

**SPORTS**

# Fencers clamoring for varsity status

by Riccardo Sala

Fencing is alive and well at York, but it's still itching to get varsity status.

Both the men's and women's squads, which are coached by Mourad Mardikian, are still struggling for the privilege to call themselves Yeomen and Yeowomen.

While varsity status only existed one year for the fledgling women's squad, it belonged to the men's team until earlier this year.

After being dumped from the varsity roster at the beginning of the 1989-90 season, the Yeomen convinced York's athletic director Mike Dinning to have them reinstated.

But the plug was pulled again this year and this time the demotion to recreation status stayed.

When asked whether the fencing program was on the agenda for upcoming department meetings, Dinning's response was unequivocal.

"Varsity status is not an issue for fencing," Dinning said. "We want to promote fencing through recreational status."

But Dinning's response hasn't been met with inaction by the fencers.

"They (Athletics) are set in their ways. That's why there's no further point in communication and that's why we went further up (to the York Administration)," noted York coach Mourad Mardikian.

Mardikian is also frustrated his athletes aren't able to join in OUAA and OWIAA meets.

"One of the points brought up by athletics is that fencers didn't need varsity status to fence in competitions, but we like to think that OUAA/OWIAA competition, which we can't enter without varsity status, is what we strive for," Mardikian added.

That status is a very important issue for Monica Jacobs, a two-year veteran of the program and leader of the women's team.

Along with other members of the program, such as Scott Davis and Jamie Stirling, Jacobs feels that most of the athletics department's

objections to a varsity program are unjustified.

The fencers feel they have addressed the athletic department's legitimate concerns.

The teams say they are self-sufficient in funding, already have their facilities in place and, with physics professor and team alumnus Jim Burt on board, have the required faculty representation.

"We have the potential to satisfy both departments (recreational and varsity) and to represent York in varsity competition," notes Davis, highlighting a solution to the demands on Tait McKenzie imposed by the two departments.

According to Davis, the varsity team would essentially be drawn from the ranks of recreational fencers.

But Dinning is wary of the squads' claims of self-sufficiency in funding, pointing out the time and financial demands of administration upon his department would likely increase were fencing made varsity.

The numbers are there-for both the men's and women's teams-to prove that fencing is indeed a popular sport within the York community.

This year, Mardikian's stable of fencers grew to approximately 30 regular participants.

And while recreational status will provide an outlet for a casual introduction to the sport, it does little for those whose aims are to bring home a banner for York University.

Along with Mardikian, both the men's and women's teams have been bolstered by the recent addition of Zachary Kotlyar to the coaching staff.

In Canada for the past four years, Kotlyar is a one-time coach of the Ukraine National Team.

Kotlyar also coached the prestigious Dynamo Fencing Club in Kiev for several years.

"He is very well qualified," Mardikian said of Kotlyar. "He is probably one of the best things that could happen to York fencing to have someone of his stature involved (with the club)."

## VOICE RESPONSE AND FEE PAYMENT UPDATE

### Planning on returning to York in September?

Students enrolling in courses offered by the undergraduate Faculties of Arts, Education (Concurrent Programme), Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Pure and Applied Science, and Atkinson College, will use the Voice Response Enrolment System.

### PINs

Remember that PIN you created to use the Voice Response Enrolment System in past enrolment exercises? You will re-use that same PIN to enrol in Summer 1991 or Fall/Winter 1991/92 courses. If you have forgotten your PIN, call the Help Line at 736-5744. Do it before you leave campus, so that your telephone enrolment can proceed without a hitch!

### Windows

A card listing your specific enrolment window has been mailed to your mailing address. If you have not received it by March 27, 1991, call the Help Line at 736-5744 or the Registrar/Student Accounts Hot Line at 736-5111.

This year, you have been given 2 enrolment windows: one to enable you to enrol in Summer 1991 Atkinson College courses (if you so wish), as well as a window to permit you to enrol in Fall/Winter 1991/92 courses. Each window is a set of specific blocks of time in which you are given access to the Voice Response Enrolment System to add, drop or list your courses.

