

merican Fencing

Volume 27
Number 4



and Oregon's pair of 1976 U.S. Junior Olympic Champions (left) Michael Marx, Foil Champ, and brother Robert Marx, Epee Champ. The brothers, coached by Maitre d'Armes Yves Auriol, made a 1 sweep at the Junior Olympics in Michigan, and will be going to Poznan, Poland, to represent J.S. in the World Junior Fencing Championships.

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AMERICAN FENCING

Volume 27

Number 4

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League of America, Inc.

Official Organ of the
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JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969

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DEADLINE FOR 1976 ISSUES

Issue Date	Closing Date for Copy	Mailing Date
May/June	April 10	May 31
July/August	June 10	July 31
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EDITORIAL

For us, and we suspect for a great many members of the AFLA, fencing is more than just a sport, it's a way of life. Fencing coaches do more than merely teach the techniques and tactics of fencing. They set examples and role models which, consciously or not, are often followed by their students. In our opinion this should include respect for the rules and the officials of the sport, as well as good sportsmanship. That is, to win graciously and lose gracefully.

In intercollegiate fencing there are no tie matches. Every encounter has a winner and a loser. In a recent dual meet, the coach of one of the teams had the bad manners to withdraw his team because he disagreed with the judgement decision of an official directing an epee bout. The fact that his team had already lost the match might have influenced his action.

As uninvolved bystanders, we were appalled that an experienced coach would set such a bad example for the youngsters on his team. We could appreciate the frustration caused by losing a point or a bout as the result of an allegedly bad call, but can this be an excuse for such bad manners? Shouldn't we learn to accept bad breaks as we are willing to accept the good breaks? Isn't that what life is all about?



AFLA NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dan Lyons, has reported the nomination of the following for national office for the August 1, 1976-July 31, 1978 term:

President: Irwin Bernstein

Executive Vice-President: William Goering

Vice-President: Mary Huddleson

Vice-President: Manny Forrest

Secretary: Eleanor Turney

Treasurer: Howard Goodman

Additional nominations may be made by petition received by the Secretary of the AFLA no later than May 1, 1976, under the provisions of the AFLA By-Laws, Article XI.

AMERICAN FENCING

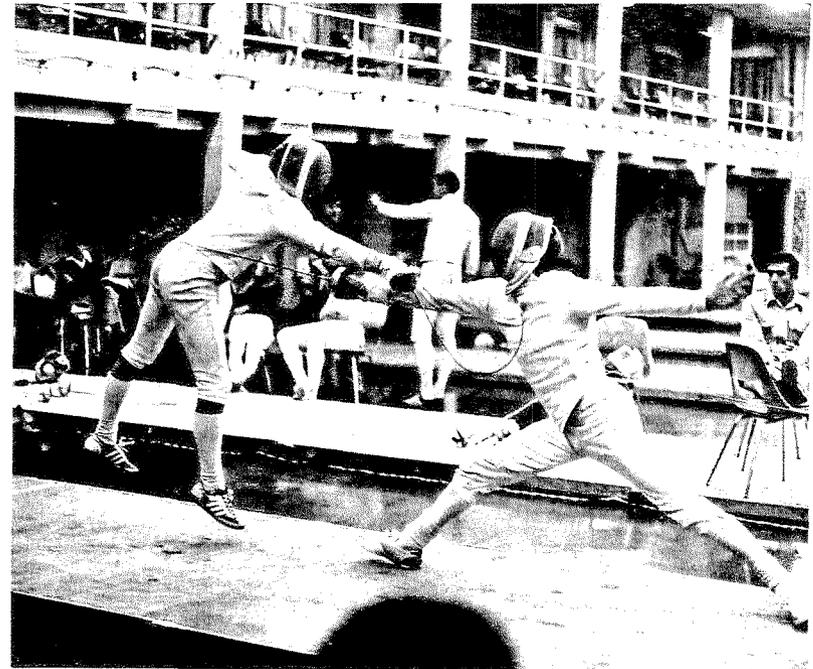


photo by I

Risto Hurme of Finland (left) plants a stop thrust that almost doubles up against Jim Fox : Modern Pentathlon Open in San Antonio, Texas.

PENTATHLON OPEN

by George Nelson

The Thirteenth Annual U.S. Modern Pentathlon Open Fencing Tournament was held January 31-February 1 at the Road Runner Recreation Center, Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. This year, reflecting the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center emphasis on epee, the events were limited to epee and women's foil, the result was a larger and stronger epee field and a first class women's foil competition. There were 89 entries in epee, the largest number in the tournament's history, and 24 entries in women's foil. Contestants appeared from Australia, Brazil, Finland, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, and the USA, including fencers from northern and southern California, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Louisiana, New York, Oregon, Michigan, and Texas. Follow-

ing the first two rounds of the epee, persons participated in a direct elimir "constellation round" which was wc Greg Losey, USMPTC. The large numt high calibre fencers plus the interna character certainly make the Penta Open one of the best events of its ki the country.

RESULTS

Epee: 1. Risto Hurme, Finland; 2. V Johnson, LAMC; 3. Robert Beck, Antonio; 4. Jim Fox, Great Britai John Fitzgerald, USMPTC; 6. / Cramer, Brazil.

Women's Foil: 1. Lourdes Schlettwein, ico; 2. Stacy Johnson, San Jose; 3 ginia Bleamaster, Los Angeles; 4. B Estrada, Mexico; 5. Mahvash Shafa Angeles; 6. Lois Goldthwaite, Ft. V

AMERICAN FENCING

Page

From The President

by Steve Sobel



With extreme reluctance I was required to notify the AFLA Nominating Committee that I would not be a candidate for reelection to the office of AFLA President. Anticipating that I would not have the necessary time available to properly perform the duties and assume the responsibilities, but realizing that there are still many important problems to be solved and I would desire to continue working for the development of fencing in the United States, and the promotion of amateur sports in a free society, I indicated that although I could not be a candidate for President, I would be available to help in any way that would be acceptable to the next Presidential nominee. This approach which may be unprecedented raises three very interesting issues worthy of consideration: The value of precedent; the relativity of important; and the intangible rewards of amateurism and volunteering.

Precedent is defined in Webster's dictionary as "something said or done that may serve to authorize or justify further words or acts of the same or similar kind". The key word, of course, is **may** since it is clear that to derive the full meaning and significance of any historical fact it is not enough to know what has occurred and then blindly adhere to it, but a value judgment is required. Thus, I have broken other established precedents when I thought necessity and desirability dictated a better alternative policy. **First**, was my announcement prior to election that I would not be a candidate for Captain of the Pan Am or Olympic Team. **Second**, was my announcement to the AFLA Board of Directors immediately after the election that no member of the Olympic Sports Selection Committee would be eligible for appointment to any position selected by the Committee. **Both** of these new policies establish basic and fundamental principles which now distinguishes fencing from many other amateur sports.

The primary duty of sports administrators is to serve the best interests of the athletes and no self-interest should ever conflict with that primary objective. The appointment of international team officials must be based solely on merit and ability, and not as a reward for services rendered. The time demands are such that a team captain, manager, coach, or armorer must not have other important obligations which could interfere with the performance of the required duties of the position.

"Importance" is a relative term subject to no precise definition. For example, in the middle of the winter 50° is **hot**; in the middle of the summer 50° is **cold**. It is common knowledge that hot and cold are antonyms and yet the same factual condition can be accurately described by opposite words under different circumstances. The same is true of important. One problem may be minor at one time, but important at another. Again, similar to precedent, a **value judgment** is required for effective action classifying which problems are important and therefore require urgent attention. Four years ago, the problems which were **important** at that time are no longer significant now either because they were solved or because others have superseded them. In 1972 the **important issues** were fencers were not receiving their **American Fencing Magazine** regularly, there was a lack of communication between AFLA members and the national officers, and there was need for better representation of distant divisions at Board meetings. Today — these are all taken for granted and not even discussed. Computer records were immediately updated by AFLA Secretary Irwin Bernstein; the magazine is mailed regularly to the current list; and all correspondence is answered immediately. When a complete reply to an inquiry is not possible, an acknowledgement postcard is sent explaining this, and when an answer can be antici-

pated. The AFLA Board of Directors meets regularly at the National's and AFLA Junior Olympic Championships, with announced agendas in detail one month prior to the meeting, providing opportunities for divisions which cannot send representatives to express their opinions prior to the meeting for consideration by the Board. Controversial issues are routinely referred to a mail vote. Now that these "routine" matters are no longer of any real significance, other issues have become important, and even critical. There is the basic problem of money. Fortunately, the AFLA is not bankrupt or even on the brink of bankruptcy; however, in broad terms it might be said that the AFLA has the resources to **exist**, but not **prosper**. At the international level, there is inadequate funding for training, development, and competition. At the grass roots level there are no funds for **paid** full time personnel to work at **development**, increase of membership, and publicity. As a result of the economy many schools and clubs do not have professional coaching, and as a result fencing as a sport has been dropped in many schools, deemphasized in others. A serious survival problem faces all amateur sports now, and the next AFLA Administration will be required to devote its best efforts immediately to this issue.

