



The Academy News

**Congratulations
to the Class of
1995/5755
upon their
graduation**

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Mock Trial Team Makes it to City Semifinals Most Successful Year Ever

By Yehuda Seif

Academy News Editor-in-Chief

The MTA Mock Trial Team had its most successful year ever this year, making it to the semifinals of the New York City region in New York's annual Statewide Mock Trial Tournament. The team was led by Mr. Justin Bryant, who served as both coach and faculty advisor, and co-captains Howard Mazin, Danny Morris, and Yehuda Seif. MTA emerged as one of the four semifinalists from a field of over 100 schools from the New York City metropolitan area and the five boroughs.

Each team that went to the competition consisted of three lawyers and three witnesses. A judge, who was usually an Assistant District Attorney or an Assistant United States Attorney, presided over the trials, ruling on objections. The judge would also render two decisions at the end of each trial. One decision, which does not determine which team advances to the following round, is on the merits of the legal case and the applicable law. The other decision, which determines the winner, is based on both the quality of the students' performance in the case, and on the best team presentation.

The MTA team consisted of four lawyers, Howard Mazin, Danny Morris, Yosef Rudolph, and Yehuda Seif. The team also consisted of five witnesses, Avi Goldin, Josh Obstfeld, Shlomo Troodler, Ari Wiesen, and Chaninah Zweihorn. The team had to

argue opposite sides of the same case in different rounds. The witnesses played actual parts in the case, while the lawyers argued the case in front of the judge, conducting direct examinations, cross-examinations, and making opening and closing statements.

The tournament, sponsored by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Citizenship Education, and The New York Bar Foundation, began on February 28. The team spent weeks preparing for the case, and was assisted by a lawyer assigned to the school by the NYSBA, Mr. Michael Stokamer, who is also a graduate of TMSTA. Mr. Stokamer gave of his free time to spend countless hours assisting the team, advising them in trial strategies and courtroom protocol. He also attended many of the actual matches.

The fictitious case this year was entitled "Jo

By David Neiss
Academy News Staff Writer

After four consecutive championship seasons under Coach Rabbi Schiller, the MTA Hockey Lions faced what some called their biggest challenge yet. Previously picked to be losers in the first rounds of the playoffs, the surprising Lions shocked Yeshiva high schools across the tri-state area by advancing to the finals. The team had months to prepare for the "upcoming" finals, as the semifinals were played more than a month earlier. As the weeks went by, the team arduously practiced for what promised to be an exciting and meaningful championship game. MTA fans had their doubts. Could MTA pull off the upset? Could they make it five championships in a row? The question was answered on Thursday night, May 18, at Frisch High School.

The Lions' opponents were the formidable Flatbush Falcons. The Falcons had

Five in a Row Hockey Team Wins it Again



MTA Lions receive first place trophy after 6-1 win.

amassed a great record over the season, and they were a confident and explosive team. Both teams had rather small fan showings at the game, but that would not stop the MTA Lions. The game opened with some hard hockey being played by both clubs, but, finally, late in the first period,

the Lions struck first; Danny Gotel blasted a slap shot past Flatbush's freshman goalie from the opposite foul line. The period ended with no more scoring, and after one, MTA had a shaky 1-0 lead.

The second period proved to be much more exciting.

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MTA Mock Trial Team with Coach Justin Bryant pose with their semifinalist award

The Academy News Picks Up First Place

By Moshe Goldschmidt
Academy News Staff Writer

For the first time, MTA's *The Academy News* entered its publication in a nationwide contest. The contest is sponsored by the American Scholastic Press Association, an association that runs numerous contests for high school and college publications.

The newspaper was evaluated on its content, layout, creativity, and overall quality. The application for the contest was sent out towards the very beginning of the school year, so *The Academy News* staff entered the first two issues of Volume III (this year's Volume) in the contest.

The editorial board did not expect a win because this was the first time the paper was being entered in the American Scholastic Press Association Contest. But, just weeks ago, the results came in.

Out of a grading scale of 1000 points, *The Academy News* received a score of 850, just enough to ensure one of the First Place Awards

(awarded for point values between 850-1000). Additionally, the publication received a perfect score in the creativity category.

The original goal of Mrs. Edelman and the Editorial Staff in sending in the application was for the variety of services that the Press Association (ASPA) provides. In addition to holding the contest, the ASPA evaluates the paper with suggestions for future improvements and overall suggestions regarding funding, etc.

The First Place award is one of great importance to the editorial board. As one Editor commented, "It really serves to show to the entire staff that the hard work that has been put into this year's issue is evident. The paper has certainly undergone many changes and improvements in the past year and it is indeed a tribute to everyone who played a part in this process." The paper's first place award does provide inspiration to next year's staff, who aim for first place with special merit (900 points) in next year's contest.

