Fencers fifth in Easterns

By Brian F. Wibecan

Editor's Note: Brian Wibecan is a member of the fencing team.

The MIT men's fencing team took fifth place in the Eastern Championships last Saturday and Sunday. Although the team did not achieve the best performance by an MIT team ever, putting three fencers in the individual finals.

In the epee competition Saturday morning, MIT started slowly. Things picked up toward the middle, but in the end, captain John Rodrigues '81 was able to keep going strong. Rodrigues went eight for eight in the A pool, qualifying him for the individual finals. Rob Schricker '81 won four bouts in the C pool, while Chris Braun '82 took two in the B pool. Dave Heiler '79, who substituted for Braun in the last third of the meet, was winless.

In the afternoon, the foil squad was thwarted in its attempt to capture the championship, taking third. This performance nonetheless paved the way for the strong overall team showing. Richemont won a foil for MIT, won eight bouts, also qualifying for the individuals. Eric de Beus '92 fenced in the B pool and won nine, also qualifying. Jim Fredish '91 took nine bouts in the C pool, but because of staggered seeding (only one fencer from the C pool goes to the finals), was unable to qualify. The sabre squad started out strong on Sunday, giving rise to hopes of a third place finish. Unfortunately, they were unable to keep up the wining, topping only one bout of their last nine. MIT’s A sabreur, George Gonzalez-Rivas ’80, barely missed qualifying for the finals with his seven victories. This was, however, the best performance by an MIT sabre fencer in the history of the competition. Dalhousie Chan '80 won four bouts in the B pool, while Brad Nager '92 won five in the C pool.

The strong overall performance of the team put it in 10th place, one bout behind Rutgers and Penn. Behind MIT were Columbia, NYU and Cornell (tied), Yale, Army, Harvard, CCNY, and Dartmouth.

The individual finals that afternoon gave Rodrigues fifth in epee, de Beus fifth in foil, and Hemphill eighth in foil. De Beus’ strong fencing in the Easterns puts him in the running for the MIT foil spot at the Nationals. Fredish, Hemphill, and De Beus will fence against themselves, and the winner will join Rodrigues and Gonzalez-Rivas in the NCAA Championships next weekend at Princeton.

The three stand an excellent chance of ending up as an All-American team (top six), according to coach Eric Sollie.

Rodrigues, who took eighth last year, is in good form, and could garner individual All-American honors. Gonzalez-Rivas, a fairly new fencer (this is his second year, his first of post-season fencing competition), is a smart enough competitor who learns from his mistakes quickly. He will be facing many of the same people he saw in the Easterns again, which will be to his advantage. The coach feels Gonzalez-Rivas could end up in the top twelve. All together, they have a good possibility of beating MIT’s sixth place finish of two years ago.

Tune in to Bose

Wednesday and Thursday, March 21, 22

The Mountain

Framingham, MA 01701

(617) 870-7300

Bose Corporation, the brainchild of Dr. Bose and his research group in 1964, is coming back to M.I.T. Bose, Inc. will be interviewing students this week. Bose is looking for more of the best.

If you can't make it this week, check the MIT career fair for possible interviews.

If you came to our Seminar last week, you know who we are. And if you didn't make it... this is your chance to find out. Come see us this Wednesday and Thursday, March 21 and 22 and tell about us. And about you. If you can't make it then, send us your resume or give us a call.

The Karl Taylor Compton Awards are the highest awards given to students by the Institute community and reflect the belief that real excellence and dedication to the welfare of the MIT community in any area, with emphasis on lasting or sustained contributions to the MIT community as a whole, should be recognized.

Compton Awards

The William L. Stewart Awards are given to students in recognition of a single, outstanding contribution to a particular activity or event.

Send nominations to the Awards Committee, Room W20-345.