

American



Fencing

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HEALTHFUL DIVERSION FOR LADIES



A lithograph print from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of March 31, 1888.

(See Page 3)

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

Official Organ of the Amateur Fencers League of America

Dedicated to the Memory of
JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969.

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EDITORIAL

We cannot publish what we do not know. Nor can newspapers print news that they do not receive.

Last summer we tried to follow the results of the fencing Nationals in the pages of the New York Times. On only two days were there articles. When we remonstrated with the Sports Editor we were told that they had printed all the fencing news that they had received from the wire services. To make sure that we hadn't missed anything, our historian Alex Solomon checked all the editions at the Times and found very little more.

Although we do not know where the fault lies, we hope that this won't happen again.

Also, why weren't the Midwest or Southwest Sectionals reported in American Fencing? Simply because the results were never sent in! Sectional Chairmen should see to it that in the future this oversight is corrected.

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HEALTHFUL DIVERSION FOR WOMEN

by Alex Solomon

As Roland Asselin, former Canadian Olympian, was forging his way through yellowed prints in an antique shop on 59th Street his hot little fingers suddenly grasped what is a most amazing print and comment on the historic development of not only women's fencing but of women's sport in the U.S.A. That's a lot of ground for a 14 x 9 inch piece of paper to cover, but there it was - a page from the March 31, 1888 issue of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper entitled "Healthful Diversion for Women - The Ladies Class of the Fencer's Club in West Twenty Fourth Street" (From a sketch by a staff artist).

But definitely, no one knows or has heard of a picture of the Fencer's Club remotely as old. In fact, no one at the Club, not even President Gene Blanc who has been an active member since 1922, knew that women were permitted on the floor of the Fencer's Club (founded in 1883) before the turn of the Century when just taking a job in any business office was regarded as "very unlady-like". Although the AFLA held its first championship for men four years later in 1892 it was not till 1912 that the first Women's National Championships were held.

But being the oldest known picture of women fencing at the Fencer's Club or, for that matter, anywhere in the U.S.A. is but one of this remarkable print's lesser attributes. Two to three months intensive research on the part of the writer has failed to indicate the existence of any kind of pictorial representation of **women's organized group activity** in any sport whatever in the U.S.A. as old as this print. Women skating in the park or riding horseback in the country with their boy friends - yes - but women's group or club activity - well just try and find something as old as this page.

Should anyone desire a handsome 14 x 9 inch photostatic copy of this historic page it can be obtained by sending \$10.00 to the Fencer's Club Fund, c/o Fencer's Club, Lancaster Hotel, Madison Avenue and 38th St., New York, N.Y.



STELLA FOX GOLDST

Stella Fox Goldstein, wife of R stein, our editor, died on October

Her multi-faceted life included intercollegiate fencing champion, of fencing and the dance at Hunt- an outstanding elementary schoo and a devoted wife and mother. close friend to many fencers, youn Her warmth and joy of life will by all.

Our sincere sympathy is extended and to their children, Barbara, I Henry.

—The Staff of American



WORLD UNIVERSITY G.

The World University Games wi in Moscow from August 15 to 2 Those fencers who were there in World Championships will rememb a very worthwhile and interesting e All fencers who are 28 years old o and are attending college, should ting in shape.



Pointed Comment . . .

THOUGHTS

by Dr. Daniel Bukantz

The U.S.A. has as much raw talent as any country in the world. However, except for a rare flare, we are being clobbered constantly internationally. Even the results in Cali could and should have been better.

We can never match the training programs of the top international countries unless we use the armed forces - traditionally not very desirable. Certain monies are being spent by the AFLA annually to send American fencers abroad to gain international experience. These are:

- A. highly inadequate
- B. A complete waste, since:
 - 1. We are generally eliminated early, gaining little experience,
 - 2. the "loser" psychological complex results from this,
 - 3. no fencer can possibly be at his or her best the day after a trans-oceanic flight.

Since we do have the basic talent, how can we best prepare for the optimum utilization of such? Fencing talent is no longer concentrated in any one section of the country. The top fencers do not get to compete against each other often enough. Many potential champions in smaller fencing communities become good enough to stay on top in their own area, and do not improve as much as they could because of inadequate exposure to higher level competition.

My proposal is fairly simple and I feel would be effective in compensating for this problem.

- 1. We should select the top competitors in each weapon (say 16 for a start) based upon national rankings, results in previous competitions, and previous selection to U. S. teams.

- 2. We should determine a practical geographical center for this group.
- 3. Utilize the funds hitherto wasted (in my opinion) sending fencers abroad to help transport these top competitors to a central location in the U.S. several times during the season for a weekend of competition.
- 4. Hold two complete round robins on Saturday and Sunday.

In this way we must absolutely raise the level of fencing within the U.S.A.

- A. We will help create a team spirit among our better fencers.
- B. Assure the league that all fencers will be in the best possible condition. Anyone can be replaced if his results indicate poor condition or lack of training.
- C. Incentive will be given to those not in the select group to replace someone who is.
- D. To a great extent, we can create a goal of achievement for many "diamond in the rough" fencers from smaller divisions who may be discouraged from trying to make an Olympic team of five, to strive to make a top group of sixteen.



QUICKIE QUIZ

What should a Director do if a fencer comes to the fencing strip with a foil that had failed the technician's check? (See page 19, Article 21 (b) 2. of the 1970 Rules Book).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Alan Miles Ruben

Nominating the New Officers of the League:

The National Nominating Committee has been entrusted with a major task this year - the selection of candidates for the posts of president and secretary, (the incumbents will be retiring from these offices), and for the new position of "National Vice President". We are fortunate that our treasurer, Peter Tishman, and our executive vice president, Norman Lewis, have indicated they are willing to stand for re-election.

In screening the field of announced candidates the Committee is expected to exercise its unbiased best judgment and recommend to the membership those individuals who appear most qualified to provide effective leadership for our organization.

Now, the members of the Nominating Committee, unlike other of the League's agencies, are not selected because they themselves possess special talents for administration, leadership or policy-making. Nor are they selected because their judgments are thought to be sounder than anyone else's. Rather, they are selected as representatives of our sections, entrusted with the tasks of sounding-out local sentiment on League goals and how they are to be implemented and of nominating candidates who seem most likely to meet membership expectations.

To fulfill this responsibility properly it is essential that every member of the Committee put aside personal friendships and animosities, seek out the opinions of fellow fencers and carefully consider the demonstrated competence, experience and proposed policies of the candidates.

All too often members of nominating committees of organizations similar to the League have either not given full consideration to their work - rubber - stamping the choice of the chairman - or have used their positions to advance their own personal interests. Ultimately, it is for the membership to judge how well the Committee has done its job.

I would suggest that in making the ap-

praisal of the nominees for presidents keep the following questions

1. Is the candidate a fencer mandis respect? The League is a tion of fencers and, for the most petitive fencers. A president is n he or she has achieved stature standing competitive fencer.

2. Has the candidate had sub- perience in national AFLA operc League functions through an ad framework consisting principally c cers, the board of directors (esp executive committee) and the sta mittees. Vital knowledge of th operations, its responsibilities, th with which it must deal and the ways of coping with them can be through significant service in or of these national administrative b in mind, too, that the League ha relationships with many organiza U.S.O.C., the F.I.E., the N.F.C.A. A.A.H.P.E.R. to name a few. Th must be thoroughly familiar with tionships and able to represent effectively.

3. Has the candidate demon competence as an administrator taking and successfully discharg cant responsibility? Managerial c scarce commodity. The new presi have a proven record of signific plishments for the League showing to chart goals and set policy, pl achieving them and wisely delegat authority to responsibly appointe so that the job gets done.

4. Is the candidate able to nc vide leadership but also work we other officers and members? The a volunteer organization. A maj of the president is to harness the enthusiasm of the membership sc are willing to continue serving th organized fencing. This can be ac best if the president is conscious portance of inter-personal relatio is able to act as a catalyst for th

ous reconciliation of differences of viewpoint and clashes of personality which are bound to occur.

5. Has the candidate the character, presence and reputation for integrity so as to inspire confidence both within and without the organization? The president should be a person who plays fair and whose integrity is beyond question. The president's direct powers of, and indirect influence over, appointments and team selection are important. Not only should this authority in fact be exercised impartially, it should appear to be so exercised. Of course, the same integrity should pervade his dealings with other organizations.

6. Has the candidate been active in planning and creating new programs for the League and in suggesting improvements in old ones? In an election year candidates tend suddenly to become very vocal about what's wrong with the League and how they have the panacea for problems. Most of this hyperbole, of course, won't withstand critical scrutiny because it is based on ignorance: ignorance of the facts, ignorance as to what has already been done, ignorance as to what has already been tried and found wanting, and ignorance of the limitations imposed upon the League's power and authority. Nevertheless, in evaluating a candidate's program it is pertinent to ask where has the candidate been over the past several years. Has he submitted his ideas and his criticisms to League deliberation, discussion and debate so that their soundness might be ascertained? Has he sought to develop his plans as a member of an appropriate committee? Has he actively voiced his objections and pushed his proposals before the Board.

I have confidence that the League will continue to move forward into the future with the participation and support of its growing membership. I call upon the membership to promote and speed this progressive development by choosing most carefully its new president and other officers. No candidate is likely to be a paragon of all the virtues. Certainly, I make no such claim, and neither do the presidents who have preceded

me. But, in suggesting questions which may be asked about each of the candidates I hope that the League will elect as my successor the one best able to measure up according to criteria which seem to be the most significant for success in office.

