

Northwestern Fencers Go to Korea

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SUWON, SOUTH KOREA – Five Wildcat fencers traveled to Suwon, Korea for the 4th Korea-USA Elite Fencing Invitational from July 8th to July 10th. Over 130 fencers representing ten US universities and seven Korean universities participated. Fencers from Brandeis, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Princeton, Stanford, and UPenn participated alongside Korean fencers from Daegu University, Daejeon University, Busan University of Foreign Studies, Woosuk University, Incheon University, Honam University, and Howon University.

The Northwestern contingent included three Women's Foilists: Jennifer Yamin, Charlotte Sands and Stephanie Chan, along with sabreists Cindy Oh and Julia Abelsky.

Yamin and Oh were the top finishing US fencers in their weapons and were chosen to represent Team USA in the Women's Team competition, a relay-style match versus Team Korea.

Day 1: Tuesday, July 8th

Day one began with the preliminaries. Epee and foil categories began in the morning, joined by sabre in the afternoon. Each match revealed the differences between US and Korean fencers.

When asked about the difference between the two countries' skills, Head Coach Laurie Schiller stated, "Footwork. Discipline. Focus. Manners....Korean fencers have much better footwork; it's something that I am going to be insisting more and more. I started last year after we were here [3rd KUEFI,] and I said, 'You're getting beat because these kids are controlling distance better.'"



Day 2: Wednesday, July 9th

On Wednesday, Yamin, Sands and Chan finished 10th, 18th and 21st, respectively in women's foil while Cindy Oh and Julia Abelsky shared bronze in sabre competition.



Women's Sabre top finishers. From left: Hee Seo (Honam University), Minna Kwon (Honam), Oh, Abelsky.

Later that afternoon, all participants and coaches were escorted on a tour of historic Suwon, visiting various traditional Korean landmarks and trying the local food.

Day 3: Thursday, July 10th

KUEFI participants visited the Samsung Electronics headquarters in the morning. In the afternoon, the US vs. Korea Team Matches began. As the top finishers in their weapons, Jennifer Yamin and Cindy Oh represented USA's women's foil and women's sabre, respectively. Princeton's Katherine Holmes represented Team USA in women's epee. Eventually, Team Korea prevailed, 15-13.



Jennifer Yamin (right) spars with Hyo Jin Hong (Daegu University) during the Women's Team event.

At the conclusion of the Team Events, Julia Abelsky was invited to give a speech about one of the main themes of KUEFI: “Education Through Athletics”. She shared her story of balancing her life as a fencer and as a researcher.



For more results and information, please go to the KUEFI website: www.kuefi.org