

Hockey Yeomen lose squeaker in dying seconds

Mark Zwol

Yeomen loose "squeaker" in final seconds

The York Yeomen hockey team "took one on the chin last Saturday when they suffered a 5-4 loss to the visiting McGill Redmen in exhibition play. York had battled back to tie the score at 14:38 of the third period on a solo effort by defenceman John Campbell. Luck wasn't with the Yeomen, however, when the puck took a bad bounce off a shot from John Contini and floated up the middle of the ice, past the York defencemen who were drawn in by the play. That left nothing but clear sailing between McGill's Robert Maxwell and the goal as he skated in to beat York goaltender, Jim Chambers. There were only eight seconds remaining.

Just one of those things

For Coach Hedley and his players, it was hard to look up at the scoreboard when the game was over. "It was just one of those things--when the breaks don't go your way. You see a play like that happen once a year," Hedley commented.

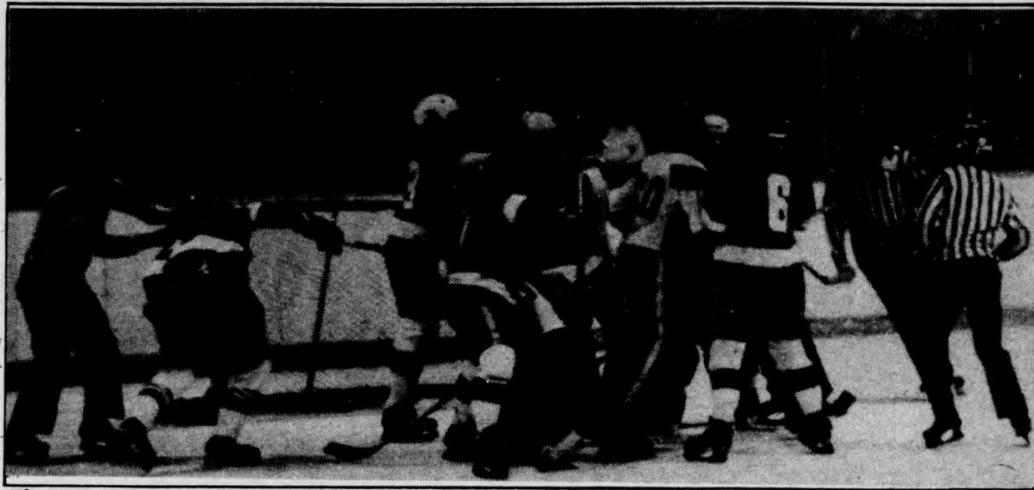
The Yeomen were in a very unhealthy position, having opened training camp the day before the game. Only half of the 45 prospects dressed, each having to give his respective "John Henry" in a brief player introduction, prior to the opening face-off. While it was hardly sufficient preparation for an opening game, the Yeomen put on an impressive show, hustling after

their checks and otherwise keeping up with the aggressive Redman. Coach Hedley watched the game from the statisticians booth during the first two periods, and was pleased with his team's performance overall.

"I'm very surprised and quite pleased with the effort I got here tonight. It's hard to be competitive when you open training the day before a game, but our guys worked hard out there--they have nothing to be ashamed of."

Numerous penalties and fights

Hockey games are usually marred by fights and this one was no exception. The game started slowly with some tight checking by both teams, but turned into a wide open affair by the third period. McGill, in particular, sent out some "policemen" to establish the physical game. But the Yeomen were not to be intimidated. Forward Tobby Tobison was the subject of a few "helicopter imitations" from the Redmen during a nasty, third period brawl. But he sees that as part of the game. "Yeah they got their sticks a little high--I'm not going to back down though," he said. WHISTLE'S STOP: The Yeomen's Dave Stewart and Jim Chambers split the goal tending duties stopping 24 out of 28 shots. The Yeomen, on the other hand, tallied 34. York counted single goals from Ken Norris, James Canton, John Campbell, and Jim Campbell...The Yeomen see action in the U of T Tournament Friday Oct. 22nd and Saturday October 23rd.



