

Second place for York swimmers

by Riccardo Sala

The Brock Badgers took home the catch at the York-Ryerson-Brock swimming tri-meet held Friday night at the Tait-Mackenzie pool.

This was despite some excellent races swum by the Yeomen and Yeowomen. Ryerson, with the fewest swimmers of the three teams by far — there is only one woman on the Ram team — languished far behind and was relegated to watching at times.

Brock won the men's section with 39 points, with York in the middle notching 34 points and Ryerson stuck in ice with eight points. The disparity was even greater in the women's section where Brock took 52 points to York's 35. The Ryerson swimmer pulled off three points.

The swimming started with the women's 4x100m medley relay. The Yeowomen quartet of Deb Lukasik, Deb Jansen, Lori Wadge and Heather Aldred swam strongly to a first place.

The men's 4x100m medley relay saw York's team of Steve Cooney, Doug Barrie, Bill Moore and Trevor Erwin take first. That race seemed lost until Erwin, the last of the four, pulled out all stops in the freestyle to narrowly edge Brock. A second York group made up of Earl Eagleson, Bryan Gaudet, Dean Blaser and Matthew Graham placed third.

The men's rousing victory in that race inspired the team. Led in cheering by their boisterous coach, Richard Buwaj, the Yeomen and Yeowomen contributed to a wall of noise that was amplified by the hot and humid confines of the swimming pool/echo chamber which continued on and off for the duration of the meet.

In another dramatic finish, York's Anne Posno notched a narrow first place over Brock in the first heat of the women's 400m freestyle. In the second heat, teammate Stephanie Schulz stuck with a consistent stroke to win. She was edged out by Posno for the overall win.

York swimmers placed in the 100m breaststroke, 50m free and 100m backstroke. In the men's 100m breaststroke Yeoman Bill Moore took the gold, followed by teammates Blaser and Garrie to round out the first three places.

York continued to swim consistently, lodging wins in the men's and women's 100m freestyle and 4x50m freestyle relay. In every other event there was at least one person or team in the top three placings.

Brock, though, with its superior numbers, was able to garner more points in the end.

This was York's eighth event of the season. For Garrie and the Yeomen, however, "These meets don't mean anything. It's the



Jason Schwartz

Golden Gryphon.

OU's that count."

Last season the Yeomen finished mid-pack in the OUAs.

"We're doing better this season than last season. We have an influx of first year swimmers and the team is half new," said Eagleson, a third year veteran.

The Yeomen and Yeowomen go south this weekend in a tri-meet at Ryerson with UofT and the Rams.

York fencing makes a comeback

by Riccardo Sala

York fencing, close to death at the end of last year, is making a comeback this season.

The '88-'89 season witnessed a dramatic downturn for the men's fencing team after a best ever third place OUAA finish the season before.

That season's squad, however, was affected by the loss of veterans and plagued by in-fighting between former York head coach Richard Polatynski and assistant coach Mourad Mardikian.

When Polatynski, coach of the programme since the mid-'70s, had to leave mid-term, in stepped Christian Vidosa, who is hoping to take over formal coaching duties with the team.

The arrival of Vidosa has created optimism in the squad. He is Canada's highest ranked fencing judge, with national A rankings in sabre, epee and foil. On the international scene, he has an A level in sabre and B levels in foil and epee.

Vidosa is currently seeking the coaching position at York, Mardikian said, because after his likely retirement in judging after the 1996 Olympics, the position will allow him to keep in contact with the sport.

Vidosa's low-key approach to

coaching is in contrast to the brash and abrasive route Polatynski often took.

Helping Vidosa with the coaching will be Mardikian, a fencer whose link with the team stretches back to 1979. Alex Wai, the assistant coach for Ryerson, also helps the team.

Darren Osborne is in his fifth year with the team. As the varsity fencer with the most experience, he assists in drills.

Many fencers on this year's team are getting their first taste of both the school and the sport. Osborne feels that this group of rookies, both men and women, is displaying a solidarity that will hopefully see them continue fencing throughout university.

Other veterans are Gary Greene and Gordon Smith, whose ties to the programme go back three years. Fencers from last year's squad are Scott Davis, Neil Winston and Paul Kwiatkowski among others.

These veterans give the Yeomen some experienced backup in team competition. The Yeowomen, however, have no veterans, and fencers such as Monica Jacobs and Shirley Li have to rely on their own skills to produce the wins.

Also unlike the Yeomen, the women fencers are not a varsity

team. This status was dropped last year as part of the overall cutbacks implemented by York athletics.


Mardikian is hoping to have it reinstated, since non-varsity status limits the women to competition only in invitational events, such as the ones held at Carleton, Royal Military College and here at York. Competing for the OWIAA provincial championships is out of the picture as long as the Yeowomen are non-varsity.

There were fears that the Yeomen would be cut from varsity status also at the beginning of the year. Those fears have been allayed, but "we're working with the administration to make sure that the programme is continued," Mardikian said.

The fencers receive no money from the administration and, outside of the use of Tait Mackenzie, they are financially independent, said Mardikian.

For the moment Mardikian is optimistic about the programme's future. He believes the men's team could be in a position within several years to gun for a first-ever OUAA championship.

Eventually, both Mardikian and Vidosa hope to get to the point where the programme at York becomes successful enough to lure already experienced fencers.

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