

## Sports

# New OWIAA champs

### Jules Xavier

What can be said about York's Yeowomen Field Hockey team that hasn't been already been said this season?

They once again proved themselves as the number one team in Ontario by dethroning perennial powerhouse University of Toronto Blues, a team that has dominated university field hockey in Ontario since it began twenty years ago.

By coincidence, this past weekend marked York's twentieth game and they celebrated York's twentieth Anniversary in fine fashion with the OWIAA Championship victory.

It has been a long road for the Field Hockey team as coach Marina Van der Merwe has taken this year's group of women and moulded them into a finely knit unit, playing beyond their capabilities through her guidance and experience.

The very important contribution of assistant coach Kathy Broderick has also added another dimension to the Yeowomen's field hockey game.

Having Canada's two national coaches has been a big plus in the development of field hockey here at York. It has taken a while to put the proper ingredients together, but time and patience seems to have payed off this year for both the coaches as well as the players.

who play for the national team, it will be tough to beat them."

The truth of this statement has been evident for much of the season regarding York's play, again carrying into the OWIAA finals.

The weather and field conditions played a major part in York's game tending to slow their potent offensive attack considerably and at times York even looked a little sloppy. When they did begin to move, their opponents defence had their hands full in containing the likes of Sheila Forshaw and Laura Branchaud.

York's defense played their best yet this past weekend. Allison Farrow and Cathie Major continually turned back their opponents. Farrow stood out as the best defensive player during the entire weekend at her sweeper's position. She played steady and was a key player in the crucial final game against U. of T.

Goalenders Debbie Lamb and Cindy Byrne both shared the duties and played excellently as they continually shut out their opponents.

York began the weekend tournament and had little difficulty with McMaster, walking over them 12-0. Their play was controlled and each movement of the ball timed so as to hit the open woman. This continually caught the



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U. of T.'s Donna Allaby (dark shirt) attempts to control York's Sheila Forshaw during their OWIAA final while Pat Gryff-Chamska looks on. York defeated U. of T. 1-0.

team which had just upset favoured Queen's 1-0. McGill out-hustled York during the first half as York seemed to wait around for the ball. A number of players seemed to enjoy watching the game instead of playing it. This allowed McGill to climb all over York.

Branchaud banged home a Forshaw rebound, as she was left unmarked in front of the McGill net to open the scoring for York. The half had York up by one.

With the one goal lead in the Yeowomen's favour, McGill continued to press York before Branchaud notched her second goal of the game on an individual effort as she broke between the defence and beat the goalie with a low drive.

This goal sparked York and moments later Taylor tapped home a Forshaw cross and then Forshaw herself upped the score to 4-0. She hit a hard drive off a short corner, glancing off the goaltender and deflecting into the net.

Gryff-Chamska added another before Forshaw again finished off the scoring with a quick flick, catching the McGill netminder off balance.

McGill again went on to upset host team Waterloo 2-1 to advance to this weekend's CIAU finals.

The long awaited rematch of last year's OWIAA finals was set for Sunday afternoon. York's

team seemed mentally prepared, not letting the U. of T. name psyche them out. There was a slight nervousness about the team as they warmed up before the game.

U. of T. seemed a bit overconfident as they took to the field, figuring they were again going to roll over their opponents. The Yeowomen took to the field knowing U. of T. was not unbeatable, as they had defeated them 3-0 earlier in the season at York's Early Bird Tournament.

The game began with both teams checking fairly closely, yet York seemed to hold the upper hand. Taylor missed numerous opportunities as York pressed early in order to get the upper hand on U. of T. The problem though, very apparent as the game moved on, was York's lack of killer instinct. York continually left plays unfinished which allowed the Blues to regroup each time.

Defensively, York out-played U. of T., while the U. of T. netminder kept York at bay with her aggressive approach from the net. The half ended in a scoreless draw with either team still very capable of winning, if they really wanted it.

York came into the second half and started to force the play, something that they lacked and were not consistent in. The break for York came late in the

second half as they were awarded a penalty stroke, as a sure goal was kicked out by a defender.

Specialist at the penalty stroke for York, Laurie Lambert was called on in a tense situation and came through as she hit a high rising flick to the right of the goalie, a shot she had little chance of stopping.

U. of T. continued to pressure and a timely arm save by York's goalie Byrne, kept the game in York's favour. The seconds finally closed around U. of T.'s dynasty and York came away as the new OWIAA Champions.

Coach Van der Merwe congratulated U. of T.'s coach Liz Hoffman on a well played game following the awards presentation and finished off with, "We will meet again".

"There is a long way to go yet", commented co-captain Forshaw as she reflected over the past weekend of play. York's next step is the CIAU Championships being played at Toronto's Lamport Stadium this weekend, November 6-9.

Van der Merwe feels that there are four strong teams that have a shot at the CIAU title. She also sees York as having the advantage with the artificial turf as a number of her players have experienced playing on it. The ball tends to move a great deal faster and teams must adjust to this.



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Sheila Forshaw steps into the ball as McGill defender moves towards her for the tackle.

York travelled to the University of Waterloo for the final leg of the OWIAA's this past weekend, a weekend of victory and upsets.

Waterloo Head Coach Judy McCrae, felt that it would be very hard for anyone to beat York. "They just have so many good players and with a number

McMaster defenders off guard and at times they left their goalie at the mercy of the York forwards.

Forshaw led the way with five goals while Laura Branchaud had three, Pat Gryff-Chamska with two and singles going to Kim Taylor and Laurie Lambert.

York then faced McGill, a

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## Yeomen have one more chance

The York Water Polo team lost a "heartbreaker" at the Carlton Tournament last Saturday.

They were defeated 10-9 by Queen's and now only have one more chance to beat their Kingston rivals and gain a berth in the OUA playoffs.

Queen's took advantage of a disorganized York team and scored three quick goals. York however regrouped and

responded with three goals of their own thus bringing the score to a 3-3 tie at the end of the first quarter.

As the game progressed, York failed to capitalize on numerous chances which could have swung the game to York's favour.

In the final quarter Queen's scored two additional goals to York's one for a 10-9 final result. Trevor Man was York's

outstanding player scoring 5 goals. Vic Roskey was also a solid performer for the Yeomen on defense, while Queen's goalkeeper Richard Glew contributed to his team's victory with numerous key saves.

In their second game the Yeomen dropped a 14-4 defeat at the hands of Carlton Ravens, in a very spirited match for York.

Their final game had the Yeomen rallying to produce some great water polo. Goalkeeper Doug Millage was outstanding behind sound defence and the cadets of R.M.C. did not score until the last quarter. The final score: 15-2 in favour of York.

Carlton finished the day with three victories while Queen's had two, York one and R.M.C. nil.

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