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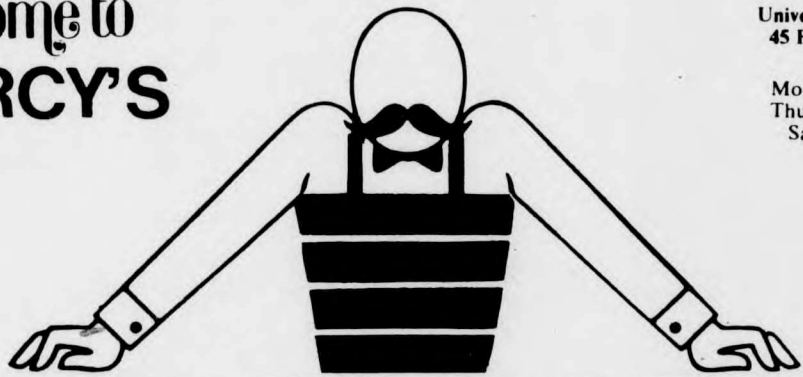
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WRITE COUPON

## York's excellence in B-ball slipping Bain optimistic

When you look at the Yeomen basketball team's list of accomplishments, you'll notice a string of nine OUAAs championships. Many will argue that the nine championships can be attributed to the talent that York displayed on the court by some of the finest players not only in the province, but perhaps in the country. But one of the reasons why York has been so successful is because they have had a coach who brought with him a wealth of experience and a winning attitude.

Bob Bain joined York as coach in 1973, and one of his most memorable moments came a few years later when he received a phone call from a basketball player named David Coulthard. Coulthard had called to tell Bain that he would be attending York University. The call started a dynasty that would last for nine seasons, a dynasty which brought the first OUAAs championship to York in 1977/78, an accomplishment Bain would like to repeat in the not-too-distant future.

Ever since Coulthard, Karkabasis, Rider, and a slew of other talented players left York, things haven't been the same for Bob Bain and Yeomen basketball fans. Last year, when the Yeomen lost to Ryerson for the first time, and then lost in the playoffs to the University of Toronto, some began to question Bain's coaching philosophy.

When you sit down and analyse the turn of events, however, it really hasn't been Bob Bain's fault at all, you could say he's been a victim of circumstances. Over the years Bain has seen a number of top recruits and key players just turn around and walk away without ever uttering a word leaving him in a precarious situation.

Referees have never seen things the Yeomen way, and on occasion have been known to steal a game from York and hand it to the opposition. The most troubling issue that has arose for Bain over the years has been recruiting. Back in the 70's competition for top basketball players was not as fierce as it is today. Few universities offered scholarships, and the academic standards set by universities weren't as high as they are today.

Bain believes that the academic standards should not be lowered for athletes, but in order to be competitive with some of the other Universities, and in order to keep our best players at home, some kind of funding has to be offered to athletes, not to lure them to a certain University, but to make life a little easier for them.

"I think we have to get our heads out of the sand and realize that there is some value in having high powered university athletics," said Bain. "We should be trying to keep our best in Canada. The first thing to do is to come up with some form of athletic

bursary—tuition waiver or whatever you want to call it—because players cannot work, play basketball and go to school all at the same time."

Perhaps offering scholarships will make recruiting a bit easier, but Bain also feels that more effort has to be put in promoting athletic events. After all, no one wants to play in front of hundreds of empty seats."

"We can't nickel and dime our way anymore. We can't be content with having a coach and a few boys or girls running around playing basketball or volleyball, or whatever the sport might be, and then have an athletic banquet at the end of the year and everybody's happy. That's

**KARIM  
HAJEE**



not the way I would like it to go. If we're going to do something why not do it right to the best of our ability. Right now this is not happening" said Bain.

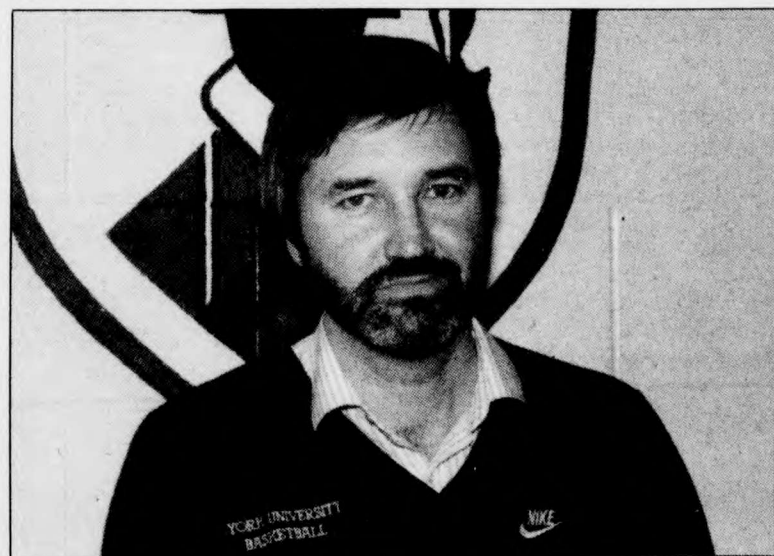
"Why not promote, emphasize, sell, and work at our athletic programme. In athletics we are in the pursuit of excellence, the athletic portion is just the laboratory expression of the academic theory . . . so why not do it to the best of our ability." These are great suggestions from Bob Bain, if only someone would pay attention to them.

As a player, Bain was a feisty athlete, not strong on talent, but a hard worker and a dedicated athlete. He brought that same work-ethic and dedication to the York gymnasium. Coaching at any level takes a great deal of time and an enormous commitment. Often such a commitment can conflict with one's personal life, and in this Bain has been no exception. After enduring some domestic hardships, and learning how to lose, Bain continues to coach with the same zeal as he had in the early days, only now he seems better prepared and more tolerant.

If everything were to go as planned for Bob Bain, he would be a career coach, and retire with a number of championships tucked under his belt. At the moment though, Bain has his hands full. After losing one of his key starters to career-ending knee injury, Bain faces a roster dotted with seven freshman, two returning veterans, and a few developing sophomores.

Making the playoffs isn't unrealistic, but winning the championship could be a problem. Bain knows this, and is willing to swallow the lumps this year. He knows that there will be a tomorrow, and that's what he's preparing for.

"We will be back, and we'll be back towards the top of our division, and the top of the nation. It's just a question of rejuvenating our batteries, and our belief in ourselves at York."



JAMES HOGGETT