

**OLYMPIA FENCERS WIN GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE
AT CHICAGO YOUTH TOURNAMENT**

ST. LOUIS, JANUARY 21, 2009... Fencers from St. Louis-based Olympia Fencing Academy won gold, silver and bronze medals at the Chicago Lakeshore Youth Tournament held at the Lakeshore Athletic Club Lincoln Park on January 17 – 18.

Bringing home the gold for Olympia was Mohamed Hassan, who won the youth mixed foil event, ages 12 and under. Tom Davis won the silver medal in the youth men's sabre event, age 14. Nehal Hassan won the silver medal in the youth women's sabre event, age 14. Joe Davis won the bronze medal in the youth men's sabre event, age 12. John Dunagan had a strong performance with a 6th place finish in the mixed foil event, age 14. Other Olympia fencers who participated included Charles Halbeck (foil and epee), Emerson Reed (sabre); and Steven Shearing (sabre).

Olympia Fencers Win Gold, Silver and Bronze, add one

"This was Olympia's first visit to this prestigious regional tournament, and we're very proud of our strong showing," said Paula Reed, spokesperson for Olympia Fencing Academy. "There were participants from fencing clubs across the Midwest, and we're looking forward to seeing them at our own regional youth tournament in St. Louis, currently planned for late February."

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Sanctioned by the United States Fencing Association (USFA), Olympia Fencing Academy is the training facility for several nationally ranked fencers who regularly compete around the country, as well as for dozens of recreational fencers of all ages and skill levels who simply enjoy the strategy, athleticism and camaraderie of the sport. The Academy's head coach, Hossam Hassan, has 27 years of fencing experience and holds nine certifications and degrees from the French Fencing Federation and International Olympic Committee. Olympia is St. Louis' first, dedicated fencing facility, featuring over 6,500 square feet in the heart of the Central Corridor, at 8664 Olive Blvd. Olympia is also home for beginner to advanced fencing classes, birthday parties and other special events that combine fencing and fun for all ages. For more information, call 314-993-9700 or email info@olympiafencing.com.

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About the USFA: The United States Fencing Association is the national governing body for the sport in the U.S. The USFA is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the international fencing federation, the Federation Internationale d'Escrime. The USFA's mission is to 1) prepare and select athletes for the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships and World University Games; 2) develop programs for international success and 3) organize grassroots development of the sport in this country. For more information, visit www.usfencing.org.