

Standing, flopping and studying

Yeomen goaltenders - three styles, one goal

By IAN WASSERMAN

Characters on any sports team help make the team what it is. It is these players who help keep the team loose on and off the playing field. Some of these characters group together to form a clique. York's hockey Yeomen have several of these groups, one of which has earned the nicknames, the three Musketeers, the Three Stooges, or the Marx Brothers. They are in real life, York's goaltending trio of Pete Kostek, Steve Bosco and Glenn Weirs.

Over the years goaltenders have earned the reputation of being of a different breed than the other players on a team. It would have to be true, who else would stand in front of a frozen piece of rubber travelling at 80 miles per hour and try to catch it with a little glove? York's trio must be of that breed because they are usually standing in front of, and blocking those pucks, rather than letting them into the net.

THREESTYLES

All three have their own style of play. Kostek plays a traditional stand-up style making the saves with his pads. Bosco plays with more of an acrobatic style, diving for the puck and playing the long sharp angles. Weirs (when he gets to play) has a European style - steady standup net minding.

The reasons that these three are at York is not to play hockey but for the academics.

Kostek, in his last year of college hockey, played two years for Laurentian before coming to York. He feels that York has more to offer him and it is also closer to home.

Steve Bosco, who played last year

with the Toronto Marlboros came to York for academic reasons. Although he had intended to enroll at U of T, he came to York in order to stay in an arts programme, rather than switch to physical education.

Varsity Blue's Coach Tom Watt, had wanted Bosco for his team but, not wanting to change faculties, Bosco declined and came to York.

The last of the goaltenders, Glenn Weirs is also a first year student at York. He too came to York for his education, as well as to play hockey and feels that York offered the best of both worlds.

All three netminders feel that college hockey has more to offer than professional hockey. "Here it's a team game", said Kostek, "professional hockey stresses individual play more."

Steve Bosco, fresh out of junior hockey feels that it is like the pros, it is more pressure packed, "you're always wanting to make a good impression on any scouts, and that hurts the team. We were always tight. In college hockey there is more team spirit and no worrying about scouts, we are here for our education."

LESS PRESSURE

Weirs agreed saying, "College hockey is more fun, there is less pressure on the coaches too, their job is not always on the line like in the OHA or the pros."

Peter Kostek who has faced more pucks in university competition than his cohorts, look back on his five year stint in college hockey and notes a great improvement in the quality of play. "When I played in Laurentian, only two or three teams in the league were good. Now,



Goaltenders are a rare breed, who else would stand (or kneel) in front of a frozen piece of rubber travelling at up to eighty miles per hour. York's three goaltenders, Peter Kostek, Steve Bosco and Glen Weirs are among the best in the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union and perform this and other stunts regularly, although usually with more success than shown above.

most of the teams have improved greatly. Just look at the standings in the east and west divisions, you can see the equality across the league."

When asked if his five years in college hockey were successful Kostek replied "Yeah, it was a success in many ways, I had a lot of fun and played with some great guys. It has cost me one hell of a lot of money, though, playing cards and going on road trips, paying for food and other social activities, those things that aren't covered by the team allowance. But I don't look forward to going home to play, and freezing. Look at that arena (Bowling Green), now that's a rink. At home, during practice, my eyes freeze it's so cold in there."

Steve Bosco, fresh out of the glamour of junior hockey says of the Yeomen, "On this team everyone is your pal, it's not like in junior where the guys don't really care about you after the game. On the Yeomen you always see them either on campus or after classes."

"I like the schedule too, you don't have a lot of midweek road games, so you don't have to miss a lot of school."

Weirs, who played last year for the Aurora Tigers of the provincial junior A league knows that he is York's third goaltender. "I don't mind sitting on the bench or in the press box, I know that Pete is leaving after this year and then I'll have my chance." When asked why he didn't go to another university

where he could have been playing regularly he said, "I don't mind waiting, my education comes first and hockey will always be there, I can earn my spot on the team but for my education I have to concentrate and keep up with my studies."

This triumvirate of players, the York Goaltenders are probably the best in Canada, although the statistics may not show it, any fan of the team can attest to this. Each of them with his own style of play, his own personality, help keep the Yeomen the tightly knit team they have become. All three get along well and can always be found together on road trips, they are almost like brothers, the Marx Brothers.

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