

Yeowomen in CIAU finals after silver medal finish

By LORNE MANLY

The York Yeowomen field hockey team are on their way to the Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union (CIAU) championships this weekend after capturing the silver medal in the Ontario Women's Inter-University Athletic Association (OWIAA) tournament last weekend at Lampport Stadium.

The Yeowomen settled for second place in the OWIAA as they lost to the University of Toronto Lady Blues in the final Sunday by a score of 3-0. York reached the finals easily by hammering Laurentian and Queen's 8-0 and 7-0 respectively.

There were no upsets in the tournament which was hosted by York, as the top two teams, the Yeowomen and the Lady Blues, met in the final everyone expected. The style and quality of play of the championship game, however was quite a surprise, especially to the Yeowomen.

York coach Marina Van der Merwe was taken aback at the way the game was played. "We expected a good passing game from U of T," Van der Merwe said, "and we didn't get it. What we got was a hard-running, aggressive, non-structured game."

Van der Merwe anticipated that U of T would "play good constructive hockey but it was a brawl. There was no attempt (on U of T's part) to play the ball," continued Van der Merwe, "the ball was just hard hit. When York broke they were instantly gang-tackled."

"The surprise strategy of hit and run (which is similar to the strategy of dumping the puck in and chasing after it in ice hockey) . . . was not pretty," maintained Van der Merwe. This strategy is usually used by beginners and much less talented teams and this style of play was unforeseen in a match between two such high quality squads. The bottom line, though, was its effectiveness—U of T shut down the vaunted York attack.

Liz Hoffman, coach of U of T, didn't agree



SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES! Sharon Creelman scores on a penalty corner during York's 7-0 defeat of Queen's Saturday on a shot even Foster Hewitt would have been proud of. York plays in the CIAU finals this weekend at Lampport Stadium.

with York's assessment of their game plan, saying, "We didn't play hit and run really in the first half." Hoffman said that the Lady Blues did play the hit and run game more in the second half but she felt it was more the circumstances of the game that caused the sloppy play than any strategy on U of T's part. "It (the hit and run game) just worked out that way."

U of T opened the game with two quick goals, both within the first 15 minutes. Hoffman saw this early lead as the major reason behind the style of play exhibited the rest of the afternoon. "The quick goals really did change the game," Hoffman said. "You don't take the same chances you usually do."

The rest of the match, especially the second

half, was a fairly tedious affair with neither team getting good scoring chances. U of T hounded the York players, giving them very little room to operate. This visibly took its toll on Sharon Creelman, who let her emotions get the better of her midway through the first half. Frustrated at being checked so closely, she knocked her opponent's stick flying and both players were warned by the referee.

Van der Merwe was dismayed by some of U of T's tactics. "There were tackling techniques that were infuriating," Van der Merwe said. "For example, Sandra Levy had her stick grabbed constantly throughout the game."

Sandra Levy expressed astonishment at U of T's play as well. "U of T is not usually that sort of team," she stated. "They usually play high calibre hockey. I was surprised."

Hoffman, though, was unaware of any dirty tricks but saw the game as a defensive battle. "We knew York has a fine team and we had to play tight defensively," said Hoffman. "We tried very hard to minimize the attack of Sharon (Creelman) and Sandra (Levy). Sandra Levy can get downfield with the ball faster than any girl in the country," Hoffman added.

Therefore, as a major aspect of the Lady Blues' defensive strategy, Hoffman had Paula Studd cover Creelman and Ann Flynn blanket Levy. The tactic worked as two of York's top scorers were held off the scoresheet.

York did have chances to score. As Hoffman pointed out, "They had more penalty corners than we did. We just capitalized—and early." York was unable to score on their opportunities and that was the difference in the game.

U of T added their third and final goal with time running out in the game and any doubts over the outcome were put to rest.

Both teams, however, advance to the CIAU championships this weekend, again at Lampport Stadium (King and Dufferin Streets) and there is a very good chance the two teams will meet in the national final.

Lady Wesmen continue to dominate at Tait Volleyball Classic

By DEBBIE KIRKWOOD

You know the old adage, "The more things change . . . the more they stay the same." Well, that statement could easily describe play at this weekend's Tait McKenzie Volleyball Classic, as the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen once again captured the tournament's title, while last year's silver medalists, the York University Yeowomen, finished a disappointing last.

What can one say about the Wesmen? Tournament organizers might consider changing the title of the tournament from the Tait Classic to the Wesmen Invitational, as this team from Winnipeg has simply owned the tournament, practically from its inception. This year marked their fifth appearance at the annual event, and their victory marked the fourth consecutive time that they have walked away with the gold medal. Led by fifth-year veteran Ruth Burchuk and 1984 Olympian Suzie Smith, the

Wesmen went 5 and 0, defeating the Sherbrooke "Vert Et Or" 13-15, 15-9, 15-9, 16-14, in the final played Saturday night.

