

sports



Track and Field star Mark McKoy was touted as Male Athlete of the Year for his wins in the 50-yard hurdles and the 4x200-metre relay.

Awards served for athletes' Last Supper

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

After two years I feel outspoken, as opposed to quintessentially having "something to say."

Two years—it's been that long? Time flies when you're having fun, so they say, but I'd better shut my mouth here while I'm still ahead.

All kidding aside, it's really quite difficult to come up with anything profound to say, let alone a proper sign-off.

So I'll do what I've been doing for the past two years—letting the athlete's actions speak for themselves.

On March 22, York had its annual athletic awards dinner at the Ramada Inn in honor of many countless hours of sweat and toil that produced four national and five Ontario championships.

Even though their uniforms were replaced by satin evening gowns and pin-striped suits, all was not forgotten.

Highlighting the evening was the announcement of the athletes of the year which went to co-winners Mark McKoy and Allan Reddon on the men's side and Molly Killingbeck on the women's side.

McKoy and Reddon, both members of their respective national teams, paced the Yeomen to national championships in track and gymnastics.

McKoy, 23, from Scarborough, was named the outstanding competitor at this year's national competition, winning the 50-yard hurdles, placing second in the 50-yard dash, and leading the 4x200 meter relay team to a new CIAU record.

Ranked 10th in the world in the 110 meter hurdles, McKoy took the gold medal at the 1982 Commonwealth Games and also holds the distinction of being the first Canadian to

win the 50-yard hurdles in the 21-year history of the *Toronto Star* Indoor Games.

Reddon, a native of Edmonton, Alberta, led York to its 13th OUA and 10th national team titles earlier last month.

A physical education major at York, he also took the individual all-round crown at both meets, winning four golds—including the only perfect 10 on the high bar—and two silvers at the nationals. He recently placed 10th overall at the American Cup, which featured some of the world's top gymnasts.

Killingbeck anchored the Yeowomen's first ever CIAU crown with victories in the 50- and 300-meter races while running a strong second leg in the 4x400 meter relay team's victory.

A member of Canada's national track team, the 25-year-old arts major was on hand for the national team's fourth place finish in the 4x400 meter relay at the world championships in Helsinki last August.

Reddon's teammate Frank Nutzenberger, the recipient of last year's male athlete of the year award, walked away with two more pieces of hardware for his mantlepiece when he was awarded the Charles Saunderson Memorial Trophy and the Tom Zivic gymnastics achievement award.

Basketball forward Wayne Shaw duplicated his selection for the Tony Moscato award given to the player who displays loyalty, effort, and dedication, regardless of skill level.

Fifth-year linebacker and defensive captain Mike Lollar won the Football Coaches award for the graduating athlete who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the program, while the Labatt's trophy, for the most improved team, went to the Yeomen Ruggers.

Other winners included field and ice hockey goaltender Debbie Lamb (Bruce M. Taylor

award), field hockey standout Laura Branchaud (Merit Award), and ice hockey player Gail Stewart (Merit Award and Lily D'Urzo bursary).

In the past year York has won four national championships in men's and women's track and field—the first time in CIAU history one school has won both ends of a national championship—and men's and women's gymnastics. Five Ontario titles were captured in men's basketball and gymnastics and women's figure skating, gymnastics, and volleyball.

In closing I'd like to thank a number of people who made my job a little more pleasant and a lot easier.

My co-editor Elissa S. Freeman, who showed up one day two years ago and got the whole thing going. You've been a great friend, a source of keen friendship and, of course, humor, as well as the fastest damn typer I've ever seen.

Take it from me folks, you don't get many Elissa S. Freemans to the pound.

Sports Communication Director Lynn Cornett really deserves a whole page to herself just to credit the countless times she has provided me with that little something I had trouble finding. We in the sports department extend our thanks many times over for a job well done—thank you.

To Nobby Wirkowski and Angelo Kioussis for their time and patience, usually on Monday mornings, and for their help two years ago when I was more than a little green around locker-rooms.

And finally to the coaches and players who put up with the questions and phonecalls and the host of other things put on their shoulders.

Thanks for reading us too. Believe me, the pleasure was all ours.

The best and worst: A fond last look at the year in sport '84

By PETER BECKER

This being the last edition of *Excalibur*, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me in my rookie year. Initially, I want to thank Mark and Elissa, the co-editors of the sports department. Without their encouragement I would still be rewriting most of my articles.

Secondly, without the teams to cover there would be no sports to report on. Thirdly, credit goes to the full editorial and writing staff—they have put up with more than their share of bad jokes (or attempts thereof).

