

Track championships at Windsor Yeomen grab bronze

by Riccardo Sala

The Windsor Lancers put the cleats to their competitors, including York, at the provincial track and field championships, held over the weekend at Windsor.

In the Ontario University Athletic Association championships, the Yeomen finished third behind second place UofT and the winning Windsor side.

In Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association action, the Yeowomen came fifth.

Windsor, Western and UofT rounded out the medal places.

"We had some good performances. I was a bit disappointed that we (the Yeomen) came in third, nine points

behind UofT," York head coach Sue Wise said.

Two more Yeomen qualified for the Nationals over the weekend. Sprinter Dexter John, who finished

fifth in the 60m event, cracked the Canadian standard with a time of 7:01.

Teammate Colin Inglis ran his way to a bronze in the 300m, qualifying for the Nationals in the process with a time of 35:15.

That brings to 19 the number of Yeomen who will be going to the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Association championships in Winnipeg this weekend.

The Yeoman quartet of Dexter John, Kevin Benner, Brooke Cooper and Colin Wright finished second to Windsor in the 4x200m relay. In the

4x400m race, Corey Burnett, Darren Gardner, Benner and Wright gave York another silver, also behind a winning Lancer contingent.

York's Mike Rodgers came third in the 1500m, running a personal best of 3:57.17.

York continued its stranglehold on the pole vault, the Yeoman trio of Doug Wood, Paul Just and Kevin Lake filling out the medal places. Wood, the top Canadian pole vaulter this year, set an OUA championship record with a jump of 5.40.

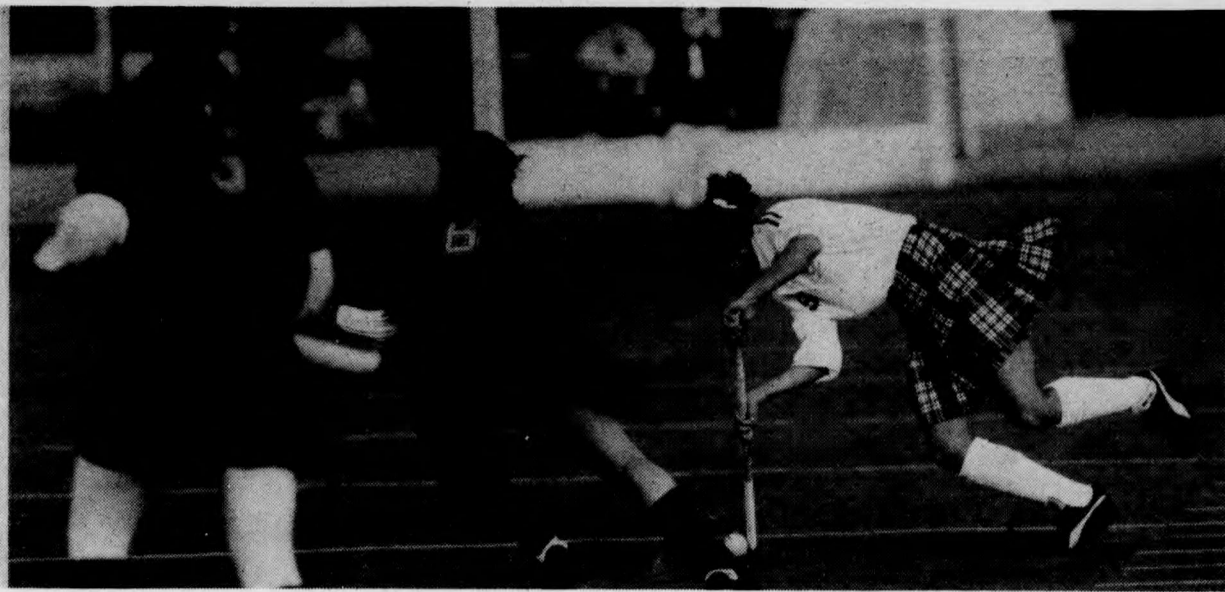
Yeomen Greg Britten was second in the long jump with a leap of 7.06m. Yeomen Chris Elliot and Tim Mollar finished one-two in the triple jump.

The Yeowomen meanwhile came into Windsor with nothing to lose. The young team had trouble all season long against their older competitors, and the OWIAA championships promised more of the same.

Yeowoman Angie Coon won the 60m hurdles with a time of 8:73, while teammate Jennifer Lewin finished third in the 3000m.

