

Robbins named new athletic director

"We're going to go after outside associations in order to continue to support our programmes."

emphasises Dr. Stuart Robbins, new chairman and director of Physical Education and Athletics.

Robbins replaces popular Frank Cosentino who served as Chairman and Director since 1976. Cosentino is currently taking a one-year sabbatical leave to work on a variety of projects, including a book. Cosentino will return to York to teach full-time.

In conversation yesterday Robbins, 42, expressed a great deal of optimism, even in the stormy face of crippling cutbacks. "Any further cuts go beyond cutting material. You're cutting people," he warns.

Funding, Robbins says, is in bad shape because of high enrolment and little increases in government grants.

"We need money to build and

maintain complexes such as the Track and Field Centre. They're good for York because they draw people from all over the city. No longer is York an out of the way place. It opens up our community name and serves over 5000 students."

The Track and Field Centre says Robbins was built as a cooperative venture between York, the Ontario Track and Field Association, and the Ontario government. "That's the route. The days when a university could support its own program are gone."

Robbins is also excited over the gains made by the graduates of the Physical Education and Recreation Programmes.

"The graduates have been successful in many areas not just their specific field. For example some of our graduates have done well in the insurance field. They are well-rounded and able to deal with people," Robbins says.

When discussing plans for the upcoming year Robbins is

neither a dreamer nor pessimist. "We've got some exciting ideas for recreation. And we're prepared to work with minimal resources. But we've got to make some money from the campus space to fund our other projects. This year \$500,000 was cut from the proposed budget," he says.

In his new position Robbins will oversee the academic and athletic sections of his department. Robbins taught and coached at the University of Alberta from 1964 to 1974. He coached soccer, track and field, and tennis.

"I want to re-enforce that I'm optimistic. The faculty and students at York and in the Physical Education program are enthusiastic. We're trying to pull in our belts without detracting from the programmes," he says.



New athletic head optimistic despite obstacles.



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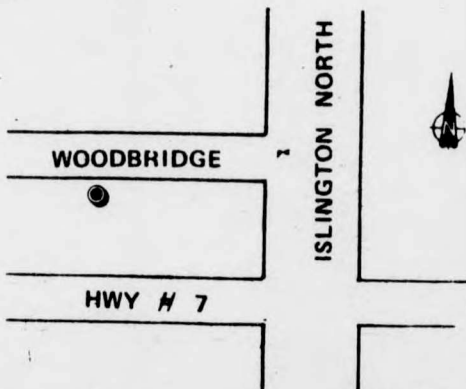

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