The reason why we fence, and the justification for all the time, effort and money devoted to fencing and amateur sports are apparent when the intangible rewards of amateurism and volunteering are understood and appreciated. Just from **participation** in an individual amateur sport, an athlete will be in better condition than a non-athlete, and the experience and education derived from competition cannot be obtained in a classroom or a textbook. All this has been discussed in more detail in prior issues of **American Fencing**. These **intangible** rewards are not gifts — they must be **purchased** by the individual's investment of time and energy. Physical conditioning is time consuming, sometimes a drudgery, and even painful in terms of sore muscles and minor injuries. Before the success of a gold medal can be enjoyed, the

disappointment and discouragement felt, elimination, or near misses will

For some, the purchase price will be more than for others, but for all, there is a lesson to be learned, and an education derived. The primary advantage of fencing over other sports is that it is a life sport. It can be enjoyed as a member of a college team, a member of an Olympic team, or even just as a member of a fencing club. Participation can be enjoyed every day, or once a week, depending on the individual's desires, goals, and value system. An important thing is that regardless of the degree of material success (how many medals are won) participation has its own intangible rewards.

There are also intangible rewards derived by volunteering to officiate, to work for the local AFLA Division, and work for the promotion of fencing. Similar to competition, these rewards are not gifts; they are purchased and the purchase price is very high. First, the person who volunteers is subject to criticism by those who disagree with the decisions. Many times this is extremely unfortunate, some people are incapable of distinguishing between disagreements in decision, which are subject to review through our democratic system, and basic personality conflicts which result in loss of friendships. However, volunteers do not often win popularity contests, and what is most important is the complaints of a few do not discourage the efforts of the many devoted volunteers in our sport. The intangible rewards of participation for a job well done, promotion of fencing for the many participants, and the educational benefits derived from all the benefits, the educational value of working with people for the achievement of a common goal, and the many new friendships which are acquired, are ample justifications for the expenditure of time and effort.

As a result of **your** participation in volunteer efforts, fencing will be more interesting, and you will be too.

RULES BOOK SUPPLEMENT

The AFLA is publishing a 1976 supplement to the 1974 Rules Book. The supplement will contain changes in international rules as of the May 1975 FIE Congress plus amendments to the AFLA By-Laws and Operations Manual as of February 1976. The expected publication date is Spring 1976.

The following plan will be employed for free distribution:

1. All current AFLA members will automatically receive one supplement through a bulk mailing using the magazine mailing list.
2. Individual and organizations who previously purchased rules books in bulk may request an equal number of supplements.
3. All rules book orders filled after the supplements are available will be accompanied by a supplement unless the order specifies that none is required.

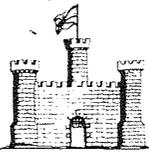
This project should extend the useful life of the 1974 rules book while bringing all of our fencers up to date on the latest rules and procedures. It should be clearly understood that the supplement alone will not provide all the information that each fencer needs; any fencer not owning a 1974 rules book should purchase one.

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SELECTING AN OLYMPIC TEAM

by Raymond W. Miller

As the ninety-six members of the four Olympic Squads hustle about the land, completing four years of competition for that precious final year's harvest of points guaranteed not to ripen and fall off the total before the Montreal Games, I am reminded of the simple days of long ago when A.F.L.A. President Graemme M. Hammond was questioned at the annual meeting about the selection of the team going to Stockholm.

"Before opening the business of the meeting, Dr. Hammond made a full statement concerning the Olympic Fencing Team: He said that the Olympic Committee is vested with full power over all Athletics and the selection of Teams, and that he was appointed a committee of one by the Olympic Committee to select a team of Fencers. Upon being questioned by Mr. Roebbelen and others, Dr. Hammond said that neither the League nor its officers nor any other Organizations were parties in interest in the selection of the Team: that he alone was the responsible person representing the Olympic Committee. If he had made mistakes they were his own mistakes and if the Olympic Committee had exceeded its powers it was a matter of their own concern and not his. He stated doubtless a Team composed of different personnel might have been chosen and might have been a better Team than the present one: that was a matter of opinion: but with the assistance and advice of others in whom he had confidence, he had selected the team as it stood, and he believed it was as good a team as possible to get under the circumstances."

And that was that!

(Quoted from the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Amateur Fencers League of America, held at the Fencers Club, 2 W. 45th St., Wednesday evening, May 22, 1912.)

NEW COLUMNIST

American Fencing will soon be featuring a new column of interest to our readers. The author will be a well known fencing personality.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AFLA

by Irwin Bernstein

A special meeting of the AFLA, Inc. was held in Troy, Michigan, on February 14, 1976 at the site of the AFLA National Junior Olympic Championships.

President Sobel called the meeting to order at 1:16 pm. There were 15 members present plus 25 others represented by proxies held by the Secretary.

The only item of business on the agenda was the emending of the By-Laws as published in the November-December 1975 issue of AMERICAN FENCING.

1. Changing the procedure for contested national elections by moving the deadline for return of ballots from June 1 to June 10 and providing for the opening and counting of ballots on the first day of the Nationals rather than at the Annual Meeting.

Article XI, section 5(b) changed to June 10-PASSED 40-0

Article XI, section 5(c) changed to first day of Nationals-PASSED 40-0

2. Raising the fee for Life membership from \$150. to \$200. with the Division and Section shares remaining \$65. and \$10. respectively.

Article V, section 4 changed to \$200. with \$75. paid over to Division and Section. — PASSED 37-3

It was voted that the new fee is effective Aug. 1, 1976. Current members may still take advantage of the \$150. rate until then.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.

QUICKIE QUIZ

Under what circumstances may a fencer withdraw from a competition? (See Article 52, page 28 of the 1974 Rules Book.)

FENCING CLINICS

Fencers and coaches may attend camps and clinics this summer at the Manhattanville College's Westchester campus, at Fairleigh Dickinson in Madison, New Jersey, and at West Point. Interested parties should contact A. John Geraci, 279 East Northfield Road, Livingston, New Jersey 07039.

BOOK REVIEW

by Ralph M. Goldstein

WINNING FENCING: By Marvin Nelson. Regnery Co. Chicago, Ill. 189 pp. \$8.95 hard \$4.95 paperback.

Don't let the picture on the cover fool you. Marvin Nelson's background and experience in our sport are apparent. I have written a thorough and well researched book on foil fencing with supplementary sections on epee and sabre which should be helpful to the beginner.

Professor Nelson states "I recall that beginners take fencing lessons 'make certain that you are being taught by a qualified instructor. However, live in an area where there is no instructor, you will have to rely on a

From my own experience I must admit and I wish that I'd had this fine book I started to fence many years ago. All when he goes into specific detail the becomes highly technical, I must say quite accurate. The photos throughout illustrate the points to be made, but traditionalist, I'd have preferred that the models wore a mask. Those without masks look too static and obvious is anything but that. I am pleased that the appendixes include among interesting items a technical vocabulary glossary of fencing terms, an excellent bibliography, a list of suppliers, and an

This book should prove a valuable addition to the fencer's library.

DIRECTOR EXAM FEE

Candidates for Class 2 and Class 3 directors must now pay an examination fee of \$5.00. The fee should accompany application for the exam.



NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

by Irwin Bernstein

The New Jersey Division originated an Officials' Classification System in 1968. The purpose of this system was to recognize the working officials who qualify for increasing status and responsibility, leading to promotion to sectional and national ratings.

This description of the system is intended as a guide to other divisions who will undoubtedly have to adjust it for local conditions.

1. **COMMITTEE COMPOSITION** The committee consisted of about six "senior" officials (holding at least a "2" in one weapon) appointed by the division Executive Committee at the first meeting of the season.

2. **REPORTING** At each New Jersey event all division members who direct a full pool or more were rated by the Meet Manager (if qualified) or else by a senior official present. The ratings will be E (excellent), G (good), N (not rated), F (fair), P (poor). A combination (such as E/G) was used in marginal cases. The results were kept confidential and mailed directly to the Chairman of the Officials Committee for posting. To facilitate this reporting, a standard form was sent to each meet manager along with the list of entries.

3. **CLASS 1** At least once each year, the Officials Committee screened a list of all unclassified officials who had worked in four or more events in a weapon over the previous 2 seasons and who had averaged a plus rating (E and G were plus, N and F/G were 0, and P and F were minus). All candidates on this list earned Class 1 designation unless 2/3 of the committee voted NO. A Class 1 official may direct in all division events except for the semi-finals and finals of major events.

4. **CLASS 1A** At least once a year the Officials' Committee reviewed all Class 1 directors to determine whether to promote them to Class 1A. In addition to a summary of ratings received during the most recent

season, there was a formal observation report completed by a member of the Officials' Committee. Promotion required a plus average in the ratings of meets worked, a positive recommendation from the observer and a 2/3 YES vote by the committee. Any member of the committee could request reconsideration of a candidate who was rejected because of the observation; in which case an additional observation was called for. Where the committee failed to observe an active official, the observation report could be waived. A Class 1A official may direct in all division events without limitation.

5. **CLASS 2** Each year, prior to April, the Officials' Committee screened all 1A officials to recommend candidates for examination at the sectional championships for Class 2 rating. The procedure to be followed was the same as that for promotion to Class 1A except that the committee's authority extended only to making a recommendation for test eligibility. A Class 2 official may direct the finals of the sectional championships.

