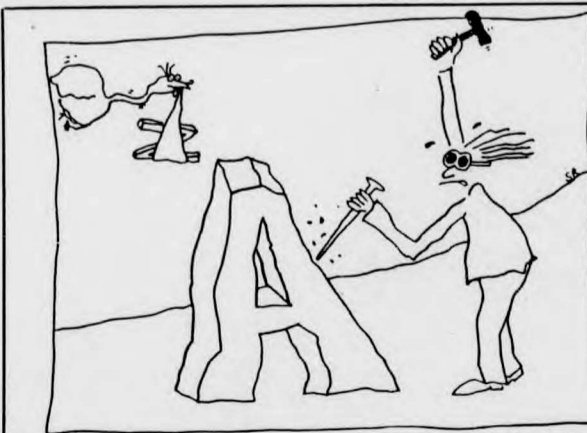
JUST OUT OF REACH: Victory was well out of reach for the Yeomen. Their 17-6 loss to the Golden Gaels brought their record to an even 2-2.

11 lead, with just five minutes left to play. But Queen's was able to regain control of the match, by scoring on another push-over try and adding a conversion. The final score in the game was 17-6 for Queen's, with Dave Gallifent kicking two field goals for York.

York came up with a solid effort, considering they were playing with a depleted line up. For example, Andy Woodford is out for the season because of a broken leg he suffered earlier in the year. Players such as Sam Saliman and Dean Cluff were moved up from the B-team, and played remarkably well. Coach Curry was pleased with his team's performance saying, "We played a good game, and the match was a lot closer than the score would indicate. Queen's is a good team and we have to tip our hats off to them."

Despite the loss, York's playoff hopes remain alive, but they must win their final two games. Yeomen Sam Birtwistle was optimistic saying, "Don't count us out yet. This team has tremendous character as we have already shown by coming back to defeat Western." Terry McElrea, another Yeomen, also felt the team would pull together. "We know we can play a lot better, if our forwards are a little more aggressive. I think we can win the final two games."

York will host a very big game tonight against Guelph. Yeomen, Warren Macleod, indicated "a big crowd cheering us on, could make the difference." York must win this game or their return engagement with Queen's, next weekend, will be a mere formality.



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