

Leaders Are Closely Bunched in Battle for College Fencing Championships

YALE FOILS TEAM GAINS SLIGHT EDGE

N. Y. U. Ahead With Sabre, Navy With Epee, Each by One Point

ELIS TOP 3-WEAPON LIST

Are First in Standing, but Violet, Fencing Six Bouts Less, Is Real Leader

THREE-WEAPON STANDING				
	Epee.	Foil.	Saber.	Total
Yale	16	21	14	42
N. Y. U.	11½	15	15	41½
Navy	14	13	12	39
Army	9	14	13	36
Princeton	13	7	8	28
Columbia	10½	8	11	29½
City College	8	8	9	25
Cornell	4½	11	8	23½
Harvard	7	5	7	19
Hamilton	7½	4	5	16½
Pennsylvania	8½	3	4	15½
M. I. T.	2	6	2	10

By ARTHUR J. DALEY
The flashing blades of college duelists could not sever the knot of a tightly knit battle for seven championships yesterday as the forty-fifth annual title tournament of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association reached the half-way mark at the temporary salle d'armes of the Hotel Astor.

Yale, New York University, Navy and Army swordsmen were racing neck and neck for the chief prizes in the closest fight the association has had in many years. At the completion of some eleven hours of labor on four strips the Eli fencers were in the lead for both foils and three-weapon honors, the Violet for saber laurels and the midshipmen for the épée crown.

But none of them could be classified as being on the threshold of any championship. In the foils struggle for the Iron Man Trophy the Blue had 16 bout victories to 15 for N. Y. U., 14 for Army and 13 for Navy. The Navy led in épée with 14 bouts to 13 for Princeton, 12½ for Yale and 11½ for N. Y. U. The Violet's saber advantage was just as slight, with 15 to 14 for Yale, 13 for Army and 12 for Navy.

Violet the Real Leader

The three-weapon competition was just as close, with one factor that does not show in the point total jumbling the situation. The New Haven troupe won 42½ bouts while the Violet captured 41½, Navy 39 and Army 36, but that table cannot be taken at face value. The Elis fenced six more bouts than the Violet, 60 to 54, while Navy, 2½ points behind New York in third place, engaged in three more bouts. Army participated in the same number as the Violet.

So to all intents and purposes N. Y. U. can be termed the real three-weapon leader. It stands to reason that New York could win enough of the six bouts unfenced to go ahead of the pupils of the ebullient Bobby Grasson, Yale coach. The situation in the three-weapon race carried over into one of its component parts, the foils competition, where the Violet, one point behind, had three bouts unfenced.

All in all, the set-up at the end of a long day really defies analysis. In general terms it might be broken down this way: Yale, depending on the doubling-up abilities of its two aces, Bobby Grasson and Phil Viscidi, defending champions at foils and saber, is holding up rather well. New York is surpassing expectations because it was deemed not to have much better than an outside hope for major honors. Navy, starless, but well balanced throughout, is sailing along on a fairly even keel. Army, erratic all season, is clicking on all cylinders beyond the wildest hopes of its supporters.

Form held up fairly well all day with the midshipmen wavering slightly at the start of the foils with two rapid-fire defeats in their first two matches. But they managed to rally after that bad getaway to remain in the thick of the fight.

