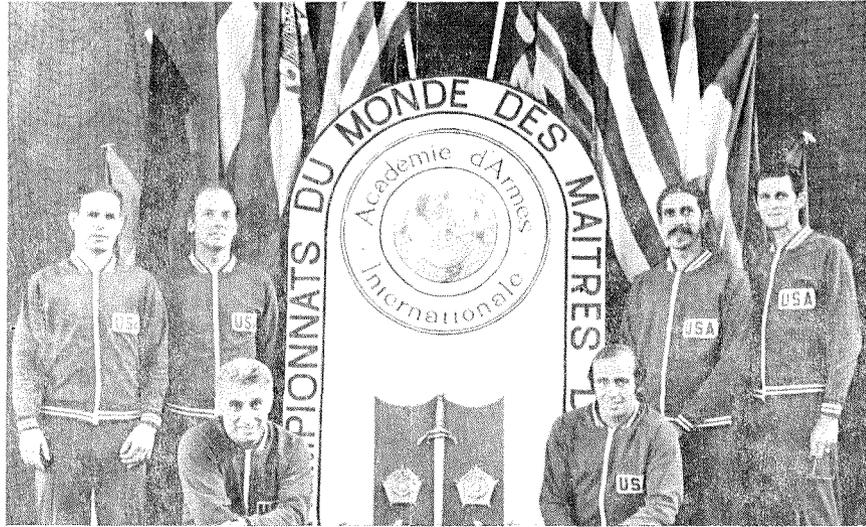


American Fencing



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Official Organ of the Amateur Fencers League of America

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HELP!

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors of the AFLA was informed that CBS had decided to discontinue the use of our membership list and that we would not be able to use their mailing service. We were fortunate indeed to have had this advantage during the period of our recent growth and we are grateful to CBS for their support. Now, however, with membership over 6000 we must realize that we are sufficiently grown up to pay our own way.

Due to the increased cost of printing, which will soon go even higher, the loss of revenue from reduced advertising, and now

the new expense of a mailing service, the AFLA is faced with a serious financial problem. In order to retain and improve the quality of our magazine, we must have more advertising. This is an appeal for help.

We ask our members to go out and bring in ads for **AMERICAN FENCING**. Inquire in your salle, your school, your suppliers of everything (not only fencing equipment), your friends, and see what you can come up with. A copy of our very reasonable rates may be found on the last page of this issue. Note especially the \$5.00 ads.

Remember, our very existence depends on you!
RMG

U. S FENCING MASTERS TEAM SCORES TRIUMPH WINS THREE GOLD MEDALS AND ONE BRONZE

Foil and Saber Teams Victorious at Crystal Palace Ed Richards Wins Foil, Mike Dasaro Third in Saber

U. S. TEAM STARS IN LONDON

by Richard Gradkowski

For the first time in a World Championship, the "Star Spangled Banner" sounded melodiously for a large and enthusiastic audience at London's Crystal Palace Sports Center. The 1970 Championats du Monde des Maitres d'Armes was a resounding success for both the United States team and its organizers, the British Academy of Fencing.

Three Gold medals and one Bronze were the rewards for the weeks of training, preparation, and planning which went into putting together the winning combination. The U. S. fencers were noted for their stamina and ability to sustain their winning effort, and for their team spirit in working together in a tight spot.

The Championship for Fencing Masters is organized every four years by the international fencing master's organization, the Academie d'Armes Internationale. The form of the competition is a complete round robin among those fencing masters entered, with team results counted as the aggregate of the victories of the three individuals representing each nation. The standard of fencing would have compared favorably to the quarter finals of a world championship. The U.S.A. was represented in Foil by Ed Richards, Raoul Sudre, and Charles Selberg; in Epee by John Geraci, Dick Oles, and Mike Dasaro; and in Saber by Mike Dasaro, Ed Richards, and Raoul Sudre. Sudre was team Captain, organizer, and Delegate of the NFCAA to the World Congress of the A.A.I., which was taking place during the championship.

Fencing masters from eight nations participated in the competition and each event consisted of a round robin of 24. The bouts were organized in such a way that the three fencers from each nation met three from



photo by

The reward of hard training and rationation; Ed Richards of the U. S. Fencing team hoists the victory champagne for him by Allan Jay, 1959 British World. At the left of Ed is second place Italy and at the right is Birnbaum of third.

another nation, as if in a team competition lasted from 9:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. with suitable breaks and afternoon tea. The Directoire was headed by Professor Akos M. of the BAF, who kept the whole thing running smoothly, adjudicating scheduling matches, and assigning with professional skill. The tournament, under Miss Margaret Somer a model of efficiency and meticulous control.

(Continued Next Page)

The Crystal Palace Sports Center was the site for the 1968 World Junior Championships. The huge complex, in a suburb of London, contains a complete athletic stadium, many practice fields for soccer and field hockey, a field house containing a complete Olympic sized swimming pool, a half dozen gymnasiums, and a huge central gym, where the Championships were held. Surrounding the entire complex is a two mile bicycle and motorcycle track. Among the beautifully landscaped grounds is located an impressive multistoried hotel, where the competitors all stayed.

A full round of social and ceremonial events was capped off by a reception for the Congress given by the Martini & Rossi organization in New Zealand House.

RESULTS

Foil Individual: 1. Richards, USA; 2. Lodetti, Italy; 3. Birnbaum, Austria; 4. Sudre, USA; 5. Berni, Italy; 6. Van de Valk, Holland; 7. Ganchev, Great Britain; 8. Selberg, USA; 9. Crisci, Italy; 10. Starzinski, Switzerland

Foil Team: 1. USA; 2. Italy; 3. Great Britain

Epee Individual: 1. Maestri, Italy; 2. Drouillard, Switzerland; 3. Bonato, Italy; 4. Birnbaum, Austria; 5. Dasaro, USA; 6. Rompza, Switzerland; 7. Firley, Germany; 8. Wolfers, Holland; 9. Mol, Holland; 10. Palmiero, Italy

Epee Team: 1. Italy; 2. Switzerland; 3. Holland.

Saber Individual: 1. Ganchev, Great Britain; 2. Monshouwer, Holland; 3. Dasaro, USA; 4. Stefanelli, Italy; 5. Sudre, USA; 6. Rompza, Switzerland; 7. Maestri, Italy; 8. Van de Valk, Holland; 9. Richards, USA; 10. Oudjik, Holland

Saber Team: 1. USA; 2. Holland; 3. Italy.

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CAPTAIN'S REPORT

by Raoul Sudre

Approximately one and a half years ago preparations for the 1970 World Professional Championships were initiated. I contacted all the top amateur fencers who had turned to teaching and tried to sell them on the idea of:

1. going back into training for one year,
2. giving up six weeks of their time,
3. putting up money of their own to help finance the venture.

It wasn't easy, but little by little, the team was formed.

The second phase was raising money. I turned for help to many people and approached Mike DeCicco and asked for NFCAA support. I found him a strong supporter and we were allowed the sum of \$1000.00; hardly enough for a nine man team, but a good start. I then contacted my friend Pierre Thirioux, Head Fencing Master of the Fontainebleu Fencing Academy and arranged for them to host our team for a pre-tournament training session at very low prices. Mr. Robert Kane, Athletic Director of Cornell University, extended the facilities of the university free of charge for our training camp.

Before we got together, I sent each team member a training program that he was expected to follow and which would bring him to the camp at a relatively high degree of conditioning, and I must say that they were all very conscientious about it.

The most important phase of the program was the training which consisted of physical conditioning and psychological preparation. During the six to eight hours of daily training there were many grueling moments and times during which I feared losing team members. The training took all day and was severe enough so that the task ahead of us would be well within our capability. We also spent time gaining confidence, learning about each other, and establishing a close rapport. There were a few problems, but soon the differences disappeared and left us with great team spirit. Maitre Jean Jacques Gillet, assistant fencing coach at Cornell, played an

invaluable role in our work. He gave all of us several lessons each day and helped us greatly in correcting many poor habits that develop when one is coaching. It was with sadness that we left him in Ithaca, as he was unable to make the trip for personal reasons. Shortly before our departure, Richard Gradkowski was appointed team manager and it was arranged that he go to London directly to help organize our stay at the Crystal Palace Sports Center. This was a great help as it freed me from many duties in the technical supervision of the tournament. He also served on the Directoire Technique of the Tournament and daily mixed our brew of Gatorade.

With our training at Cornell completed, we were off to France. Our stay at Fontainebleau was designed to:

1. Act as a transition period of adaptation (to climate, food, time change, etc.)
2. Give us a stronger unity and feeling of our national representation as the U. S. team.

