

# Big improvement from Tier I, Yeowomen tie Blues

**Elissa Freeman**  
Guts, grit and determination. That's what the Yeowomen Field Hockey Team displayed during Homecoming Weekend.

the Yeowomen braved the freezing 8°C weather and biting winds to finish up with a record of three wins and one tie—a vast improvement over their 1-1-2 record at Part 1 held

in Guelph. In their first game against Queens, a goal by Laura Branchaud and a penalty stroke by Laurie Lambert led York to a 2-0 win. The Red & White

Machine then steamrolled to a 4-0 victory over McGill. Sue Miller scored one goal and Laurie Lambert accounted for the others on penalty strokes. The Miller-Lambert combi-

nation also struck again in a 4-0 Yeowomen defeat over Guelph.

However, the highlight of the tourney came when York faced their old nemesis, the U of T Lady Blues. The match may have ended in a tie, but the score had different connotations for both teams. For U of T, after the 8-0 thrashing they gave York two weeks ago at the OWIAA Part 1, the game was a bitter defeat. On the other hand, the hard-fought battle was sweet victory for the York Yeowomen. Head Coach Marina Van der Merwe was extremely pleased with York's play. "They've made a tremendous improvement since the last time they played U of T. I'm very excited about the fact that 11 players gave it everything they had for 70 minutes. It was a real effort on everybody's part."

The first half saw both teams play fairly evenly, each getting numerous chances to score. But at the 32-minute mark, U of T broke the scoreless tie and went ahead 1-0. However, at the beginning of the second half of the game, the Yeowomen charged out onto the field with a renewed sense of energy, determined to even the score. "We had to pressure them," said four-year veteran Laura Branchaud. "We weren't going to give them anything to get going."

And pressure they did. The defense played superbly, constantly turning back the U of T attack. Van der Merwe credited defensive veteran Mary Cicinelli with many key saves. Rookie Fiona Reid was also a standout. Her gutsy play kept the Lady Blue forwards in check for most of the game. "The rookies played extremely well, they really came through!" exclaimed Branchaud.

Branchaud also displayed some of her National Team talent by consistently keeping the ball in U of T's end. However, it was another National Team player, Laurie Lambert, who came through with the tying goal. She capitalized on a penalty stroke, flicking a hard shot by the outstretched arms of the opposing goalie. Lambert's determination showed as she was able to single-handedly break through the Blues defense.

## SPORTORIAL

*Mark Zwol*

**Mark Zwol**

Despite some bone-chilling winds and the teeth-chattering cold this weekend, the annual home-coming parade rolled into the south campus parking lot amid blanket-clad "huddlers" and scrambling photographers. Calumet, Vanier, Bethune—they were all represented and all followed the "best mix" in the business: beer and sports.

There was plenty of action to go along with this "theme": the traditional homecoming football game, a rivalry York-U of T soccer game, an "eat your dead" rugby game, and a two-day long field hockey tournament. There seemed to be enough traditional "flavour" in the air, but there was one basic ingredient needed to complete the festive mood—a winning team.

The gridiron Yeomen dropped a pivotal game to McMaster in front of some 1,500 supportive fans, some of whom made *Excal*'s front page last week. The Soccer Yeomen upheld another tradition: the continual dominance of U of T over York in the boisterous rivalry between the two schools.

"U of T beats Trent last week 2-1, and we go out and bomb Trent 7-0. I think we have the best team in the league and this week we come up with this," said soccer Coach Norman Crandles.

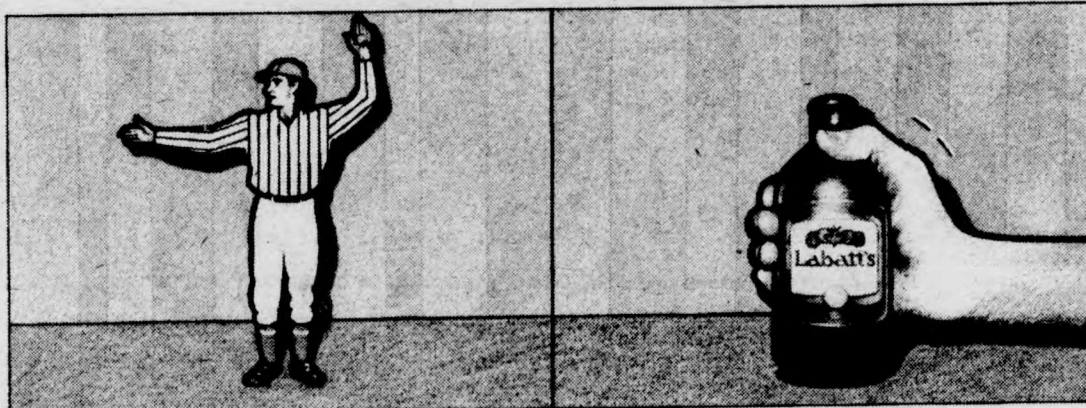
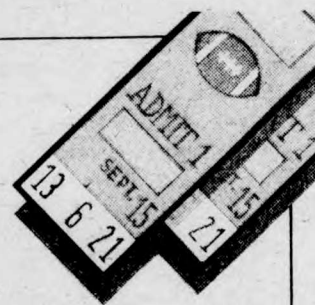
"But how can you have the best team in the league and still get knocked out of the playoffs?" I asked.

