

Head Coach **Dave Micahnik**

35th Season ♦ Penn C'59



Winning seasons, All-Americans and All-Ivy selections have become the norm over more than three decades for Penn fencing. Entering his 35th season as head coach, David Micahnik is the architect of one of the most successful fencing programs in the nation.

Success has marked the Micahnik era, as he has led Penn to winning records in each of his 34 years at the helm of both the men's and women's fencing programs. His teams have consistently been among the nation's elite, and the long-time head coach was rewarded by being named the 1997 U.S. Fencing

Coaches Association (USFCA) Collegiate Coach of the Year.

This past summer, Micahnik was inducted into the United States Fencing Hall of Fame as a member of its Class of 2008 along with one of his former assistants, Cathy McClellan.

The 2007-08 campaign saw Micahnik blend a mixture of seasoned veterans and rising stars into a team that was one of the most feared in the country. Senior Ron Berkowsky advanced to his second national final in a row in foil, capturing his second silver medal and fourth All-America distinction. Freshman Danielle Kamis was a revelation in her first collegiate season, earning All-America honors in sabre. The women's team captured its second IFA Three-Weapon title, while winning weapon crowns in sabre and epee. His men's sabre team also captured an IFA championship. At the NCAA Championships, Jon Berkowsky and Ilana Sinkin joined Ron Berkowsky and Kamis as All-Americans.

In 2006-07, Micahnik's men's team finished with a 12-6 record and had five fencers qualify for the NCAA Championships. Ron Berkowsky won the silver medal in foil. The women's team finished the season with a 17-4 record and placed four fencers into the NCAA Championships field.

In 2003-04, Micahnik's women's team captured its first Ivy League title since claiming back-to-back crowns in 1994 and 1995 with a perfect 5-0 record (17-1 overall). The Quaker women also won their first Intercollegiate Fencing Association (IFA) title. At the 2004 NCAA Championships, Penn's men and women took sixth place, the highest finish of any Ivy League team, and finished the season ranked fourth in the nation by the USFCA.

Since 1977, Penn's women have finished with a top-five national ranking 14 times, including a national championship in 1986.

In 2003-04, Micahnik led the Penn men to their 12th Ivy League fencing title, as the Quakers went 13-3 overall and tied with Columbia for first place in the Ancient Eight with a 4-1 mark.

The Penn men's teams have enjoyed success in NCAA competition as well under Micahnik, capturing the 1981 NCAA championship and finishing second in 1978, 1980 and 1987. Overall, the men have won 11 IFA team championships and 11 Ivy titles (1976-83, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2003).

Under Micahnik, the men are 314-103, while the women have a 350-98 mark. Combined, the teams have an impressive record of 664-202.

Individual achievements have also been a hallmark of the Penn program. Thirty-two Quakers have competed internationally as members of United States national teams. The Quakers had their most recent Olympic success with former Penn fencers Cliff Bayer W'03, WG '03 and Tamir Bloom C'94 competing in the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games. Micahnik has also produced 40 All-Americans (27 men and 13 women) and 79 All-Ivy selections (54 men and 25 women).

A 1959 Penn graduate, Micahnik was a first-team All-Ivy selection in epee as a senior under the instruction of the late Maestro Csiszar. He was the 1960 U.S. National Champion, and competed in the 1960, 1964 and 1968 Olympic Games. In addition to coaching in the collegiate ranks, Micahnik also has extensive international coaching experience. He has coached U.S. teams in four Under-20 World Championships, five World University Games, two World Championships, the 1985 and 1993 World Maccabiah Games, and the 1986 and 1988 Junior Pan-American Games.

Micahnik won a bronze and two silver medals in the Veteran 60 Men's Epee at the Veterans' National Championships. Micahnik currently serves on the Board of Directors for U.S. Fencing and in the Congress of U.S. Fencing. He is also a vice president of the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association.

Micahnik was honored in 1997 as an inductee in the inaugural class of the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the second class of the University of Pennsylvania Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

Micahnik and his wife, Phyllis, reside in Cherry Hill, N.J. They have four sons: Bob Eskin, a commercial collection specialist in Vero Beach, Fla.; Hank Eskin, an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania as an undergraduate from the College and an MBA graduate from The Wharton School; the late Aaron Micahnik, an alumnus of Richard Stockton College of N.J.; and Steven Micahnik, an alumnus of Yeshiva University and the Penn Graduate School of Education.

The Micahnik File

Experience

34 Seasons (Penn)

Men's Record at Penn

326-105

Women's Record at Penn

365-100

Combined Record

691-205

MEMBERSHIPS

U.S. Fencing Board of Directors
Vice President, U.S. Fencing Coaches Association

Honors & Accolades

1981 Men's NCAA Champions
1986 Women's NCAA Champions
11 Men's Ivy League Championships
9 Women's Ivy League Championships

Education

Penn, C'59