

Amiel Rossabi has combined athletic ability and a positive attitude to make him one of the top collegiate fencers in the United States.


THE Daily Crossword by Justona a. romt




## Confident Rossabi leads UNC fencing team


#### Abstract

By MIKE WATERS Enthusiasm.

\section*{ing senior fencer Amiel Rossabi.} ing senior fencer Amiel Rossabi. His teammates shout, "Take him Sabi, take him!" . whenever Rossabi wields his foil at an opponent on the strip. Try saying 'Amiel Rossabi' in an unenthusiastic way. It can't be done, especially if you've seen UNC's foil captain in action. "He's always had a positive, hard-inghting attitude," fencing coach Ron Miller said. "He has a strong desire fencing coach Ron Miller said. "He has a strong desire to win and a desire to make his teammates want to win. His competitive instinct is his strongest leadership characteristic." characteristic." Rossabi is ex Rossabi is excited about many things these days. In- cluded in that list are fencing, the NCAAs, UNC and Miller. Miller. "I wist "I wish everyone could try (fencing) to make them think more of it," Rossabi said. "In terms of athletic perrormance, I would think we're right up there with any other team at UNC. You use totally different muscles in fencing." Rossabi got his first taste of fencing when he was still a higs school student in New York City. Two friends needed a third partner to enter the city tournament and drafted Rossabi because he was a good athlete. The three


won the tournament.
Rossabi's friends
port. Demetrios V asamed to atrract him to their fencer, was the under-19 national weapons at age 16. P.J. Posner was the other member, and he now fences at Columbia University.
Rossabi landed in Roassabi landed in Chapel Hill when his high school Simyon Pinchasov, the United States
in last summer's Pan American Games, was instructing Rossabi during his senior year in high school. "Simyon said that Miller was a good coach at a smal couldn't believe it when I came down here, and it was 8 degrees in February. And I've got the biggest universit 've ever seen around me.'
Rossabi exudes about as much confidence as he does
enthusiasm. And it usually doesn't matter what the sub-
"Wect is. "We have the potential to finish in the top five,"
Rossabi said. "It's not gonna be all on fencing ability and experience. We'll out-athlete the other teams and psych them out,",
Rossabi's confi
Rossabi's confidence doesn't diminish regarding his
own possibilities either. "T'm going to win", own possibilities either. "T'm going to win," Rossabi
said. "'r'm going to have to keep getting better and try to said "I'm goint to have to keep getting better and try to
be more consistent. t 'll have to have my head on straight
that day."
"He's been able to develop himself quite well tactically," Miler said of Rossabi's performance. "At first, his moves were repetitive, and he made things work through Rossabi's enthusiasm and confidence can be over whelming to his opponent, his coach and his performance. Perhaps the best example of this are his attempts
to touch his opponent with a behind-the-back move. "It's a valid move against a good fencer who's off balance and open to it it," Milier said. "Amiel has a occasions he finds himself warming the bench." Rossabi's credits in the past three years place him
among the top foilsmen in collegiate among the top foilsmen in collegiate fencing. He junior and last summer was the highest junior division fencer at the National. Soorts Festival. An 11th-place
finish in last year's NCAAs inspired him finish in last year's NCAAs inspired him to do more this Aside from the enthusiasm and confidence, however, Aside from the enthusiasm and confidence, however,
Rossabi obviously has attained the skills necessary to put him in the final round of every tournament this year, in-
cluding a third place finish at the Chicago Invitational cluding a third plat
three weeks ago.
"There's nothing that could keep him from being the best,"" Miller said. "It hinges on the consistenceng aspect.
He has everything he needs; he has all the tools."

Jordan player of the week; Maryland suspends two


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Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 9:00-12:00 in the great hall Admission free with UNC-ID BYO BeerWhine proof of age required.

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