Fencing teams win New England crowns

Men take team, individual honors

By Martin Dickas

The silence that had fallen over the ring of spec-
tators was absolute. The ticking of the timekeeper's
clock could be heard 10 feet away. The next touch
would decide the foil title in the men's New Eng-
land Fencing Championships Saturday.

Teams had come from all over New England only
to fall like wheat before the flashing blades of host
MIT, as coach Erik Sjöbo's men captured the over-
all team title, all three weapon titles, and two of the
three individual titles.

The foil squad also walked away with the Silvio
Vitali trophy for the weapon team with the best re-
cord. The team of Russell Holtz '85 and Mitch
Mealer '85 dropped only one of 28 bouts during the
team competition.

Nearly 11 hours of fencing had come down to two
former New England foil champions embroiled in a
"barrage," or fence-off, for first place.

Suechin Kim '86 and Darryl Toney '85 had earlier
put in a surprisingly strong showing in sabre, taking
first place in that weapon.

Kim and Toney both advanced to the individual
finals, where Kim placed second and Toney fourth.

The two teammates faced each other as they had
in practice so many times over the last four years.

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MIT shooters win sectionals

By Jerry Martin

After finishing up their regular season last weekend with a victo-
ry over Norwich University in Vermont, the MIT pistol team
turned in a similar performance Saturday, dominating the New
England Collegiate Sectionals.

The Sectionals serve two pur-
pose: they are the regional
championships, and they are the
qualifying matches for the Na-
tional Intercollegiate Pistol
Championships. Based on their
sectional scores, the ten best
teams and the top thirty indivi-
duals are invited to the Sectionals.

MIT teams won all three events at this year's N.E. Sectionals —
the .22 caliber free and standard pistoles, and the pelle-
shotting air pistol.

The bright stars for the day
were two MIT sophomores, Joe
LaRocca and Kelvin Phoon.
Phoon, a rookie shooter, was
number four man on an MIT air
team that set a new range record.
LaRocca fired a career high to
open the match with a gold med-
al in free pistol, followed by
team manager Jerry Martin '86
for the silver and Jim McCaulery
'85 of the US Coast Guard Acad-
emy. Other members of the win-
ning team were team captain
Robert Landrau '83 and James
Lee '85.

Standard and air pistoles told
similar stories, with Martin on
top in standard by 21 points for
the gold, and LaRocca and Land-
rau tied at 521. A tie-breaking
procedure gave LaRocca the sil-
er and Landrau the bronze. The
fine shooting of fourth team
member Warren Katz '86 gave the
team an easy victory.

Air pistol fired the match in
front of the left-handers, with MIT
shooting its best score of the year to set a range record and win the match.

Gold went to Martin, silver to
LaRocca who added another ca-
reer-high, and bronze to McCau-
ley. The top three were separated
by only one point.

There will be about a two week
wait until the scores are tabulated,
but it is likely that MIT will
qualify teams in all three pistols,
and that several individuals will
also qualify. The Nationals will
be hosted by the University of
Texas at Arlington (near Fort
Worth) during spring break, giv-
ning the team a month to train.

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