

sports and recreation

Yeomen hit Halifax

Basketballers to championships

By Bruce Gates

The York Yeomen are in Halifax today, preparing for their opening game against the Bishop's Gaiters tonight in the first round of the CIAU basketball championships. The momentum they have going into tonight's game, is a result of two important victories last weekend.

For the first time in their history, the Yeomen won the Eastern conference championship by thumping the powerful Laurentian Voyageurs 77-59 at Tait McKenzie last Friday night. That win assured the Yeomen of their first ever trip to the national finals.

Then on Sunday afternoon, York made more history: They became the first "eastern" team since 1958 to win the Wilson Cup, awarded to the top OUA East team by thrashing the West division champion Laurier Golden Hawks 100-78. The all-Ontario championship was the first by a York basketball team, and by winning it the Yeomen became the first OUA East team ever to win the title since the east-west alignment took effect about 10 years ago.

The Laurentian game was the big one and it was an electrifying experience for fans and players. Led by "The Men from Mars," the crowd set up such a din that they completely drowned out the P-A system, and the enthusiasm seemed

to rub off on the players.

"What can I say," OUA East coach-of-the-year Bob Bain said after the game. He didn't have to say much, his team did the talking.

Before an all-time record York basketball crowd of about 3,000, York proved to Laurentian that it takes more than three to win a big game. Laurentian has often been touted as the best three-man team in Canada, thanks to its fine American trio of Charlie Wise, Bruce Burnett and Varick Cutler, but the Voyageurs were no match for the scoring depth of a fired up Yeomen team.

Never behind

York was never behind against Laurentian, and they did something they weren't able to do against the Voyageurs in early February: The Yeomen were able to turn the momentum around in their favour every time it seemed to be slipping away to Laurentian.

By half time, York had a slim 32-29 lead and never seemed to be able to pull ahead by any more than four points. Finally, the Voyageurs pulled even, after York ran into a cold streak around the Laurentian cage. And for about three minutes, the score was deadlocked at 43 apiece and Laurentian was threatening to take control of the game.

Then it happened. After a battle under the Yeomen boards, York came up with the ball and took it



Bryon Johnson photo

Harry Hunter goes for two.

down to the Voyageur cage. The first shot missed, but in the ensuing scramble Ted Galka tipped in his own shot to give York the lead. The place exploded. And so did the game. York outscored Laurentian

34-16 from that point on.

What had started out as a tense defensive struggle turned into an explosive contest won by York, and when Voyageur all-star Charlie Wise fouled out with about 5

minutes left, the Yeomen buried Laurentian.

Tough defensive work and sharp shooting won the game for York. Forward Bo Pelech, who was selected an OUA East second-team all star earlier that week, did a superb job against Laurentian's high-scoring Bruce Burnett, limiting him to only 14 points. At the same time, Pelech hit for 13 important points, most of them on outside shots, and pulled in six rebounds. Coach Bain has a point when he claims Pelech is the best two-way player in Canada.

And Dave Coulthard, who tied with Charlie Wise in all-star voting for the division's top player, outshone his Laurentian counterpart by limiting Wise to only 15 points while netting 22 himself and snaring six rebounds.

In this game, though, York's tour de force was 6 ft. 9 in. Lonnie Ramati. He scored 22 points for the Yeomen, but just as important to the York cause was his work inside against the Voyageurs.

Ramati, who was selected the conference's first-team all star centre, grabbed 14 rebounds, and his effectiveness inside presented a problem to Laurentian: If they keyed on Ramati, they left the outside shooters open, if they pressed the outside shooters, Ramati almost invariably ended up with two points.

Coulthard electrifying

On Sunday against Laurier Ramati came up with 19 rebounds and potted 18 points, but it was Dave Coulthard who electrified the 2,000 fans that afternoon.

The 6 ft. 2 in. freshman guard poured in 30 points—all on field goals—to place York to a 100-78 shellacking of the Golden Hawks.

Coulthard dazzled the crowd with his ball handling, and he and Pelech combined for a pretty play in the first half that drew the crowd out of their seats. Coulthard had the ball near the Laurier key. It appeared he might shoot but instead he darted inside and stopped. Laurier players poised themselves for what looked like a sure shot, but Coulthard bounced a pass between the legs of a Laurier player to Pelech, who had slipped into the clear near the hoop. Pelech scored a layup in one clean motion.

