

Canada ahead of U.S.

Interest grows in women's sports

By ROSEMARY McCracken

Mary Lyons, director of the women's athletics department, says that Canada has been, until now, ahead of the United States in opportunities for women's varsity athletics.

However, according to Lyons, because of action by the U.S. Commission on the Status of Women, a bill has recently been passed, saying that women's college athletics must receive as much money and as many opportunities to compete as men's athletics or all government funding will be cut off.

Lyons feels that the women's athletic department at York does not need as much money as the men's athletic department. "Rather, what we need is to make sure that the individual women's teams have the same opportunity for exhibition play as the corresponding men's teams" says Lyons.

GROWING INTEREST

"The interest in the women's varsity programme has increased tremendously over the past few years." This year York can boast of 20 female speed swimmers over last year's total of 12. More women are fencing, and track and field has been organized on a larger and better organized basis.

This year there is a women's ski team, which was first proposed and initiated by women students themselves. The team has been doing dryland training with the men's team and will be training at Uplands' Ski Hole.

Lyons attributes the increase in women's sports to both parents' getting daughters interested in athletics and to the growing trend of community centres to offer organized sports programmes for girls. Ten years ago these influences weren't evident.

This year York for the first time employs two full-time female assistant trainers. "This is another inroad into an area which up until now employs few women," Lyons says.

WILLING TO WORK

Lyons finds the girls in the Women's Athletics programmes willing to work very hard both to improve their skill, and to win the game. "The difference between men and women's attitudes to athletics at York can be seen at this time of year when men are still willing to put out the time for practices, but the girls want to study. There is a marked drop in the numbers in the physical education classes."

Lyons approves of this attitude of the girls because she feels that York is primarily an academic institution.

LITTLE COMPLAINT

"I think that today women's interest in athletics is more accepted by society." Lyons sees little stereotyping of the "athletic woman", and, perhaps as a result, few women involved in Women's Athletics seem to become involved in Women's Liberation.

Perhaps because close to 60 per cent of the women involved in varsity sports are also in Physical Education with heavy course outlines, the girls are apparently satisfied with the opportunities in women's athletics as compared with men's athletics. Lyons cites the dissatisfaction of women's teams with not receiving complimentary shoes as do many of the men's teams as one of the few complaints.

Abbie Hoffman, teacher of political science at the University of Guelph and renowned sprinter, is currently working for Sports Canada. Hoffman has held several conferences on women in sport. Last year the government appointed Marion Lay, through Sport Canada, to work on the status of women in athletics.

The Ontario Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association also sponsors non-competitive activities, such as dance workshops. According to Lyons, this non-competitive aspect does not exist in the men's Ontario University Athletic Association.



Mary Lyons

Volleyball team places fifth

The Yeowomen volleyball team placed a disappointing fifth at the #1 East division tournament held at

Laurentian the weekend of Dec. 1.

The University of Toronto took first place by winning all their matches. Ottawa was second, losing only to the powerful Toronto squad.

Friday night York played Laurentian, winning the first game of a best of three match. The greatly improved Laurentian squad came back to take the next two games and the match.

Saturday York met Queen's and repeated the losing score of 2-1. The Yeowomen handily downed Carleton 2-0.

In the afternoon York met the Toronto and Ottawa, the two strongest teams in the eastern division. On both occasions the Yeowomen were blanked 2-0.

The York contingent will be hosting the next tournament in early February and hope to improve on their showing.

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3. Each page of the entry must

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4. Entries must be mailed to: Gary L. Smith, Director, Communications, Metropolitan Life, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A3; and must be postmarked not later than February 1, 1974.

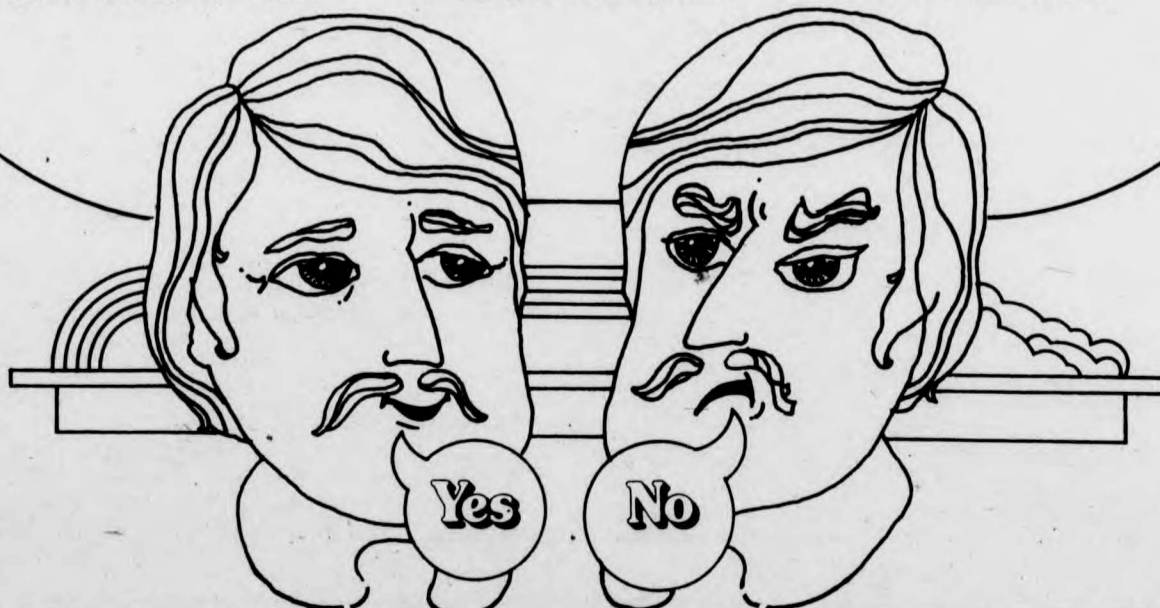
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