

# St. Mary's Huskies hustle York from CIAU championship

MARK ZWOL

The York University Yeomen basketball team will have to settle for their fourth place national ranking this year.

In a bid for a rematch against their OUAAs rivals Waterloo Warriors in Saturday's CIAU championship, the Yeomen came up short, losing to St. Mary's Huskies 73-67 in the final game of the Eastern Regional playdowns in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

After an intense, dying seconds loss to Waterloo (66-65) in the OUAAs final two weeks ago, the Yeomen were looking at two possibilities—a trip to New Brunswick for a round robin tournament to decide the Eastern regional representative at the CIAU finals and the chance to redeem their bitter one-point loss by succeeding from New Brunswick to Waterloo for a get-even match against the Warriors.

But the Huskies ended any hopes of a return to Waterloo.

The Yeomen led on only one occasion and just couldn't handle the tough rebounding and inside game of the Atlantic conference Champions.

## Quick leads

The Huskies jumped out to quick leads of 14 points in both halves before York could get its show on the road to cut St. Mary's lead to four points each time.

St. Mary's Rob Latter—a six-foot, eight-inch sophomore from Montreal—devastated the Yeomen at both ends of the court, scoring 20 points and logging 16 rebounds.

Bob Oostveen, who along with Latter was named to the tournament's all-star team, netted 15 points while teammate Greg Willis added another 10.

John Christensen led York with 22 points together with OUAAs East Division M.V.P. Enzo Spagnuolo, who hit for another 12.

For York coach Gerry Barker, the loss to St. Mary's was not the way he planned to finish the season. "Sure it's a disappointing way to end it. We were looking ahead to the

CIAU's, and a rematch against Waterloo would have been great.

"We just got behind too many times against St. Mary's and couldn't get back into the picture. But give them credit, they played a great game. They were hungry for the win, their big men dominated the boards, and they just never let up," Barker added.

## Opening victory

About 2,500 fans at the Aitken Centre watched the Yeomen defeat the host UNB 74-61 in the opening game of the tourney.

After a sluggish first quarter in which York fell behind by five

points, a blitzing fast break rerailed the red and white as they closed the first half with a seven point 36-29 lead.

As they had all year long, the Yeomen exploded in the opening minutes of the second half with another eight point surge to increase their margin to 15 points before the partial UNB crowd.

John Christensen turned in a game high 23 points while Tim Rider and Enzo Spagnuolo netted 15 and 11 respectively.

The CIAU championships get under way this weekend at the University of Waterloo with the host Warriors going up against St. Mary's Huskies, University of Calgary and the Victoria Vikings.

# Beckwith undaunted Yeowomen can't lose

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

At two major squash tournaments last weekend—the McKay Bowl and The Manta Can-Am Invitational—the Yeowomen squash team, including Canada's number one player Jo Ann Beckwith, smashed their way to yet another set of victories.

Beckwith displayed her ever-present championship form as she defeated an international field of top squash players to capture the Manta Can-Am Invitational.

As the number one seed, Beckwith received a bye from the first round of play and then went on to defeat both Oxford's Emma Niven and 5th seed Anita Nador from Yale—without dropping a single game. After disposing of 4th seeded Lori Hogan who hails from Calgary, Beckwith moved into the finals against Ottawa's Diane Edge. Edge was ranked third in the tournament.

## Endured injury

However, the final match posed a major problem for Beckwith. According to Yeowomen Coach Bob Cluett, the Canadian champion was forced to endure the match while playing on an excruciatingly painful

foot injury, suffered in the first game. As a result, Beckwith's game plan was altered as she was forced to cut every ball off and had to hit every shot for a winner. "At 1-2 in games she talked about the possibility of retiring from the match," noted Cluett, "and at 3-3 in the fifth (game) she looked utterly cooked. But she found a pint of adrenalin somewhere and won going away." Beckwith's need to end every rally as quickly as possible was demonstrated by the brevity of the five-game match, which lasted a total of only 37 minutes.

## Team triumph

The McKay Bowl, named after famed squash player Heather McKay also boasted top-calibre talent from Oxford and Yale. Canada was

represented by teams from Waterloo, Western, U of T and OWIAA Champions, York.

As expected, the Yeowomen team of Beckwith, Gail Pimm, Rhonda Firmi, Ruth Castellino and Anita Halpern collected their championship laurels by beating Oxford 5-0 and Western 5-0.



Elissa Freeman  
JOCK TALK

# NCAA vs. OUAAs: eligibility rule stalls the big buck scholarship

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

Perhaps, nobody knows the definition of this word better than York student Mitchell Goldhar, who has just been denied the opportunity to accept a tennis scholarship to Florida State.

