

Black Bears 12-0; win second AIAA championship

Team Standings		150	Fern Brideau	Moncton
UNB	57	158	Bob Murphy	Acadia
Mem.	50	167	Terry Young	Memorial
St. F.X.	37	177	Gary Galloway	UNB
Acad.	31	190	Larry Brinen	Dalhousie
Dal.	28	HW	Charlie Haskell	Mt. A.
Moncton	27			
SMU	23	126	Jim Rand	3rd
Mt. A.	12	134	Paul Tremblay	2nd
		142	Mike Ballak	1st
		150	Greg Knox	3rd
		158	Glen Edison	3rd
		167	Aubrey McLaughlin	4th
		177	Gary Galloway	1st
		190	John Johnson	4th
		HW	John Dowd	3rd

(Wrestling story to be published in next week's issue.)



AIAA Team Champions — UNB Black Bears. Left to right, front row: Jim Rand; Glen Edison; Mike Ballak; Paul Tremblay; Greg Knox; back row, Jim Born, coach; John Johnson; Gary Galloway; Aubrey McLaughlin; John Dowd; Mike Flynn, assistant coach.

Fencing, the way it is

By DAVID WILLINGS

1. Fencing is not a Canadian sport.

True a large proportion of fencers are immigrants and they have brought a wide variety of skill and experience to Canada. But France and England have a strong fencing tradition. In our own club native born Canadians slightly outnumber immigrants and we are building up a strong team of native born Canadians.

2. Fencing is an upper middle class sport

Historically inaccurate. A few centuries ago the feudal lords in Europe went into battle weighed down with heavy armour and wielding the cumbersome broadsword. The peasants evolved a long slender rapier. They couldn't afford armour so they had to rely on speed and agility for their safety. An Italian Duke is reputed to have realized that "our methods and weapons are much less efficient than those of our social inferiors".

3. Fencing is expensive

We must be honest. Many fencers find they want to buy their own swords and equipment and once you start doing that you are caught up in a never ending spiral of expenditure. But we have our own equipment at the UNB club and all you need to start is a pair of sneakers. At UNB we realize that fencing is not a sport that appeals to everyone. We will be quite happy for you to come and try it and see if you like it. If after your fifth lesson you still want to join us our Treasurer Larry Heans will relieve you of \$5.00. Before you can fence in competitions you must be a member of the Canadian Fencing Association. Sometime before your first competition Paulette Levesque will trouble you for another \$2.00. \$7.00 doesn't seem all that expensive.

4. Fencing takes years to master

A complete non sequitur. You never master the sport. Even the Olympic Coach takes regular lessons and there is always something new to learn. At UNB we try to get people fencing in competitions as soon as possible. We realize that you might be soundly defeated but you get the feel of competitive fencing and that is what fencing is all about. If you score one win at your first competition we shall be delighted. If you score two or more we shall be hysterical. How long it takes to become a serious competitor you just can't say. Denise Mullin of Antigonish, Nova Scotia had been fencing barely four months when she won fourth place at the Nova

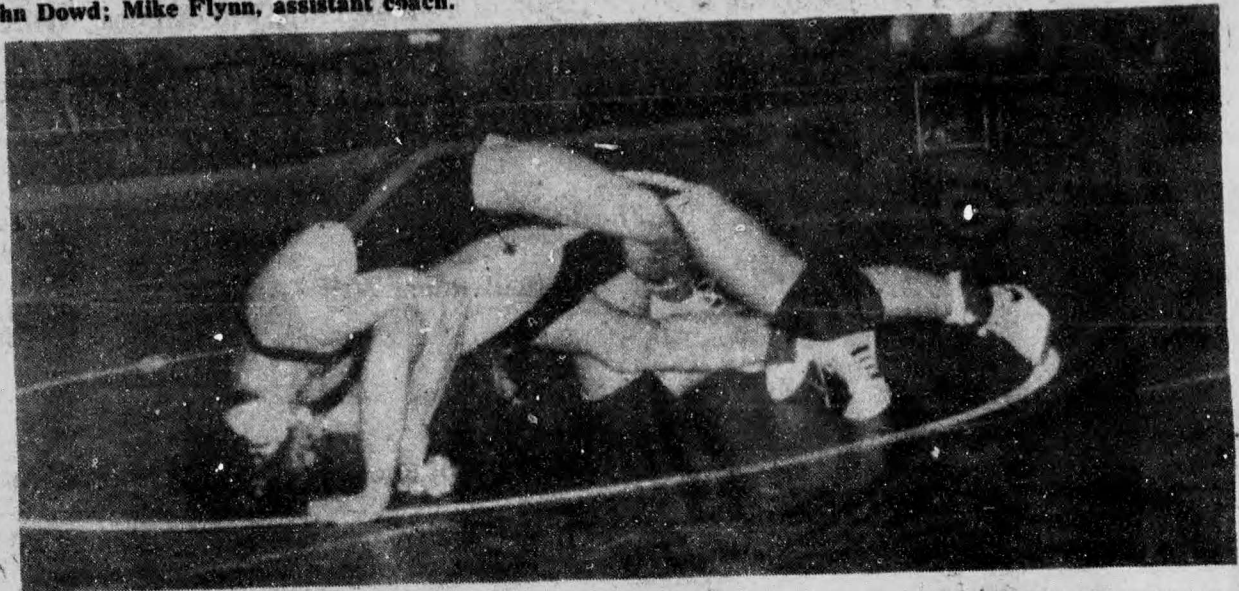
Scotia Invitational against some of the best fencers in the Maritimes. She is in Grade 11 at High School and tells me she is going to Dalhousie when she finishes Grade 12. Any suggestions on getting her to abandon that bizarre idea and come to UNB instead will be gratefully received. I knew a student at Oxford, England who won a Regional Gold Medal after he had been fencing for three months and would have doubtless made the Olympics but for his tragically early death before he was twenty-four. These kinds of successes are unusual of course but not exceptional. With most people it takes longer to reach this level. Some never reach it but still find competitive fencing a stimulating activity.

