

# Soccer Yeomen split season openers

Gordon Banks

York's varsity soccer team opened their 1981 season last weekend splitting their matches with Brock and McMaster. On Saturday the Yeomen handed the Brock Badgers a 2-0 loss and on Sunday they found themselves on the short end of a 1-0 score after a questionable penalty kick was awarded to McMaster.

Coach Eric Willis has to be impressed with this year's edition of the Yeomen. He opened training camp a few weeks ago with some 35 players trying to crack the line up. Most were rookies as York is looking to rebuild after last year's disappointing squad. Willis is looking also to carry a larger squad, about 20, to avoid being short players in case of injuries.

Willis has made several changes to this year's club. Feeling that last year's squad was too defence-oriented, he is stressing offense this year. One big blow to the Yeomen was the loss of All Canadian Goalie Glen McNamara who broke his leg while playing (soccer?) during the summer.

Last week's loss hasn't dampened spirits, and according to Willis will not change their new style of play. As well, with only 4 or 5 starters back from

last year, a new crop of players have to be introduced and learn to play with each other. "I know that it will take two or three games to get ourselves organized, but I know we will be strong team shortly." An addition that was made this year was the added help offered by former All Canadian Gary Miller from Western who now is York's Assistant coach, while doing some graduate work at York.

## York dominated the Badgers

Saturday against Brock, Willis stressed that he wanted to see more offence from the team. He saw it quickly as Paul Burkhuisen came down the leftwing and set a crossing pass in front of the Brock net to Ken Apostolofski who tucked the ball away with less than five minutes gone in the game. Being the first game of the season both teams played scantly for the entire game. York had the makings of some good offensive thrusts that will in time develop into goals. Against the Badgers, the Yeomen dominated play, not allowing Brock very many dangerous scoring chances. With about five minutes left in the game, Nader Jamali picked

up a loose ball on the far post of the Brock net and iced the game for York by shooting it in to the open side of the net.

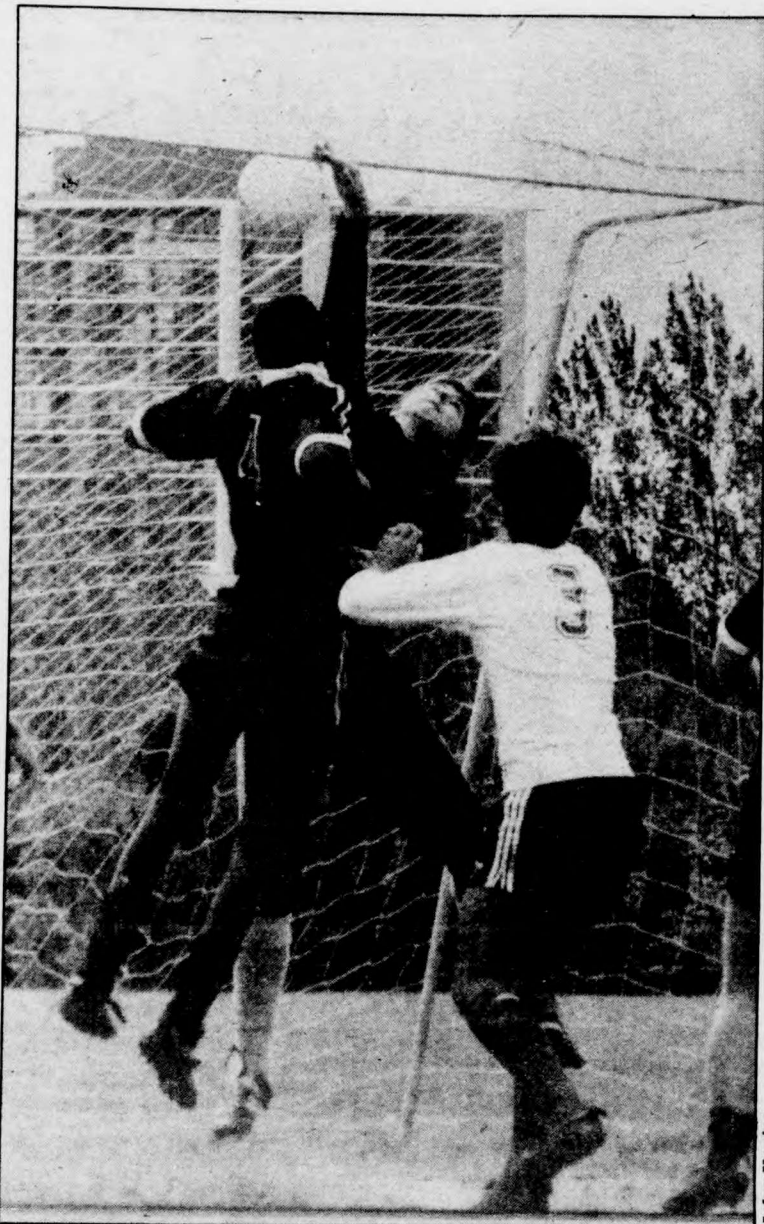
Sunday, the Yeomen faced a stronger opponent in the McMaster Mauraunders. Both teams played the first half in the York end, due to the wind that was blowing quite steadily in faces of the Yeomen. Neither team really mounted any scoring threat and thus the first half ended scoreless.

In the second half, the Yeomen had the wind advantage and used it well. They dominated the play, except for one mistake. On a drive up the field by McMaster with five minutes gone in the second half, a York player went for the ball on the edge of the penalty area, pulling the Mac player down, the referee called for a questionable penalty shot. With about fifteen minutes left in the game, Rookie Goalie John Lonardi was tested as he punched out a dangerous shot to keep the Yeomen in the game. The home side mounted several attacks, once hitting the goal post and on other chances just driving the ball wide.

Willis was pleased with the play of the team in both games. "For about fifteen minutes after the bad call against us we were

running all over the place, but we settled down quite nicely and showed our composure, and that is a big part of the game." Willis also added that the Yeomen are young and that after

playing a few games together the real molding of the team will be evident. The Yeomen now prepare themselves to take on the OUAA defending champs, Laurier on Sunday in Kitchener.



Julius Xavier

McMaster's goalkeeper (centre) tips the ball over the cross bar and stops the Yeomen's last ditch attempt to tie the game.

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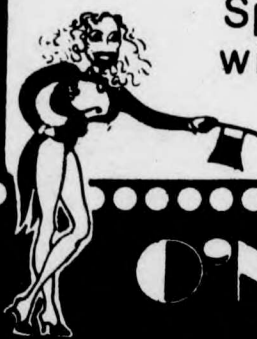
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