"Exactly—it's very hard to swallow. We do have a good team, and a lot of people know it. This thing is going to take some time."

While it's only Crandles' first season, he does bring a history of tradition with him, having led the soccer Yeomen to York's first and only CIAU crown back in '78. As for Dave Pickett and the gridiron Yeomen, that "goal" of making the playoffs (something the Yeomen have never done and something Pic became a part of six years ago) has become increasingly elusive, rather than traditional.

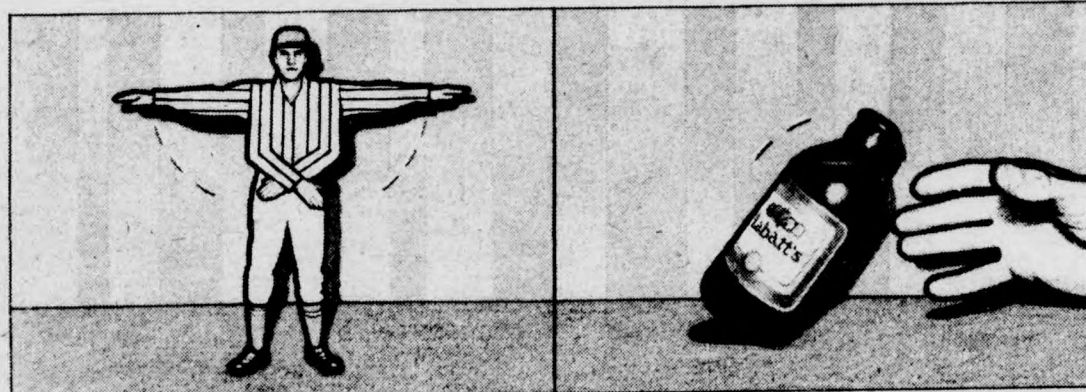
The beer and sports van, topped with a seven-foot beer bottle, won the best float honours in my book. It took over a week of "hard labour" to complete it. A traditional winning team, however, may take some time longer to emerge.

## VIEWS FROM THE BLUES.



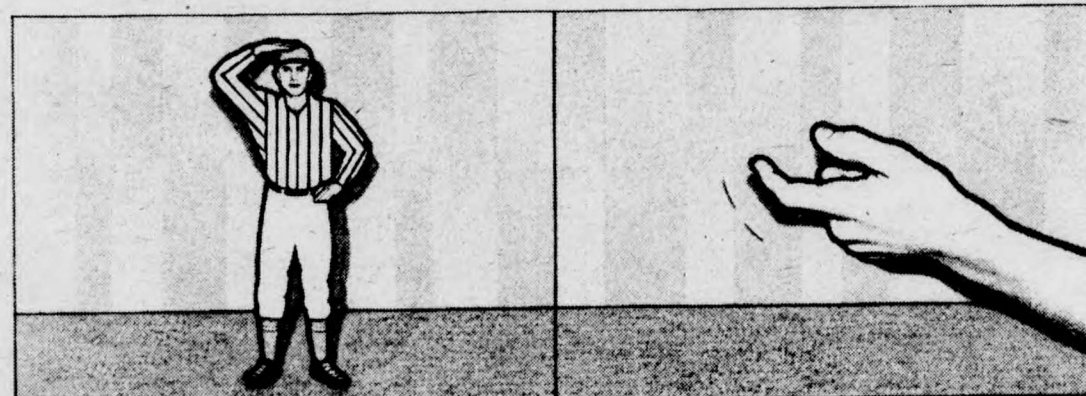
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