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DEADLINE FOR 1979 - 1980 ISSUES

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About the Cover

The cover photograph is c Moriates (right) and Nelda (left) in their barrage at the State Games. (See the article 18.) The photograph was t Larry Roth.

Editor's Notes



When I was in Cuba at the World Championships some years ago I saw one of our best young fencers go down to defeat because his arm came out in a classic stop just after his opponent started the step forward of a step forward lunge. He has been told that such stops did not get the time with European directors but under pressure he automatically used an action that had been successful in the United States.

He lost. He might have gone up if he had been accustomed to modern directing.

How do most of us learn to direct? We learn from our coaches and from other fencers. There is not now and there never has been an organized, planned program to teach us how to direct. If what we are taught is obsolete or incorrect then what we learn and do ourselves is obsolete and incorrect.

Everyone suffers from the lack of a large pool of trained directors from all over the country. If you are used to modern directing you suffer when you have an old style director. If you are used to old style directing you suffer when you have a director who directs in accordance with the latest trend.

It is imperative that we standardize directing throughout the country and this standardization must conform to modern European directing. I have never been one to grovel to the Europeans but let us face a few facts.

We are not talking about right and wrong — there is no morally correct way to call the time. It is simply an interpretation of rules. There is no patriotism or loyalty involved. We must be willing to face reality and to realize that interpretations change. We have to be willing to change with them or else be labeled stupidly stubborn. If we refuse to conform to the latest interpretations of the rules we penalize all of our fencers and in particular the better ones.

Before I get to the "How To" as opposed to the "We Should" I want to remind you that the ability to direct improves your fencing. You realize what a director can see and not see and why none of those "blind" directors ever sees that beautiful action of yours. You

learn how irritating it can be to be second-guessed and obliquely insulted. You see other fencers using techniques and strategies that work (or don't work) in a particular situation.

You can learn a lot. Your opinion also carries a lot more weight with the bout committee if you complain about director if you yourself have a reputation as a skillful director. To be a skillful director you need not only sound, up-to-date basic training but constant practice. My heart sinks when I see someone with a high rating who hasn't directed for a long time direct an important bout. You have to keep in training — your eyes lose their skill.

"How to" is the problem. It is not bad in a few major fencing centers where there are fencers and coaches who have been in very recent contact with the latest trends in directing. Its dreadful almost everywhere else.

An occasional fencing clinic by a good director helps slightly, temporarily. Two weeks later everyone disagrees about what was said and the improvement is lost.

There has been virtually nothing done at the national level to extend directing skills throughout the country. At the last Nationals the directors clinic was canceled.

The same people directed the later rounds that have been doing it for years. Why? Is it the same merry-go-round? We can't let Joe direct because he isn't good enough and he isn't good enough because we won't let him get to be good enough?

There were hundreds and hundreds of fencers at the Nationals. All of them spent a lot of time idling around - at any large competition there is a lot of waiting time. Why didn't we have videotapes on how to direct going on constantly? Everyone could have watched the tapes repeatedly. Every day for an hour or so we could have had a top director available to answer questions from those who had watched the tapes.

The tapes could be sent to Clubs, Divisions and Sections for constant replaying with permission granted to duplicate them.

The tapes would have to be carefully scripted, well executed and self-explanatory. This costs money. They would have to be updated. This costs money. There is money available from the USOC according

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to the budget I saw. It would be money well spent.

If the tapes worked out well we could then, if necessary, transfer the contents to film. With home video tape recorders and school tape recorders so prevalent this might not be necessary. The advantage of the tapes is that they can be updated much more easily than film, are easier to handle and cheaper to duplicate.

At the September Board of Directors meeting a reorganization of the U.S. Commission on Rules and Officials was approved. However, I don't believe that we can get to the basic root of our directing

problem until we set up a crash training program. Because of the size of our club the only feasible way to do this is by tape.

Any thoughts, suggestions, ideas?

This is the last magazine that some of you will get if you have not renewed your membership. If the number 9 is the first number above your name on the address label it is time to renew your membership the form or renew through your division. If you have a problem with getting the magazine write to Eleanor Turney, Secretary, 601 Curtis St. Albany, Ca. 91206. If you are changing your address let me know.

Amateur Fencers League of America

601 Curtis Street Albany, CA. 94706

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From the President



by Irwin Bernstein

In recent issues of this magazine there have been some well written letters to the Editor which have pointed out some of the important needs of fencing, both immediate and long term. As significant to me as the specific proposals they set forth is the perception that we do have a multiplicity of goals, with varying time frames. If we are to maximize the opportunities for the growth of fencing in the United States we must constantly recognize this variety of objectives and be ready to juggle our resources and alter priorities as required, even at the temporary sacrifice of our pet projects.

To present concrete examples of the concept outlined above, I will extract portions of my August 1979 report to the AFLA Board of Directors with regard to issues needing priority treatment this season and comment on their potential scope.

1. Reorganizing the US Commission on Fencing Rules and Officials and reordering its priorities to place more emphasis on developing new officials and improving the quality of the existing ones.

This is a short and long term project with clear benefits to all competitive fencers. The Commission has been reorganized into specific sub-committees in order to assign leadership to officials' training while maintaining the important functions of rules interpretations and assignment of the best available officials to important national level events and international teams. We hope to finally produce the video tape version of the directors' clinic to facilitate the nationwide dissemination of the latest officiating techniques and interpretations. No service from the national level will be more appreciated by our members.

