

## Coach's Notes: NFC Meets 2/7/2009 @Tufts

The team dual meet season closes this weekend at Tufts University with the third of the Northeast Fencing Conference (NFC) meet dates. UMass fenced Boston College (BC), Vassar College, Smith College, Sacred Heart University (SHU), University of New Hampshire (UNH), Tufts, and Dartmouth College on Saturday. Our final standings for the 2008-2009 season:

Women: 0-12, 13<sup>th</sup> place of 13 teams.

Men: 3-7, 8<sup>th</sup> place of 11 teams.

UMass women fenced the day short one sabre fencer, leaving **Laura Brassard MS '09** and **Caitlin Coughlan '11** to carry the sabre load alone. Associate member and epée fencer, **Heather Maes '10**, stepped up to fill in for an ill **Carrie Roberts '10** in women's foil. She did a fine job, too, winning six bouts on the day! The UMass men welcomed back 2007-2008 NFC fencer of the year, **Kevin Shanahan '09**, after his semester off from fencing.

**Evan Whitney '95** stopped by for part of the day and captured the essence of UMass fencing as only he can: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2203582&l=4095f&id=19715>.

Videos from this meet are available at <http://www.YouTube.com/UMassFencingCoach>.

Our next competition: New England Championships @Mt. Holyoke College Sun Feb. 22, 2009.

### UMass vs. Boston College

	Women (L 6-21)	Men (L 7-20)	Overall, UMass was severely overmatched by BC, except in women's sabre. Despite surrendering three bouts to forfeits, our women's sabre fencers provided the lone squad victory against this powerhouse varsity program.
F	0-9	1-8	
E	1-8	4-5	
S	5-4	2-7	

### UMass vs. Vassar

	Women (L 6-21)	Men (L 11-16)	A meet with passionate bouts that showed how much the fencers were invested in the competition. As evidence, please see these photos of <a href="#">Kevin Shanahan '09</a> and <a href="#">André Laffitte '10</a> by <a href="#">Evan Whitney '95</a> . A picture is, indeed, worth a thousand words.
F	1-8	2-7	
E	1-8	4-5	
S	5-4	5-4	

### UMass vs. Smith

	Women (L 13-14)	After two heavy losses for the women, it was invigorating to have a close meet! That Smith and UMass occasionally practice together may also have calmed everyone's nerves just a touch. I was pleasantly surprised at our foil showing, but was surprised at Smith's strength in epée. Sabre was definitely pulling its weight, winning their third squad meet in a row, all while surrendering 3 forfeits each round.
F	5-4	
E	3-6	
S	5-4	

## UMass vs. Sacred Heart University (SHU)

	Women (L 6-21)	Men (L 6-21)	As recently as four years ago, UMass was beating SHU consistently. A head coaching change at SHU, the addition of an assistant coach, and excellent recruiting have turned them around dramatically. The SHU-UMass history demonstrates well the widening gap between the varsity programs and the club programs.
F	1-8	4-5	
E	2-7	1-8	
S	3-6	1-8	

## UMass vs. University of New Hampshire (UNH)

	Women (L 11-16)	Men (W 23-4)	The friendly, but intense rivalry between these two state schools in New England is alive and well. While foil and épée development at the two schools is unsynchronized, the two teams are currently evenly matched in sabre for both men and women.
F	0-9	9-0	
E	6-3	9-0	
S	5-4	5-4	

## UMass vs. Tufts University

	Women (L 7-20)	Men (L 9-18)	Passions were high in this meet, and both sides were rowdy, noisy, and very much into the meets. NFC commissioner, Elliot Lilien, commented to both head coaches, "It's good to see some 'juice' in these guys, even six rounds into the day!"
F	1-8	3-6	
E	1-8	4-5	
S	5-4	2-7	

## UMass vs. Dartmouth College

	Women (L 10-12)	Men (W 14-13)	UMass and Dartmouth women's sabre squads had only two fencers each, so there are only four bouts total, rather than the usual nine bouts.  An exciting foil bout decided the men's meet. After falling behind 4-1, <b>André Laffitte '10</b> fought back to win the bout. Each touch he scored drew successively louder and more enthusiastic cheers from the whole team! What a way to end the day!
F	2-7	7-2	
E	4-5	3-6	
S	4-0	4-5	