

# Water polo team strong in early play

Rose Crawford

Suffering from a severe lack of manpower, the York Yeomen water polo team still managed two convincing victories against the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo at last weekend's Early Bird Tournament hosted by York.

The Yeomen started the lengthy one-day tournament at nine o'clock in the morning against U. of T. with an easy 11-3 victory. Neil Harvey, Stefan Micallef, and Trevor Man led the York scoring with three goals each. The other two York scores came from Charles Karstadt and Rich Bennett.

The University of Waterloo was York's next opponent and once again the Yeomen chalked up an impressive victory defeating the Warriors 12-5.

Harvey, Micallef, and Man were again the principle goal scorers for York. They accounted for eleven of the twelve goals scored by the Yeomen. Stewart Howard rounded out York's scoring. The last game of the day, scheduled for 5:20 p.m., saw a tired Yeomen squad go up against the Western Mustangs.

The 13-6 score in favour of the Mustangs clearly showed how much the lack of manpower

really hurt the Yeomen. The same seven players were forced to play the whole tournament and the score of that game clearly reflected their fatigue.

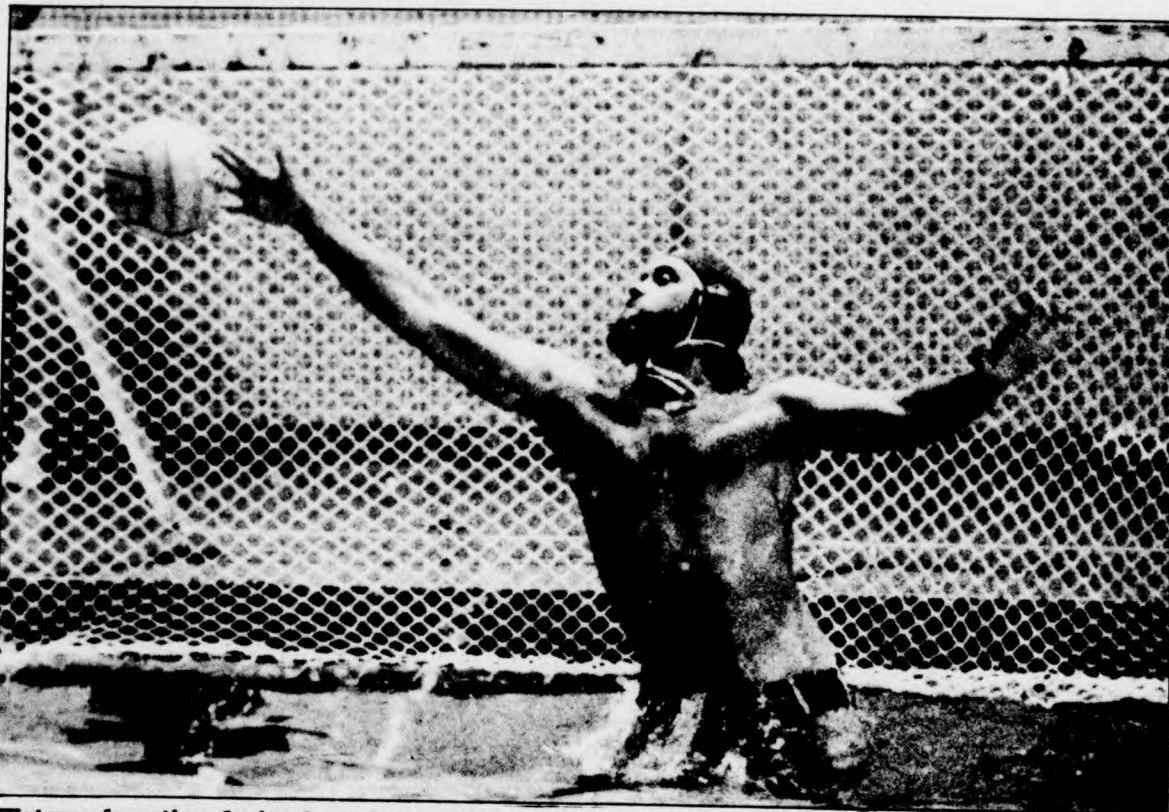
Following the tournament coach Kevin Jones expressed much satisfaction at how well his team performed, but he could not stress enough how badly he needs more players.

"We've got the nucleus for a good team, and provided that all the water polo players out there come and give me the bench strength I need, we've got a realistic chance at making the finals."

With the exception of Man, whose status as a York student has yet to be determined, all of last year's starting seven players have left York.

Jones now is faced with the difficult task of rebuilding a winning team and without new talent to draw from that task is virtually impossible.

To add to Jones' troubles, the Yeomen will be competing in the much tougher Western Division this year against U. of T., McMaster, Waterloo, and Western. According to Jones, "It's a tougher division than the Eastern Division and therefore it will be harder to make the finals."



Water polo action during last weekend's Early Bird Tournament. The Yeomen won two of the three games they played.

Given the strength of new players we could finish second in our division and that means we'd make the OUAA finals for the first time."

York's potential was evident by the results of the Early Bird Tournament. As Jones commented, "We did well until we ran out of gas."

Any York student who is interested in playing water polo for the Yeomen is urged to contact Jones at 667-3270 for further information.

## Mustangs stampede Yeomen

Mike Leonetti

It was a game the York Yeomen would like to forget about very quickly. A 44-1 loss is hardly the way to open a new season of football but that is exactly what happened to the Yeomen last Saturday before 7000 Western Mustang fans at Little Memorial Stadium in London.

