

York football in trouble?

By KARIM HAJEE

In 1968 Nobby Wirkowski began a football programme at York University. Twenty years later, that programme is in jeopardy.

After a dismal finish this past season, Dr. Norm Gledhill, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, has requested a review of the football programme. Soon after the season ended, Dave Chambers, Men's Athletic Co-ordinator, felt the football programme needed more funding. He voiced these opinions to Gledhill who in turn requested a review.

The review was conducted by a five person committee with Dave Chambers as the chairman. The other four members are: Yeomen Basketball coach Bob Bain; Dr. Roger Seamen; Academic Advisor for Football, Ted Rathe; and Mel Ransom, York University's Vice President.

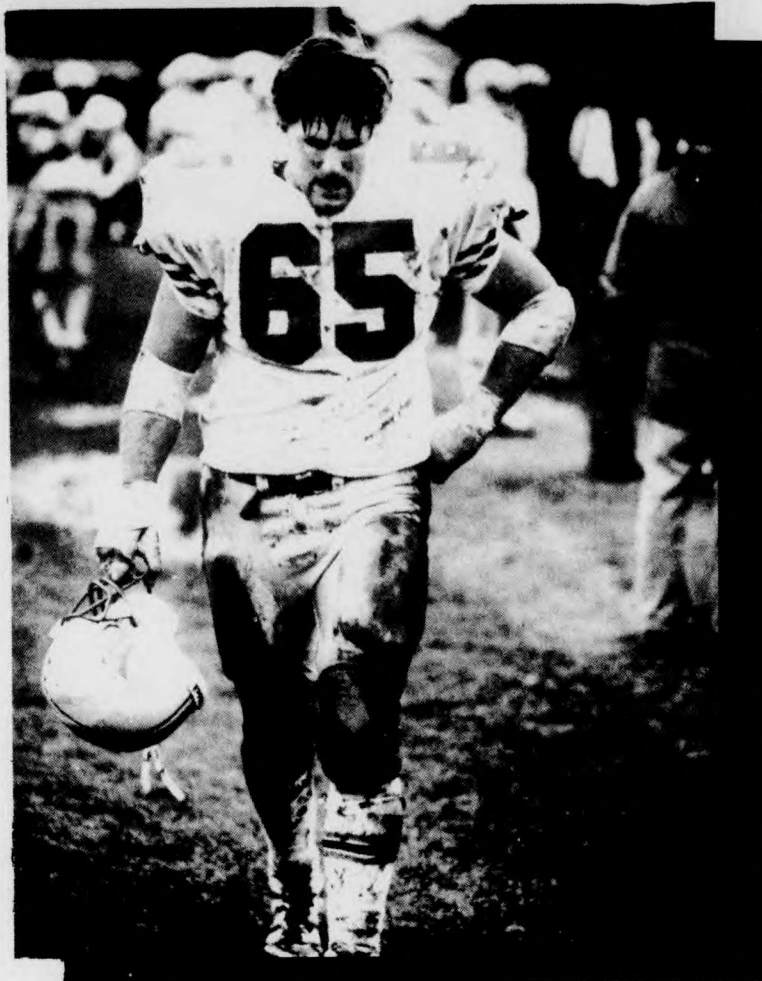
The committee examined such issues as the importance of football to university life and what needs to be done to improve York's football programme. The findings will be partly based on a questionnaire passed throughout the university. The results of a questionnaire have always left me a little skeptical. Personally, I don't think they are worth the paper their printed on, especially in this case.

This questionnaire deals with a specific sport at a university which houses perhaps the most apathetic students in the country when it comes to sports. I have to wonder just how many of these questionnaires have been distributed and to whom. I certainly haven't received a copy, and a number of other die-hard Yeomen fans that I know of haven't received one either. So who's getting these questionnaires? The law students?

I know the Yeomen football programme is having some problems and I am all for a review that will help the programme. But in all honesty, the problems with the programme are pretty straightforward.

Money, coaching and facilities are the answer.

