

League poses challenge for York

V-Ball Yeomen reach back for extra

GARY SCHOLICH

Coach Wally Dyba came out of the Brock Invitational Volleyball Tournament with mixed emotions. Although the York Yeomen achieved their goal of making the semi-finals, losses to the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo tarnished their overall performance in the tourney.

In the round-robin portion of the tournament, York started off on the right foot by defeating the Guelph Gryphons 15-12, 15-8. "We had to beat them in order to reach the semis," said Dyba.

Dave Samek led the assault with 12 kills (spikes) and five service aces. Walt Zanel chipped in with nine kills. Their second match was an easy 15-2, 15-3 pasting of the weak Brock team that hosted the event. A

third round victory of 15-8, 15-5 over Wilfrid Laurier assured the Yeomen a berth in the playoff round. Walt Zanel was excellent in this game as he scored eight kills, six blocks, and five service aces. Bruce Burt also contributed eight kills.

Their final match in the round-robin pitted them against cross-town rival U of T Blues. Unfortunately they came up on the short end of a 15-5, 15-8 score. Dyba described it as "probably the worst effort that you'll see from us." The Yeomen converted only 21 of 76 chances for kills, and they also committed 21 net errors. The 27.6% kill percentage was disappointing for a team which prefers to be in the high 40s. Samek led with eight kills and five blocks, while Zanel scored seven blocks.

In the semi-final, it was more of the same as York dropped a 15-8, 15-6 decision to the Waterloo Warriors. Again a low kill percentage contributed to their downfall. Zanel led with seven kills and Joe Loncar added five blocks. Dyba merely stated, "We just didn't play well."

Although Dyba was disappointed with the latter phases of the tournament, he was not discouraged. "Our goal was to make the playoffs and we accomplished it. U of T, the defending OUAU, looked pretty polished with a lot of returning players. We had only four returning players, so there was a lot of inexperience. Also, Waterloo is another team which has a chance to take the OUAU title this year."

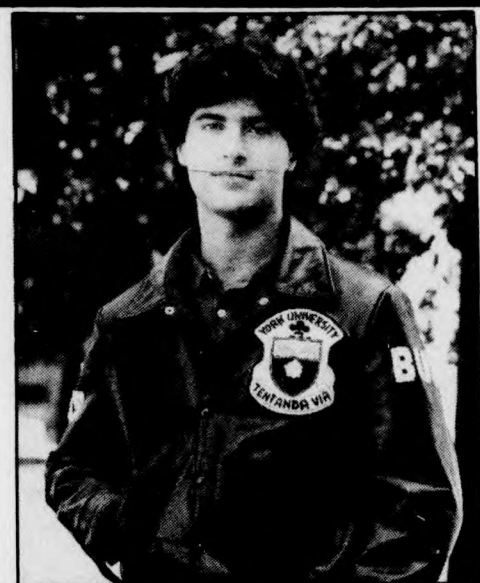
Dyba sees this campaign as "The Year of the Challenge." "We were always a step ahead of everybody before. Now it's more exciting because we will be challenged," said Dyba. The Yeomen have taken the Brock crown five times out of the last eight years.

Two players that Dyba is high on this year are Zanel and Brian Davis. "Zanel had been on a weight program during the summer and was outstanding in the tourney." Davis was missing from the lineup because he had to attend his brother's wedding. "He's our best leaper and middle blocker. He could've made a difference."

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Pickett hands in resignation as grid coach

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

Yeomen football coach Dave Pickett announced his resignation from the university's football program Tuesday after six years of service at York.

"It's quite simple. I'm resigning to pursue other interests," says Pickett, 32, in his third year as head coach. "I feel that it's time to consider other things in my life."

Pickett handed his resignation in to Knobby Wirkowski, men's athletic coordinator, and Stuart Robbins, chairman of physical education at York.

Pickett gave the announcement to his players before Tuesday's practice.

After a brilliant career as quarterback for the Saskatchewan Huskies where Pickett amassed 2251 yards passing for a single season in 1973, he was awarded the Hec Creighton trophy as Canada's outstanding collegiate player.

Pickett turned his involvement in football to coaching, coming to York in 1977 as an assistant to Dick Aldredge. He took over the head coaching job in 1981 after former CFL great Frank Cosentino's departure.

"I never considered myself coaching football five years from now," says Pickett. "I guess it's just time. I've been in university sports since I was 18. It's time to move on."

Pickett wouldn't discuss his plans for the future.

As York's head coach, Pickett never saw the football program—it's in its thirteenth season now—escalate into the "winning tradition" he strived for.

Even if York wins its last game against Windsor, with a 1-5 record they are already mathematically eliminated from the OUAU playoffs. The Yeomen have never made the playoffs in their 13-year history.



Dave Pickett: Time to move on

"Not winning has been frustrating more than anything else," he says. "But it has nothing to do with my resignation. It's just something I've been thinking about for awhile."

Wirkowski, who has also served in the Yeomen football coaching ranks, says there was no pressure on Pickett to resign.

"We hate to lose him," Wirkowski says. "But I think that he has his mind made up. He doesn't want to be a football coach for the rest of his life."

Wirkowski also added that it was too early to name a replacement.

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