Unfortunately, Goldhar wasn't aware of the complex world of eligibility rules when he made a spur of the moment decision to play tennis for York. In early September, the 3rd year Arts student was coincidentally playing on the same set of courts as the members of the York tennis team. "It was right then and there that I thought, it would be a really great idea to play tournament tennis for York," recalls Goldhar. "That decision turned out to be the biggest mistake of my life."

## Offered scholarship

The fact that Goldhar captured the Eastern OUAAs Tennis Crown and was runner-up at the All-Ontario Championships isn't important. What is significant is that because he participated in these tournaments, he has been ruled ineligible by the NCAA for one full year to play tennis for Florida State. To make matters worse, Goldhar was offered a scholarship with a projected value of up to \$50,000 that he now has been forced to turn down.

According to NCAA ruling, any student-athlete who transfers colleges with the intention of playing his/her sport at the new school, must sit out for one year. The athlete is allowed to train and practice with the team; but, he/she is not permitted to represent the school in league play.

## "Red shirting"

Despite the restriction, U.S. college coaches have been able to turn this rule into an advantageous ploy. Often they will have players purposely sit out a year, thus extending their playing eligibility. This is known as 'red-shirting.' The positive effects of red-shirting are exemplified by University of Las Vegas-Nevada's basketball squad.

The Runnin' Rebels of UNLV is a team chock-full of talented transferees who have all fulfilled NCAA requirements by sitting out one year. By negotiating with these players while they were at other universities - the UNLV coaches patiently assembled a team that has emerged as one of the top contenders for the NCAA Championships. Incidentally, UNLV has just been taken off of NCAA probation.

In essence, should Goldhar go to Florida State, he would be redshirted for an entire year, even though the Yeomen's tennis season lasted all of two successive weekends.

"It all seems so ludicrous," exclaimed Goldhar. "The NCAA rule was purposely made for U.S. transferees. It's not designed for a guy who plays two tournaments for a university that minimally sponsors a team."

It was this lack of support that gave Goldhar a glimmer of hope while he was negotiating with the NCAA rules committee. Not only did the Yeomen Tennis Team lack team uniforms, they did not even have a proper coach. One of the team members, Laurie Dale, had to fill in as the 'impromptu' coach.

## Draconian measures

However, perhaps because of the numerous U.S. college scandals (faked transcripts, under the table payments) the NCAA has been forced to employ Draconian measures against the deviating behaviour of schools and athletes. Not known for its flexibility, the NCAA goes straight to the jugular of the guilty party. Their rigidity is implemented to protect the integrity of the college athletic system as well as ensuring that students don't keep transferring schools without obtaining a degree.

Unfortunately, Goldhar has to be a recipient of all this confusion. He is well aware that playing for a Division 1 school, like Florida State (that is also ranked in the top 20) would be able to provide him with the necessary competition to hone his tennis skills. Subsequently, he would be able to easily make the transition from university tennis to the satellite circuits. These circuits are the stepping stone of every tennis player's whose ambition is to gain a spot on the Grand Prix tour.

Meanwhile, Goldhar may decide to play tennis over the summer in pro-satellite circuits throughout Canada. Since ATT ranking points will be allotted at these tournaments, there will be an abundance of competition for Goldhar to play against.

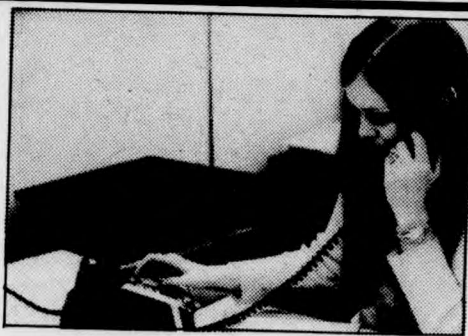
## Future up in air

York's Men's Athletic Director and member of the OUAAs Eligibility Committee, Nobby Wirkowski, agrees that the situation in itself is extremely peculiar because it concerns a Canadian transferring to an American university. "I was notified by Mitchell of his situation and was told that the NCAA would get in touch with me. But to this day I haven't been notified by them," said Wirkowski. "But if they did call, I couldn't lie that he (Goldhar) had never competed in a championship. If I did lie, the NCAA could call our executive in Hamilton and it would be all there in black and white."

Under OUAAs rules, had Goldhar only competed in one invitational event, he would be eligible to take the scholarship. "But", emphasizes Wirkowski, "he wasn't some obscure player that someone would easily forget. Whose going to forget that he played for the OUAAs in their championship final?"

On this side of the border, OUAAs eligibility requirements are somewhat more flexible. For example: an athlete plays basketball at York from

cont'd on pg. 18



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