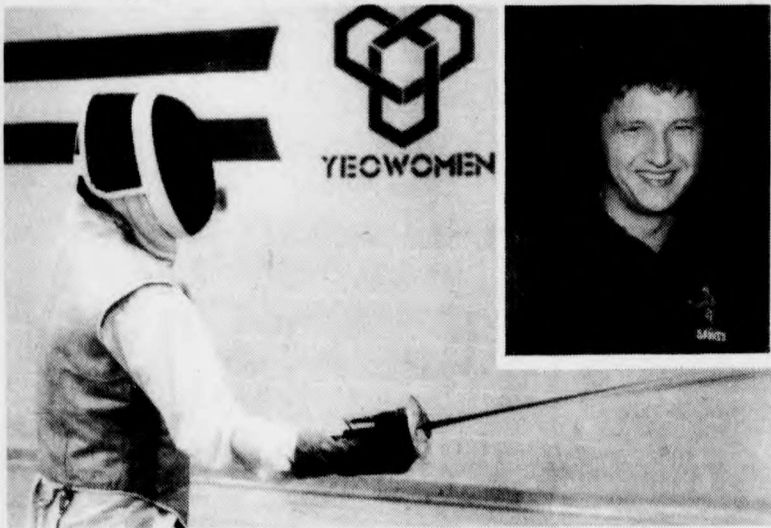


Disappointing fifth for fencers



YEOWOMEN

ROBERTA DI MAIO

Veteran fencer Larissa Banting, part of York's three-woman team. Inset: Fencing coach Richard Politynski. It's his 12th season at York.

By B.J. SURHOFF

The Yeomen fencing team finished a disappointing fifth at the York Invitational Fencing Tournament held last weekend in the Tait MacKenzie gymnasium.

Thirteen teams were featured at the two-day event, including McGill University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from New York.

Although the yeomen won bronze medals in the men's sabre and epee, they only managed a sixth place finish in the men's foil, accounting for their low overall standing.

Mourad Mardikian, the assistant coach for the Yeomen, was not entirely happy with the results. "We didn't do as well as we expected," he

said. "The competition from McGill and Renssalar was quite stiff. Had our foil team done better we could have possibly finished first overall."

The York women's team performed surprisingly well, placing seventh overall in the tournament. The team, in its first season, presently relies on the men's team for coaching, and is not funded by the University.

McGill finished first, while Renssalar tied with McMaster for second place. The next event for the Yeomen is the Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) divisionals, which take place this Sunday. The Yeomen will be fencing regularly until the middle of February.

Skating coach impressed with team's performance

By CHRISTINE GOMES

The Yeowomen placed second in the York University Figure Skating Invitational held at the Ice Palace last Friday, ending up with 132 points, a mere four points behind Queen's and a whopping 34 points ahead of third place Waterloo.

With only 12 members out of a possible 16, York only managed to enter 11 out of 13 events. Heading into the final event of the competition York was on top but unfortunately, because of a recent team dropout, York could not compete in the last event and had to settle for second place.

Coach Cathy Maron was very impressed with her team's performance. "We are aiming for the top three," Maron said. "Realistically they achieved my expectations." Moran, who is in her first year of coaching for the Yeowomen and is a former ice skating Yeowoman herself, did express some disappointment though. "It came down to the very last event and we didn't have an entry," she added. Ironically, last year this invitational also came down to the very last event, but York edged Queen's by a single point.

First place finishers for York were the team of Jill Morton and Jane Griffith for Novice Similar Dance; Christine Bischof and Rose Mitri, tied for first in the senior singles; and Tracey Woodhead who won the Intermediate Solo Dance.

Maron described her team as having "good dance skaters and our free skaters are really coming up. We have a few returning veterans and some young newcomers that provide a good balance to the team," she added. This diverse mix of athletes at first present a problem to Maron, but she said that the team "really pulled together better than any other team I have ever worked with."

