

# Intermurals can't compare to Varsity athletics

Many people have asked me this year why we don't report on intermural sports and now thanks to our most gracious advertisers I have the opportunity to answer that question. Let this column be an answer to all of you who have asked and a deterrent to those who have often wondered but never asked.

I have made it a policy of mine not to cover intermural sports but to use our space in the sports section to cover Varsity athletics. There are a number of reasons for this decision.

On numerous occasions in the sports section we find ourselves short of space. When this happens we must cut the sports articles we do have down to their bare minimum or sometimes not run them at all. This leaves me with a decision to make about one article's importance over another, about which story a reader is most likely to read and which one will line the bottom of the bird cage. This creates a problem: do we give up space for varsity sport to give coverage to intermurals? No.

*Excalibur* in the past has had the reputation of covering the so-called 'high profile' sports such as football, hockey and basketball only and mentioning briefly, if ever, the lesser known sports like fencing and water polo.



EDO VAN BELKOM

This year, however, we in the sports department have done our best to give coverage to the lower profile sports, which has resulted in a more well-rounded section and positive response from many readers. This expanded coverage has left little if any space for coverage of intermural sports.

I must admit that at times we find ourselves with more space than we need, but these times are few and often unpredictable. In these cases we have feature articles already prepared and ready at a moment's notice. It would be entirely unfair to ask someone to write about intermurals on a weekly basis and not guarantee that it will be printed.

Another reason for the absence of intermural coverage is that there are a number of college newspapers whose responsibility it is to cover college teams.

Intermural sports brings colleges together and provide recreation for its members. They are fun but they are not athletics. Athletics, as I have come to know it this year, requires talent, determination, hours of practice and a will to win. These essential ingredients are sorely lacking in intermural sports.

I've played in both the Torch and Flame leagues during my years at York. It was fun, it was sport, but it wasn't athletics.

Just to give a few examples to illustrate my point. On one occasion, the Flame hockey team I played for decided to forfeit a game because no one was going to show up for the game. Once I was sitting in the Vanier college pub when a sports rep came in to gather up a basketball team for a game that same night. I also have seen players show up for games under the influence of alcohol or bring a case of beer into the dressing room before a game. This is not athletics.

Little preparation, showing up drunk, or not coming at all, might be fun, but it can't compare to varsity athletics.

If I must decide whether to give coverage to figure skaters, who wake up at five every morning to spend two hours practice in a cold arena or to teams that sometimes make it to games, I'd choose the skaters as I would any other dedicated athlete, every time.

## Sports Briefs

By JAMES HOGGETT

### GYMNASTICS

Last Saturday the York gymnastic team visited McMaster. York finished first overall with 240 points.

Strong performances for York were by John Ecclestone who placed first in the floor exercises with a score of 9.45, and Lorne Bobkin, a freshman who competed in the World Championships in Montreal last November. Bobkin placed first in the vault event with a score of 9.30 and second in the rings event with a score of 8.60. One other strong performer for York was Glen Cooper who placed first in the pommel horse with a score of 7.60.

Allan Reddon did not compete but acted as coach and is resting for the OUA Championships in

ary. Coach Zivic was judging.

In the all-round standings John Ecclestone placed second with 49.90 points (just .65 behind the first place winner). Lorne Bobkin placed fourth with 49.45 points and Peter Morgan was fifth with 48.35.

### FENCING

The OUA Mid-East Divisionals were held last weekend at Ryerson. York's sabre team placed first in the team event and thus advanced to the OUA Sectionals.

In the individuals, Warren Kotler placed first, Matt Pindera placed fourth and rookie Charlie Goucalves placed sixth and advanced to the sectionals.

Both the foil and epee teams were

eliminated. However there were some bright spots. In the foil, Brian Braganza placed third, in the epee Tony Forsyth placed third in a pool of 12 and advanced to the next round.

### BADMINTON

Last weekend the Yeomen competed in a round robin tournament at RMC. York qualified for the team championships, while the singles and doubles both qualified for the individual championships.

Top performances for York came from Nick Nikhusnin who won all five matches and finished first in singles and the doubles team which also won all five matches and finished first in doubles.

### VOLLEYBALL

The Yeowomen were at Ottawa last weekend coming home consolation winners. They beat Waterloo in the Consolation Semi-Finals 3-1 and defeated Regina 3-0 to win the Con-

solation Finals.

The Yeowomen played only well enough to qualify for the consolation round losing in the opening round to Ottawa 3-2 and Saskatchewan 3-0.

## Tired swimmers lose to Western

By BEN RAFAELI

A tired York swim team did not fare well on Saturday against the tough Western Mustangs.

Both the Yeomen and Yeowomen losses, 70-42 and 96-17 respectively, came following a very close meet with Brock University the night before.

Carol Wilson, coach of both the Yeomen and Yeowomen, is confident that York will move up in the overall standings. Last year's team placed sixth for the men and eleventh for the women. "This year," said Wilson, "the women are more improved than the men—both are reaching for fifth."

Some personal best times were recorded by York swimmers. Robert Kirwin, a first-year student, swam a lifetime best of 20.9 in the 200 m medley, and Ed

Spivak recorded a personal best in the 50 m breast stroke.

In the men's 50 m freestyle, York swimmers Adam Robinson and captain Victor Verbac took both first and second place. Robinson, the winner of the race, was only two-tenths off qualification for the Nationals and said that he is "going to do it." In the 50 m women's freestyle Yeowoman Ann Bruner won with a time of 28.45.

Coach Wilson said that not only are we seeing "better individual performances, but also an overall improvement in the strength and depth of the team."

It is this support structure that Wilson hopes will help the team achieve higher standings in the women's OWIAA championships on Feb. 15 and 16 and the men's OUA championships on Feb. 21 and 22.

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