

# Volleyball gains respectability

Where can you find exciting action, quick, powerful athletes and samba music? Give up? The answer is, of course, York's Tait McKenzie Athletic Centre whenever the York Yeomen volleyball team takes the floor.

Once again this year the Yeomen hosted the annual Excalibur Volleyball Classic and the tournament proved a showcase for the potential of the sport in Canada. Volleyball is not new to Canada, yet it has a low profile in North America. It seems as though on this continent the legitimacy of a sport is marked by whether or not the athletes wear helmets and shoulder pads. However, nothing could be farther from the truth, as anyone who has witnessed world class competition in soccer and volleyball can attest to.

Canada's success in soccer's World Cup is a direct relation to the recent media exposure of the game in this country. Television also served to explode volleyball onto the national scene during the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, but unlike soccer, volleyball's appeal is being accepted much slower by the public.

According to Wally Dyba, coach of the York Yeomen from 1976 to 1984, volleyball has struggled in its attempts to attract high calibre athletes. "To have a top notch game you need good athletes. It used to be that you played volleyball only if you couldn't make football," claims Dyba. Times have changed and the game has begun to bring better athletes into the fold. "Volleyball people have done a better job selling the game to the athlete. Presently a lot of high school athletes have chosen volleyball over the higher profile sport of basketball," says Dyba.

The fact that high schoolers are committing themselves to volleyball is significant. Yet, as in all athletics, the example of the administrators is



MEL BROITMAN

the truest indicator of success or fail. High school volleyball seasons in Ontario can be dramatically shortened to two months. It is likely that conflicts with basketball have left volleyball the worse for wear.

Ontario university volleyball is a perfect example of the sport's ailments. As Dyba says, "Ontario has to the biggest talent pool and the most teams, yet has never won a CIAU volleyball championship. It's simply a case of administrative support throughout the entire league not being there." Such is not the situation at York and thus the Yeomen have traditionally succeeded on the provincial level. "There has been support at York and the teams have done well, but we have been limited by the environment we compete in," says Dyba.

The scenario is improving and presently four teams in Ontario—York, Toronto, Western, and Waterloo—are capable of playing with the powerhouses of western Canada. Western dominance is a result of their programs. Paul Dorion, technical adviser for CIAU explains, "In Manitoba they start volleyball at Grade 4 or 5. While Ontarians are only learning the game in high school the Manitobans are already working on the finer points of the game."

Acquiring good athletes and struggling programs are not volleyball's only problems. The sport also needs more spectators in order to legitimize its claim to be a high profile event. As

Wally Dyba states, "We have to develop a spectator mentality. Traditionally there have been many courts with games happening simultaneously. There was no focal point for spectators and now we're changing the game for more centre court play."

In fact, volleyball can be compared to the sport of curling's earlier problems. A few years ago curling opted for more single game attractions which heightened drama and led eventually to a large television audience. Curling also began to rely heavily on statistics to add towards fan interest. Volleyball has also jumped into the 'numbers game' and now provides stats for kills, blocks, rejects, digs and various percentages. The consummate team game is now learning to adjust to the individually-oriented mentality of North American society.

The future of volleyball in Canada certainly seems bright. Economic trends dictate that sports like volleyball and soccer should flourish. At a similar cost of outfitting one football player, an entire volleyball team can easily be accommodated.

The immigration factor that has helped fuel the soccer boom is also prevalent in volleyball. Thousands of Canadians originate from the volleyball hotbeds of Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. One look at the York roster and the country's distinct multicultural flavor is evident. Names like Justinich, Martino, Ketrzynski and Humana are proof of the solid base of the sport's future hopes.

Best of all, volleyball is an intense game. The excitement of its players and fans would do well to shake us all out of our conservative Canadian winter doldrums. Who knows? Samba bands, sets and digs may become as common as organ music, slapshots and faceoffs.