WISCONSIN DIVISION

by Mary Heinecke

TURKEY MEET:

Foil: 1. K. Herbrechtsmeier, Kenosha; 2. E. Zeisig, Milwaukee; 3. G. Bodner, Milwaukee.

Women's Foil: 1. J. Cammack, Chicago; 2. M. Heinecke, Unatt.; 3. M. Clancy, LaCrosse.

Epee: 1. M. Stiennen, Madison; 2. J. Schirmer, Madison; 3. J. Bosanec, MTC.

UNCLASSIFIED MEETS:

Foil: 1. H. Chiu, Madison; 2. J. Brehmer, Fox Valley; 3. B. Bosman, Madison.

Women's Foil: 1. N. Hackenberg, Milwaukee; 2. L. Van Dyke, Fox Valley; 3. B. Kirkpatrick, Tosa.

Epee: 1. J. Sampson, Wayland; 2. J. Mei, Madison; 3. J. Vickery, Wayland.

Sabre: 1. S. Rosenber, Madison; 2. M. LaRoque, Madison.

STATE CLOSED FOIL MEET:

Foil: 1. M. Sampson, Tosa; 2. J. Tank, Kenosha; 3. E. Zeisig.

Women's Foil: 1. M. Heinecke; 2. M. Clancy; 3. A. Knauer, Fox Valley.

STATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Foil: 1. K. Herbrechtsmeier; 2. G. Bodner; 3. C. Schrade, Milwaukee.

Women's Foil: 1. M. Heinecke; 2. A. Knauer; 3. C. Schoeneman, Tosa.

Epee: 1. C. Anderson, Kenosha; 2. J. Bosanec; 3. G. Bodner.

Sabre: 1. D. Tolan, Milwaukee; 2. T. Gillham, Janesville; 3. T. Giaimo, Madison.

UNDER-19 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

Foil: 1. J. Tank; 2. J. Biebel, Tosa; 3. K. Nelson, Kenosha.

Women's Foil: 1. M. Smith, Dixon; 2. G. Comer, Madison; 3. M. Boesch, Mequon.

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

by Gary McNulty

Epee Open: 1. Ernesto Fernandez; 2. Ron McMahan; 3. Greg Belok.

Saber C: 1. Mike Romash; 2. Bill Hamlin; 3. H. Specter.

Foil Open: 1. Marty Dave; 2. Bruce Lyons; 3. Norm Campbell.

Epee C: 1. Bill Hamlin; 2. S. Douson; 3. M. Zaleski.

Foil C: 1. Stu Wetzler; 2. Norm Braslow; 3. Al Sadowsky.

DUES

by Peter Tishman, Treasurer

In the last issue, Norman Lewis proposed an increase in our dues structure which would be earmarked for investment purposes only. I find no fault with his estimates on the sums which this action would produce, nor with his forward-looking interest in advancing the AFLA's mission, and am in favor of the proposed increase to the extent it could be implemented during the "freeze." Much of the AFLA's accomplishments during the past several years has been largely due to the League's fiscal health as promoted by procedures Norman conceived and developed.

But there are faults in the proposal which, in my opinion, merit the serious consideration of our membership. They exist, in part, because of Article XVIII of our By-Laws which established the Special Accounts which Norman proposes be the repository of these increases, and are enumerated below:

1. The increase proposed would flow to the National Treasury only. Divisions and Sections would not have improved their present situation. Promoting fencing at the grass-roots level is our primary mission. International excellence is a desirable but secondary goal.

2. The "earmarking" would perpetuate the present undesirable condition in which the League's officers and directors cannot exercise, for the benefit of the present membership, any control over the Special Accounts, which together, at 8/31/71, amounted to \$4216 in cash, and \$7020 in securities at their acquisition value. These Special Accounts were established in 1967 by the adoption of Article XVIII of our By-Laws.

3. The membership should understand that any undesignated contribution, or ordinary revenue, income, or property of the League, may be sequestered in one or both of these Special Accounts at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

4. The membership should understand that until 1982, or until the market value of either account equals \$100,000, these funds are not available for the benefit of current

League membership. Even after these conditions are met (and a method is set for the determination of latter condition), the utilization funds for a specific set of purposes to 10% of their market value in year.

5. The time span proposed (5 years) would not bring either account to a level at which the conditions would be met (would permit use of a portion of these funds).

I propose instead that Article XVIII of the By-Laws be repealed, to make funds currently available for development of activities or investments as envisioned by the **then current** Officers and Donors would not suffer any tax consequences by this move, nor would future decisions of the AFLA be rendered ineffective by the past. Our leaders look to and plan for the future but should be allowed the latitude to serve its constituency.

Please let your Division Chair and your National Officers know what your views are.

NORTH TEXAS DIVISION

by Mary Jane Burton

Foil: 1. Bobbie Walker (Ft. Worth); 2. (DFC); 3. Jim Orr (Ft. Worth).

Women's Foil: 1. Lois Goldthwaite (Ft. Worth); 2. Darlene Riding (NTSU); 3. Janet Grau

Sabre: 1. Spencer Johnson (DFC); 2. Ed 3. Tom Brents (Ft. Worth).

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RULES FOR 1972 NATIONALS

by

Carla-Mae Richards, and Larry Cohen

The 1972 National Fencing Championships will be hosted by the New England Division and will be held July 1st thru July 8th, 1972. WHAT TO FILE: Every entry **must** contain a properly executed application blank or facsimile, the requisite entry and registration fees **payable** (check or money order) to AFLA-NATIONALS, and a legal size (#10) stamped self-addressed envelope.

WHERE TO FILE: Send all entries to Mrs. Alyce Smetana, 18 Kerna Road, West Roxbury, MA 02368.

WHO AND WHEN: Entry to the National Championships is open to all American citizens and permanent residents of the U.S. who have qualified through Divisional qualifying rounds or through automatic qualification (Chapter V, Section B. 1970 Operations Manual of Rules Book). Anyone wishing to participate is **personally** responsible for filing a complete entry on time. Team entries must be filed by Team Captain. All entries must be received by Mrs. Smetana by June 5th, 1972.

ACCEPTANCE: Within one week of the entry deadline (no later than June 15th) entries will be checked against the certified list of qualifiers and alternates endorsed by the Secretary of the AFLA. The number eligible to qualify from each Division will be determined and compared to the number of valid entries on hand from each Division. The entries and fees of invalid entries and of those alternates in excess of permissible number from the Division will be returned. All entries accepted will be so notified at the same time. **NOTE. You can only enter if you are certified as a qualifier by your Division Secretary, and if the National portion of your dues has been forwarded by Your Division before the closing date for entries.**

CERTIFICATION: Immediately upon the completion of the qualifying competition in each weapon the Secretary of each Division shall transmit to the Secretary of the League

the following information (Wm J. Latzko, 33 62nd Street, West New York, N. J. 07093):

1. A certified list of the number of individual fencers taking part in the qualifying competition.
2. A certified list of the qualifiers from that Division (including automatic qualifiers who are members of that Division), in order of their estimated competitive strength.
3. A certified list of alternates in each weapon, in order of placement.
4. A certified list of the teams authorized to represent the Division, and any alternates.

This information **must reach** the National Secretary by May 29th, 1972. Failure to provide such certified lists may lead to the disqualification of competitors from that Division.

The Sectional (and Metropolitan Division) secretaries must submit the list of Sectional Champions, finalists and Under-19 qualifiers to the National Secretary by May 19th, 1972. (Excerpt from 1970 Operations Manual of AFLA Rules Book, Chapter V, Section B, Paragraph 7, pp. 14-15).

NOTE: Each entrant in the Under-19 events should be prepared to produce evidence that he has not reached his 19th birthday prior to January 1, 1972.

FEES: The registration fee for ALL entries (including those fencing in team events only) is \$7.50. The entry fee for each senior (regular) individual event is \$12.00. The entry fee for each Under-19 event is \$17.50. The entry fee for each team event is \$25.00. All fees must be included with the entry.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT: All weapons, uniforms and equipment must conform **STRICTLY** to the rules and regulations of the A.F.L.A. Fencers are advised that it is their personal responsibility to know the pertinent rules and regulations as set forth in the Rules Book (1970) of the AFLA and in amendments thereto; and to have their equipment conform to safety, sizes and dimensions, cleanliness, etc. to these regula-

tions. The under-arm garment is required in all weapons and in foil only flat tips will be permitted; concentric ring points are no longer valid.

TROPHIES: All 1971 winners of trophies are responsible for delivering the trophies to the competition polished and in good condition.

BOUT COMMITTEE: The Board of Directors have approved Chaba Pallaghy and Carla-Mae Richards as Co-Chairmen of the 1972 Nationals Bout Committee.

DOPE TESTING: The National Board of Directors has empowered the Bout Committee for the 1972 U.S. Fencing Championships to have **each finalist** in the individual events tested for evidence of stimulants and/or drugs immediately following the completion of the finals. Dr. Marius Valsamis will be in charge of the testing program.



DRY FENCING ASSOCIATION

The Dry Fencing Association was last year by a number of amateurs interested in the history and development of fencing, and particularly of various forms of fence over the past one hundred

years. In the near future the association will initiate a certification course for Presidents and Judges and has a program working on standard examinations and duties, as well as on a dry fence book.