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Lions Grab First Place at Sarachek Tournament

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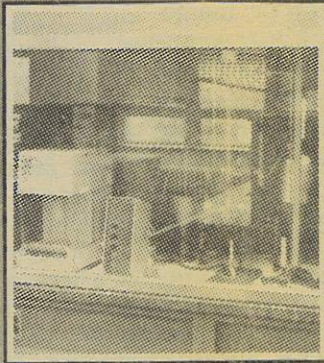
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Flatow Remembered

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MTA Sports

Lions Take Sarachek

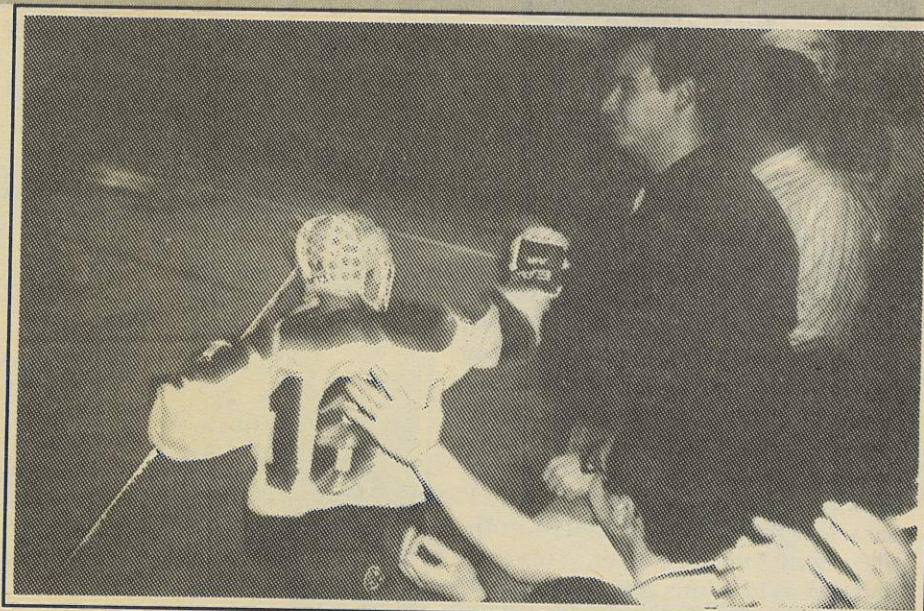
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tion from Doni Freundlich who finished with 9 points.

Sunday turned out to be yet another full day of exciting tournament games. However, there were only two games of real interest. #1 JEC, who got a second round bye, played HAFTR, and the favored Ida Crown team matched up against the MTA Lions. In the JEC semifinal game there proved to be no contest, as JEC, led by Mark Natridge (who set the single game scoring record in the Sarachek Tournament), controlled the game; Natridge put in 36 points for the victorious Chargers. In the other semifinal game between the Lions and the Aces, Ida Crown was the heavy favorite, and the Aces proved to be a formidable matchup

down the court and put the ball in David Neiss' hands. Neiss, later named tournament MVP, found himself about 25 feet from the basket and put up the long trey and drilled it. After exchanging possessions, point guard Jared Solomon drove and hit the game winning shot with just six seconds left. Ida Crown could not score in the final six ticks and MTA had just triumphed 47-46 beating their toughest opponent of the year. MTA, once again, had great performances by their starters — Neiss, Solomon, Bertram, Elstein, and Konigsberg, as well as getting key bench play from Ami Rosen and David Jesselson.

With photographers and a journalist from Sports Illustrated present, the stage was finally set for the



Moshe Hornblass circles the floor after a clutch score

Hockey Lions Champs Again

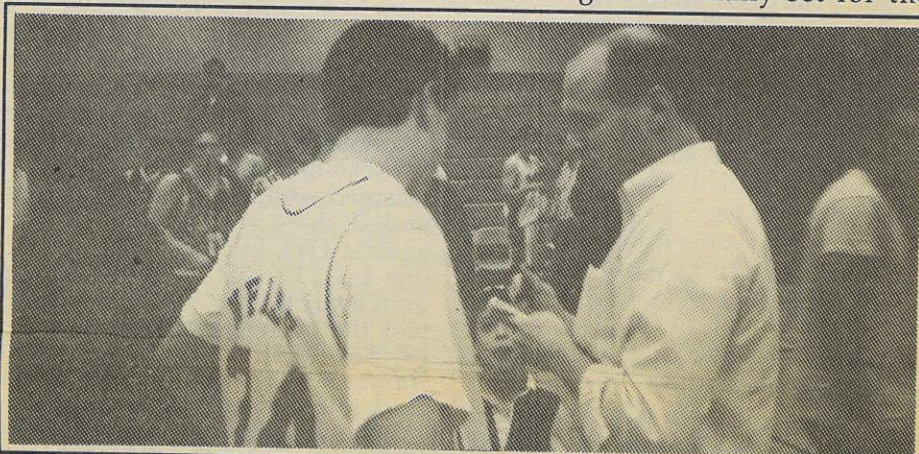
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Early on, Samter tipped in an Andy Frank slapshot, and MTA went up 2-0. But, shortly afterward, the Falcons struck back and cut the lead to one. As one MTA offense man later recalled, "That [Falcon] goal put a scare into our hearts." But, with just over seven minutes to go in the second, Azriel Rauzman sent the Falcons into a state of dejection as he hit a slapshot from the point to give the Lions a 3-1 lead.