6. **CLASS 3** The committee had no role in the awarding of Class 3. A Class 3 official may direct the finals of the nationals.

7. **LOSS OF RATING** A Class 1 or 1A official whose performance in 3 or more events was minus or who failed to work at meets when assigned was reeived by the committee. A 2/3 vote removed or reduced the rank.

8. **PUBLICATION** All changes in classification were published in the Jersey Fencer and given to the NJ Bout Committee for use by meet managers (except that reductions did not appear in the Jersey Fencer). All current classifications were printed in the annual division schedule and submitted to American Fencing magazine.

9. **NON-AFLA EVENTS** The committee welcomed the comments of High School and College coaches about New Jersey officials working at dual meets although these assignments did not count in compiling ratings.

10. **UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIALS** Interested fencers were encouraged to volunteer their services by contacting the Bout Committee Chairman or by just coming to the meets and reporting to the meet manager. Meet managers tried to use such officials to whatever extent practical especially in minor events and early rounds of major events.

The above system worked successfully in New Jersey for several years, although compliance was certainly not perfect. We believe it demonstrates several worthwhile concepts that should be employed by other divisions even though their local situations will require modifications of the procedural detail.

RULES BOOKS

Do you know the seven duties of a director? All this and a lot more can be found in the AFLA Rules Book, available from Irwin Bernstein, AFLA National Secretary, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

CHERRY BLOSSOM OPEN

by Esther P. Jorolan

The Washington Division of the AFLA announces the Fourth Annual Cherry Blossom Open to be held on Saturday and Sunday April 24 and 25, 1976 at the University Armory of the University of Maryland College Park, Md. Checks (made payable Washington Division, AFLA) covering registration fee of \$2.00 plus entry fee of \$5 per weapon along with weapon classification should be sent to Mr. Wallace Oliver, 112 Chestnut Grove Sq., #239, Reston, Virginia 22090. Telephone: 703/471-1346. Entry must be postmarked not later than April 10, 1976. Anyone needing housing arrangements may contact Capt. Caroline Brodsky 312 Mississippi Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Telephone: 301/589-2950. Schedule of events is as follows:

Saturday, April 24

Foil Check-In Time 8:30 a

Sabre Check-In Time 10:30 a

Sunday, April 25

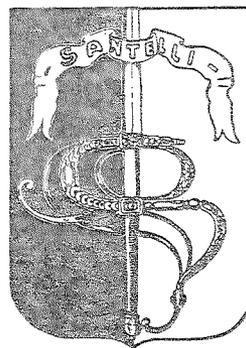
Epee Check-In Time 8:30 a

Women's

Foil Check-In Time 10:30 a

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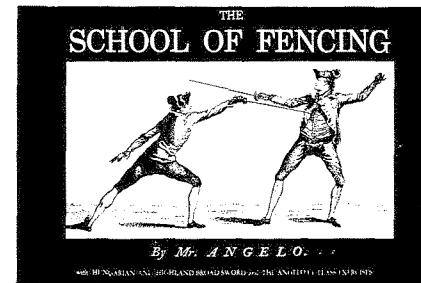
INFRACTIONS AND THEIR PENALTIES

- A. Loss of Ground** (1m in foil, 2m in epee and sabre)
1. Occasional crossing of lateral boundary. (43)
- B. Bout Warning — Penalty Touches**
1. Crossing lateral boundary to avoid a touch. (638)
 2. Crossing rear limit of strip (not marked on score sheet). (40)
 3. Protecting or covering valid surface with unarmed hand or arm in the course of fencing. (Foil only) (30 + Am Fencing Sept./Oct., 1975 p. 10)
 4. Corps a corps (Foil and sabre only). (641, 34)
 5. Removing mask before President decision. (641)
 6. Grasping any part of the electrical equipment with unarmed hand. (Foil and epee). (640 + Am Fencing Sept./Oct., 1975 p. 11)
- C. Bout Warning — Penalty Touch — Exclusion**
1. Improperly causing or prolonging interruptions in the bout. (639)
 2. Absence from strip after notification of on deck status. (654)
 3. Abandonment of bout during fencing. (654)
 4. Dragging points along the metallic strip. (Epee only) (316, 657)
- D. Pool Warning — Penalty Touch**
1. Nonconforming equipment on appearance on strip. (648)
 2. Nonconforming equipment not caused by fencing (plus annul last touch). (648)
 3. Intentionally causing a touch signal by placing the weapon point on any surface other than his opponent. (Epee and foil) (230, 325)
 4. Improper use of the unarmed hand (plus annul any touch made during the action, see H5 all weapons). (640 + Am Fencing Sept./Oct., 1975 p. 11)
- E. Pool Warning — Penalty Touch — Exclusion**
1. Violent action resulting from disorderly fencing. (645)
 2. Nonconforming equipment that may be due to fraud (plus annul last touch). (648)
 3. Placing uninsulated part of weapon on metallic vest (plus annul touch if scored). (648)
 4. Every offense against the disciplinary code or refusal to obey President or meet official. (657)
- F. Pool Warning — Exclusion**
1. Dishonest or incorrect fencing. (642)
 2. Seeking to favor an opponent. (643)
 3. Profiting from collusion with an opponent. (644)
 4. Brutal corps a corps. (645)
 5. Vindictive act (or even without warning). (645)
 6. Jostling opponent (annul any touch after warning). (645)
- G. Exclusion**
1. Vindictive act. (645)
 2. Nonconforming equipment arising from fraud. (648)
 3. Offense against sportmanship. (653)
 4. Absence after 2 calls for appearance at 1 minute intervals. (654)
 5. Fencer or spectator interfering with maintenance of order. (655, 656)
- H. Annul Touch Without Warning**
1. Fencer who leaves strip during fencing action. (38)
 2. Fencer who jostles opponent. (645)
 3. Touches initiated before command "Fence" or after "Halt". (32)
 4. Touches scored after time expires. (47)
 5. Touch made in action where unarmed hand rules is applied. (See D4)
 6. When fencer places uninsulated part of weapon in contact with metallic vest. (See B6)

2 UNUSUAL BOOK BUYS

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Technical Talks

by
Joseph Byrnes



As faithful readers of these columns know, I collect the materials that go into them from my experiences attending competitions. There is grist for my particular mill at almost every competition, as it happens, but I find that the big high school meets somehow tend to produce the best stuff. (Our New Jersey high school meets are something else — for size, at least. I noted last year, by figures in *L'Esprime Francaise*, that we had had more teenagers entered in a one-day meet one December in Jersey than there had been entries in any weapon in the senior World Championships that year. As to the level of fencing and amenities provided, deponent saith not; but as for equipment troubles, aha!

Oddly enough, some problems seem to have a cyclic occurrence, or peaks of popularity, if you want to think of it that way. So far this year, the loosened cylinder at the end of the blade seems to be the "in" thing with the younger set — with all the attendant off-targets in foil and erratic performance in epee. This problem happens to old-timers too, and some of them haven't caught on to the symptoms, any more than the beginners have. The clue, besides the off-targets, is usually a sort of hard-to-locate feeling that something is loose; it conveys itself to your sword hand (if it's at all sensitive) as a kind of vibration. Once you have learned to connect the two, you should be able to catch that trouble as it starts. The cylinder has to be re-tightened — very carefully and slowly, lest you strip the wire(s) inside. If you do so, forget that blade, except as a subject for a rewiring job. Even if you are careful, you may still abrade the insulation; that's the difficulty of the operation. However, the tightening has to be done, since you cannot fence with the thing loose and shaking around.

Those with a liking for tales of detection on the strip may find this case amusing,

not to mention informative. At a foil competition, in the first round, a few bouts had already been fenced on the strip when fencers X and Y hooked up for the next bout (the first for each in the pool). During the testing X cannot get a valid signal on Y's lame jacket. In the previous bouts all the fixed equipment had worked OK for all the other fencers. The director, who knows something about the electrical equipment, first looked to be sure that X's point was not covered by dirt, or tape, or any sort of stuff that could prevent the flow of electrical current. That done, he then had X depress his point against various parts of Y's electrical jacket and then on the clip of the body cord, and successively on the A socket or connector at the end of the reel, at the end of the floor cable, and on the scoring machine itself. Off targets all the way.

The director thought he had the answer. "Has your body cord just been repaired?" he asked X. "Yes," said X. "Change body cord," ordered the director. After X went through the contortions usual in these cases, to put on a brand-new factory-fresh body cord, the director ordered new tests. Same result as before: nothing but off-targets.

Now the director could have been right; in fact, the probabilities were with him. A home-repaired foil body cord in which the B and C lines are interchanged will give you nothing but off-targets everywhere with every foil. This particular boo-boo doesn't show up too often, but when it does it can sure shake people up and hold up the action while the source of the trouble is being sought.

The director's self-assurance was taken down a peg, of course, and he had to summon help. What could he have done to eliminate other possibilities, and what, for Pete's sake, was wrong with X's equipment? The easiest extra check, once the off-targets had seemingly been traced all the way back into the machine (which had been working OK just a moment ago, remember), would have been to substitute another foil, or more than one, and see if the results

were the same. Off-targets from more than one foil would make the body cord highly suspicious indeed.

