Boston Latin School Fencing Team Wins 2016 State Title

The Boston Latin Fencing Team, competing for their first year as a varsity team, triumphantly finished a nearly undefeated season by winning the Massachusetts State Fencing Championship on Sunday, February 7th at Concord Carlisle High School.

Under the leadership of senior captains Yasmeen Elaywan (women’s team) and Charles Ma (men’s team), BLS took the prestigious combined 6-weapon title by winning 139 of 198 bouts fenced. Last year’s champions, Concord Carlisle High School, placed second with 136 wins, and Bishop Feehan High School was third with 127 wins.

In the combined 3-weapon category, the men’s team finished second behind St. John’s Prep, with Concord Carlisle in third place, while on the women’s side, BLS tied with Bishop Feehan for third, with Concord Carlisle in second and Dana Hall in first place.

At the weapon squad level, men’s saber (Ma, Nielsen and Domingos with alternates Thompson/O’Hara) won gold and brought the second state championship title of the day home to BLS. Men’s foil (LaRosee, Shao and Lebedinsky with alternates Yu/Wang) took silver, and women’s saber (Miall, Huynh and Wu with alternate Sisay) took bronze.

Upon completion of the team competition, 7 of the 18 BLS fencers had qualified for the individual stage of the tournament. Their success continued with Charles Ma winning the gold in men’s saber, bringing the state championship title count to three. Annie Miall took silver in women’s saber while August Nielsen (men’s saber) and Matt LaRosee (men’s foil) both won bronze. Sofia Molho (women’s foil), Yasmeen Elaywan (women’s epee) and Jessica Huynh (women’s saber) all medalled in 6th place.

Throughout the more than nine hour long event, the BLS team received excellent guidance and support from head coach Jason Sachs of Moe Fencing Club and weapon coaches Franklin Rea (saber), Lee Flaherty (epee) and Youngho Choun (foil/epee). It was impressive to witness the poise and confidence with which every fencer strode upon the strip for their bouts, handling themselves with grace and good humor regardless of outcome, and with teammates so supportive of one another. When the assembled group of exhausted, but proud BLS fencers could finally celebrate their triumph by raising the state championship trophy above their heads, the team’s chant rang truer than ever:

*Sumus Lupi Sumus Magni*
BLS felling team at 2016 states tournament

Women's 3-weapon team

Captain: Yasmeen Elaywan
Epee: Yasmeen Elaywan, Rachel Phan, Leah Albert - Jan Lui
Foil: Sofia Molho, Michaela Tecson, Niamh Reilly - Linden Yee
Saber: Annie Miall, Jessica Huynh, Tiffany Wu - Emnet Sisay

Men's 3-weapon team

Captain: Charles Ma
Epee: Jacky Cen, Gerard Delmar, Carson Kannair - Christopher Estes / Cody Huynh
Foil: Matt LaRosee, Chengfeng Shao, Daniel Lebedinsky - Kevin Yu / Tony Wang
Saber: Charles Ma, August Nielsen, Kyle Domingos - Liam Thompson / John O'Hara

Coaches

Head Coach: Jason Sachs
Saber: Ariana Klinkov, Franklin Rea
Foil: Lynne Manning, Youngho Choun
Epee: Lee Flaherty, Youngho Choun

Links

Team website and blog
https://blsfencing.wordpress.com/

Team GoFundMe fundraising website
https://www.gofundme.com/blsfencing

Team Practice facility: Moe Fencing Club
http://moefencingclub.com/

Press: Boston Globe article
http://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/high-schools/2016/02/08/boston-latin-wins-state-fencing-title/WyaVs2a4nXtKi6Thq0SocM/story.html

BLS fencing team history of captains and results at states tournament

2012/13
captain: Angle Jin
bronze, Angel Jin (women’s foil)

2013/14
captains: Anli Xiang / Ryan Kelly
silver, mens saber squad (Ma, Nielsen, Kelly with alternate Quinn)
silver, Anli Xiang (women’s epee)

2014/15
captains: Anli Xiang / Riccardo Vietri
bronze, combined team 6-weapon
bronze, men's saber squad (Ma, Nielsen, Quinn)
bronze, women’s foil squad (Reilly, Phan, Yee)

2015/16 captains: Yasmeen Elaywan / Charles Ma

- gold and state championship, combined 6-weapon
- gold and state championship, men’s saber squad (Ma, Nielsen, Domingos with alternates Thompson/O’Hara)
- silver, mens foil squad (LaRosee, Shao, Lebedinsky with alternates Yu/Wang)
- bronze, women’s saber squad (Miall, Huynh, Wu with alternate Sisay)
- gold and state championship, Charles Ma (men’s saber)
- silver, Annie Miall (women saber)
- bronze, August Nielsen (men’s saber)
- bronze, Matt LaRosee (men’s foil)