

Barcelona-bound Wood misses standard

by Josh Rubin

Some people might consider it a gold medal for going through the motions, but not Doug Wood.

Despite having already been pre-selected to Canada's Olympic squad, the 25 year old York University pole vaulter was still happy to take first spot at the Olympic trials in Montreal last week.

Though his winning performance of 5.45 m was well short of his Canadian record of 5.61 m,

he was still pleased with the showing.

"Pole vaulting is definitely a sport where you need a lot of confidence so I'd say I'm happy," said Wood, referring to the fact his best previous result this outdoor season had been a vault of just 5.35 m at a meet in British Columbia three weeks ago.

Still, Wood, who leaves for a number of meets in Europe in just two weeks, wants to go even higher during his preparations to Barcelona. "I'd really like to set at least one more

Canadian record before the Olympics," said Wood.

At Barcelona, Wood will be aiming for a top five finish, something a Canadian hasn't accomplished since Bruce Simpson's fifth place 5.20 m vault at Munich in 1972.

Even a medal isn't completely out of the question, according to Wood.

Wood expects a first vault of 5.80 m would be enough to get a shot at the bronze.

Wood's is preparing for Spain under the

Careful eye of coach Zdenek Krykorka, who was also pleased with Wood's showing in Montreal this past weekend.

"It could always be better, but Doug's in good physical shape right now, and this is an improvement over his result from out west," Krykorka said.

Another of Krykorka's York vaulters, Kevin Lake, took fifth spot at the Montreal competition with a vault of 5.20 m, 30 cm short of the 5.50 m standard needed to qualify for Barcelona.



LUCKY 13, Joel Brough of the Olympic-bound Canadian field hockey squad deaks by a pair of American defenders in exhibition play at Lampport Stadium last week. • photo by Michele Boesener

Spanish sojourn for York gymnasts

by Riccardo Sala

York gymnasts will be heavily represented at this summer's Barcelona Olympics.

Along with the Canadian gymnasts will be York coaches Masaaki Naosaki and Tamara Bompia, as well as York athlete Janine Rankin.

This will be the second Olympic Games for York men's coach Naosaki, head of the Canadian national men's team since 1985. Failing to qualify as a team, the hopes of Canada's male gymnasts rest upon the individual performances of Curtis Hibbert, Alain Nolet and Mike Inglis.

Hibbert is a household name to York and international audiences, but Nolet and Inglis have had their share of success on the world stage as well. Inglis placed fifth on the vault portion of last year's World Championships at Indianapolis.

The women managed to achieve the goal which eluded their male counterparts and qualify as a team for Barcelona. This year's version of the nationals boasts Seoul Olympic veteran and York athlete Janine Rankin. Another team member is Stella Umeh, sister of York gymnast Stacey Umeh.

For Rankin, a good performance at these Games hinges upon consistency. "In a sport where you have only four events you have to be an all-round competitor. You have to do reasonably well in all the events," Rankin said.

Rankin's experience with the national team also includes a stint with the 1989 squad that took sixth place at the World Championships, the highest-ever finish for any Canadian gymnastics team.

nastics team.

The Yeowomen will also be represented by Tamara Bompia, who will be judging for Canada in rhythmic gymnastics. Bompia has judged this event since the Los Angeles Games, when it made its official appearance as an Olympic sport. That year also saw Canada's Lori Fung take the sport's first gold medal.

For Bompia, the past several years have seen a gratifying increase in the general awareness given to this new sport, which has tended to be in the shadow of the traditional artistic gymnastics.

Whatever her preference, Bompia, who is assistant coach of the Yeowomen, will be watching with interest the results of Rankin, a fellow York charge.

Veteran coach leads hockey squad

by Riccardo Sala

After two tours of the southern hemisphere, the Canadian women's field hockey team, coached by York's Marina van der Merwe and Catherine Broderick, will be crossing the pond for a shot at the spotlight in the Barcelona sun.

it's south to Barcelona for the Olympics.

York's involvement with the 1992 version of the Canadian team extends to more than just the coaching staff. Yeowoman Joel Brough and Sherri Field are on the roster, as well as former York athletes Sharon Creelman and Sandra Levy.

This will be the third Olympics for both Broderick and van der Merwe, whose usual duties include coaching the field hockey Yeowomen. The Canadian field hockey team is a sort of hideaway for past and present varsity athletes. Along with York's four player

tribution", there are four members of the University of Victoria, as well as three from the University of Alberta.

The varsity scene will likely be a cakewalk compared to the action these athletes see at the Olympics. The Canadians face tough competition from the start, playing Australia, gold medalists in Seoul, in their first match. Canada plays Spain and Germany in their pool later on.

"It's going to be really tough. It's going to be the teams that play consistently that make it. There are only three games in pool play, so each one has to count," Catherine Broderick said.



Gareau disappointed at trials

by Josh Rubin

Montreal — France Gareau's Olympic comeback dream has come up fractions of a second short.

At the Canadian national athletics trials this past weekend, the 24 year old former York sprinter finished sixth in her semifinal heat with a time of 11.95 seconds, just .07 seconds short of fourth place and a spot in the finals.

Gareau's presence at the trial surprised many observers, who thought her career was finished last year when she tore her Achilles tendon almost to the bone.

At the trials Gareau said the thought of quitting never even entered her mind.

"I wanted to show people that I could come back and do something again," she said.

Despite missing out on Barcelona, Gareau has already had a taste of Olympic action. At the age of sixteen, she ran the anchor leg for Canada's silver medal-winning 4x100 metre relay team at the 1984 games in Los Angeles.

After missing the Seoul Olympics during a troubled 1988 season, Gareau came back to run in the 200 metre race at the World Indoor Championships at Seville, Spain shortly before her injury last year.

After her semifinal this past Saturday, Gareau was in surprisingly good spirits for someone who had just been eliminated from Olympic contention, but still couldn't hide her disappointment.

"I guess deep down, I really do feel disappointed," said Gareau, adding that she was looking forward to the world indoor championships at the Skydome next spring.

"I'll be there next year," she said.

Gareau won't even be taking the rest of the summer to recover from her setback. The first weekend in July she will be in a meet at Sudbury, followed by the Canadian senior championships in mid-August.

Van der Merwe and Broderick were in New Zealand in October with the Canadian team when it qualified for one of the five remaining Olympic berths. Recently, the national side went to Australia to chalk up valuable experience against various men's club teams, as well as the visiting Kiwi national squad.

Van der Merwe called the trip a "true preparation phase." The workout in the Australian sun, combined with fast tempo action against male players, was designed to prepare the Canadians for both the climactic and physical conditions they're likely to encounter in Barcelona.

The Canadian side is home only for a short while before it moves overseas again. In the meantime they've kept busy with a week's worth of practices and skirmishes at Lampport Stadium against a US national team shut out of the Olympics.

At the end of the month, the Canadians will be in Holland for three matches against the Dutch nationals, 1990 World Cup champions. Then

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