

SPORTS

Bumpy road to the CIAU's

Yeowomen dump Queen's to take OWIAA crown

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

Now that's incredible!

Those are three words one would immediately utter if asked to describe the Yeowomen Volleyball Team's OWIAA Championship win over the previously undefeated Queen's Golden Gaels last weekend.

After emerging victorious at the Windsor pre-final, the Yeowomen were the last addition to the championship tournament held in Kingston. Joining Queens, Waterloo and Ottawa - who had received byes for finishing first in their respective divisions - York rounded out the 'Final Four' in their bid to recapture the title they had so handily won the year before.

The victory is undoubtedly the climactic point of a long and inconsistent season for York. Starting off with a less than spectacular squad, as only three players were returning veterans, nobody realistically expected the Yeowomen to defend their 1981-82 title as Ontario Champions. Nobody that is except coach Merv Mosher.

Early optimism

In an interview at the beginning of the volleyball season, Mosher expressed his early 'prophetic' optimism. "We may have a lot of newcomers to the team," he said, "but we've got nowhere to go but up. We will be improving all the way, although it will be a lot tougher. I

definitely think we have a shot at the OWIAA's." That was last November. It's obvious that Mosher's patient direction led the Yeowomen through a somewhat rocky beginning to a finish in the grandest of styles.

Coming off the tail end of a whirlwind two weeks in which the Yeowomen were simply destroying every team they encountered, the girls were ready for the tournament final. York's first match was against Waterloo, a team that hasn't given them too much to worry about this season. The Athenas, who as a result of their bye into the finals hadn't played in a while and York was able to catch them off-guard winning 15-12, 15-9, 15-10.

Berth into final

Having assured themselves of a berth in the final with this win, York merely had to go through the motions in their game against Ottawa. After dropping the first game 10-15, the Red 'n' White regained their composure taking the next three 15-10, 15-6, 15-5.

Queens, who by virtue of defeating Ottawa, was destined to be York's competition in Saturday night's championship game. Prior to this, however, the two teams had to square off against one another during Saturday morning's round-robin play.

Activating their second string

against the Yeowomen's starters, Queens bowed to York three games to one. Little did the Golden Gaels know that this was only the shade of things to come.

Psyched-up

York was psyched-up for the final and knew, as Mosher had drilled into them all season, "that the team that makes the fewest errors is the team that's going to win." After being beaten by Queen's in each of their seasonal match-ups, the Yeowomen were ready to turn the tables. And did they ever. Despite a late surge by Queens, York prevailed 15-9, 15-5, 10-15, 15-6.

"Queens was a little nervous," recalls Mosher, "so we just executed our game plan. We neutralized their fancy offense and made fewer errors. The more points we got, the more nervous they got and as a result they started making mistakes."

"Considering we were the least spectacular team at the tournament, we managed to win by being consistent," he added. "Against Queens and Waterloo, it seemed that there was no way we belonged on the same floor. Sometimes we'd spike and especially with Waterloo's height, we'd get blocked really badly. But we'd just forget about it and went on with the next play."

As a result of their win, the Yeowomen have already flown to

Vancouver to participate in the CIAU Championships being held at UBC. Competing in the same pool as No. 1 ranked Winnipeg and No. 2 ranked Calgary, York's chances seem somewhat slim on paper.

Off to Vancouver

Then again, nobody expected them to do much all season. But out of the shadows emerged the Ontario championship. After having proved that anything can happen, who knows what 'anything' might turn out to be?

STRIKERS SPACE: Congratulations to veterans Trish Barnes and Jill Graham who were elected to the OWIAA All-Star Team.



SHORTSTOPS

CHRIS B. DODD

York will host the 1983 gymnastic championships in which 72 of the nation's premiere male and female gymnasts will compete on March 11th and 12th.

Only the country's top gymnasts are eligible to compete in the tourney after qualifying in a sanctioned meet held earlier this season.