2. Reorganizing the annual New York International to properly support its new category "A" designation in sabre.

This is of immediate significance to only a limited number of our top sabre fencers but is of long range importance to the entire status of fencing in the

Western Hemisphere. If that sounds like "puffing" it should be understood that this will be the first "A" event in the Western Hemisphere and is supported as such by several leading Pan American countries as a precedent setting step towards establishing "A" events in all weapons in order to attract the best fencers in the world to come **here** instead of our always having to go **there!** These traditional fencing powers of Europe will be watching how we run this event.

3. Carrying the coaching clinic project of the Fencing Development Program out into the field by conducting clinics in cooperation with the NFCAA and Junior Olympic Youth Committee.

The seminars and regional training sessions have enabled our National Coaching Staff to "get its act together". It is now time to present the techniques and concepts they have developed to a much larger audience by conducting clinics wherever they can be organized by the NFCAA and Junior Olympic Youth Committee. From the inception of a National Coaching Staff, it has been our intention to disseminate their ideas to all receptive fencing coaches and to make it part of the basic training of all new coaches. This season we will make this goal a reality.

4. Continuing the long range development effort initiated last season by setting up a paid staff to raise funds from sources inside and outside fencing.

Despite the generous funding we have received from the US Olympic Committee over the past few years and the enormous volunteer efforts of amateur and professional fencers in a wide variety of projects, we are still limited in our ability to pursue our multiple objectives to the fullest extent. Unless we obtain a new level of funding, we will continue to fund only part of the needs of teams and scale down the

scope of projects and defer worthwhile ideas. If there are funds that might be obtained by a more concerted approach we must try to get them, even if we have to invest some money to do it. The Board was unable to initiate specific action in September but this idea remains under active consideration.

As long as we keep generating the good ideas and striving for improvement, while recognizing the diversity of our sport and the need for compromise, I'm confident we will accomplish much together.

* * *

PAN AMERICAN TEAM REPORT 1979

by Jack Keane, Captain

The United States Team for the 1979 Pan American Games held in Puerto Rico July 1-15 lacked two current national titleholders, Tim Glass and Jana Angelakis, but the team was assessed, generally, as being the strongest of recent years.

The performance of the squad, therefore, is an interesting study of the virtues and shortcomings of our fencing at the present time.

The Background

It was generally agreed by the coaching staff, Messrs. Elthes, D'Asaro, Gillet and Haratounian, that the overall quality of the fencing in the Pan Am's has improved markedly. Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Canada have reached higher levels, overall.

Cuba, our chief competition, has also improved somewhat, particularly in women's foil.

The Pan Am Games now is not a tournament that can be taken lightly by any United States team. The other nations feel they can win medals and they fence "tough".

Foil Individual

Mike Marx, our national champion, and John Nonna got the nod to start. Mike was extremely nervous throughout the day. He agonized through the first elimination rounds 3-2, 3-2 before dropping out in the semi-final four-man pool with a single victory. He finished 7th.

Nonna on the other hand was fencing well within himself, although not as fluidly as he

MIXED SABRE AND EPE

Your editor keeps hearing that or foil is permitted, not mixed sabre a but no one can ever tell me the bas statement. A few years ago the rule mixed competitions was deleted Rules Book and various criteria we for mixed competitions. As long criteria are followed I know of n why a division can't schedule competitions in all weapons.

has demonstrated on other occasions was 3-1, 4-1 into his four-man semi won both of his bouts to advance to

The final was an athletic affair. Go Cuba jumped into the lead winning three bouts, including a 5-3 decisive Nonna. John had two victories at the Then the excitement occurred. Argentina beat Gonzalez to give John and shot at the gold. John defeated Mexico but, incredibly, lost his last Torres of Mexico 5-4. He had previously defeated Torres, 5-1, and probably wing ahead to the fence-off. Shak could not put Lupiz away in the but the silver medal, lost 5-4, and thus a third as Gonzalez took the gold.

Results

1. Gonzalez, Cuba, 4-1; 2. Lupiz 3-2; 3. Nonna, USA, 3-2; 4. Robk 2-3; 5. Magallanes, Ven., 2-3; 6 Mex., 1-4

Men's Foil Team

Eight teams started. Cuba was first and the U.S. second. Our Nonna, Marx, Massiales, Donofrio and in swept away its opponents in the final versus Cuba.

The Cuban fracas started with dropping to Jons, 5-2. Next Greg Marx brought the crowd to its feet with a running pasting of Hernandez. But point, so magical till now, started The Cuban rallied to 4-3 and Greg

PAN AMERICAN TEAM REPORT 1979

away. However, the magic was gone and the U.S. now looked quite vulnerable. Indeed, we were, as only Mike Marx could win a bout in a 9-2 team loss.

Results

1. Cuba; 2. United States; 3. Argentina

Coaching Staff Observation

The American foil game is far too complicated, languid and soft. The simple, straight, fast attacks and counter attacks of the Cubans reflect modern foil at a good level. Our long footwork steps and hesitancy to do anything direct make us vulnerable to the swift and simple solutions of fencers like the Cubans. We need: more speed, more directness, more dynamism, better, shorter footwork.

Saber

Peter Westbrook and Alex Orban started. Both fencers, inexplicably, got attacks of nerves. After identical 4-0, 3-2 records in the first two rounds, both got into semi-final trouble. Orban's was fatal as he was shut out in a four-man pool that was simply nowhere near his calibre. Westbrook squeaked, 1-2. Peter then produced some sturdy fencing in the final, losing only to Ortiz of Cuba, 5-2. But he was not at his silky, dominating best.

Results

1. Ortiz, Cuba, 5-0; 2. Westbrook, USA, 4-1; 3. Laverdeza, Cuba, 2-3; 4. Lavoie, Can., 2-3; 5. Sukunda, Can., 1-5; 6. Benitez, Mex., 1-5.

