

# Sports

Sports Editor Ed Piwowarczyk

**Downed by Laurentian 84-54**

## Season ends as Cagers ousted in quarters



Basketball players Dave Ferguson of the Varsity Blues (dark sweater) and Ev Spence of the York Yeomen (in white) duel it out under the basket in Friday night's game at Tait. Looking on are York guard Vince Santoro, Varsity's Dave Watt (55) and Bill Francis. York took the match and the final playoff position in the OUAA's eastern division.

Peter Hsu photo

By RON KAUFMAN

Sudbury — Special: Tuesday night in Sudbury the Laurentian Voyageurs defeated the York Yeomen 84-54 in an eastern division quarter-final match.

The Yeomen were at a double disadvantage in this game. Firstly York had been never beaten the Voyageurs in Sudbury. More important, the team had to make the trip without captain Vince Santoro who sustained a broken ankle in practice the previous day. York trailed throughout the game, being down 38-27 at the half. The team was beaten to the boards at both ends, especially offensively where the Voyageurs frequently got second and third scoring chances.

Mike Mousseau led the V's with 21 points followed by Dan Cattapan (17) and league-leading scorer Guy Vetric (13).

Bob Wepler, in probably his final appearance for the Red 'n' White scored 21 points before fouling out with five minutes left in the game. Ev Spence capped a fine rookie season with 12 points and some tough defense.

**KAUF-DROPS:** Aside from Wepler, the entire team should return next year. Mike Proto, former Bathurst

Heights and Seneca College ace is rumored to be on his way up next year. As for the coaching end of the game, there may be some changes. Head man Bob McKinney has left the teaching profession for the business world and has found his free time hard to come by. Assistant Greg Poole, a York staff member may well be moved up next year to the head job.

The season would have to be labelled a major disappointment for the team. Having only lost two players from last year and with a bright rookie crew having gained a year's experience, one would have thought that a championship would be in order. Instead the team had to fight for a playoff spot.

Regardless of results though, the players who stuck it out deserve credit. Starters Santoro, Spence, Bob Pike and Jeff Simbrow should give next year's squad a good foundation to build on and with some recruiting luck the team could again attain prominence in the OUAA... A special thanks to managers Tony Moscato and Harold Wolkin whose work is often overlooked. Without them, the coaches, players, and writers would have a much tougher time doing their jobs.

## Cagers stage second half rally

Friday night at Tait, the York Yeomen grew up as a team and overcame a number of obstacles: a poor season that had begun with hopes of improving on last season's runner-up position; players leaving the team for one reason or another; poor fan support that is supposed to benefit a home team; and the criticisms of many people (especially this reporter). But most importantly they overcame a twenty-point second-half deficit enroute to a 74-58 victory over the crosstown Varsity Blues that gave them the fourth and final playoff spot in the east.

Playing before the largest crowd of the season, the teams stayed close throughout the first half. On many occasions the Yeomen, trailing by six to eight points, pulled even to the Blues only to fall back again. York played with their five starters throughout the first half except for a short span when Jerry Varsava came into the game. As usual, the little second year guard from Sarnia

livened things up and kept the Blues on the alert whenever he was near the ball. Toronto, using their ten man bench to full advantage, took a 36-28 lead into the locker room.

On the second half, the Blues ran off ten straight points and the Yeomen cause appeared lost. Continuing to scramble for every loose ball in sight, the York squad closed the gap and at 13:25 of the half, two successful foul shots by Jeff Simbrow gave them their first lead.

At this point, U of T coach John McManus went to his bench once too often. He removed forward Brian Skyvington and guard Peter Oolup, the top Blues of the night, presumably for a short rest, but for some reason they remained on the bench until York had gained a commanding lead.

With the Varsity subs in, York's backcourt of Ev Spence and Vince Santoro went to work. Santoro, playing his finest game of the year, took control of the game and with his

talented passing and driving, surged the Yorkies to their largest lead of the night. With five minutes remaining in the game, three successive Santoro hoops placed the game far out of the Blues' reach and the Yeomen had their playoff position.

Santoro led the attack with 22 points, hitting from outside whenever the middle was plugged. Bob Pike added 17 points and displayed great all-out hustle throughout, especially whenever a loose ball could be seen within range. Bob Wepler, playing on a bad leg, had an off night but still managed to hit for 12 points.

Skyvington led the Blues with 15 points while Oolup added 13 points. Dave Watt, third leading scorer in the conference, managed to score only one point for the night.

The Blues, based on a weekend victory over Ottawa, tied the Yeomen with 6-6 records but York outscored the Blues 152-143 on their season series.

## Basketball Playoff Preview

### Underdogs given small chance in playoffs

By ALAN RISEN

For those of you who enjoy rooting for the underdog, the Ontario Universities Athletic Association's basketball playoffs which got underway Tuesday night, should provide little to cheer about.

