

Coach's Notes: 2008 Big One @Smith College 11/1/2008

First, I must mention that this year's Big One ran incredibly smoothly. We started on time, and we were done with the awards ceremony at 5:35pm.

The nature of the tournament hinders coaching efforts and even observations. With fencers spread all over the venue, and coaches who can be in only one of those places, the non-fencing teammates are critical at this event for cheering and coaching support. We came through on that front admirably. Every time I found a UMass fencer on strip, someone else was already there, cheering and coaching.

Videos from this event are online at: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=D89DD08550C58835.

Our next competition: the Temple Open, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Nov. 15-16, 2008.

Foil results and commentary

Men (71 entries)	Women (77 entries)
19 th André Laffitte '10	26 th Carrie Roberts '11
29 th Chris Ye '12	40 th Rose Zheng '12
49 th Ian Underwood '09	48 th Alex Sprague '10

Results were about what I had expected for the UMass women, though I had *hoped* for better. The men did not do quite as well as we had expected, so we know that we can improve our preparation.

Among the varsity programs, Brown University seems dominant on the men's side, and on the women's side, everyone seems to be chasing Brandeis. Among the club teams, UNH and BU seem to have the strength on the women's side, while the men's side seems to be very even. Among the clubs, the real test of strength of teams will be fought among the B and C slot fencers.

Épée results and commentary

Men (78 entries)	Women (63 entries)
15 th Stew Dougherty '09	31 st Paola Arango '12
29 th Chris Toleson '09	54 th Alyson Cotton '11
56 th Justin Young '11	56 th Lauren Murphy '09

Congratulations to our "half sister" **Emily Larson** (UMass – Lowell), for taking the silver medal in the women's épée! While our technical skills are reasonable, UMass epeeists will need to work on

tactical and strategic savvy to compete against the varsity programs. That said, **Stew** and **Chris**, especially, are already competing well against their varsity counterparts. After a bit of an uneven start in pools, **Stew** fenced very well all of his DE bouts, where he dispatched fencers from BC and Brown before falling to a fencer from Vassar.

Sabre Results and commentary

Men (66 entries)	Women (72 entries)
26 th Alex Gluck '09	5 th Laura Brassard MS '09
32 nd Tedd Emelianov '11	27 th Caitlin Coughlan '11
43 rd LJ Zhang '10	

As competitive as ever in her last season with UMass, **Laura** seemed disappointed that her medal was not gold. This year, the field of sabre (both men and women) seems exceptionally

strong. The gold and silver in men's sabre, and the silver in women's sabre were all won by freshmen. On the men's side, the league shows good parity. If UMass is to compete in this even league, we'll have to continue to work hard at improving our game. The MIT women seem to have an edge over the field, but aside from them, the field seems pretty mixed. Here again, UMass will have to work hard to get results.