Finally, without you, the reader, I don't think any of this would be possible. It's like that old argument 'If there is no one there to hear the noise, was there a noise?'

With that in mind, I'd like to ramble off some of my choices for the best and worst of 1983-84.

• **Longest running drama:** Yeomen basketball team for breezing through the OUA and losing

the first round of the CIAU's regionals. When will they get the monkey off their back?

• **Best comedy team:** Yeomen football team for their thirteenth consecutive year of not making the playoffs. But the joke's getting stale.

• **Sad to see you go:** Former football coach Dave Pickett will be missed, his candid remarks and frank appraisals of the team's situation as well as his own was refreshing if not surprising. His only fault was that he treated his players as equals.

• **Most improved team:** Definitely, the Yeowomen track team. After placing 11th at the Canadian championships a year ago, they came on to take the 1983-84 crown, their first ever. Congratulations! The York Yeomen rugger team gets the nod as well for coming runner-up in the OUA this year.

• **Coach of the year:** Unquestionably Marina Van der Merwe who has turned York's, and Canada's, women's field hockey program into

a world-wide success. Track coach Brian Maraj has to get a fair shake as well—he led both the men's and women's teams to CIAU championships, the first time in the history of the CIAU that one university took both ends of the nationals.

• **Biggest surprise:** The York Yeowomen gymnastics team who captured the CUA and CIAU championships—to everyone's surprise but their own.

• **Show your stuff:** York football players who were selected in the Canadian college draft. Trevor Williams (Winnipeg—third overall), Nord Williams (no relation, Calgary), Dave Maganja (Ottawa), Derk Leers (Calgary), Mike Joyce (Toronto) and Neil Fraser (Toronto).

• **Best quote:** "Total breakdown by everyone." That was what Tino Iacono had to say after the 49-7 loss to the Varsity Blues. What an understatement.

Memories, regrets, thanks, goodbye

By ELISSA S. FREEMAN

"Give it to me straight from the heart..."
Bryan Adams

Women in sport. There have been hundreds of essays, research studies, and dissertations written about female athletes: why they compete, why they can't, underfunding, no funding, the list goes on and on. There are, however, a number of positive aspects to be looked at and such elements are embodied in York's Yeowomen.

In my second year as a sports writer, I have been fortunate enough to have been able to report on a variety of Yeowomen teams. Whether I was sitting on the hill by the field hockey pitch, bundled up for an ice hockey tournament in the rink, or trying to get comfortable in the gymnasium bleachers, watching a team stretch themselves to the maximum and emerge victorious was a most exhilarating experience.

Yeowomen teams always seem to exhibit an extraordinary amount of modest optimism which has certainly paid off in the 1983-84 season. Under the guidance of coach Merv Mosher, the volleyball team whipped through the OWIAA tournament and finished third at the Nationals; the figure skating squad, featuring Cathee Maron and Gia Guddat, carved out a provincial win; Natasa Bajin's gymnasts, led by Barb Nutzenberger and Kathy White, sprang to provincial and national championships; and the women's track and field team kept coach Brian Maraj's record intact capturing the National crown.

For other teams, however, the season came to an abrupt or surprising halt.

Being involved with women's athletics has afforded me with a number of opportunities. I consider it a privilege to have been able to deal with Lynn Cornett, Communications and Sports Information Director, Mary Lyons, Women's Athletic Director, Gail Stewart, WAC president and Debbie Lamb, this year's Bryce M. Taylor award winner. It has also been my sincere pleasure to have been able to know coaches Marina Van der Merwe, Merv Mosher, Bob Cluett, and Wendy Amorim who were always willing to provide me with pertinent information and "profound" quotes. Many thanks also to all the athletes who took the time to express their views concerning their particular team.

I have certainly done my best to ensure the extensive coverage of Yeowomen sports—either by handing out reporting assignments to other writers or attending the events myself. It is a big responsibility ensuring that all the events are written about; obviously not every team will get equal coverage since a lot of it has to do with relative importance and usually lack of space. Although, I must have done something right as (much to my surprise) the Women's Athletic Council gave me a special merit award for my efforts.

Of course the sports section owes a great deal to Mark Zwolinski, whose time and late night dedication arranged the stories in layout *par excellence* and our fearless editors Roman and Bernie who actually *knew* something about sports.

All good things must come to an end, however, and I will always regard my years at the *Excal* with fondness.

As long as we all strive to do our best, all of us are very much like the Yeowomen—winners in every way.