



# SPORTS



optimism is justified

## Yeowomen prove their worth at Tait Classic

Elissa Freeman

If there's one thing that the Yeowomen Volleyball Team has learned after finishing a strong fourth at last weekend's Tait McKenzie classic, it's that to become number one, a team must be able to conquer fear of the unknown.

The Yeowomen are for the most part a young team (six out of ten players are rookies) that was able to excel against teams that it had played prior to the tournament. But when it came time to face teams that they had never played before, the players seem to have been mentally defeated before stepping out on the court. "The play of the girls throughout the tournament was up and down, which is something that comes with inexperience," commented Head Coach Merv Mosher. "However, most people thought because we lost a lot of players that York's past domination would be history, but this weekend we established ourselves as a contender."

### Exceptional Play

York did indeed display some brilliant play as they walked over the Ottawa Gee-Gees 15-4, 15-9, and upset the Waterloo Athenas 15-5, 15-6. The Waterloo game saw some extremely tight backcourt play as well as many deceptive manoeuvres at the net. Trish Barnes and Jill Graham baffled the opposition with their many acrobatic skills. Barnes often blasted spikes between the outstretched arms of the helpless Athenas, and when Graham wasn't setting the ball for Barnes, she often



Photo: Mario Scattoloni

Action from the "Tait McKenzie Classic" shows the Yeowomen in fine form for the season. York had trouble with sides they had never seen played before - notably, Winnipeg and Laval.

expertly tipped the ball over the net, just out of the reach of the opposition. Lisa Eyles and newcomer Wendy Hille also kept the play alive with many crucial saves in the backcourt. Barnes attributed the win to the fact that "we played better defense, therefore we were able to run our offense."

### Intimidated by Strong Team

However, the Yeowomen did not fare so well against the eventual

winner and tournament favourites, the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen, losing 5-15, 0-15. They were also dominated by silver medallists Laval 2-15, 5-15, 13-15 in the semi-final. Laval's Lynn Trembley and Sonia Lamontaigne continually picked apart the York defense with their unstoppable strikes. It wasn't until the third game that the Yeowomen started to retrieve Trembley's blasts. It was then that they realized that "les Quebecoises" were not invincible.

After the match, Mosher lamented that the girls were completely intimidated by a stronger team."

### Bronze medal match

But York bounced back in the bronze medal match against Queen's losing a thriller 15-13, 4-15, 7-15, 16-18. In the first game the Yeowomen out-muscled and out-hustled the Golden Gaels, but, as the scores indicate, fell apart in the subsequent games. The deciding game went

right down to the wire. Despite some excellent blocking by Nancy Watson, outstanding defense by Hille and the work of the deadly Graham-Barnes combination, the Yeowomen weren't able to overcome the opposition.

**SPIKER'S SPACE...**The next home game for the Yeowomen will be against U of T at 8:00 p.m. in Tait McKenzie...Thanks to E.B. for her translating the comments of the Laval Coach.

## "elements" not with Yeomen

# Against the wind tough way to go for York rugger side



Photo: Mario Scattoloni

The agony of defeat...the Yeomen put up a gallant but uphill battle as they lost their last game of the season, 10-3, to Guelph last Saturday.

Mark Zwol

In any outdoor sport, playing "against the wind" has its advantages and disadvantages. Like the Seger tune, the course of the event usually becomes an uphill battle. For the York Yeomen Rugby team, last Saturday's 10-3 loss to Guelph didn't have any musical connotations, but it was a battle "against the wind" nonetheless.

The Yeomen won the pre-game coin toss and chose to play the first half into the wind. Guelph wasted no time with the wind at their back as they scored on a penalty kick in the opening minutes and jumped out to an early 3-0 lead. From that point on, the Yeomen had to play catch-up ball. But it wasn't a case of "well, it's our last paycheques, guys"; the red and white fought tooth and nail with Guelph right down to the final whistle.

### Couldn't get going

"We just couldn't get anything going," said back Bob Klein. "Guelph is a strong team and they played well enough to deserve the win. It was just a tough game and a tough way to go down."

Kicker Leo "clubfoot" Nishio got the Yeomen onto the scoreboard with a fine 40-yard penalty kick, but it wasn't until the second half of play. Guelph managed to ice the game on a similar play that led to their first penalty kick, but that didn't take the sting out of the Yeomen. Good rugby teams take pride in their games regardless of the disadvantage; the York side was no exception.

"We have nothing to be ashamed of," said coach Mike Dining. "Our

guys put up one helluva fight as they have all year."

**"SCRUMS" HALF:** The loss puts the Yeomen out of the play-off picture for this season...on a positive note though, the Yeomen finished the season with a 5-2-1 record, a vast improvement from last year's 3-5-1 finish.

Graduation will not deplete the ranks of the York side and there is a strong sentiment brewing for next season...Kicker Leo "clubfoot" Nishio was an uncustomary one from three on penalty kicks on the day. "You can't blame Leo," Coach Mike Dining said. "He's been a standout this season, he got us this far."

## ATHLETE of the WEEK



Dave Reid is Excal's Male Athlete of the Week, as he captured the men's individual championship at Saturday's OUAA championships in Sudbury. Reid ran the 10,500-metre course in 34 minutes, 21 seconds.

This week's Female Athlete of the Week goes to Nancy Rooks. Competing at the OUAA championships in Sudbury, Rooks won the women's 4,500 metre race, clocking at a time of 16:16.

Photo: Debbie Kirkwood