As it happened, this very positive director, not to mention fencer X, was the victim of a kind of freak breakdown. This was only the fourth time I've seen it happen in all the years I've been watching electrical fencing equipment. The fact that two of those four happened within fifteen minutes of each other, to fencers from different divisions at a sectional championship, can be put down to the malign influence of a wicked genie. What was this freak breakdown? The foil point core had cracked, without coming apart, creating either no continuity or a high resistance between the rear of the point where the spring encounters it and the tip of the point that encounters the opponent's jacket. Therefore no current flow; therefore no valid signals. Q.E.D.

The moral of this cautionary tale? Be not puffed up; and be prepared for anything.

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SAM RUBINSTEIN

Sam Rubinstein has passed away at the age of fifty three.

An all around athlete, Sam played varsity basketball at Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, was an Air Force light heavy-weight champion in the Southeast area, and fenced on the championship teams of N.Y.U. during the 1946 thru 1950 seasons.

An outstanding competitor, it seemed that Sam was always being called upon to fence the last bout of a match with the team score tied at 13-13. No one remembers his ever losing such a bout. Typical of his career was his last competitive bout for N.Y.U. It took place at the 1950 I.F.A. championship. After 105 bouts in all three weapons, N.Y.U. and the Naval Academy were tied for the championship coming in to the last three sabre bouts. Sam's brother Dan won the first bout and Sam overpowered his opponent to give N.Y.U. its crown. He was carried off on the shoulders of his teammates.

Even more than for his fencing prowess, Sam was known for his warmth, his engaging personality, and for his genuine concern for others. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know him, feel keenly the loss of a true friend.

He is survived by his wife Ricki, daughters Erica and Debbie, and son Michael.

His family advises that contributions in his name to the U.S. Olympic Fencing Committee would be most gratefully appreciated.

WASHINGTON FENCERS CLUB CHRISTMAS OPEN

by Esther P. Jorolan

The fourteenth annual Christmas Open held by the Washington Fencers Club on December 13 and 14, 1975 at the Cole Fieldhouse of the University of Maryland at College Park, Md. attracted ninety fencers which included nationally ranked fencers such as Scott Bozek (1975 National Epee Champion), Bert Freeman (1972 National Foil Champion and member of the 1972 Olympic team), Bruce Lyons (1975 Martini-Rossi International Epee Champion), Edward Donofrio and Jeffrey Kestler (ranked third and sixth in foil, respectively), and Vicki Smith (member of the 1968 Olympic team). The five events which included a Mixed three-weapon competition saw Bruce Lyons and Kenneth Poyd successfully defend their titles in epee and Mixed three-weapon, respectively. Both fencers retired their respective trophies after winning two years in a row. Following are the results of the tournament:

Foil: 1. Donofrio, USMC; 2. Varsanyi, USNA; 3. Freeman, USMC; 4. Kestler, NYAC.

Epee: 1. Lyons, DCFC; 2. Bozek, TCFC; 3. Oliver, S.D.; 4. Booker, USNA.

Sabre: 1. Spector, WFC; 2. Von Ahn, USNA; 3. Pinkus, WFC; 4. Jenkins, USNA.

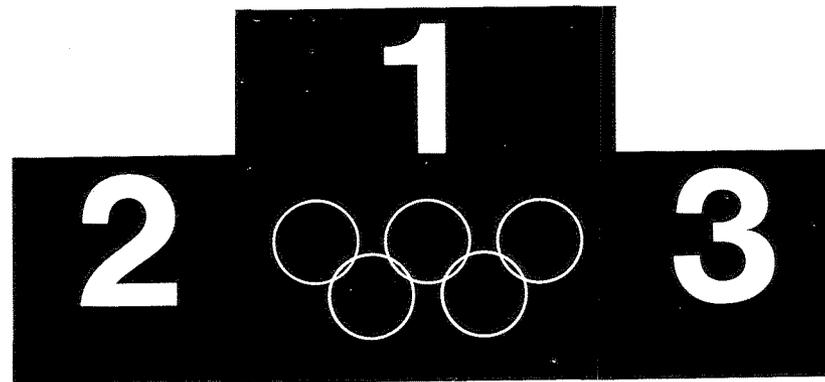
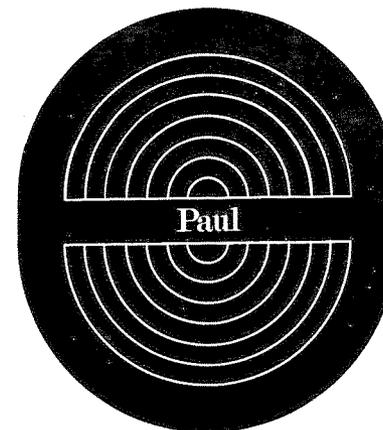
Women's Foil: 1. Moriates, Unatt.; 2. Smith, S.D.; 3. Goldthwaite, FCCS; 4. Burke, SHL.

Mixed Three-Weapon: 1. Poyd, U. Md.; 2. Kan, S.D.; 3. Spector, WFC; 4. Goldthwaite, FCCS.

The tournament was highlighted with an enjoyable and entertaining dinner party and floor show at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. Saturday night.

CORRECTION

Readers are advised that because of a printing error, the figures of paragraph 3 of the Official Report by Anthony J. Keane on page 6 of our last issue are incorrect. The paragraph should read: "Anaerobic training through interval sprints. The squad was gradually brought up to a set of 20, 220 yard, 38 second dashes with 30 seconds of rest".



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Letters to the Editor

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

I have recently learned of the tragic death of my good friend Michel Alaux, and I am deeply shocked.

Michel was a very fine fencing master and I had a great respect for his ability, I am sure that American fencing will feel the loss of his teaching.

During my visits to the States Michel always offered me the hand of friendship, hospitality, and the freedom of his salle.

Michel possessed that rare quality of charm and personality and was a credit to his profession. I have just finished reading his book "Modern Fencing" which is a fine and fitting monument to a worthy, sincere, and dedicated fencing coach. I am also the fortunate possessor of a full length film of Michel giving a foil lesson to one of his top pupils which I constantly show to fencing schools throughout Great Britain.

I can pay no higher tribute to Michel Alaux than to say that it was a privilege to have known him and count him among my friends, and I personally regard him as one of the top Fencing Masters of those I have known and met throughout the world.

Sincerely
Prof. Steve Boston
London, England

The Editor
American Fencing
Mr. Goldstein,

I have just received my November-December issue of American Fencing, and I am about to finish the two articles concerning the correct approach to proper training for Olympic Fencing competition. The first is an article by an experienced doctor involved in the study of the Human body's ability to perform under certain at times, straining conditions. The second was written by the President of the AFLA and Chairman of the Olympic Fencing Sports committee, who definitely knows what is

going on as far as fencing in the World Fencing Community. Both expressed their views (strong and weak points) excellently, and there was surely a parallel between both opinions. This was that the U.S. Olympic Fencing team could "profit" from a well planned Physiological & Psychological training schedule prior to the Nationals, Trials, and Olympic competitions. The large differences that I see between the two is that one deals with what is best physically and mentally for the competing fencers and the other deals with what is "practical" as for time, money and other economic situations, for not only the competing fencers (and coaches) but for the numerous other indirectly involved persons active or inactive. Right here I believe, is the main cause for our poor results in previous Olympics.

I think that the excess weight of economic problems that the competitive fencer in the United States has to deal with makes for poor conditioning and poor performance on the piste. It is well known that most of the superior teams in World fencing are composed of fencers that, from an early age, are fed a daily dose of the sport. The Russian teams, The Hungarians, the French, Italian and so on, are made up of people who eat, sleep, and think fencing. Is it a great wonder that these teams win?

This now leads up to the heart of the situation. Why should a person who is seriously fencing for either competition on the National level, in the Olympics or just going for a Maestro, have to deal with the hassles of holding a job that in no way could improve that person's fencing performance in competition? A job that could cause adverse results not only while fencing but also in that person's basic mental make-up. It all boils down to one thing, the definition and application of the word Amateur in competitive international sports. Why should a person with a natural ability (to be used in competition representative of the country he hails from) be forced to deliver pizzas 25 or 30 hours a week so he can fence for less actual time than he might work each week? I believe that this

is the "impracticality" that should be dealt with. Why couldn't a person with the ability in any given sport be allowed to teach in that field in exchange for housing or food or some kind of restitution that wouldn't be considered an actual profit, but one less mental block (for the person involved to deal with. Why should a potential Olympic champion spend his time worrying about rent and other problems and at the same time worry about losing due to lack of needed training. How can the definition of amateur (one who is involved in the sport for the love of the sport, who has not derived direct or indirect financial benefits etc.) be applied to a person who wishes to trade his abilities for the basic needs of life, in general? Who can say that this person does not do this for the love of the sport. If the Government is not going to help these people win why shouldn't these people be permitted to help themselves? Who is to say that Government direct sponsoring of a sport that will benefit the Government sometimes more than the participants is against the principles of freedom in Democracy or free Enterprise? As long as the people involved are allowed to make the choices and think for themselves in such decisions; there should be no doubt in anyone's mind. I understand that what I say goes against rules that have been standing longer than years I have lived, but I am only thinking about the future of the United States in field of international sports. It is another case of action-reaction: In this case a little loosening-up might create a tighter team.