## Sports Briefs

By EDO VAN BELKOM

### HOCKEY

On Tuesday night the Yeomen hockey team travelled to Guelph to take on the Gryphons, and came away with an 8-3 victory. The win, the second against Guelph in regular season play, virtually ensures a playoff spot. On Sunday, the Yeomen will play at Ryerson before hosting McMaster on Tuesday night.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Acting co-ordinator of Women's Athletics, Pat Murray was re-elected as president of Synchron Canada, synchronized swimming governing body . . . Former Yeowoman Mary Ann Boyle was named to the women's national volleyball team as a setter . . . Also former Yeowoman and all-Canadian, Donna Kastelic is playing professional volleyball in Italy. Former Yeoman Adam Parsons is also in Italy playing pro hockey.

### GYMNASTICS

On Sunday, January 12 at 11 a.m. the Yeomen will host the York University Invitational Gymnastics Meet in the Tait. Competing schools will include McMaster, U of T, Western, Queen's, an Old Timers team made up of York Alumni as well as a team called the future stars.

## YORK UNIVERSITY

### Programmes in Israel SCHOLARSHIPS

**Leonard Wolinsky Scholarships:** awarded annually to two York students for one year's full-time study in Jewish Studies at an Israeli university. Value of the award is \$2000.

**Hebrew University Scholarship:** awarded annually to a York student for one year's full-time study in Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Value of the award is tuition and room

**Abraham Isaac Silver Scholarship:** awarded every second year to a York student specializing in Judaic studies for one year's full-time study in Judaica at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Value of the award is variable. (To be awarded in 1986.)

The scholarships are open to any full-time York University student who has completed at least one full year at York. Preference will be given to students completing their second year of full-time studies and who are concentrating in Jewish Studies. The academic record of applicants will be given considerable weight. To qualify, students must meet faculty requirements for study abroad, receive approval of their course of study in Israel from their faculty and major department, and be accepted by the Israeli university.

**INFORMATION MEETING**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
in Vanier Senior Common Room

#### HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries should be addressed to:  
Prof. M. Brown, Chairman, President's Advisory Committee for the York University-Hebrew University Exchange, 250 Vanier College, York University, North York, Ontario M3J 1P3. Telephone: 667-3900

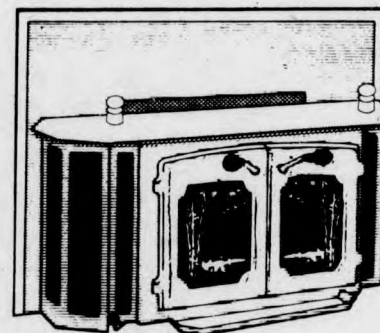
Scholarship applicants should submit a statement of purpose outlining their projected programme of studies in Israel and explaining how that programme complements their studies at York University. Also required for submission are transcripts of all previous university courses taken and two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a York faculty member. A personal interview may be required.

Applications should be submitted no later than February 17 for awards to begin in the following September. Awards will be announced on or about March 30.

**\$5000 OFF**  
With this Coupon

## What was your heating bill last month?

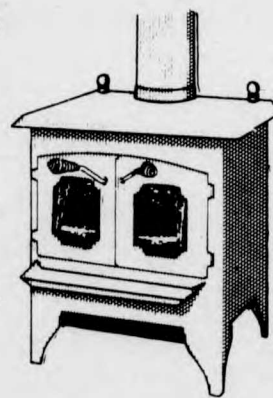
Convert your fuel-hungry fireplace with a beautiful energy-efficient O'Dette Insert



THE  
**O'Dette**  
ENERGIES OF CANADA LTD.  
INSERT

- Save up to 2/3 of fireplace wood
- Retains full fire view
- 10" x 43" heat radiating or cooking mantel
- Do it yourself insert that still looks like a fireplace and works like a furnace

Beautiful efficient



**O'Dette**  
ENERGIES OF CANADA LTD.  
WOODSTOVE

- Airtight Construction
- Air Flo Glass Wash Doors
- Gold Plated or Black Doors
- Fire Brick Lined
- Large Cooking Surface

**O'Dette**  
ENERGIES OF CANADA LTD.

"WE SELL THE BEST FOR LESS & WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL"

SI PARLA ITALIANO  
"U" PLACE HOME SUPPLIES INC.  
2150 Steeles Ave. West (Rear - N.W. corner)  
(one block East of Keele) Unit 17 & 18, Concord

**BUSINESS HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday — 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Friday — 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday — 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**738-3896**

