

Team follows up loss to UoT with pair of road wins

York field hockey romps in Ottawa

by Riccardo Sala

After a sidetrip to LaLa-land that left their coach shaking her head, the field hockey Yeowomen are back on course for the OWIAA championships.

The diversion was a 1-0 loss to the University of Toronto Blues Thursday. Fortunately, a 6-0 decision over Laurentian and a 10-1 win against McGill in Ottawa this weekend helped show that whatever was ailing York wasn't terminal.

The wins, over two teams outside of York's conference, counted for three points each as opposed to the regular two pointers.

The top scorer over the weekend was Sherri Field, with a combined total of seven goals,

followed by Jillian Sewell.

"We're cooking. We're really on target now (for the provincials)," said York coach Regina Spencer.

"All the players were really focussed. If they (York) had played this way against U of T Thursday they would have won," she added.

Spencer noted several factors off the field that likely helped her team gel in those two games. One of the more obvious was team spirit, which she felt was bolstered by this road trip, the first real one this season for the Yeowomen, who have remained largely at home for games.

During Thursday's game, any spirit at all would have been welcome.

"We (York) did not play well. We played 20 of the 70 minutes, and you cannot be out of the game for 50 minutes and expect to win," she said.

The lone goal in Thursday's game came from the Blues' Michelle Colaco, who was also the scorer in Toronto's 1-0 win over the Yeowomen earlier in the season.

Besides the score, one thing consistent in both games was the play of York keeper Michelle Capperault, "without whom we would have lost 6-0 (in this second game)," Spencer noted.

Intensity was the key word that Spencer used in describing the play of her team Thursday. Actually the lack of it.

"There was no hustle as a team. We lacked the gusto that we should have had against a team like UofT," she said.

Spencer's tone was different Sunday night on the heels of a pair of weekend wins.

The weekend marked the end of regular season play for the Yeowomen. The challenge for York now is to defend the OWIAA title they won last season. The Yeowomen can expect some stiff competition in that regard, especially from U of T.

York's first playoff game is this Friday at 3 pm at Lamport Stadium. It won't cost all that much to watch the Yeowomen try and defend their provincial title—admission is free of charge.

Puck win for Yeomen

by Josh Rubin

Brian who?

The York Yeomen hockey squad dumped the visiting Queen's Golden Gaels 7-3 last Thursday, in their first regular season game since the graduation of '91 league scoring leader Brian MacDonald.

The York assault was led by the line of newcomer Sean Betts, along with veterans Jim Hulton and Pino Chiapetta.

After practising together for only two days, the trio exploded against the Gaels for eleven points, including a pair of power play goals.

Hulton, who got a goal and a pair of assists, says there really isn't any secret to the line's success.

"Nobody's a natural goal scorer. We're big and strong and we have to bump people around," Hulton said.

Though the Yeomen have never been particularly strong starters, Hulton says the Queen's matchup is a blueprint for what the Yeomen must do to succeed this season.

"The minute we stop working is the minute we stop winning," Hulton explained.

Hulton also suggested the win's importance wasn't diminished by the fact it came against Queen's, perennial doormats in the OUAA.

"We can't be looking at a team and saying 'it's only Queen's' or 'it's only Ryerson'. Besides, it's nice to just get the two points," Hulton said.

Another bright point for the Yeomen in this one was the play of netminder Willie Popp, whose sparkling play during a first period five on three Queen's powerplay overshadowed a slow York start.

"Willie kept us in the game during the first period. That's the kind of goaltending we're going to need all year," said York head coach Graham Wise.

Wise also said he was happy with the win, the first period performance notwithstanding.

"I don't know if it was nerves or jitters or whatever, but we just got off to a slow start," Wise said.

John Phelan, Wise's counterpart with Queen's, said he was impressed with the depth of the Yeomen's powerplay.

"This year, they come into the zone and try to pass it around two or three times before shooting. Last season, they just tried to get it to MacDonald," Phelan said.

The Yeomen's next opposition will be a little tougher than the Golden Gaels. Friday they take to the road to meet the powerful Waterloo Warriors, who many observers expect to be among the country's top teams this season.

The next chance most York fans have to catch the Yeomen in action is Sunday, November 3, when they host the Guelph Gryphons in a 3:00pm start at the Ice Palace. Admission to Yeomen home games is free for all those with valid York student I.D.

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York puts boot to Lady Blues

by Riccardo Sala

With their 3-0 win over the University of Toronto Blues last Wednesday, the soccer Yeowomen showed that in this subway series, they're the better club.

Despite the outcome this was a game York had to fight to win. The scoring didn't start until late in the second half. Until then, and especially in the first half, it was anyone's match, with a lot of tough battles for knockdowns.

"We should have won the game in the first half," Toronto coach Niki Nicolaou said afterwards.

"It (the final) doesn't reflect the game. It could have gone the other way," Nicolaou said.

York coach David Bell concurred, noting his team started off the first half poorly.

Nevertheless, Nicolaou said, in the intense games that matchups between U of T and York seem to produce, the team scoring first usually goes on to win.

Yeowoman Sam Hellens made that dictum work later in the second half by scoring for York. Hellens' shot found its way past Toronto keeper Marife Villagonzalo for the crucial first goal.