Saber Team

The team had a goal: to avenge the 1975 loss by touches in an 8-8 match with Cuba. With the exception of Orban, this was the team that placed seventh in the world championships last year by defeating Bulgaria, thus earning a world ranking.

The team defeated Venezuela, 9-7. Puerto Rico went down 15-1. A tough Canadian team then lost 9-4.

A young and spirited Argentina team was our direct elimination opponent. They had no chance, however, as our team got its act together and rolled, 9-2.

With Cuba as our opponent in the final, we elected to start Westbrook, Reilly, Lekach and House. The team fell behind 6-1 as House, only, could manage a victory in the early going. However, three of the six losses were 5-4. Only Westbrook was taking big touch counts, 5-2, 5-2. Then, the team rallied,

Reilly won his next bout and the team won six of the next eight bouts to knot the count at 8-8. House had to win the last bout 5-2 for us to win. He won 5-4 and thus the Cuban team again won on touches, 65-63.

Results

1. Cuba 2. USA 3. Argentina

Coaching Observation

The technical and fighting level of the team is high, while the experience level is low. More exposure to foreign teams can improve this squad.

Women's Foil

Nikki Franke and Gay D'Asaro fenced pleasingly. In the semi-final, both squeaked up with single victories. It was unfortunate that the first bout of the final paired Nikki and Gay, for one had to lose, and it was Gay, 5-3. The loss seemed to take away her spirit and make her vulnerable to the pair of Cuban girls, 17-year-old del Risco and the veteran Rodriguez.

Nikki, however, took the measure of Rodriguez to hand her the only loss of the regular final around, 5-3. Meanwhile, del Risco was parry-riposting everyone merrily. Her quarte is formidable. The result was she ended up in a barrage with Rodriguez who was seeking her fourth title. She didn't get it was the youngster prevailed, 5-3.

Results

1. Del Risco, Cuba, 4-1; 2. Rodriguez, Cuba, 4-1; 3. Franke, USA, 3-2; 4. D'Asaro, USA, 2-3; 5. Marcia, Bra., 2-3; 6. Estrada, Mex., 0-5.

Women's Team

With a seeding of second from the efforts of Gay and Nikki, the team started off handsomely. Venezuela lost to our squad, 15-1. Then Brazil went to defeat 9-3. Vinnie Senser looked simply sensational in winning all six of her bouts. These results paired us with Canada, a strangely erratic outfit, fresh from a lacklustre preliminary performance. Our team of Senser, D'Asaro, Franke and Waples jumped into a 4-0 lead. The fencing was impeccable. And then, suddenly, the team disintegrated. They lost the next six bouts in a row. Nikki, fighting valiantly, tried to keep the team in it, but the Canadians, to their credit, refused to give up the momentum. Despite Nikki's three victories, we lost 9-6 and were eliminated.

The team then pulled itself together against Brazil to take the bronze medal.

Results:

1. Cuba 2. Canada 3. USA.

Coaching Observations

Our women are technically proficient, although lacking the foot speed and perhaps hand speed of the Cubans and Europeans. They have demonstrated the ability to surge into leads against top calibre opposition, such as the Japanese and English (5-1, 6-2) but there lose momentum individually and as a group. Part of this appears to be a lack of perception that the opponent has changed something. The national staff has to analyze the situation closely to come up with the solution, one that might include, sessions of sport psychology.

Epee

With no gold medals won, the epee team remained the only hope of the 1979 mission. And what a beautiful job they did. A gold and a silver.

Individual

Pesthy advanced with no problem but Bozek was in for a bad day. In the semi-final, he went out, 0-5. This left it up to Paul. True to Pesthy tradition, he lost his first fight. But then he pulled things together, defeated the two Cubans and Piran of Argentina, to take the silver medal. Meanwhile, the unheralded de Brelaz of Argentina sneaked around everyone to take the crown.

1. De Brelaz, Arg., 2. Pesthy, USA 3. Quivoga, Cuba.

Team

Gold at last! The triumph was pure Pesthy. His unshakeable calm and tremendous leadership were exactly the recipe for victory. He had Scott Bozek to help with a 17-2 contribution and the sturdy work of Peter Schiffrin at 14-7. Lee Shelley contributed a shell-shocked 12-6 but had it when it counted most—the final. Greg Massiales chipped in with a 4-1 contribution.

After defeating Chile, 11-5, and El Salvador, 15-1, the tough Canadians were the quarter final opponent. They were fresh from defeating Cuba. However, Bozek, Pesthy and Schiffrin each won three bouts to get us the victory. Brazil then lost to us by a 9-3 margin.

The final against Cuba was a triumph of heart, soul, and, sometimes, elbow. The team literally knocked its opponent off its feet—and off the piste as they won 8-4.

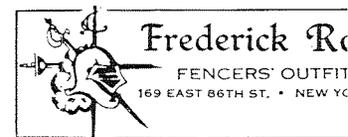
Coaches' Observations

The technical level of American epee squads is a cause for concern. There is not

enough mixing of blade actions a blade actions. It is the general opinion of coaches that the stress of technical must be restructured.

U.S. ALL TIME PAN AMERICAN GAM FENCING RESULTS

	Gold	Silver	E
1951	3	2	
1955	3	5	
1959	6	4	
1963	6	2	
1967	4	4	
1971	5	2	
1975	2	4	
1979	1	4	



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors

I want to express my appreciation over the article in the Jan.-Feb. issue of American Fencing entitled "Observations on Fencing for the Blind." As a visually handicapped fencer, I find it encouraging that people are interested in these types of problems.

