



photo by Steven Leung/the Varsity

Andy Cecchini goes in for one of his two rushing touchdowns. Cecchini also caught one for a touchdown as Laurier went on to defeat the Mount Allison Huskies 25-18 at the Vanier cup

## Vanier Cup victory for Cecchini and Laurier

by Josh Rubin

In the final and most important game of his career, Andy Cecchini layed an egg—and it was golden.

The star running back led the the Laurier Golden Hawks to their first-

route to capturing the game MVP trophy.

The victory was sweet for both the graduating Cecchini and Laurier head coach Rich Newbrough, who's in his 24th year with the squad.

The Golden Hawks were heavily favoured in this one, and for the entire first half and most of the third quarter, it looked as though the betting shops were right.

After a pounding defensive battle which saw the two teams give up a combined five turnovers, Laurier held an 11-4 lead at the half.

After a pair of Cecchini touchdowns in the third quarter, it looked as though Laurier would cruise to victory.

With no time left on the clock in the third, Mount Allison coach Marc Loranger pulled out all the stops.

Dropping back from the Laurier 28 yard line, Mount Allison QB Sean

Hickey was chased down and, apparently, thrown for a sizeable loss.

It was a stunned SkyDome gathering (fans, media and Laurier players alike), which saw Mountie running back Grant Keaney scampering up the sidelines for a twenty eight yard touchdown run.

The trick play, which Loranger admitted to stealing from the playbook of the St. Mary's Huskies, seemed to wake up the Atlantic champion Mounties.

After the teams traded punts, the Mounties added another seven points on a 38 yard Hickey pass to Mark Huys to cut the Laurier lead to 24-18 with eight minutes to go.

A comeback just wasn't in the cards, though, and Laurier's Pat O'Leary rounded out the scoring with a single.

## York's athletes of the month

### Yeowoman - Cathy Amara

Cathy is 22 years old and hails from Kingston. This is the fourth year of York basketball action for the Phys-ed and Biology major, who leads the team with an average of 14.3 point per game.

### Yeoman - Adrian Adore

Adrian Adore-volleyball Adrian is a 24 year old Toronto native and sociology student at York. The fourth year York player has excelled on the court this year and recieved awards for his play in tournaments at Ryerson and Guelph.

## January volleyball smorgasbord at Tait

Tait McKenzie gym will be the place to be the weekend of Jan. 3.

That's when the volleyball Yeomen will host some of the best teams from across Canada in the Mizuno Excalibur Classic.

Also present will be a club squad from Michigan State University, the Spartans.

This is the tournament's 13th year of existence. In that time, the Yeomen are the only OUAA team to have won it.

That could change this year. McMaster, one of the scheduled participants, is currently ranked fifth in Canada. If the Marauders hold true to their form, and ranking, they are favored to win.

Other OUAA teams entered are Western, Waterloo, and the defending Ontario champions, UofT.

Halifax's Dalhousie University, currently eighth in the CIAU, will be there, as well as the University of Alberta.

York has Alberta, Michigan and Western in their pool.

York's Wally Dyba noted five players that fans should watch out for.

• McMaster's **Mike Chaloupka**, a 6'6 power hitter who played on Canada's World Student Games squad.

• **Mark Dunn** of the UofT Blues, another power hitter. Dunn will be bringing three years of National club experience to the court with him.

• Dalhousie's **Paul Villeneuve**, a 6'5 setter who had a tryout with the National team for the World Student Games.

• **Dean Kakoshke** from Alberta. Kakoshke is a 6'6 middle blocker and veteran of the World Student Games.

• Finally, the man everyone at Tait should be cheering for, **Adrian Adore**. The York veteran is always a crowd favorite wherever he plays.

Court action for the Classic starts at 1:00 pm Friday, with York taking on the Spartans at 8:00 pm.

The final takes place Sunday at 3:30 pm.

Admission to all games is free for York students.

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ever CIAU football title with a 25-18 victory over the Mount Allison Mounties Saturday.

Cecchini rushed for a pair of touchdowns and caught one more en

## Excalibur interview with York football coach Tom Arnott

**Excalibur's Daniel Naccarato recently talked with York football coach Tom Arnott, getting his thoughts on this past year and the prospects for the future.**

**EXCALIBUR: What are your feelings concerning York's season? Are you frustrated or optimistic?**

**ARNOTT:** Comparing it to my first year here (last season), we played 71 days of football and they were 71 bad days. This year, we played 68 days of football, but had only 7 bad days, the game days.

I'm not frustrated at all. They played with enthusiasm, were committed to working hard, and

were willing to learn. Towards the end of the year, they played football the way I hope they will play in the future.

Our last two games were our best (against Laurier and McMaster). Things started to happen. We played physically and we moved the ball better. That makes me optimistic.

**E: What are the keys to improving the team?**

**A:** The one aspect we have to work on is physical development. They had a good attitude this year and played the game right mentally.

However, physically, we weren't able to match up to the other teams due to our youth and inexperience. All we have to do is undergo a weight-training program

in the offseason and gain maturity.

**E: What types of players are you looking to recruit?**

**A:** With the depth on the team, I have more freedom to recruit players that can fill our needs than I did last year. In my opinion, success at any level is based on speed. The type of players I want this year are fast players who like to hit.

I want a physical fast guy. Size will develop over time. I'm looking to recruit players who have the potential to have an impact on the team and then developing them when they get here.

**E: Are there any particular positions you're looking to improve?**

**A:** All positions. We have good

players at each position, but we are not strong enough at any one position compared to the other teams in the league.

**E: If there was anything you could have had different on this year's team, what would it have been?**

**A:** If I had my wish list, it would have been to have Adam Karlsson healthy for the entire year. I also would have liked more offense. Because of our youth, we used the simplest offense this year, the "Power I Offense." It took them the entire year to get comfortable with it, but next year, we will only have to practice it for a couple of days, since they now know the formation well. We can spend more time teaching them new ones next year.

**E: Being a former coach of the Wilfrid Laurier football team, what are your thoughts on their success this year? (Laurier won the Vanier Cup this year.)**

**A:** Their success is based on an entrenchment program. I recruited 90-95% of the guys on their Vanier Cup team. They are a fast team and a physical team.

This is the kind of team I believe in and will try to implement at York. Here at York, the vast majority of the team that I took over were rookies and sophomores. They had to be hand-held and spoon-fed everything. But they took it and learned it and will provide leadership for the young guys who come out in the next couple of years and become role models. Eventually, the commitment and tradition will emerge.