Since we were the only Americans among the hundreds of French athletes, we automatically became more aware of our roles as ambassadors of our country. This gave us an additional inspiration and we worked very hard. Then we allowed ourselves three days of complete rest before the competition.

What followed is now history. We went on to win three Gold medals and a Bronze medal. While this was a first for American fencing, more important to us was the respect that we got from all our European colleagues, the warmth, and the exchange of ideas which enabled us to return to the United States with a new vista of international experience.

I am proud to have been able to take part in this experience and I am very grateful to all who have helped make this dream become a reality.

FENCING MASTER AVAILABLE

Former Olympic foil champion Ion Drimba (Mexico 1968) is now teaching fencing and is available for employment. He can be reached at 6972 Tauberbischofsheim, Goethestrasse 30, West Germany.

PREPARATION AT CORNELL

by Charles A. Selberg

Our training at Cornell was a physiological and psychological one which placed prime emphasis on endurance and team harmony. As suggested, we were preparing to stand less to what promised to be a tournament during which time each member would be expected to fence five bouts. We placed equal emphasis on generating a genuine team comp spirit, which was punctuated by good humor, was clearly a productive training program and brought out in each of us. It was this team idea which put us over the top when it to get extra points were needed at Championship in London.

The training schedule at Cornell each day with morning workouts placed primary emphasis on conditioning, with running. The value of running for a fencer cannot be overstated and an excellent way to "gear up" for activities. After completing the morning we returned to the fencing hall where an hour was spent at general exercise designed to loosen and relax muscles in preparation for our morning fencing from Maitre Jean Gillet. Gillet placed long lesson placing emphasis on dist timing. His lessons gave the legs a task with repeated pattendos, and lunges recovering into continue both forward and backward. When the Europeans later his lessons proved "right on".

The remainder of our mornings were spent fencing with the machine. We fenced five bouts. The bouts were fenced with importance given to each bout made special efforts to maintain a of seriousness toward all bouts. Fencing was definitely not a recreational work out.

After lunch we spent the mid-morning from 1.00 to 4:00 swimming and skiing. Sudre felt that a mid-day r

on the water would keep the team active and still allow for a few hours of needed sunshine and relaxation. The plan worked perfectly and on our return to the fencing hall at 4:00 p.m. we were genuinely ready for an additional three or four hour session.

This was our routine every day, including Saturday and Sunday.

TRAINING AT FONTAINEBLEAU

by Dick Oles

The second phase of our training took place at the French national sports facility, Camp Guynemer, located about 100 kilometers south of Paris near Fontainebleau. Hospitality, accommodations and food were all excellent. The weather was unseasonably cool and damp but did not affect us adversely. Training facilities for fencing were excellent: two large and well equipped fencing rooms, cross-country course, track, the works.

Our schedule went something like this: Breakfast at 7:30; running the cross country course (4 miles) at 9:30; fencing from 10:30 to 12:00; lunch; then more fencing from 2:00 to 5:30 or thereabouts. A leisurely dinner, and we were on our own for the rest of the evening. The Master in charge of the fencing there was the 1966 Master's World Saber champion, Pierre Thirioux; he fenced with us and his presence was - to use an overworked phrase - an inspiration. We were able to fence with several of the young masters and prevosts and towards the middle of the week, the French Junior Pentathlon Team.

The method of working out used by the French was illuminating: no looseplay, no messing around, just seriously getting down to the business of winning. Whenever you fenced, you hooked up and scored electrically, you fought for three 5 touch bouts (regardless of who won or lost), you fought for every hit. This is lacking in American salles.

Technically, we did not feel inferior, in that they used no attacks or parries or ripostes which we had never seen before. But we were clearly inferior in the ability to use

many strokes (for example: the riposte to the back or the lowline), and in our timing. It was not in the matter of being able to do things that we were deficient; rather it was in the speed at which we were able to see what to do and translate the thought into action. By the end of the week we had picked up.



Chancellor Parker of the University of Illinois receives a hand crafted "El Cid" sword from Peter Morrison, Chairman of the Illinois division. Chancellor Parker and Dr. Fordham, Athletic Director of the University, received the swords in recognition for the encouragement and assistance rendered to the sport of fencing by these gentlemen.

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION

by Nancy Daschbach

The West Virginia University Open was held on Saturday, October 3, at the Robert F. Kennedy Youth Center, a modern penal institution for the rehabilitation of delinquent boys. It is located in Morgantown, West Virginia and has been in operation for about four years. This was the first meet of the season results were:

Foil: 1. Tom Joy, W.V.U.; 2. Ken Randolph, W.V.U.; 3. Terry Groff, W.V.U.
Epee: 1. Charles Reese, W. Pa.; 2. Terry Groff, W.V.U.; 3. Herb Ratner, W. Pa.
Women's Foil: 1. Stella Sarner, W. Pa.; 2. Nancy Daschbach, W.V.U.; 3. Sharon Benedict, W. Pa.

SUMMER FENCING IN EUROPE

by Greg Belok

One of the best ways for a student fencer to spend his summer vacation is to go fencing, especially when the competitions are in Europe. With this in mind I left the U. S. right after the Nationals in July and spent two months participating in six tournaments in France, Germany, Luxembourg and Sweden. Another tournament could have been added within that period, but my financial resources were limited.

My itinerary was planned around the international fencing schedule provided by the AFLA and my modes of transportation included every means conceivable, including hitchhiking. To the Europeans this was a novelty as they had never seen a person with a ruck-sack and fencing bag arrive to compete with them. Being the only American present often proved to be an advantage. Wherever I went the fencers extended a cordial welcome, even when advance entry had not been sent. In Sweden, where everything was so expensive, I was given the privilege of lodging with the Polish fencers in a schoolhouse dormitory. However, I usually stayed at local youth hostels while traveling and at the competitions.

The itinerary of competitions included Vittel and Dieppe in France; Ystad, Sweden; Hildesheim and Bad Harzburg in Germany, and Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg. Upon entering each town I immediately looked up the local fencing club and if it was open, stopped in for a workout and lesson. The clubs in Germany, were open throughout the summer with many actively competing young fencers.

A highlight of each competition was a fencing ball where the awards were made. In Bad Harzburg more than 120 fencers managed to consume more than 300 liters of beer and dance until 3 a.m. in addition. My best results were in Hildesheim and Mondorf where I was fourth out of 65 fencers and eleventh of about 100 fencers respectively. This latter competition was a nice way to end a summer of fencing.

Looking back I found that to get results, one must not merely fence which usually means fool around, work on specific exercises, with fencers.



The wandering fencer, Gregg Belok with fencing bag shakes hands with H manager of the competition at Hilde many.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

by Sid Schwartz

With seventy seven entries in all this was the most successful tour Western New York ever. The plan to hold a repeat of this event first week end of next October.

Foil: 1. J. Valladares, Cornell; 2. L. falo; 3. A. Plouffe, Rochester
Women's Foil: 1. M. Julier, Toronto; 2. London; 3. D. Larson, Toronto
Epee: 1. R. Foxcroft, London; 2. G. G. cause; 3. B. Fries, Columbia
Sabre: 1. R. Foxcroft, London; 2. P. Urb 3. W. Kazer, Buffalo

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Pointed Comment . . .

OUR NEW OPPONENT

by Chaba Elthes

The last three Pan American Games established the superiority of the United States in team fencing in the Western Hemisphere. This superiority was first displayed in saber, with correspondingly good showings from the epeeists and foilists, thereafter.

Our strongest opponent, traditionally, has been the Argentine, a country that has a long established and serious fencing heritage. At Winnipeg, however, a new opponent declared himself; Cuba.

Fencing also has a tradition in Cuba but, because of their insular position, they did not show seriously in recent times in international competition. Since Cuba joined the Socialist bloc, the State has put its full financial resources behind sport and fencing has shared the wealth, a situation similar to that in the Soviet Union.

Because good fencing is impossible without good fencing masters, they financed the acquisition of name coaches. The present head coach and his predecessor are Hungarians. Together they have established permanent fencing training camps and have given professionalism to the program. We all know what this means.

Fencing, first of all, is a technical sport. Results follow the most purposeful and hard work. And then only after many years. Cuban fencing has, eight years after the establishment of the "coaching" program, begun to display good results.

This is shown by the admirable Cuban performances in many European competitions. The Cuban participation has been state financed as have their training trips to Europe. These have been mostly to Hungary where they make a training program of some 4-6 weeks duration at least three times a year.

At this year's Balaton Championships in September, for instance, the Cubans were

there in strength. There were about 200 foreigners, yet Cubans could be found in every final. Miss Rodriguez was outstanding, and their epee and foil are very good. Saber is coming.

The ramifications of all this are enormous. When you consider that 17 years before the Soviet began to do the same things . . . **and Russia was not even on the same level of technical proficiency.**

Next year's Pan Am Games are destined to settle the balance of power of fencing on the American scene. The big question: Will we be able to maintain our superiority? The answer is: It will be very difficult if not impossible.

