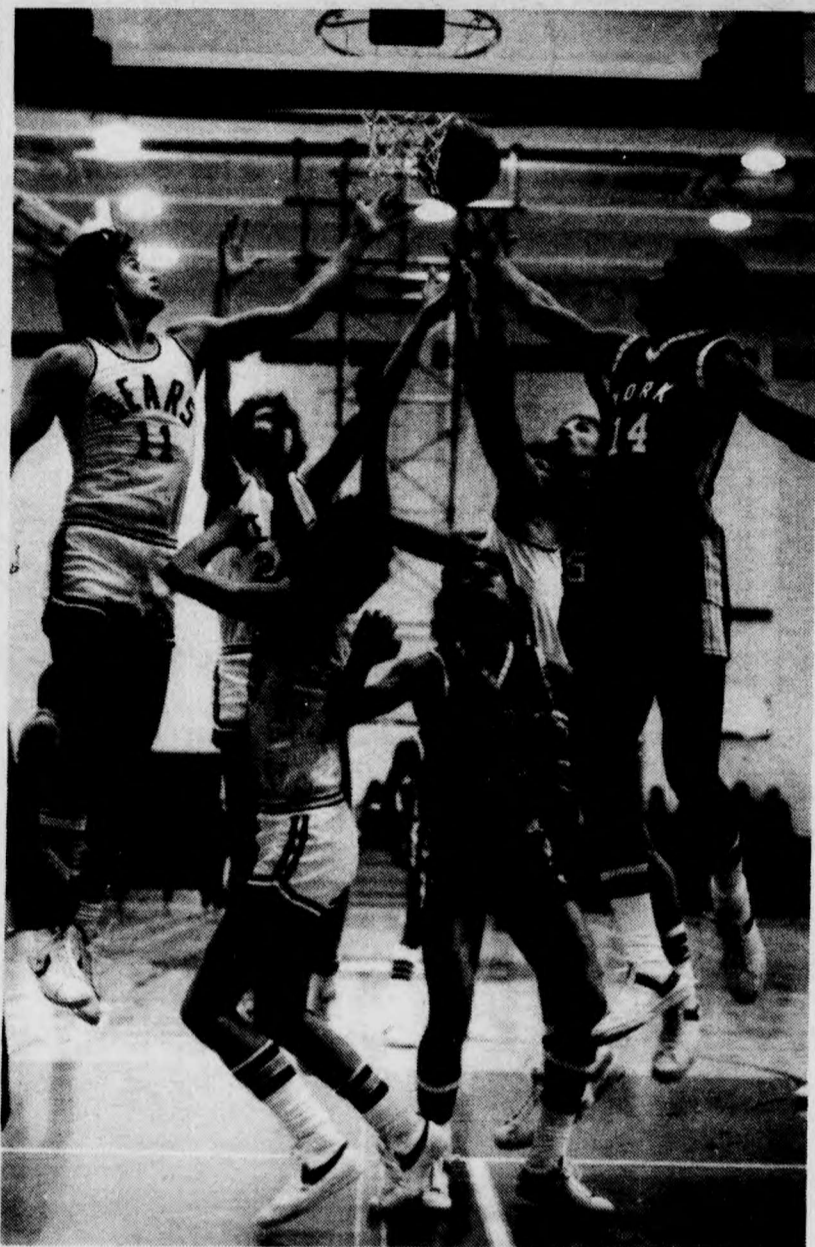


# Cagers' challenge falls short



Special to Excalibur  
CALGARY — The York Yeomen, ranked the number one university basketball team in Canada throughout much of the past season, never quite lived up to their top billing at the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union national championship held at the Calgary Corral last weekend.

For the most part, the Yeomen played uninspired ball. With the exception of the final half against St. Francis Xavier X-Men, in the game to decide third place, York lacked the intensity needed to carry them to the title.

The lack of intensity was a problem that plagued the Yeomen throughout the second half of their regular schedule in the OUAA East Division. Blame can be placed on the fact that York competed in one of the weakest divisions in the country.

The truth is that once Yeomen got to the nationals, they hadn't played enough pressure games during the season. Even then, the team was more than competitive in the three games they played.

They lost to St. Mary's, the eventual champions by only six points (98-92), defeated St. FX 79-73 to grab third place and opened the tournament with a 93-78 win over the McGill Redmen.