York University is the third largest in Canada but the football programme has the second lowest budget in the nation. The \$38,000 it receives doesn't even come close



DEJECTION: Yeoman Steve Karpenko walks off the field at the end of York's dismal football season.

to the reported \$100,000 the University of Western Ontario hands out to its football programme.

York currently has only one full-time football coach who also has to teach courses. York also has virtually no money for scouts to recruit top prospects. The University of Western Ontario is reported to have at least three full time coaches and a number of scouts that travel around, not only within the province, but the country.

York has no stadium on campus and there are no current plans to build one. Instead, the team has to travel to Bathurst and Finch to play at Esther Shiner Stadium which seats 2,000 people. Western, on the other hand, has a stadium on campus that seats 11,000. In terms of standings, York finished out of the playoffs with a 1-6 record. Western went undefeated and were finalists in the OUAU Championship.

It is not too difficult to figure out where the problems are.

Universities are often recognized by their football programmes. If York University ever plans on building any kind of school spirit, pride and tradition, they should first start with building a solid football programme.

The current state of affairs regarding athletic facilities at this university is a joke! The national hockey champions have to play in a building that isn't suitable to dump garbage in. The Tait Mackenzie building is reminiscent of a public school gymnasium in Calcutta!

Should the committee find enough negative feedback about York football, the entire programme could get axed. If that happens, everybody at this university loses.

Karim Hajee was Sports Director at CHRY for two years.

YORKDEX

Number of spaces that will be available in the two new residences being built on York campus: 670

Number of people current on the waiting list for on-campus housing: 1200

Total attendance at York's homecoming game last fall: 200

Total funding received by Western's football team, The Mustangs, last year: approx. \$100,000

Total funding York's Yeomen football team received last year: approx. \$38,000

Approximate cost of one season's worth of tape for the York Yeomen football team: \$1,500

Number of Americans currently on the York Yeoman Hockey team: 2

Number of Hockey Yeomen who have played for a Major Junior A franchise: 11

Number of Hockey Yeomen who have been drafted or had tryouts with a professional hockey franchise: 7

Consecutive years, since the 1984-85 season, that the Hockey Yeomen have won the OUAU championship: 4

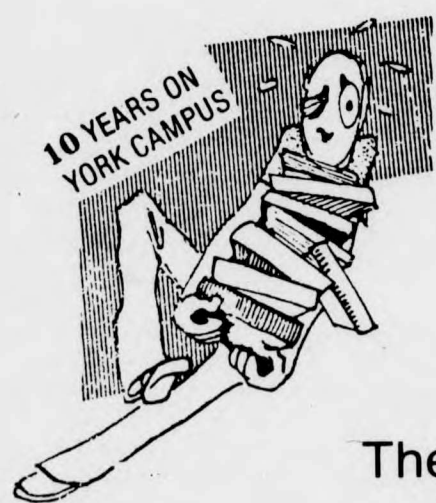
Number of CIAU championships won by the Hockey Yeomen: 2

compiled by Adam Kardash

Erratum

Last week's article "Open End pub managers fired in light of financial difficulties" incorrectly stated that Elizabeth Mick was dismissed from her job as Assistant Manager of Vanier College's Open End pub because of poor financial management. Ms. Mick was released because the Open End Management Board (OEMB) felt that the position of Assistant Manager was no longer financially viable. The OEMB, according to Chairperson Shaun Cromie, was in no way dissatisfied with her job performance.

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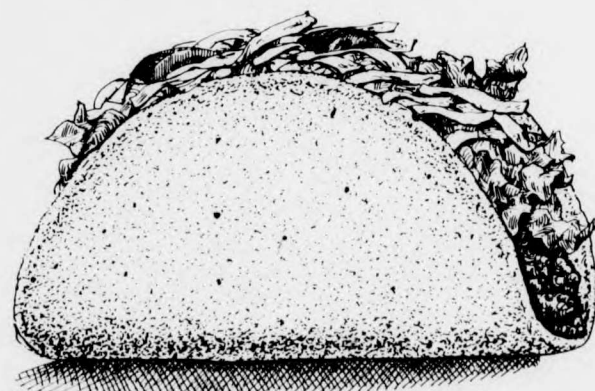
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