

# ***Princeton Fencers Win 3-Weapon Title***

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**By LINCOLN A. WERDEN**

Although Princeton has won titles in many sports, the Tiger team carried off the three-weapon Intercollegiate Fencing Association championship yesterday for the first time.

The crown has been in competition since 1923 but the congratulations bestowed on Coach Stanley Sieja and his squad at the Alumni Gymnasium of New York University in the Bronx was something of a new experience.

Sieja, now 57 years old, has been instructing the Tigers in foil, epee and saber technique for the last 23 years. After the triumph was assured by the slim margin of 1 point on an over-all aggregate of 74, the coach said the saber men had

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been "emotional" starting out but had "calmed down" before half of the 13 rounds had been completed.

Navy and N.Y.U. finished in a tie for second at 73 each, after an extraordinary finale. Penn followed at 66 and Columbia at 64.

But it was Army, in ninth place with a total of 46 that stifled Navy's hopes and furnished genuine excitement.

Meet honors hung in the balance, NYU and Navy were tied at 72 points each, moving into the last round of this round-robin of saber bouts. Princeton's total was 71.

Then the Tigers turned back M.I.T. in a 3-0 sweep to gain 3 points for a 74 total. Penn beat N.Y.U., 2 bouts to one, and the Violets added one point for 73.

It was now Army vs. Navy on strip No. 5. The adherents of both squads grouped about, shouting approval with every offensive move by one of their saber men.

Army won the first point as John Kendrick of Tenafly, N. J., defeated Bob Phillips, 5-4. Then Marvin Crisp, a midshipman from Spokane, Wash., evened matters by vanquishing Jim Bartholomees, 5-4. Navy now had 73 points but still needed one more to tie Princeton.

With Princetonians supporting Army, Ken Hetzler, a red-haired cadet sophomore from Chicago came through with a 5-2 decision over Dilan Gonzalez of San Juan, P.R., a Navy reserve who had gone into the lineup as a replacement in the seventh round. That clinched matters for Princeton.

## Teammates Hail Hetzler

Excitement was so keen that Hetzler was tossed in the air and onto the shoulders of his teammates. Army didn't place any of its saber men in the individual final, but it had beaten its traditional service rival.

"We knocked them out of the championship and that evens the score, for they beat us in a dual meet this season," said one of the cadets.

The West Point coaching staff headed by Lieut. Ronald McMahan and the saber coach, Ssaba Elthes, was pleased since fencing was back again on a full intercollegiate schedule after the sport had been limited previously to a club level.

Princeton began its drive to honors on Friday in winning the foil title and the Little Iron Man trophy for the first time. The Tigers gained 30 points with the foil, 22 with the épée and 22 in the decisive saber tests.

Navy's best was in winning the épée. City College came through by a wide margin to take the saber team honors, thus bringing new champions in all classification. N.Y.U. was the 1968 three-weapon titleholder. Columbia and N.Y.U. shared laurels in foil a year ago, while N.Y.U. won the épée and Penn the saber title.

Rafael Keifetz, a City College junior, contributed an outstanding performance by going through to the saber title undefeated. The 20-year-old southpaw, a Bronx resident, who recently placed third in the Pilar international tourney, swept through 12 bouts in the regular competition, then added five more victories against finalists in the round-robin for individual honors.

The officials declared this to be one of the finest achievements in the last decade of this 72-year-old tournament. Praised for his "international style," the 5-foot-10-inch, 151-pound competitor said he had been doing a lot of "roadwork" to keep in top physical condition.

Keifetz's rivals in the saber finals were Dan Gottesman of Columbia, Jim Carter of Princeton, Marvin Crisp of Navy, Bob Moore of Penn and a Beaver teammate, Joe Cohen.

Walter Krause of Newark, an N.Y.U. junior won the foil title, winning four of his five final bouts and losing only to Jean Claude Castiel of City College.

Jim Davidson, captain of the Navy team, carried off the indi-

vidual épée title after a four-way fenceoff in the final. Davidson, third in the N.C.A.A. last year and a resident of Hayward, Calif., defeated Simon Alscher of C.C.N.Y., Jim Wetzler of Penn and a teammate, Dick Dasmann, after they had tied with three victories apiece in the round-robin of finalists.

Davidson was also the recipient of the George L. Cointe award, given to the contestant who "demonstrates the qualities of outstanding sportsmanship" during the championship competition.

It was the eighth time the trophy was given in memory of the late Cornell Coach. It was the first time a Navy fencer had been so honored by the vote of the contestants and coaches.