

Gee Gees down Yeomen 74-63

Cagers' playoff hopes continue to diminish

By RON KAUFMAN

Last March this writer stated in Excalibur, . . . the Yeomen have nothing to be ashamed of. With their talented crop of rookies having gained a year of experience, next season could well be their championship year." Well sports fans, there's always next year.

The Yeomen seem to have doomed themselves for this season. Granted, they may still make the playoffs. However, it's becoming more apparent with every game that the team just doesn't have it this year.

Last week gave further evidence of the team's early demise. The Yeomen opened with a ho-hum 56-41 victory over Ryerson and closed with a 74-63 loss to the Ottawa Gee-Gees. The split gave the locals a 2-5 league record; overall they have somehow managed to attain a 3-12 record.

Against Ryerson, by far the weakest team in the league, York opened up an eighteen point halftime advantage and then spent the second half trading the Rams mistake for mistake.

The funny side of the game was the commentary provided by the Channel 11 sports crew. Throughout the game they inferred that York was a power to be reckoned with and that the upstart Rams had little chance against such a powerhouse.

Little can be said of the Ottawa game. The Yeomen trailed throughout and were unable to lessen the gap. The main point is that, with the defeat, York virtually assured itself of finishing no higher than third, thereby losing homecourt advantage in the quarter finals.

Should the present level of play continue, then the playoffs will obviously pose no problem to the team this year. Mysteriously, only Bob Weppler and Ev Spence have shown any consistency this year. Returnees Butch Feldman, Vince Santoro and Bob Pike have done little to help the cause.

It's time to truthfully analyse the situation. After dropping a pair in Ottawa last weekend, Coach Bob McKinney commented that the team had been playing steadier ball. He went on to say that "this is a young

team. Their major problem has been a lack of confidence. A lot of freshmen and sophomores are filling key positions."

Well, maybe the coach should face some facts. Other teams around the league have young players, too, and these players are getting the job done. Last year, for example, Windsor won a title with six freshmen on their team.

Secondly, if lack of experience is used as an excuse, then perhaps someone should go over to Tait and ask why the junior varsity programme was scrapped two years ago.

Throughout the States and at major schools in Canada, players learn the system and acquire game experience by playing Junior ball. If there's no inter-university league for the team, then why doesn't York place a team in one of the many industrial leagues around the city?

Thirdly, as athletic co-ordinator Nobby Wirkowski stated, one of the major purposes of the holiday tourney at Christmas was "to recruit or introduce" players to York. Obviously, with an overall 3-12 record, many high school players do not like what they see and travel elsewhere.

Finally, there is no genuine recruiting program at York. It's the same old story: there's only so much money and when the football team gets their chunk, there's not much left.

It's time that something is done to alter the present situation. The athletic administration should decide what they want out of their inter-university program; whether to merely compete or to gain victory.

Under the present system, there's a lot of good athletes and facilities going to waste.

KAUF-DROPS: Next home game is tomorrow night against Queen's . . . Best wishes for a speedy recovery to former Yeomen manager Rick Banks who's in hospital recovering from a holiday accident. Cards can be sent to The University of Kentucky Medical Centre, Lexington, Kentucky.



York's Bob Pike (33) and Butch Feldman (55) grapple for the ball with the University of Ottawa's Vic Chandler (21). The Yeomen went on to lose to the Gee Gees 74-63, leaving the squad in seventh place in the eastern division of the OUA.

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U.S. takes meet

KITCHENER — The York women's swimming team faced stiff

competition in participating in Waterloo's fourth international invitational swim meet here this weekend.

Eight Ontario and seven American universities participated in the two-day event. The Americans came from as far away as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

About 250 swimmers took part, and rosters boasted both national and Olympic champions, like Cincinnati's Heidi Lipe and Varsity's Merrily Stratten.

The York contingent was headed by diver Kathy Lane and sprinter Paula Thompson.

Lane, a former national champion, was third on the three metre board last year. Unfortunately, she hit the board on one of her dives and was not able to compete in the finals.

Thompson placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle, where the third, fourth and fifth place finishes were awarded on a judge's decision as all had the same time. She also placed sixth in the 100-yard freestyle.

In the relays, Jan Bwler, Adrian Boyd, Racheal Upper and Gail Brown were tenth in the 200-yard medley while Thompson, Boyd, Bwler and Sue Scott placed eighth in the 400-yard freestyle.

The Americans dominated the meet, with Michigan taking top honours with 295 points, followed by Clarion with 293.



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