Even against McGill, however, York didn't play inspired ball. They took an early lead and relinquished it only to come on again in the second half.

"That's the way it's been all year," York coach Bob Bain said

after the win over the Quebec school. "We get a lead and then lose our intensity. I don't think we played really well."

Bo Pelech, the tournament all-star, led York in scoring in all three games.

Against McGill, he had 23. He had 28 against St. Mary's and collected 25 in York's victory over St. FX.



Dave Coulthard, picked the most valuable player in the country prior to the tournament, had only 13 points against McGill, but picked up his pace against St. FX netting 18.

"We redeemed ourselves somewhat," the guard said after the team had grabbed third place for the second consecutive year. "We hadn't played well and there was some fireworks between halves. There was pride on the line and we had to turn things around."

York, after trailing by eight points, (39-31) at the half came out and played the type of defence they should have played throughout the tournament and made up the difference after only three minutes.

Although Yeomen played well only in spots, several members of the team had outstanding performances. Pelech, as usual, was the team leader, Coulthard showed flashes of his future greatness and centre Lonnie Ramati showed he is one of the finest centres in Canada. Paul Jones, Ed Siebert, and Peter Greenway, played well in the three day event.

## Coulthard chosen MVP

By Lawrence Knox

Dave Coulthard, the 6-foot, 2-inch fleet-footed guard from Tillsonburg, received the Mike Moser Award as Canada's most valuable basketball player this season last week in Calgary.

Coulthard, one of the less emotional types on the Yeomen, expressed surprise at the honor. "I didn't expect to win anything that big," the soft-spoken second year student remarked. "I figured Lonnie (Ramati), Bo (Pelech) or one of St. Mary's guards would have won it. Coulthard was referring to Huskies' Mickey Fox, an American who scored 37 points in the CIAU final to lead St. Mary's to victory over Victoria Vikings. Fox was also named to the CIAU and tournament all-star team.

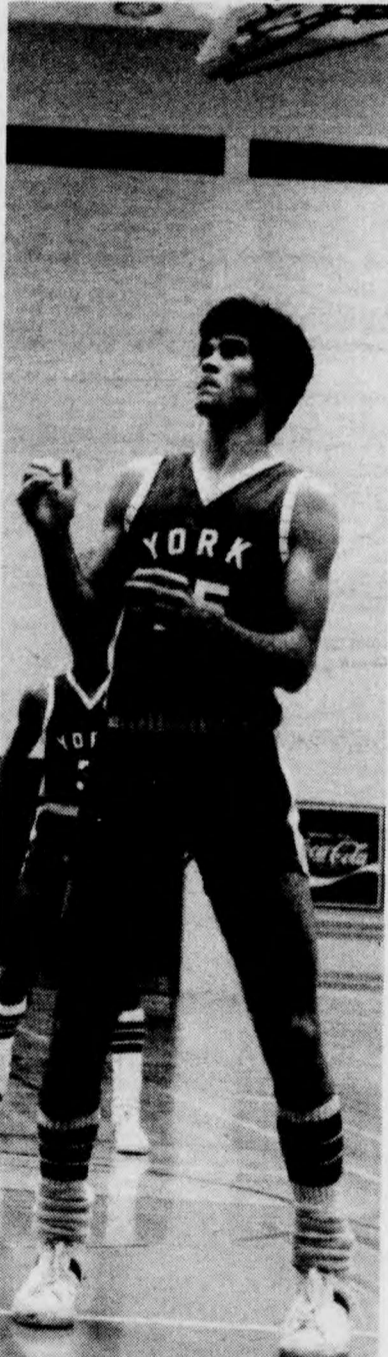
"I'm flattered to win such an award," Coulthard said. "I didn't think I played consistently enough this season to deserve it."

"I would have rather come away with the national title, but I'm still honored."

York coach Bob Bain said he was happy to see Coulthard win the award. "It's a super thing for David to win and great for the school since it's the first time a player from York has won such an award."

Centre Ramati and Coulthard were both named to the CIAU first all-star team and Pelech was named to the tournament all-star team. Bain was equally pleased about that.

Notes - Tonight, the annual athletic awards dinners for men and women when the Yeomen and Yeowomen of the Year will be named. The women's banquet will be held in Vanier's Dining Hall and the men's in Winter College.