The list of competitors include York's Dan Gaudet, Frank Nutzenburger and Allan Redden. Gaudet is the fourth-year defending champion, while Nutzenburger placed second in last year's championships.

On the women's side UBC's Patti Sakaki aims for her fourth consecutive title, while her teammate Anne Mascot should provide stiff competition. The tournament will also award team honours. The host Yeomen will lead the list of favourites which also includes U of T and Calgary.

Competition begins tomorrow at the Tait McKenzie Gym at 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 7 to 10 p.m. with individual preliminaries and team championships. The individual championships will be held from 1:00 to 4:00.

Glendon to host two squash tourneys

The Glendon squash club is scheduled to host two international women's softball squash tournaments - the new McKay Bowl, and the Can Am Singles Invitational - this March 10-11, and March 12-13 respectively.

Organizer and host Bob Cluett, who recently led the York Yeowomen to the OWIAA title, has assembled world class players for the tourneys.

The McKay Bowl features six university teams: England's Oxford University, Yale, McGill, Waterloo, Western, U of T, and York. Play runs from 7:00 p.m. on March 10 at Glendon with the finals going at 7:00 p.m. on March 11.

The Can Am Singles is a 32 women draw boasting the finest array of international players ever to be seen in Canada. Amongst the field will be York's number one player JoAnn Beckwith. Play gets under way at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 6:00 p.m., March 12-13.

All-Star Teams named

QUAA All-Star teams for both volleyball and ice hockey were announced last week, based on a coaches poll. Hockey Yeomen defencemen, John Campbell, represents York on the second team while Dave Chambers, Steve Burch, and John May, were selected to the volleyball first team in the OUAA East.



Martin Kratochvil skims the gates for York's ski team at Collingwood this season.

Downhill season for York skiers

MARK ZWOL

Yes, there was a York ski team this season.

But, after a two-year absence, the re-entry of the red and white into the OUAA circuit met with a pair of age-old problems--bucks and mother nature--both of which made the road to their eighth place finish that much steeper.

The financial situation, which according to coach Martin Kratochvil, "can only get better. . . hopefully," left a lot of empty spaces in the team's plans to hold proper tryouts and workouts.

"We had to cancel several training sessions due to a lack of funds," Kratochvil said. "The only way we got the team off the ground was through our own pockets, but things can only get better."

One of the worst winters as far as ski conditions were concerned, forced a number of downhill races, slaloms and giant slaloms to be shuffled onto the same bill.

Pepsi Cola Ltd. provided a much needed base sum for York's entry fee into the OUAA circuit, but a \$70 chunk from that fee is still outstanding.

Coach Martin Kratochvil, who

also moonlights as the team's top skier, compiled the most points on an individual basis in the relatively short season. Kratochvil consistently placed among the top 20 skiers in four of the five races he entered.

Overall consistency there

Rookies Kevin Board and Curtis Page were the top freshmen on the team this year. Competing with a field of 100 men from 14 University teams, both skiers placed well below mid-field.

The best individual performance by a York skier was turned in by John Banfield, who placed seventh in the slalom.

Other point scorers on this year's team included Frank Launeville, Rob MacLean, and ex-skibob racer Paul Hague.

Brothers Paul and Dave Gordon were the only two members able to participate in all six races this season. "The rest of the team found it a little difficult to clamour school and work into weekday trips up to Collingwood," Kratochvil explained.

FINAL RUNS: Steve Chopyu, John Cripchley and John Sloat (Curtis' brother included) helped the team to its eighth place showing this season. . . . The team has been invited--provided necessary funds are accumulated--to the Can-Am ski weekend in Quebec City March 12-14.

On road to CIAU's

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back to the home of the Western Conference champions after a threeyear stay in the Tait trophy alcoves.

After Monday's meeting of the CIAU organizing committee, the

Yeomen are looking at a trip to Fredericton, New Brunswick, where they'll meet UNB, Brock and St. Mary's, in a regional round robin tourney before returning to Waterloo in two weeks' time.