Sports

Fencers Advance To Semis at PSU

By Mark Hurst

Four of the seven MIT fencers advanced past the initial seeding round at the Penn State Open in State College, Pa. on Nov. 15. Featuring competitors from the nation’s top fencing teams, this prestigious tournament is on par with the NCAA Div. I national championships.

Jon Mosier ’96, a newcomer to fencing, made it to the round second and captured a respectable 27th place out of 49 competitors in the men’s epee competition.

In men’s epee, Kris Giesing ’94 advanced to the third seeding round and missed advancing to the semifinals by one touch; he took 20th place out of 78. Keith Lichten ’95 jungled his way to an outstanding 15th place in the semifinals.

Winning his first bout in the semifinals, Mark Hurst ’94 captured 16th place out of 68 sabreurs.

Aditya Matoo ’97 also competed in men’s epee.

After the women’s team travels to Brandeis University Saturday, the men’s team will host a big home meet. Held in Johnson Hall all day, the most will feature Brandeis, St. John’s College, City College of New York, and Tufts University.

MIT Wins Inaugural UNIHOC Contest

By Henrik Martin

On Nov. 21, the first ever intercollegiate UNIHOC tournament took place at MIT. After 10 teams competed for five hours, MIT emerged as the overall champion.

MIT fielded a total of four teams, reflecting the size of the most extensive UNIHOC program in the nation. The team included an “M” team, an “I” team, a “T” team, and Nu Delta, the current intramural champions. Boston and Northeastern universities, and Suffolk and Franklin Pierce colleges also fielded teams.

The teams were split into two divisions of five teams, and each team played a round-robin with the other teams in its division. From each division, the top two teams qualified for the play-offs.

The play-offs started with a semifinal round, where the Huskies from Northeastern defeated the spirited all-workers’ team from Franklin Pierce; the MIT I team dismissed the fighting MIT M team.

The final took place between the two undefeated teams of the day: the dominating Huskies (who had scored an unbeatable 11 goals per game in the qualifying rounds) and the defensively strong MIT I team, which consisted of Jeff Cole G, Henrik Martin G, Matt Staeding, Matt Trevishick G, and Marc Wicles G.

The final was played at an outrageous pace between two very even teams. After full time, the score was even at 1-2, the lowest scoring game of the day. In order to decide who was to go home with the first prize trophy (a UNIHOC ball spray painted in gold), sudden death was invoked. The game was elevated to a frenzy with plenty of scoring chances both ways. Finally, Stading managed to find the Huskies net with a wicked wrist shot, propelling MIT to its first intercollegiate UNIHOC title.

MIT will probably be hosting a similar but expanded event next year. Teams from Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Connecticut have already expressed interest in participating.

Coalition Has Helped Bowl Selection Process

Column by Mike Duffy

A hearty Let’s Argue welcome back to our faithful readers from their Thanksgiving travels! This will be the last column of the semester, but hopefully it will get our followers through until Independent Activities Period. A hearty welcome back also to Alex Medina ’92, mastermind of Monday’s Top 5, who returns this morning to Beantown from the Big City.

Despite all the griping about the bowl selection process, the Bowl Coalition has, in fact, been good for the average college football fan. In years past, bowl match-ups were highly contrived and decided during the first week of November. If that had been the case this year, Notre Dame would have locked up an Orange Bowl slot with its win over Florida State, while Boston College’s win at South Bend heightened the day after by the collective moan heard coming from The Heights, West Virginia’s victory over Miami and Florida State’s win over Florida would have been meaningless.

Instead, the Bowl Coalition gives us match-ups of FSU-Nebraska, Notre Dame-Texas A&M, and West Virginia-Florida/Alabama. Although these pairings are not perfect, it is not entirely the fault of the coalition, because they do not vote in the polls. Match-ups of FSU-Nebraska and West Virginia-Notre Dame would be preferable to the current West Virginia and Notre Dame scenarios. All of this will be moot in a couple of years, however, when Michael “Behind Blue” Eisner and Disney get their proposed “Final Four” playoff system passed.

In Eisner’s proposal, every I-A “Final Four” playoff system passed. Each division, the top two teams qualified for the play-offs. The play-offs started with a semifinal round, where the Huskies from Northeastern defeated the spirited all-workers’ team from Franklin Pierce; the MIT I team dismissed the fighting MIT M team.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Sunday, December 5
Men’s Fencing Tournament at Johnson Center, all day

By Henrik Martin

Column by Mike Duffy