

Sensational Rise of C. C. N. Y. High Spot of College Fencing

***Vince, Former Lieutenant in Hungarian Army, Credited With
Development of Winners of Historic Iron Man Trophy—
Lavender Took Up Sport Only Four Years Ago.***

By ARTHUR J. DALEY.

City College foilsmen were facing the favored Navy team in the deciding match for the Iron Man Trophy just before midnight on Friday. To the winner would go the oldest prize in intercollegiate sport, a trophy which has been at stake throughout the forty-one years of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association.

Spectators, gathering around the brown strip that was to serve as the battleground, were packed eight and ten deep. Hovering in the background and gazing with apparently casual interest was a tall, grey-haired man. His face bore no sign of strain or emotion.

When Captain Emil Goldstein of C. C. N. Y., a rangy left-hander, delivered the winning thrust that brought the foils crown to the Lavender, the tall man turned aside and brushed his hand across his eyes. He was Joseph Vince, the City College coach, whose fondest dream had just been realized. His "boys" had won the championship.

A 26-Hour Grind.

That victory was the high spot of the college fencing marathon, a 26-hour grind condensed into two days. There was the uprising of the newer members of the association in the team tests on Friday and the regaining of the championship roster by the old guard in the individual tests on Saturday.

But outranking everything in the matter of surprises was the amazing achievement of City College in capturing the most coveted prize of all. Here was a team that had not met with any startling success in its dual meet season. It was a team that had been ignored when potential winners were discussed.

And yet the Lavender not only sprang its upset in the team competition, but placed three men in the final round robins of the individual tests, the same number that N. Y. U. advanced. Hence it was that the two metropolitan colleges, relative newcomers to the upper crust of the college fencing world, had as many qualifiers between them as did the pioneers—Army, Yale, Navy and Harvard.

From Nowhere to the Top.

Army had only two men in the ultimate round, Charles Andrews in saber and Edward Flanick in épée. Each of them won. Harvard had only one, John Hurd in the foils. He, too, triumphed. Thus the old-timers turned the tables on the newcomers in the same fashion that the younger members had upset them the day before.

It was the rise of City College, however, that had the college fenc-

ing world agog. Here was the youngest member of this historic association coming from nowhere to the top in four short years. The answer is very simple—Joseph Vince.

When he went to City College four years ago the school not only had no fencing, but it had no fencers. He thinks this situation is a coach's paradise.

"It's perfect to get a group of boys who don't know anything about the sport," Vince explained. "Then I don't have to 'unlearn' all the bad habits they have acquired before. I start right from scratch and that is the way I like it. That is the reason that I have had so much success with my women fencers. I could teach them fundamentals and mold them the way I wanted."

The women fencers that Vince referred to are Miss Dorothy Locke, the present national champion; Miss Marion Lloyd, her predecessor, and Miss Muriel Guggolz. The three of them are the national team titleholders and they were the American representatives in the 1932 Olympic Games.

Has Many Other Duties.

Not only does Vince coach the City College fencers, but he also teaches the sport at Poly Prep in Brooklyn, and he has his own organization, the Salle d'Armes Vince, where he also instructs the game. It is quite a schedule. The only item that he did not reveal was what he does in his spare time.

Vince was born in Budapest, was a lieutenant in the Hungarian army during the World War and came here as an amateur fencer nine years ago. He was without equal as a saber man and won both national indoor and outdoor crowns with his favorite weapon, as well as the Canadian title before turning professional in 1927. His own career as a fencer began at the age of 6. He still has the tiny sword he used then.

Vince believes that the saber is really the weapon for Americans. Saber dueling has more fire and dash to it than either of the others. It is more naturally suited to the American temperament and he looks for the representatives of the United States to make greater advances with it in the future than with the épée or the foils.

Hopeful of Lubell.

As for the future of fencing at City College, he hopes for great things. He loses only one man, Bernard Frechtman, by graduation. Many of his youngsters are still sophomores. One of these, Nathaniel Lubell, a little left-hander, is Vince's idea of a future intercollegiate champion.

"He is still inexperienced, but the boy has everything," Vince said. "He may not do it this year [this was said before the finals had been held], but he will be up there before he is through."