

York loses final to UofT, but defeat Laurier Golden Hawks

by Josh Rubin

For once, Graham Wise wasn't too concerned about losing to the UofT Blues.

After getting dumped 4-1 in the final of York's annual pre-season tournament last weekend, Wise brushed off the apparent setback.

The coach of the Yeomen hockey squad was instead impressed by the fact his charges had dumped the Laurier Golden Hawks 5-2 in the opening matchup of the tourney.

The Golden Hawks, after all, made it to last year's national final four and in the meantime have added centreman John Spoltore, who last year finished second in the OHL scoring race with the North Bay Centennials.

The one thing which impressed Wise the most during the Laurier matchup was the encouraging play of

new forward recruit Shawn Costello, who he notched a pair of goals against the Hawks.

Last year, Costello played junior B shinny in Bramalea. Another junior B recruit for York was former Oshawa forward Jason Hicks. He also put one in against Laurier.

"This league has players from a real cross-section of backgrounds, so you have to be concerned with the game at hand," said Wise, adding that his players did just that against Laurier.

"Any team not mentally ready for every single game will lose," Wise continued.

Almost as if to prove their coach's point, the Yeomen committed some mental errors which hurt them against UofT in Sunday's final.

Despite a solo effort by third year veteran Jimmy Dean which cut the Blues' lead to 3-1 in the third period,

the Yeomen couldn't match up with a UofT side which has lost just a paltry few players from last year's squad.

Fifth year Blues defender Tom Diceman once again anchored a solid blueline corps which will likely make any match against Toronto a bruising affair. Toronto netminder Paul Henriques was also in good form in Sunday's final, giving up only a single goal.

Splitting netminding duties for the Yeomen over the weekend were veteran Willie Popp and rookie Darren Sconlan, both of whom stood up well to their first game-action this year.

This weekend the Yeomen head to Waterloo for the annual Oktoberfest tournament. Their first regular season action comes on Friday, October 23 when they host Laurentian in a 7:30 start. Admission is free for students with York ID.



Unfortunately for this Laurier defender, his team couldn't tie up the Yeomen, and went down to a 5-2 defeat. Photo by Michele Boesener

Two more Yeomen suspended

by Riccardo Sala

It's shaping up to be another season in which the on-field quality of the soccer Yeomen is being sabotaged by events off the pitch.

On the field the Yeomen have a record of 2-4 so far. On Saturday the Yeomen lost 1-0 to Carleton, while on Sunday Laurentian downed York 3-1.

The real story over the weekend, though, was the year-long suspension, of Yeomen Franco LoFranco and Cory Balducci by coach Eric Willis. This brings to five the number of York players who have either left or been suspended from the team since the season began.

Willis defended the weekend suspensions, which arose from redcards against LoFranco Saturday and Balducci Sunday, both times for arguing with officials. Talking Sunday night by phone, the York coach said it was the club's policy to suspend

players redcarded for those calls.

"I'm not going to be associated with a team like that," Willis said. "We're just not going to allow behavior like that to become common on the team."

In both LoFranco and Balducci's case, the redcard came in the second half and resulted in York having to play a man short for the duration of the match. Balducci scored the lone York goal against Laurentian and was named player of the game in what, ironically, would turn out to be his last varsity soccer game of the season.

These two suspensions come on the tail of earlier ones meted out against Stuart McAslan and Dominic Giorgi, the team captain. The play of these two for a Woodbridge club conflicted with their York duties, and they were asked to leave, Willis said. Teammate Manlio Raponi left in protest afterwards.

"They're all veteran players, that's

another thing that's unfortunate," Willis said.

Despite the added burden on what has essentially become a rookie-stacked team, Willis feels that the club has responded well to the challenge. Six games remain in the regular season, and the goal of the Yeomen is to get into the playoffs.

Tonight (Wednesday) the Yeomen hop aboard the subway for an eight o'clock gig against the Toronto Blues at Varsity Stadium.

Yeowomen Notes

The soccer Yeowomen had a successful weekend at home, with a 3-0 win over Carleton on Saturday and a 2-0 decision against Ottawa in exhibition play Sunday. Tanya Williams scored twice and Sabrina Issepi once in the game against Carleton.

The soccer Yeowomen host the 5-0 Lady Blues this Thursday at 4:30 in

one of the big matchups of the season...The field hockey Yeowomen stand at 5-0 in the regular season with a pair of wins at Lampport over the weekend. On Friday, York won 7-0 over Laurentian. Sherri Field scored five of those goals, while Joel Brough and Michelle Michener contributed one apiece. On Saturday York defeated Queens 3-1 with goals from Michener, Field and Kelly Thormyer.

The field hockey Yeowomen host the Waterloo Athenas and Western

Mustangs at Lampport this Friday. The Waterloo game is at 10am while Western plays at 3pm.

York field hockey coach Catherine Broderick reports that Jillian Sewell, hurt in the ankle several weeks ago, will be back in action this week. Teammate Rachel Carpenter injured in the same game against Western is a bit more dubious, having suffered a partial ligament tear in her knee. Broderick hopes to have her in action before the end of the season.

Willis proud of Tennis team performance

by Steven Kagan

Tennis Coach Eric Bojesen is in good spirits. York's women's tennis team was at full strength and confident heading into Saturday's encounter with Queens and Wilfrid Laurier. Coming into action York had a 2-0 record and were looking to extend their winning streak.

Bojesen set the scene by explaining he expected a tough match against Queen's but he felt that his team was up to the challenge. His prediction proved to be correct as York fought hard but came out on the losing end of a 6-3 match decision. York had scouted their opponents and the players knew they were in deep as Jane Bernard and Cathy Evans pulled out hard fought victories.

Regardless of the result, the coach is enthusiastic about the group of players assembled.

"We have great team spirit and a commitment to winning on this team. The mood here is very positive and the players are very supportive of each other," he said.

The second match of the day, against Wilfrid Laurier allowed coach Bojesen to substitute his number 4, 5 and 6 players and get them some playing time. Laurier was a much weaker opponent than Queens and the result was a 9-0 whitewash for York.

After splitting weekend games, the focus was shifted to the upcoming encounter with Windsor and pow-

erhouse defending Ontario University champs Western. The top four teams have qualified for the playoffs.

Bojesen calls this year's team "the most enjoyable one for me so far."

"Western is going to push us to the limit but I have confidence in my

players. The team practices hard and the tempo is up," he said.

York's next match is against Windsor on Friday October 16 and the big clash with Western is on Saturday October 17, both at the National Tennis Centre on Campus.



Despite a gritty effort from the likes of Jodi McCormac (above), York was thumped by a tough Queens side. Photo by Michele Boesener

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