

Coach enjoys this kind of worry

Yeomen fencers don't foil the real test

Mark Zwol

The fifth edition of the York Invitational Fencing Tournament gave Richard Polatynski a few more white hairs, but they don't bother him.

The Yeomen fencing coach wore out his sneakers pacing in front of the York bench, but a pair of bronze

medals in the epee and sabre classes, a silver in the foil, and the overall team championship consoled any nail-biting inconveniences he may have felt.

The two day tourney, held last week-end in the Tait Gym, attracted 33 teams representing 12 schools from across Ontario.

U of T took the gold medal in the foil event, finishing ahead of York and bronze medalist Western. In the sabre, Windsor and Carlton finished one-two, while Queens and U of T captured top medal laurels in the epee class.

For Polatynski's "up-and-at-em"

Yeomen, the team championship was a long awaited turn around from last year's fifth place finish, when York managed only a silver medal in the foil competition.

York took the title after accumulating a total of 17 points in the medal rounds. U of T also finished with 17 points, but York was awarded the title on the basis of a win over the Blues in earlier pool play. Queens University, and Windsor tied for third with ten points apiece.

"We posted some good results at Brock (gold in the sabre, bronze in the foil and epee)-but this weekend was the real test for the team," said Polatynski. "There was a greater concentration of talent in this meet with all those schools competing, and I think the team proved themselves worthy of recognition."

Fifth year man Scott Mitchell, along with team members Bernie Leung, and Rex Lo, fenced in perhaps the best match-up of the tourney when, in direct elimination competition, they ousted a strong Queen's side from the medal rounds.

Mitchell had been instrumental in York's bronze medal finish at the OUAA's last year, and has been a

finalist in the foil class during all five of his years as a Yeomen.

Rookies excell

But it was the epee team of Steven Wowk, Raymond Au, and Reya Ali, that turned out to be the surprise of the meet for York. All three fencers are rookies and, with the exception of Wowk had not fenced at any level before September.

"Their come-from-behind victory over Brock in the direct elimination round meant only one thing: they wanted it," Polatynski said.

The Windsor Lancers defeated the sabre team in the medal rounds, forcing the Yeomen to take a bronze. The York team, Mourad Mardikian, Chris Thomas, and Adam Bryant, was the most experienced of the York entries. Mardikian and Thomas have six years of competition under their belts. Bryant is the lone rookie on the team.

FENCERS POSTS: In fencing, ten points are awarded for a gold medal finish, seven points for a silver, and five for a bronze...the Yeomen are on the road for the important M.E. divisional OUAA meet this weekend.

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Ice dancers at York

The Yeowomen Figure Skating Team will be hosting the York University Invitational to be held all day Friday, January 21.

Skaters from U of T, Western, McGill, Queens and York will vie for a chance to compete in the OWIAA Championships at Queens. York will be well represented in this meet: 1981 Ontario Champions, Andrea Ingledew (Sr. Singles Champions) and the team of Wendy Carriere and Wendy Rogers (Intermediate Pairs Champions), will be returning to defend their titles.

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