Stuart Phillip Kaufman
San Rafael, California

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

A couple of articles in the Nov/Dec American Fencing about our dim international future and the PSAL action in New York have prompted me to write and express an opinion that I have held for over twenty years. That is, fencing is a great sport which offers thousands of non-international class fencers some recreation, fun,

escape, exercise, and competitive excitement, so why should we worry so about how our fencers fare in world tournaments?

Only a small percentage of AFLA and other fencers have serious international aspirations. Yet, a disproportionate amount of American Fencing space is devoted to articles and editorial concerns about our international efforts. Is this all there is to fencing? Yes, we have had some occasional successes around the world, but to what end and who cares outside of the establishment? The individuals involved are most certainly to be praised and encouraged to continue to develop, but year after year we produce similar talent only to find again and again, that we never quite match the Europeans.

The articles referred to earlier were essentially pessimistic but realistic. We simply do not seem to be able to compete against subsidized teams; we cannot spend adequate time in training; we cannot travel enough to get the experience against world-class fencers; and there is no real hope for a change in our situation.

But we need not throw in the towel. I disagree with those who feel that the future of American fencing is dependent upon international success. As I have said, this is a great sport and one that is being enjoyed by many thousands. Let's put our efforts and money toward broadening our base of both casual and competitive fencers, and let's start a real youth movement. It would be great to see expanded high school fencing, but, in the present economic climate, this is not realistic. I think that the clubs and divisions will have to provide free instruction and even equipment to every youngster who shows interest. Those who do well should expect to see support in American Fencing, and I don't mean just a last name in a brief summary of results printed six months after the competition. Most good athletes take up the sport: which offer them the peer and public recognition, the glamour, and even the professional opportunities, and who can blame them? In the present state of our sport we cannot hope to attract the top athletes. We can only hope that, by growing in num

ers, a superstar will emerge that can do or fencing what Olga Korbut has done for gymnastics.

Any qualified fencer can go to European competitions by paying his own way, and we should give financial support to only the very few who have the present or potential ability to fence against the good Europeans. However, we must continue to send full teams to the Olympics and Pan American Games. The money we might save should be spent on sending small clinic teams to very community that has some fencing interest. The local division can pledge a small amount of money to help with the financing and the local fencers who attend should pay a clinic fee (free to youngsters). The AFLA should underwrite the balance of the costs. Ultimately, the clinic team could include a few top Europeans who would be given full expenses to travel, give lessons, discuss officiating, and compete against the local fencers. Several rented motor homes could carry a number of teams to every part of the country. It's worth a try.

Sincerely,
Charles Simonian
Columbus, Ohio

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

Thank you for Mr. Bosco's parallel between a scientific researcher and a fencing master. I have often wondered why so little logic and science is used in the teaching of Fencing.

I agree with him that "any coach worth his salt will never accept the dictates of a national school no matter how prestigious it may be." While he suggests that such a school would tend to be politically motivated, it is a fact that all present groups are so. They fear that any open discussion will diminish their authority, in turn this could mean their loss of control of the groups. Their meetings are top secret and the membership knows nothing of the real struggles behind closed doors.

My opinion is that we need "universities" of fencing, schools of higher learning in the sort of fencing that would be directed by

individual masters rather than by a national group. In turn these masters would belong to the national group and within this group exchange ideas, innovations; they would participate in high level seminars, publish their findings . . .

There is still a ridiculous "need" for secrecy in the teaching of swordsmanship, a remnant of the cloak and dagger eras. There is this fear that some other master will in turn use "your system" to his advantage and against yours . . .

There is this unrealistic need to have champions by all means as if every human being wants to be a champion, as if this is the ultimate in being . . . this goal is often achieved by other means than pure competition.

How could it be wrong to use Fencing for recreation, therapy, mental and physical development? After all our forefathers need for swordsmanship is not ours. If they had used the average teaching of today, we would not be around to even discuss it in any way.

Is it not marvelous to see a 19 year old finally walk straight with equilibrium for the first time in her life and after 8 months of instruction? Is it not gratifying to give an outlet to the aggressive tendencies of teenagers? Is it not rewarding to be told by a psychologist that his patient, your student of 6 months now, is showing psychological improvement and a new outlook on life? . . .

The fear of making public one's teaching is compounded by the idea that one must convince others that one has the "system" not even the best one, but the "only one". Since there is a relatively scant supply of prospective students, this may seem a need for survival.

The best antidote for the above is to have enough aficionados wanting the sport so that all masters will have sufficient adherents. At this time there is an overabundance of "amateur teachers" that have a greater influence than the relatively adequate supply of masters. The fallacy of most neophytes is that to start with the "no cost" or "little cost" fencing program is fine so as to find out the potential in

one's liking. One can only be apprehensive of the modest or lack of knowledge of amateur instructors that are quick to assume and dispense an aura of authority to the unaware. Not having to -make it- financially they regard Fencing as an ego satisfying vehicle to relive their past "grandiosity" on the strip. Their paychecks come from other sources.

We are going through a transition period. There is an awakening. It is with the communication of philosophies, techniques, tactics, scientific research, that a — GUIDELINE TEACHING SYSTEM — can be devised. The master must be assured that it is only a valuable guideline, that he will be able to be himself that no one, no organization will attempt to possess him and stunt his growth within the sport. Self-determination will foster the development of his ideas and his potential as a teacher.

Unequivocally, I am for neophytes, competitors, champions, judges, directors, officials, organizations instructors, masters . . . for anyone that is competent in the area he has chosen or is willing to learn, anyone that exercises ethics and concern for others . . .

Emil Stanley St. Pellicer
St. Louis, Missouri

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

In remarking to Jim Flynn the other day that what was perhaps the recent Ray Dutcher's outstanding achievement seems to have been completely overlooked in the obituary and comments up his accomplishments Jim replied, "very true, no one has mentioned that he was the only fencing champion also to win a National Championship in another sport, club swinging."

He was right. But actually what I had in mind was the fact that he did not start fencing till he was nearly thirty years old.

Alex Solomon
New York, N.Y.

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

I just wrote to Irwin Bernstein to order some rules books and made a suggestion to him concerning a list of changes which should be sent with each book. That in turn brought to mind the following suggestion for you:

You have probably seen the annual listings of effective regulations which government agencies send out. They list the current revision numbers, effective dates, and sources of all the rules and regulations which the department or agency has to follow. With the rules of fencing changing as frequently as they seem to be doing, it is not easy to be certain that any given rule book is completely up to date, so why not do the same thing as the government does? Once a year (I would suggest the January edition or the August edition, after the end of the season) devote a page of American Fencing to a listing of the current changes to the fencing rules. The text of the changes need not be listed, but the complete reference (chapter, rule, page) should be given, and a reference to the location in past issues of American Fencing. Then if everyone would cut out the latest list of effective changes and keep it with their rules, it would be easy to know that the book is up to date.

You should also be prepared to furnish, for an appropriate fee, copies of the changes as published in the magazine. I would expect that you would begin to get requests for changes about a week after your first listing was published.

The discussion of certain rules which I asked for some time ago was finally published in American Fencing recently, but unfortunately for us, it came from the F.I.E. rather than our own people. I wonder if they'd have given us the correct answer? And thank you for your efforts in editing the magazine. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your staff a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,
Milton Bank
Pebble Beach, California

**The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,**

Here is a copy of a letter which I have sent today.

Bureau of Health & Physical Education
300 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr Tobin:

I was shocked to read the article by Al Peredo in the December issue of American Fencing that told about New York City abandoning high school fencing. The loss of PSAL fencing will undermine the efforts of this country to produce international and collegiate fencers of the finest caliber. One of the weakest areas in our sport has historically been the lack of a broad base of high school coaches who could introduce young people into the sport. The north-eastern states have lead the way in producing top notch fencers. This has been largely the result of New York's excellent PSAL program in fencing. Other cities were envious of the products of this system. Major colleges offered scholarships to most of the PSAL system's better fencers. Many of the PSAL fencers went on to become National champions, international fencers, coaches, olympians. Even the lesser known fencers carried the art of fencing with them throughout their lives — some coached high schools, others taught their children, many just remained active in the sport. Fencing remained a part of their lives long after they forgot geometry, Latin and American poetry. There is no doubt that the PSAL program has made its mark on the fencing world. It has a proud record. This Olympic year will see us once more cross blades with top fencers from other countries, many of whom were taught to fence in high schools. Fencing in some of those countries is a national sport. For us to be competitive and represent our country proudly we need the best product available. We cannot expect to train an Olympic champion without early introduction to the sport. There is more at stake here than the PSAL budget — the basic fiber of America fencing is being weakened by eliminating a source of

quality training for young people. These students are the future National Champions, All-Americans and Olympians. Eliminating fencing is a disservice to many of the high school fencers who are eligible for fencing scholarships offered annually at major universities. Most colleges with top notch fencing teams offer two scholarships — a majority of which have gone to New York high school fencers.

If the PSAL program for fencing ceases, these scholarships will be given to other fencers in other cities. You will have penalized your students twice — eliminating fencing as a physical activity, and ending the possibility of winning a scholarship to college. Be advised — fencing scholarships have sent many a student to high education who could not otherwise afford it. I know, I was such a fencer.