There is one area where, until now, that I believe has been neglected — how do the blind read the Rule Book? The Executive Committee of the NC division has moved to eliminate this problem. We have instituted action to put the Rules Book on cassette tape available to the visually and physically handicapped.

Recording for the Blind is a non-profit organization that furnishes recorded materials to the blind. They also offer a special reader service which enable blind readers to submit books for recording. The Executive Committee, on my recommendation voted to furnish two copies of the Rules Book to me to submit.

The Rules Book and Supplement should be in the Master stacks of recording for the Blind by early October. After that date it will be available to visually handicapped people

on loan at no charge. Information on this service is available from:

Recording For The Blind
215 E 58th St. NY, NY. 10022

I think that it would be very good to make an announcement in the magazine about his new innovation. I would like to express my thanks to the other members of the Executive Council of the North Carolina Division and the AFLA in general for their interest.

If I can give any further information please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely

Gary Ray
Sec-Treas NCAFLA
1655 Patton Ave
Asheville N.C. 28806
(704) 252-8155

* * *

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL FENCERS, OFFICIALS, & PRESIDENTS D'JURIE

by Bill Towry

It seems to me that if one listens to the stripside conversations at tournaments these days, from the small local meets to our national championships, it is becoming abundantly clear that fencing in the United States shows an excellence unmatched

anywhere. Our problem is our directors. They are to a man or woman, incompetent, unaware of what is going on in Europe, and very possibly dishonest. Even the fencers who win take delight in openly complaining and commiserating with the losers over the injustice of the director's calls. This phenomenon reached a pinnacle on Wednesday, June 20, 1979, when our new Women's Foil Champion gave an interview to a reporter from the Colorado Springs Sun which was reported in that paper on the morning of the 21st of June. I quote from that story:

"I thought the director (official) of the semi-final matches made some inaccurate decisions against me, and I only barely made it to the finals. After the semi-finals were over, I went outside and cried for half an hour, but finally relaxed. I was so mad at the director that I was determined to give the finals my total concentration, I had to prove to everybody that I was good enough to be there."

The fact that the director in question is one of the most respected and eminently qualified of our internationally ranked directors is not important. The fact that other qualified observers concurred with the director on the calls in the semi-final round can be ignored. This director has been condemned to incompetent oblivion by our national Women's Foil Champion in the public press.

Now then, we all know that stripside conversation is seldom to be respected. We all know that our American fencers have a lot to learn and much work to do before they will be on a par with the better international fencers. We also know that our directors and officials have a lot to learn also, before they gain international respect, but it is high time that the fencers shut up and do their best fencing under the presidents d'jurie who are doing their best. Competitive fencing does not and cannot exist without directors. A fencing competition is not legislation. Decisions are not made by majority rule.

I personally feel that some sort of apology is in order. The fencer involved is only seventeen and has had a preponderance of poor examples of strip behavior after which to pattern her conduct throughout her short career; however, now she must set an example worthy of her proven skill for the less successful fencers. I think some sort of rule

rule should be adapted by the league providing for "censure and reprimand" to discourage future public indiscretions of nature. A rule of this sort is not uncommon in organized sports.

Fencing in a competition is in many more enjoyable and rewarding than by director in that competition. The director who stands on his feet all day deserves a sincere thank you, and very probably not need the biased, one-sided critic the fencers.

Directors, read your rule books for covering proper behavior on and off strip, and pass out some warning penalties to those fencers and spectators who do not show proper respect. Fencers, read your rules covering the proper manner of asking the director for an explanatory call, and the proper way to lodge a protest if it is felt to be warranted. Let's all quit complaining, learn and apply the rules, clean up our act, and improve American fencing!

Congratulations to our new champion and thanks to those who provided the

* * *

Dear Editor:

Is anybody as mad as I am?

I sat through almost 80 hours of ABC presentation of the Montreal Olympiad, see about ten seconds of fencing, then until this Summer, our great sport just a few minutes — at a very late hour on the fund-raising Olympathon.

I watched every bit of CBS's so-called coverage of the Pan-Am Games, and maybe a minute of epee in connection with the pentathlon. No women's foil, no foil, no sabre, no regular epee.

But, hope aroused, I watched "the Olympic network," NBC, do its number on American Sports Festival at Colorado Springs. Another bit of pentathlon and that was it.

My local newspaper — in Portland, home of the national men's foil champion and other ranked competitors — not list the medalists in the Pan-Am epee for one out of eight events, sabre individual.

Surely **Sports Illustrated**, which provides a complete scoreboard after the Montreal Games, would do the same for the Juan trials. Zilch.

The "un-network" is in the mix at this writing. They've done the pentathlon epee thing. Maybe....

continued on p

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THE SECOND FENCING COACHES' CLINIC AT SQUAW VALLEY

by Dawson Smith

Fencing coaches came together for the second time at the Olympic Training Center in Squaw Valley for a Coaches' Clinic, 9 through 12 August 1979, at the invitation of the AFLA's Pacific Coast Section. The purpose of the Clinic is to raise the level of fencing instruction by providing intensive but meticulous training to the participants.

The first Clinic, a year ago August, came about as an experiment conceived by Colleen Olney of Oregon, and launched and managed by Mary Huddleson of Pacific Coast Section and John Nonomura. Last year we were approximately 12 Coaches and a three-member teaching staff — Maitres d'Armes Alex Beguinet of Portland, Oregon, Rob Handleman of San Francisco, and Denise O'Connor of Brooklyn College — Olympic competitor, prominent Coach and Director, and Vice President of the NFCAA.

