



# SPORTS



## Windsor takes gold medal as OUAA meet comes to York but Yeomen track squad gets bronzed

by Josh Rubin

Just as the Yeowomen track team did at the Ontario championships last weekend, the Yeomen were also lead by a strong showing by the relay squads.

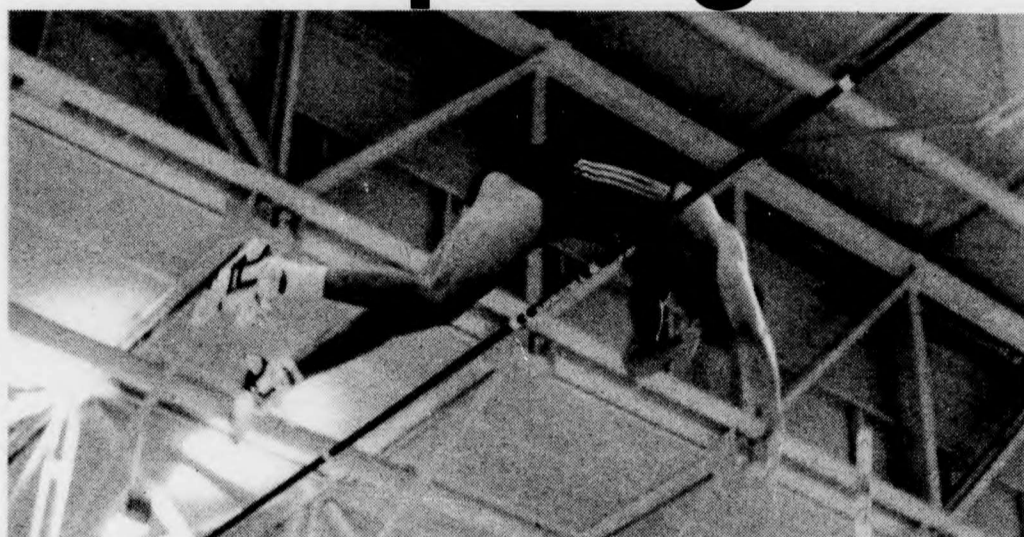
The Yeomen finished in third spot overall behind the champions from Windsor and Andy Higgins crew from UofT.

The York pole-vaulting tandem of Doug Wood and Kevin Lake also finished one-two in what has become a familiar pattern this season.

Wood vaulted 5.30 metres, only 20 centimetres off the qualifying mark for the world championships at Seville, Spain this weekend.

Still, Wood didn't seem overly concerned about missing out on the world meet, as he'll be joining a crew of York athletes heading to the CIAU championships at Windsor.

"If I'm gonna jump 5.50, I'll jump it anywhere I am," said Wood, who holds the Canadian record of 5.60 metres, which



**UP AND OVER:** York pole vaulter Doug Wood clears the bar at 5.30 metres to take the gold at Saturday's OUAA final. The Canadian record-holder will be joining his teammates in Windsor this weekend for the CIAU championships.

A. CLIVE COHEN

he set in 1989. "It doesn't really matter if I do it at the [CIAU meet] or at the worlds."

The York 4x400 metre relay squad

posted the CIAU's fastest time of the year

The showing of the UofT side was aided by the participation of 14 cross-country

runners who had been disqualified from the meet on Tuesday.

The 14, however, were reinstated the day before the meet kicked off after seeking a court order against the ban, which was given after it was discovered their registration papers hadn't been filed on time.

A visibly angered Higgins suggested the incident was the fault of administrators who simply didn't care about the athletes.

"You have to wonder whose interests they have at heart. People have to realize that... it's the athletes who keep this sport going, not anyone else," Higgins ranted. "Without the athletes, there is no track and field."

Another UofT standout was high jumper Alex Zaliauskas, who copped the male athlete of the meet award after winning the high jump competition with a leap of 2.28 metres.

Zaliauskas, incidentally, also qualified for the world meet but has chosen not to go.

## Yeowomen, UofT deadlocked in silver battle at OWIAAs



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**NICOLE MASIL** breaks the tape (figuratively, anyway) in the 600 metre race at the OWIAA championships this weekend. In the other picture, York runner France Gareau (far left) edges Windsor star Irma Grant in an exciting 60 metre battle, one of three gold medals for Gareau on the weekend.



A. CLIVE COHEN

## End of of season basketball Blues as Yeomen hoopsters dropped

by Mike Raycraft

Yet another men's basketball season has come to an end.

The curtain was officially closed on the York Yeomen Friday evening as they were dropped 94-76 by the UofT Blues in OUAA Central Division semi-final play-off action.

Four Blues were able to penetrate the York defence for double figures, headed by Gunars Balodis who notched 27 points.

Clive Anderson led all shooters with an astounding 37 points for York but it simply wasn't enough—this game belonged to Balodis and UofT.

Storming out of the gate, Varsity mounted a 18-6 lead early in the first half, forcing York to take a time-out in the hopes of re-grouping themselves.

At first, the little sideline chat seemed to do a lot of good as the

Yeomen responded with a 25-17 run which closed the gap to 35-31 with only a few minutes left in the first half.

But UofT was able to withstand the York barrage, recovering for a small run of their own which enabled them to carry a 45-36 lead heading into the second half.

By early in 'he second half, however, the UofT win was already on ice.

A series of technical fouls (one taken by a livid Bob Bain), and not one, but four consecutive three-pointers for UofT put the Blues up 78-58 early in the fourth quarter.

"A tough loss," said a disappointed Bain afterwards. "They (UofT) out-matched us in every way. Their whole squad played a strong game, but Balodis was the difference."

Also making a difference was the

fact that Mark Bellai's soft touch was noticeably absent from the field. Regularly among game scoring leaders, Bellai was held to a personal season low of 6 points.

"They played Mark very well" Bain said. "Both inside and out they really closed the lid on him. He did get some shots but unfortunately none of them were dropping. Tonight was a rough game for him."

"We played a hard game" added Clive Anderson. "I thought that when we brought it to within four(35-31) we had a shot, but we just couldn't pull it off. UofT is deserving of this win."

Having been ousted from further play, York already finds itself looking towards next season.

"We had not a great year, but a good one" Bain said. "Hopefully we can build on it, increasing our level of play next year."

by Josh Rubin

It wasn't quite what Sue Wise wanted.

The head coach of the York track teams got a bit of a shock this past weekend as both of her squads finished behind the first place teams from Windsor.

But buoyed by strong showings from the relay teams and the stellar France Gareau, the York teams still placed respectably, with the men coming in third and the women ending up in a tie for second spot.

For the women, though, the key of the weekend, though, was without a doubt France Gareau, the 23-year-old York runner who will be heading to next week's world indoor championships at Seville, Spain.

Despite the lack of any 200 metre race (Gareau's specialty), Gareau still managed to grab three gold medals en route to grabbing female athlete of the meet honors.

In the 60 metre sprint, she edged out Windsor's powerful Irma Grant, while she dominated the field to take the 300 metre race.

Gareau combined with 1000 metre specialist Nicole Masil to lead the York team to victory in the 4x400 metre relay.

After a first leg stumble and a slow first handoff, the York team was in last place 75 metres behind when Masil started off the third portion of the race.

But Masil and Gareau (who ran the anchor leg) each made up half the gap, allowing the Yeowomen to come home with the win.

Masil, who missed out on the world meet 1000 metres by 26/100 of a second, also got more than her fair share of golds, finishing first in the 600 metre race.

York triple jumper Andrea Hastick was disappointed with her performance in Friday night's final, as her OWIAA record of 12.02 metres was broken.