



N. Y. U. FENCERS WITH TROPHIES THEY WON IN TITLE COLLEGE MEET

COLLEGE FENCING

But the Loss of Five Aces by Graduation Is Held Likely to End Violet Reign

YALE TO REMAIN STRONG

Only One of Fine Squad Will Depart—Tournament Changes Will Be Proposed

By ARTHUR J. DALEY

The five-year dominance of New York University swordsmen on the strips and championship roster of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association appears at a temporary end. The Violet blade-wielders swept four of the seven crowns in the title tournament over the past week-end and what they missed Yale captured.

The significant development of the two-day show at the Hotel Commodore, however, was that Yale was not worse than third in any of the seven phases of the competition. What makes this fact so pointed is that only Gerald Steinberg of the winning Eli saber combination will be lost by graduation a year hence.

On the other side of the fence, N. Y. U. will lose Ted Gold, Norman Lewis, Hugo Castello, Charles Robbins and Paul Kirschner. Between them, Gold and Lewis accounted for thirty-six of the seventy victories that the Violet registered in winning the three-weapon title.

Trying on Inexperienced

In other words, five men who were responsible for fifty-six victories will take their diplomas, while Yale loses one man who contributed only seven triumphs. The pendulum apparently is ready to swing back to the Old Guard. It is true that the Violet has crack freshman fencers ready to move up, but this tournament is a pretty trying one on the inexperienced. Hence it was that some of the old-timers were saying of the New Yorkers yesterday, "We'll get them next year."

Just what shape the tournament will take in 1938 no one quite knows. There is not unanimous satisfaction by any means with the set-up as it is now. For three years the system used has been to divide the fencing with each weapon into three round-robin pools of Classes A, B and C. The men were named arbitrarily by each coach and only the A men had a chance at the individual championship although bouts won in C had as much standing in the team results as those won in A.

This occasionally is unfair to teams with two men of equal merit. For N. Y. U., as an example, Castello fenced in A foils for three years, winning two championships and taking a second. But Lewis was confined to the B pool and never had a crack at the title itself in his college career.

Held Fundamental Weakness

For all any one knows, Lewis might have won or taken second with this blade any time. Opponents of the present system point to this as proof of the fundamental weakness of the set-up now in vogue.

One proposal that will be made at the annual meeting of the association in October is that the tournament return to a modified system of that which was used originally. The suggestion is that all fencers be divided into six pools of six men each. They will meet on a round-robin basis, with the top three moving up to three pools of six. The top three in each then will advance to the final round robin of nine.

The better men will be seeded and teammates moved into different brackets so that if all three men on any combination were to advance right through none of them would cross blades until the final. Each victory, en route, would count toward the team standings in foils, epee, saber and three-weapon.

There is also a possibility that the I. C. F. A. will open wide the gates to other schools and cover more territory. St. John's of Brooklyn would like to come into the tournament. So would Rollins College of Florida. And the Big Ten winner each year might be invited to send a team. If this is done then there will have to be sectional preliminary tournaments to cut down the competing colleges to a more flexible number.