I appreciate your dilemma but must urge you to seek an alternative to abandoning fencing completely. Perhaps you could go to pooling instruction by regions where one coach could handle neighboring high schools — or provide equipment pools for schools — or draw electric equipment for competition — or just revert to basic foil without electric equipment until the funds improve. Give each school the chance to generate a "fencing boosters" organization to support their sport; much like most Band Booster organizations keep marching bands going in high schools across the country. Don't just drop the sport! In families across the country we hear Americans complaining about the lack of discipline in our schools. Yet you are cutting out a sport which demands discipline of its participants; one which teaches students to have self-control and a sense of fair play — a "gentleman's sport." I hope to impress upon you the a budget cut here, you are eliminating a idea that you are doing more than affecting learning experience much needed in today's schools — you are abolishing a disciplined way of life.

Given the option I am sure many fencers would buy their own beginning equipment if the sport were permitted to exist as a competitive effort. Give fencing its fair

share of allotted funds, however meager the funds may be. Permit the fencers and coaches to continue their efforts with outside help if necessary — or at reduced intensity, but let them fence. If you produce only a three man team at each high school in the league, you will still be providing the sport with 66 fencers that can be developed into potential All Americans, National Champions, and Olympians. It is imperative that the sports governing body in New York City reconsider its decision to eliminate inter-scholastic fencing from its program. It is too important a decision to be made without the interest of the sport being taken into account. There is no other area in the United States that is as important to the sport of fencing as New York City. An urgent reconsideration in favor of fencing would be a breath of life for American fencing. Your serious reconsideration is encouraged.

Sincerely,
J. Paletta
U.S.N.

(Ed. Note: Joseph Paletta is a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy and is a former U.S. Foil Champion and member of the 1960 Olympic fencing team.)

FENCING MASTER AVAILABLE

Fencing Master Jacques Piguet seeks employment. A graduate of the French Academy of Fencing, Maitre Piguet is Assistant Professor at S.U.N.Y. in Binghamton.

Interested parties may reach him at: Dept. of Physical Education, S.U.N.Y., Binghamton, N.Y., 13901, or by telephone at (607) 754-5336



ANGER

Smoking pollutes the air for everybody. Do not smoke in the fencing salle or locker room. Fencing coaches especially should set a good example of healthful practices for their students.

LA REFORMA

The AFLA has received an invitation for its members to participate in the International Fencing Competition conducted annually, and commonly known as La Reforma. It will take place in Mexico City or June 4th, 5th and 6th in the fencing Sala at Sports City, Magdalena, Mixhuca. Foil and Epee will be on Friday, June 4th, the Women's Event on Saturday, June 5th, and the Sabre Event on Sunday, June 6th. The Mexican Fencing Federation will provide rooms at no charge for competitors and officials at the Sports Center.

The Entry closing date is May 15th, and all entries must be sent along with \$5.00 registration fee and \$2.00 weapon fee to **Confederacion Deportiva Mexicana, Plaza de la Republica No. 43, 1 er piso, Mexico City Mexico.** Additional information about the competition can be obtained from our Foreign Secretary, Chaba Pallaghy, Box 336 Milford, Pennsylvania 18337.



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Fred & Dan Linkmeyer, Dan DeChaine

1976 NATIONAL FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP — SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday	1:00 to 7:00 P.M.	Weapon Testing, Foil Reception
June 24	8:00 to 11:00 P.M.	Foil Prelims
Friday	8:30 A.M.	Directors Clinic, Instructional
June 25	8:00 to 10:00 P.M.	Sabre Prelims
Saturday	8:30 A.M.	Foil, Q, S, F
June 26	3:00 P.M.	Women's Foil Prelims
Sunday	8:30 A.M.	Foil U-19
June 27	1:00 P.M.	Sabre, Q, S, F
	3:00 P.M.	Foil Team
Monday	8:30 A.M.	Sabre U-19
June 28	1:00 P.M.	Women's Foil, Q, S, F
	3:00 P.M.	Epee Prelims
Tuesday	8:30 A.M.	Sabre Team
June 29	1:00 P.M.	Women's Foil U-19
	3:00 P.M.	Women's Foil Team
Wednesday	8:30 A.M.	Epee, Q, S, F
June 30	3:00 P.M.	Epee Team
Thursday	8:30 A.M.	Olympic Committee Meeting
July 1	10:00 AM.	Director Testing
	1:00 P.M.	Board of Directors Meeting
	7:00 P.M.	Epee U-19
Friday	8:30 A.M.	Administrative Clinic
July 2	1:30 P.M.	Annual Meeting of AFLA
	4:00 to 6:00 PM.	Gala Night
	8:00 P.M.	

PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY TO NATIONALS WITHOUT COMPETING IN QUALIFYING EVENT

At its meeting in September 1974, the National Board of Directors reinterpreted the Operations Manual and established guidelines for appeals by fencers who cannot qualify through local qualifying events. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Appeals may be filed by fencers who were qualifiers (by means of competition or appeal) or alternates in the prior season and either were unable to compete in local qualifying events this season or did compete and had to withdraw because of a disabling injury or illness.

2. All appeals must be received by the National Secretary by the deadline for entry in the Nationals and must be accompanied by a \$5.00 filing fee.

3. All appeals must include specific details as to the dates, reason for absence and other pertinent facts. Any medical reasons must be substantiated by written confirmation from a doctor.

4. All appeals must be accompanied by a summary of the fencer's competitive results during the current season.

5. Appeals will be reviewed by the National Executive Committee. Decisions will be used on the validity of reasons for absence or withdrawal and the probability of the fencer having qualified through competition, based on results achieved in other events.

PRICE CORRECTION

The price of the "Book of Five Rings" by Miyamoto Musashi was incorrectly printed in the order form portion of the Castello Fencing Equipment Co. advertisement on page 13 of our last issue. The correct price is \$8.95.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLINIC AT U.S. NATIONALS

A clinic on how to administer your division will be held for the first time ever at the U.S. National Championships in Cherry Hill. The session will be held at the hotel on Friday July 2, from 1:30 pm. to 3:30 pm. (just before the annual membership meeting). All present and potential division and section officers and any other interested persons are urged to attend. Basic procedures needed to handle local administration, communication with the national office, as well as other topics will be discussed. Come and bring any questions or problems you may want to explore.

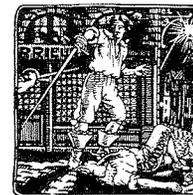
WESTBROOK STORY

The March 8 issue of Sports Illustrated featured a good two page story about Peter Westbrook, U.S. National Sabre Champion. The article discussed Peter's fencing career and his prospects in the coming Olympic Games.



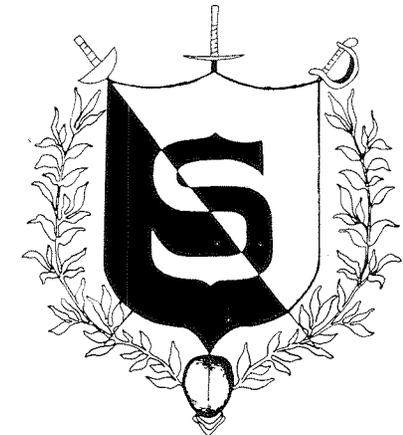
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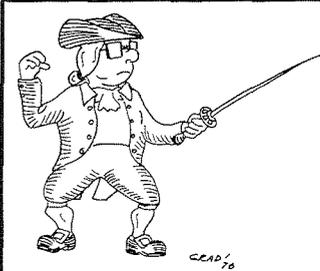


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Engarde! It's time to think about travel arrangements for the 1976 U.S. National Fencing Championships.

As a member of the AFLA, it is a special pleasure to have been appointed OFFICIAL TRAVEL COORDINATOR for the 1976 U.S. National Fencing Championships by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

In this exciting Bicentennial year, arrangements have been made to accommodate you, your family, friends at the renowned CHERRY HILL INN, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; within the shadow of the Liberty Bell, Betsey Ross's Home, Valley Forge, and many other historic sites.

HOTEL: Rates at the Cherry Hill Inn have been negotiated as follows:

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- Triple w/bath — *\$42.00 per nite

*Note: Subject to 5% New Jersey State Sales Tax.

Hotel reservations must be received prior to May 15, 1976. Any reservations are not made prior to this date cannot be guaranteed space in the hotel.

AIR: SPECIAL REDUCED AIRFARE to Philadelphia can be offered from various points, with a minimum of six weeks advance reservation.

Considerable airfare reductions can be offered where individual travelers can consolidate for Group Travel, either one-way or round trip, at various airports throughout the country. Again, at least six weeks advance reservation is required. You will be notified INDIVIDUALLY as to your particular airfare, which will be determined by your choice of travel in the application below.

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PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON CHERRY HILL INN'S "4th OF JULY WEEKEND PACKAGE PLAN", RIGHT AFTER THE NATIONALS.

SEND SPECIFIC INFORMATION (as follows:)

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ENCLOSED IS MY HOTEL DEPOSIT OF \$ (MINIMUM \$20.00)

SIGNATURE

Kindly make all checks payable to ROSENBLUTH TRAVEL TIME, INC. Mail all checks and correspondence to JOAN GUAGENTI at above address.
 Good luck to all in the finals!