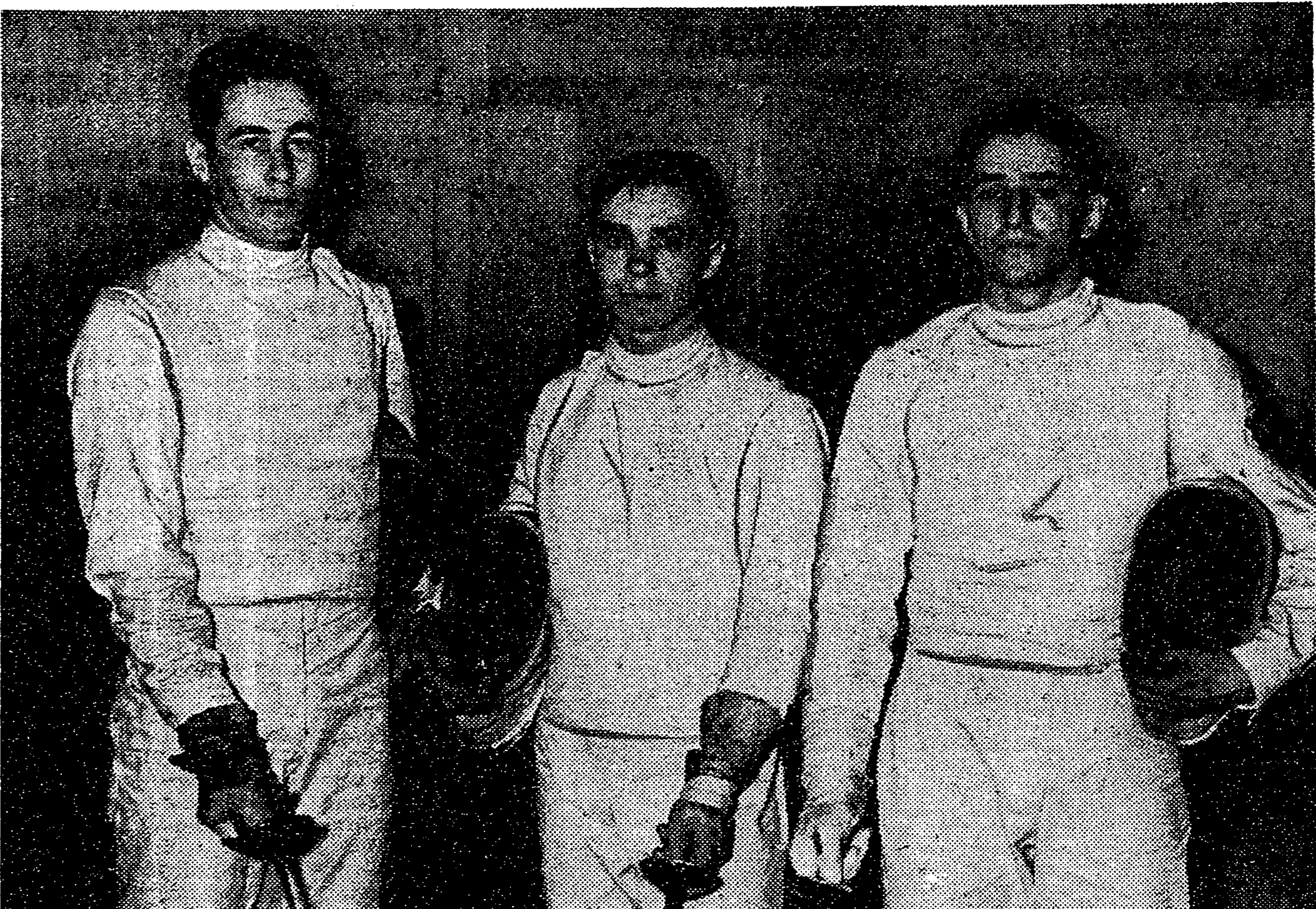
Yale Victim of Upsets

But when it came to upsets Yale was a double victim. In épée the Elis succumbed to lightly regarded Hamilton, the only setback accruing to the Blue in this blade. To make this shock all the sharper, the up-Staters triumphed at 3 to 0. Then to add to the Yale woes, City College toppled its saber team, 3 to 0, with Bernard Marks adding to the surprise by beating Viscidi, the champion, 5 to 0.

That defeat left Viscidi in second place in the individual rankings with the old cavalry weapon. He won his next six bouts, but Jack Gorlin of N. Y. U. was a half step ahead of him with six straight without a setback.

In foils Grasson, son of the Yale fencing master, was ahead in the defense of his crown with six victories and one defeat. In épée the favored Bill Randall of Yale, runner-up a year ago, was tied by Midshipman Harry Foley of Navy for the No. 1 post with five triumphs in six bouts.

Here is what is in prospect today: In foils Yale already has vanquished both Army and Navy, with only N. Y. U. left as a stumbling block. New York has yet to meet Navy and Yale. In épée N. Y. U. has crossed the rough spots in the road and has comparatively soft opposition in sight, while Princeton, Yale and Navy have not crossed blades. In saber Yale has beaten Army, but the other three leaders have not met.



YALE FENCERS WHO GAINED LEAD WITH FOILS YESTERDAY

Paul Perlowin, Maurice Grasson, defending champion, and Phil Viscidi