

Bain optimistic about team's chances

by Nicholas Davis

York university was once regarded as a powerhouse in men's basketball. Between the mid 70s and the mid 80s, York dominated the Ontario University Athletic Association's east division. Winning nine OUAA titles and making the trip to the national championships four times earned York the reputation of a winner.

Bob Bain helped orchestrate those prosperous years and seems intent on sticking it out during these lean times. Over the past few years, York has been scratching and surviving in its division.



Bain has coached at York for 20 years and he hears the cries of discontent within the campus' sports community. Critics feel the game has passed him by and suggest he pass on the reigns. In January he takes a leave from his teaching duties, but he is going to stick with the team until the season ends.

"I didn't think it would be fair to leave the team entirely, although Charlie Simpson (assistant coach) is very capable of handling the duties and everything would be handled administratively, I just felt it would be better if I stayed until the end of the year and coached. I'm not sure if my players want me to," said Bain.

of the border.

"The best players in Toronto tend to go south, or they have their ambitions at a very young age to go to a



Bob Bain, York's men's basketball coach for the past 20 years

photo by Michele Boesener

scholarship school. In my opinion it is very sad, maybe we are not doing our jobs."

High school kids would rather take a partial scholarship to a division II school than pay anything to go to a Canadian university. With Western schools giving some type of scholarships to their players and colleges now able to provide assistance to players, the pool of players to choose from has diminished.

"Players tend to go east and west as well. We lost three big men to eastern schools and they are not going there for free. They have been promised certain financial rewards and they are going to get government scholarships in their second third and fourth year, and the equivalent in their first. Add that to the fact that the entrance requirements aren't as high as York's, and you find that we are losing players east, west, north, and south."

Bain supports providing athletes with scholarships at the university level. He has had first hand experience with players who have not had enough food to eat. John Christiansen, a former Yeomen standout was eating bread and drinking Tang to survive. The cost of meals at some of the hotels the team stays at can't match up to their ten dollar meal allowance.

"I am in favour of it [scholarships], I have been for a long time. I would like to see a scholarship here at York, where the tuition is waived or something of that equivalency.

"I'll tell you what I believe. I think that the university athletic directors and presidents are using philosophy as a cover for the real reasons why we don't offer scholarships.

They don't want the responsibility of having scholarships, because they would have to raise the money and ensure that the money is used well and not being misused."

Recruiting problems aside, York has got a fine core of freshmen. Although the team is small they have some good shooters and some speed

which will help them during the year. Bain also feels his team will be in good enough shape to be competitive with any team in their division.

New recruits are Vic Fantin from Vaughn, Orin Litman from Alberta, Toge Heersin from Banting in London, Andrew Ballejo from Toronto, and Howard Herdsman from Toronto. They join six veterans including sharp shooting Mark Bellai, Alex Brainis, and second year point guard Wilton Hall

1992-93 team leader Clive Anderson, a leading scorer in the OUAA, is no longer with the team.

"You never replace Clive. He is one of a kind," said Bain.

This year's team should have a more balanced attack. They will be quicker, in better shape, and enthusiastic. The team lacks solid rebounding which could cause problems against bigger teams.

Bain said the increased emphasis on a power game is one of the biggest changes to the sport at the university level in the past twenty years. The changes have caused headaches for referees and lead to the three point line, but teams must find ways to adjust.

