

Jocks itch for more room

Rose Crawford

If everything goes according to plan, all the athletes on campus are going to have a lot more room to play around in.

The plan is a 3 million dollar expansion of the very cramped athletic facilities presently available on campus.

The new athletic complex will boast a large gymnasium with a seating capacity of three to four thousand, a gymnastics area, twelve squash or racquetball courts, a dance studio, and an expanded swimming pool. It will also have increased office and classroom space.

The Tait McKenzie expansion is one of six capital projects proposed within an ambitious campaign. If realized, six more buildings will be added to the York campus along with other new features such as research laboratories, a computer centre, theatre and dance facilities, and libraries.

According to Patricia Bryden, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, the total amount of money needed to get the plans off the drawing board is fifteen million dollars.

The university is going after the private sector in order to raise the money, having realized the the government is not going to come through with any significant financial aid. Up to this point, only three of the fifteen million has been raised.

Another facet of the Tait expansion is a five to six thousand seat stadium, which would serve the football, rugby, soccer, and field hockey teams. But the plans for the stadium are separate from the university's campaign drive.

Stu Robbins, Chairman of the Physical Education Department, said in an interview that York has been approached by the Ontario Soccer Association about the possibility of building a stadium as a joint project, much like the Metropolitan Track and Field

Centre. The Physical Education Department is in favour of the idea, but as of yet, nothing concrete has been put on paper.

The inadequacy of the present facilities has long been felt by everyone who has been in any way involved with York athletics. Many varsity teams are forced to practice very early in the morning or very late in the evening because of the lack of space. The excellent sports seminars program, which attracts hundreds of people from all over North America, has also been greatly hindered by the lack of adequate facilities.

Robbins stressed that with the new facilities York can become a prominent centre for amateur sports development in this part of the country.

The added classroom space would greatly enhance the academic side of the Physical Education Department by enriching existing programs and adding new ones in the areas of



sports injuries, coaching, and fitness.

Reading about all the proposed projects, one can't help but be impressed. However, as Robbins stated, "If the funds don't come through, this could all go down the tube."

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