CASSANDRA

by Edward F. Lucia

The Pan American Team set a splendid record at the Games and great credit should be given to the progressive policies of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Committee, the Coaches, and the Cadre, as well as the fencers. Let us not forget the DEUS EX MACHINA, President Steve Sobel.

We must now turn our attention to the Olympic Games in 1976, and THAT is a new ball game. With all due respect, the Finalists of the Pan American Games will find great difficulty in the OPENING rounds of the Olympic Fencing.

For too many years I have heard the old lament that the Europeans practice six hours a day and we are fortunate to be able to train at the Salle two nights a week.

We are spoiled. Unless we can have the "PROPER" environment, the lesson, and inter-salle competition, we are lost. This is not true. You too can work "six hours a day".

1. Put a full length mirror against the wall.
2. Purchase a two foot wide rubber runner.
3. Without a weapon, and watching your form carefully in the mirror as a ball-dancer does, practice your foot work going from simple to complex until you have to mop the perspiration from the floor.

4. Repeat, with weapon in hand, practicing all your combinations of attack and defense, watching your form and techniques.

5. Mount a target on the wall. Sabremen add a mask on the top of the target. Epeeists add a padded arm to your target.

6. Now, using all your combinations, and all your footwork, LUNGE at the target with full speed and power, watching your distance and accuracy.

7. The foilsman and the epeeist on the Olympic Squad should be capable of hitting a half inch dot on any portion of the target. The sabre man should be capable of hitting a half inch line with an immediate remise on any portion of the target. Four hours have now elapsed (?).

8. The next two hours can be spent on calisthenics, progressive weight lifting (this includes women-remember TITLE IX), Aerobics, and just plain running.

VOILA! six hours, SEVEN days a week.

What? This program will kill you? Then prepare to die in the opening rounds of the Olympic Championships, and end up as a spectator, or take your camera and see the sights!

(Ed. Note: "Cassandra"; definition in Webster's Dictionary: A person whose warnings of misfortune are disregarded.)

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITORS

When professionals enter AFLA competitions, they may earn competitive classifications and shall be seeded and ranked as if they were amateurs.

COMBAT SPORTS FACTS

Sporting goods dealers can find out useful facts about fencing equipment from the pamphlet "Combat Sports Facts" published by the National Sporting Goods Association, 717 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611, or from the Castello Combative Sports Co., 836 Broadway, New York, N.Y., 10003.

HOLIDAY MAGIC

by T. W. Stewart

The Ocala Fencing Club and Tom Stewart outdid themselves over the holidays with a new tournament that had some of the best fencing seen in the Southeast section since the Nationals were held in Miami years ago.

Women's foil and sabre had a poor showing as far as numbers were concerned, but the fencing still proved to be exciting.

In foil, Al Peters of the New York Athletic Club took first in a field of 17 entries with 3 A's and 3 C's in the finals for a Group II tournament. In Epee Al did it again although the competition was a little tough with 16 entries and a final of nine with 3 A's, 1 B, 2 C's and 3 unclassified fencers battling it out for a place.

Fencers came from distant parts of the land for the tournament with Joe Biebel driving in from Kenosha, Wisc., Al Peters from the NYAC and Hans and Lars Wieselgren from the NYU fencing team all from New York City.

Women's Foil

1. Jessie Robert, Un.;
2. Jean Hasert, FSU;
3. Michelle, Dade CC.

Sabre

1. James Campoli, U of T;
2. Newcombe, Dade CC;
3. Ron Brown, FSU.

Foil

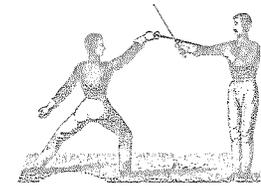
1. Al Peters, NYAC;
2. Darrell Bennett, U of F;
3. Joe Biebel, Wisc.;
4. Mark Forrest, EAL;
5. Jim Campoli, U of T;
6. Ron Brown, FSU.

Epee

1. Al Peters, NYAC;
2. Hans Wieselgren, NYU;
3. Lars Wieselgren, NYU;
4. Mark Forrest, EAL;
5. Jim Flint, N.J.;
6. Joe Biebel, Wisc.;
7. Tom Stewart, Ocala;
8. Giles Laurin, Palmetto FC;
9. Steve Whiteside, USF.

BONACORDA AT NYU

Jim Bonacorda, Assistant Coach at NYU, is now giving free fencing instruction in the recreation program for students at the university on Tuesday and Thursday at 3 pm.



"I would that I had bestow'd that tin tongues that I have in fencing, dar bear baiting"

Act I, Scene III

— Twelfth-Night

culled by Lou Si

FENCING MASTER

Boris Nahikashvili, a Professor from the U.S.S.R., is now in the States permanently and seeks employment as a fencing master at a college or university. He has been in the United States several months and hails from Tbilisi, Georgia. He is qualified to teach all three weapons. Those with opportunities for him may contact him at 395 Fort Washington Ave (3-B) New York, NY 10033.

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	Foil	Epee	Sabre
Right ER1	x	x	x
Right ER2	x	x	x
Right SR1	x	x	x
Left SL2	x	x	x

PAN AM SCORES

by Jack Keane

FOIL

Preliminary Round:

Pool A: 1. Jons, Cuba 5v; 2. Robles, Mexico 3v; 3. Obst, Canada 3v 4. Molina, Sal. 2v; **Elim:** Jackson, Jamaica 1v; Julio, Bol. 1v.

Pool B: 1. Lupiz, Arg. 4v; 2. Ballinger, U.S.A. 3v; 3. Samalot, P. Rico, 3v; 4. Wong, Can. 2v; **Elim:** Munoz, Chile, 2v; Figueroa, Guat. 1v.

Pool C: 1. Salvat, Cuba, 5v; 2. Tamayo, Col. 3v; 3. Saucedo, Arg. 3v; 4. Gomez, Brazil, 3v; **Elim:** Mungulia, Sal. 1v; Verdugez, Bol. 0v.

Pool D: 1. Calderon, Mexico, 4v; 2. Lang, U.S.A., 4v; 3. Pinto, Col. 3v; 4. Parilla, P. Rico, 2v; **Elim:** Inostroza, Chile, 2v; Flores, Guat. 0v.

Second Round:

Pool A: 1. Salvat, 3v; 2. Pinto, 2v; Obst, 1v; **Elim:** Parilla, 0v.

Pool B: 1. Jons, 3v; 2. Robles, 2v; 3. Samalot, 1v; **Elim:** Molina, 0v.

Pool C: 1. Gaucedo, 2v; 2. Ballinger, 2v; 3. Wong, 1v; **Elim:** Calderon, 1v.

Pool D: 1. Lang, 3v; 2. Tamayo, 2v; 3. Lupiz, 1v; **Elim:** Gomez, 0v.

SEMI FINAL

Pool A: 1. Lupiz, 4v; 2. Jons, 4v; 3. Ballinger, 3v; **Elim:** Pinto, 2v; Obst, 1v; Robles, 1v.

Pool B: 1. Salvat, 4v; 2. Saucedo, 3v; 3. Lang, 3v; **Elim:** Wong, 1v; Tamayo, 2v; Samalot, 1v.

FINAL: 1. Lang, 5v; 2. Jons, 4v; 3. Salvat, 3v; 4. Lupiz, 2v; 5. Saucedo, 1v; 6. Ballinger, 0v.

FOIL TEAM

First Round:

Pool A: Mexico d. P. Rico 11-5; Cuba d. P.R. 15-1; Cuba d. Mexico 9-1.

Pool B: Columbia d. Bolivia 13-3; Argentina d. Bolivia 15-1; Argentina d. Columbia 9-3.

Pool C: Canada d. Salvador 13-3; U.S.A. d. Salvador 15-1; U.S.A. d. Canada 9-3.

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DIRECT ELIMINATION:

Cuba d. Canada 9-0; U.S.A. d. Mexico 9-4.

THIRD PLACE MATCH:

Mexico d. Canada 9-6.

FINAL:

Cuba d. U.S.A. 8-4

SABRE INDIVIDUAL

Preliminary Round:

Pool A: 1. Westbrook, U.S.A., 4v; 2. Calderon, Mexico, 3v; 3. Mendez, Arg., 2v; 4. Suarez, Gua., 1v. **Elim.** Mungia, Sal. 0v.

Pool B: 1. Alva, Mexico, 4v; 2. Orban, U.S.A., 3v; 3. Lavole, Canada, 2v; 4. Verdugez, Bol. 1v; **Elim.** Guatemala, Sal. 0v.

Pool C: 1. Ortiz, Cuba, 4v; 2. Benko, Chile, 3v; 3. Urban, Canada, 2v; 4. Rengifo, Col. 1v; **Elim:** Figueroa, Guat., 0v.

Pool D: 1. Salazar, Cuba, 3v; 2. Poveda, Col. 1v; 3. Accorbi, Chile, 1v; 4. Casanova, Arg. 1v.

Second Round:

Pool A: 1. Ortiz, 3v; 2. Mendez, 2v; 3. Lavole, 1v; **Elim:** Rengifo, 0v.

Pool B: 1. Salazar, 3v; 2. Urban, 2v; 3. Benko, 1v; **Elim:** Suarez, 0v.