Let us examine the situation. There is an old proverb that says: In fencing, there are no miracles. Provided you work hard and train often you will generally win. The Cubans fence daily, mostly two sessions. We have to be happy if our top competitors train once or twice weekly.

I don't believe we are supermen. Also, sooner or later, the old fencing proverb will prove true.

Also, there will be no miracle even if we were to suppose we have the better coaches. The extra work has a decisive effect on fencing.

A Cuban top competitor fences incomparably more than our athletes and in Cali this must come out.

I feel it is my duty to warn of this. I wouldn't like to think we are depending on past successes to insure our future victories. Till now, we have had amateur opponents working similarly to us. Now we have a professional opponent for whom fencing is a vocation—even an existence. This will ultimately manifest itself in fighting spirit.

If we would like to repeat our earlier successes, we must begin purposeful work now.

There is another old Hungarian proverb: it is better to fear than be frightened.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Alan Miles Ruben

The United States Olympic Committee and other sponsors of American fencing will be giving careful attention to the results achieved by our team at the Pan-American Games to determine whether our development programs warrant their continued funding. We have dominated the previous Games. Why then should there be any cause for concern? The answer is twofold. The first part lies in recognition that many of our traditional rivals have also improved and can boast a squad of outstanding competitors. Mexico, led by Olympic medalist Pilar Roldan, comes quickly to mind. Argentina's young sabre team poses a real threat. But perhaps the greatest challenge is mounted by Cuba. Indeed, there are observers who flatly predict that our supremacy in the Games will be ended by this team. The Cuban fencers have devoted the past three years to intensive preparation for these Games. In the seriousness of their preparation they resemble the Russians of two decades ago who crashed into the fencing limelight. The second branch of the answer has to do with the **totally inadequate programs of training and conditioning** being pursued by too many of our leading candidates for the team. Granted that vocational and family obligations are paramount, our fencers are still not making that sacrifice of available leisure time which is necessary to winning performances this summer. Whether the lack of dedication is attributable to a wholly unwarranted confidence in their superiority, or, to the attitude that the Games are a vacation trip given as a reward for achievement in the National Championships, is conjectural. **But the hard truth is that without drastic improvement in levels of preparation we will be going to Cali as certain losers.**

To remedy the present deficiencies and assist fencers to help themselves attain the necessary degree of readiness, the AFLA will be taking the following steps:

1. By the first of December we will announce the formation of a United States Olympic Training Squad composed of all leading candidates for the 1971 Games. De-

pending upon performance during the year fencers will be added to or dropped from the Squad. Each member will be asked, in consultation with his coach, to submit a personal training and competition schedule which he will be requested to rigorously follow.

2. Members of the Squad will be invited to participate in specially arranged training camps and competitions during the course of the year.

3. Those Squad members selected to make the trip to Cali will be given an opportunity for special training in the period subsequent to the National Championships and prior to departure for the Games.

4. Many fencers often find themselves in a schedule conflict where their available training time does not always match the hours of the club or other organization to which they belong. Under such circumstances, however, the fencers would be willing and able to continue their training at a facility in which they were not members if the opportunity were made available to them. **I ask therefore all fencing organizations to follow an "open door" policy with respect to all Squad members, allowing them to train where this may be done without violating regulations which are beyond the organization's power to change. I ask further that all organizations willing to make this contribution to further our performance at the Games to so notify the Secretary and the Editor of American Fencing in order that due recognition may be given and Squad members appraised of the opportunity.**

Let there be no doubt about our priorities this year. We have but one overriding goal - to capture every medal available to us at Cali - eight gold and four silver.

The New Program for Increasing and Improving our Officiating Capacity

I want to announce the creation of a new committee under the chairmanship of Csaba Pallaghy replacing the Directors' Commission and the formerly independent Committees on Rules and Director Development. The new Committee will consist of all F.I.E. international officiating license holders, three non-internationally rated members who will have

certain administrative responsibilities and a liaison representative from the NCAA Fencing Rules Committee. Mr. Pallaghy and the Committee will be charged with: (1) rendering interpretations of the rules upon request, (2) publishing articles regularly in American Fencing analyzing common problems in directing and explaining the rules and their application, (3) providing directors to conduct clinics for Divisions and at Sectional, National and other tournaments and (4) examining candidates for the number 2 and number 3 Director's rating and recommending candidates to be examined by the F.I.E. for international rating.

Under the new system each fencer will receive a wallet-sized officiating record book in which all of his completed director's assignments can be certified and recorded by the appropriate bout committee chairmen. Each Division is responsible for examining and approving fencers for the 1 and 1-A ratings and notifying Mr. Pallaghy of successful candidates. Fencers wishing to be examined for the number 2 rating must be certified by the Divisional Executive Committee or Chairman to the Sectional Executive Committee as having satisfied the eligibility criteria established by the new Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The Sectional Executive Committee will prepare a list of such candidates for examination by a representative of the new Committee at each Sectional Championship, and the successful examinees will be placed on the national roster. Fencers having received a number 2 rating and wishing to be examined for a number 3 rating must so advise the Sectional Executive Committee and upon proof that they have met the qualifications entitling them to be so considered, the Sectional Executive Committee will forward their applications to Mr. Pallaghy who will arrange directly with the fencers for examination at a Sectional, National or other designated competition. Those holding a United States 3 rating and those holding a 2 international license who wish to obtain or improve their international rating must make their request to Mr. Pallaghy well in advance of the international competition at which they seek to have their examination conducted.

Each Division has an obligation to one or more clinics during the cour fencing season. The director in char clinic must hold a number 3 (U. and appear on the roster of officials to conduct such instructional sessio will be published by the new Comrr visions not having among their me approved official are requested to director from the roster. Mr. Allan who has had broad experience in such clinics, has indicated his will perform this function.

"IN CASE YOU FORGO

by Alex Solomon

In all Olympic history only 4 France, Italy, Hungary and Russia more gold medals than Cuba, who 5, including all four of the schedul in the 1904 Games held at the Purchase exposition in St. Louis. T in fact only competition then came United States team.

Ramon Fonst, the Cuban 19 champion had also won the champi 1900 thereby setting a record of 1 epee championships that has never 1 Only the recent Nedo Nadi (1912 and Christian D'Oriola (1952 & 19 accomplished this in foil while Fuchs (1908 & 1912) and Rudol: (1956 & 60) have done it in : women's Foil Ilona Schacherer - Elel it or not, won in 1936 and 1948, the whole World War II period with secutive championships.

The fencing program of the first Games in 1896 consisted of just 2 men's individual foil and sabre. I individual epee was added. In 1904 team Championship, men's foil, v then dropped from the 1908 & 191 and not held again till 1920. But s epee teams were added in 1908, and individual foil in 1924. Believe it women were not permitted to enter the Olympic Games till 1960. O te mores!

1970 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM REPORT; U. S. PLACES THREE IN QUARTER FINALS

Soviet Union Dominates all Events; Epee Team Places Seventh, Women Win Against Austria

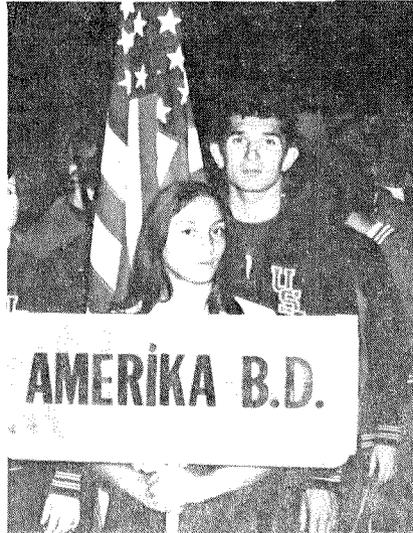
CHIEF OF MISSION'S REPORT by Edmund F. Zeisig

(Ed. Note: Ed Zeisig is a fencer and administrator of great experience, having been active in AFLA affairs as Mid West VP and legal counsel. Ed was also Captain of the 1967 Pan American Team which competed in Winnipeg.)

Ankara, Turkey, is a city blessed with great weather during September. Our mornings and evenings were always pleasantly cool, mid days were warm and sunny, and there was no rain. Our hotel accommodations at the Stad Oteli were very satisfactory, and after the first five days the food was excellent.