The action got pretty heavy around McGill's goal in last Saturday's hockey game at the York Pond. The Yeomen lost 5-4 on a goal with eight seconds left.

SPORTORIAL

Mark Zwol

If you asked any sports buff to sit down and make comparison between football and waterpolo, chances are he or she would end up pulling their hair out instead of reaching any conclusions. Then again, if you asked the average "Monday night footballer," you'd probably hear an uproar of laughter.

Most people would be inclined to change channels on a waterpolo game--it's not a contact sport, and perhaps not the most exciting game in the world to watch. But like it's most unlikely counterpart here, waterpolo is not a game for the light of heart, or stomach for that matter. In fact, the swimming end of the game is so demanding that anyone who swaps waterpolo for a pint of beer and Howard Cosell ought to give it a try. One word of advice

though--bring along you handy airline sick bag.

Coaches, Dave Pickett and Kevin Jones of the football and waterpolo Yeomen respectively, were in the same shoes at the outset of their seasons. Anyone who watched the Yeomen loose 25-1 to the Guelph Gryphons, on the televised game, saw a lack-lustre performance by the gridironers. Consequently, the Yeomen waterpolo team opened their season in the Early Bird tournament with a similarly disappointing effort. Coaches usually take the slack when their teams come up with dismal efforts--the usual grunts and groans can be heard after the boxscores are read.

The big question in Kevin Jones's mind this year is how he'll fill a superstars shoes. Well, in his case, it

wasn't shoes but swimming trunks he had to fill. The Yeomen Waterpolo team returned to the Tait pool in defense of their OUAA crown, minus the body of one Trevor Mann, the hero of last year's championship drive. "To be frank, replacing him is not going to be easy", Jones said. "You need someone who can make that mesh ripple." Trevor Mann filled that bill last season, but he's finished, returning only as an assistant coach.

The Yeomen went into their opening afternoon of league play in search of that "killers instinct" that had eluded them in the Early Bird. They came out of those games with consecutive victories over Waterloo and Western and instinct intact. Dave Pickett did not have such large shoes to fill by comparison, but he did face a dilemma with this year's edition of the football Yeomen: how to turn a relatively young team into a force to be consistently reckoned with. Last week's 35-5 trouncing of the Windsor Lancers brought the Yeomen back into national rankings and that indicates another hurdle has been overcome.

Both teams hold lockerroom meetings after every match. One thing on their minds is the unanticipated strength of the OUAA this season. Every team seems to be well balanced. Aside from the comparative idiosyncrasies of either game, there remains one all-important similarity between these two most-unlikely lockerroom campatriots--whether the players who wear the "red and white" are up to the overall challenge.

Winners & losers: York soccer team on top of OUAA

Chris Dodd

The York soccer club entered last weekend's busy schedule atop the OUAA standings when they travelled to Carleton and Trent to become both victors and losers by identical scores of 1-0.

Saturday afternoon at Carleton the Yeomen suffered their first setback of the season losing 1-0 in a physical battle against the "Ravens."

The loss was a heartbreaker for York. They outplayed the Ravens for the majority of the game, only to have Carleton score the game's lone goal. "They scored early on a defensive mix-up," said coach Norman Crandles, "we dominated the rest of the game but we couldn't score. It was a tough loss."

Just 24 hours later the Yeomen were in Peterborough where they improved their record to 3-1 with a 1-0 victory over Trent.

Greg Mitchell, who had been converted to left-wing for the game scored the goal for York.

The Yeomen anxiously await their next game, a rematch with Carleton next Saturday at home.



Elissa Freeman
JOCK TALK

The rigours of circuit tennis with Mitch Goldvar

"Tennis is an ego-game. It's ruthless, unfriendly and ultra-competitive. A lot of people don't see this in tennis. They think it's a gentleman's game."

Such a powerful statement can only come from a player who has been intensely involved with tennis, but is also able to accept that the world of tennis is not as glamorous as we court-side critics think. Mitchell Goldhar is such a player. The third-year York student is ranked 2nd in Ontario and third with partner Kevin Green in open men's doubles and has had more than his share of experience on the tennis circuit. He knows what he is talking about.