The DFA publishes a Fencers' Directory which reports its activities and contains inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Lt. Walter G. Green, Det. 5, Division, USAF, APO San Francisco

"A hit, a very palpable hit."

Act V, Scene II

- Hamlet

CULLED BY LOU S

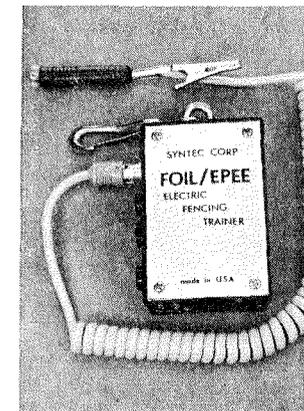
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ENTRY APPLICATION FOR 1972 U.S. NATIONAL FENCING

CHAMPIONSHIPS-PART I

Print all information:

NAME _____ DIVISION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ BIRTH DATE _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____ CLUB _____

FEES ENCLOSED

Registration Fee @ \$7.50 per entry \$ _____

Senior Individual Event @ \$12.00/event _____

Junior (Under-19) Event @ \$7.50/event _____

Team Event @ \$25.00/Team _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Do You Plan to Attend Gala Party, July 8th? YES _____ NO _____

All Entries must be submitted by June 5th, 1972 with stamped self-addressed legal size envelope, entry form, and entry fee to: **Mrs. Alyce Smetana, 18 Kerna Road, W. Roxbury, MA 02368.** "The undersigned certifies that the individual or team for which this entry is submitted is duly qualified to enter the 1972 Nationals and that 1971-1972 AFLA dues have been paid."

Signed _____

For Team Events Captain of Team is authorized to sign.

1972 ENTRY FORM-PART II

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

EVENT	Check Weapon Entered	QUALIFICATION*	CLASSIFICATION #	FEE
FOIL				
EPEE				
SABRE				
WOMEN				

JUNIOR (Under-19) EVENTS

EVENT	Check Weapon	QUALIFICATION*	CLASSIFICATION #	FOIL
EPEE				
SABRE				
WOMEN				
FEE				

*QUALIFICATION: Automatic qualifiers indicate by "A". All other show plac qualifying round with alternates indicating by "a" following placement no. ("1a first alternate).

#CLASSIFICATION: A,B,C, or U (unclassified) for each weapon entered & cur tional ranking for each weapon entered.

TEAM EVENTS

EVENT	Check Entry	DIVISIONAL PLACE Qual./Alter.	NAME OF TEAM & Individual Team Member's Names**	Reg.
FOIL				
EPEE				
SABRE				
WOMEN				

**For team member not entered in individual event, mark (T) after name & encl tration fee for each one.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein:

It is my opinion that the AMERICAN FENCING MAGAZINE will become a most constructive tool toward building a strong, healthy future for the sport of fencing in America. The reason being that many fencers, trainers, armorers, coaches and masters are voicing their opinions based on facts on the sport and above all its participants. This seems to be of a recent happening. It has often been said that an opinion which did not conform with the "in clique", would be ignored.

The American "super star fencer", I am afraid, does not exist, even though some fencers have taken upon themselves to act as such. It is to be distressed at the lack of pride, kindness, spirit of many fencers that sport mostly arrogance rather than "savior Faire". It is beyond ones' understanding that such "individuals" be produced or attracted by a sport linked so strongly with intelligence, deportment, and education. Is it the fault of the individual or is it of the instructor, coach, master? It must be that such symptoms are created or allowed by the teacher who may be versed in fencing but lacking in his role as an educator. to teach a fencer how to manipulate a blade and win a match is of no consequence when the real values of the sport are not incorporated.

One is amazed at the "fencing drop-outs" that voice their disenchantment, not with the sport but rather with the fencers that assume an unqualified leadership. These drop-outs would have become ethical bastions of the sport.

As long as fencing will continue to offer cut-rate discounts in equipment, in values, in spirit America fencing will not find a respected place among the great of the world.

Stanley St. Pellicer
Maitre D' Armes
St. Louis, Mo.

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph

In the October issue, Mr. Alaux implies that Dick Pew was eliminated from the Nationals in 1956, but was still placed on the Olympic team by a "wise decision of the selection committee," in spite of the point system. The truth is that Pew did not compete in the Nationals that year because of a broken leg, but he had won **both** general Olympic trials earlier in the year and thus had enough points to place him on the team.

It might be noted that the fencer who took second place in **both** epee trials and was a National finalist, despite a case of food poisoning so severe that the Organizing Committee at one point required a doctor's approval to allow him to continue, was not selected, even as an alternate, in spite of the point system.

But enough of epee. The criminal discrimination against one particular sabre fencer was so blatant that the outraged membership removed the presidency from the New York area, for the first time in memory, and it **was not returned there** until political chicanery made an unapproved change in election procedure, so that a President could be elected without a majority of the votes.

I mention this as a background against which to assess the current requests for a selection committee that could pick Olympic team members without regard to performance, and any departure from a rigid system based on performance is just that. Exactly what system is used is not so important as that it be announced in advance and followed strictly.

In parting, let's take one more look at Dick Pew, who was our best performer in epee since 1932. He had no international experience and little history prior to the year in which he was selected, but as his performance in the two Olympic trials indicated, he was easily our best that year, and it is hard to imagine a better criterion on which to base team selection.

For the AFLA to pre-select a team and then train them implies that the League must finance the training. This is currently beyond

the financial capability of the League. However, there is nothing to prevent any group or individual from selecting its own group of candidates and supporting their intensive training and international competitive experience. A group so privileged should have no difficulty securing places on the Olympic team through the competitive trials.

Sincerely,
Tom Bickley
Fort Worth, Texas

The Editor
American Fencing
Gentlemen

Without a doubt the majority of interested fencers read the four articles in the excellent Sept/Oct issue of American fencing with a feeling of dismay. I refer to those by D. Lyons, R. Gradkowski, M. Forrest and J. Keane. All had a common theme - the failures of US international fencing groups, mental and physical. They are groups because they cannot be called teams, i.e., Lyons (sic) nor squads, i.e., Gradkowski (sic).

I submit that the point system now used to select Olympians is self-defeating. The present point system does not lead to building a dedicated corps of our best fencers with continuity of experience and team spirit. It does place a premium on the individual's sense of self. I respectfully suggest going beyond Keane's excellent suggestions only to add the missing ingredient of controlled direction.

1. I also suggest that the point system be used only to qualify members of a US International Fencing Squad.
2. That any fencer representing the USA must be selected from this squad. Individuals, competing abroad, must clear through the Director of the squad.
3. The Director of the IFS should be selected by an appropriate committee of the AFLA.
 - a) He should not be an active competitor.
 - b) He should serve for a prescribed period - preferably 5 years in order to span at least two Olympiads.

- c) He should have had national training in, at least, two weapon statures and knowledge.
 - d) He should have or had the selector's rating in all 3 weapons.
 - e) He should have experience successfully managing or having captained of several international teams.
 - f) He should be strong enough to immediately impose sanctions on the conduct described (pg.6) #6 - it would have the US athletes next year.
 - h) He should have sufficient prestige to make the sanctioning important and to make them the future.
 - i) He should be aggressively active.
 - j) He should appoint the various managers, captains, coaches, armorer, physicians, armorer, jurists that accompany, an entirely outnumbered, the current team.
4. That Keane #7 be implemented by Keane, immediately AFLA. That the AFLA should initiate in contacting other bodies in the US to mount suit coordinated campaigns.
 5. That the AFLA recognize the former champions and maintain have more to offer international level fencers handshake at a presentation ceremony. It is the AFLA's responsibility that the fund of international fencing does not vitiate into distaste but remains constructive participation.
 6. The AFLA should institute continuing form of mandatory assistance by the membership support of an IFS.

This letter was written by an agrar who is distinguished only by his ability for both fencing and the USA.

Very Truly Yours
Sanford Ellis
White Plains, N. Y.

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Sir,

With great interest I have read your report on the performance, on and off the strip, of our team in my ancestral city of Vienna. I regret that the walls of this old imperial residence did not reverberate with the yells of victory from the throats of our representatives. But let me report to you a remark of a leading member of the Austrian organizing committee which I heard during a recent visit to Vienna:

"Those fencers of yours were not as good as expected. None of them made a final. In a way, that was good for us because we could use an American director, Chaba Pallaghy, for the entire saber finals. He was an excellent director and everybody was happy with him under rather tense conditions."

It may be of small comfort to our fencers, but the fact that the US has a few directors in all three weapons who are asked time and again to direct part or even the whole of the finals in international events (remember the foil finals at Notre Dame where again Chaba officiated through the whole event?) in recognition of their impartiality and competence, is somewhat flattering and should be taken as a tribute to American fencing. Such occurrences are news-worthy and should be reported along with the achievements or non-achievements of our fencers.

Kind regards,
Curtis Ettinger
Westchester, N. Y.

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Mr. Goldstein

In the Sept/Oct '71 issue "Letters to the Editor" column Dr. Weldon Vlasak of the Fort Lauderdale Fencer's Club very aptly discussed the interesting coincidence between his club's building and testing of an electric fencing practice device and the results reported in a May/June '71 issue article by Darrell Williams of The University of Texas entitled "Using the Electrical Fencing

Trainer". Dr. Vlasak's letter did truly point out some interesting coincidences between his club's effort and our development, here at Syntec Corporation, of the FOIL/EPEE Electric Fencing Trainer currently being advertised in AMERICAN FENCING.

