

"The meet was like a transfusion"

Swim team handles top competition

By KIM LEWELLYN

Yeomen swimmers were thrust back into top-level competition in their meet against McGill and Queen's at Tait McKenzie last Saturday.

Although the Yeomen soundly defeated their opponents, coach Bryon MacDonald said, "This meet was like a transfusion. The competition McGill provided sparked renewed enthusiasm in the team. The men were getting stale, training hard every day only to compete against swimmers that they would end up beating by 20 or 30 seconds."

The Yeomen obtained a score of 118 to McGill's 95 and Queen's 50 points.

Among the Yeomen victories were Neil Harvey's swims in the 400 metre freestyle, and the 100 and 200 backstrokes, setting three varsity records. Mark Langdon won in the 800 metre freestyle and the 200 metre butterfly and Graham Sutch won the 100 and 200 freestyle events.

"I was also pleased with Gabor Mezo's race in the 100 freestyle as he finally showed his sprinting ability," said MacDonald. Mezo placed second in the race.

DIVERS STRONG

The diving team contributed a significant 20 points to the Yeomen victory. Diving coach Kathy Lane, former bronze medalist for Canada in the '67 Pan Am Games, said of her divers, "Our team is young in terms of years of experience. All of them have only begun diving competitively within the last twelve months, yet they are already able to stay close to, or beat, some of the better divers in the country who have been diving for years."

Two divers, Lee Colby and John Filion, are now of national calibre and will represent York at the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union championships in March. Dave Steeper and Bob Robichaud round out a strong diving corps.

Martha Halenda placed the Yeowomen second in Saturday's meet by securing a victory against the Queen's diver on the three metre board. The Yeowomen came out ahead of Queen's, 76-74 but lost to McGill's 96 points. Chris Lovett-Doust won for the women in the 100 metre butterfly and the 400 metre freestyle, establishing varsity records in both events.

McGill's and Queen's teams were caught in Friday's snowstorm and delayed eight hours en route to York. At times it looked like the meet would be cancelled but at 10 am Saturday both squads arrived on Tait's pool deck.

OUTSTANDING

A noteworthy outcome of the meet was Neil Harvey's placing in the 400 metre freestyle. The now ranks number one in the country for the event. Harvey is also first nationally in the 100 and 200 metre backstrokes.

"Neil is a very talented athlete," says coach MacDonald, "but he is not ranked number one in three events because of talent alone. He is one of the hardest workers on our team, day in and day out."

What does Neil think of his chances at two or three CIAU titles?

"I'm swimming better now than I ever have at this point in the season," he says, "so I think come the CIAU's I will be ready to challenge for the two backstroke titles. I'll tell you right now, it will

be a two-man race for the gold between myself and U of T's Geoff Brown."

Other outstanding York swimmers are Mark Langdon, Graham Sutch, and Liz MacGregor.

Langdon, former Canadian record holder in the 800 metre freestyle, is the team's premiere distance swimmer. Also known as "the animal", Langdon is expected to make CIAU finals in the three toughest swimming events, the 1650 metre freestyle, the 400 metre individual medley, and the 200 metre butterfly.

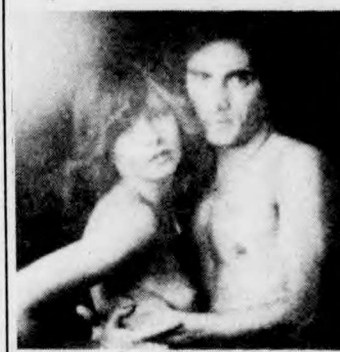
Sutch should also make finals in the CIAU's. Following a depressing Christmas training camp he showed renewed enthusiasm with his double victory against McGill on Saturday.

Ordinarily a breast-stroker, Liz MacGregor has displayed her versatility to the team by competing in distance freestyle events. MacGregor swam freestyle to give her legs a rest after suffering a knee injury earlier in the season. In a meet tomorrow evening MacGregor will return to breast-stroke in an attempt to make CWIAU cutoff time.

Tomorrow's meet will be against the university of Manitoba at Tait McKenzie pool.

BACK TO CANADAS

This season marks a changing trend in university swimming. In the past leading Canadian swimmers have attended American universities. Canada, however, is now able to offer four university swimming programmes with the calibre of programme and training top swimmers require in U of T, Waterloo, U.B.C. and recently York. The presence of Harvey, Langdon, and Sutch at York in-



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