5. Fencers are nuts

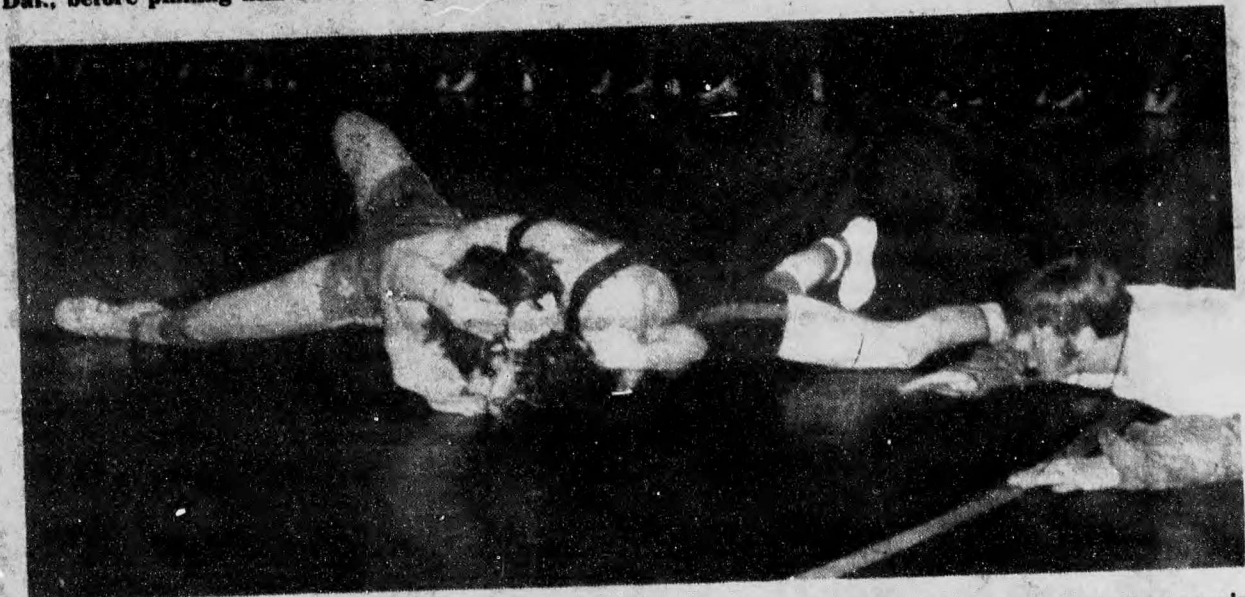
Absolutely true. But sane people are a bit depressing. The reason we don't hurry off to the nearest psychiatrist is that he might cure us. Of course you don't have to be nuts to be a fencer but it does help.

I am often asked what makes a fencer. I just can't answer. Usually we can tell after two or three lessons whether you are likely to make a fencer or not. Whatever that indefinable quality may be athleticism is only a part of it. This is purely my personal opinion but if you have the temperament it seems to me we can teach you the athletics. Does the thought of psychological warfare appeal to you? If it does there must be some psychological theory somewhere that proves you are nuts. Come and join a group as nuts as you are. We have a beginners' night on Tuesdays at 7:30 at the Teachers' College Gym (Third Floor).

We have a programme of nine lessons to see how sane you are.



In his final match for the Black Bears, Gary Galloway demonstrates fine leg wrestling on his opponent Soares, Dal., before pinning him and winning a trip to the nationals again.



Mike Ballak shows fine pinning form here in his first match against Walsh, SMU. This was one of many pins that Mike picked up during the championship on his way to the nationals.

Look for more

sports

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