Dr. Vlasak mentions that their design approach in building an electrical practice device was somewhat different than that used in the Syntec Trainer (which uses a light for identification of hits). He reports that an audio generator is employed which transmits an audible tone when a hit is registered. Coincidentally, we also used an audible tone generator in our first prototype models. However, we soon discovered that this was, in most cases, unsatisfactory. Practice bouts are normally held on closely adjacent strips, and when pairs of fencers using the Trainers were bouting next to other pairs, also using the Trainers, the tone from any of the devices caused a sort of "crosstalk" between bouts. As you can well imagine this situation, which does not exist with the light identification method, was quite confusing. It is possible that Dr. Vlasak and his associates have not constructed or had in use, simultaneously, more than a pair of their audio-type devices. If this is the case, it is understandable that the problem of crosstalk between bouts might not be realized.

Our initial approach to solve the above problem was to use an earphone signaling device audible to only the fencer scoring the touch. This approach solved the confusion between bouts, however, it presented an interesting, but nevertheless unsatisfactory, case in that the gentlemanly etiquette of fencing had to be violated to report a touch. In other words, the fencer scoring a touch had to say, "I got you", whereas the etiquette calls for the fencer "touched" to so acknowledge.

Well, it was back to the drawing board and after several months of testing by fencers and consultation with prominent members of the fencing community, such as Gerard J. Poujardieu, fencing coach of the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Team, the light identification method resulted. It has subsequently proven to be a very satisfactory

method and one well received by fencers and coaches over the U.S.

Sincerely,
Rod Malone
Syntec Corp.
Austin, Texas

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph

Norman Lewis, in his article entitled "Financial Security For The AFLA", has suggested that the membership fees in all categories be increased and that the increase be earmarked for investment purposes in order to provide some financial security for the AFLA in the future.

I believe that his suggestion merits thought and discussion by AFLA members. It is time to change our present hand to mouth existence.

I believe it would be a mistake to increase substantially the dues for active members. I am afraid that it would mean a sizeable loss of membership.

We might try, instead, setting up several classes of associate membership as is done in similar organizations. People seldom give more than they are asked for. We could have a regular membership (\$5.00); supporting membership (\$10.00); and a contributing membership (\$20.00) or more). We should send a thank-you note to all associate members. A person who becomes an contributing member may specify how he wishes his money allocated and would receive a nice memento from the AFLA.

We should send out several reminder notices to everyone who does not rejoin the AFLA and urge them to support the AFLA either as a regular member or as an associate.

I believe that if we did this that our income would increase substantially and that we could allocate a percentage of all funds received to a development fund to build for the future as Mr. Lewis suggests.

Sincerely,
Emily B. Johnson
San Francisco, Cal.

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

In over twenty years of reading reports of American competitors at Olympic championships I have never report as honest as that of D.M. Lyons and R. Gradkowski. When I opened the Oct. issue of American Fencing I read the same old tired "We Wuz Robbed" read in print the truth about the preparation, lack of preparation, and pointing conduct of the fencers of the strip should be eye-opening to members. Especially at a time when we talk about raising dues.

I wonder what the reaction of the fencer will be to an increase in dues which directs increased amounts of money to performances such as the one of Lyons and Gradkowski. Perhaps a serious concern concerning dues will be a more thoughtful inquiry as to the American fencing and to the effectiveness of funds.

The efforts of Chaba Pallaghy to rectify and standardize American judging deserves the highest commendation. Unfortunately some people are using even directing and judging as a whipping boy for our less than first level of international fencing.

Perhaps one can be critical of our sabre fencing but how can we blame for our level of epee fencing judges and directors? I don't think play this simplistic game of assign blame. Again, referring to Lyons and Gradkowski we can see that the problem is mutual.

The biggest problem in standardizing the vagueness of the wording of the right of way and the fact that the rules stay basically unchanged while interpretations go through cyclic changes. This begins in Europe, reaches the East next year. Perhaps in a year or two interpretations filter down to the boondocks.

Fencing time, for example, has ne

exactly defined. Even an experienced international director as Dr. Tibor Nyilas commenting on the Pan-American games was quoted as saying, "The attack has the right—the tempo has to be ahead by a rather large fencing time—Remise—forget it . . ." If we don't know precisely what is fencing time, since the only statement that purports to be accurate vaguely defines it as the time required to perform one simple fencing action, then what is a **large** fencing time? If we are to forget the remise why is it in the rule book?

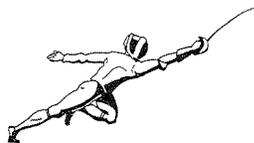
There must be something wrong with an idea I have thought of although no one has yet told me what it is. The time it takes to perform one simple fencing action can be defined quantitatively. For the moment let us define it as 1/3 of a second. The electrical foil scoring box can be adjusted to time this interval.

The scoring equipment is set so that the only double touches registered are those that land within 1/3 of a second. This would mean that the person with right way of attack rather than before. In the case of a remise against a reponse, if both lights go on this means that the remise landed during the time a riposte should be made. If only the remise light glows then the riposte was late.

I would appreciate any criticism of this idea. It seems to me that machines set up in this fashion would standardize fencing directing rapidly, even if they could not be used competitively.

**Cordially,
Arnold Mercado
Chairman, Gulf Coast Division**

(Ed. Note: Readers who are interested in Mr. Mercado's idea can try it out if they can gain access to a scoring apparatus and adjust the timing interval. With some practice, or perhaps a special competition, we should be able to try out the validity of his concept.)



COACHING FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

by Hugo M. Castello

It should come as no surprise that there is a major difference between just teaching fencing and coaching a team or an individual competitor for a major championship.

When dealing with raw beginners, probably the best way is by group instruction, because in that fashion the individual pupil may get as much as two hours of skilled instruction under fairly close supervision—something which is impossible to accomplish, for more than a very few pupils, with individual lessons. Everybody will agree that as the fencer becomes more advanced, he needs and should get personal attention with the instruction aimed at his individual problem areas. Unfortunately, too many people have tended to assume that there is only one sort of individual attention, namely, the lesson at the master's plastron. Without in any sense trying to deny the usefulness of this type of training, I still think it is time to point out that there is a point beyond which the individual lesson approach can become counterproductive.

At major competitions, fencers should not be permitted to use the coach as a warm-up plastron, since part of their training should have taught them what are the proper warm-up exercises and procedures for themselves, for their own individual needs. They should be ready to follow these procedures before any tournament, whether or not a coach is available.

Coaching should not cultivate an exclusive reliance on the lesson. In fact, it should work to wean the fencer away from his dependence on his instructor. Any competitor worthy of the name, certainly any who aspires to international success, must be able to analyze his own game. Some fencers do this almost instinctively from the first; most need some help, some need a lot of help. Various methods are useful here, of which the round-robin competition may be the best, with appropriate analysis following. The regular performance of such analysis will develop and improve the fencer's confidence and let him see what actions he can depend

on. Applied before a competition, it will also show something perhaps no less important—those actionst hat he had better avoid, at least until after the competition.

A competitor must realize that in the heat of competition his opponents will not be adjusting their games to make him look or feel good. A desire (perhaps subconscious) for this sort of reassurance is the reason, I am sure, why some fencers insist on lessons right up to the last minute before a major event; they do not want to face up to the harsh reality that every one of their opponents is going to make life as tough as possible for them. It is much better, I believe, that the adjustment away from such dependence, the weaning process, should take place at least a month before the championship, and that thereafter the coach be present to reinforce the fencer's personal discipline.

By discipline I mean adherence to a training schedule and continued emphasis on genuinely competitive bouts, not anything approximating recreational fencing. "Loose play" is just that—play, and altogether too loose. The coach should be there to keep the fencer up to the mark, to observe and assist with his bout techniques and strategy, which will not be developed by a fencer's taking the conventional lesson from a teacher. The coach should be there to make sure that his fencers are also aware of the rules of the game and all the procedures by which the tournament will be run, and are aware of the proper way—if and when it proves necessary—of requesting or insisting that the rules of the sport be followed.

Many people who have watched our teams in international competitions have expressed surprise to see our coaches giving lesson after lesson all during the affair, in many cases to fencers with whom they have never had any contact until a few days before. Sometimes these training sessions are held miles away from the site of the actual competition. What results from this sort of approach is that the fencers are not adjusted to the competitive tempo of the tournament. The fencing starts and they are simply not up to their best competitive effort until they have

fenced their first and perhaps last, fer in the competition.

This method of "preparing" a team to be blamed on our coaches. They have years of experience and know h would be better advised to spend limited time in readying a team for a mum effort from the first bout. I desire of the fencers for the "crutch" lesson is hard to overcome.