The first five days call for some special mention. The advance understanding with the Turkish Fencing Federation was that room and board would cost Ten (\$10.00) Dollars per day, and that we were supposed to be permitted to order from the menu. Instead we found that we had no right of selection from the menu, were fed in the Athlete's Dining Room, the food was at best mediocre, and there was an extra charge for seconds as well as for all beverages. We knew that tourists in the hotel could eat in the excellent open air dining room and pay only about seven (\$7.00) Dollars per day for room and board. It took five days to work out an arrangement whereby we went to a regular tourist status, and after that all was well. It was not uncommon for our fencers to have their meals prepared in chafing dishes by waiters at tableside. So far as I know only the United States team was afforded this privilege, and thanks must go to Mike Mamlouk for his diplomacy and multilinguality in working out this arrangement.

The field house in which the competition was conducted was very large, well-lighted and in general an excellent facility. The Turkish people were gracious and accommodating, a guide-interpreter was available to us at all times and, except for our fencing



The United States team led the march in the opening day ceremonies at Ankara. Paul Pesthy, former National Epee and Pentathlon champion carried the flag for the United States with military bearing.

results, it was an excellent competition. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of Sayin Cevdet Sunay, the President of Turkey, whose hand I had the privilege of shaking.

Since we were without manager, coach or armorer, I exercised my powers as Chief of Mission by making an "in the field" appointment of Richard Gradkowski as manager, and he rendered yeoman service. My sincere appreciation also goes out to Mike Mamlouk and Dr. Marius Valsamis, my deputy Chiefs of Mission, for their eternal vigilance to the needs of the fencers and their constant assistance in keeping things running smoothly.

We had one stroke of great good fortune. Mac Garret was at the competition as coach of the Israeli team. His fencers were finished after the saber had been fenced, and Mac

became our unofficial coach. He worked hard and dutifully with our fencers even though on occasion he was physically exhausted. Mac had been at the University games in Torino as coach of the U. S. team.

FOIL INDIVIDUAL

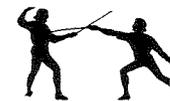
Only Ballinger made it to the second round and he did so with a 2-3 record. At the second round he came to the end of the road, and was not able to win a bout. Marty Lang really gave the best performance with three wins, but he lost out to Ardeleanu of Roumania on the Touch ratio. We thought at first that Schmatolla had gone up with a 2-3 record, but he lost out to Falb also of Roumania on a ratio of 0.882 to 0.800. Esponda did not feel well and was able to garner only one win.

SABER INDIVIDUAL

Orban again proved himself to be one of our better internationalists by making the quarter finals. He was undefeated in the first round and went up with five wins. In the second round he had us all worried when he dropped a bout to Convents of Germany after leading 4-0. However, four qualified from the pool and Orban made it with two wins. In the quarter finals he had a very tough pool with Sidiak of Russia, the defending champion, Pesza of Hungary, who won the tournament, and the great Pawlowski of Poland, and that was the end of the line for Orban.

Balla fenced nicely in the first round and went up with a 3-2 record. Unfortunately he did not manage a win in the second round.

Dow had the misfortune of being in a very tough five man pool. He won two bouts including a victory over Marot who made the finals, but he was nosed from third place in his pool on the touch ratio. Later in the day his director, Signor Malacarne of Italy, told me that Dow had a most unfortunate break in the composition of his pool, and that the caliber of his fencing was such that he deserved to go up.



The saber final gave rise to a which was a first in my 36 years experience. Aldo Montano of fencing Nazlymov of Russia with place medal at stake. The score when Montano attacked to the Nazlymov riposted. The cut to the be heard throughout the field. Most onlookers thought it was never, one judge voted "no" and the other judge abstained. It was that the riposte was allowed. Russian won the bout. The Ita leaped from its bench and went officials. It was necessary for clubs to swarm onto the fencing subdue the Italians. It was no soccer match in South America this ing competition. Subsequent to this expelled one of the Italian officials received a written apology from the delegation.

FOIL TEAM

Our fencers were badly outclassed in team events. Against Japan, Lang and Schmatolla managed just one while Esponda was blanked. The team no better against Poland, Ballinger our only bout.

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL

Both O'Connor and White won the second round. The highlight of her performance was her 4-0 win over Chirkova. Ruth White fenced although she was the victim of several calls. Armstrong, Clovis and Reid only one win apiece.

In the second round O'Connor won only one bout. White won it wasn't enough to bring her out of Had she fenced in her early bouts in her last two, she would have

SABER TEAM

Since Orban and Balla both had before the saber team event, the Mission was faced with a difficult We had two regular saber team members Dow and Lekach, both of whom fence. We had Lang and Esponda both of whom had B classifications

The question was whether to use Lang and Esponda and enter a weak saber team, thus giving Dow and Lekach the opportunity to further their international experience, but with a resultant loss in U.S. prestige, or whether not to enter the event at all. It was my decision to enter the team. Seeding in the team events is done strictly by formula on the basis of performances in the individual competition, so the U.S. could not be hurt in this respect. Insofar as our individual fencers are concerned, I felt that the prestige of any of our fencers who are known internationally could not be too adversely affected by a competition in which they did not participate.

In the saber team pool, we drew the USSR and Bulgaria.

Dow fenced very well against Bulgaria, picking up three wins. Lekach won two and there was no doubt that, if Orban and Balla had been there, we would have won this match. Unfortunately we did not. We were blanked against Russia although Dow again fenced very well, dropping two 4-4 decisions, one against Sidiak. Following this round, Bulgaria went on to take fifth place by defeating France, and showed that they were indeed a formidable team.

EPEE INDIVIDUAL

Bozek fenced beautifully in the first round winning all four of his bouts and going up first in his pool. Netburn also went up with three wins. Pesthy made a tactical error in his bout against Kriss of Russia. He thought he was leading the bout 3-2 and permitted time to run out. The score was actually 3-3 and the resultant double loss cost him any chance he might have had to qualify. Neither Masin nor Melcher could get going.

Both Netburn and Bozek made it to the quarter finals. Bozek found himself in a pool with two men who made the six man final, and he managed only one win. Netburn was badly off his game and dropped all of his bouts, although two were 5-4 decisions.

WOMEN'S TEAM

In the women's foil team we had high hopes, but we were doomed to disappointment. Against the powerful Russian team

White and O'Connor both won two bouts. White's two losses were both 4-3. Neither Reid or Armstrong was able to win a bout, but we still felt that we had a chance against the Italian team. If we had four Ruth White's on the team we would have won. Ruth won three bouts, but none of the other girls was able to score a victory. Clovis had been substituted for Armstrong in this match.

The girls were very demoralized after the Italian loss, but I nevertheless exercised our option to fence the Austrian team. I sidelined O'Connor in the interest of giving more international experience to the other girls. We surprised Austria by defeating them 9-7, with White winning three bouts and Clovis, Reid and Armstrong all winning two.

Throughout the women's fencing Ruth White repeatedly demonstrated that she has the potential to become internationally significant.

EPEE TEAM

We drew Norway and Russia in our pool and the fencers were all very optimistic. The feeling increased after we defeated the Norwegians 10-6. Melcher and Pesthy both won three bouts and Masin and Netburn each won two. Bozek had not fully recovered from an intestinal disorder, so he did not fence in this match. He felt better by the time the Russian match came up, so he was substituted for Masin. We went down to defeat,



Some innocent bystanders at the 1970 World Championships. From left to right; Richard Gradkowski, team manager, Mac Garret, our hard working coach, Norman Lewis, Executive VP of the AFLA, and Ed Zeisig, Chief of Delegation.

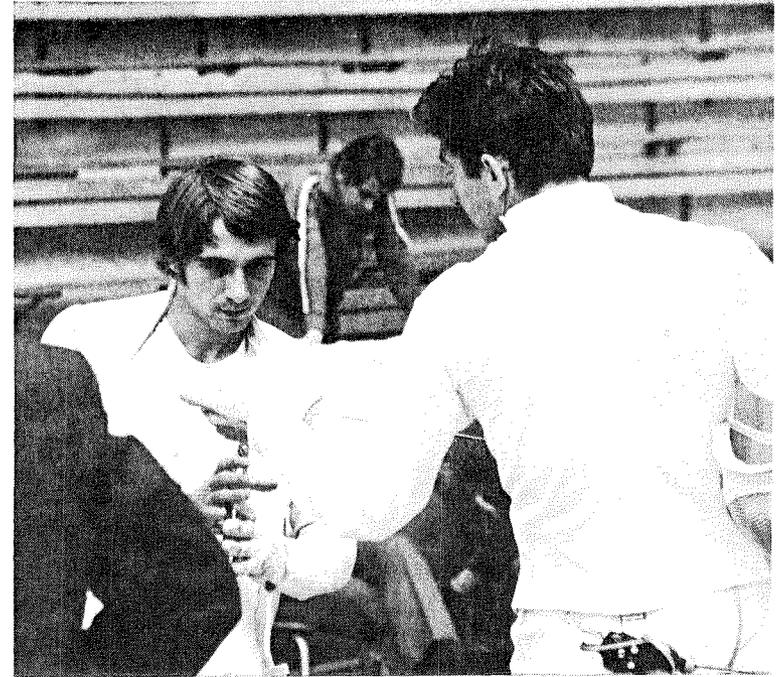


photo by

Jacques Ladagallerie lends Paul Pesthy a hand, tightening up his epee point, during the U.S. France team match. The U.S. fencers lost 9-5 to drop back to an equal seventh tie with the

9-4 with each member of the team winning one bout.