This year we were 21 Coaches (and Coaches-in-training). The Class was divided into two sections. The first was for beginning instructors teaching classes of beginning students. The second was for

Coaches giving individual lessons to intermediate students. Maitre Beguinet conducted the senior class and Maitre Handleman the junior class, but which is the tougher task is a moot question. Together they led seminars, lectured, and performed demonstrations for the combined groups.

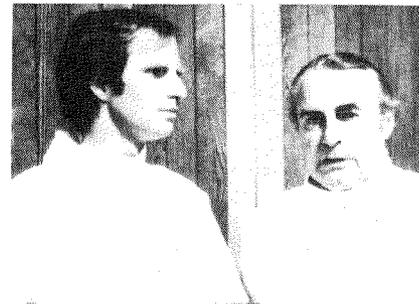
One of the super-special delights, both last year and this year, was the combination of serious instruction and superb comedy of Beguinet and Handleman on stage together — Alex as the impudent, irreverent and literal-minded student, and Rob as the teacher whose instructions are simple and clear, but not always complete.

Two valuable additions were made to the 4-day Clinic — evening seminars on Sports Medicine and Sports Psychology, given by resident and consulting specialists to the Olympic Training Center.

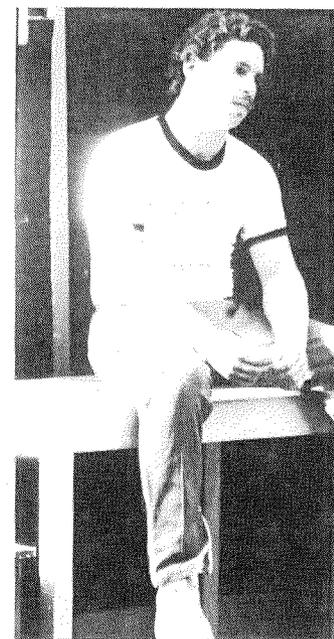
This year's training was better prepared and better organized than last year's, a progression from excellence to greater excellence. One improvement could save a few needed but lost hours: set a definite

time for the beginning session, so that check-in may take place, perhaps from 8-10 A.M., and not spread over into the afternoon.

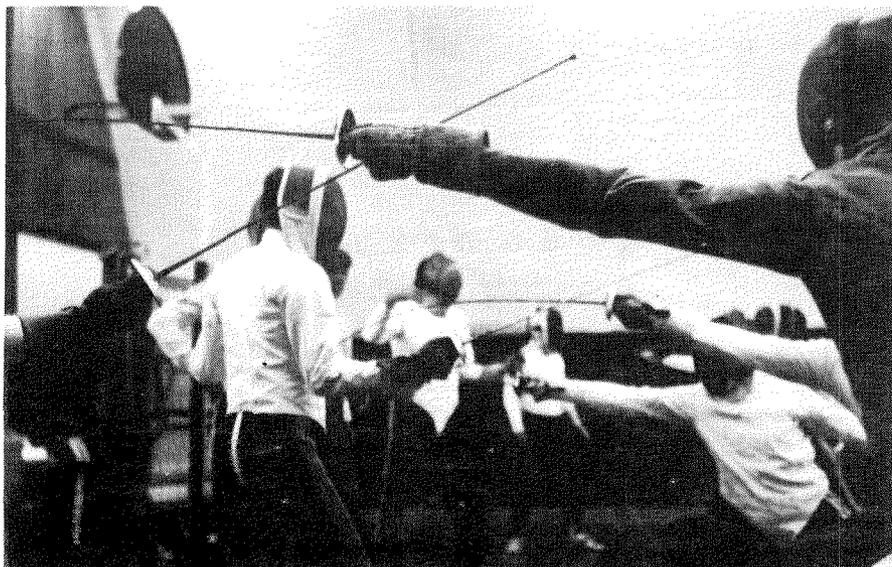
All who had a hand in creating this event should take great pride in what they have done. The value is both instant in the betterment of the Teacher's teaching, and long range in the performance of their students. Also of particular importance is the effect of this training on young Coaches who because of devotion, excellence or necessity are beginning to teach new fencers.



Ed Gage and Dawson Smith



Stuart Kaufman



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A NEW EMPHASIS FOR AN OLD SYSTEM

By Charles D. Bosco

I have been involved with fencing both as a competitor and instructor for over 20 years and I cannot help being deeply distressed by the performance of American fencers in international competitions. Before offering a solution I would like to state that I think our top fencers, in general, work very hard at great personal and financial sacrifice. The potential of the American athlete is every bit as high as the Europeans as evidenced by our records in swimming and track and field. While it is true that there is a need for more and better trained coaches, it is also true that most of our top competitors have good coaches. The problem we face is not one of improving the training of our present Olympic squad (although this could do no harm) but one of improving our selection system. I do not mean the system used to choose team members, but the whole American system of training that forces so many potentially good fencers to become discouraged and drop out. Top coaching must be available to the young fencer continuously and for as long as he wants it. Here is where our system breaks down.

The average student of fencing starts either in high school or college or at a loosely run club, e.g., YMCA, Boys Club, etc. Only in rare instances do these clubs turn out well-trained fencers. This is mostly due to the lack of a well-trained instructor. The high schools and the colleges provide the bulk of the training during the most important early years of learning. In these schools there is usually a trained coach and a regular training program is followed. Competition is kept to a maximum. These conditions would seem to be ideal, but are they? It turns out that in high school only the very good athletes get the coach's attention and winning is equated with good fencing. Those high school students with a good win record are snapped up by the college coaches and again winning is stressed, sometimes even at the sacrifice of good fencing. Athlete directors foster this system by pressing coaches (usually subtly) to show a good winning record.

