

Sports

Volleyball Yeomen swept away

by Tracey Reid

Anything can happen in volleyball, and the eight teams who took part in the 11th Annual Mizuno Excalibur Volleyball Classic from January 5-7 certainly proved it.

This tournament featured top teams from all over Canada with a special appearance by a strong side from Loyola Marymount in California. The highly-touted Manitoba Bisons walked away with the gold medal, but even they had trouble at times. They defeated Western and Dalhousie in the preliminary round and appeared to be on their way to a sweep until they met up with York, who ended up being the only team to take a game from the Bisons in regular tournament play.

In stark contrast were the Yeomen, the defending tournament champions, who were defeated 3-0 by both Dalhousie and Western, and 3-1 by Manitoba. The game they took from Manitoba was York's only victory in round-robin play. This match against the Bisons seemed to stand out in the minds of most Yeomen.

In the first game of the match, the Bisons moved ahead quickly while the Yeomen struggled, unable to keep up with the Manitoba hitters. York seemed to come alive, however, when Yeoman John Young served for three points. In the end it wasn't enough and the Bisons won 15-11.

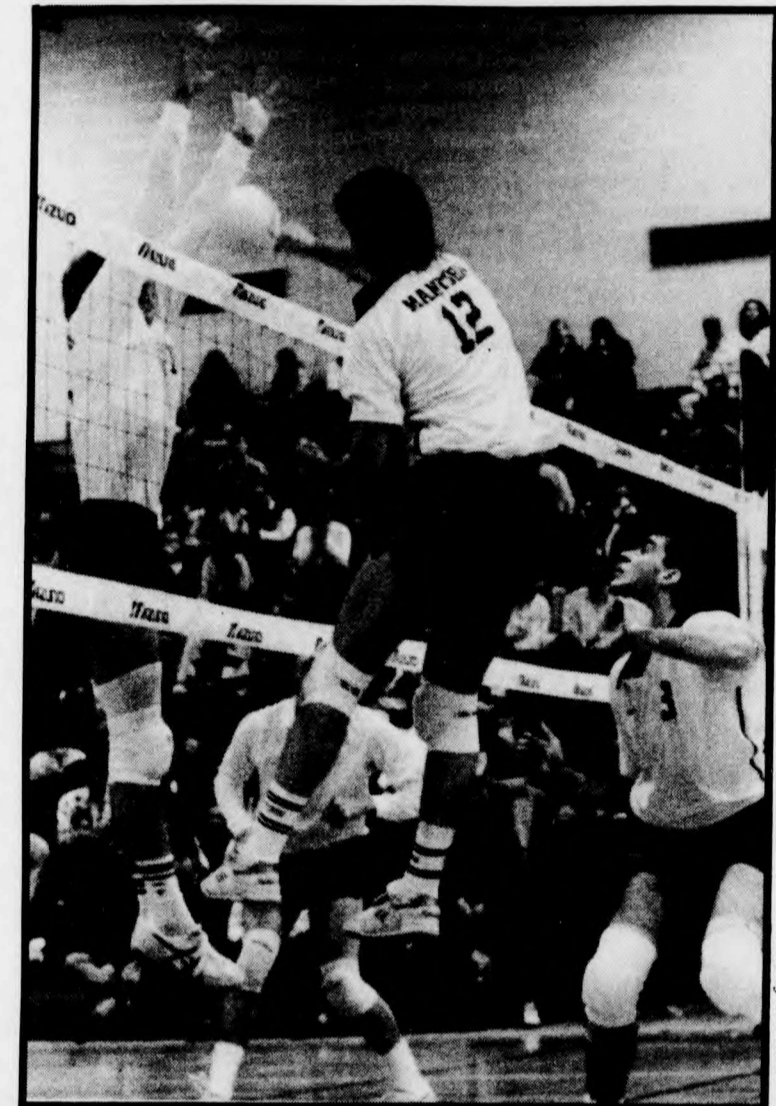
In the second game Young got help from fellow players Dexter Abrams and Adrian Adore who once more proved how capable they are at crushing their opponents with their powerful hitting. Yeoman Mitch Proteau and Dalziel also helped out with a number of spectacular kills. With its strong hitting, York became the first team in the tournament to take a game from Manitoba, defeating them 15-8.

