Yeomen take 2 on weekend and are off to incredible 3-0 start



by Eric Willis and Sydney St. Nicholas

ast weekend, the Yeomen soccer team collected four well earned points on its way to a 3-0 start in Ontario University Athletic Association (OUAA) soccer action. The Yeomen defeated Carleton 2-1 and Queen's 2-0.

The Yeomen opened up the weekend with a gritty performance against Carlton. Dario Gasparotto opened the scoring for York with a brilliantly struck shot that beat the Carleton goalie. Carleton came back to tie the score 1-1 but got careless in its own end, committing a foul against Bryson Madeley. The foul resulted in Gasparotto scoring his second goal on a penalty kick, which proved to be the margin of victory as York went on to a 2-1 win.

"This type of win is one of those wins which helps the players believe in themselves," said a very jubilant York head coach Eric Willis.

Easing on down the road to Kingston for a Sunday afternoon game against Queen's University, the Yeomen came out of the blocks firing. After creating many good scoring chances, York was finally rewarded with an outstanding goal off the head of Alwyn Fredericks, who notched his third goal of the season. This was all York needed to win as it beat Queen's 2-0. Manny Raponi scored the other goal for the Yeomen.

"The players are really starting to come together," said Willis. "They were creating lots of scoring chances, they were helping each other out on the field, and they were communicating well with each other." These are all positive signs heading into the third week of play for the Yeomen. The team seems to be gelling nicely. The Yeomen still have key players who were not playing. Tony Pignatiello, who was with the Toronto Blizzard, Dino Lopez, who is awaiting the reinstatement of his amateur status, Hunter Madeley and Mario Bavaso were not eligible to play. These are four players who will only strengthen an already strong squad.

Queen's coach John Walker said, "York was beating us to the ball," and he couldn't understand it. Queen's always has a well conditioned team and this comment was a compliment to the conditioning of York's team.

Willis said, "It was an excellent team trip," and he is proud of what the Yeomen accomplished. "To take two games on this road trip is a good sign at this stage of the season."

York plays its next game October 1 at Trent. York also plays the University of Toronto Blues on October 4 at U of T for what should be a very exciting game.

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