



**ZWOL
ON SPORTS**

**In Conversation
With Dave Coulthard**

No regular in the Tait McKenzie bleachers will forget those chants of "Coulthard, Coulthard, Coulthard" heard during the final game of the OUAA championship last March.

Dave scored a record 49 points, and while his No. 11 jersey has been retired, the possibility of a professional basketball career still seems imminent.

Coulthard, who comes from one of the country's most notable basketball families--father Bill was a member of the 1952 Canadian Olympic team and brothers Bruce and Chris play college ball--hasn't always been optimistic about his chances in the NBA.

"Growing up in Canada, I suppose I always had it in the back of my mind that the NBA was not really reachable from here. Anybody who wanted to make the NBA would have people telling them that it's not a very realistic goal."

Despite what he saw as poor odds, Coulthard and a friend, York alumnus Dave Farill, compiled a 'reel-to-reel' resume--clippings of game films that were sent to several NBA teams. "We more or less marketed me as a player to the teams in the States. American teams do not scout in Canada," Coulthard explains.

Canada's national game is hockey and there isn't a street corner or schoolyard around that isn't crowded during the winter months with young hopefuls dreaming of the NHL. But Coulthard isn't a hockey player. He's the lone Canadian to be selected in the NBA college draft this year. That may not mean much to the starry-eyed pucksters in this country, but for Coulthard, it was a shot at the big leagues.

In the minds of many, there was no room for failure. Coulthard could shoot and a 30.2 points-per-game average backed that up readily enough. Yet, in the end, Coulthard's brief stint as a pro was like a trip through a revolving door. "Detroit drafted me in the 10th round and I was basically considered a long shot. The actual camp lasted only four days after the Pistons cut it short one day. There were not a lot of surprises--I went down in a good frame of mind, hoping I could compete with them. I don't feel bad about being cut. I'm certainly not going to lose any sleep over it."

A lack of intensity and aggressiveness were perhaps the most important factors in Coulthard's demise. The Pistons were primarily interested in Coulthard's shooting ability. "The spot I played on the offense was generally an off-guard position. I did a lot of shooting and some ball-handling which is generally what they were looking at."

But it was a strong, physical style of game that exposed his weakness and inexperience. "Aggressiveness is something you have to learn. I don't think it's something you can improve on in a month. You have to play in a league that is very intense for say, a year, and it'll steadily improve over the course of that year." Unfortunately for Dave, the Piston camp lasted only four days--not long enough for him to learn the bumps and grinds of physical game.

Piston coach, Scott Robertson, and G.M., Jack McCluskey, got their first in-person look at Coulthard during a three-week period in July at the Southern California Summer Pro League. "The reason I went to California was to get exposed to it so it wouldn't be as much of a culture shock when I got back to the Piston camp." McCluskey commented during a workout on Coulthard's "tentativeness", saying that he needed more time playing against better competition if he is to develop into a pro prospect.

Coulthard's "tentativeness" is not an inherent hindrance, rather a condition resulting from playing a much less aggressive game in Canada. Jumping from a zone-defence to the run and gun, man to man game of the pros is quite an adjustment in itself.

"Aggressiveness and intensity is greater down there regardless of the skill level. They are constantly playing pressure defence--they never stop. I think that they are more physically developed due to the fact that when a player gets drafted, he's on a weight programme from day one."

Coulthard is small by NBA standards at 6'2" and 160 lbs. Basketball, probably even more so than football, is a game involving "pne-noms" of the human physique. The average guard in the NBA is 6'6", weighing in at 200-plus. I hope Dave keeps his head up for pick plays when he's on the court. "I went down there strictly with the reputation of being a shooting guard, but when a Moses Malone or a Darrell Dawkins sets a pick, you'd better start running from the opposite end of the gym if you're going to play through it."

Few people can match Coulthard's natural shooting ability but he's going to have to get his shot off more quickly if that talent is going to work for him. You'd probably have to look up at Dave if you stood next to him, but let's just hope that the old saying of "good things come in small packages" applies, even if we are talking about the NBA.

Coulthard is preparing himself for an upcoming tryout with the Detroit Spirits of the Continental Basketball Association thanks to McCluskey who recommended Coulthard to the CBA at the close of the rookie camp in August. "If you don't make the NBA the recommendation is to play in the CBA for a year and at that point that's more like a stepping stone to the NBA. Another alternative is to work. I have a job right now; I can continue that route or decide. I was pretty satisfied with the way things went down there. Personally, I thought I played quite well with those guys. Certainly I've learned a lot and if I continue playing at that level I'll keep learning a lot more."