I think that I can fairly say that that of the New York University fencing competition over the years speaks for Observers can note that we don't eve a plastron to a tournament. Granted, college level fencing, but I contend t principle of **combat-readiness** is the s all levels.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION

by Bea Couchman

- Open Foil:** 1. J. St. Clair, LAAC; 2. J. Mori; 3. S. Collins, FSF.
Epee Open: 1. J. Elliott, Mori; 2. K. Mori; 3. S. Barden, LAAC.
Sabre Open: 1. C. Fuertes, FSF; 2. W. LAAC; 3. M. Marion, SdN.
Women's Open: 1. B. Devan, LAAC; Mitchell, WEFC; 3. S. Armstrong, WEFC.
Women's Prep. 1. C. Newton, WEFC; 2. D. son, SdE; 3. P. Bledsoe, LAVC.
Prep Foil: 1. J. Gould, SdN ;2 D. Morris; 3. D. Kalman, WEFC.
Epee C: 1. C. Jones, SdN; 2. K. Anders; 3. J. Hendrick, UCI.
Faulner Mixed Double: 1. L. Bleamaster, master, 2. S. Collins, J. Collins. 3. J. S. Ischiyasu.
Girls' Foil, 13-15: 1. N. Koch, HHS, 2. C. LAAC; 3. F. Vandal, HHS.
Girls' Foil, 12-under: 1. J. Evingson, Sd Woods, LAAC; 3. T. Griffith, TFC.
Boys' Foil, 13-15: 1. P. Schiffrin, SdN, Winders, HHS; 3. N. Millikin.
Boys' Foil, 12-under: 1. B. Thomas, LAA Aubrey, LAAC, 3. M. Eng, SdE.
Sabre C: 1. F. Appice, SdE, 2. S. Crowe; 3. R. Nordlight, FSC.
Women's C: 1. B. Niesen, SdN 2. V. Ble SdE; 3. S. McCourt, SdE.



U. S. JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAMS FOR 1971-1972

by Rev. Lawrence Calhoun

(Ed. Note: This is the second part of a two part article begun in our previous issue. The Rev. Calhoun is U.S. Junior Olympic Chairman and his scheme for the classification and development of young U.S. fencers has been adopted by the AFLA. The U.S. National Junior Olympic Championships will be held for the first time this Spring, as a part of the U.S. Junior Olympic program. Readers are referred to the article elsewhere in this issue which sets forth the procedures for this championship.)

In the first part of this article we covered the general concepts of classification of U.S. Junior fencers into age group categories and the holding of regional and national junior championships. In this part we will explain in detail the method of classification and ranking of these fencers.

National Ranking System For Junior Fencers:

Most Under 19 tournaments do not have a ranking system for the fencers, and in major regional or sectional meets, outside fencers are unknown in ability. The following system will provide immediate recognition of a fencer's ability.

1. **Age Classifications:** Under 14 - 1A, 1B, 1C; 14-15 - 2A, 2B, 2C; 16-19 - 3A, 3B, 3C.

2. **If a meet has 2-3 strips of 5, 6, 7.** Meet is a "C" classification (Group III), with "C" to the winner only.

If a meet has 4-7 strips of 5, 6, 7.

Meet is a "B" classification with "B" to the winner, and "C" to the 2nd and 3rd places. (Group II)

If a meet has 8 or more strips of 5, 6, 7. Meet is an "A" classification (Group I). An "A" to the winner, "B" to 2nd and 3rd, and "C" to all other finalists.

The rationale for these numbers is to begin the classification system. The process will follow the approved rules for the AFLA regarding classification of new fencers (adults) where possible. This would require a few years to establish enough rated fencers, and of course many leave the young level for the adult level.

3. The numbers (1-2-3) indicate the age

level of classification and/or level of competition and size of the meet. As a fencer advances to another level, he may obtain a patch to commemorate the event. If a boy or girl competes on the adult level, he/she may obtain a standard adult A, B, or C if the occasion arises, **for practical purposes, any fencer receiving an adult classification will be an automatic "3A" at the Under 19 level.** This is essential for the seeding of this fencer who has achieved recognition at a higher level, and it still puts it within the system.

4. Rationale:

a. The numbers allow various divisions to begin the classification system.

The eventual hope is that larger divisions will have enough rated fencers within the group to use the normal procedures for rankings.

b. The number indicates the age level when classification was received, and does not change unless the fencer advances through tournament competition, even though he may age a year or more.

c. The letter tells the approximate number and quality of the competition. As a fencer advances to a higher classification, he can obtain a new, relevant patch.

d. If the fencer competes in adult tournaments, he automatically receives his "A" and is entitled to retain this "3A" at all subsequent Junior Olympic meets. This "3A" has no value **as such** at adult tournaments, except that it helps to seed the fencer above mere novices. If the 3A fencer is a "C" or better on the adult level, he uses that designation for an adult meet.

e. This rating system is fair to all fencers, in all weapons, and it is especially useful in seeding for large tournaments, local, regional, sectional and national.

f. The system contains the flexibility to be used in small divisions where

high level fencers are rare, and also in larger divisions for better seeding.

g. A district advantage for this system is that except for the number in front of the letter A, B, C, the rules are the same for all, adults and juniors. This makes for uniformity.

Junior Olympic Patches

To go with this ranking system, a new series of patches will be available to the fencers at a minimal cost. For those who receive a ranking, the appropriate patch will be available. For other finalists who do not obtain a ranking, the current Junior Olympic patches can be used.

A boy or girl who achieves an adult ranking, can obtain the appropriate gold, silver or bronze star and put it on his patch.

Point System for Junior Olympic Fencers

1. AFLA Junior Olympic tournaments (age-group, all weapons)

Final of 6

1st.—10 points
2nd.—6 points
3rd.—4 points

Final of 8

1st.—15 points
2nd.—11 points
3rd.—8 points

4th.—3 points
5th.—2 points
6th.—1 point

4th.—6 points
5th.—4 points
6th.—3 points
7th.—2 points
8th.—1 point

2. State Championships (High school meets)—Divisional championships, bc 19 and Adult.

Final of 6	Final of 8	Super-1
1st.—15 points	1st.—20 points	1st.—3
2nd.—9 points	2nd.—14 points	2nd.—
3rd.—6 points	3rd.—9 points	3rd.—1
4th.—5 points	4th.—7 points	4th.—5
5th.—3 points	5th.—5 points	5th.—7
6th.—1 point	6th.—3 points	6th.—5
	7th.—2 points	7th.—3
	8th.—1 point	8th.—1

3. AFLA Opens, Unclassified, meets.

Opens	Classified
Pool of 6 as 1 above	Pool of 6 as 11 c
Pool of 8 as 1 above	Pool of 8 as 11 c
Unclassified	
Pool of 6 as 1 above	
Pool of 8 as 1 above	

4. Any other approved meets that a restricted, etc. 6 points for first, 4 point for sixth place.

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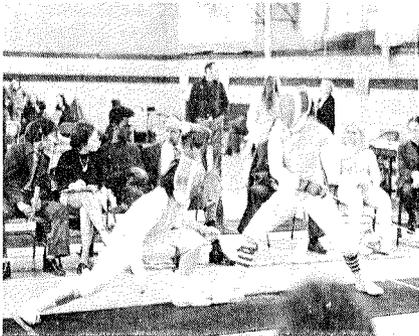


photo by Ellis

Nancy Murray of Montclair State smashes the foil out of Blythe Devan's hand at the NIWFA Christmas Invitational held at Lehman College in the Bronx. Several spectators are sitting a little too close for comfort. Even with the electrical foil connection to the body cord, there is still an element of danger in getting too close to the wildly swinging competitors.

CORNELL FALL OPEN

by Andrew Levy

In one of the largest tournaments ever in Western New York, ninety-five competitors from four states and Canada took part in the first Cornell Open, sponsored by the Cornell Fencer's Club.

The standard of fencing was high in all events, and the prizes capped off the hard day's fighting well - solid bronze antiqued medallions were awarded to the top four finalists in each weapon.

Inspired by the success of this tournament, the Cornell Fencing Club plans to hold a similar competition in the Spring. It will be announced as soon as possible.

RESULTS

Foil: 1. R. Sudre, unatt., 2. J. Milligan, 3. D. Show, Harpur Col., 4. J. Valladares, Cornell.
Epee: 1. P. Pesthy, N.Y.A.C., 2. Early, Harpur Col. 3. Lynn, U.N.C., 4. Monostry, Syracuse.
Saber: 1. R. Sudre, Unatt., 2. R. Brown, U.N.C., 3. Griscom, U.N.C., 4. Ruddell, U.N.C.
Women's Foil: 1. P. Waldbridge, Cornell, 2. K. Stevenson, Cornell, 3. L. Budofsky, Cornell, 4. M. Sebring, Cornell.



INTERCOLLEGIATE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS INVITATIONAL

by Jeffrey Tishman

Ruth White, a New York University junior, won her third consecutive Christmas invitational when the 39th annual tournament was held at Herbert E. Lehman College on December 11. Ruth became the first person to win three times straight; tying the meet record of Madeline Miyamoto of Farleigh Dickenson (Teaneck), who won in 1959, 1960, and 1962. Ruth's overall record for the day was 24-0.

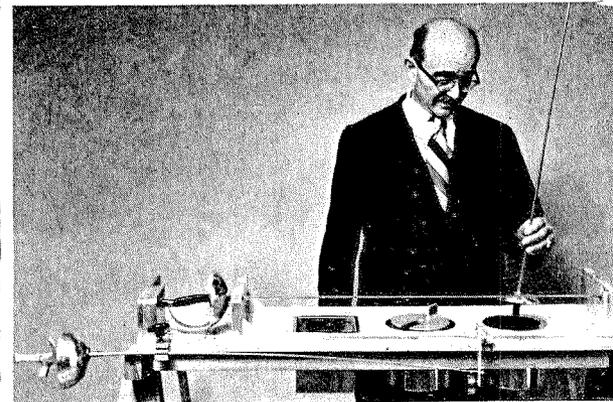
This was the first Christmas Invitational sponsored by the newly chartered National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA) which superseded the Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association this past April. Once again medals were donated by Hunter College coach Julia Jones-Pugliese; this year for all six finalists.

