Fencers tie for 6th at IFA tournament

By Martin Dickau

NEW YORK — A strong performance by the foil team overcame a poor sabre showing and led the men's fencing team to a three-way tie for sixth place at the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships last weekend.

MIT captain Russell Holtz '85, two-time defending foil champion, overcame a disqualification of his type of foil handle to place third in the individual competition in the weapon. Holtz's finish qualifies him for the NCAA championships later this month.

Mitch Messer '85 won nine of his 11 bouts, pacing the three-man foil team to a third-place finish, one bout behind first-place Yale. Messer finished second in his pool — four touches behind Yale's Tim Mueller — and advanced to the semifinals, where he placed 13th.

Johnnie Shih '86 and Andy Chang '87 combined in the "C" foil slot for six victories.

Épée fencer Alan Williams '85 will join Holtz at the nationals. Williams won seven of his 11 regular bouts to advance to the semifinals and finished 13th overall among the 33 competitors.

Dan Lord '85 won four bouts in the "C" slot, and Rex Ko- chanaski '85 and Jeff Arenberg '86 combined for three in the "B" competition, as MIT finished in a tie for eighth place with Columbia University.

Yale won the épée title with 23 victories, one ahead of Princeton.

The sabre team proved to be the weakest of the three weapon squads, finishing 10th of 12 with only nine victories. Darryl Toney '87 led the squad with 4 victories.

Eric Shih '87 delivers a head cut to an opponent in a sabre bout during this weekend's Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships in New York.

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