Yeomen aim to build tradition this year but champion Mustangs are still team to beat

Mark Zwolinski
Another OUAA football season opened last Saturday and once again the three-time defending champions, Western Mustangs, are touted as the team to beat. While other universities talk of their "societies" and how they plan to pack their stadiums with cheering crowds, the Yeomen return to their home turf where Coach Pickett acknowledges more realistically the team maybe worth an extra 3 points, of course.

Some teams are affected by stadiums and large crowds. That was the case in 1980 when the Mustangs bowed to York 30 - 23 on the Yeoman's "bleacher interrupted field." And although a stadium is a part of York's future plans, the Yeomen look to build tradition this year, not facilities. Here's a look at the 1981 won-lost records.

WATERLOO WARRIORS (1-6)
Next to last in points against last year, the Warriors will be under the guidance of new Head Coach, Bob McKillop. Three-year veteran, Stan Chelmecki, heads an experienced offensive unit which includes wide-receiver, Eric Thomas, their top pass catcher last season. Defensively, the Warriors are anchored by four returning linebacker, but the success of the team will depend upon how well last years rookies have developed as they move into starting positions this year.

WINDSOR LANCERS (3-4)
A significant increase in the coaching staff should have the Lancers well prepared for the 1982 season. Their biggest assets are offensively, Rob Daley, a scrambling QB who com-

leted 65 of 25 passes last year and, defensively, John Celestino, both CIAU linemen of the Year in 1981.

McMASTER MAURAUDERS (1-5-1)
Last season, the Maurauders landed Bernie Custis as their Head Coach, a step in the right direction towards rebuilding their football program. Their strength lies in a fine defensive secondary which posted some impressive overall stats last season. They also have a good QB in Phil Scarffone.

TORONTO BLUES (5-2)
The biggest question with the Blues is who will replace QB Dan Feraday. Head Coach, Ralph Murphy, has given the call to John Finlay as the Blues must now re-establish a running game to balance their offense.

WESTERN MUSTANGS (7-0)
The Mustangs should repeat as the class

of the league even though six of last year's starters were lost to the CFL. The most notable of ten returning starters is running back John Pitts, a 1981 OUAA all-star.

LAURIER GOLDEN HAWKS (4-3)
Head Coach "Tuffy" Knight returns to the Hawks this season, looking at a lack of depth in some areas of his team, particularly the offensive line where 4 out of 5 have graduated. Laurier run the impartial wishbone offence and have converted wide-receiver Jeff Maslandka into a QB to run their game.

GUELPH GRYPHONS (4-2-1)
The grphons are the most improved team in recent years after finishing runner-up to Western in the conference final last season. Mike Eykens is returning for his fourth year at QB and has a fine slate of receivers including all Canadian, Mike Hudson.

New Soccer Coach

Mark Zwolinski
York University is hosting a number of Inter-Varsity Athletic events this year, but one that should drum up some interest is the opening of the OUAA soccer league.

The Yeomen have a new head coach with formidable experience in Norman Crandles. Having thirty years of playing experience behind him, Crandles has performed in the semi-pro ranks, with such noted teams as Coleshill Town, Worcest-

shire, of the English major league and Willowdale of the Toronto and District league. Crandles served as assistant Yeomen coach in 1978 when the team capped an amazing season off with the CIAU crown--the only York Inter-Varsity team ever to win a national title.

Crandles has been absent from the OUAA scene for the past four years, but looks at his new team with optimism. "We have a lot of talent at all positions. It's going to be very tough to make any cuts, but it's a nice position to be in."

The Yeomen finished seventh out of eleven teams with a 3-5-2 record last season. This year, however, two new teams have been added to the league, resulting in the formation of an East-West divisional standing.

While Crandles has not confirmed a tentative starting line-up, his main objective for the team is to "make the playoffs." The Yeomen's home opener is September 25th at 2 p.m.

...SHORTSTOPS...

■ The York Yeowomen Field Hockey Team, OWIAA Champions for the past two years, will be travelling to Kalamazoo, Michigan for their first major tournament September 24-25.

The team, which has been practising for the past four weeks, will be joined by the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto on the campus of Western Michigan, the site of the tourney.

■ Canadian national team member, Laurie Lambert, will not be playing with the Yeowomen next week. Instead she will be competing with the national team in Edinborough, Scotland and Cardiff, Wales.

■ Six of York's top runners left yesterday to compete in the Eight Nations Cup being held in Japan on September 24. Angela Taylor, Molly Killingbeck, Desai Williams, Tony Sharpe, Mark McKoy and Eric Spence will then take off to Brisbane, Australia to run in the Commonwealth games, where there is a good chance that they will gather a number of medals.



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