



Michelle Boesner

VANIER CUP; two words that are alien to long suffering York football fans. Not so if you're from Laurier or from Mount Allison in New Brunswick. These two teams will be at the Dome this Saturday to prove who's the best team in the country

Gridiron champs face off for Vanier Cup

by Josh Rubin

Scratch the giant-killer theory.

In this Saturday's Vanier Cup, which determines university football supremacy in Canada, neither participating squad has exactly had an easy road to the final.

After clawing their way to second spot in the tough OUAA, the Laurier Golden Hawks had to take on the perennial powerhouse Western Mustangs in their league final.

The Hawks defied the experts, edging Western in a 13-12 upset win.

Two weeks ago at the Churchill Bowl, a national semi-final held at SkyDome, the Hawks were down 22-3 at the half to a surprisingly creative Queen's team.

Led by three second half touchdowns from stellar running back Andy Ceccini, Laurier turned the game

around and crushed Queen's 42-22 to qualify for the Vanier Cup.

In Saturday's matchup, the Hawks will be taking on the Atlantic Bowl champion Mount Allison Mounties.

While the Mounties may not have had much recognition West of Sackville, New Brunswick for most of the season, that changed two weeks ago.

In grabbing their Atlantic Bowl (which, despite the name, is actually a national semi-final) title, the Mounties had to dump the defending national champion Saskatchewan Huskies.

As with the Golden Hawks, one of the key elements in Mount Allison's offence has been their strong running game.

And also as in the case of Laurier, the Huskies' ground attack is usually based upon the play of one particular running back, in this case, Grant Keaney.

Keaney, a fourth-year student at Mount Allison, averaged an incredible 146 rushing yards per game in the Atlantic league this season, including a staggering single game high of 290 yards.

During the eight-game regular schedule, Keaney averaged over five yards a carry while running for 5 TDs and catching one touchdown pass.

Ceccini, Keaney and their teammates square off in a 3:00pm start at SkyDome this Saturday.

Tickets for the game cost \$25.50, \$15.50 and \$10.50 plus applicable service charges, and can be purchased through any TicketMaster outlet or by calling the Vanier Cup hotline at 288-9546.

There will also be a post-game alumni party at the Metro Convention Centre. Tickets for the party are \$5.00 and can be obtained through the same outlets as game admission.

Badminton Yeomen tied for tops in East

by Jim Sheppard

The Yeomen badminton team smashed their way into a tie for top spot in the Ontario East in Ottawa last weekend.

Led by a rejuvenated Eddy Watt, the team won an unprecedented 15 of 16 singles matches and picked up 6 of 8 doubles points for a 21 and 3 weekend.

The team defeated Queen's 5-1 and Toronto 4-2 and are 60 and 18 for the season, tying Queen's. Toronto trails by a single point. York swept both Ottawa and Ryerson.

The tournament began with Watt surprising Toronto's number one, Quong Hoang, a favourite to win the individual gold medal this year, in a tough match. Watt, finally fully recovered from pneumonia, reversed a defeat at the first meet in October, beating Hoang 15-10, 13-15, 15-10.

That win set the tone for the meet. After losing to Toronto, second-ranked Kartik Vyas swept his remaining three games and teamed with Dan MacDonald to win all four doubles. MacDonald, playing fourth, remained undefeated in singles, running his record to 13 wins and no losses.

At third singles, Matt Horwood swept his singles and teamed with Watt to split four doubles matches.

"We even surprised ourselves," said coach Fred Fletcher. "The competition in the East section is very strong. To go 21 and 3 is an outstanding achievement." He gives part of the credit to a tough fitness program developed by Watt.

With one meet to go, it is almost certain that the final four will be York, Queen's, Toronto, and Western, as it was last year. The order of finish will be decided in the final meet in Janu-

ary, where the East plays the West. "We have a good chance at top spot," Watt says.

On the season, York is tied with Toronto but has defeated Queen's and leads Western 5-1.

The Yeowomen also continued to improve. They were 9 and 15 for the meet and moved up a notch in the standings. The team took 5 of 6 from Toronto and jumped over that traditional powerhouse into seventh spot.

Playing at number one, Roselin Yuen split the four singles matches and, with Cherry Kublinski, was also 2 and 2 in doubles. Kublinski also won a singles. Fiona Hickey took one singles match and Ellen Liu won two. They teamed up for one doubles win.

The Yeomen and Yeowomen next play in the East-West tournament on January 25 and 26, 1992 at Ryerson. Barring an upset the Yeomen should qualify for the playoffs at Queen's on February 8, 1992.

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