

COLLEGE FENCERS OPEN MEET TODAY

Swordsmen to Begin Competition in 38th Annual Championships at the Astor.

YALE FACED BY HARD TASK

Ellis Will Seek to Retain Epee and Foils Honors—Columbia Will Defend Saber Crown.

By ARTHUR J. DALEY

With competition more open than it has been in years, the thirty-eighth annual intercollegiate fencing championships will open at the Hotel Astor today. On Yale will be placed the greatest burden, since the Elis will be defending team honors in épée and foils and also will be seeking outright possession of the coveted three-weapon trophy that was shared with Army a year ago.

By failing to qualify with the saber in the sectional trials a fortnight ago, the West Point contingent is virtually out of the running in so far as three-weapon honors go, as only Yale, Princeton and New York University have placed men in the finals with foils, épée and saber.

But if such strong combinations as Army, Navy or Harvard can score heavily with two weapons and the other three colleges bog down a bit, then there is a possibility that one of the less favored contingents will spring a great upset. West Point, which just missed winning with the saber a year ago, was unable to survive the preliminaries with this weapon while Navy missed with the saber and Harvard with the épée.

Defeated Yale With Foils

It was the Crimson that gave some indication of the way the finals may go in its sectional trials, where it defeated Yale 5 to 4 with foils and 3 to 1 in saber. Since Navy is unbeaten at foils this year, a triumph by the midshipmen with this blade might serve to scramble the standings still more.

Yale, winner of the famous "Iron Man" trophy for foils, has always been strong with this weapon and has the present intercollegiate champion, John Potter, still available. Potter will be the only individual titleholder to seek to repeat.

Columbia is perhaps most strongly ensconced of any of the defending rulers. The Lions won team honors with the saber in 1930 with Haakon Gulbranson and John C. Craf Jr., and this pair is back again in an attempt to repeat. Gulbranson also will try to gain the individual crown, which eluded him a year ago when Cadet Joseph D. East of West Point defeated him in the final.

Steere to Compete Again.

Another 1930 runner-up to be somewhat favored is Midshipman Lee Ellis of the Navy, who placed second to Edwin L. Hill of Yale in the épée competition. Of the swordsmen who placed among the first five with the various weapons a year ago the following have returned: Richard Steere of the Navy, third in foils; D. C. Marvin of Princeton, third in épée; Henry B. Wesselman of Harvard, fifth in foils; José Martinez-Zorilla of Cornell, fifth in épée, and F. A. Allis of Yale, who tied for fifth in saber.

The team championships in épée and saber will be decided today and the foils competition will be finished tomorrow afternoon, to set the stage for the individual finals and the annual ball in the evening.

The novice competition for the Clemons Medal will open proceedings this morning.

The qualifying teams:

Foils.

Army—Farris, Berry and Murray. N. Y. U.—De Capriles, Digraninto and Pickett. Navy—Ellis, Steere and Gimber. Princeton—Pecora, Waters and Wheeler. Harvard—Wesselman, Cassedy and Allen. Yale—Potter, Busby and Ullman.

Epee.

Army—Helss and Howze. N. Y. U.—Grantoff and De Capriles. Princeton—Marvin and Neary. Yale—Thompson and Chin. Navy—Steere and Ellis. M. I. T.—Shellard and Hamilton.

Saber.

N. Y. U.—Rose and Limet. Cornell—José Martinez-Zorilla and Berumen. Princeton—Hocker and Furst. Columbia—Gulbranson and Craf. Harvard—Lawson and Wing. Yale—Allis and Thompson.

Six on Harvard Team.

Special to The New York Times.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., April 1.—The six members of the Harvard fencing team, who qualified for the intercollegiate fencing tournament, left tonight for New York, accompanied by Coach Peroy.

The Crimson entrants are William Wing and R. B. Lawson at saber; J. D. Allen, H. C. Cassedy and H. B. Wesselman, foils, and K. K. Ludlam, épée.

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