"That was a pleasant surprise," Wise noted about Lewin's result.

No additional Yeowomen qualified for this weekend's Nationals. As it stands, York will be sending six female competitors to Winnipeg—Angie Coon in the 60m hurdles, Sophia Tinker in the triple jump and the 4x200 relay team of Ann Martinello, Rhonda Wood, Kerry Linquist and Alison Crowe.



Indoor title for field hockey Yeowomen

by Josh Rubin

Sudbury—The York Yeowomen hung on for a 6-5 win to take their third consecutive OWIAA indoor hockey title this past Sunday.

The Yeowomen, led by tournament MVP Sharon Creelman, edged their crosstown rivals from UofT for the gold medal.

It was the Lady Blues, however, who drew first blood in the final matchup when Ainslee Press got the first of her four goals on the afternoon just two minutes into the first half.

Press's opening marker was the first goal of the tournament given up by the Yeowomen, who had outscored their opposition 35-0 in sweeping their four previous matches (thanks in large part to the outstanding play of first team all-star netminder Michelle Capperault).

Still York's Cindy Gahunia came back with one of her own just a minute later to tie the game up.

After the teams traded goals again, the score was deadlocked at two going into the final frame.

The Yeowomen opened up the second half with a vengeance, and put together a three goal outburst in two and a half minutes to ultimately seal UofT's fate.

A pair of goals from second team all-star Veronica Planella made the score 4-2, then Karen Hewlett increased the York lead to 5-2, converting a nifty pass from Creelman.

The Blues weren't so quick to give up, and after the teams traded goals again, Press notched a pair in the final five minutes in a nailbiting finish.

After the Yeowomen stopped a UofT corner with no time left on the clock to seal the win, the York bench erupted in cheers.

Though the Blues had also rolled through the preliminary round undefeated, UofT coach Liz Hoffman

felt it was the Yeowomen who had the momentum going into the final.

"We simply hadn't played as well as they did during pool play," said Hoffman, who added she was happy with her team's effort, despite the loss.

York mentor Marina van der Merwe, who also coaches Canada's national team suggested afterwards it was the presence of Creelman which was the key for the Yeowomen.

"She's a wonderful skipper. She assists everyone in decision-making until eventually they're all contributing," van der Merwe said.

Another York player who made the first all-star team along with Creelman and Capperault was veteran Karen Hewlett.

In other tournament action, the Laurentian Lady Vees dumped the Western Mustangs 3-2 for third spot, their best indoor showing ever.

Solo effort for York at CIAU swim championships

by Riccardo Sala

The meet wasn't quite over when Lori Borean and Cheryl Stickley boarded their flight from Montreal back to Toronto.

Borean, a Yeowomen swimmer, and Stickley, the York coach, returned Sunday from the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Association swimming championships, after Borean's race in the 100m and 200m backstrokes.

The second year York veteran didn't make the finals in either race.

"The meet was really fast compared to last year. I would've liked to have done better," Borean said afterwards.

Considering the competition she was up against, the York swimmer was realistically hoping for at most a couple of personal bests. Instead, Borean was unable to improve on her pre-Montreal times.

This is the second straight year that Borean has represented York by herself. Several Yeomen and Yeowomen came close, though, to the standard needed for a berth at the CIAU's.

"Wendy Johnson was pretty close to making the Nationals... I was hoping more would have made the cut," Stickley said.

The Montreal meet meant the end of the university swimming season. For Stickley, that means time to reflect on a year just finished, and to work on the upcoming one.

"I really think that the difference this year (from the one before) was psychological. I had to work on getting the women to believe in themselves. The guys aren't as bad, they can pick themselves up a bit (after setbacks). I have to work on their heads, get them doing it, and get them wanting it," Stickley said.

YORK GYMNASTS WIN NATIONAL CUP

SPECIAL TO EXCALIBUR

York's gymnasts added a national crown to their Ontario titles with a win at the National Cup in Calgary over the weekend.

Both the Yeomen and the Yeowomen, who were Ontario University Athletic Association and Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association champions this year respectively, won in the National Cup.

York's success in competition also extended to recognition for the team's coaches. Yeowoman coach Natasa Bajin was named coach of the year, as were her counterparts on the Yeomen side, Maasaki Naosaki and Tom Zivic.

Watch for next week's Excalibur for more details.



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