Ninety individuals from 26 colleges started in what proved to be the fastest and best organized Christmas Invitational in recent years. Coach Alice Saberski and her crew at Lehman College, the efficient work of the bout committee, and the many officials who volunteered during the day, all deserve credit for the smooth operation of this event. The preliminaries started at nine in the morning and the final was decided by six that night; five rounds later.

Results: (1) Ruth White N.Y.U., 5-0; (2) Blythe Devan, California State (L.A.), 4-1; (3) Barbara Keel, Brandeis, 3-2; (4) Kathy Stevenson, Cornell, 2-3; (5) Deborah Cinotti, Barnard, 1-4; (6) Nikki Tomlinson, Brooklyn, 0-5.



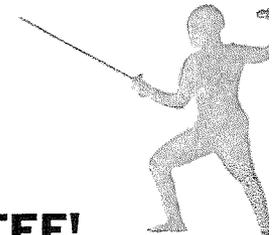
photo by O'Connor
 NIWFA Christmas Invitational finalists (from l. to r.) Nikki Tomlinson, Debbie Cinotti, Kathy Stevenson, Barbara Keel, Blythe Devan, Ruth White.



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U.S. JUNIOR OLYMPIC FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Rev. Lawrence Calhoun

The U.S.J.O.F.C. will be held at Notre Dame High School, Niles, Illinois, April 7-9, 1972. Entry to this tournament is determined by each division which may send one representative in each weapon. Everyone wishing to participate is personally responsible for filing a complete entry form on time, after being certified by the J. O. Chairman of their division.

How to File:

1. A properly executed application blank or facsimile.
2. All entry and registration fees payable to **Notre Dame High School.**
3. Include two 8¢ stamps with your entry. Make out entry to Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, Notre Dame High School, 7655 Dempster Street, Niles, Illinois, 60648. Entries must be received at the above address on or before March 7th, 1972.

Acceptance:

Entries will be checked against the list of qualifiers submitted. Entries and fees of invalid forms will be returned. All entries will be acknowledged and information sent to a parent in the area who will house and feed the contestant during his stay (as far as possible). Each parent will communicate with the entrant to determine travel arrangements. All further correspondence will be between these two parties.

Certification:

The Junior Olympic Chairman or divisional representative is to send by mail to Rev. Calhoun, the names of the automatic qualifiers and the alternates in order of choice by March 7th, 1972.

Fees: Registration for all fencers is \$2.00. Entry fee per weapon is \$7.00.

Equipment:

All weapons etc. must conform to AFLA regulations. The wearing of a plastron is obligatory in all weapons.

Schedule of events:

The competition will be run according to AFLA rules, with any changes a result of Bout Committee action.

Thursday: 7-11pm. Weapons check for sabre, woman's foil (other weapons accepted). All equipment will be **impounded** until the meet.

Friday: Sabre-finals in the evening.

Woman's foil prelims.

Weapons check for foil, epee.

Saturday: Epee - finals in evening.

Foil prelims.

Woman's foil finals - afternoon through evening

Sunday: Foil finals in afternoon

Directors: All directors will be 2's and 3's or F.I.E. rated.

Trophies:

1. If age groups are representative, trophies to 1-2-3 in each age group and trophies to all superfinalists. Travelling trophy to the Champions. Epee and Sabre will have trophies for finalists, and travelling trophy to champions.
2. If no age groups, then trophies to all finalists in all weapons, and traveling trophy to champions.

QUALIFIERS TO NATIONALS:

Champions in each weapon will be automatic qualifiers to the Nationals in Boston.

WASHINGTON DIVISION

by Eric J. Hanson

The Division's competitive season is well underway. Increasing use of French, fencing's official international language, by our Bout Directors is adding additional excitement to the local scene. Early results are:

Epee: 1. S. Johnson (DFC); 2. Ed Sims (DFC); 3. T. Bickley (Ft. Worth).

Women's Foil: 1. M. J. Burton; (DFC); 2. H. Livingston (DFC); 3. L. Goldthwaite (DFC).

Foil: 1. Ed Sims (DFC); 2. S. Johnson (DFC); 3. T. Bickley (Ft. Worth).

Epee: 1. S. Johnson (DFC); 2. R. Hurley (Houston); 3. T. Haines (St. Mark's).

Women's Foil: M. J. Burton (DFC), 2. V. Hurley (Houston), 3. H. Reynolds (DFC).

DARRIAULAT EPEE: 1. B. Lyons, SCz; 2. R. Steere, SdA; 3. V. Tiede, CFC.

BUJNOVSKY SABER: 1. W. Oliver, WFC; 2. H. Spector, Unatt.; 3. S. Johnson, WFC.

RYTKOVSKY WOMENS FOIL: 1. C. Carter, Unatt.; 2. V. Smith, SdA; 3. H. Lane, Unatt.

EPEE "C": 1. E. Hanson, CFC; 2. A. Cento, Unatt.; 3. R. Engler, WFC.

ISKRAUT FOIL: 1. R. Steere, SdA; 2. B. Lyons, SCz; 3. P. Stein, Unatt.

APPLICATION FOR U.S.J.O. FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	QUALIFICATION			CLASS		
	Automatic	1st Alt.	2nd. Alt.	A,B,C Unclss	U-19 Rank	per
FOIL	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
EPEE	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SABRE	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
WOMAN'S	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Registration Fee: **\$2.00**

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

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I hereby certify that I am duly qualified to the U.S.J.O. tournament

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International Fencing Clinic

FIRST SESSION: July 15 to July 30

SECOND SESSION: July 31 to August 13

at ITHACA, NEW YORK

Under the direction of Cornell University Head Coach

Raoul Sudre

Assisted by: Mike Dasaro, U. S. Olympic Team 1960
Jean Jacques Gillet, 1970 World Masters Team Coach
J. Pierre Genin, Racing Club of Paris
Abderouf El Faril, Moroccan National Coach

COST: \$350. per session, all inclusive, room, board, tuition.

REGISTRATION: Send a \$50.00 deposit to **INTERNATIONAL FENCING CLINI**
5 Westwood Knoll, Ithaca, New York, 14850. Indicate Sessi
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Coaches Corner

RAOUL SUDRE

by Michael Dasaro

Raoul Sudre began his fencing career at the young age of six under the tutelage of Maitre Renom of Casablanca. When he was 14 he came in first in the Junior Moroccan Championships ahead of 134 other competitors. This was the first of a long line of successes in France, in Canada, and in the U. S., where Raoul came to finish his education at Cornell University. While still a student he worked as a Prevost under Coach George Cointes. The year of his graduation, after having placed second in the N.C.A.A. and been elected Fencer of the Year, he became Assistant Coach at Cornell. It was then that he started concentrating his efforts on the study of Epee and Sabre, having fenced mostly Foil till that time. With the untimely death of Georges Cointes, Raoul was then appointed Head Fencing Coach at Cornell as of Fall 1961. With this responsibility on his shoulders, and having decided to make Fencing his life, he felt he needed to strengthen and broaden his competitive and teaching experience. He then spent part of his free time entering competitions in Europe, attending clinics given by the International Academy of Arms, working with M. Pierre Thirioux at the Fencing School of Antibes, and working with the Russian Team in an International Seminar of Fencing. In 1966 he successfully passed his Master's Examination at N.Y.U. That same year he represented the U. S. in the World Master's Championships in Rome, Italy, tying for fourth place in the Sabre, and ending up in another tie for fifth in Foil. He became the U.S. representative to the International Academy of Arms and attended their Congresses in that position. In the Spring of 1969 he was appointed the Captain and organizer of the 1970 U.S. World Master's Team.

What Raoul did with this assignment is now known by every fencer in the country. I was part of that team and I can speak as a first hand witness to how beautifully he accomplished his task: first as a master



Fencing Master Raoul Sudre at his training camp in Ithaca, New York. As coach of the Cornell University team Raoul was voted NFAA Coach of the Year in 1968.

organiser taking care of the details of our trip, here and in Europe. Second, his training schedule brought us to our peak just at the right moment, and turned us into a very solid team. There is no doubt in my mind that under his leadership our team arrived at the Championship as well prepared as any European team. Many European members came up to me and told me how impressed they were by his work and his understanding of international problems. They picked him to head a commission to settle differences that had emerged between the A.A.I. and the French and Belgium academies.

At Cornell in spite of the fact that his team is in competition with the best collegiate team in the country and that 98% of the Cornell fencers have never fenced before coming to Ithaca he managed to give the fencing team there a 74% win and loss record over the last ten years, and developed many All-Americans and individual champions. In 1968 the NFAA coaches honored him by voting him The NFAA COACH OF THE YEAR.

NEW FENCING SCHOOL

by Richard Gradkowski

Maestro Anthony Perrotti is now teaching foil to beginners and advanced students at the Fine Arts School of Fencing in Fort Lee, New Jersey. The school was opened this past summer.

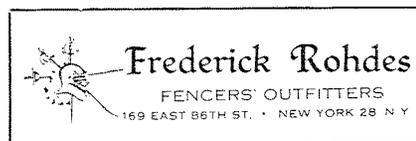
In 1951, while serving overseas in Italy in special services for the U. S. Navy, Mr. Perrotti began fencing at the International Fencing Academy of Naples. After fencing for three years his high point was the winning of the silver medal in the Governale Cup tournament.