The Yeomen continued to play well in the third and fourth games with Adore and Abrams pounding away. Manitoba refused to give in, however, and seemed unafraid of the Yeomen hitters. They returned everything York gave them, and took the last two games 15-5, 15-9.

"Manitoba was our best match," said Yeoman James Dalziel. "We had fun and that was the main thing."

"I thought we played well," agreed Yeoman setter Chris Carson. "We played the best against Manitoba. I don't think they expected us to play as well as we did against them."

"York did very well," said Manitoba head coach Garth Pischke. "They deserved to take that game. Adrian and Dexter played really well. A lot of the guys did well. They got really emotional and that helps. That seems to happen a lot when teams have nothing to lose. We played all of our best players and were lucky



Slam: Try as they might, the Vert et Or from Sherbrooke just couldn't stop the mighty Manitoba Bisons.

we took it the way we did. It could easily have been a five game match."

After playing Manitoba, York had the bad fortune to draw Loyola in the consolation semi-finals. The Yeomen looked tired and were easily defeated 3-0 by the Lions. Loyola placed all of their hits well while Abrams and Adore seemed to totally lose their power. Everything the Yeomen hit came back at them and nothing was staying in the court. After showing some sparks of life in the second game, York finally gave in, losing 15-8, 16-14, 15-6.

Moving into the match for seventh place finals, York faced Western once more. This match was vastly different from the first one in which the Mustangs took all three games. The Yeomen had all of their strength back. In the first game, they downed the Mustangs 15-8 with strong hitting from Proteau and Adore.

In game two, Abrams' power was back. With it came effective blocking, passing and hitting from Adore, Dalziel and Young. It wasn't enough to win, however, and the Mustangs took the game 15-10.

Adore appeared injured when he landed on Abrams' foot after going up for a hit during the third game. Luckily, Adore was not seriously injured and the Yeomen were able to pull off another win, 15-7.

Down 10-0 in the fourth game, the Yeomen were on the verge of another loss. Setter Drew Rice pulled them out of the slump, however, finally breaking the Mustangs' serve

and bringing the Yeomen to life. With a number of excellent saves from Young, spectacular kills from Abrams, York pulled to within four points before giving in 15-10.

In game five, Proteau showed his power, and with the entire team playing well behind him, the Yeomen defeated the Mustangs 15-12 and took the match 3-2, which disappointed Mustangs' head coach Jim Sage.

"We always play badly in this tournament. I think coming off the break hurt us. We were playing a lot of substitutes too. We weren't really disappointed, but losing isn't great."

In contrast, the Yeomen seemed generally pleased with their performances.

"We've lost every match to them this year," stated Abrams. "It was really nice to beat them. We're a young team and we just keep progressing."

Yeomen head coach Wally Dyba was a little more critical, however.

"We thought we had an outside chance of getting into the championship round and I think we didn't play quite as well as I thought we could have in the preliminary round. When we came up against the number one ranked team in the country, we reevaluated what we would do and we set out other types of goals, like taking the game from Manitoba.

In the championship finals Manitoba defeated the powerful Vert et Or of Sherbrooke 3-2 (16-14, 16-14, 13-15, 15-17, 15-9).

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Official-languages monitors must be full-time postsecondary students usually studying in a province other than their own. They will work between six and eight hours per week under the supervision of a second-language teacher. Some francophone monitors will be assigned to French schools outside Quebec. For eight months participation in the program, they will receive at least \$3,500 and one return trip between their home and the host province.

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Application forms and program brochures may be obtained from placement offices in postsecondary institutions, or at the address below:

Manager, Monitor Program
Ministry of Education
Education Liaison and Exchange Branch
14th Floor, Mowat Block, Queen's Park
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Duly completed application forms must arrive at the address indicated in the information package, postmarked no later than February 16, 1990. Qualified candidates will be required to attend an interview.

**(Applies to men and women equally)*



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