Harvard tops fencers

By Brian Willcock

The MIT fencing team entered its regular season with a disappointing 12-5 loss to Harvard Wednesday in Oxford.

It was a meet full of surprises. The free squad, thought not expected to do well, won its division 4-1. Responsible for this were John Rodrigues, who won all three of his bouts, and Jim Kelly, who took two. The same squad, also expected to have a lot of trouble with the strong Harvard team, lost 3-3, highlighted by sophomore Bill Elbling’s two victories. Harvard scored a phenomenal come-from-behind win, giving Harvard’s top sabreman his only loss of the night.

The first squad did not have such a good time. They were expected to do very well, and ended up losing both. Coach Eric Sellers commented, “We lost in a fall. The team punched themselves out.”

The coach went on to say that he considers MIT the better team, but that they lost on concentration. Captain Mark Smith, who won two bouts, was quite pleased at his one loss, and his fencing in general in the meet. He apologized after the meet for “failing without my head,” and added, “I hope to come out of it.” Smith is an “A” rated fencer, and is currently an “invited guest” of the U.S. International Squad.

The junior varsity did slightly better, losing 13-14 to Harvard’s J.V. Most of the weight was carried by the epee squad, which took eight out of nine bouts.

Junior Brian Willcock and David Heller both swept three bouts.

Pistol downs three

By Michael Taylor

Last Saturday MIT easily beat its opponents, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Boston State College (BSC), and New England Institute of Technology (NEIT), in the Colonial Fencing Shootout Match.

This was the second of separate events in the match. The first was the national singles five minutes and consists of six strings of five shots fired in 45 minutes. There is a possible 300 points tied up in this event.

Next was the Conventional, or American style. This again consists of 100 points, and consists of 10 shots fired in 10 minutes (100), two strings of five shots fired in 20 seconds (tied), and two strings of five fired in 10 seconds each.

The final event was the International Standard Pistol. This is the same event in the Conventional, except that there are two strings of five shots fired in two and a half minutes each for the slow part of the event. The other difference is that shooters must start with their gun drawn, whereas they may have their gun up for the other two events. This makes for some quick shooting in the 10 second rapid portion, when a couple of seconds may be the difference between winning.

Because there are five events of 300 points each, the type of match is known as a “Collegiate 1500.” Although everybody gets to shoot, only five pre-determined members of each team are in the actual competition. Then, when the shooting is over, only the four best scores from each team will count.

For MIT the five shooters chosen were: David Schuller ’78, Danny McMullen ’78, Phil Moore ’83, David Miller ’78, and Bob Brous ’80. The first four ended up counting. Their final total scores were Schuller-942, Miller 791, McMullen-774, and Morris-772.

This made the MIT team’s total of 3832 points, which easily beat WPI’s second place score of 5001 points. BSC and S&T had final scores of 2688 and 2512, respectively.

A JV MIT fencer scores a touch against his Harvard opponent on Wednesday.

Gymnasts drop first

By Helen Miyawaki

The MIT men’s gymnastics team lost their first meet last Friday to the University of Lowell 185.7 to 131.2.

Harvard prior to the match was run by MIT’s captain John Tromi, ’78, with a score of 7.35. An array of difficult tricks, such as full circles, a side somersault, and a pike front somersault, were used by the Tech men to win this event. Overall, MIT’s form was much cleaner than Lowell’s on floor exercise.

Unfortunately, Lowell overpowered MIT on the other five events, with outstanding performances by their all-around men. Post the next event, posted horse, the depth of the Lowell team was apparent as they took the lead by almost 10 points.

MIT’s only other first place was Jim Cherry, ’78, on rings with a 7.0. In coming meets, MIT can expect higher scores from the top three ring men, all of whom received handspots on double-back somersault dismounts. A handspot automatically deducts at least 0.5 from the score.

In addition, MIT’s men’s gymnastics team had a tremendous amount of potential. Petek has improved considerably since last year, and Perkins’ landing full back vault promises to be excelling.

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