

Sports and Recreation

'Model' facility opens on campus



Geek that's a swell plaque. Mac and Godfrey help open track centre.

Gary Hershorn

Danny Pivnick

There was a sense of accomplishment in the air Saturday at the official opening of the new Metropolitan Toronto Track and Field Centre.

Genuine excitement was evident among the many track and field buffs in attendance as Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey and York University President Ian Macdonald jointly cut the ribbon to officially open the new centre, located at the northern end of the campus.

The new centre, dedicated to the devotion of amateur athletes, marks a milestone for track and field athletes in Metro Toronto and Ontario, a group who truly lack international standard training facilities.

Chairman Godfrey expressed the conviction that "this centre will be the cornerstone of facilities built in the future and will serve as a model for others to be built in Canada."

The centre itself is comprised of three sub-components — an indoor fieldhouse complete with a four-lane, 200-metre banked oval track and six-lane track; an outdoor eight-lane, 400 metre track with adjoining 125-metre sprint runways; and a paddock area set aside for the throwing events. In total, the facilities occupy approximately fifteen acres of land on the Steeles Avenue frontage of the campus.

Some of the more unique features of the centre include the separate indoor jogging track, indoor practice throwing nets designed for shot put, discus and 35 lb. weight toss, a 30-foot clearance for pole vaulters, as well as a sports injury clinic to be staffed by a full-time doctor.

Funding of the 4.1 million

dollar centre, which took just over a year to construct, was provided through the joint efforts of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, the Provincial Government (Wintario), the Federal Government and York University. Private donations also helped, the most instrumental being that of former NHL great Bobby Orr.

Operation and management of the facilities are under a five-man Operating and Programming Committee chaired by Controller Bob Yuill of North York. Mr. D. Thompson is the Manager of the Centre and along with his staff will be responsible for its day to day operations.

The centre is open to the general public after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and all day Saturday. Cost of a yearly indoor/outdoor pass is \$60.

York University, which shares jointly in the operating expenses, will make primary use of the facilities up to 3:00 p.m. during the school year.

President Macdonald indicated that the Phys. Ed. department would now be able to branch out and develop their program to a greater extent by utilizing the new centre concurrently with Tait Mackenzie. "The new centre," according to Macdonald, "will help York University with respect to both the Phys. Ed. department, as well as with the relationship to the outside community."

The new Metropolitan Toronto Track and Field Centre is truly an impressive complex. As Bobby Orr said, "You have to go a long way to find such a facility." Fortunately, we have it right here on campus.

Rugby team eyes playoffs

Steve Church

On Saturday, a somber group of rugby Yeomen journeyed to Waterloo to encounter a perennially tough Waterloo Warrior Squad.

With a 3-1 record to their credit, and hopes of capturing one of the two playoff spots available (the playoff is a one-game final), the Yeomen realized the importance of this game.

Undaunted by inclement weather conditions, York quickly opened up the scoring with two tries within the first fifteen minutes of play.

The first try came as a result of the ball being flawlessly linked out to the wing, with full-back Larry Spriet scissoring inside and side-stepping two Warrior backs for the score.

The second try, the result of a crashing five-yard effort, was scored by Andy "Chugger" Westcott, a dynamic first year wing forward.

All Waterloo could manage was two penalty goals, leaving the Yeomen in the lead, 8-6, at the half.

In the second half, with the wing at their backs, Yeoman strategy was to take advantage of the wind and pin Waterloo deep in their own zone. Waterloo exited from their end of the field on few occasions, as a result of long sideline kicks.

Yeoman forwards performed commendably against the best set of forwards (talent-wise) in the league. Even in losing a lot of ball in set pieces (scrums and lineouts), the forwards had the unifying thought of digging for the ball and putting it out to the backs who were burning Waterloo all day.

Scoring for York in the second half was Lloyd "Swot" Lewis, bull-dogging a try over from a few yards out, and also kicking a 45-yard penalty goal that closed the scoring at 15-6, in York's

This leaves York with a 4-1 record and in sole possession of first place. The Yeomen have three games left to play against Queen's, Brock and R.M.C.

As coach Mike Dinning said, "For the duration of the season, we will have to think rugby. We have a good shot at the OUAA title. Complacency can be our only possible impediment to the goals that we have set ourselves."

Next game is Saturday on the York rugby pitch against Queen's. Kick-off is slated for 1:00. Fan support would be appreciated.

'Darkhorse': York's best ever

Sue Miller & Marj Watt

"This year York will be the darkhorse team in the race for the top."

Coach Frances Flint's prediction for her Yeowomen basketball team may not be too far wrong, either. Not if their first five exhibition games of the season are an indication of things to come.

Yeowomen opened the season with a strong 79-41 win over a game Alumni team last Wednesday night.

After defeating the Alumni, York rolled over Centennial College, by a score of 66-14. Leading scorers for Yeowomen were Barb Whibbs, with 22 points and Kim Holden, with 10 points.

On the weekend the team travelled to Kingston to participate in the Queen's University Early Bird Tournament, where they came away with two wins and one loss.

In their first game the underrated Yeowomen surprised Queen Golden Gaels (a Tier I team, Yeowomen are in Tier II) by beating them 75-42.

Later that day York met the Kingston Grads and managed to survive mid-game trouble to win a decisive 59-48 score.

York's four-game winning streak was finally halted in the final game of the tournament, as the Yeowomen dropped a well contested battle, 68-61, to Ottawa Rookies.



Pierre DesOrmeaux

High scorers for the tournament were, once again, Barb Whibbs and Kim Holden, who led a strong team effort.

This year's Yeowomen are the best team of basketball players York has ever had. With a balanced blend of rookies and experienced veterans, coach Frances Flint is optimistic.

"Once we mature as a team, we

are looking for a very successful season. We have a very young team, but a great deal of talent.

"This weekend, at the Queen's Tournament, York showed that we're one of the most well-balanced teams in Ontario. Our aggression and natural talent makes us a hard team to beat. Certainly we will play very exciting basketball."

Sex and sport

Lydia Pawlenko

Cultural brainwashing initiated through the media and the home and school environments has inhibited women's involvement in sport, according to Abby Hoffman.

Speaking at an informal noon gathering at the York Women's Centre, Hoffman, a one-time Olympic athlete and outspoken feminist, expressed concern over society's deep-seated attitudes concerning women's participation in sports. "People tend to regard this area as a male domain," she said.

Hoffman, a key administrator of sports programmes in the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, ceased competition in track and field in 1976, after 20 years. But it was in competitive hockey that she realized the tremendous barriers which female athletes must overcome.

As an 8-year-old, Hoffman sneaked her way into playing in a

boys' hockey league. After being selected to play on an all-star level, her birth certificate disclosed her sex. "I was the right age, but the wrong sex," she explained.

After a year of pleading her case, Hoffman was allowed to play on the team, on the condition she would put on her skates in a separate dressing-room. "It was that bizarre that this piece of idiocy managed to get into *Time Magazine*."

Hoffman believes people find something inherently morally wrong in allowing girls and boys to play sports together. "Somehow it is publicly indecent for a boy to body check a girl within public morality."

Education within family units or the school system can break down a lot of mythology surrounding the limitations of women in general, not only in sports.