

SPORTS EDITORIAL

CIAU to revamp national hockey championship

One has to applaud the decision of the Canadian Inter-university Athletic Union's decision last week to revamp its hockey championship.

The tournament, scheduled for March 18-20 at the University of Toronto's 4,500-seat Varsity Arena has been dubbed the Nationals by the CIAU. The format change first discussed in 1986, has the CIAU moving away from a Final Four, with no provisions for host or wild-card teams. The new format calls for a one-game semi-final, followed by a sudden-death championship game. The winners of the Canada West and the Atlantic divisions will each play one of the teams from the OUA in semi-final play; the winner to go on to the championship final.

If one recalls in previous years four regional champions would be joined by the host team plus one wild-card entry to form two three-team pools which would meet in round-robin play. This format made no sense what-so-ever. Why should a team qualify for the CIAU's just because they are the host team? The motives of the CIAU for doing this were quite clear. They wanted to sell tickets, because they feared no one would come out and watch a championship tournament if that campus's team was not participating.

This is utter nonsense. What they need to do first is establish some credibility by developing a quality championship tournament featuring four of the top teams in the country, which is exactly what they have done. Once you have built up this credibility and a reputation for good, exciting hockey the fans are sure to come out. But one has to remember, all this takes time; it cannot be done overnight. Another smart move was to get rid of the wild-card entry which was a ridiculous idea in the first place.

This new concept for the CIAU championship was patterned after the format that the CIAU uses for its Vanier Cup which has been very effective. By going to this new format the CIAU has laid the groundwork for a championship that has only champions participating, no automatic byes and no wild-card entries.

Another lift for the championship tournament came from Hockey Canada, a non-profit organization formed in 1969 to further Canadian hockey at home and abroad, which announced that it would contribute \$25,000 to the tournament. Hockey Canada will also act as a broker for the tournament, attempting to land further corporate sponsorship packages.

In what appears to be some good steps in the right direction, this new format and the backing of Hockey Canada will certainly breathe much needed new life into the CIAU championships which could make it one of the most exciting in years.

This Week in Sports at York

Yeomen

Wrestling vs Brockport N.Y.	Thurs. Feb. 4, 7:00 p.m.
Hockey vs Queen's	Fri. Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Hockey vs R.M.C.	Sat. Feb. 6, 2:00 p.m.
Gymnastics — York 2nd Qualifying Meet	Sun. Feb. 7, 6:00 p.m.
Volleyball vs Toronto	Tues. Feb. 8, 8:15 p.m.

Yeowomen

Gymnastics — OWIAA Ranking Meet	Sun. Feb. 7, 1:00 p.m.
Hockey vs Toronto	Tues. Feb. 9, 8:30 p.m.



ONE ON ONE: Liz MacDonald appears covered by her U of T opponent. Toronto had the Yeowomen covered all night, beating them for the second time this season.

York completely black and blue in doubleheader loss to Toronto

By "HOWIE" MARR

Two complete thrashings is the best way to describe UoT's victories over both the Yeomen and Yeowomen basketball teams Friday night. It was just two weeks ago that the men and women from downtown travelled to North York to record a doubleheader victory at Tait; at home this time, they completely embarrassed York.

The evening started out rather ominously as the Yeowomen got off to a terrible start against the Lady Blues. Toronto came out charging and marched to a startling 37-14 half-time lead. The Yeowomen were totally non-existent in the opening half.

York came out a little stronger in the second half and tried to mount some type of attack, but the game was just too far out of reach for any sort of comeback. If York did look stronger in the second half, it might have been because UoT already had the game under control.

**Lady Blues 64
Yeowomen 34**

The Lady Blues, fifth ranked nationally, thoroughly dominated York en route to a 64-34 final. The one-sided game did give York coach Bill Pangos a chance to go to his bench. Pangos said he was satisfied with the team's "defensive intensity," especially in the second half.

He blamed the loss on the team's lack of offensive punch. "Our problem all year has been scoring," said Pangos. "We're getting the types of shots we want, but we're not making them." Pangos said the team's foul shooting has been woefully inadequate. "We're shooting in the 50's from the line, sometimes even in the 30's and 40's."

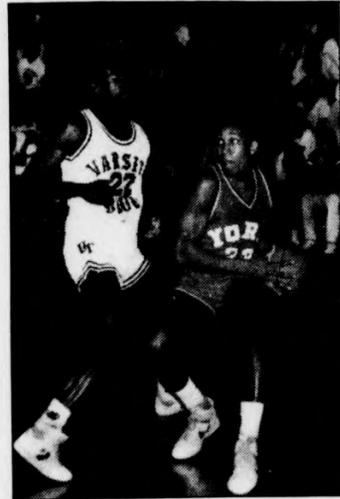
The Yeowomen see themselves as "a blue collar team," according to Pangos. The team is not interested in finesse, but opts for hard work instead. It is for this reason that Pangos considers it imperative that the team makes it "bunnies;" those points consisting of power lay-ups, shots around the hoop, and free throws. The Yeowomen were unable to live up to their blue-collar image and subsequently ended up losing to the talented "white-collar" Lady Blues. The Yeowomen did receive a decent performance from their player of the game Heather Reid, who had a ten point night in a losing effort. On the other side of the court UoT was led by all-Canadian Mary Ann Kowal, who had 20 points.

The second game of the night saw the men do battle, with the Yeomen hoping to salvage a split of the doubleheader for York. A capacity crowd, which, surprisingly, included some York students, turned out to see UoT dominate the Yeomen. The Yeomen came into the game as heavy underdogs, with Toronto's

margin of victory being the only question. The 92-57 trouncing, a 35 point victory, set a record for Toronto against York.

The game started with the two teams staying even for the first 30 points. But York was hurt by the loss of freshman George Brown early in the opening half. Brown stepped on the court one minute into the game and immediately found himself with

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WOODY AGAIN? Mike Sherwood goes up against Fred Murrell of U of T. Murrell dominated the night with 35 points.

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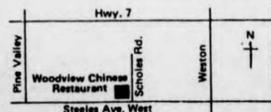
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