The Blues could do little to retaliate. In the first half, they had outshot the Yeowomen. In the second, after York's halftime wake up call, Toronto found it hard carrying the battle uphill.

The few times the Blues got past the midfield, they ran up against a fast York defence and Yeowoman netminder Cheryl Punnett.

But the Blues' Villagonzalo also made her mark in the game, including a beautiful diving save in the second half that brought cheers from the gallery — and not only from Toronto fans.

York kept up the pressure offensively, giving the Blues no rest on defence. Hellens followed up her opening goal with another soon after. Hellens also assisted as teammate Barb Sajben rounded out the scoring.

The Yeowomen's 3-0 victory

followed their 2-0 shutout over the Blues earlier in the season.

Compared to that first game, Nicolaou felt that the Wednesday matchup was the better game.

York coach David Bell agreed afterwards.

"Certainly U of T played better than they did the first time (against York)," he said, adding "I think that we're a much better team than they are."

Nicolaou also conceded several things about her York adversaries.

"They're an explosive team. This (York) is not a team to make any mistakes against," she said.

UofT was the Yeowomen's last home game of the regular season, although several more matchups remain before the OWIAA finals. Bell's team right now is the best in the province, though the York coach feels that there are still some minor items which need working on in his club.

"We have to improve upon our intensity throughout the game. It has to be higher. We have to work upon getting into the game sooner," he explained.

Soccer squad gets bounced

by Riccardo Sala

It was a Cinderella half-season for the soccer Yeomen, but midnight finally hit on Sunday in the form of a scoreless draw against Carleton.

Because the Yeomen were penalized their points from five games, they needed a win in the Carleton game to qualify for post-season play.

The penalty was levied by the OUAA after it was discovered Yeomen players Marc Basciano and Gino Pollastrone were actually under probation or serving suspensions on other leagues.

Now, with the tie, the Yeomen will be watching from the sidelines as their rivals battle it out for the provincial title.

"It was a good game. It was a hard-fought game. We outplayed them (Carleton)," York assistant coach Norman Crandles said after the tie against Carleton.

Head coach Eric Willis echoed Crandles' sentiments.

"It was obviously a situation where we wanted to win, we had to win.

This (the tie) effectively puts an end to our playoff situation, but not for a lack of trying," Willis said.

York's best opportunity came from a penalty shot with fifteen minutes left in the match. That attempt fell short, as did other York scoring chances.

"We were in the 18 yard box for so many possessions, but we couldn't put it in," assistant captain Domenic Giorgi said.

Giorgi blasted the Carleton side.

"It's very frustrating to work so hard to come through in the last four games. We were all over them (Carleton). They were playing the spoilers. They had nothing to gain and nothing to lose, (from a York victory)," he explained.

"We all know that we deserve to be in there," Giorgi noted.

The game was the latest emotional roller coaster for a team which has had its share over the season. In the suspension, the Yeomen lost two of their best players at once as well as being forced to get enough points in their last five games to qualify for the

playoffs.

With a loss to U of T in early October, that meant that York had to win their last four matches. The Yeomen were up to their third victory when Carleton shut the door.

"The breaks didn't go our way and I guess that it wasn't meant to be," Crandles mused.

"You couldn't have asked any more from the guys. They showed a lot of character," he added.

"There wasn't a player on the team who didn't respond to the challenge of trying to make the playoff," Eric Willis said. "That we could have come so close and yet just missed out at the end, it is really heartbreaking."

Saturday, York had come away against Trent with a 5-1 victory.

Trent opened the scoring in Saturday's game. York responded with five unanswered goals, starting off with Vince Pileggi's opener. Hunter Madeley, Stuart McAslan and Corey Balducci all contributed goals while Domenic Giorgi scored off a penalty shot to round out the 5-1 York win.

Happenin' Hoopsters

by Mike Raycraft

Height kills. Just ask the York Yeomen basketball squad.

Twin towers Gord Wood and Brian Bleich of Brock University proved too much as the Badgers dunked York 116-96 Saturday evening at Tait McKenzie. Wood and Bleich, both 6'8", combined for nearly half of Brock's points, scoring 29 and 27 respectively. Steady-handed Mark Bellai topped the Yeomen with 23 points.

Shano Cotechini and Marc Gardner both netted 18 points for the Yeomen cause. The loss dropped York's pre-season record to 0-2. Despite a determined effort on the part of the home team, particularly in the 1st half, this game belonged to Brock. Proof positive of that is that the Yeomen held the lead only once.

Taking full advantage of its arsenal, the Badgers used a piercing inside game leaving York —

especially Chris Pollmann — overmatched.

Though the fledging Yeomen centre played a strong two-way game, his hands were full all night long. Wood from the left. Wood up the middle. Bleich up the middle. You get the picture. Little wonder, then, that Pollmann fouled out.

Beside their stars, Brock also received admirable performances from an excellent supporting cast, notably guards Dave Picton and Allen MacDougall. Indeed, a well-rounded Badger squad took the floor right out from under York's feet, an occurrence sure to happen to many Brock rivals this upcoming season.

"They (Brock) are a first-rate ball club," said York head coach Bob Bain.

Bain took the loss in stride, keepin g in perspective the fact

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