Going into the next round match against Hungary we felt we had an excellent chance. Masin again went in for Bozek in this contest. Unfortunately the breaks were against us. Melcher and Masin both dropped a bout after leading 4-1. In his bout against Schmidt, Melcher brought the score 4-4 with time running out. Schmidt checked his weapon on the floor and his light went on. Before the light was turned off the President said "fence" and Schmidt fleched. Just at that moment the light was turned off and the director noticed it. He had the impression that Schmidt's fleche attack had landed and that the light was turned off prematurely after the touch was scored. We all knew better, but we could not convince the President, so we suffered another unfortunate loss. Pesthy fenced his heart out against the Hun-

garians, but it was not enough: a down to defeat.

I left Ankara before our match repechage, turning over my duties to Valsamis, my deputy Chief of Mission. Unfortunately, the team dropped a 5-9 to France, and dropped back to an equal tie with the USSR. It seems that although having the number one or two men in the world on their side, we ran into some spirited opposition from France and Austria, thus demonstrating that Epee is a weapon for upsets.

CONCLUSION

I can't say that I was pleased with the results. However, solace can be taken in the fact that we did at least as well as our team did last year in Cuba, and that our relatively inexperienced fencers, as proved upon last year's performance



photo by Gradkowski

The U. S. Epee team in Ankara. From L to R; Standing, Paul Paszty, James Melcher, Steve Netburn, George Masin, and Scott Bozek; Kneeling, Dr. Valsamis, team physician, Ed Zeisig, Chief of Delegation, and Mac Garret, coach.

of the weapons. We operated under the handicap of last minute arrangements and without the benefit of a full-time coach. A coach might have made the difference necessary for better over-all results.

In my judgment some of my fencers showed real potential; others were hopelessly outclassed. In my judgment the league would do well to discontinue spending large sums of money to send a full team to the World Championships. The emphasis would better be placed upon giving more international exposure to fewer fencers who show real potential.

Serving as Chief of Mission for the United States team was a real privilege for me, and whatever the results I was always proud of the U.S.A. on my warm-up suit.

16th CANADIAN HEROES MEMORIAL

by R. Foxcroft

Foil: 1. H. Obst, Montreal; 2. D. Cantillon, Detroit; 3. L. Wong, Toronto

Women's Foil: 1. D. Hennyey, Toronto; 2. K. Aoyama, Toronto; 3. S. Saurer, Pittsburgh

Epee: 1. G. Varaljay, Toronto; 2. G. Weidel, Toronto; 3. H. James, Cleveland

Saber: 1. W. Goering, Detroit; 2. L. Samek, Toronto; 3. P. Samek, Toronto

ANKARA 1970 RESULTS

Foil Individual:

1. F. Wessel, Germany
2. L. Romanov, USSR
3. M. Dabrowski, Poland
4. A. Koteshev, USSR
5. C. Noel, France
6. W. Woyda, Poland

Foil Team:

1. USSR
2. Hungary
3. Romania
4. Italy
5. Poland
6. France

Saber Individual:

1. T. Pezsa, Hungary
2. M. Rakito, USSR
3. V. Nazlimov, USSR
4. E. Vinokurov, USSR
5. A. Montano, Italy
6. P. Marot, Hungary

Saber Team:

1. USSR
2. Hungary
3. Poland
4. Italy
5. Bulgaria
6. France

Epee Individual:

1. A. Nikanchikov, USSR
2. S. Paramanov, USSR
3. C. Fenyvesi, Hungary
4. J. Ladagallerie, France
5. C. Von Essen, Sweden
6. F. Jeanne, France

Epee Team:

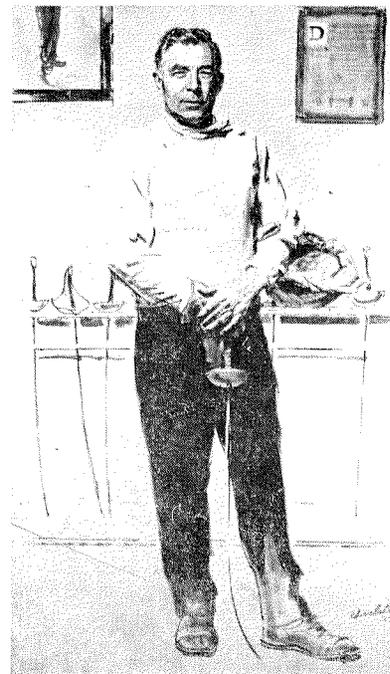
1. Hungary
2. Poland
3. Switzerland
4. West Germany
5. Austria
6. France

Womens Individual:

1. G. Gorokhova, USSR
2. E. Belova, USSR
3. O. Szabo, Romania
4. C. Ceretti, France
5. I. Drimba, Romania
6. B. Gapais, France

Women's Team:

1. USSR
2. Romania
3. France
4. Hungary
5. Poland
6. Italy



RENE PINCHART

Rene Pinchart, retired fencing master of the Fencers Club of New York passed away November 4th, after a long illness.

Born in Belgium, he came to the United States in 1927 and served the Fencers Club until his retirement in 1955, developing a remarkable array of champions. He coached the U. S. Olympic teams of 1928, 1932, 1948, and 1952.

His portrait above is by Ed Vebell, a member of the Fencers Club and former champion in epee.

He leaves his wife, Ludwina, and a daughter, Mariette.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family and to his many friends and former pupils.

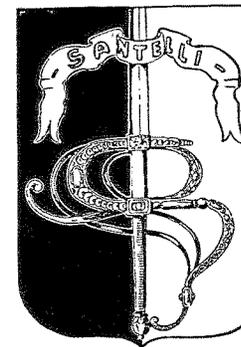
QUICKIE QUIZ

May a fencing mask be black in color? (See page 23, paragraph 4, of the Rules book.)

MODERN PETHATHLON

by Connie Latzko

1970 National Championships: Two athletes trained in epee fencing, running, riding and shooting met in Sam Houston, Texas from July 10 to 16 to compete in the 1970 U.S. National Pethathlon Championships. The results were a demonstration of the winners' endurance. In the fencing event, fictional Epee Champion Dr. Robert Beck won first place; followed by Dan Wigmore, Mr. Hurme. In the overall results, Dr. Beck was first; followed by George Weiner, third. **1970 World Championships:** Fifty-one athletes from countries assembled at Warendorf, West Germany, and competed from August 1 to 5. The medalists, consisting of the medalists in U.S. Nationals, Lt. Richards, Dr. Mr. Weiner, were strong contenders. Beck won the epee event and finished in fourth place.



CHAMPIONSHIP EQUIPMENT

by the

Maker of Champion

GEORGE SANTELLI, I

412 Sixth Avenue

New York 11, New York

OBSERVATIONS ON ANKARA

by Norman Lewis

I have been fortunate in being present at the World Fencing Championships in 1966 in Moscow, 1967 in Montreal, 1968 in Mexico, and in 1970 in Turkey. Also, during this period I represented the AFLA at several meetings of the International Fencing Federation, and having some degree of fluency in French (in which language all tournaments and conferences are conducted), I managed myself in numerous discussions with foreign fencing officials and participants concerning our basic problem, "How to achieve a gold medal in the International sphere of fencing".

The AFLA undoubtedly has earned the respect of the fencing world by the tremendous growth of our sport in the United States as evidenced by our significant increase in AFLA membership and also by our continuous participation in the Senior and Junior World Fencing Championships.

Initially, two questions are raised: (1) **Why do not the best USA fencers regularly participate,** and (2) **Why are fencers whose previous international results are dismal, and potential hopeless, allowed to represent the USA.**

As to (1) above, we all should be familiar with the financial situation of the AFLA to completely cover the expenses of participation. Fortunately, in time, as our membership increases and our trust funds grow, additional monies will become available for this purpose. As to (2), we have a more significant and highly controversial problem.

Basically, we have established a system of allowing the participation of four fencers based on their performance in either our National Championships or a group of competitions. No consideration is given to the fact that a person selected to participate has performed so poorly in previous International meets that, practically speaking, it honestly appears to be a waste of AFLA funds to partially finance the trip. Would it not be desirable to have the courage of our convictions and either send an individual who has potential to develop or one who has proven his worth in International competition?