Now obviously this system is not about to be changed. There are too many people

caught up in it and their livelihood depends on it. Sure every coach would like to have an Olympic fencer, but having a consistently winning team will keep him steadily employed and in a well-paid job. What then is the answer?

At the present time we have the means to develop young fencers slowly and properly. I am speaking of the few salles across the country staffed by some of the best masters in the country. These salles offer advantages to young fencers that high schools and colleges cannot begin to match. I will list only the most important ones, but I am sure the reader can add to this list.

1. A student starts with individual lessons from one coach and can continue these lessons with the same coach for many years. All school fencers do not get individual lessons and those that do only get them during the season (four years maximum).

2. A fencer can choose his coach. Not only is this not true at a school, but the men's coach usually has a better background than the women's coach.

3. The salle is open all year round. Schools have a short season. There is even a ban on teaching out of season.

4. Young fencers can fence and socialize with older more experienced fencers.

5. There is no pressure to win immediately. New techniques can be developed even if they result in temporary losses.

6. Anyone can join a salle. Schools only train students from their school and students who are part-time, evenings, or have low grades are barred from the team. Graduate students are also barred.

7. Fencing becomes part of the community and not just another school sport.

8. A student can start fencing at any age. He can also continue to train to any age.

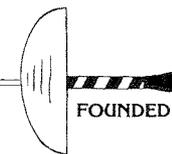
9. Salles can train new coaches; schools usually do not.

10. A.F.L.A. competitions and rules are stressed. Individual competition is given more importance than team competition.

11. Salles can be any size and expansion is unlimited and encouraged. Schools are forced to work within a budget.

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12. Self-discipline is stressed. This is necessary since salle fencers rarely go to meets with their coaches.

With all this going for them one wonders why there are not more salles and why more fencers do not join the ones that exist. There are two main reasons: money and publicity. At a salle a fencer must purchase all his equipment and pay for lessons. This forces out many young people. The other reason is that most fencers think of training only in terms of a school team. The school coaches are not encouraging their fencers to join salles. Incidentally, training at both a salle and a school simultaneously is perfectly acceptable to the A.F.L.A.

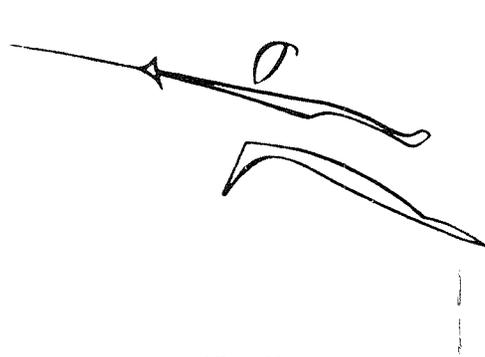
By now it should be obvious that there is a need for many more salles across the country. This can only be accomplished by first publishing a list of the present salles and their locations, days they meet, etc. The N.F.C.A.A. might even rate these salles based on the level of instruction available, e.g., is the coach a master. This would encourage salles to upgrade their level. Next, the N.F.C.A.A. should, along with the

A.F.L.A., put its full backing behind salles and convince college and high school coaches to send their fencers to the during the "off season." Next, the N.F.C.A.A. should encourage new masters to become part-time salles. Even if it is open only one night per week. With enough publicity the N.F.C.A.A. and the A.F.L.A. might get support from the college and high school coaches in the area and chance financially. Finally, the N.F.C.A.A. could designate key salles as training sites for the training of new coaches. A young fencer could serve as a ticeship under a master and prepare for exams. At this point we would have a flow of well-trained potential masters.

I realize full well that this takes a long time, however, if a master knew that there was a steady national emphasis on attention he might elect to accept the present situation and starve for a while until his situation improves. As long as masters feel isolated and their own they will seek the security of a college or university to practice their profession.

Proposed Logos

submitted by
AFLA members.



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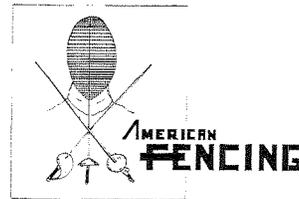
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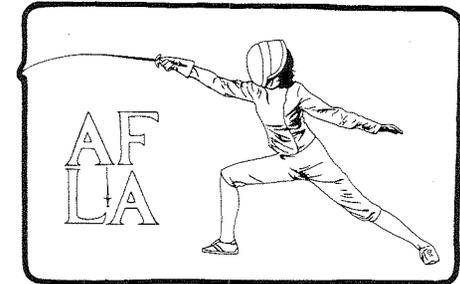
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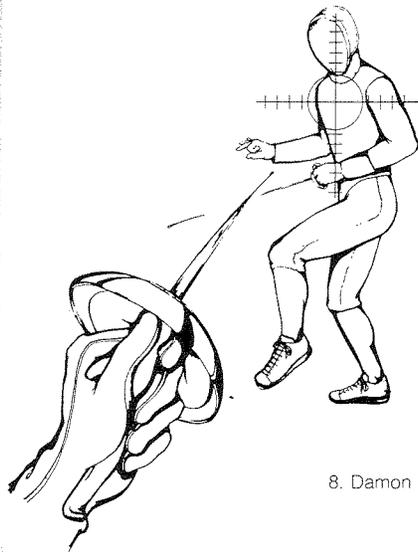
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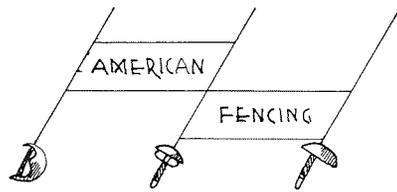
6. Eviemarie Walsh



