Women fencers slash three

By Jeannette M. Wing

Editor's note: Jeannette M. Wing is a member of the women's fencing team.

Improving its record to 7-3, the women's varsity fencing team won three straight matches against Brown, RIC, and URI last week.

Captain Michelle Prettyman '78 led the women Wednesday, February 1, smacking Brown 12-4. Prettyman received a total of only four touches against her in the four bouts she won enjoying two 5-0 victories. Solima Shimaoka '81 fended well contributing three strong victories, including the meet's deciding ninth bout, against the inexperienced Brown women.

Jean Gregory Prettyman '81, one, Junior Varsity fencers Sayuri Kao '81 and Nancy Robinson '81 substituted in for Wing and Stein and both beat their opponents decisively with Robinson's 5-0 win being the twelfth victory for MIT.

The following Saturday MIT attended a tri-meet held at RIC with URI. The women repeated their 12-4 meet score against the weak RIC team. Prettyman and Wing each entered in three victories as did Meredith Boise '78 who won the deciding ninth bout. Stein led the JV squad with four victories against URI by winning three bouts Jean Gregory Prettyman '78, Kuo, and Robinson each added three. Stein and Robinson each won the meet score of 10-6.

The win against URI, 10-6, was somewhat closer with MIT behind 6-5 after the first bout into the third round. However, MIT revved its spirit and won the next two bouts to swing the meet score to 6-5 in MIT's favor. Then to prove its strength the women won all four bouts of the last round led by another Prettyman 5-0 performance. Prettyman and Boise each tallied up three wins; Wing and Shimaoka each two for the final meet score of 10-6.

The junior varsity team split their meets Saturday smacking RIC 12-3 and losing to URI 10-4. Stein led the JV squad with four victories against RIC, and Robinson, Kuo, and Amelia Phillips '81 each added three. Stein also did well against URI by winning three bouts Jean Gregory Prettyman '79, Kuo, and Robinson each won one for MIT's total of six.

Undaunted by Tuesday's blizzard, the enthusiastic and devoted MIT men and women fencing squad scheduled a meet against itself. The fencers who came to an early practice plus the coach Eric Sollee and MIT regulars Carla Coats, Chip Farley, and David Dreifuss split into two coed teams, the "Saturday Knights" led by Men's Captain Mark Smith '78, and the "Grrrs" led by Women's Captain Michelle Prettyman '79. The contest between the two MIT teams was successful with highlights including a foil bout between Coach Sollee and Captain Smith with Smith the victor and a sabre bout between the two with Sollee the victor. The "Grrrs" down by one bout won the last bout of the contest by Shimaoka turning in a 5-0 win to tie the bout score at 10-10. To decide the meet's victor, total touches were counted but as fate would have it the team's tied in total touches also. Either way one looks at it, the MIT vs. MIT meet resulted in an undefeated MIT.

Both the men and women travel to Trinity on February 11. The last home meet of the women is on Wednesday February 15 against Concord-Carlisle at 7pm in the duPont Fencing Room.

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