

S P O R T S

300 athletes invade York for Track and Field Invitational

By ROY T. ANDERSON

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The recurring sound of the starter's pistol was heard all afternoon Saturday at the York University Track and Field Invitational.

International stars such as Angela Bailey, Dave Steen and Mike Smith, headlined the field of over 300 athletes competing at the Metro Track and Field Centre.

A number of crossborder confrontations showed promise as teams from Canisius College, Buffalo State College and Niagara College (all from New York), competed against the best from seven Ontario universities. The Canadian stars, however, ruled the day.

Dave Steen, the 1986 Canadian decathlon record holder and silver medalist at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, won the pole vault with a leap of 4.90 metres. Steen, who competes for the University of Toronto Track Club (UTTC) under the watchful eyes of coach Andy Higgins, is preparing for an early clash with the world's best decathlete, Daley Thompson from Britain. They'll meet up next month at the U of T fieldhouse. On the outdoor circuit Steen is looking forward to the 1987 World Cup which will be held in Rome this summer.

Mike Smith, who placed second in the decathlon at the 1986 World Junior Championships in Greece, is another one of Higgins' proteges at the UTTC. He competed in the 60m hurdles, shotput and long jump, where he finished first, second and third respectively.

Smith was quite pleased with his performances on the day. "I had a personal best time in the 60m hurdles (8.30 secs) and that's a good sign because the hurdles is one of my weaker events," Smith said. "Pointwise, my best events are the high jump and long jumps."

This 19-year-old multi-sport athlete who stands 6 feet 5 inches and weighs 215 pounds is presently concentrating on the U of T Track Classic where he will be the same competition with Steen and Thompson. Like Steen his "ultimate aim this year is the World Cup in Rome. Obviously, I have to improve in a few events by then, so I'll be concentrating on my weaker events like the hurdles, shotput and pole vault."

Angela Bailey, one of the premier sprinters in the world, participated in the 60-metre dash. She won the

event in a record time of 7.36 seconds, three one-hundredths better than the time she set in 1983. "I really feel in the groove right now," said Bailey who is a member of the Etobicoke Husky Striders.

Bailey, unlike other premier sprinters, prefers the domestic circuit. "I particularly like to compete in North America because I feel the tracks are faster over here." It's hard to argue with her since she holds the Canadian indoor 50m record.

Bailey will compete in Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Hamilton and Indianapolis, site of this year's World Indoor Championships. What about burnout? "I just want to run well and stay healthy," she said. Bailey, like most top track athletes is also looking forward to the World Cup this summer.

York University boasts a young but talented squad. First year Physical Education student Lesa Mayes, sister of the National Football League's rookie of the year Reuben Mayes, finished second in the 60 metre hurdles and fourth in the long jump.

Sue Summers, head coach at York, likes what she sees in Mayes. "She's very talented, and in time will develop into a fine multi-sport athlete." York winners Saturday included Corolyn Lee in the 3000 metre, Catia Botos in the 1000 metre run, and Hyacinth Brown, victorious in the shotput.

North York native Anthony Miglietta, the CIAU long jump champion, is hoping to reaffirm his position at the national championships in Saskatchewan the second weekend in March. Sprinter Kieth Dormand will also be making the trip out west to compete in the 60 metre dash, as will long jumper Hester Westenburg.

York's highest profiled athlete, sprinter France Gareau, did not compete on Saturday because of a pulled hamstring. Gareau was a member of the 4x100 metre relay team that captured a silver medal at the 1984 summer Olympics. Coach Summers called Gareau's injury a "temporary setback" and said, "She should be able to compete in Windsor at the end of the month." (the Can-Am Classic, January 31)

Summers commented on the team's performance, "for the first meet of the year I'm quite pleased. I'm looking forward to our next meet in Windsor."



FLY LIKE AN EAGLE: The York Track and Field Invitational boasts fine performances by Canadian athletes while York's talent shone through in the 60-metre hurdles and the long jump.

Blues break thirteen year jinx

By ROY T. ANDERSON

Varsity arena was abuzz with activity last Friday night as over 1500 boisterous fans saw the University of Toronto Blues defeat the York Yeomen 73-63 for the first time in 13 years.

This was no ordinary game for the Blues, even though many of the players tried to downplay that fact. Just before game time Blues head coach Gib Chapman was overheard telling his playing "this is the one we've been waiting for. Let's do it tonight."

No doubt about it, the Blues were confident of winning. OUAA all star forward Roger Rollocks confirmed, "We think we can win tonight. It would be a terrible upset if York beat us." Rollocks had an air of confidence about him Friday night one could easily mistake as cockiness. "The streak is over," he shouted out.

On the flipside, Yeomen guard Mike Sherwood took a more low key approach to the game. "Nobody on our team is worried about it (the streak)," he said. "As far as I'm concerned this game is hyped up too much by the media. We're just gonna go out there tonight and play our best." Yeomen head coach, Bob Bain, did not comment on the winning streak, saying only that "it's going to be a very physical game."

Right from the opening tip-off the game got physical indeed as the players vied for control of the boards. The Yeomen looked complacent in the early going, as they were completely out-manned by a much larger Blues team.

At 12:05 of the first half the Blues led 16-7. Spurred on by a largely partisan crowd they ran the score to 25-15 at 6:25. Coach Bain shouted to his players at that time to slow things

down a bit. The Yeomen heeded their coach's advice and pulled to within six with less than three minutes remaining in the half.

The Blues then started to light up the scoreboard and at the half they lead 38-21. York's big man, Stu Levinsky, had uncharacteristic trouble at the boards, missing key shots as the Blues' Roger Rollocks and Ronald Davidson dominated the first half play. The two accounted for five blocked shots.

Whatever coach Bain said to his players at the half must have fallen on deaf ears, since the Yeomen never came closer than 10 points in the second half, and that was the difference in the final score, 73-63.

Ronald Davidson led all scorers with 26 points, while Roger Rollocks chipped in with 20. Lance Winn collected 15 for York. Stu Levinsky, the

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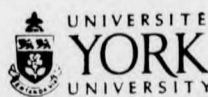
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