During the 1954 political riots a situation was created that would interest fencing teachers. All military personnel were restricted to the base and Mr. Perrotti being in special services was asked to keep the men busy. He feels that his fencing class of 150 sailors was somewhat large! Teaching so many people was quite a job and showed that fencing and teaching are quite different. So back he went to the Academy to the Fencing Master Ugo Purcaro to learn how to teach.

If there are any fencers or prospective students of fencing in the New York or New Jersey areas who would like some one else's view of the foil we urge them to drop by and say "Hello". The Fine Arts School of Fencing is located at 2151 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey, 07024.

MATCH

The aggregate of the bouts fought between the fencers of two different teams is called a "match".



photo

Maestro Anthony J. Perrotti standing by a panoply at the Fine Arts School of Fencing in New Jersey.



"RENAISSANCE FAIR

by John Mazurkiewicz, Minnesota

The Minnesota Art League approached the Brookview Club and inquired as to whether they would man a booth at their Renaissance Fair. Since swordsmanship lived in a different era, what would a Renaissance Fair be without fencing?

All strong, brave swordsmen cost a token fee, donned knightly attire and with two balloons attached. The first man to break both balloons was the champion. After conquering two worthy opponents a swordsman was declared a champion to King George! And the King hired the nobleman at times to bestow the country's great "Seal of Honor".

The end product of all the work of the fair by the Brookview Group was for some badly needed club equipment. Additional fencers emerged for the Twin City area, prompted by the publicity handed out at the fair Brookview Club.

VIENNA 1971

by Dr. Edo Marion

I arrived at the Stadthalle around 6 P.M. on Monday, July the fifth. Most of the Strips were through for the day. On the far end of the big hall, two strips were still struggling to determine who would make the next round. I was looking around for any USA fencers, and collided with Michel Alaux and Richard Gradkowski. "How are we doing? was my question." "All out in the first round as usual; "said Michel." As usual," was echoing in my head for a long time. I run into some old time rivals of mine whom I hadn't seen for 34 years. Hugo Weesreck who was the heart of the organization for this competition. During my stay at the Championship, I tried to see if there was anything new in fencing. Right here I have to say that there is nothing that I wouldn't have seen 35 years ago. There is nothing unorthodox in the high level play. By my observation, we can classify the world fencing categories of poor fencing in technique and tactics, middle fencing with fairly good technique but no higher level strategy due to inexperience, and very good fencing with superb technique and game tactics. The best foil fencing is indisputably played by the present French team for technique and style as well as for strategy. After rather a longer dash come the Russians, Polish, Hungarians, Romanians, Germans, Japanese and Italians. All the rest are rather poor.

The level of any national fencing is best seen in the team events. Watching the team semis between the Russians and the French was worth the trip from Boston to Vienna. For years I haven't seen a better match for style, effort and sportsmanship. The French clobbered the favored Russian team badly. Stoic discipline of the French foilists, who for many bouts in order to win, had to score seven touches to get five. The finale between the French and the Poles was dramatic, exciting and nerve wrecking. France was leading seven to two and a sense of pity started to awake for the losers as, to the satisfaction of all watchers, the score went to 7-3, then 7-4 and 7-5. At this point, the audience started to split into pro-France and pro-

Poland. Seven to six was the next bout. The French needed a turning point in their confidence that was at this stage badly shaken. France made it 8-6 and Poland made it up to 8-7. The strain on both fencers for the last bout, which if 8-8 would mean victory for Poland on touches, or 9-7 for France, was a full scale athletic drama. The French, for their technical perfection of hand and legs well deserved the gold medal.

For Sabre again as in Foil the cream of world sabreurs gathered in the contest for the ranking of the pre-Olympic year. All pools were tough from the beginning. Determination, coolness, audacity and luck were needed to go forward. Disappointment, chagrin, vexation and irritations caused by officiating, was the atmosphere throughout the individuals. The favorite from past records who had psychological advantages among the contestants and as well as from the officials, whiningly crumbled. The semis indicated that Pawlowski who fenced probably his best pool in his fencing career, would be for the fourth time World Champion.

The first place was decided in the last bout with Nicola Maffei beating his opponent and so bring to Italy, after eleven years, an individual gold medal. In general I noticed, that foil has gained back the charm of the school weapon right of way. Naturalist fencers were not any more the strip ruling class as in the first years after the introduction of the electrical foil. Strategy, timing, perfect hand and leg mechanics in offense as well as in defense and moral disposition were the ingredients that were carrying the fencers from pool to pool into the Finals.

The sabre bouts had all one thing in common, the "tempo commune" for the start. Apparently both fencers are so afraid of a Directors' wrong interpretation that in the beginning of the bout both fencers, without any preparation, strike a balestra direct or a feint attack. This goes about five or six times in the row. Of course there isn't always a true simultaneous action as called by the director; and often one had the right of way and the other simply cuts or thrusts into others attack with the lunge. The action is to close to an "incontro" and is called

simultaneous. The fencers prefer it this way. This "tempo commune" pattern is then followed by a parry-riposte and then by a "contro tempo" parry-riposte action. The bout eventually develops to an attractive game based on observation with timing, distance, trap and counter trap-settings. The most imaginative and able to change the pattern of his game according the opponent was no doubt Pawlowski. His time thrusts, tempo and contro tempo actions were fantastic. It would be wrong to take anything away from all fencers who made the quarter-finals. All were strong and well trained, good style fencers. From the quarter finals up you didn't see a fleche or running attack. All were Patinando or Balestra attacks ending with an exemplary lunge; followed, if occasion called, with a reprise of the attack. The hand in invitation (except for second) is forward and mostly in an extended en guard position. So are also the parries, contrary to the old classical Hungarian close to the body. Speed of hand and legs is the essence for successful fencing in general.

The USA or EUA in Vienna

I had the opportunity to watch our men and women foil and sabre representatives. The foil team lacked confidence and determination on the strip and were rather timid. Settings for actions and counter actions were too transparent. Hand mechanics were as good as any, but leg dynamics and speed of the attacks were below the international level. The interest of our foil team, in watching and learning from others was encouraging. The young fencer, giving him opportunity, has the drive and ambition to improve and succeed.

Sabre, our perennially strongest weapon on the international stage, didn't perform even close to their potential strength. Individually, all our representatives are technically well schooled fencers; but what they lack is tactics and bout strategy. A fencer cannot acquire this part of the game only by participating in international or higher level national competitions. It has to be studied with conventional but like exercises by two fencers, and better so under a coach's direction and criticism - no matter how annoying it may

be. The world or Olympic stage of is very similar to figure skating. The in points and touches goes to the had shown previously to the refer and judgment his quality and potent was and is true to any new face a on the international strip. To many fencers and to the others as well, have been taken away or wrongly against on a debatable right of way, or not and sufficient or insufficient. The officials were not the best the put together. The number of top available was just for the Finals a these were not perfect, (Pawlowski p and rightly succeeding). We were to have Chaba Pallaghy as "Presi Jury" for the Finals in sabre who v good, a little bit too nervously fast ar more as a drill sargent then a re heard a comment among the spectr my right that he must be by prof. Customs officer or an elementary teacher.

Miss White is a definite promise majority of the ladies are too adv age to be our representatives at the and Olympics, especially if the part expenses are paid by AFLA or Olymp nizations. Our non competing delega at least as numerous as of the other all at their own expense, as the mc of the fencers. I saw Norman Lewis d and discouraged sitting with the fc as they struggled with the Czechs. Gradkowski was a congenial and patient manager. Nobody, as I hec an official AFLA coach, or anyone c if going on his own expense. Michae and Nick Toth from the USAF Acader available for warming up and brus mechanics but very few fencers took tage. An exception was Dr. Beck w the world championship participator as a very important endeavor. The s well arranged for practice, where yc see five USSR coaches dressing and up their representatives for the com The Russians were highly rated bu do as expected and actually way bel previous years. The Eastern power v visible all over the strips but the

coming back to get the gold medals. Competition and quality will in the coming years stiffen sharply. Many things are in the kitchen of the FIE, well kept behind the door. Doping and disqualification were the theme number one on the corridors of the Stadthalle and big problems inside the FIE. From eighteen doping tests, one resulted positive as per official communique. Galina Gorokhova, USSR former world champion was disqualified for passive fencing in favor of the Romanian Pascu.

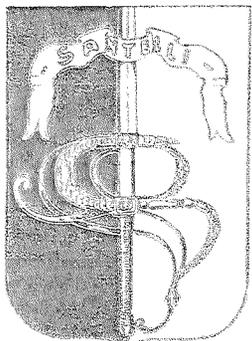
USA in the world fencing today

At the world championship, I tried hard to find reasons why are we doing so poorly. Technically as far as hand work, we are on a level with the other top ten nations; but our foot mechanics are behind the others and the speed of attacks, reprises and recovery is slow in matching the others. Tactics and bout strategy is also lacking. The fencing pattern is too much of the collegiate level which is mostly second intention fencing. In my opinion what hurts our fencing on the international strip the most is the lack of

comaraderie, common interest among our heterogenous representatives, and absolute void of sporting discipline. "Esprit de Corps" is a substantial psychological ingredient for success in any team. We have a lot to do before the departure of the national team to Munich. First of all, there should be an age limit which would guarantee endurance and stamina in athletic endeavor regardless of national standing. Second, and also as a condition to be on the team there should be

compulsory attendance for a two weeks training camp. A rigorous practice program should be made ahead by the coach and captain. The head coach should be named enough ahead who would be responsible for the program of training, and the captain for general discipline. Attention should be given to supervised conventional attack and defense, distance and timing practice. I am sure that under such conditions we will make a good showing next year.





