Fencing wins New England for tenth year

By Brian F. Wibecan

Edited note: Brian Wibecan is the manager of the fencing team.

The men’s fencing team demolished the opposition and won the New England Championship for the tenth consecutive year, Saturday at S.E. Mass. University.

MIT clearly dominated the competition. The team finished 13 bouts ahead of second place Dartmouth, winning 64 out of a possible 72 bouts. Foil, epee, and saber all won their divisions.

Jim Freidah ‘81 went undefeated in the team competition, and Rich Hemphill ‘79 only dropped one bout during the Vitalie weapons trophy for the foil squad. Close behind was the saber squad. George Gonzalez-Rivas ‘80 won all twelve of his bouts while DaElhoon Canon ‘80 won ten, putting saber one bout behind foil. In epee, captain John Rodrigues ‘80 gave the team a third undefeated fencer. Rob Schenckenberg ‘81 and Chris Braun ‘81 shared the second spot duties, winning seven bouts between them.

These performances were seen in the individual finals. MIT continued its domination there, taking first place in all three weapons. Rodrigues remained undefeated to nab the epee crown. Gonzalez-Rivas, in his first New England championships, continued his exceptionally strong performance, taking top honors in saber. He also did not drop a bout all day. Hemphill dropped only one bout in the final, winning the foil championship after taking second two years in a row.

Freidah lost his undefeated status in a well-fought final bout with Hemphill, and then lost another, drooping back to third place in foil. Chen, in his first New Englands, picked up two wins for fourth place in saber.

This weekend, the team will fence in the ECAC championships at Harvard. A good performance is expected, and there is a possibility of several fencers making the finals. Fox is expected to do particularly well, and could take the championship.

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