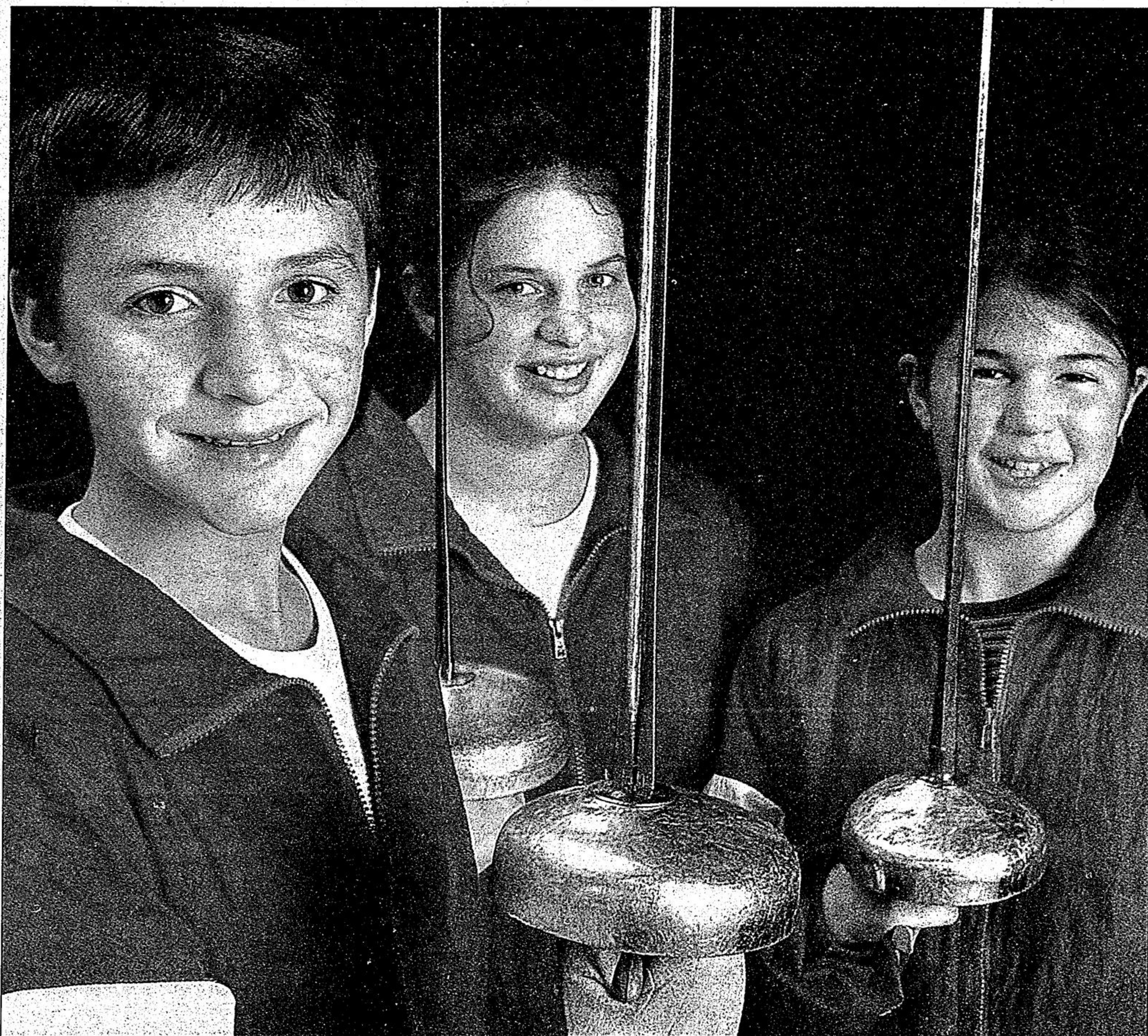


Economist & Sun • Stouffville Tribune

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Ontario fencing team members (from left) Jordan Patterson, Samantha Marston and Adelaide McDonnell, train at the Newmarket Fencing

Club. All three competitors earned high honours at the Canada Winter Games test competition in New Brunswick earlier this month.