All-round athlete

Goldhar has been playing tennis since he was seven-years-old, but never took the game seriously until he was 17. And it's no wonder. His extensive trophy collection not only contains several tennis accolades, but awards from many other sports. At York Mills Collegiate in North York, Goldhar played football, was a member of the Ontario's championship rugby team and played hockey for the Toronto Olympics in the MTHL until he was sixteen.

However, tennis was the sport he pursued. When he was 16, Goldhar was Ontario's number one ranked doubles player and in 1979, he was third in Ontario singles. Goldhar then went on to play many prestigious junior tournaments such as the Orange Bowl in Florida during 1979.

Unlike most athletically superior kids, Goldhar's parents never pushed him into the sport. "It's unbelievable how pushy parents can be. You really see it at the tournaments. My parents wanted me to have other values. I knew that I didn't have to depend on winning to gain their approval."

After graduating from Grade 13, Goldhar went to Florida and through various sources, got in touch with University of Miami tennis coach John Hamel. Hamel, whose NCAA eighth ranked Miami team has turned out such notables as Eddie Dibbs and Harold Solomon, was impressed with Goldhar's abilities and decided to take him on as a protegee. Although he was offered a scholarship by the school, Goldhar decided that playing tournament tennis would make him a better player.

Hates his opponents

And learn he did. Mitchell discovered the world of professional tennis when he joined one of the 'satellite' circuits in which future Grand Prix hopefuls participate. Much of what he learned on the circuit shaped his own tennis strategy. "There's two ways of approaching a match while you're in it. You can make excuses while you're playing that you're gonna

give after you've finished, or you can say, 'I'm not gonna let this son-of-a-bitch beat me' and you can start to hate him. And that's exactly what I start to do. I find that there are lots of strategies in winning and one of them is hating your opponent."

Cut-throat circuit competition

Goldhar's 'hate strategy' was cultivated during the time spent playing on the USTA Penn Circuit in Shreveport, Louisiana. In these satellite tournaments, you learn very quickly that circuit tennis isn't all fun and games. Everyone is fighting for recognition and your whole life becomes centred around the game. "When you're playing on the satellite circuits, you're not playing with people who are millionaires, like the top ten. You're playing with guys that want to be millionaires, and they want more than that, they want recognition. And everyone's a threat to your recognition."

The personal price you pay to play circuit tennis is high. You literally eat, sleep and breathe tennis. Your mind is always pre-occupied with your practise time, what time you'll go to bed, what you'll eat before the match and how you're going to play your opponent the next day. After all this mental and physical preparation, one can only imagine the anguish of losing. As Goldhar puts it, "You feel like killing yourself. And then you've got to do it all over again the next week, in another city. Some guys go through it 52 weeks a year."

Must be mentally high

There is never an easy match in circuit tennis. Everybody there is a born winner. They have all been champions at some time in their lives and now they're all together in one place, for one reason: to win a tennis match. It's like getting straight A's in high school, then going to Harvard and finding out that there are hundreds of other people just as smart as you--and not everybody is going to come out on top. Some players can't deal with the pressure of losing. That's where the mental aspect of tennis enters the picture. It is often the one thing that can carry a player to victory over another player of the same calibre. "If you can master the mental side of tennis, it's better than having a good serve. It's better than having a great backhand. If you can get up in the morning and play every shot against some shmo like it's match point and continue that into the next city and 51 weeks later do the same thing, you can become a good player on the circuit."

Playing circuit tennis also has its advantages. During the Pernod Circuit in London, England, Goldhar had the time of his life travelling around Europe and playing at England's Queen's Club with gamblers who bet as heavily on the court as they did at the black-jack tables. "They were incredibly lousy players who played the game like backgammon. In the middle of the set, they would suddenly double the stakes and at the end, I'd leave the court with a hundred dollars in my pocket!"

A non-tennis future

An easy-going and likeable person, Goldhar has definite ideas about his future. Although the thought of going back to Miami to play tennis constantly lingers in his mind, Goldhar wants to pursue a business-oriented career. With his "never-say-die" attitude and the mental toughness provided by his circuit tennis experience, Goldhar seems to be destined for success.

After all, there is life after tennis.