

Sports

Wirkowski optimistic

Football Yeomen: play-off contenders?



Yeomen practise reaching for the top in training.

By ED PIWOWARCZYK
With the opening of the new football season approaching, the York Yeomen are once again seeking to transform themselves from perennial cellar-dwellers to play-off contenders.

Gridiron success and respectability have constantly eluded the York

squad. Last year's 1-7 record and last-place finish in the Ontario Universities' Athletic Association typify the results of the Yeomen's efforts on the field.

The team has always been able to find solace in the fact that there's always "next season" to look to. As a result, training camp spirits and

hopes are usually high and this year is no exception.

Despite some critical personnel losses, head coach Nobby Wirkowski is optimistic about the team's chances for success. Gone from last year's unit are all-star receiver Steve Ince and quarterback Dave Langley, both hopeful of donning the colours of the Varsity Blues, and linebacker Ted Abbot, out with a calcified thigh.

"Our strongest point this year is our attitude," says Wirkowski. "The guys are more determined than ever to be a ball club that sticks together. They've worked harder than any ball club we've had."

Incumbent signal-caller Gerry Verge concurs. "We've got a lot of tough ball players this year, a lot of guys in their last year who want to go out as winners.

"In the past, when we made mistakes, we'd get down on ourselves. This year we're going to come back and win some games."

VERGE'S YEAR?

Wirkowski feels that Verge, heading into his final season of play, "is going to put it all together. Every year you could see improvement. This should be his year."

The only challenger for the quarterbacking spot in camp is Doug Kitts, an all-star at Mississauga's Gordon Graydon High and last season the back-up quarterback at Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The coach lauds Kitts as "a good passer, a good ball

handler who's going to be a hell of a quarterback."

In the offensive backfield, the Yeomen have all-star Bill Hatanaka and Bob Palmer. Palmer joined the Yeomen last season after playing freshman ball at Drake University, but was sidelined with a broken leg early in the season.

Rick DiLena and Peter Malous are the prime candidates for the wide receiver spot. Malous has four years' experience at Loyola while DiLena, from Scarlett Heights, is touted as having good speed and looking impressive on punt and kick-off returns.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The only new face along the offensive line will be Jerry Gregorecewicz, a six-foot 222 pound guard who was a swing lineman last season, spotted on both the offensive and defensive lines.

Returning to the offensive line are tight end Julian Bellotti, all-star guard Rico DiLello, tackles Paul Sheridan and Craig Lorimer and centre Stan Kozik.

The defensive line is another veteran unit with only one rookie, Boris Barniak, a six-foot-two 220-pound end from Parkdale. The remainder of the front four will be end Gus Banks and tackles Ray Scott and John Wragg.

Rick Slipetz at middle linebacker is the only veteran in the linebacking corps. Brian Watts from Barrie North and Don Berry from

Shelbourne are looking to take up the other linebacking duties.

The defensive secondary, the weakest part of last year's team according to Wirkowski, is expected by the coach to be much improved for the coming season.

Returning to the defensive backfield are Paul Forbes and all-star Doug Ward. Also working out at defensive halfback are Stu Scott, an offensive back last season, and Runnymede's Danny Carnegie, brother of Toronto Argonaut Ernie Carnegie.

NOTES: Banks, DiLello, Slipetz and Verge were voted this year's co-captains.

Ex-Argonaut Danny Nykoluk and ex-Yeomen Larry Iacino and Rob Panzer will be helping out with the coaching chores. Nykoluk is working with the offensive and defensive lines, Iacino with the offensive and defensive backs and Panzer with the linebackers. . . The OUAA has been expanded and re-aligned to include three schools from Quebec. York is in the Red Conference along with Guelph, McMaster, Waterloo, Western, Laurier and Windsor. The Blue Conference is comprised of Bishop's, Carleton, Loyola, McGill, Ottawa, Queen's and Toronto. The top four teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. . . The Yeomen open their season in Windsor Saturday at 2 p.m. York's first home game will be Saturday Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. at the CNE. Admission is 50 cents for students and \$1 for adults.



Yeomen practise recovering from falls in case they don't quite reach the top.

Merckx tops pack, sprints to win cup

By JULIAN BELTRAME

With a panoramic view of Montreal behind them, a large contingent of the 172 amateur cyclists representing 33 countries tackle the "most difficult circuit" ever seen by most of them, on the hilly roads cutting around Mount Royal.

Poland won one-two honours in the amateur competition of the World Championships on Saturday afternoon, August 24, but with the glory and the money at stake on Sunday the professionals from the capitalist world took over the show, drawing an estimated crowd of 150,000.

Belgium's Eddy Merckx sprinted past the pack on the last lap of the race to win his third World Championship. Merckx later called his victory opportune coming off a bad year.

He must have had his tongue in his cheek when he said it because he has already won the French and Italian tours, and only missed out on winning the Spanish tour, which would have given him the grand slam, because he didn't bother to show up.

For those who don't know anything about cycling, the main difference between an amateur and a professional is half-a-minute a day, and \$1 million a year.



One hundred and seventy-two cyclists puff and wheeze their way up Mount Royal.

From badminton to the bull's-eye

Have you been hoping for a chance to learn the graceful sport of badminton?

Have you been avoiding dark

alleys because you've never taken instruction in judo?

Or are you afraid to try any of these because what you need is, face it, some basic conditioning?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these, you will be delighted to learn that the department of physical education is offering programmes of instruction in these areas, as well as archery, cross country skiing, fencing, karate, modern dance, skating, skin diving, squash, table tennis, tennis, weight training, and swimming.

If you're ready to stop shooting the bull and start shooting the bull's eye, archery instruction for beginners commences Wednesday, September 25 in the Tait McKenzie judo room from 7 to 9 p.m., and continues every Wednesday to November 27.

If you thought tennis players were getting unnecessarily mushy on the courts the last time you heard them say "It's five, love," then you'd better keep the hour from 3 to 4 p.m. open on Monday and Wednesday. That's the time to be out on the courts receiving beginners' tennis instruction, from September 23 to October 23.

A complete schedule of these activities may be obtained from the Information York booth in Central Square, or from Dave Smith, room 304, Tait McKenzie building. Drop in or call 667-3529 for further information.

Dr. Labib Sporting Goods & Dancing Shoes

We carry all famous brands of tennis, and badminton squashes: Dunlop, Slazenger, Wilson, Adidas...etc. "Danskin", "Gamba" and "Angel" shoes.

Special Orders Are Welcome! Central Square 661-2446

Sports writers required: BASKETBALL FOOTBALL HOCKEY