Pool C: 1. Westbrook, 3v; 2. Calderon, 2v; 3. Poveda, 1v; **Elim:** Verdugez, 0v.

Pool D: 1. Orban, 3v; 2. Casanova, 2v; 3. Alva, 1v; **Elim:** Accorsi, 0v.

SEMI FINALS:

Pool A: 1. Orban, 4v; 2. Salazar, 4v; 3. Mendez, 4v; **Elim:** Urban, 2v; Alva, 1v; Poveda, 0v.

Pool B: 1. Westbrook, 4v; 2. Ortiz, 3v; 3. Calderon, 3v; **Elim:** Casanova, 2v; Lavole, 2v; Benko, 0v.

FINAL:

1. Westbrook, 4v; 2. Ortiz, 4v; 3. Salazar, 4v; 4. Orban, 2v; Mendez, 1v; 6. Calderon, 0v.

Barrage:

1. Ortiz, 2v; 2. Salazar, 1v; 3. Westbrook, 0v.

SABRE TEAM

First Round:

Pool A: Argentina d. Chile 12-4; U.S.A. d. Chile 15-1; Argentina d. Col. 13-3; U.S.A. d. Col. 14-2; Chile d. Col. 9-7.

Pool B: Canada d. Mexico 10-6; Cuba d. Mexico 15-1.

Second Round:

U.S.A. d. Argentina 8-3; Cuba d. Canada 9-2.

Direct Elimination:

Cuba d. Argentina 9-1; U.S.A. d. Canada 9-1.

Third Place Match:

Argentina d. Canada 9-6.

Final:

Cuba d. U.S.A. 8-8 (65-55)

EPEE INDIVIDUAL

Preliminary Round:

Pool A: 1. Varaljay, Canada, 3v; 2. Inostroza, Chile, 3v; 3. Suarez, Cuba, 3v; 4. Calindos, Bol. 1v; **Elim:** Rey, Col. 1v.

Pool B: 1. Piran, Arg. 3v; 2. Lessard, Canada, 3v; 3. Bozek, U.S.A., 2v; 4. Hernandez, P. Rico, 2v; **Elim:** Suarez, Guat. 0v.

Pool C: 1. Cramer, Brazil, 3v; 2. Simer, Cuba, 3v; 3. Salazar, Mexico, 3v; 4. Pena, P. Rico, 1v; **Elim:** Julio, Bol. 0v.

Pool D: 1. Jimenez, Chile, 4v; 2. Bonafice, Brazil, 3v; 3. Castillejos, Mexico, 2v; 4. Aquirre, Sal., 1v; **Elim:** Jackson, Jam. 0v.

Pool E: 1. Pesthy, U.S.A., 4v; 2. Vergara, Arg., 3v; 3. Mungia, Sal., 2v; 4. Puerto, Col., 1v; **Elim:** Flores, Gua., 0v.

Second Round:

Pool A: 1. Jimenez, 4v; 2. Buonafina, 3v; 3. Varaljay, 2v; **Elim:** Mungia, 1v.

Pool B: 1. Pesthy, 4v; 2. Inostroza, 2v; 3. Salazar, 1v; **Elim:** Puerto, 1v; Hernandez, 1v.

Pool C: 1. Suarez, 4v; Vergara, 3v; 3. Cramer, 2v; **Elim:** Lessard, 1v; Guirre, 0v.

Pool D: 1. Bozek, 3v; 2. Piran, 2v; 3. Pena, 2v; **Elim:** Simer, 2v; Castillejos, 1v.

Semi Final:

Pool A: 1. Bozek, 4v; 2. Suarez, 3v; 3. Inostroza, 3v; **Elim:** Buonafina, 2v; Salazar, 1v; Piran, 1v.

Pool B: 1. Vergara, 4v; 2. Pesthy, 3v; 3. Cramer, 3v; **Elim:** Varaljay, 3v; Pena, 2v; Jimenez, 0v.

Final:

1. Bozek, 4v; 2. Vergara, 4v; 3. Pesthy, 2v; 4. Suarez, 2v; 5. Inostroza, 2v; 6. Cramer, 1v.

Barrage for Third:

Pesthy d. Suarez 5-3.

Barrage for First:

Vergara d. Bozek 5-3.

EPEE TEAM

First Place: U.S.A. d. Cuba 8-4.

Third Place: Brazil d. Chile, 9-5.

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL

Preliminary Round:

Pool A: 1. Rodriguez, Cuba, 4v; 2. Gilada, 3v; 3. Da Silva, Brazil, 2v; 4. Flo 1v; **Elim:** Rivas, Sal., 0v.

Pool B: 1. Fonst, Cuba, 4v; 2. R. Roldan, 3v; 3. Perrone, Arg., 2v; 4. Luna, **Elim:** Quiroz, Guat., 0v.

Pool C: 1. Worthington, Pam, 2v; 2. Fran 2v; 3. Bejanaro, Col., 1v; 4. Hennyey

Pool D: 1. Estrada, Mexico, 3v; 2. O'Conr 2v; 3. Barco, Col., 1v; 4. Giovanni, B

Second Round:

Pool A: 1. Franke, 3v; 2. Fonst, 2v; 3. G **Elim:** Perrone, 0v.

Pool B: 1. O'Connor, 3v; 2. Rodrigu Da Silva, 1v; **Elim:** Luna, Sal, 0v.

Pool C: 1. Estrada, 2v; 2. Hennyey, 2v; 1v; **Elim:** Worthington, 1v.

Pool D: 1. Roldan, 3v; 2. Bejanaro, 2v; 1v; **Elim:** Flores.

Semi Final:

Pool A: 1. Gilbert, 4v; 2. Estrada, 3v; 3. 3v; **Elim:** Fonst, 2v; Bejanaro, 2v; G

Pool B: 1. Hennyey, 4v; 2. Rodrigu Franke, 3v; **Elim:** Da Silva, 2v; R Barco, 0v.

Final:

1. M. Rodriguez, 4v; 2. N. Franl Estrada, 3v; 4. O'Conner, 3v; 5. Her 6. Gilbert, 1v.

WOMEN'S TEAM

Preliminary:

U.S.A. d. Columbia 14-2; Mexico d.

Semi Finals:

Cuba d. U.S.A. 9-5.

Third Place Match:

U.S.A. d. Mexico 9-7

Final:

Cuba d. Canada 9-4.

PROXY FOR ANNUAL MEETING SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

The undersigned hereby appoints William A. Goering, Irwin F. Bernstein, and F. Goodman, or any of them, in his stead attorneys and proxies to vote with a which the undersigned would possess if personally present at the Annual Meeting (all adjournments thereof) of members of the Amateur Fencers League of Ame to be held July 2, 1976, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, at the site of the National Championships.

I hereby certify that I am a member in good standing of the AFLA, Inc., as of and have attained my 18th birthday.

Signed Date

SEND PROXY TO: IRWIN F. BERNSTEIN, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey

U.S. OLYMPIC SQUAD

The unofficial U.S. Olympic squad standing after the January trials are tabulated below. Persons having points, but not enough to be in the top twenty four, are not included here. In cases where the points are tied, the rankings are also tied at the highest placing.

WOMEN	EPEE	FOIL	SABER
1. Armstrong 129.5	Bozek 122.5	Nonna 129.5	Westbrook 144
2. O'Donnell 123	Pesthy 118.5	Ballinger 125.5	Apostol 138
3. Tomlinson 122	Makler, B. 117.5	Krause 97	Orban 134.5
4. O'Connor 110.5	Reith 105.25	Hambarzumian 96	Reilly 98.5
5. D'Asaro 100.5	Johnson 95	Lang 92	Kaplan 95.25
6. McCourt 96.5	Masin 94.5	Davis 90.5	Dow 95
7. Bleamaster 82	Lyons 90	Axelrod 87.5	House 87.25
8. Mitchell 80	Cantillon 84	Freeman 83	Blum, S. 87
9. Latham 69	Greenwald 79.5	Kestler 82	Losonczy 86
10. Posthumus 62.5	Glass 76.5	Wright 81.5	Lekach 85
11. King 60	Cotton 60.5	Biebel 80.5	Gall 74
12. Smith 58.5	Matheson 60.5	Cohen 72	Goering 74
13. Orly 57.5	Borack 60	Tarascio 68.5	Glucksman 71
14. Pechinsky 51	Melcher 60	Donofrio 65	Bartos 61.5
15. Waples 51	Marin 52	Gaylor 61	Blum, R. 51
16. Steele 51	Netburn 52	Masin 45	Danosi 45
17. Walbridge 49.5	Marx 46	Bonacorda 44	Benedek 44.5
18. Grompone 46.5	Fitzgerald 38.5	Tank 43	Tishman 38
19. Johnson 46.5	Nieman 37	Ashley 35	Barcelo 30
20. Debiase 43	Siegel 37	Friedman 31.5	Majtenyi 25
21. Massiala 37.5	Christie 33.5	Marx 30	Jacobsen 23.5
22. Flynn 33	Elliott 30	Massialas 27.5	Maxwell 18.5
23. Moriates 30	Weber 30	Gelnaw 25.5	Smith 16
24. Clovis 30	Makler, T. 29.25	Grant 22	Sullivan 16

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