Fencers foil competition

BY JEROME WATT
Staff Writer

Newmarket's three musketeers brought a little pride to the region earlier this month.

Jordan Patterson, 12, Adelaide McDonnell, 11, and Samantha Marston 15, competed at a Canada Winter Games test competition Oct. 4-6 in Bathurst, NB.

The three members of the Newmarket Fencing Club participated with the men's and women's provincial epee teams. Jordan was part of the men's provincial team that won a silver while Adelaide and Samantha placed in third in their category.

The event drew provincial teams from the Maritimes, as well as Ontario.

All three say fencing provides a unique niche for their athletic tal-

ents. "It's a great way to meet people and travel," Samantha said. "I'm not really good at sports. When I (first) won a medal, I said, 'Yes, I'm good at a sport.'"

'A lot of kids at school think it's (just) sword fighting. They don't know a lot about it.'

Samantha had tried other sports before she discovered fencing was the activity for her.

Jordan said enjoys fencing because how a person performs depends on the individual athlete.

"I don't enjoy team sports," he

said, later praising the sport for providing a social atmosphere.

Adelaide said she likes the sport because she doesn't get many bruises while participating.

Fencing gives a person a good workout, Samantha said.

"Our exercises get you pretty sweaty," she said.

Fencing doesn't get enough attention and a lot of people are ignorant about the particulars of the sport.

"I think more people should know what fencing is about. A lot of kids at school think it's (just) sword fighting. They don't know a lot about it."

Fencing also involves good footwork and co-ordination. A fencer who loses his or her cool loses the match, Jordan said.

The sport has three different

sword types, Adelaide explained. There is a sabre, which involves slashing. Points are scored for hitting the opponent with the tip or length of the blade. For example, if the sabre hits the opponent on the torso, arm, hand and neck a point is scored.

The epee resembles an old duelling sword. Points are scored with the tip of the weapon and the entire body is a valid target area.

When using a foil, points are scored with the tip of the blade and an opponent's torso is the contact point.

All three say they'd like to compete at the Olympics some day.

The trio will next compete in an Oct. 27 tournament at St. Nicholas school in Newmarket.

Athlete's marks vital

Students shouldn't overlook Canadian universities when vying for scholarships

BY JEROME WATT
Staff Writer

Richmond Hill's Alexa Arsenault dreams of some day earning an athletic scholarship to university.

"Obviously, I want to go to an Ivy League school in the United States," she said. "Ever since I was small, education has been important to me. You're not a full person without an education."

Like many students seeking an athletic scholarship, the 14-year-old St. Theresa of Lisieux student knows it takes a lot more than being a good athlete to earn a scholarship.

Along with strong athletic performance, it requires good marketing, high marks and finding someone who is familiar with the process.

"You've got to be good academically," agreed Bob Monro, head coach for the Richmond Hill Soccer Club. "You've got to look good academically."

In particular, a student needs solid marks in English and mathematics, he said.

Not only should students have high entrance marks, they need to keep their average up throughout university. Even though a prospect might sign a four-year contract, it doesn't mean a student should ignore his studies, because the contract is renewed every year.

"Unfortunately, a lot of (students) come back because they let their academics slide," he said. "They're investing a lot of money in you. The coach will check on your (marks)."

Mr. Monro said if an American university offers to pay less than 50 per cent of the cost of attending the school, it's not worth going when taking the exchange rate and expenses into account.

Students should also be aware they're up against a lot of competition when heading south.

"You've got to remember these schools get thousands of applications," he said.

Mr. Munro said it's always a good idea to find someone who has connections with a coach at the school. If you can get a reference from someone the coach trusts, that helps, he said.

Find someone who has been through the process, Mr. Munro suggests.

Different clubs, such as the Richmond Hill Soccer Club, will help members through the process.

"We want to try and help them," he said. "It attracts better players (and) hopefully they'll come back and coach."

See STUDENTS, page 22.