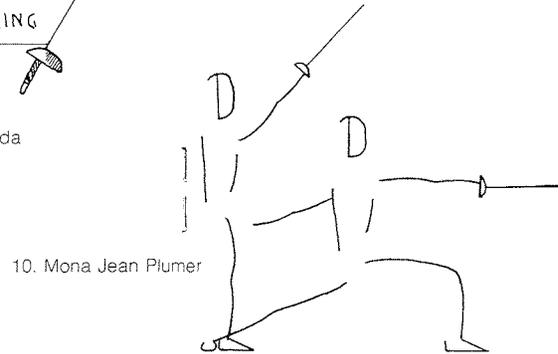
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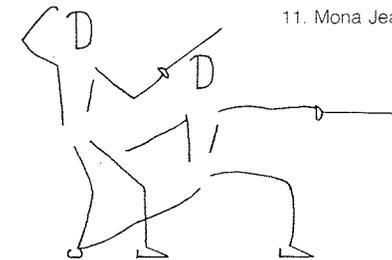
8. Damon Schenk



9. Constance Rotunda



10. Mona Jean Plumer



11. Mona Jean Plumer

Which logo do you like? Write Irwin Bernstein.

EMPIRE GOLD

by Larry Roth

On August 15, 1979, over 5000 amateur athletes from all over New York State converged on Syracuse to compete in the Empire State Games. Billed as the largest Olympic style amateur competition held in the United States, for five days the games featured nearly every Summer Olympic event, from shell racing to track and field. Fencing was one of the many sports included.

The games are sponsored jointly by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks & Recreation, the N.Y.S. Athletic Commission, and the N.Y.S. Commission on Sports and Winter Olympics. Support is also given by AMF Inc., Botany 500, and Marine Midland Bank. The Empire State Games are intended to serve as a model for the United States Olympic Development Program and inspire other states to provide similar opportunity for their athletes.

The athletes themselves are all amateurs and residents of New York State. To compete in the games, they all had to qualify in a regional event, in either a scholastic or open division.

The opening ceremonies were held in Manley Field House, with the official opening marked by the lighting of the game's torch and reciting of the athlete's oath. Thus began five days of intense effort as the athletes strove for some Empire Gold.

Fencing ran four days, begun by Womens Foil August 16. The women had the spotlight. Thursday was the first real day of competition at the games, and Womens Foil was one of the first events to have a finals. Television cameras were in and out through the day. Several local stations featured brief moments on the news. The local PBS station ran several minutes on fencing which were picked up by other stations around the state that evening as part of games coverage.

Following the pattern set the day before, the Epee on August 17 came down to a fence off between Bob Hupp and George Masin, which George won.

Mens Foil provided most dramatic moments of the fencing. The last bout came down to two fencers both running very close for the gold.

The two were Ed McNamara and Ed Wright. McNamara began the bout by receiving a touch on an equipment penalty. He ended by winning 5-4 and creating a tie for first with Wright. A three-minute wait began, the two rested, then faced off again. In a series of actions, Ed Wright established a 4-0 lead, at which point McNamara received a respite to retie a shoelace. This apparently made the crucial difference, as McNamara in an amazing turn about came back to take the next five touches and win!

Sabre was the next, also the last, day of the games, August 19. There was a barrage for first between Don Larkin and Joe Marotta. While the rest of the competitors watched, Marotta came from behind to beat Larkin.

That is the point of the games, to serve as a catalyst, a cauldron in which our athletes may be both inspired and developed, in competition with and in kinship with our fellows. Next year is Moscow, and the games may not be held. After that, they should continue. Further, they should flourish and be copied in other states. In a very real sense, everyone who took part in the games was a winner. To those who made it possible — THANKS!

Photo by: Larry Roth



Empire State Games			
Epee Finalists		Rating	Region
Calvert Schlick	6th	B	2
John Hover	5th	C	5
Dan Rainford	4th	B	4
Arnold Messing	3rd	A	4
*Bob Hupp	2nd	A	6
*George Masin	1st	A	4
*Fence off			

NATIONAL SQUAD OLYMPIC TRIALS

The AFLA Olympic Fencing Committee has set the dates and places for the final trials for selection of our 1980 Olympic Fencing Team. The first set of trials will be held: Sabre, January 6th, 1980 at the New York Athletic Club, starting at 11 A.M.; Epee and Women's Foil, January 19th, 9 A.M. and 10 A.M. respectively, San Jose State University in San Jose, CA; and Men's Foil, January 20th, 10 A.M., San Jose State University.

The second and final set of trials will be held the week-end of April 26th and April 27th in New York City; Men's Epee and Women's Foil will be held on Saturday, April 26th; Men's Foil and Sabre on Sunday, April 27th. At the completion of the April trials the members of the Olympic Fencing Team will be selected on the basis of the point standings following the trials.

BARUCH COLLEGE COACH

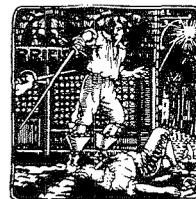
Marilyn Masiero has been appointed the Women's Varsity Fencing Coach at Baruch College.

NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT

In the Fall of 1978 the AFLA Fencing Committee introduced the concept of a North American Circuit of top level competitions to attract members of a National Squad to gain more experience different fencing throughout our country. During the year the concept has been developed so that we are able to attract the initial set of events for the circuit. We hope that as the idea gains in popularity and support that events in Canada and Mexico will be included with an exchange of fencers between these countries and the United States.

