

When the ref's away the Alumni will play . . . for keeps

In last year's *Excalibur*, no issue created such controversy as the public commotion which surrounded intramural athletics. In the end, the claim that intramurals are an integral facet of the York community was verified by the numerous discussions, both verbal and written, that emanated from the debate. With that in mind, I impart this recent personal experience.

I play for Vanier College's flag football team in the Torch division of York intramurals (competitive division). Last week, our schedule called for a match-up with the Alumni team.

I am by no means a 'rookie' to intra-mural flag football. This is now the fifth season in which I have competed. So as our game against the Alumni approached, I recalled the very first time I played against my graduated peers.

I remembered as a first year student, being slightly in awe of the Alumni team. After all, they were much older than the players on my team most of whom were still not yet in their twenties. I have not forgotten that we won my first Vanier/-Alumni confrontation—a semi-final playoff game. Although I don't remember the final score, that game's spirit of honest hard-fought competition flows back to mind.

Last week's Alumni/Vanier game was the antithesis of my first encounter. Some things, however, have remained the same. The Alumni were older and graduates—our team (Vanier) was a mixture of fresh faces and experienced seniors.

The rains of September left an eyesore for a playing field. Yet the real disgrace was the behaviour of the team representing York Alumni. The manner in which those individuals carried themselves was nothing short of disgusting.



MEL BROITMAN

The inclement weather brought about awkward circumstances. The absence of one of the two officials, down markers and visible yard-lines, placed greater emphasis upon the sole referee. The conditions called for co-operation from all the participants. While Vanier complied, the Alumni team attempted to take full advantage of the situation.

Plain and simple, our Alumni looked for any opportunity to cheat the official and their opponents. They were so thoroughly dishonest that they lied openly and often. As a result the game soon became a farce.

The "graduates" hounded the referee on every play. They intimidated the younger official with their constant babbling. The 'mature' Alumni players placed the official in an uncomfortable and unfair position. Eventually the referee was totally ineffective and lost all control.

Not a single play passed without the Alumni displaying their disdain for the official and Vanier club. My own attempts at rational and honest dialogue were in vain. So how does one describe a group of individuals bent on winning to the point of utter deceit? Try pitiful.

My team (Vanier) was not amused. However, rather than

stoop to the level of our opponents, we played out the string (won the game, I might add) and were anxious to leave the debacle behind us. Most confounding was the fact that this disgust was brought on by our own Alumni. A similar scenario involving other first year students from the other colleges might have been more easily understood, and written off to youth and inexperience. But, one would have not expected such an exhibition of immaturity from Alumni members. After all, they are an indication of the product of our University system.

Perhaps in their defense, the alumni team will argue that they were not being serious. Yet covering up immaturity behind humour is all too often an empty excuse. One of the splendors of sport is that it offers a glimpse of a competitor's true nature. In this instance, the true colours of these particular alumni were exposed.

The University aims to set certain standards for our society. Subsequently the University alumni are an example to incoming and aspiring graduates. I would say that in the far majority of cases, the results are positive. There are exceptions—York's alumni flag-football team for one.

Last year we debated the legitimacy of Intra-murals gaining access to *Excalibur's* sports section. The controversy centred around the questionable ethics of many of the teams and individuals. However, dedicated participants and committed organizers were convincing in their argument that Intra-murals aid in enriching the University experience. Enriching is not exactly the way I would describe the Alumni flag football team.

Yeowomen up record to 7-1

By NICK LAPICCIARELLA

The York Yeowomen field hockey squad has improved their season record to an impressive 7-1, their only loss coming against Guelph. Led by coach Marina Van der Merwe, who also coaches the Cana-

dian National team, the Yeowomen are confident of advancing to the Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union championships.

Van der Merwe has taken the same hard work philosophy that she used with the Canadian National team

and applied it to the Yeowomen. This philosophy can be credited for much of the team's success. Another major factor contributing to the team's success is the return of nine players from last year, including several who play for the Canadian National team, giving York a good nucleus to work from. Sharon Bayes, who was the Canadian goalkeeper at the World Cup in August, is one of the cornerstones of the York team. Other national team players are Sandra Levy, Tracy Minaker, and Sharon Creelman. But Creelman, a World cup all-star for Canada, is

unable to play as she is recuperating from an operation to repair torn ligaments.

Over the weekend the Yeowomen crushed McMaster 10-0 and Western 8-0, in what Van der Merwe called a "mud bowl." The Yeowomen then hosted Waterloo and McMaster on Monday at their new home, Lamport Stadium where they once again demolished their opponents 8-0 and 8-1 respectively.

Despite York's 7-1 record, the Yeowomen have not had an easy time of it. They have had to practice on York's tennis courts and in the Tait

gym because of poor field conditions due to the heavy rains this year.

"We see it foolish to destroy our fields just for our practices," Van der Merwe said. "But now we will play our home games at Lamport Stadium on their artificial turf. This will work to our advantage as the Ontario and Canadian Championships will also be played there."

Van der Merwe has no qualms about this year's team saying that it is better balanced than any other team she has coached at York. "This balance should carry us to the championships," Van der Merwe said.

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