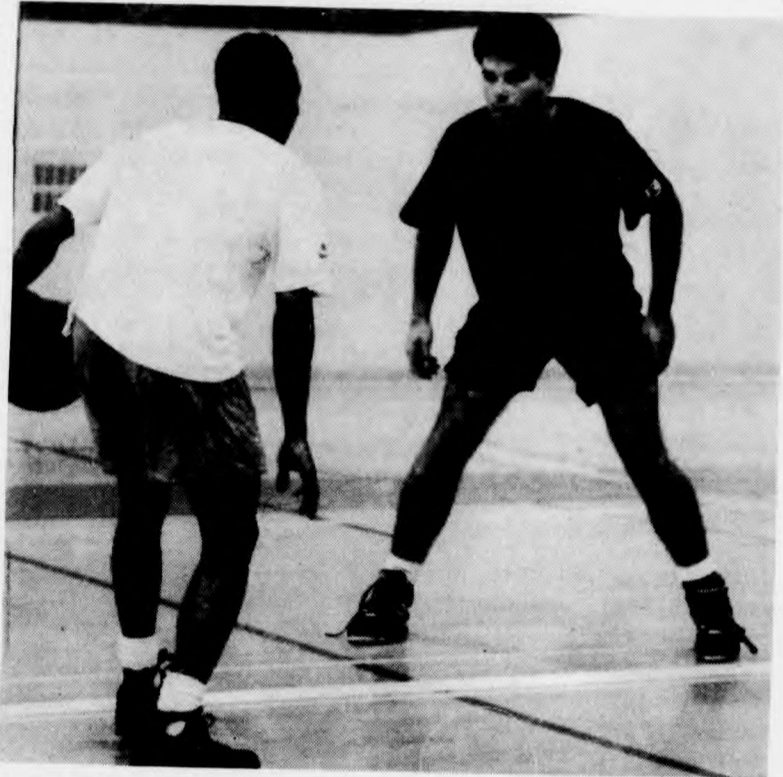
"[Dealing with a more physical game] opened up the game to encourage people to shoot the ball from the outside and try to develop different kinds of players. By the same token it has cleaned up the inside."

A new playoff format in the

OUAA means the top four teams in each division advance. York has a good chance of challenging for the OUAA crown considering other divisional teams aren't much bigger in the middle. Big size has hurt York in the past, especially against cross-city

rivals UofT.

Bain won't make predictions on the upcoming year. "We could win the league or we could come in last. I am looking forward to the year. It's going to be great. I really like the players I have."



Returning veteran Alex Brainis playing some pickup basketball. Brainis is part of the returning core of veterans who will try to help the rookies adjust to the OUAA.

photo by Michele Boesener

Yeomen get the varsity 'Blues'

by Daniel Naccarato

I always wanted to see what Mike Dinning looked like in a kilt.

A friendly pre-game bet between York's athletic director, Mike Dinning, and University of Toronto's athletic director, Ian McGregor, on the outcome of last week's Red-Blue Bowl featuring the York Yeomen and UofT Blues football teams turned out for the worst for Dinning as the Blues beat the Yeomen 40-3.

It was the sixth straight victory for the first-ranked Blues in this annual match against the rival Yeomen. They now lead the series, which has taken place since 1971, 19-3.

This game marked what was likely the worst played by York this season and the first time in four weeks that the Yeomen had not gained their opponents in total offensive yards.

"Our defence was on the field far too much," said York coach Tom Arnott. "I didn't feel our offense was as tight as it had been. Offensively we tried to expand beyond our capabilities and our game plan went askew."

The Yeomen played with the Blues for much of the first half, stopping them cold on the Blues first two drives of the game before conceding a safety on their third drive of the game and giving up a touchdown on the UofT's third drive.

Nevertheless, the score after fifteen minutes was only 9-0 for the Blues. The offense, in particular had trouble getting started as they continually began drives and were forced to punt from deep in their zone.

"Poor field position was the greatest problem," said Arnott. "It's easier to drive forty yards instead of seventy-five."

The second quarter started off with a bang, with a York interception giving them the ball near their own 35 yard line. For the first time in the game York moved the ball effectively, with Perry Apostolopoulos completing passes to Hovig Keshishian and Trevor Powers.

They moved the ball deep into Toronto territory, however they could



York Yeomen football player tries to elude UofT player. York lost the game 40-3 to continue their losing streak. The Yeomen have now lost 29 games in a row.

photo by Michele Boesener

only muster a field goal, narrowing the gap to 9-3.

The York bench was instilled with confidence, and after another safety gave the Blues an 11-3 lead. Another Yeomen interception gave York good field position. York got into penalty trouble soon afterwards and failed to score a point.

