

Football Yeomen's second successful season misleading

At first glance it appears that the York University football Yeomen have just concluded their second consecutive successful regular season. Certainly back to back five and two records would deem them as achievers in the OUAA. However a more careful study of York's record over the past two campaigns reveals a much less flattering picture.

In reality, York's ten victories accumulated over the past two falls have primarily come at the expense of the 'lesser-likes' in Ontario university football. In fact the average winning percentage of the opponents York has defeated during that period is only a meagre .314. In stark contrast the Yeomen have lost to four clubs who have combined for a 24 and 4 record and an .857 winning percentage. Yeomen sweeps of Waterloo, Windsor and Toronto are by no means something to brag about. Although two opening day victories over Guelph are somewhat satisfactory, the Gryphons have a long standing tradition of laying goose eggs upon opening their season. The hard facts point out that the Yeomen have simply not won a 'big' game in the past two seasons. Each confrontation that one might call a crucial showdown has resulted in a York loss. Last season's first place battle with McMaster and final two losses versus Western are prime examples of York's inability to play well in the clutch. Unfortunately this season is developing into a carbon copy of last year. The Yeomen, a team that all season long has been considered among Canada's best, have only rolled over two squads. Yet big wins against Waterloo and Windsor only made waves on the scoreboard. York's 34-9 romp over the hapless Warriors saw them visibly struggle to only a 7-6 half-time lead before this year's possible saviour Joe Pariselli ended any Waterloo hopes. In the 49-13 blow-out of the University of Windsor, Lancer head coach Gino Fracas admitted that his team provided the worst possible display of football he had ever seen. Even in York's victories over McMaster and Toronto, the club seemed to almost limp home over the finish line.



MEL BROITMAN

What is most deceiving about the Yeomen is that their talent does not belie their record. On balance, they're offensive and defensive units are the leagues best. Adding to that impression is York's special teams, which have been nothing short of brilliant. All things considered then, why has York banded about in mediocrity?

Two major factors come to mind that the Yeomen are definitely lacking in; execution and imagination. If in organized sport execution can often make up for inferior talent, then obviously the opposite is also true. Week after week Yeomen drives have been halted on short yardage situations that good teams would eat up.

How often have we seen York pay heavy prices for inopportune penalties? In last Saturday's loss to Western, a Mustang punt was mistakenly fielded at York's own one yard line when it should have been allowed to roll into the endzone for a single. That ill-advised decision kept the Yeomen pinned deep in their own end, on a slippery turf, and eventually led to Mustang scores on their next two possessions. More importantly, the momentum which had been building for the Yeomen suddenly switched over to Western. That case in point epitomizes York's habit of beating themselves.

Offensively York has also been a disappointment. Albeit York has an outstanding running game, their greater asset

lies in their balance. However, the Yeomen have mostly ignored throwing the ball in favour of a mundane rushing attack that becomes so predictable it plays into their opponents hands and negates their own strength.

In losses to Laurier and Western, both the Hawks and Mustangs showed a willingness to throw the ball that directly led to the final outcomes. Ironically, in both those games, the conditions were anything but suited to an aerial show, yet imagination and the element of surprise was worked to full advantage by those clubs. When at times York displayed offensive creativity early in games, they have only later retreated to ultra-conservatism that has almost squandered potential victories. The McMaster and Toronto games are perfect illustrations.

Perhaps of all the strikes against York, one in particular looms largest. York is probably psychologically the weakest club in the playoffs. They were badly in need of a win over Western, but not so much for reasons of a better finish in the standings. As much as the game was played down by coaches and players it represented another challenge the Yeomen failed to meet.

In fact Guelph is the only team with a winning record that York has beaten in the last five years. Now York faces a sudden death playoff game with no significant victory in their recent history to fall back on. Without a doubt, a win over Western would have meant much more to the Yeomen than just home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

On the surface the Yeomen appear to have enough talent to take on serious run at national honours. But if you think that talent ensures a victory, then just ask St. Louis Cardinal's manager Whitey Herzog. There is now no room for error for many Yeomen veterans, each time they suit up might be the last. If the Yeomen don't immediately get their act together, their only execution will be their own.

Hockey Yeowomen fall to defeat in tournament final to U of T Lady Blues

By MEL BROITMAN

It appeared that the York Yeowomen Invitational Hockey Tournament was going to be a repeat of last year's affair. After six teams had opened play on Friday, once again it came down to a showdown for the title between the York Yeowomen and the University of Toronto Lady Blues.

However, the Lady Blues had no intention of conjuring up last year's final result, and this time it was their turn as Toronto came away with a

thorough 7-3 thrashing of the Yeowomen. Last fall, York won a thrilling 3-2 encounter in overtime, but on that occasion the Yeowomen were able to hold Toronto's exceptional centre Karen Spence in check. This time Spence was free to roam all over the ice as she potted five goals and added one assist.

The Yeowomen actually led 3-1 early in the second period on a pair of goals from Judi Gilbert and a single from Kim Downard. It was at this point that the Blues' Spence

took control, notching a hat trick in the second period alone, as Toronto took a 5-3 lead to the dressing room with only one period to play. The Lady Blues then added two more in the third as they coasted to an easy win.

