

Rugby season ends



Up, up and away: Despite their highflying efforts the Yeomen lost a close one to the visiting McMaster Marauders.

by Brian Amuchastegui

Breakdowns, breakdowns, breakdowns. The Yeomen rugby squad had countless breakdowns in their season finale Saturday against the McMaster Marauders who delivered a fatal blow to York's playoff aspirations.

A second half defensive collapse turned a reasonable effort by the Yeomen into a painful 10-7 loss to the visiting Marauders.

"There were times when we didn't execute the little things," said Yeomen head coach Bill Currie, "and it's those little things that make all the difference."

The Yeomen started the game with the pack winning most scrums, forcing their checkered-clad opponents to take the defensive.

York flyhalf Andrew Saunders was always a threat with his offensive prowess and unique kicking ability. Saunders, whose kicks seemed to defy the laws of gravity, helped clear the ball from his team's end on several occasions.

John Hutchison drew first blood for the Yeomen, scoring on the game's first try. A missed conversion left the score 4-0 in York's favour.

The Yeomen continued their offensive attacks and their perseverance began to show. Effective ruck and mauling and a strong York scrum brought the Yeomen within yards of potential scoring plays, but offensive miscues foiled their efforts.

Tempers flared near the end of the first half, with Yeomen Dennis Rogers showcasing his pugilistic talents.

Saunders converted a penalty kick inside McMaster territory to give the Yeomen a seemingly confident 7-0 lead.

"I told the players that to win the game our forwards had to come down hard in the second half," said McMaster head coach Phil White.

After the pep talk, it was a rejuvenated McMaster squad that took to the field. Leading the way for the aggressive "Mac attack" were forwards Dave Darby and Simon Beames. This style forced the play into York's end and opened the door for potential scoring drives.

McMaster forward Scarth MacDonald hammered the first nail into York's coffin, returning a Yeomen kick all the way down field for the Marauders' first try. A conversion by Simon Beames

narrowed the score to 7-6.

Capitalizing on York's defensive blunders and lack of team cohesion, the Marauders fuelled their offensive vigour. Yeomen defenders found themselves with their backs to the wall, trying to stem the flow of the omnipotent Marauder attack.

Thrice the visiting Marauders battled their way to within five yards of potential scoring drives but overeagerness resulted in offensive penalties.

The final 20 minutes was a one-sided affair with McMaster confining the play deep in York territory.

McMaster head coach Phil White saw the game in terms of two very distinct halves. "York applied pressure in the first half," said White, "but then we came out in the second half and did our job."

With just minutes left to play, the Marauders roared their way past a deflated York defence to score the game winning try. In doing so, they unmercifully erased any hopes of post seasonal play for the Yeomen.

"They played very well, we played very well," said a satisfied White, "but it's too bad that York had to lose." Too bad indeed.

York badminton nets third place

by Franko Fernandez

York's badminton Yeomen finished a strong third in the year's first tournament last weekend.

Playing against the tough East division teams, the Yeomen won eight of 18 matches, trailing defending champion University of Toronto and Queen's. The eight points provide a good foundation for a drive to make the playoffs by finishing in the top four in the province, according to coach Fred Fletcher.

Eddie Watt, the assistant coach, won two of three singles against the top players from the other teams, and took one doubles with Thomas Siaw, who also won a

singles match as the fourth seed.

Playing at second seed, Dan MacDonald, who last played for the team two years ago when it finished third, took one singles and two doubles with partner Saki Giannakopolous. Jason Ferguson also added to the team's score picking up a point in the singles.

Watt, a nationally ranked player with a great deal of tournament and coaching experience, provided leadership for the team, said Fletcher. Watt is a second year student in physical education.

"We were pleased that every player contributed," said Fletcher. "The team has several other quality players, including last year's top player, Tutul Kundu, who is recovering from an injury." Nou-

had Kalmoni and Roger Hospedales are also on the team.

Playing at the same time, the Yeowomen finished fourth. Only in its third season, the team is still developing. Defending champion UofT took first, narrowly edging University of Ottawa. Queen's was third.

"We lost two starters from last year's seventh place squad, but we have more depth this year," said assistant coach Sharon Johnston, the team's top player for the past three years. "We weren't ready for the top-notch players in the East but we expect to do a lot better against the West."

The teams travel to McMaster October 28 to take on the West Division teams.

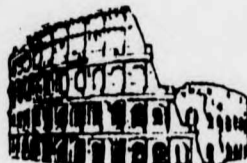


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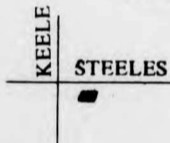
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