Dave Coulthard

## East division too weak?

By Bruce Gates

There is an old saying that when there is no peril in the fight, there is no glory in the triumph. And that little bromide is more than appropriate for what happened to the Yeomen basketball team this year.

Almost to a man, the players point the finger at their weak division as one of the causes of their downfall in Calgary. Just an excuse, you say? Not so. For none other than the coach of St. Mary's Huskies, this year's CIAU champs alluded to much the same thing. Back in January, on nation-wide television, Coach Brian Heaney delivered the sermon from the mount. Said he: "The Atlantic schools have an advantage over the rest of the country when it comes to preparing for the nationals. Our tough competition toughens the teams mentally and physically," which prepares them for the pressure cooker atmosphere in the CIAU playoffs.

The results speak for themselves, and they lead to comments like this one from York coach Bob Bain: "I think it was just a case of St. Mary's being superior that game."

For six Yeomen—Eddie Siebert, Ted Galka, Lonnie Ramati, Paul Layefsky, Chris McNeilly and Peter Greenway—Calgary was

their last hurrah. They lost the heartbreaker to SMU yet they beat the Huskies in practically every department. York out rebounded SMU offensively 21-9, they out scored SMU from the field, making 41 of 88 shots to the Huskies' 35 for



Coach Bain reflects

66. But they lost the game at the foul line.

Fouls killed the Yeomen, SMU went 28 for 34 from the line, York only 10 for 13.

"We were trying to block too many shots," Peter Greenway recalled. "Instead of putting our

arms out and leaning back we leaned into them." The result was inevitable if the referees were calling it close.

Still it all comes back to that lack of competition in the OUAA East.

"Our division hurt us," forward Eddie Siebert admitted. "The things we could do in our division we couldn't do against better teams."

"We were on the decline the last few weeks of the season, and St. Mary's was peaking at the (CIAU) tournament."

Added Paul Layefsky: "Some competition would have helped our defence when playing against better players. It would have helped us keep our intensity."

Nobody, though, takes anything away from St. Mary's. As Layefsky said: "St. Mary's is just a really great team."

Added Chris McNeilly: "St. Mary's has a well-developed bench and they used their players well. Also, the (AUAA) league down there is much stronger."

Despite the bitter disappointment, York still finished up a winner, beating St. Francis Xavier "for pride," as Ted Galka put it.

The Yeomen also had a lot of fun during the season as a team. Recalled Galka: "We really had some good times together."

## Basketball team a victim of circumstance



LAWRENCE KNOX

By Lawrence Knox

Now that St. Mary's Huskies have been crowned the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union champions in men's basketball for the second consecutive year, following their 90-83 victory over Victoria Vikings last weekend in Calgary, one question remains to be answered. Was York University

overrated this season? Their record says no, but their inconsistent play says yes.

York entered the CIAU playdowns as the top basketball team between Newfoundland and British Columbia, but ended up third best.

Yeomen were hard pressed to beat McGill Redmen in the opening

round before losing to St. Mary's, ranked number two this season. In the only meeting between the two teams this season, a tournament at Montreal's Concordia University, York, minus star centre Lonnie Ramati and forward Paul Layefsky lost to the Huskies by two points.

Rankings are somewhat like political polls. What really counts is who wins the title.

"It's good publicity (being ranked No. 1), but we haven't won anything yet," York coach Bob Bain said earlier this

season. "Being ranked number one isn't that meaningful unless we win at the end of the season."

Ramati, said it all when he stated, "Manitoba, last year, was overrated because they weren't tested enough." Although the Yeomen were undefeated in the regular season, they failed to play consistent ball, which can be attributed to the lack of competition in the Ontario Universities Athletic Association East Division.

York wasn't sharp in their OUAA quarter-final victory over Laurentian Voyageurs and was

hard pressed to beat Carleton in the OUAA semi-finals. York's failure to play tougher competition probably cost them the OUAA final, which Windsor Lancers won.

There is no question as far as pure talent goes, York University led by Ramati and the country's most valuable player, Dave Coulthard, are second to none. Bain and assistant coach Gerry Barker certainly aren't to blame. York was a victim of circumstance, a good team in a poor division.