Maker of Champions

*Championship
Equipment*

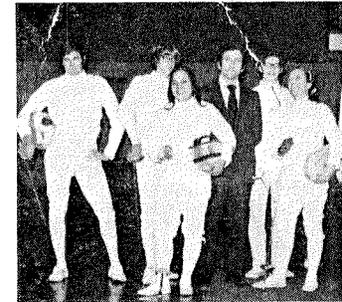
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WASHINGTON FENCERS CLUB 1896-1971

By Esther P. Jorolan

In 1896, the Washington Fencers Club was founded by a group of fencers which included Army and Navy officers and diplomats assigned to the nation's capital. Washington, D.C. being a transient city, the membership changed constantly though the years as fencers came and went according to the dictates of their professions.



Some members of the Washington D. Club; from l. to r., Richard Livingstone Oliver, Esther P. Jorolan, President, Shel William Schmidt, Renee Morel, and Sam

The first twenty years of the club's existence produced several national as well as international champions including a few Olympic fencers. The first World War interrupted the activities of the Club for a while. When the war was over, the Washington Fencers Club was revived by a group of fencers at the Racquet Club which later merged with the University Club. Foremost among these fencers were Col. J. Anthony Drexel Biddle, the Hon. Henry Breckinridge (Assistant Secretary of War to President Woodrow Wilson), his brother, Dr. Scott D. Breckinridge, General Francis W. Honeycutt, Mr. Brooks Parker, Col. Harold M. Haymer, Dr. Frank S. Rigueimer, and Dr. J. T. Russell.

The first fencing master of the WFC was Maitre D'Armes Francois J. Darrieulat who taught at the Club from 1896 to 1914. Some of his pupils were President Theodore Roosevelt, General Leonard Wood, the Russian Prince Paul Troubetzkoy (a famous sculptor) and his brother, Prince Pierre Troubetzkoy (a famous artist), and Count Cassini who was the Russian Ambassador to Washington and the first president of the Washington Fencers Club. Prof. Darrieulat was followed by Fencing Master Jack W. Dimond, who later went to West Point; then by Lt. Clovis Deladrier, also to be fencing master at the Naval Academy (1927-1948). His son, Andre Deladrier took over as fencing instructor in 1950 before Prof. Nicholas Toth came in the latter part of the year. At present Mr. Steve Bujnovsky is professional coach of the Club.

The Washington Fencers Club has been active in promoting the sport of fencing all through the 75 years since its founding. It

had met in several places around - the Armory, the University Club, the Club, Pierce Hall, Western High MacFarland Jr. High, and Roosevelt School (since 1937) and Yorkto School, As has been mentioned by membership list is quite impressive cludes (beside those already n Miguel de Capriles former F.I.E. Norman C. Armitage, ten times saber champion; Gustave Heiss, f National epee champion; Gen. Ur Martino, National saber champion, others. Most of the above mentio Olympians.

How do the members of the Club from decade to decade? I can answer that since I can only speak last one. But I can say the WF active in promoting the sport. The may be more casual in this modern the enjoyment of the sport is still

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AN EDITORIAL NOTE TO OUR READERS

by Ralph M. Goldstein

The mailing date of our November-December issue was November 30th. The magazine was printed and ready for mailing before the end of November. Bill Latzko, AFLA Secretary, advises us that due to technical problems with list maintenance the mailing has been delayed for almost two months. This is shocking and inexcusable! Steps will be taken to see that this does not happen again.

With reference to the notice of proposed dues changes, while we recognize the current inflationary pressures on the League, we feel that it is misleading to single out the cost of a 32 page issue of American Fencing magazine to justify the proposed increase. We have had a number of such issues in the past with no undue strain on the League's finances. This magazine is a vital means of communication in the AFLA and, for many fencers, their only contact with the affairs of the League. It is truly independent of the administration and the only form where the common fencer may be heard by the entire membership. We aim to keep it that way.

SOUTH JERSEY

by John Lillback

Flora Basco, new secretary-treasurer, announces the 1971-72 season membership at 94. As a means of encouraging new fencer participation, particularly from the burgeoning county colleges, it was decided to hold more prep, novice and unclassified meets, on a non-electrical basis. It was felt that the initial cost of electrical equipment would deter the beginning fencers from entering the needed bouts and qualifying competitions.

From the proceeds realized from its sponsorship of the North Atlantics, the division will purchase new scoring equipment for use at its meets.

Prep Foil: 1. Augustin de la Llave, MC; 2. Dave Howell, RVF; 3. Bruce Gerstein, MC.

Women's Prep: 1. Patricia Cole, JCC; 2. Nelda Seidel, CCC; 3. Liz Pflaume, RVF.

Open Foil: 1. Jeff Shkoluk, BT; 2. Bill Olivero, CCC; 3. John Myrden.

Women's Open: 1. Patricia Cole, JCC; 2. Ilona Maskol, HRC; 3. Francine Reader, RVF.

Open Sabre: 1. John Myrden, CCC; 2. Augustin de la Llave, MC; 3. Edward Majtenyi, HRC.

Special Meeting of the Members of AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA INC.

by William J. Latzko, Secretary

A Special Meeting of the League has been called for April 13, 1972 at the New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York, N. Y. at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of this meeting is to consider and vote upon changes to the By-Laws, some of which were published in the last issue of American Fencing, and the balance of which are set forth below. If you cannot attend in person, please fill out the proxy below, stating how it is to be voted. Remember that you must have paid your dues on or before February 1st and have attained your 21st birthday to be eligible to vote. If you do not wish to destroy your magazine or need additional proxy forms, write to the League's Secretary, 33-62nd Street, West New York, N. J. 07093.

C. Dues Structure Change

It is proposed to amend the By-Laws (Article V, Section 1) to provide for an increase in the annual and triennial (prepaid) dues of active, collegiate, associate and student members. The increases are made necessary because of the higher cost experienced by the League and the expanded scope of its activities. Further, it is expected that increased revenue will make possible (1) the hiring of professional staff (executive director) so as to facilitate greater and speedier membership service, (2) the continuation of 28 and 32 page issues of American Fencing which have met with such general approval, (3) the implementation of development programs designed to make fencing a national high school and junior college sport, and (4) the partial funding of our fencers to world, junior world and similar competitions.

The specific changes are:

1. Amend Article V, Section 1 to read as follows: "Section 1. The schedule of annual dues of the Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc. shall be as follows:

Class of Membership	Annual Dues	Annual Dues Prepaid for a 3-year period
Active	\$15.00	\$35.00
Collegiate	10.00	25.00
Associate	15.00	35.00
Student	5.00	10.00"

D. Additional Membership Category

It is proposed to amend the By-Laws (Articles IV and V) to provide for a new category of membership "Club Membership". The new membership classification will be open to all organized fencing groups and will be required of all clubs seeking to be represented in individual or team competitions. The schedule of dues will be related to the nature of the club's affiliation, i. e., high school, college, non-profit organization. In addition to providing increased revenue for the League the new membership category will enable the league to maintain an accurate, current and comprehensive roster of fencing organizations in this country. The specific changes are:

1. Amend Article IV by adding thereto a new section "5" to read as follows:

"Section 5. Club Membership. Club shall be open to all organized fencing individual members as provided in Chapter 8 of the Operations Manual. No be represented in individual or team competition held under the auspices of the AFLA, it has paid the applicable annual dues retary of the Corporation."

2. Amend Article V, Section 1 by add an additional class of membership with sponding annual dues, as foll ws:

Class of Membership Club

- a. High school affiliation
- b. College affiliation
- c. Affiliation with other non-profit organization.
- d. All others

PROXY FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

The undersigned hereby appoints Alan Miles Ruben, Norman Lewis and William Latzko, or any of them, in his stead, attorneys and proxies to vote with all powers which the undersigned would possess if personally present at the Special Meeting (including all adjournments thereof) of members of the Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc. to be held on Thursday, April 13, 1972, at 7:00 P.M. in the New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York, N. Y. as follows:

2. FOR AGAINST Proposal C
(Organizational Changes)

2. FOR AGAINST Pro
(Changes in the Method of Am
By-Laws)

This proxy shall be voted as dire if no direction to the contrary is it shall be FOR Proposal C and D. PLEASE SIGN HERE (I hereby cert have attained my 21st birthday eligible to vote)

SIGNED: _____

Send Proxy to: Secretary, AFLA
33 - 62nd Street
West New York, N.



NEW FENCING BOOK

by Ró'ph Goldstein

Max Garret of the University of Illinois and Mary Heinecke of Lawrence University have written a remarkable book on fencing. A paper back of only 107 pages it is published by Allyn and Bacon as part of their series on "basic concepts of physical activity". This series on many different sports is authored by well qualified people in their field. This is certainly true of the authors of "Fencing". Max Garret's and Mary Heinecke's credentials are well known to our readers.

In the preface, the authors state that the "main purpose of this book is to introduce the novice to the complete game of fencing", and, among other objectives, to "help the inexperienced instructor" to put his thoughts and ideas into perspective.

I have fenced seriously since the age of fifteen, yet if I were to try to teach the sport now, I'd find this book of inestimable value. As Miguel DeCapriles states in the Forward; "This book is a valuable addition to the growing body of United States literature on the sport of fencing, and will help to disseminate basic knowledge of the game to all interested persons".

Send Subscriptions, change of address on Form #3

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