

# SPORTS

## 1990-91 Varsity Preview

by Riccardo Sala

**Y**ork's varsity teams run the gamut from awesome to awful. In the former, teams such as Yeowomen field hockey and York gymnastics are almost always in the chase for that crowning prize, a national championship. In the latter, the Yeomen football team stands out.

There are halfway teams, contenders one year, pretenders the next. Yet, Tait-Mackenzie gym is covered with banners, and every year brings the promise of at least one more addition to the collection. This season won't be different.

### Badminton

**Yeomen:** Coached last year by Eddie Watt, who was also a player, this squad made it to within a win of qualifying for the OUAA playoffs. This year Watt returns, but as assistant coach to head honcho Fred Fletcher.

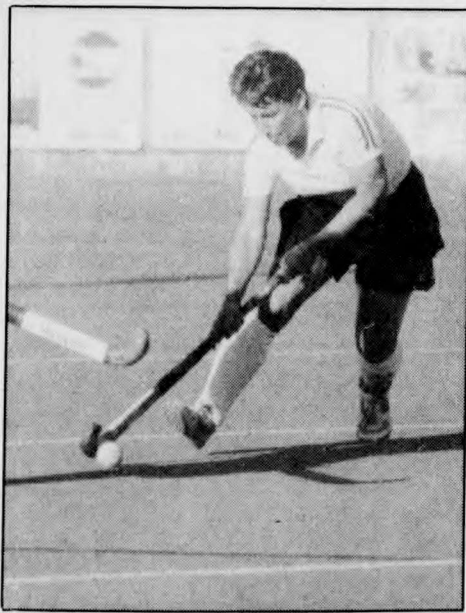
**Yeowomen:** Last season the team came sixth in the province. In the OWIAA singles scene, Yeowoman Sharon Johnston tied for third place. This year, the squad shares head coach Fred Fletcher with the Yeomen.

### Basketball

**Yeowomen:** Placed fifth in the OWIAA East Division with a 6-6 record. This hard luck squad was plagued with injuries, including Cathy Amaro, the 88-89 east division rookie-of-the-year, who was sidelined for the season. She is back this year, though two veterans, Wendy Beach and Heather Reid, have bid adieu to York's poured concrete. Coach Bill Pangos has four or five new players lined up, though no names were finalised.

**Yeomen:** Last year's squad should have been sponsored by a diaper company.

There were only two non-rookies on that team, and the statistics reflected this with a 4-14 record, 4th in the province. Coach Bob Bain has lined up several new players for this season, who will complement the group returning from last year.



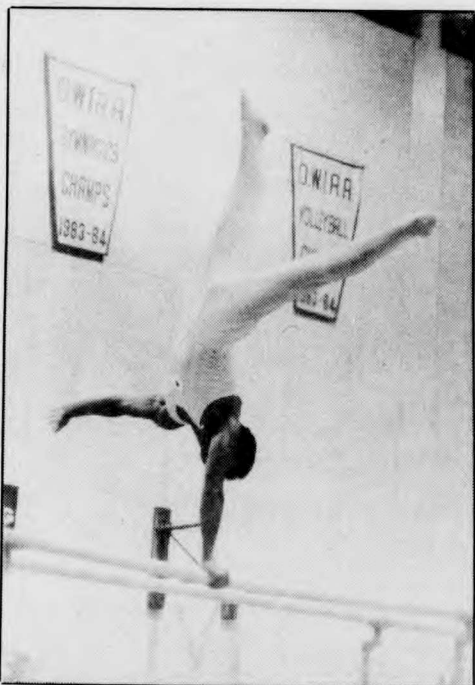
### Field Hockey

A stand-out squad, one of York's finest. Led by coach Marina van der Merwe, who moonlights as coach of the national team, the Yeowomen came second in the province to U of T. At the CIAU championships the squad lost to the University of Victoria and had to settle for silver. Two players, Cathy MacGillivray and Cathy Timmins will not be back this year. To fill their shoes, van der Merwe has recruited an eclectic group of

newcomers from places as diverse as Chile, Argentina and New Brunswick. The result, said van der Merwe, is "a potentially stronger team" than last year's version. Watch out Victoria.

### Football

The selection of former Wilfrid Laurier coach Tom Arnott to take the place of Nobby Wirkowski indicates that York, at least for now, is going to keep football here. This is a vote of confidence in a programme which over the years seems to deserve it less and less. Hopefully, with the arrival of Arnott and the rearrangement of some attitudes the Yeomen can start moving towards respectability.



### Gymnastics

**Yeomen:** Coached by Tom Zivic and Masaaki Naosaki, this team won its fifteenth Canadian championship in sixteen years. As an antipasto, they also devoured the OUAA crown. This is a programme that runs under its own steam, and these athletes are among the most professional and motivated at York.

**Yeowomen:** Finished sixth at the CIAU championships, partly due to the loss of star Risa Litwin. At the OWIAA championships the team took the gold. Coached by Natasa Bajin and Tamara Bompa.

### Hockey

**Yeowomen:** Last year's team just barely missed making the finals, ending up fourth in the province. Coach Deb Maybury's feisty squad, largely made up of rookies last season, should be more experienced this year.

