



OUAA boots Quebec squads

by Josh Rubin

Fans of the OUAA (Ontario University Athletic Association) hockey and basketball received a shock this past month when it was revealed the

1991-92 season will be the last for Quebec schools in the OUAA.

The announcement came hard on the heels of Université de Québec Trois Rivières' victory at the national hockey championships in March, timing which raised some eyebrows.

"I'd say it's a kind of political move," said UQTR coach Dany Dubé.

But York athletic director Mike Dinning, who sits on the OUAA's Legislative Council, denied accusations that the move was prompted by jealousy or vindictiveness. "We never set out to hurt university athletics in Quebec or anywhere else in the country," said Dinning.

Still, Dubé wasn't buying the league's explanation that the decision was made so players could spend more time on academics.

"We spend just as much time travelling as [the Ontario schools] do and none of our athletes have any academic problems," added Dubé.

Dubé is also frustrated at the dismantling of what he calls "the best league in the country," a sentiment echoed by York coach Graham Wise.

"Obviously from the standpoint of on-ice competition I'm disappointed, because we've had some great competition with the Quebec teams," said Wise.

Still, Wise admitted having mixed sentiments about the decision, taken by the Legislative Council in mid-May.

"Our priority has to be what's best for the athlete, and a degree will get a player a lot further in life than will four or five years of playing hockey," Wise added.

The Council's decision ends what has been an often rocky three-year relationship with the Quebec schools, prompted by the University of Ottawa's jump to OUAA hockey.

The three Quebec schools were given a conditional two-year acceptance along with the understanding that they would push for the creation of a new Quebec circuit.

Before the 1990-91 season, the Quebecois schools admitted they hadn't been entirely successful in their efforts, and were granted another two year period.

This time around, though, the OUAA refused to renew the relationship.



Odds and Ends

by Josh Rubin

Here are a few campus sports news odds and ends for the perusal of the reading public:

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—The latest press release from the Player's Challenge tennis tourney tells us that Jana Novotna will be joining the draw this year.

The Czech star is currently ranked 7th on the professional singles tour, but her exploits in doubles tennis are even more successful: together with partner Gigi Fernandez, Novotna is now part of the world's second best doubles tandem.

Other confirmed entrants for the \$600,000 tournament include defending champ Steffi Graf, Gabriella Sabatini, American phenomenon Jennifer Capriati

and Hurricane Helen Kelesi.

Tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster at 872-5000.

—York gymnast J.P. Kraemer is starting to make some waves of his own on the national and international scene.

The 21 year old London native has long been in the shadows of teammate George Zivic and York-based star Curtis Hibbert, but at a recent international meet in Spain, Kraemer finished third all-round.

And at last weekend's Canadian championships in Saskatoon, Kraemer finished fourth.

The two placings are the continuation of an already successful season for Kraemer, who in March took the all-round silver medal at the CIAU championships, right here on the York campus.

North York gears up for CSL

Rockets launch into 1991 season

by Josh Rubin

Fioriggi Pagliuso is coming home.

The man who coached the Yeomen soccer team to three consecutive division titles in the early 1970s is back on the York campus, but this time as the coach of the Canadian Soccer League's North York Rockets.

Though they'll still be playing out of Esther Shiner stadium, the Rockets will be holding all their practices right here on campus.

The move was prompted by Pagliuso, who has fond memories of his days as a coach in the OUAA.

Pagliuso has his work cut out for him with the Rockets, a squad that finished seventh in the league last season amid a flurry of front office and coaching changes.

"Sure the instability was a distraction, but we've got a new attitude this year," said Pagliuso,

who describes his coaching style as "grinding."

Pagliuso said one of the keys for this year's version of the Rockets will be good old fashioned hard work.

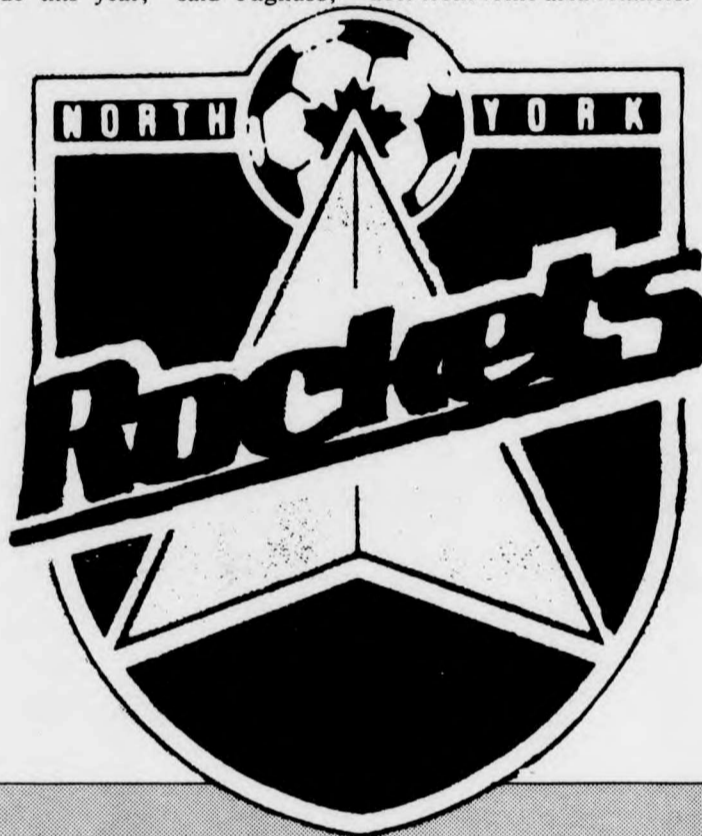
"We have to put in 100% effort every game—we don't have any stars," added the newly-arrived coach.

Although he conceded the Toronto Blizzard and Vancouver 86ers are still the teams to beat, Pagliuso feels his squad still has a realistic shot at the playoffs.

In order to do that, however, the Rockets will still have to get past teams like the Kitchener Spirit, who edged them out for the final playoff spot last season en route to the league final.

Tickets for all Rockets home games are available by calling the team's offices at 650-9711.

Admission will be \$9.00, but reduced-price coupons are available from some area retailers.



NORTH YORK ROCKETS 1991 HOME SCHEDULE

Sunday June 9
vs. Toronto 7:30 pm

Tuesday June 18
vs. Winnipeg 7:30 pm

Monday July 1
vs. Montreal 7:30 pm

Wednesday July 3
vs. Toronto 7:30 pm

Sunday July 14
vs. Kitchener 7:30 pm

Friday July 19
vs. Hamilton 8:30 pm

Sunday July 28
vs. Nova Scotia 3:00 pm

Friday August 2
vs. Nova Scotia 7:30 pm

Sunday August 4
vs. Hamilton 7:30 pm

Wednesday August 7
vs. Kitchener 7:30 pm

Sunday August 18
vs. Winnipeg 7:30 pm

Wednesday Aug. 21
vs. Vancouver 7:30 pm

Sunday September 1
vs. Montreal 3:00 pm

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