

SPORTS

Field hockey women bag bronze at Nationals

By PAMELA JARVIS

The York field hockey team captured a bronze medal at the CIAU tournament last weekend in Montreal.

A tough semifinal loss to the University of British Columbia kept the Yeowomen out of gold medal contention. However, York coach Marina van der Merwe felt that the championship was "a battle of (the top) four teams. It could easily have been won by any of the four."

The Toronto Varsity Blues finished first, defeating UBC 1-0 in the final. St. Mary's Huskies edged McGill for fifth place by an identical 1-0 score.

The CIAU tournament was ably hosted by McGill, who was in a pool with York and the University of Victoria Vikettes. The other pool featured St. Mary's, UBC, and Toronto. The Blues narrowly defeated York

recently in the Ontario final.

York started the tournament Friday with a 6-2 win over the St. Mary's Huskies from Halifax. Sharon Creelman and Tracey Minaker had two goals apiece, while Jodi Koberinski and Kelly Thormeyer added singles.

That afternoon York took to the field against Victoria, the nation's top team. The Yeowomen came up with a tough game against the Vikettes, a team composed almost entirely of high-performance players.

UV managed a goal in the fortieth minute, after a scoreless first half. Rookie Tammy Hot took a lead pass shortly after and beat the last defender to pull York even.

The tie allowed York to advance from pool play with a 1-1 record. The Yeowomen were seeded first in the pool because of goal differential; a formula that eliminated them from

last year's medal round. Toronto finished first in its pool, followed by UBC and McGill.

In the semifinal crossover, York squared off with UBC's Thunderbirds. York controlled but missed on scoring chances including a muffed penalty stroke. Midway through the second frame, Melanie Slade, a Seoul Olympian, emerged from a mass of bodies at the top of the circle to score. The goal held up when no obstruction was called, allowing UBC to advance to the final.

"We were clearly dominant," van der Merwe said of the game. "We were the victims of a late, questionable goal that put us in the bronze medal match."

Van der Merwe credited Levy with "speed of execution and ball control," and expressed Creelman's value as "an impenetrable defender and an excellent playmaker." She also felt that "the York net is in good hands" in view of rookie goalie Michelle Capperault's sound performance in her first CIAU championship.

The Yeowomen pulled out all the stops in the battle for third place against the Vikettes. The rematch went scoreless until York's star sweeper Sharon Creelman struck from a penalty corner to give her team the bronze. Goaltender Michelle Capperault earned her first shutout of the tournament.

Coach van der Merwe summed up the victory: "We had to deal with the number one team in the nation twice. The fact that we tied and beat them is reflective of the quality of performance."

In the championship final, an early goal by All-Canadian Bernie Casey gave the U of T Blues their seventh national title. Liz Hoffman, CIAU Coach of the Year, was "thrilled to win the national championship" and was pleased to see both Ontario teams in the medals. She was also pleased with her team's ability to focus on the final.

"First we had to recover from last weekend's Ontario final (against York)," said Hoffman. "The opposition was strong. Consistency kept us

going . . . UBC really poured it on in the last 10 minutes (of the final)."

Van der Merwe commented on York's overall performance at the CIAU tournament by saying, "The team played as a strong, cohesive group. They provided excellent support for the two Olympians (Sandra Levy and Sharon Creelman)."

Levy and Creelman made the All-Canadian first team and were selected to the Tournament 11 All-Star team. Creelman also took player of the game honours in three of four York games.

Van der Merwe commented on the departure of Creelman, Levy, and captain Dale Peltola, who are all in their last year of eligibility. "They will be sorely missed, not only for their technical expertise, but for their leadership."

The team is looking forward to the indoor hockey season, which will "provide an opportunity for strengthening skills for both the rookies and returning players," said van der Merwe.



ANDRÉ SOUBOUJON

"GEEZ, THIS HEADBAND'S WAY TOO TIGHT!" Yeowomen winger Kristen Bell goes up for a header against a Queen's defender. York lost the OUAA final to Queen's 1-0.

Soccer Women finish year with OUAA silver

By CHRIS "HUNT" HURST

The York Yeowomen soccer squad capped an amazing season last weekend by winning a silver medal at the Ontario Championships in Kingston. They did so with a 2-0 win over the McMaster Marauders (last year's Ontario champions, and national finalists), and a 1-0 loss to the Queen's Golden Gaels.

Saturday, versus McMaster, the Yeowomen were forced to contend with a strong wind, and McMaster had a territorial edge. They were kept from capitalizing, however, by York's All-Star goalie Cheryl Punnett, and by the sparkling defensive play of All-Canadian sweeper Portia Barriffe, and All-Star captain Monica Verronneau.