The Yeowomen's performance represented the other end of the spectrum. The Yeowomen went one for five during the two-day competition. Their only win was a 15-13, 15-10 victory over UBC in their tournament opener.

Although their finish has to be regarded as a disappointment, one has to look below the surface at this year's squad to see the real picture. For the first time in three years, the Yeowomen are a team in transition. A team which has come to view the 1985-86 season, not as a year in quest of the OWIAA title or the CIAU Championship, but as a true rebuilding season.

Gone are last year's tournament all-stars and team leaders Donna Kastelic and Jill Graham (who has become a coaching assistant with the Yeowomen) as well as four other starters.

In fact, this year's Yeowomen squad boasts only one player with more than two years experience, fourth-year veteran Kristen Fawcett.

Another important fact to be considered is that the Yeowomen didn't play as badly as their record indicates. Things started out on a bright note, as they won their opening match.

They lost their second match, not unexpectedly, 15-10, 15-4, to a very strong team from Sherbrooke, Quebec, who were the eventual silver medalists. However, the game that changed the Yeowomen's fortune was their third and all-important game against the University of Manitoba Bisonettes.

Going into the match, both York and Manitoba shared the same record (1-1) and thus were both vying for the last playoff spot in

the red division pool. Sherbrooke (3-0) was already assured of a spot in the playoffs, while UBC at 0-3 were out of contention.

If they had won, the Yeowomen would have assured themselves of finishing no worse than a respectable fourth. Although both games were extremely close, the Bisonettes were just that much stronger defensively, coming up with the key dig, time and again. The final result was a 15-13, 15-12 victory for the Bisonettes and the all-important spot in the playoffs. After this, it was all downhill for the Yeowomen as they dropped their final two matches.

In the bronze medal match, also played Saturday night, the Manitoba Bisonettes were victorious with a 15-11, 15-11, 15-12 win over a surprisingly strong team from U of T.

Yeomen explode against Windsor, offence shines in 49-13 shellacking

By DAVID BUNDAS

The York football Yeomen have finally given the *Excalibur* a reason to send a reporter to Windsor, Ontario.

That being, a successful team and respectability. Last week I made the spread 13 points over the Lancers and picked them to come within that amount. Unfortunately it was not until game time that I realized the importance of a well rested team, which arrived in town the night before. I immediately acknowledged this after riding the Via rail for better than four hours.

The Yeomen offence exploded for touchdowns on their first three possessions and never looked back, although Windsor was able to close the gap to 21-13 at the half. The stingy York defence proceeded to shut Windsor out in the second half, while the offence quietly added four TDs to make the final 49-13.

Perhaps the most impressive part of York's artillery was the play of their offensive front line, and running backs. The line corp, led by 'Refrigerator Rick' Lococo (6'2", 275), created gaps in the Windsor defence for Douglas, and Pariselli to break through. Coach Cosentino seemed to agree, adding, "the line has really come together, and at the season's start that was the spot we were most concerned with." The evidence was perfectly clear as York powered for 486 yards offensively, with 276 yards of that on the ground.

Pariselli scored two touchdowns, the second, another long gainer from 75 yards out and

carried 17 times for 157 yards. Douglas scored from 24, and 40 yards out and chipped in with 9 carries for 105 yards (in three quarters).

The Yeomen, who recorded their best offensive day this year, had other major scores from; Greg Ebel, on a 48 yard play action pass from Tino Iacono who cleverly drew in two linebackers on the play; Frank Ammirato, on a one yard plunge; and Steve DelZotto, on an 11 yard reception from Glenn Humenik.

Lancer kicker Graeme Flett booted field goals of 27, and 37 yards putting Windsor on the scoreboard. Receiver Ritchie Coughlin got Windsor's major on a play which saw him pull in the pass between York defenders Norbie Wirkowski and Dom Cugliari.

Lancer head coach Gino Fracas had less than admirable words about his team's performance after the game, Fracas steamed, "I couldn't believe what I saw out there, it's just an embarrassment. It is a sad day for the Windsor Lancer Football program. I've never seen a football team so inept, in all of my experiences."

A Point After: York has pushed its record to 5-1, and goes into London to face Western in game to decide who will have home field advantage for the playoffs. Should York win, they would finish in second place behind Laurier (to whom I concede first place as they take on Waterloo this weekend), while a victory for Western would put them in first place (Western having defeated Laurier), and drop York into third.



RETURN TO SENDER: A valiant effort is exhibited by Sherbrooke Player Hélène Lauzon but to no avail, as the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen's tough defense led them to victory in last weekend's Tait Classic.