

Columbia Fencers Win Intercollegiate 3-Weapon Honors as Penn Trio Falters

N. Y. U. Triumphs in Saber Division

Violets Are Second Over All
and Penn Third—Columbia
Balance Proves Detisive

By LINCOLN A. WERDEN

Columbia's team won the three-weapon title of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association yesterday in unusual fashion. Without carrying off top honors in épée, foil or saber, the Lions demonstrated sufficient balance and all-round supremacy to acquire 71 points, one for each bout clinched, in the two-day meet at the Columbia gymnasium.

New York University took saber team laurels, while the Lions finished in second place. But the 25 points Columbia gained with the modern version of the cavalry sword gave the Blue and White enough of a margin to prevail.

New York, with 28 saber points, placed second in the three-weapon standing with a total of 68, while Pennsylvania, which swept the épée and foil competition Friday, dropped back to third with 65.

A sophomore Quaker saber trio proved too inexperienced against the juniors and seniors among the 12 contending colleges. The Penn team which gained 24 points in the épée and 28 in the foil, could only muster 13 winning bouts in the saber.

Navy, the three-weapon champion last year at Annapolis, was fourth with 60. Princeton followed with 59 and City College 58.

An accident marred the morning saber contests. Joseph Giovanniello of City, fencing in the No. 2 spot, collided head-on with Jeffrey Young of Penn State at the end of a third-round bout.

Their face masks clashed and the City fencer went sprawling on the strip.

Dr. Louis Gilbert, the Columbia medical officer, gave the 148-pound junior first aid. He was taken to St. Luke's Hospital, where Dr. Charles Shetland reported that Giovanniello had sustained "an injury to a facial nerve."

The fencer was expected to remain in the hospital several days.

Observers first thought that Giovanniello's wire-mesh face mask had been penetrated by his rival's weapon. But this was later denied. Young said he had been stunned by the mishap, explaining, "I'm not sure what happened."

A Repetition of '34

Giovanniello lost the bout on a touch scored a second before the mishap. Ed Lucia Jr., son of the City coach, substituted for him in the eight remaining bouts. He won one and lost seven.

The Lions came through to take the championship the same way in 1934, when they failed to win a single team victory. Few others have been able to win that way, the last being Cornell, in 1955.

Irving Lekoff, the assistant dean of Columbia College, serving his 13th year as fencing coach of the Lions, was applauded when the victory was certain. It was his fifth three-weapon title, but he acted as though it had been his first.

New York's sabermen included Howie Goodman, the 1963 individual champion, who lost only one bout in 11. Paul Apostol, a sophomore from East Northport, L. I., also was 10-1 to advance to the individual final from the third pool.

Paul Spletzer, the Violet captain, was the other man to qualify on Coach Hugo Costello's team. Spletzer, a Brooklynite, as is Goodman, won eight and lost three.

They finished 1, 2, 3, a rarity, in the individual championship. Goodman had a clean slate of 5-0 to take the title, which he also won two years ago as a sophomore. Spletzer was second with 4-1 in the round-robin, and Apostol took the third-place medal with 3-2.

Joe Nalven, a Columbia senior from Brooklyn, won the foil championship. He lost only to his teammate, Bruno Santonocito, a junior from Long Island City, Queens.

Santonocito took second over Steve Permut, a Penn sophomore. The Lion fencer had fewer touches scored against him, although each won three bouts in the final.

Steve Netburn, captain of Penn, emerged as the épée champion. He was unbeaten in the final. Steve Harwood of Princeton was second and Stan Lefkowitz of City third.

Ronald Schwartz of Cornell won the George L. Cointe award for sportsmanship.