

The ties just keep coming but Yeomen still undefeated

By PAUL CONROY

For the second time in eight days the York Yeomen hockey squad could manage only a tie against OUA Central Division rivals.

Last Thursday night York fans were treated to a very interesting, often exciting match against the University of Western Ontario Mustangs at the magnificent Ice Palace.

Once again, as was the case the week before against UoT, the Yeomen evened the score in the third period after trailing their opponents through two. And just to make the sense of *déjà vu* complete, it was York's Lawrence Smith who once more notched the tying goal to make the final 3-3.

"Lawrence has played well for us all year long," commented Yeomen coach Graham Wise after the game. "He's stepped in and scored some key goals. He scored a key goal against Trois Rivieres when we played them and he scored another key goal tonight."

York started the game flying against the Mustangs, grabbing a quick two goal lead by 5:22 of the first period.

High scoring forward Nick Kiriakou opened the scoring and just over a minute later Brian Small stole the puck just inside the opponent's blue line and made no mistake in counting a short handed marker.

From that point on, however, the Yeomen seemed to go flat and with penalties a factor, the Mustangs cut the lead in half.

Period two was a sloppy, penalty filled affair and the home side found themselves a man short more than once, including a stretch in which



IS IT MAC TONITE? We think #9 for York is Brian MacDonald. He used to be #12, but #9 does have the magic of Hull and Howe. The Yeomen still have the magic of an undefeated season behind them.

they successfully killed off a five-minute major penalty.

The strong Western squad took advantage of the manpower situations and had a 3-2 lead after two, setting the stage for Smith's heroics in period three.

**Yeomen 3
Mustangs 3**

Period three was one of the most exciting in a long while with each team having plenty of opportunities to break the tie. With less than a minute to play Yeomen goalie Mark Applewhite made a remarkable save on one

Western forward who was in all alone to preserve the tie.

Coach Wise wasn't overly pleased with the result, especially on home ice. "Obviously we would have liked to have had a win. We came out really hard and took a 2-0 lead, then all of a sudden we seemed to sit back, took some foolish penalties and of course Western isn't going to quit on you," explained Wise.

If you're tired of those turkeys in the blue-and-white down on Carleton street, maybe its time to check out the red and white right here at York. Next home game is tomorrow night (Feb.5) at 7:30.

Lady Blues travel to Ice Palace, leave Yeowomen out in the cold

By RANDY UGOLINI

Any cold blooded Canadian knows that it just ain't natural to play hockey in snowless, balmy climes. Likewise, it doesn't seem natural that the Yeowomen hockey team, the defending Ontario champs, should be struggling to make the playoffs. However, these are the unnatural conditions which prevailed after last Friday's 5-2 loss to the UoT Lady Blues.

The loss, York's third in a row, puts the team one point behind third place Guelph in the race for the final playoff spot. York's remaining four games are crucial if the Yeowomen are to surpass Guelph and meet McMaster in the first round of the playoffs.

In Friday's contest, the Yeowomen used their fast skating game to quickly jump on the Blues. York dominated the first period, but two unforced penalties in the closing minutes put UoT on the powerplay. Converting on both occasions, the Blues skated to a two goal lead. York's Angie McCollum closed the gap to one in the final minutes of the period.

UoT capitalized on sloppy York play in the second period, surging into a 5-1 lead. "We're a fast skating team," said veteran Yeowomen defenceman Linda Upton. "Our problem has been not completing our passes and getting the puck to the player to open ice. UoT took advantage of it and controlled the centre ice zone."

Apparently unsatisfied with centre ice, UoT controlled the whole ice surface thawing out the Yeowomen attack quicker than an Indian summer in January.

"We've been making a lot of mental errors lately," said Yeowomen head coach Sue Gaston. "Sometimes we forget what to do out there and we get very undisciplined. Against the better teams in the league those lapses will cost us."



HEXTALL WOULDN'T TAKE THIS: Yeowomen Connie Wrightsell is creamed by a U of T player. The Yeowomen have certainly seen better days than the 5-2 loss witnessed at the Ice Palace.

York rookie Val Flemming closed out the scoring in the closing moments of the second allowing the Yeowomen to escape trailing 5-1.

The third period remained scoreless due to the heroics of veteran York goaltender Connie Wrightsell. Performing her version of The Great Wall, Wrightsell kicked out 35 UoT shots, most of which appeared in the form of breakaways and frantic goal-mouth flurries.

York's offensive units combined for only 26 shots on the night, with only five shots in the third period. After the game Gaston stressed the need for increased offensive output. "We're trying to concentrate on forechecking a little more in order to generate some offensive opportunities to capitalize on," said Gaston.

For the Yeowomen, a team undergoing a major rebuilding phase, finding the right combination of aggressiveness and confidence is

paramount to a successful playoff bid.

"Lately we've been getting a little frustrated and discouraged, especially after losing some one goal games," lamented Upton. "We're focusing on the playoffs, but right now we've got to win one game at a time."

Looking ahead to the playoffs, Gaston discussed the team's chances. "The important thing for us getting to the playoffs is to play with confidence. Anything can happen against Guelph, and we always play well against McMaster, having tied them twice during the season."

With games in hand against McMaster, Guelph and UoT, the hockey Yeowomen still have an opportunity to steal the final playoff spot provided some real hockey weather puts everything back in its natural order.

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