This was good enough to win the competition after a poor start.

Pommares' Fencer of the Year award is a worthy companion to the Coatta trophy which was voted him by the other fencers at the IFA Easterns where he placed second. Both of these awards are based on skill, style, determination, spirit, and all-round sportsmanship. They are among the most coveted awards in American collegiate fencing.

The national tournament itself was quite an exhibition, as the sponsors spared little expense in an attempt to produce an exciting show. This resulted, unfortunately, in some behind-the-scenes politicking as some rules were bent to prevent fencers from schools vying for the team trophy from being eliminated early.

The first day of the tournament consisted of ten elimination pools. Pommares was one of the two epeeists who slashed through their pools undefeated. This left him in good position for the semi-finals the day after. He could place himself, winning only as many matches as were needed to reach the finals the third day. Then the tournament officials announced that the semi-finals and the finals were to be combined into a single 24 man round robin. Although a change of this sort is against international rules, the tournament went on.

Already upset, Pommares was paired against the other undefeated fencer in the opening round. He lost this match, as well as several others that first day. Although he fended much better the final day, he ended up fifth.

Much credit for Pommares' success this season must go to Coach Ed Richards. Before Pommares came to the US three years ago, he had studied for many years under a French master. Thus he came to the US with a beautiful, classic fencing style which was effective in European competition, but poorly adapted to the totally different style of intercollegiate fencing in this country. Coach Richards, who is one of the best American fencers, worked with Pommares in adapting his style and the results deserve praise from the entire MIT community.