The game marked the first time the two teams have met since the U of T shut out York 5-0 in last year's OWIAA championship game at Varsity Arena. It was also the first triumph for Toronto at York after three consecutive Yeowomen home ice victories last winter.

The Yeowomen had no difficulty reaching the tournament's championship game. They downed Seneca 6-2 in the opener; the Braves being the only non-university club in the tourney. York then trounced hapless Guelph 8-1 to "earn" a spot in the final. On the other hand, the Blues had to work harder for a championship berth as they defeated OWIAA contenders McMaster and Queen's.



ROBERTA DI MAIO

THEY IT GOES: York and Seneca players appear dumbfounded as puck seems to have mind of its own in action Friday at the York Invitational. The Yeomen downed Seneca 6-2.

National training centre at York gives wrestling program a welcome boost

By ANDREW DAVIS

York's wrestling program has been given a boost with the recent announcement that York University has been designated Canada's national training centre.

York wrestling coach John Park gave the program a further boost by recruiting some of the finest high school talent from the Toronto area to participate at the varsity level. "We're different from most universities. Like out track and gymnastics programs, wrestling runs all year round," Park said.

The credentials of this year's team are impressive. There are five junior champions wrestling for York this year: John Barsonlona, John Cho, Richie Heart, Steve Schorsch and Steve Sammons. "A lot of the team members have high standards, and that sort of pushes everyone to work harder," said Sammons.

Stan Tzogas, CIAU champion for McMaster in 1983, came to York to participate in the national program. "The program here is more success-oriented," he said. "The level we're at here is to produce Olympic champions."

Aaron Hume is returning for his fifth season at York. "This is the best team over the past years, it fills most of the weight categories with contenders," he said. "John Park is the toughest coach I've had. The training is intense."

The team is waiting to move into new training facilities. Presently it is training in a dance studio, which is shared with several other clubs. The concrete walls and the handrails are considered dangerous for wrestling training. "It is not an adequate facility for training," said Park. The team will be moving to a new facility off campus.

The season begins November 8th, when York will host Western. One of the early-season highlights is the Canadian university all-star team against the Japanese all-star team, stocked with some national team members. Canada's team will have six York team members.

Western wins OUAA lacrosse tournament

By EDO VAN BELKOM

What is Canada's official national sport? About half of you might answer hockey but along with the beaver, the maple leaf, our national anthem and the flag, field lacrosse is

officially designated as our national sport. This may come as a surprise but field lacrosse was being played long before settlers decided to bat around a rubber ball on our frozen lakes and rivers. Lacrosse has never

enjoyed the popularity of hockey but three universities have established clubs and the Ontario University championship was decided over the weekend in a tournament here at York.

York played host to the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto but dropped both of their games by respective scores of 6-4 and 8-6.

The York club was somewhat ill prepared for the tournament because of their difficulty in finding enough players to form a team. As a result the squad had only one practice before their first game.

This year's championship game saw the University of Western Ontario defeat the U of T Blues by a score of 8-7. The final goal came in the second overtime period.

At present their isn't enough interest in field lacrosse across the province to create an OUAA league, so for now the championship will be decided through a tournament format.



ROBERTA DI MAIO

OUT OF MY WAY! U of T player looks ready to charge into battle during play at last weekend's OUAA championships.

Sports Briefs

FOOTBALL

• York runningback Joe Pariselli, a fourth-year geography student, has been named Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUAA) athlete of the week for his standout performance against the Windsor Lancers a week and a half ago. The 24-year-old Toronto native gained 157 yards on 17 carries and scored two touchdowns in York's 49-13 pasting of the Lancers.

GYMNASTICS

• The Japanese and Canadian men's and women's world gymnastics teams will be presenting a special demonstration Monday, November 11 that will be held in the Tait McKenzie gym at 7 p.m. Koji Gushiken, the all-round champion at the 1984 Olympics, will be competing as are past and present York

gymnasts Dan Gaudet, Allan Reddon and Brad Peters. The latter three are presently participating in this week's 23rd world championships in Montreal as part of the Canadian contingent.

10 K RUN

• The York University 10 kilometre fun run for muscular dystrophy will be held on Sunday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m. The run, which will start near the track and field centre, is open to both males and females. The entry fee is \$10 before November 11 (payable by cheque or money order only) and \$12 on the day of the race (cash or cheque). First prize is a weekend for two at the Skyline Triumph hotel, second prize is two one-month passes to Super Fitness while third prize is one complimentary hairstyle by Landro's. Entry forms can be

obtained at any pub or college, the track and field centre, and various locations in Central Square.

CROSS COUNTRY

• At the OUAA and OWIAA cross-country running championships held at Waterloo last weekend, York University placed seventh in the men's 10k competition and fourth in the women's 5k event. The team championship for men was won by the University of Western Ontario while the University of Toronto took top honors on the women's side.

Individual competitions were won by Jamie Stafford of U of T who covered the 10k course in a time of 31:36, and Sandra Anshuetz of Western who ran the 5k course in a time of 19:28. No York competitors finished within the top six spots in either event.

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