If we regard the participation of an individual, whose accumulated "points" entitle him to represent the USA as a reward for his performance, without regard to his capacity to effectively compete on the International level, it appears that we are not concerned with performance. We have many outstanding USA fencers whose technique and mobility are completely inept for International fencing. However, to bypass such a fencer places quite a burden on the selection committee - with inevitable claims of favoritism, etc.

To select a fencer whose potential is favorable and provide him with International exposure might not produce immediate results but the future may hold promise if this policy is consistently followed.

In reviewing the participants in the World Fencing Championships since 1966, I have classified many of them as perennial "first rounders or second rounders" - my personal feeling is that, regardless of the number of competitions they enter, they will be eliminated in either the first or second round. Does it make sense to continuously send such individuals to International meets?

I fully realize the highly argumentative aspect of the foregoing, but to aspire to the top in International fencing requires forthright decisions - many of which will elicit scathing criticisms. However, I firmly believe that complete re-examination of our International fencing policies be undertaken without losing sight of our main objective - winning medals.

The results of the Ankara fencing events are covered in another article. Suffice to say that the most evident limitation of our American fencers was their lack of mobility and their inability to maintain adequate fencing distance during a bout - which is the mobility factor again.

Our techniques were adequate - but a technique is valueless unless you are in distance to effectively utilize the attack or parry - riposte. Conditioning plays a large part in developing mobility, as we are discovering more and more in training programs.

I can assure you that there is no easy solution to our problems. Either path of selec-

tion can be justified but an honest reappraisal is warranted. May I suggest that AFLA Divisions discuss this and have your Chairman forward your views to our AFLA President, Alan Ruben, for discussion at our Board of Directors Meetings. Only by expression of your combined views can we evolve a policy to satisfy the majority of us.

(Ed. Note: Critical comment is invited and if received promptly by **American Fencing** will be considered for publication in our next issue.)

GENERAL DeMARTINO

We are saddened to learn of the passing of General Umberto De Martino, who died this October at his home in Verona, Italy. General DeMartino was United States Saber Champion in 1949, competing here while stationed in Washington D.C. as military attache. Known for his athletic ability, he was also Italian Saber champion in 1943 and was on the Italian Pentathlon team at the Los Angeles Olympics. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

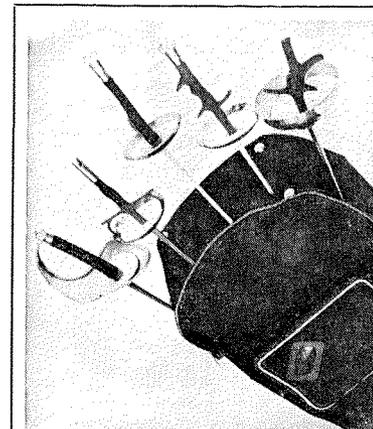
NEW BOOK OF FENCING

by Ralph Goldstein

I wish that "Your Book of Fencing" by Charles L. de Beaumont had been published forty years ago! This guide for the beginning fencer would have kept me from developing improper techniques, with many years of training with a coach to overcome.

The "glossary of fencing terms" is an invaluable aid, especially for the beginner. However, there are two items, though not fencing terms, should be added for many of us here: "plimsolls" (page 16) are what we ordinarily refer to as "Tennis Shoes" and "ten or twelve" (page 16) is the equivalent of \$20.

There is no one in the fencing world better qualified than Charles de Beaumont, President of the British Amateur Fencing Association, to write such a book. It is concise, well-illustrated, loaded with edge and practical. I recommend it to the beginner wholeheartedly.



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1970 WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES REPORT: THIRTY ONE NATIONS PARTICIPATE IN TORINO

Ruth White Misses Making Final by One Touch; Olympic and World Champions Compete

UNIVERSITY GAMES REPORT

by Maxwell R. Garret

The University Games, second only to the Olympics in difficulty and quality of competition, is of recent development. Getting the team off to Torino, Italy, for the 1970 Universiade was a complicated task. The logistical problems were formidable for Mr. Nick Rodis, President of the United States Collegiate Sports Council, and for Archie Simonson, Chairman of Fencing for the USCSC. Beside fencing, swimming, diving, track and field, tennis, gymnastics, and basketball teams represented the Stars and Stripes. Points of departure were from Montreal and New York City, but there were several fencers who had preceded the general contingent and were touring Europe, all of which caused part of the logistical problems.

Headquarters for all the teams except the basketball was the Euro Motel in Nicolino, a suburb of Torino. Most of the personnel were assigned two to a room. The meals, by American standards, were below average in quality and quantity.

The athletic facilities arranged by the Italians were excellent. The fencing center, Palazzo Vela, had nine copper pistes on raised platforms for the competition and three copper pistes for practice. All the strips had electrical equipment ready for use. Bleachers and folding chairs were able to accommodate about 700 spectators. However, most of the fencers dressed at their lodgings since shower facilities were inadequate at Palazzo Vela.

A refreshment area was set aside for all officials, contestants and coaches. First aid facilities as well as armorers were available at all times. Every country had at least two buses and a limousine assigned to them which was quite convenient. Our bus drivers

were loyal United States fans and gave of themselves unstintingly. One of our track stars, Larry James, thought so much of one of the bus drivers that he presented him with his gold medal as we departed for the States.

We had time for only one general training session for all the fencers before the men's individual foil competition began on the 26th of August. For those who were not competing, schedule for practice was arranged; while for a few fencers arrangements were made for them to serve as seconds for those competing - keeping score, obtaining food and drink, hooking up, helping with change of weapons, towels, etc. Generally speaking, they were very helpful and cooperative.

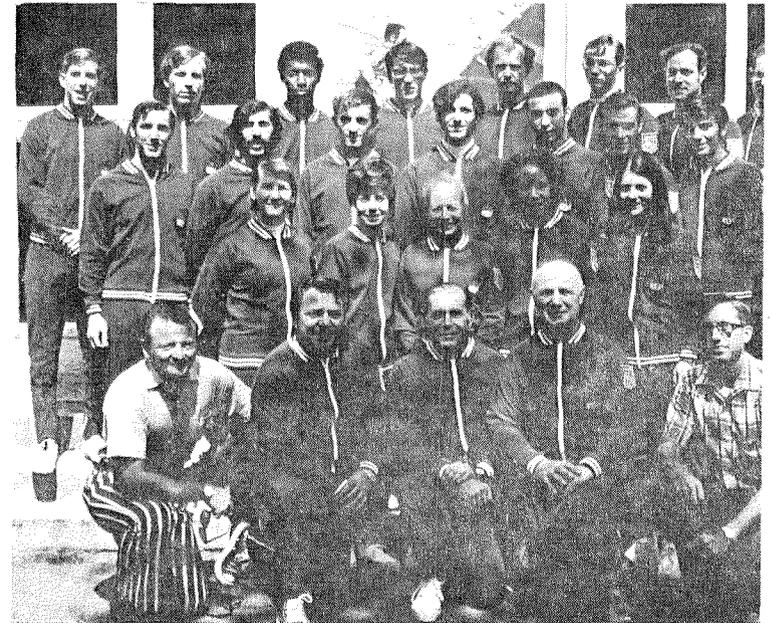
SUMMARY:

Handspeed is of utmost importance as is the blade's deep penetration on the attack to create a reaction by the opponent. Though the former may or may not be executed with foot movements, the blade is constantly seeking the target.

Infighting is a skill which must be developed. Our fencers during infighting must be taught to rotate 180 degrees, bringing trailing shoulder toward opponent and weapon arm further away from the opponent thus allowing point to strike the target.

The aggressive action was favored by officials over time actions. Advice: Coaches should start to accentuate and inculcate more confidence in their fencer's aggressive style and technique. Officials should begin favoring the attack unless the time action is most obviously ahead of the aggressive action.

There is a need for more emphasis on footwork. In saber in particular double hits were a common occurrence, thus creating new tactics and changing the game considerably from the classical style of fencing to which many have become accustomed. The intent



The United States Universiade Team at Torino. From L to R: Front row; Csaba Gall, FIE of DeCicco, manager, Mac Garret, coach, Stan Sieja, coach, Loran Hein; Second row; Kathy Ric Bennett, Julia Jones, coach, Ruth White, Blythe Devan; Third row; Bob Dow, Joe Shamash, Bruce Soriano, John Nonna, Walter Krause, Paul Apostol; Back row; Dan Wigodsky, Dan Simmons, John Hanzalik, Ed Gwazda, John Nadas, Brandt Fries, Jeff Tishman.

again is to favor aggressiveness and to try to get started. Parries in saber must be strong and the opponent's blade cleared of the target. In many instances what previously were construed as "through steel" are now called mal-parries.

