reach. She has good footwork and timing, plus quick hands and strong technique. She is also extremely bright, which helps a lot because there is so much strategy involved." Yi often fights the final match for the team, since she handles pressure well. An all-Northeast fencer the past two seasons, last year Yi added all-Ivy to her laurels and placed third at the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (IFA) championships, a far older tournament than the NCAA event and one that includes 13 of the top fencing colleges in the country.

Last spring Yi missed her biggest goal—qualifying for the NCAA national tournament—by only one point. “It was a split-second mistake against my Yale rival, Sophie Jones,” she says, adding that she has reset her sights on this year’s NCAAs. (The NCAA nationals are in March at Brandeis, shortly after the IFA tournament at Vassar.) Asking Yi about her victories does not yield any lengthy spiel. “I don’t keep track of my numbers too much,” she explains. “That takes the focus away from my actual fencing.”

Yi’s mental toughness also figures into her success. “The most impressive thing about Eunice is that she has overcome a lot of obstacles and become very successful,” Brand says. “Her immigrant family had nothing, and still has nothing. She became not only a fine athlete, but a terrific student and a great person.”

Born in Seoul, Yi spent her early years on her own equipment.” (Other impoverished males. Yi took to saber right from the start, five years old as an organized sport) and formerly an Olympic bronze medalist, Hristo Etroupolski. “It’s nice getting to work with world-class intellects here at Harvard.” Yi is no intellectual slouch herself; a neurobiology concentrator, she plans to apply to medical school next year while taking a year off to do something service-oriented.

Winter Sports in Brief

Men’s Ice Hockey

The icemen (4-3-1, 3-3-1 ECAC) absorbed two early Ivy losses to Brown and Princeton before kicking off a three-game win streak with a 4-1 rout of Yale. The Crimson beat Boston University impressively, 5-3, posting Harvard’s first home victory over BU since 1982. Goalie Dov Grumet-Morris ’05 made 34 saves in that win. Clarkson snapped the streak with a 3-0 triumph. Senior forward Tyler Kolarik led the scoring with three goals and 11 points.

Women’s Ice Hockey

With the best start in the program’s history, Harvard (7-0-0) used solid defense and goaltending to shut out its first four opponents, outscoring them 31-0. The toughest early contest was a 2-1 win over perennial power New Hampshire, then ranked eighth in the nation to Harvard’s third. Senior Angela Ruggiero, a top defender and former Olympian, scored the game-winning goal in Durham. Nicole Correro ’05 led all scorers with 14 goals and 23 points.

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...fencers benefit from six-time Olympian Peter Westbrook’s eponymous foundation, which teaches the sport to inner-city youths.) Summer jobs earned Yi money to fly to the Junior Olympics, which she entered all four years of high school.

Brand had been in touch with Yi when she was a senior, and saw her compete in a national tournament, where she finished an impressive nineteenth. When they met there, “He gave me a hug,” Yi recalls. “I could tell right away what a nice guy Peter was, and that fencing at Harvard wouldn’t be a scary, intimidating thing.”

Financial aid enabled her to attend the College, where the fencing program has been improving under Brand, now in his fourth year as the men’s and women’s coach. Harvard has never been a fencing power: the Crimson men shared the Ivy title twice in the 1970s; the women have never won. But last spring, Harvard placed eighth at the NCAAs, not far behind Ivy League rivals Columbia and Princeton—and four Crimson fencers earned all-American honors, which happened only once before, in 1997. Those four included Yi’s teammate, foil artist Chloe Stinetorf ’06. On the men’s side, Tim Hagamen ’06 is taking this year off to train for the Olympics in saber, but two fellow all-Americans, sophomores David Jakus (saber) and Julian Rose (épé) return to the intercollegiate en garde line this season.

Brand helped Yi get some lessons from an Olympic bronze medalist, Hristo Etroupolski. “It’s nice getting to work with world-class athletes,” she says, “in addition to associating with world-class intellects here at Harvard.” Yi is no intellectual slouch herself; a neurobiology concentrator, she plans to apply to medical school next year while taking a year off “to do something service-oriented.”

“Social justice matters to me,” she explains. “It’s strange that in such a developed society, basic needs aren’t being met. Seeing people sleeping on the street bothers me a lot. Another thing is that I’m Mormon, and that’s part of my motivation. It has helped me get through; I have a sense of a bigger purpose.”

Brand sees her setting an example. “She’s an excellent role model for others here,” he says. “I’ve noticed over and over that people who overcome a lot tend to be the most successful.”

~CRAIG LAMBERT