Playmaking like this resulted in a 50-38 halftime lead for York, and they never looked back. They never had to because they were never behind.

Once again the Yeomen played tough defensive ball in an otherwise wide-open game. And Bo Pelech did something few players were able to do this year: He limited high scoring Hawk, Lorne Killion, to only 15 points. Killion usually averages closer to 30.

And David Coulthard overshadowed another highly touted star: Laurier's Don Whaley, who was offered a tryout with the New Orleans Jazz of the NBA.

Coulthard's overall performance earned him the OUA MVP award. The choice was popular with the crowd.

Perhaps the sign on the wall summed it up best: "The name is David Coulthard. And don't anyone forget it." Few will. **Parting Shots:** York was 32 for 69 from the floor against Laurentian and 47 for 81 against Laurier... Other scorers for York against Laurier were **Bo Pelech** 16 points, **Ron Kaknevicus** 12, **Paul Layefsky** 10, **Chris McNeilly** 6, and **Ted Galka** and **Paul Jones** 4 each. For Laurier, **Don Whaley** had 29 points and **Lorne Killion** netted 15... Last week's front page photograph was of **Dave Coulthard** not Jody Connor... York had 39 rebounds against Laurier.

Swimmers set Canadian records

York's swim team was what everyone at the 1978 CIAU championships, held at the Etobicoke Olympian last Saturday, was talking about. It didn't seem to matter that Waterloo had won the men's title with 335 points to Toronto's 286, while York finished third in the country with 258 points — the story was the York swim team as they seemed to be everywhere.

They won seven gold medals out of the 16 swim events contested, established university records in all seven events, set three open Canadian national records, had a Yeoman named "swimmer of the meet" and, as a fitting conclusion, York's head coach, Bryon MacDonald, was named CIAU coach of the year.

"I was very pleased to win the honor," stated the happy coach, "because I think it proves once and for all that we run a top programme here at York. We have a young programme, moving from virtually no team at all when I arrived at York two years ago to third in the country this year, so I am hopeful that we will continue to grow and will win the CIAU swimming title for York in the near future."

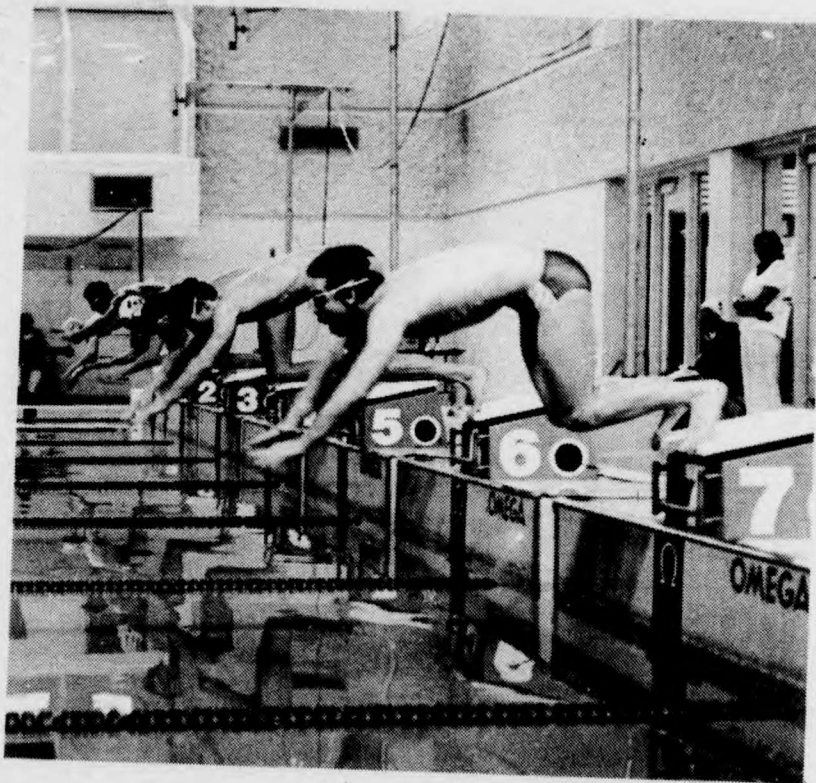
"We didn't quite have the depth this year to win, having only nine entrants to Waterloo and Toronto's 13 apiece — but what we did have made up for the lack in numbers by their level of quality".