Several of our fencers have shown some promise and we need to continue giving our young fencers greater experience. I was proud to serve this team and it was indeed a privilege to be its coach. I was grateful for the help and support that I was given by the National Fencing Coaches Association of America and the Amateur Fencers League of America, and above all grateful for the support I received from Professor Michael DeCicco, our team manager, Stanley Sieja and Julia Jones Pugliese, our assistant coaches, Csaba Gall, our international representative, and Loran Hein.

COACHES' COMMENT

by Julia Jones Pugliese

(Ed. Note: Julia Jones, Coach of Harvard where she has recently been appointed Assistant Professorship, has the distinct honor of being the first woman chosen as a coach of a national fencing team. She has great experience and is well known for her devotion to the sport of fencing. She is also president of the Metropolitan division of the AFLA.)

I have a few comments which I would like to share with the general officials of the FIE regarding the masks worn by the U.S. team. They were unsafe because the bib was placed too far apart, allowing the mask to slip through. Stan Hein decided to purchase a mask from Carmimari Equipment Co., the supplier to the Universiade, and found

masks were also not closely stitched. It was agreed that taping the bib to the mask would be temporarily satisfactory. The bib, we learned, should be joined to the mask with a close "overhand" stitch, and the point of the weapon must not be able to penetrate through the joint. In addition, the bout committee strictly enforced the wearing of the underarm protector.

There are several other points about which I feel strongly and will comment upon:

1. There should be a better plan to select team members.
2. The definition of a "University" eligible should be made clear and standardized throughout the world (the U.S. included).
3. I was surprised to see so many top seasoned fencers representing other nations (former Olympic and World champions). Among our women fencers at Torino I believe only Ruth White to be of international caliber.
4. The qualifying rounds for the Universiade should be staffed by top officials, to help select the best available U.S. team.
5. I believe the team could have been in better overall physical condition, and discipline and strict adherence to the rules should be accepted graciously.
6. In the choice of individual and team line ups, the coaches' decisions should be accepted as final.

HIGHLIGHTS AT TORINO

by Jeff Tishman

The sixth World University Games, or Universiade, combined many record-breaking athletic results with an impressive series of rituals.

The first event in the ceremony leading up to the opening of the Universiade was the banner raising of the participating nations in the massive Piazza San Carlo. Each country was asked to select a squad as representative and the fencing team was the United States' choice.

But the most impressive part of the games was the opening ceremony, conducted the following night in the main stadium. Competitors lined up by nation, four abreast, and

marched in onto the track for a pass in front of the spectators.

After the teams came to a halt, the games flag of the FISU was raised, and the President of the FISU declared the Games open. Five torch-bearers then entered the stadium, ran a lap on the track, and climbed to the top of the official stand where they lit the flame of the Games. Then the following oath was taken by Sergio Bello, Italian track champion, on behalf of the athletes of all nations - "We swear to participate in the Universiade with loyalty and generosity respecting the rules established for the glory of student sports and for the honour of our country." Once the oath was concluded, the athletes marched from the stadium, again to much cheering.

The night before the closing ceremony, the U. S. team was the guest of the American Consulate at a picnic at a swim club in Turin.

The closing ceremony was conducted with the athletes in the stands, while Italian students carried the flags of the nations in a display of precision marching. A most spectacular demonstration was performed by a drum and bugle unit of the Italian Army. They entered the stadium running, completed a circuit of the 400 meter track, playing as they ran.

Following the parade, the huge torch, which had burned the full twelve days of the Universiade, was extinguished. Fireworks were immediately set off in the sky and around a sign proclaiming the site for the Winter Games of the next Universiade: Lake Placid, New York.

U. S. TEAM RESULTS

Foil Individual:

First round: Walter Krause, (3/1); Tyrone Simmons, (4/1); Dan Cantillon, (2/3)

Second Round: Walter Krause, (1/4); Tyrone Simmons, (2/3); Dan Cantillon, (2/3)

Foil Team:

First Round:

USA d. Sweden, (8/8), (60/63)

Poland D. USA (9/2)

Second Round:

Romania d. USA, (9/4)

Saber Individual:

First Round: Bob Dow, (3/3); Stan Lekach, (4/2); Paul Apostol, (1/5)

Second Round: Bob Dow, (1/4); Stan Lekach, (3/2)

(out on touches)

Saber Team:

First Round:

USA d. Japan (16-0) (forfeit)

Poland d. USA, (12/4)

Second Round:

France d. USA, (9/3)

Women's Foil:

First Round: Ruth White, (3/2); Kathy Richert, (1/4); Blythe Devan, (0/4)

Second Round: Ruth White, (3/2); Kathy Richert, (0/5)

Semi-Final: Ruth White, (2/3) (out on touches)

Epee Individual:

First Round: Dan Wigodsky, (3/2); John Hanzalik, (2/3); John Nadas, (1/4)

Second Round: Dan Wigodsky, (1/3);

Quarter-Final: Dan Wigodsky, (1/4)

Epee Team:

USA d. Portugal, (9/5)

Great Britain D. USA, (10/5)

Italy d. USA, (14/2)

1970 UNIVERSIADE RESULTS

Foil Individual: 1. Romanov, Leonid - USSR;

2. Stankovich, Vassilj - USSR; 3. Dabrowski, Marek - Poland; 4. Pinelli, Arcangelo - Italy; 5. Leibovich, Pjoter - USSR; 6. Lisewski, Adam - Poland.

Sabre Individual: 1. Sidiak, Viktor - USSR; 2.

Maffei, Michele - Italy; 3. Nazlimov, Vladimir - USSR; 4. Nowara, Joseph - Poland; 5. Kaweckj, Zygmund - Poland; 6. Montano, Mario Tullio - Italy.

Epee Individual: 1. Paramanov, Sergei - USSR;

2. Granieri, Nicol - Italy; 3. Osztrics, Istvan - Hungary; 4. Kauter, Christian - Switzerland; 5. Bretholz, Alexandre - Switzerland; 6. Erdos, Gabor - Hungary.

Women's Foil: 1. Simonffy, Agnes - Hungary;

2. Stahl, Katherina - Rumania; 3. Scakolina, Marina - USSR; 4. Balon, Malina - Poland; 5. Chirkova, Svetlana - USSR; 6. Ceretti, Katherine - France.

Foil Team: 1. USSR; 2. Poland; 3. Hungary;

4. Italy.

Sabre Team: 1. USSR; 2. Hungary; 3. Italy;

4. France.

Epee Team: 1. Germany; 2. Hungary; 3.

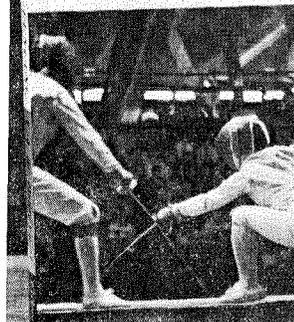
Italy; 4. Cuba.

Women's Team: 1. USSR; 2. Rumania; 3.

Hungary; 4. France.

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Sir:

I should like to congratulate the American team that participated in the Fencing Masters World Championship held this year in England. Their achievement in winning a Gold in the individual Foil and the Foil Team, a Bronze in the individual Sabre and a Gold in the Sabre Team was indeed a very good performance and a credit to American fencing. The training and preparation they had put in for these championships was very apparent in their performance and this I feel must set a fine example to the amateur fencers in your Country.

Very noticeable during the championships was the team spirit displayed by the American team; this along with their show of extreme fitness and fine technical ability contributed largely towards their success.

They made many friends in this country and I hope that their skills will provide many more successes for American fencers both Amateur and Professional.

Yours sincerely,
Steve Boston, B.A.S.
Organizing Committee

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

Frankly the magazine could use a little zip; cartoons, action photos, (more and larger - the best thing in the July/August issue was the pair of photos by Russell Ellis on Page 4, closely followed by those on pages 12 and 13), more stories and fewer editorials by guest coaches, even equipment reports (new products, real repair clinics, etc.).

I'd be interested in reading an article by a good photographer on making fencing pictures. My own feeling is this: no fencer likes to have a flash go off in the middle of an exchange, so use a fast lens. Wide aperture cuts down your depth of field, so wide angle lens is called for. The other advantage of the wide angle lens is that it allows you

to get both fencers in the field without backing you into the far corner of the gym. The other disadvantage with flash is that it flattens everything, the white tip of the weapon won't show up against the white uniform. Obviously you're not going to stop the action at any thing slower than 1/250 th or so.

Sincerely,
Seth Masia
Northern Ohio Division

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Sir:

The article "The Decline and Fall of Sabre" by T. Pezza had moved me to a comment. Being comparatively inactive in fencing now I don't know if what Pezza says of Hungary is true of us, but I will be surprised if it isn't. But unlike Pezza, I **have** an answer, and I am surprised that he doesn't.