**Yeomen:** Probably the one York team that can draw a crowd without pulling teeth. Frequently comatose play in the early part of the season made a third straight CIAU title seem unlikely. The team came alive in the end but fell short of the hat trick. Post-season rumours had coach Graham Wise heading south. Relax folks, he's staying up here.

### Rugby

Couldn't quite get to .500 last year, though three of their own, Drew McPherson, Andrew Saunders and John Hutchenson, were named as OUAA all-stars. Coached by Mike Dinning, this team is not as bad as the football squad, but has some work to do before it dreams of championship glory.

### Soccer

**Yeowomen:** An excellent start to last year's campaign somehow got bogged down in the mud of the playing field. Coach David Bell's team never recovered, and a squad that seemed destined to go all the way to the nationals found itself losing to Laurier in the OWIAA quarterfinals. The team has the talent. Hopefully this will be the year they fire on all cylinders and deliver on their potential.



**Yeomen:** Lost out to U of T in the provincial semi-finals last year. It was an excellent game, and the Yeomen learned the right lesson; if you're gonna go out, do it in a big way. Like Bell, coach Eric Willis has a very talented team. Long-time rivals U of T and Laurentian are likely to be obstacles to titles this year, too. The Yeomen last won the CIAU title in 1977. This year's as good as any to repeat.

### Squash

**Yeomen:** Last year's version made it to the OUAA eight team championship tournament. This year's team, coached by Rob Walsh, should benefit from that experience.

**Yeowomen:** They finished the season removed one step from the cellar in the nine team OWIAA. Like their male counterparts, they are a small team. This year they are coached by Paul Camper and Aaron Rodrigues.

### Swimming

**Yeowomen:** Though they finished slightly better off last year in the OWIAA than the year before, York's swimmers still have room for improvement.

**Yeomen:** Like their female counterparts, the Yeomen made slight improvements last year, but still nothing to write home to Kalamazoo about. Both the Yeomen and the Yeowomen are coached by Richard Buwaj.

### Synchronised Swimming

The Yeowomen under coach Pat Murray took the OWIAA bronze last year. They return with that experience under their belts. Pat Murray, one of the highest ranked synchro coaches in Canada, will not be with them. She is on sabbatical; as of this writing, no coach has yet been named.

### Tennis

**Yeomen:** Coach Eric Bojeson's proteges were expected to go straight to the OUAA title last year. However, an off day and a one tournament schedule (Josh Rubin's motif) nixed their dreams of championship glory.

**Yeowomen:** Also coached by Bojeson. Injuries cut down the team, which still managed a sixth in the OWIAA standings.

### Track and Field

**Yeomen:** Another championship caliber team. Last season saw them take bronze at the provincials. At the CIAU's they came in third, tied with the University of Windsor and behind U of T and the University of Manitoba. The CIAU all-star team named seven Yeomen to the group. Coached by Sue Summers.

**Yeowomen:** In tandem with the Yeomen, coach Summers' Yeowomen were busy scooping the medals last year. They took the gold in the OWIAA championships, and repeated the gold-heat at the nationals. In tandem with the Yeomen, the track teams under Summers are one of the strongest programmes at York, and several athletes such as France Gareau are internationally ranked.

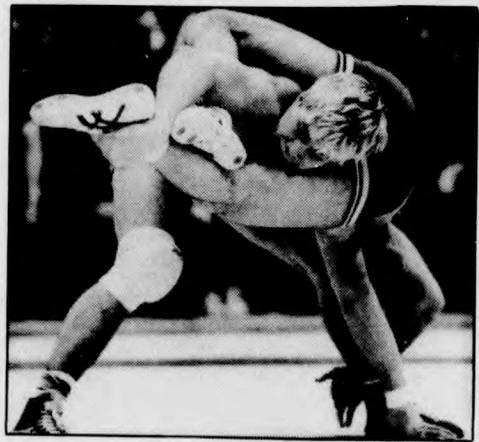
### Volleyball

**Yeowomen:** A highly touted York team, the Yeowomen volleyballers stumped the boobies last year when the sixth ranked squad made it to the bronze. The squad, coached by Merv Mosher, also munched down the OWIAA championship in the process, their sixth such "breakfast of champions" in nine years.

**Yeomen:** The unbeatable York v-ballers of two years gave way last year to the merely human. Wally Dyba's team faced substantial rebuilding incurred by the loss of Jacob Wiktorek, among others. Nonetheless, they advanced with a 6-4 season before bowing out to Queen's in the Battle for the OUAA East Division title. The team continues to attract good prospects, and should be seen as a contender this year.

### Water Polo

Another squad seeking diaper-company sponsorship last year, as painfully reflected in the statistics. Yeoman Wayne Corrigan did win the Kevin Jones Award for rookie of the year, though. Hopefully, this year's team will reflect upon last season's existence at the bottom and improve accordingly. The coach is Ross Macdonald, who was one of the only non-rookies last year.



### Wrestling

Last year was the year of the woeful wrestler. CIAU champs in 1988-89, then shoved into a squash court the next year. Last year's squad struggled, rarely showing the form which had gotten them the title. They pulled their socks up in time for the OUAA finals, almost grabbing the title. The handful of Yeomen who made it to the CIAU championships were too few to retain the title they had won the year before. The team is in uncertain shape. Last year's coach, Kimin Kim, is gone, as are several wrestlers, including Courtney Lewis, one of the programme's brightest prospect. Stay tuned.