The first place teams from the East and West have proven their superiority over the season and the playoffs should go according to the form charts.

Laurentian, with a 10-2 record in the East should have little trouble with the York Yeomen in the quarter-finals. The Yeomen salvaged something from a disappointing season by edging out the Toronto Varsity Blues for the fourth and final playoff spot, but the Red and White will likely go down before the strong Sudbury squad.

In the other quarter-final match in the East, the second place Carleton Ravens will have their hands full with the Ottawa Gee Gees.

Meanwhile out west the Waterloo Warriors have had things pretty much their own way this season, finishing in first place with an 11-1 record. Their only loss was to McMaster and the fourth place Marauders should be rated a small chance of pulling a major upset. Windsor should prevail over Guelph in the other quarter-final game. This could prove to be the best matchup of the lot.

The playoff formula sees the first place team play the fourth place finisher in each division in series A, while the second place team hosts the third place university in series B. Then the winner of series A in the East plays the winner of series B from the West and vice-versa. If all this sounds confusing, just watch Excalibur for weekly results.

The results of the quarter-final matches were not known at press time (see top story for the York-Laurentian game) so here is a capsule rundown on all eight teams with playoff positions and a prediction (for what it's worth) of their chances. The teams are listed in order of their finish in their respective divisions. The stats are based on an OUAA release that covers play up to Feb. 10.

### East

#### LAURENTIAN VOYAGEURS

With a 10-2 won/loss record over the regular season, the Voyageurs are the powerhouse in the East. Their attack is led by Guy Vetric, who with 248 points lead both divisions in scoring. The Voyageurs are an experienced club that lead all other teams in the East in scoring. They also have a fine rebounder in Dan Cattapan and must be rated as strong favourites to reach the finals.

#### CARLETON RAVENS

The Ravens were the only team to beat the Voyageurs this year, and they did it twice. If there is going to be a surprise in the East it will likely come from here. But first the Ravens must beat Ottawa in the quarters. They will likely meet Windsor in the semis, if they do, and that game should end their season. Carleton finished with a 9-3 record this year and relied on Lorne Bowles (148 points) for their scoring. They are a good, young team and have seen fine play from rookie Jon Love. Love is a tall, fast forward and good on rebounds.

#### OTTAWA GEE GEES

The Ottawa Gee Gees, 8-4, are an offensively-minded club led by the veteran Merv Sabey. Playing in his last year of eligibility, Sabey was second in the East in scoring with 186 points. The Gee-Gees might give Carleton some trouble in the quarter-finals.

#### YORK YEOMEN

The Yeomen capped off a disappointing season Friday with a spectacular come from behind victory over the Toronto Varsity Blues for the fourth and final playoff spot. York fans were expecting big things from the Yeomen this year after an impressive showing last season when they finished first in the East and earned a position in the finals in post season playoff action. But the loss of veterans Don Holmstrom and Alfie Lane through graduation left a void on this year's squad that wasn't filled. And last year's surprising showing by the rookies Bob Pike and Vince Santoro was not repeated in their sophomore season. The bright spots were the high scoring of veteran Bob Wepler and the all around fine play of rookie Ev Spence from Oakwood Collegiate. But don't expect York to go past the quarter-finals.

### West

#### WATERLOO WARRIORS

The class of the western division comes from the city of Waterloo. With an 11-1 record this year, the Warriors have shown a well balanced game, leading their division defensively (693 points against) and scoring the second highest team total (837). Their attack is sparked by Mike Moser, considered by many to be the best forward in the OUAA. The Warriors' only loss was at the hands of the McMaster Marauders. They are an experienced club and should be rated the team to beat.

#### WINDSOR LANCERS

The defending OUAA champions from Windsor ended the season in second place with a 9-3 record, having dropped two games to Waterloo. The Guelph Gryphons may give them some trouble in the quarters, but they should prevail and will give Laurentian a fight for a berth in the finals. In fact, an all-western final with Windsor and Waterloo is not unlikely. Bruce Coulthard with 152 points led the Windsor attack which boasted the highest team total (899) in either division.

#### GUELPH GRYPHONS

Wayne Morgan was the highest scorer in the West (238 points) in leading his Gryphons to a 8-4 record this year. Guelph has a high scoring club that topped 100 points in back to back games this year (108 against Lutheran Feb. 7 and 107 against Western Feb. 10). If they continue this type of scoring in the playoffs they might surprise a lot of people.

#### MCMASTER MARAUDERS

The Marauders main claim to fame this season was a 70-61 victory over Waterloo, the only loss inflicted on the Warriors all year. Mac's assistant coach, Mike Lavelle, was Waterloo's head coach two years ago and knows the Warrior style of play. Sam Kaknevicus, from St. Mike's College in Toronto, led the Marauder attack with 219 points this season. Mac has come on very strong in the last half of the season and is the only team that can be rated a chance of upsetting Waterloo in the western division.