The reasons for the decline of the popularity of the sabre as a fencing weapon among the young fencers, are, I believe, these two:

(1) The mechanization of foil and epee make the management of a bout easier and fairer. **Much** fairer. At sabre one is totally at the mercy of the judges' opinions.

(2) During the past two decades, the ability of the judges to make good judgments has deteriorated. Time was when judges had to be trained in all weapons for accurate judgments. Now it is sabre alone. The judges of today just don't have the experience to do a good job. The older judges **are** old physically and no longer have accurate perception for such brief time intervals. (Perception speed slows with age just as do the motor skills.) And sabre was always by far the most difficult to judge. So the judge of today is more likely to see what he expects to see than what actually happens in a close decision. The fencer of known experience is likely to get the benefit of a doubt.

What is the answer? To somehow manage to mechanize sabre. I don't think it is impossible.

I am (with 40 years experience)
Dr. F. C. MacKnight,
Grand Island, N. Y.



photo by Klink

Undeafated in a field of ten teams from Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia is the group from Portland, Oregon, pictured above: (l to r) Colleen Olney, Richard Wayland, Eric Huelshoff, and Tara Fichtl. The beautiful prize was the sterling champagne bucket perpetual trophy of the Seattle Seafair International Fencing Tournament. Tim Taylor, the epee member of the team was camera shy.

"A touch, a touch, I do confess"
— Hamlet, Act V, Scene II
CULLED BY LOU SHAFF

HARRISBURG DIVISION by Carol Buerdsell

Results of the 1969-70 season of competitions are as follows:

Epee: 1. A. Nightingale, LFC; 2. T. Reekie, Temple U.; 3. R. Mitzell, YFC

Women: 1. C. Buerdsell, YFC; 2. J. Weiss, PSU; 3. C. Tait, PSU.

Foil: 1. T. Reekie, TU; 2. R. Mitzell, YFC; 3. A. Poulos, LFC.

Novice, Men: 1. D. Ganelin, Merc; 2. D. McCabe, YMCA; 3. G. Zunenda, MA.

Foil: 1. T. Reekie, TU; 2. A. Poulos, LFC; 3. R. Mitzell, YFC.

Women: 1. C. Buerdsell YFC; 2. M. Karandosovski, PSU; 3. J. Weiss, PSU.

Sabre: 1. R. Mitzell; YFC; 2. Franke, Wilm. FC; 3. J. Hatch WFC.

Foil-Under 15: 1. C. McCabe, Har WM; 2. B. Thompson L.F.C.

Epee: 1. R. Owings, WFC; 2. A. Nightingale, LFC; 3. A. Poulos, LFC.

Beginners, Women: 1. G. Greenberg, YMCA; 2. J. Burrichter, LFC; 3. P. Yanick, YWCA.

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INTRODUCING FENCING AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL

by Elizabeth Murray and Warren Bohl

(Ed. Note: Elizabeth Murray, a former YWCA program director, and Warren Bohl, a marketing engineer for Westinghouse, are active promoters of fencing in the Western Pennsylvania division.)

Four years ago, the Western Pennsylvania Division was prompted to investigate the possibilities of teaching fencing to elementary school students. With the exception of Junior Olympic funds which were made available at a critical point in the program, this activity has been supported completely from within the division. By the end of the 1969-70 season, the original group of four had been expanded to thirty. Community interest has reached the point at which the only thing that prevents the number of participants from doubling during the 1970-71 season is the lack of a sufficient staff of trained instructors.

We are continuing to expand the program as quickly as possible because we have reached the conclusion that, not only are the "teeny-weenies" teachable, but also there are definite advantages to both the participants and the game. This statement is based in part upon the following observations:

1. The majority of the students have developed an unexpected proficiency in the fundamentals of the game; mobility, blade control, and the concept of delivering the point without being hit. (The process of getting these ideas across correctly has been slow, as should be expected. However, if the program is properly organized, and the instructors have the right attitude, interest can be maintained.)
2. Even the youngest have been able to assist with the "senior" AFLA events, as scorekeepers, timekeepers, etc. The privilege of operating the electric machines is a very special thing, but they also pitch in and help with setting up before the event, and with cleaning up at its conclusion. (They are beginning to understand that a fencer's responsibility to the game extends beyond the limits of the piste. This attitude is just as important to the success of a meet as

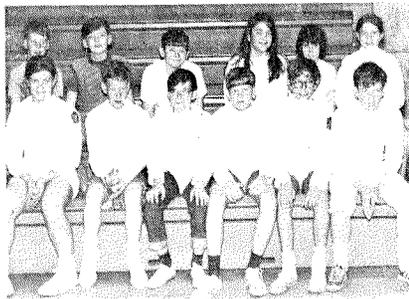


photo by Bohl

The Western Pennsylvania Division Junior Olympic Squad. From L to R; Front row; Kathleen Bohl (12), Jeff Murray (11), Dave Murray (11), Tom Arenz (12), Mike Kasun (13), Ken Bohl (13); Rear row; Doug Murray (9), Eric Besco (12); Matt Harris (12), Olivia Mendez (12), Carrie Lynn Murray (9), Amy Bohl (10).

the number and ratings of the entries.)

3. Some have already developed an appreciation of the concept of the "right of way", and its application to directing. (During the coming season, many of the preliminary rounds in our "weeny-weeny" tournaments will be directed by youngsters ranging in age from 9 to 13 years.)
4. There has been an increasing public exposure to fencing. Families attend the same as they do Little League baseball games. They ask questions. They get involved. (Hopefully, the next time that fencing enters their discussions with others, they will be prepared to speak intelligently and with conviction.)
5. The traditional sports page resistance to fencing is beginning to soften, especially among local publications.

At the same time, we and the parents have noticed some very important changes in the children. Their personalities appear to be more stable, and they are learning to control their emotions in a competitive situation; converting frustration and anger into a determination to achieve. They are developing the ability to concentrate and ex-

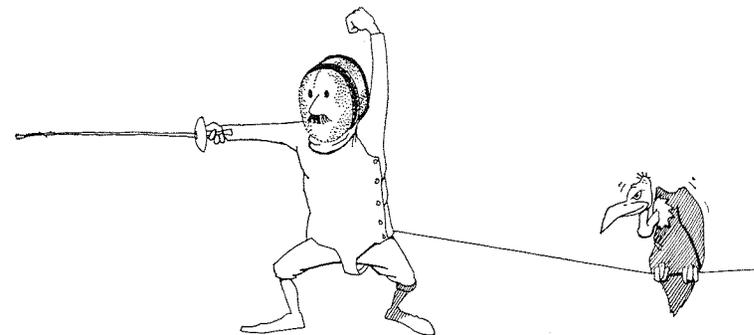
tend their attention span. They are co-ordinating rational thought and physical action to a degree that belies their age.

There was one result for which we were not prepared. One of the arguments used against fencing is that it is not a team sport. It places too much emphasis upon the individual. Yet, it was noticed that, despite diverse backgrounds, these young people learned to apply their individuality to the support of a positive group effort. As one of the parents said, "Isn't that what life is all about?"

We are convinced that fencing offers some very essential benefits to the elementary school student, but what will such a program do for fencing?

The AFLA has been justifiably encouraged by the increase in its membership over the past few years. But before we allow ourselves to be carried away by the significance that we attach to this progress, let's not overlook the facts that it is still microscopic when compared to the potential, it has come at a very slow pace, and could be noticeably inhibited by such factors as not getting free phonograph records every so often.

The truth of the matter is that the general public still does not understand fencing, and does not recognize its status as a sport. Although we should continue to intensify our efforts in the established areas, the most promising course available for making fencing more popular is to expand the base of our effort into age groups which we have previously ignored.



ORLAN HILL

Consider the "popular" sports nationwide organizations by which them is introduced to young people grow up in an environment which exposes them to these games. Important, so do their families. They stand. They all accept. By the time or girls finish elementary school have developed "tunnel vision" with athletics. This is what we must

(Continued Next Issue)

THE RAPE OF THE I by JoAnn Waiches

For two long weeks have I pine
I've not slept, nor studied, nor
Since my foil from me was ref
In some ignoble savage theft

Oh Sylphs, who will my person
My honor climaxed to such a
My reputation all but lost
Not to mention the foil's high

Do not, dear foil, to heaven rise
For angels to fence with, in the
Rather the thief be tarred and
And to me my trusty foil return

Stand up, brave gentlemen, arise
Stop those thieves who sneak in
A raped lock can eventually give
But a raped foil will always be

Ed. Note: Miss Waiches is a pupil of Stanley St. Pellicier on the Ladies' team at Louisiana State University. It appears that her foil was taken from her locker in the Busch Memo

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