## NEW PAYMENT PROCEDURES

### Blocked windows

In the past, students who had met their University financial obligations were disadvantaged for having done so, as students who owed academic fees for previous sessions were given the opportunity to enrol in courses at the same time.

**This year, students who have an outstanding academic fee balance of \$100 or more from Fall/Winter 1990/91 or earlier sessions will be blocked from enrolling in Fall/Winter 1991/92 courses.**

In early April, any student having such an outstanding balance will be sent an invoice detailing the monies owed, and advising them that their enrolment window will be blocked unless payment is received by the date specified on the invoice, or arrangements to pay are made with the Student Accounts Office.

### Enrolment deposit

Spaces in courses are frequently taken by students who enrol in courses, then change their minds but do not notify the University of their intention not to attend and do not drop their courses.

As a result, students who do intend to come to York cannot get into these courses because it appears the courses are full.

In an attempt to address students' frustration, the University, after consultation with students, has implemented an enrolment deposit for Fall/Winter 1991/92 - a \$75 payment to be applied to your tuition.

After you enrol in courses, the Student Accounts Office will mail an invoice for your full tuition. Payment of a minimum of \$75 by the date specified on the invoice will signal your intent to come to York.

If payment is not received by the due date specified, your enrolment will be cancelled, your courses will be dropped, and other students will be given the opportunity to enrol in them.

An enrolment deposit is exactly as it implies. The \$75 will be applied to your tuition. It is refundable should you drop all your courses by August 15, 1991, but past that date, it is non-refundable.

### A more convenient method of payment - Pay at the bank

In order to alleviate students' frustrations about line-ups, the University has adopted a new method of payment - pay at the bank.

Now, students can pay their fees at their bank or banking machine - a more convenient method for many of you. No longer do you have to make a special trip to campus to pay your fees, or rely on the mail to arrive at York by the payment deadlines.

Here's how it works. Attached to each invoice sent to you by Student Accounts will be a form enabling you to pay at a bank. The form is specially coded so that when you present the form to a bank teller (or input through your banking machine) along with your payment, your account at York is automatically credited.

In order for you to receive your grades, fee invoices, and other important mailings, please be sure the Registrar's Office has your correct and up-to-date address. A change of address form is included in your Lecture Schedule.

Detailed information on all of these points is included in your 1991/92 Lecture Schedule, available from your Faculty's Office of Student Programmes. Atkinson College Lecture Schedules are available from Atkinson Information Services.

Should you wish to suggest further improvements to the enrolment and registration processes at York, please forward your suggestions, in writing, to the Office of the Registrar, C130 West Office Building. We would appreciate hearing from you.

**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
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## Rubin's ravings

by Josh Rubin

Here are a few sports editor's musings after the Nationals '91 weekend.

Hopefully this year's tournament will put to rest forever the ridiculous notion of moving the CIAU championships to Maple Leaf Gardens; the last time I heard a scalper offering tickets for less than cost was when Barry Manilow came to town.

I know TSN's important, but was it really fair to the Golden Bears to have to play two days in a row just because TV time wouldn't let the two semifinals be played the same day?

Was Friday night's semifinal between UQTR and UPEI really just a ploy to see which team had the ugliest jerseys in university hockey?

Why does TV cult star Gino Reda always have that goofy looking grin on his face?

Why didn't they turn down the sound when Michael (Phantom of the Opera) Burgess pulled his impression of a screeching monkey while singing the national anthem?

Why do potato farmers act so stupid when you give them a couple of beers?

Why do human beings act so stupid when there are TV cameras around? Is your mother supposed to be proud of you foaming at the mouth in front of a national audience?

I know it still beats the Ice Palace, but how old are those hotdog buns at Varsity Arena?

When will someone tell UQTR coach Dany Dubé that he's at a hockey game, not the opening of Daniel Hechter's new summer collection? Nice threads, Dany.