Fencers second in IFA, nosed out by U of Penn

By Rich Astroeh

After dominating the New England Championships, the MIT fencing team placed second in the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (IFA) Championships this past weekend at Columbia University. Although victorious in a head-to-head basis, the Engineers tallied a single point less than Penn, 66-65. Geoff Pingree '81 claimed the individual epee title, and captain George Gonzalez-Rivas '80 placed fourth in saber.

The fencers are in the process of rounding out their season at the NCAA Championships at Penn State University, and Baker defeated in basketball

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Colucci '82, with up to ten courts available for games, and Colucci does not foresee referees being the "limiting factor this year." Instead, he added, the open schedule, after a season which included two victories over Harvard and their first victory ever against Yale.

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Indeed, Pingree in epee, Gonzalez-Rivas in saber, and Eric DeBias '80 in foil have been consistent performers all season with a combined record of 33-31. It is important to note that since only a three-man team competes in the Nationals, the title is always up for grabs.

"Consider Wayne State (last year's champion)," says Gonzalez-Rivas. "They're not a power, but they have three outstanding fencers in the various weapons and they'll be tough to beat." MIT, seventeenth in the nation last year, also has three fine fencers who will be difficult to beat. Whatever the outcome, the outstanding performance this year shows that MIT has one of the finest fencing programs in the nation.

Gonzalez-Rivas predicts that MIT "could finish in the top five." Their record certainly supports this prediction. The Engineers went 14-4 in dual meets this year, and the 1980 season was a highly competitive schedule, after a season which included two victories over Harvard and their first victory ever against Yale.

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Intramural softball will begin Saturday, April 5, and continue through Sunday, May 11. Entries are due and roster forms are due Tuesday, March 15, at 4pm in the softball manager's mailbox in W32-13. Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the deadline. If there are any questions, the softball manager is Mark Cooper (316-6418), and his assistants are Brad Pones and Jeff Olson (316-1199).

Weekend Preview

By Eric R. Fleming

Paul Neves '83, MIT's outstanding track star, will be competing in the NCAA Track and Field Championships, which are being held today and tomorrow in Detroit, Michigan. By docking a 2:30.3 in the 1000 yard run during the NCAA track championships held two weeks ago at Princeton, Neves became the second Engineer trackman to compete in the NCAA meet, always a top event in outdoor track. Coach Gordon Kelly hopes that despite the tough competition from all three NCAA divisions, Neves can turn in a good performance in today's qualifying heat.

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