The Blues scored a touchdown late in the quarter to make the score 18-3, but the game didn't seem out of reach. The Yeomen offense was moving the ball steadily throughout the second quarter, and the defence was coming up with big plays at key moments, to minimize the damage.

Whatever hope the Yeomen had of winning was lost in the second half. The offense couldn't move the ball and the defence was giving up more long yardage plays. As a result, the Blues went on to record three more touchdowns to complete the shellacking.

The second half was a disaster for the offense as Apostolopoulos only completed 4 of 16 passes, and the running game produced just 28 yards.

Nonetheless, Arnott was not upset. "We don't think the score was indicative of our play. Our defence played an outstanding game. Our offense had some chances but they just

haven't learned how to finish off drives.

We were beaten by a better team at this point in time"

The most notable players on offense were Keshishian, who recorded 95 yards on 7 catches and P.J. Edgeworth who caught three passes for 62 yards. Edgeworth also had 34 yards on kickoff returns and 13 yards on punt returns.

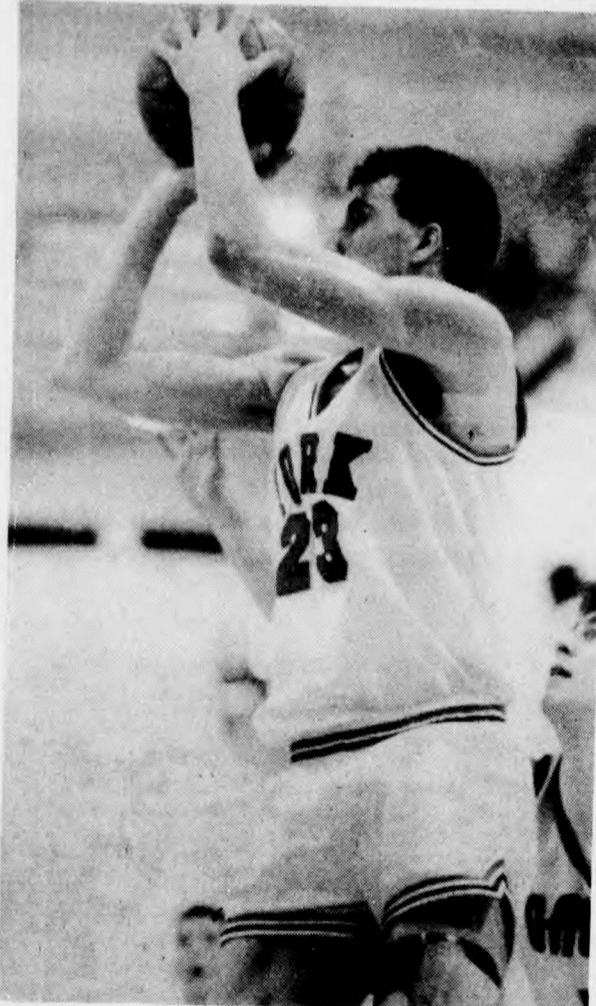
Defensively, York was led by their linebacking core, with Mark Houlder (CFL draftee) leading the way.

With the consecutive losing streak now having reached 29 games, the Yeomen have two more chances to end it this year. They play Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier in their remaining games, not easy opponents.

Arnott is optimistic that his team has a chance to pull a rabbit out of the hat.

"Our players have outstanding character. You can't beat them mentally, and physically we are no longer intimidated. We have learned it is better to give than to receive.

With these things going for us, we have a chance to beat one of them. All we have to do is get the monkey off our back. One win will turn us around."



Sharp shooting Mark Bellai returns for another year at York. Bellai and Wilton Hall should lead team into playoffs.

photo by Michele Boesener

Spectacular athletes who have hit the court for York include Mark Jones, Dave Coulthard, Bo Pelech, Enzo Spagnuolo and John Christiansen. But York is finding it harder and harder to attract highly touted freshmen. High entrance requirements and early cut off dates only encourage high school graduates to pursue opportunities south