Gary MacDonald and Neil Harvey are shining examples of coach MacDonald's quality. The nickname on the back of Harvey's warmup jacket even reads "Quality".

The two swimmers finished one-two in the balloting for swimmer of the meet, and it's not hard to see why. Gary MacDonald won every race he swam — three individual events and two relays — and set not only collegiate records in every one, but broke national Canadian open records in the 50 and 100 metre freestyle sprints, a feat that drew a five minute standing ovation from the participants and spectators.

While Gary was chalking up his victories Neil was stroking to victory in his specialty, the backstroke, winning by over five seconds — a stunning performance in a sport where a hundredth of a second often determines winners and losers.

What made it even more impressive was that the Canadian open



A start from the blocks at the Etobicoke Olympian.

record he broke in that event had been held by Steve Pickell, who was voted "the backstroker of the world" last year.

All in all Neil garnered two individual golds and a silver, as well as a gold and a silver in relays.

Advancing to the high quality level very rapidly this year was newcomer Mark Erwin. An unknown last year, Mark exploded onto the scene with a silver and bronze medal in his individual sprint events, and combined to win two gold and another silver medal on York's excellent relays. "Mark has just begun to show the country what he is capable of," said coach MacDonald. "There's no telling how far he can go — maybe even international competition in the near future".

Other York medallists were Martin Tiidus and Cam Rothery who were individual finalists as well as strong relay legs on York's

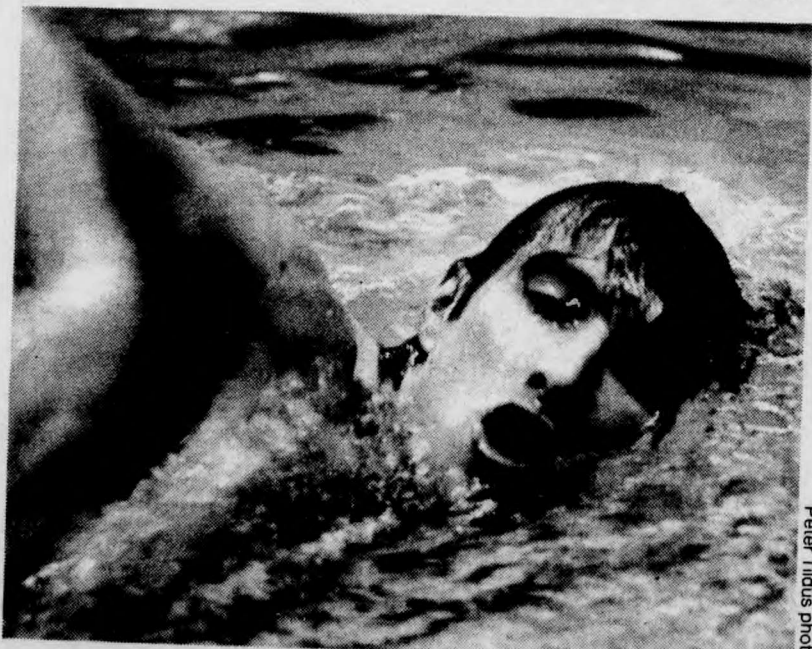
surprising silver medal winning medley relay team. It was originally thought that the relay would place fourth.

Another Yeomen star, Gabor Mezo, was a victim of a referee's mistake and was robbed of a medal in the 50 sprint freestyle, but returned later that night with a tremendous lead-off leg on the sprint relay to ensure a gold medal for York in that event.

And Graham Sutch, still suffering from the flu, was still able to muster enough energy to help both freestyle relays win the gold medals, as well as final in both his events.

John Bevan was a surprising point earner in the 50 metre freestyle as he literally came from off the street to the Yeomen with hardly any experience at all.

The Yeomen are still training as they travel to Vancouver next week to compete in the national open championships.



Gary MacDonald

Peter Tiidus photo