

**Post NCAA Fencing Championship Quotes**  
**March 20, 2009—University Park, Pa.**

*Nick Chinman (Penn State, Foil National Champion)*

**Q: How does it feel to be a National Champion?**

A: It feels great. It feels awesome. You know the best part is just being here and having the support of the whole team. When it was 14-14 the only thing I could hear were the Penn State fans. That was really exciting.

**Q: How did it feel to come back after being down 5 touches?**

A: When I was doing it I wasn't thinking about how far I was down, I was just trying to do it touch by touch. I think when you're down like that, the one thing you don't have to think about is how far you're down you just have to get one touch after another.

*Aleksander Ochocki (Penn State, Sabre National Champion)*

**Q: How does it feel to be a National Champion?**

A: It feels good to be a National Champion, especially collegiate level because you only have four years to do it. So to be able to do it in that time period is good, especially since it's my freshman year.

**Q: What does this mean to you as a freshman, especially being about to compete at home?**

A: It means a lot. It's cool in front of all my friends, family and classmates. It's really cool and special. Hopefully now that I've won it as a freshman I can continue that throughout my years here. The fact that it was here makes it really cool also because all my friends, family, classmates could be here. They got me pumped up.

*Slava Zingerman (Wayne State, Epee National Champion)*

**Q: How does it feel to be a National Champion?**

A: It feels great, especially because it is my third National Champion title.

*Head Coach Penn State Emmanuil Kaidanov*

**Q: How does it feel to have two National Champions in Aleks and Nick?**

A: It could be three, just kidding. It feels very good because the season was very hard for them especially for Aleks, very hard. Injuries, disappointments, and expectations of a new operation in a few days is very hard and to win it, makes it so sweet. As far as Nick, after several disappointments finally, superb, it's just superb to win something which he dreamed since he was a little kid. Especially to do so with such a wonderful performance.

**Q: Any comment on how close the gold medal bouts were?**

A: It's the same as track, everybody runs about 9.8 seconds in a 400-meter dash, but someone always wins by being a nose ahead. That's how it feels, it's hard. It's terrific but it's hard.