In the second half, with the wind advantage, York went on the offensive, inspired by encouraging shouts of "YEO-WOMEN" from the

bench. Repeated waves of attack forced the Marauder defenders into errors and turnovers. With only 12 minutes left in the game, York's fierce determination paid off. An in-swinging corner kick by Catherine Dooley was headed off the far post by Barriffe, and there, Yeowomen top scorer Kristin Bell slammed it home with a hard, low shot.

Despite a desperate counter-attack, McMaster could not beat the York defense. Instead, the Yeowomen added an insurance marker, again off a Dooley corner, to go up 2-0.

The victory was a milestone for York women's soccer — from a fourth-place finish, and failing to make the playoffs last year, to knocking off the team that many expected to go all the way.

cont'd on p. 10

York hosts Ontario lacrosse final

By VICTOR SERFATY

Lacrosse, Canada's national sport, is alive and well, thank you.

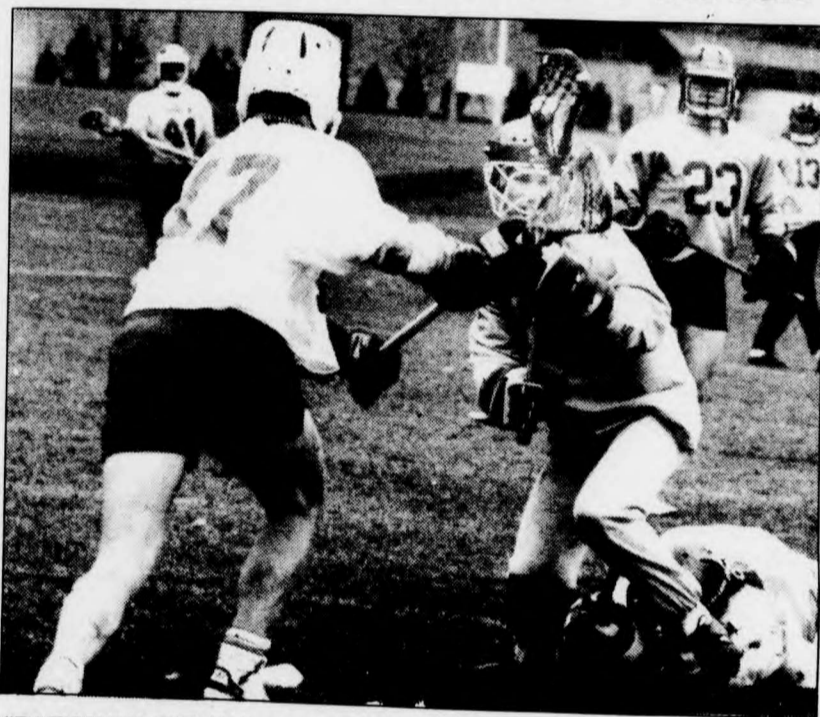
York hosted the Ontario University Field Lacrosse Association finals last weekend. Despite pouring rain and lack of funding, the tournament was a success. York did not fare well, however. The team lost their first game 22-3 to a superior squad from Brock. This loss knocked the team out of the medal round. With a win against Guelph, the Yeomen could have gone to the consolation round. However, in their close second round match, Guelph downed the York side 7-5.

The fact that there was a tournament, even a league, is a credit to the players and enthusiasts of the game. It is certainly not due to an overly generous university administration.

Because of a cutback in athletic funding, the lacrosse program has had a tough time staying alive. Players must pay their own way and the team has had to hold fund-raisers and find sponsors to stay afloat.

"We are getting a lot more help from the university now than we did last year but not in terms of money," explained tournament organizer and Yeomen player Dennis Kehoe. "Last year we couldn't even get the fields to play on. We'd be the last ones considered. We didn't get fields at any convenient times, and it was very hard getting by."

Each team paid a fee to enter the tournament. The cost of lining the three west soccer fields alone was \$480. Travel costs, hotels, and miscellaneous expenses are not a worry to major Varsity sports teams, they are problems that lacrosse players from



BABAK AMIRI

"EAT MY DUST!" Western and Brock duel it out during the final game of the OUFLA championships held at York last weekend. Western won the tournament.

all teams are forced to deal with. Western's Randy Mearth, the tournament's MVP, was optimistic about the league's funding opportunities.

"It is costly, but hopefully we will keep the programme alive. And in future years, the universities will hopefully have the money to help out their lacrosse teams."

The eventual goal for players is to have a sanctioned lacrosse programme that can go under the OUAA umbrella.

The top eight provincial teams

came to play in the tournament. The intensity of play was a crushing body-check. And regardless of the score, teams played all out until the end of each game.

Top-ranked Western beat second-ranked Brock in the finals 15-10.

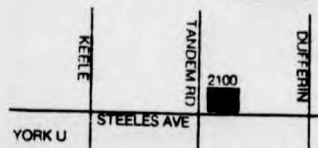
This tournament marks the end of the lacrosse season. Hopefully, the sport will overcome its financial barriers and be part of next year's athletic programme. It would be a shame if our own national sport didn't exist at the university level.

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