The OWIAA Championships promise to be full of fierce competition between the leading contenders, Queen's, Waterloo, Western and York. With York's smaller team, Maron still thinks that York has more than just a good chance of the title as well as a handful of firsts in the individual categories. For five straight years, this kind of constructive, optimistic coaching has turned out extremely competent skating teams producing consistently good results.

Yeomen winning streak ends at number fourteen

By EDO VAN BELKOM

It had to happen sooner or later. The York Yeomen hockey team's bid for an undefeated season was stopped at 14 games with a 6-4 loss to Western Saturday night in London.

Head coach Dave Chambers was not pleased about the loss but found some consolation in the fact that it happened now instead of later in the year.

"It's better to have it happen now," he said. "Last year we had a losing skid just before the playoffs and had a hard time coming out of it."

In last year's sudden death game against Waterloo, York just managed to win in the final minute. They recovered from their slide in time to win the OUAA championship.

Chambers says that even though Yeomen outshot the Mustangs, the loss illustrated a few problems with

the team that need attention, pronto.

"If the players had any visions of the OUAA being an easy league, that's gone," Chambers said. "We need more than just one line (Greg Rolston, Brian Gray and Rick Morrocco) doing the scoring."

"Our power play went one for seven and our penalty killing units allowed four goals," Chambers added.

But in all fairness to the defensive specialists, they did have to kill off two four-minute penalties, which raises another question: team discipline.

The Yeomen are taking too many penalties, as they did last year. The four minute penalties could have been avoided if cooler heads prevailed.

However, if some players aren't performing to their capabilities

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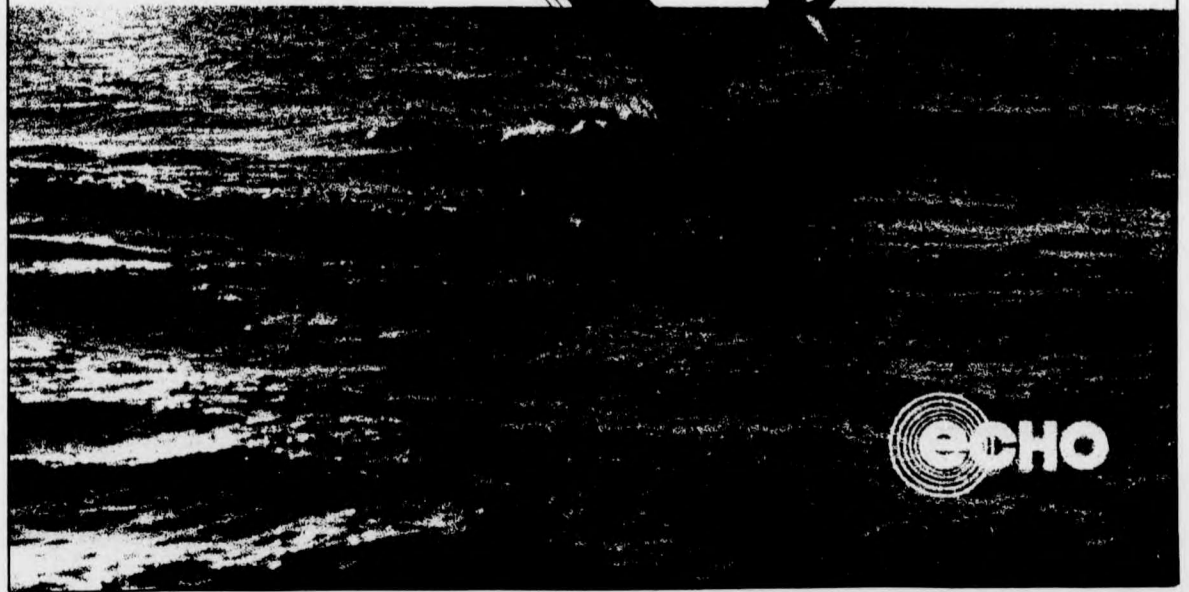
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