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York coach calls it quits after final game

By GARRY MARR

In a game that typified their horrible season, the York University football Yeomen lost 29-0 to Wilfred Laurier in Coach Frank Cosentino's last game.

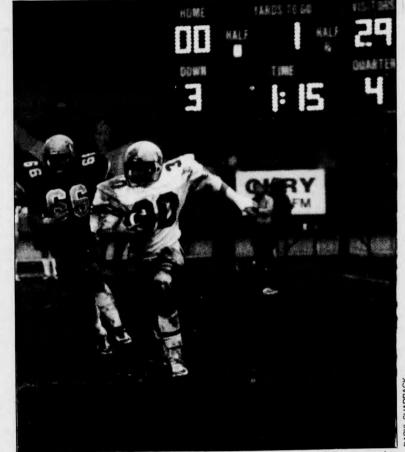
Cosentino, after seven years of coaching York football, has decided to ask for a one-year sabbatical after which he plans to go back to teaching full time. Cosentino said after the game that the 2-5 Yeomen season was "disappointing from a won-loss perspective." He said that "things didn't fall into place ... more so than any other season," and described the circumstances of York's dismal year as "one of the lessons of sport."

Cosentino went on to say that he thought he received a good, "packaged effort from all players. They worked hard and were enthusiastic." The coach said he would miss many aspects of the football programme, including his role as a "teacher" on the field. He continued by explaining that there are "sometimes greater lessons than points on the board." He realized that this was small consolation for a losing season but commented that there are "sometimes greater victories than on the field."

The Yeomen were visibly shaken after a match in which they were thoroughly trounced by a superior team. York looked very much like the owners of the 2-5 record they finished with. Coming into the match York needed to win, as well as hope for a Guelph loss and a MacMaster-Toronto tie, to qualify for the playoffs. Combined with the fact they were playing one of the country's top teams, the Yeomen could certainly be excused if they approached the game a little less than optimistically.

York came out strong in the first quarter and managed to contain Laurier's potent offence. The notorious York punting game did not let them down this week, but rather an offence that simply could not break through a tough Laurier defence. The Yeomen defensive unit spent a great deal of this game on the field and eventually tired out.

The Hawks were able to break York's bending defence early in the second quarter. Andy Cecchini scored one of four touchdowns on the day, diving into the endzone. The



SCOREBOARD TELLS ALL: York running back Jon Schutt carries the ball downfield in one of York's few offensive drives. York capped off a dismal season by losing 29-0.

Yeomen had managed to stop Laurier on the four-yard line, only to have their efforts defeated by an offside. Given the second chance, the Hawks managed to produce their first score.

Laurier received some great performances by Cecchini and quarterback Rod Philp. Philp had a solid day and showed why he is the number one passer in the OUAA. Cecchini had a phenomenal day rushing for over 150 yards and averaging around six yards a carry. He has a solid shot at winning the OUAA rushing title. On the downside for Laurier, leading receiver Ken Avraire was forced out of the game with an injury.

The Hawks took a 15-0 lead into the second half and finished the Yeomen off by scoring 14 more unanswered points. Meanwhile, York's offence was never able to break out of its own backfield. The Yeomen tried some reverses and "flea-flickers" to loosen up Laurier's defence, but the Hawks were not biting on any of the trick plays.

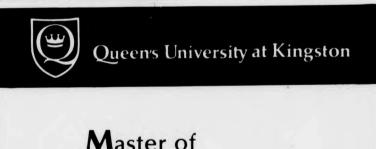
But the game had some bright spots for the Yeomen, most notably their two punt and kick return specialists. Greg MacDonald and Tom Kapantrias continued to dominate in this category as they have all season. The Yeomen also received some solid defensive play from linebacker Carl Brillinger, who was selected York's most valuable player for the day.

For next year, York will be losing some key veterans, but departing coach Cosentino indicated that he liked York's freshmen this year. "They are the best we have ever recruited, I'm optimistic about York's future," he said.



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