

A clash of cold steel

■ Christel House's Kesia Matthews, centre, keeps an eye on teammates Zeetah Sitzler, left, and Febe Mbiko during a sparring session at Sunday's SA fencing championships, in Ottery.

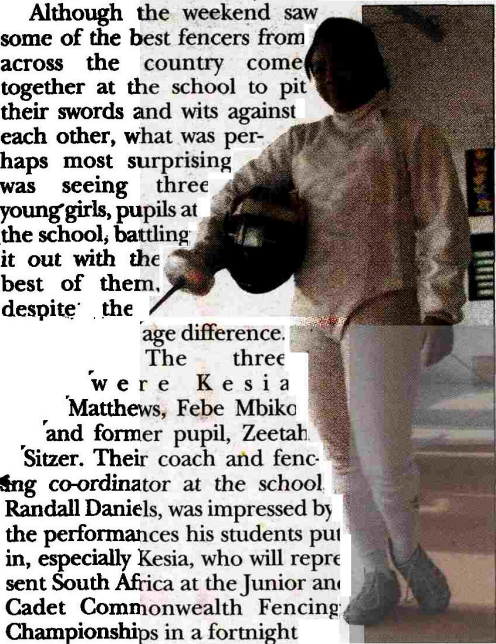
The clang of steel, swishing blades and ripostes could be the type of thing you'd expect to see in a good musketeers movie, not in a school hall...

KARL BERGEMANN

And yet, there they were, fencers, clashing in the SA senior championships, held at Christel House, in Ottery, at the weekend.

Although the weekend saw some of the best fencers from across the country come together at the school to pit their swords and wits against each other, what was perhaps most surprising was seeing three young girls, pupils at the school, battling it out with the best of them, despite the

age difference. The three were Kesia Matthews, Febe Mbiko and former pupil, Zeetah Sitzler. Their coach and fencing co-ordinator at the school, Randall Daniels, was impressed by the performances his students put in, especially Kesia, who will represent South Africa at the Junior and Cadet Commonwealth Fencing Championships in a fortnight



PICTURES: FUAD ESACK

There she will compete against some top international juniors from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, at the tournament, to be held at the University of Cape Town (UCT), from Saturday July 11 to Friday July 17.

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■ Christel House's Kesia Matthews will represent SA at the Junior Commonwealth Championships.