The third period held no more surprises, as MTA continued what they had already begun, as Rauzman and Samter scored their second goals of the game, and Moshe Hornblass picked a goal with a slapshot from the point. Shlomo Schuster, MTA's playoff surprise, picked up an assist on Frank's second score.

Celebration followed the game

for the Lions; the upset Falcons were left in a state of shock. Rabbi Schiller looked back on the game and commented that, "In many ways, this is the most satisfying championship I have ever won." The Lions, in their past five consecutive championship seasons have usually been favored to win it; but, this time they pulled off the remarkable upset. Rabbi Schiller also stressed that the team could not have won without superb play from the whole club; not only did those who racked up the actual points contribute to the victory, but superb play by the rest of the team enabled the scores. In particular, he praised the junior contingent of the team: "Jacob Bernstein, Steven Mauskopf, Ellie Mermelstein, and Scott Rothenberg enabled the seniors to get open and get good shots. They are the ones that kept the Falcons busy and ultimately ensured an MTA victory."



Tournament MVP David Neiss being interviewed by a Sports Illustrated reporter

for the hometown and underdog Lions. However, there was one more thing that made this game more than just a regular game. Sports Illustrated, a world renowned sports magazine, was going to be covering both that game and the finals held on Monday thereby adding even more pressure on both teams. The stage was set for what was to be arguably the best game ever in the Sarachek Tournament. Both teams came out very physically playing very aggressive basketball and, surprisingly, at the end of the first quarter, the underdog Lions had the lead (thanks to a trey at the buzzer by Elliot Bertram who maintained his league best .1000 3-point field goal shooting percentage alive with this shot, a clean 2 tried, 2 made). The lead, however, did not stick, and, at halftime, the Lions went into the locker room down by 7 points. It did not look good for the Lions who just couldn't stop the Aces in the second quarter.

However, the third quarter was different for the Lions who came out stronger than ever and by the end of the third quarter, it was once again a one point game but this time in favor of the Aces. Chicago easily added to their lead raising it to an 8 point margin with less than four minutes left. MTA still did not give up, and, with key plays by All tournament player Kivi Elstein as well as by Ami Rosen, the lead was cut to a slim 2 points with just under two minutes to play. After All Conference guard Yoel Goldberg hit a foul shot, MTA came

championship in a game of two hometown teams - MTA vs. JEC. This game was much anticipated because they had not played each other during the regular season. The Lions got off to a quick start as tournament MVP David Neiss hit 3 consecutive treys to start the game and lift MTA to a 9-2 lead. The Lions closed out the quarter leading by a commanding 10 points. However, by halftime, it was close as JEC cut the Lions' lead to a slim 5 points. The Lions came out in the third quarter playing very intense basketball and at one point, built up their lead into double digits. However, the Chargers struck back and, surprisingly, at the end of the third quarter, it was all knotted up at 34. The Lions' downfall continued and MTA found themselves trailing by 5 points with about 4 minutes remaining. The championship, which at first seemed like a definite victory, was slipping away. The Lions did not quit and with a clutch trey by Jared Solomon and a couple of free throws by Captain Elie Konigsberg, the score was once again tied but this time with only 46 seconds left. After a quick questionable foul called on MTA, JEC's Noah Wassermann found himself at the foul line shooting one and one. He missed the front end and MTA had one last possession. Following a timeout, MTA inbounded the ball with 14 seconds left. MTA broke-down JEC's defense and Jared Solomon found tournament MVP David Neiss who then hit the tournament winning shot with



Captain Elie Konigsberg at the line against JEC in tournament finals

just three seconds remaining. Finally, after a long grueling four games, the MTA Lions, who were originally thought to have no chance at beating Ida Crown or JEC, had done so in dramatic fashion.

MTA recaptured the Sarachek Tournament Championship after a three year drought. Though the Sarachek tournament is no substitute for the divisional championship, it is still a great tournament with extremely fierce competition, and winning it is an unbelievable accomplishment. The Lions, with the loss

of Seniors Elie Konigsberg and Ami Rosen, and junior David Neiss who will be going early admissions to college, have a very bright future ahead of them. With returning starters Kivi Elstein, Elliot Bertram, and Jared Solomon, along with returning juniors Doni Freundlich, David Jesselson, and Channan Vogel, the Lions will be a very talented and experienced team. Hopefully, with all this experience and talent, the Lions will once again be a major contender and this time win the divisional championship as well.