The Mustangs were led by fullback Greg Marshall who scored three touchdowns from twelve, five and two yards out. Dan Dominico and Chris Marcus rounded out Mustang's major scoring on a 69 yard pass and an 80 yard interception return. Kicker Kevin Rydeard hit on three field goals and five converts.

Yeomen kicker Mark Hopkins kicked a 82 yard single off a punt for York's only point.

Despite the one-sidedness of the score, Yeomen coach Dave Pickett remains optimistic and confident about the team.

"I am not honestly discouraged by what I saw. I have

confidence in what we're doing. 44-1 was not indicative of what the game was really like. This is a game we can learn from. Certainly it's no shame to lose to a team like the Mustangs."

Pickett said the team was uptight and nervous and perhaps a little intimidated although he quickly added that the team was well prepared physically and seemed anxious to play the game. But the Yeomen never got on track in the game as they were only able to muster 154 yards on offence. The Mustangs churned out 405 total yards against a much overworked York defence.

It was an especially rough initiation for the Yeomen offensive backfield which consists of three rookies, quarterback Tino Iacono along with running-backs Nord Williams and Mike Joyce. All were playing their first university football game. Western, on the other hand, had four players in their backfield all of whom are four-year veterans.

Iacono, only 19 years old, completed nine of twenty passes for 95 yards and four interceptions. The statistics may not be impressive but Pickett felt

his young quarterback showed he could work under fire. "He showed poise, character and courage. Tino is young but he shows leadership on the field and he has a lot of guts."

As for the defence, Pickett thought the unit played well but was simply on the field for too long, thus the Mustangs were able to run up the score.

Unfortunately for the Yeomen, nose guard John MacDonald suffered a broken leg and will be sidelined for the remainder of the season. It has not yet been decided who will take his place.

### next game is a must win situation

Pickett described the loss to the Mustangs as "a real team effort." It will take a team effort of a different kind for the Yeomen to win their next game against Laurier this Friday night. Even this early in the season Pickett characterizes this game as a must-win situation. It will not be an easy task because Laurier is sure to be fired up for their home fans and they are looking to redeem themselves after a 45-21 drubbing at the hands of the Varsity Blues last Friday.

A second consecutive loss at this point could put a severe dent in the Yeomen playoff aspirations.

Notes: Mark Hopkins will be handling the kicking duties for the Yeomen. Last year's outstanding kicker Sergio Capobianco is still not with the team. Defensive back Doug Taylor suffered an ankle injury and his status for Friday's game was not yet determined.

Labatt's has announced that it will present plaques to two outstanding York players at each game. Last weekend's winners were line backer-punter Mark Hopkins and defensive back Jerry Phillip.

## Sound beating doesn't upset Coach Dinning

Jim Russell

Most coaches are usually not happy about being on the short end of a 24-3 score. But Mike Dinning, coach of the York Yeomen rugby team, isn't upset by it. He feels that the score is not indicative of the game or of the season to come.

In the season opener played in London last Saturday, the Yeomen lost by that score to last year's OUAA finalists from Western. But with only ten minutes left in the game, things were still close. Western had scored twelve points on two penalties and two dropped goals, while York's Mike Clayton had kicked a penalty for three points. But more importantly from a defensive viewpoint, York had not given up a try, and a try of their own would have put them right back in the game. Then, as Dinning said: "we had to open the game up, we missed a couple of key tackles, they scored twice and put the game away!"

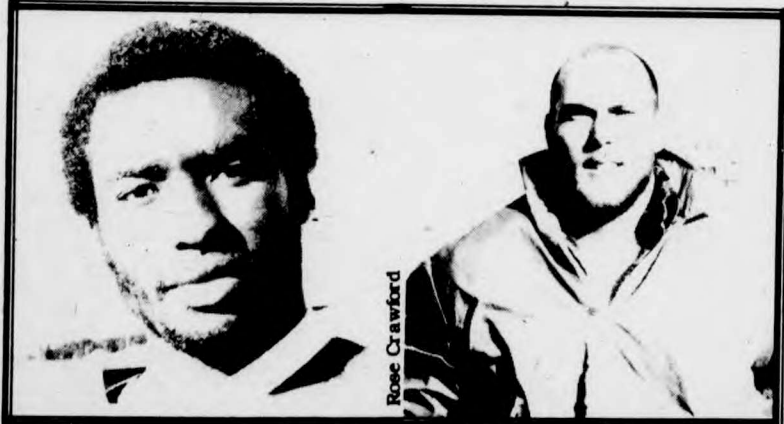
One of the reasons for Dinning's acceptance of the loss is that he did not really expect to win in the first place. "Western lost last year's final in triple overtime and all fifteen players from that team were on the field Saturday."

Dinning is more concerned about the future. He is building. York has a young team with many good first year players and he has not lost any from last year through graduation. Best of all according to him, none of his players will be leaving at the end of this season.

Though he refused to make any predictions as to what the Yeomen record will be, he did confidently say that it will be an improvement over last year's three wins and five losses. He feels Western, Queen's and McMaster will be the teams to beat this time around. U of T, last year's champions, will still be tough, but they have lost many good players.

Dinning is also optimistic about the future of rugby in general. In 1975, when he first came to York, some Yeomen had never played the game before. Now some 300 high schools in Ontario have rugby programs.

The Yeomen are back in action again this Saturday, when they will be hosting Queen's. The second team will be kicking off at 12:30, while the firsts play a two. Wednesday they play the Blues from U of T.



Yeomen Jerry Phillip (left) and Mark Hopkins (right), were the inaugural winners of the Labatt's "Players of the game" award.

## Excalibur Staff Meetings

Thursdays at Three

111 Central Square