An integral part of the North American Circuit concept is the exposure of our fencers to the direct elimination format. Thus, it is required for events to be held in the circuit and others to be added in the format of the event include direct elimination with repechage. The procedure using direct elimination and the amended chart will be forthcoming in the next issue and will be sent to the chairmen of the current selection tournaments.

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NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT continued

The events approved for this season on the circuit are:

MEN's Foil

Cornell Open, Nov. 10
Alaux Open, NY, Dec.
D'Asaro Open, San Jose, CA
Cherry Blossom Open, Wash. DC

WOMEN's FOIL

Cornell Open, Nov. 10
Csiszar, Phila., PA, Dec. 2
Helene Mayer, Oakland, CA, Mar. 2
D'Asaro Open, San Jose, CA
Cherry Blossom, Wash. DC

SABRE

Pillar Open, NY, Dec.
Pittsburgh Open
Cherry Blossom, Wash. DC

EPEE

Marathon, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 17, 17
Csiszar, Phila., PA, Dec. 1
Cleveland Grand Prix
Cherry Blossom, Wash. DC

These events are generally open to all fencers and in this way, it is hoped to spur activity in these areas of the country.

CLIFFORD W. KIRMSS RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

Clifford W. Kirmss, Varsity Fencing Coach at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, was awarded the Honorary Baccalaureate Degree of Mechanical Engineer at the institute's convocation ceremonies on Sept. 5. The award recognizes Mr. Kirmss' many contributions to the sport of fencing both nationally and internationally, as well as at Stevens, and his positive influence on the youths he has coached.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 11

NBC has given a hint of what it might do at Moscow: the same old over-emphasis on what they have decided are major sports, time wasted on preliminaries, sightseeing, personality interviews. Following the Colorado script, they will somehow overlook fencing and several other events.

Unless — if every reader of **American Fencing** would send a letter or postcard to

her/his local NBC station, one of us might get through. Better still, write to both branch and national (30 Rockefeller Plaza, NY 10020). Is fencing worth watching, or not? Would a few million viewers be excited? Wouldn't you like to see the international champs in action? Don't expect the TV dictators to think of it themselves — they already know what the public wants and what it doesn't.

Albert Manley

* * *

Dear Editor:

In many areas of the U.S. where fencing organizers have trouble arranging competitions with Group I or II ratings due to a scarcity of top fencers, outsiders are brought in to fill out the top. For example, the organizer knows there are no A-rated sabre fencers in his area so he recruits some from another area to come and upgrade his tournament. This is well and good and considering how A and B fencers in various weapons tend to be geographically concentrated in major fencing cities, it is necessary.

I would like to protest, however, the practice which some organizers engage in of announcing on the flyers for their tournament that certain events will be a Group I when, at best, they have only a tentative commitment from the A-rated fencers to show up. Worse yet, I understand that some organizers feel free to advertise that all events at their tournament will be Group I's when they know that barring a miracle only one or maybe two events will feature the requisite A and B fencers.

I traveled 10 hours by car, took time off from work, and generally had a rough time of it trying to make just such a tournament, only to arrive and find that not a single event of the four-weapon tournament could even be rated as a Group III. Once burned twice wise. If you are a fencer who is being counted on to show up at a tournament for its rating, take it seriously and go. If you are an organizer, don't make promises on your flyers unless you're sure you can keep them.

Chris Trammell



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1980 AFLA JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATE: February 16, 17, & 18, 1980. (Washington's Birthday Weekend)
PLACE: Hudson's Bay High School, 1206 E. Reserve, Vancouver, Washington
LODGING: Jantzen Beach-ThunderBird Motor Inn, 1401 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Oregon 97217. For reservations phone 1-800-547 8010 (outside Oregon).

SCHEDULE:

SAT. 2/16	SUN. 2/17	MON. 2/18
8 am - U-20 MF	8 am - U-20 WF	8 am - U-20 E
10 am - U-16 WF	10 am - U-16 MF	10 am - U-16 S
12 N - U-16 E	12 N - U-20 S	

AFLA Board Meeting will be held at 8 pm on Friday, 2/15 at the Jantzen Beach ThunderBird Motor Inn.

WEAPONS CHECK: Friday evening 6 pm to 8:30 pm and 45 minutes before each starting time.

QUALIFICATION: For the U-20 events, each division is permitted a minimum of two fencers per weapon. If the qualifying event has 12-20 fencers, 3 qualify; for 21-30 fencers in the qualifying event, 4 qualify; for 31 or more fencers, 5 qualify. The number qualifying from each division does not include automatic qualifiers. The number of qualifiers for each U-16 event is the same as for the U-20 events. Automatic qualifiers do not count in this number.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for the U-20 and/or the U-16 events the fencer must be under 16 or under 20 years of age on January 1, 1980.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS: For the U-20 events the first six finalists of the previous U-19 National Championships and the previous Junior Olympic Championships and all previous champions shall qualify automatically provided they are still qualified by age. For the U-16 events the prior year's finalists in the event shall qualify automatically provided they are eligible by age.

CERTIFICATION: Immediately upon the completion of the Divisional qualifying competition, the Division Secretary **must** submit the following information to: Eleanor Turney, AFLA Secretary, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706 **AND** to Colleen Olney, Chairman, Oregon-AFLA, 2221 SE 117th, Portland, Oregon 97216:

- The number of eligible fencers in the qualifying competition.
- The names of qualifiers and automatic qualifiers in order of their placing in the competition.
- The names of alternates in order of their placing in each weapon.
(A division is allowed as many alternates as there are qualifiers in each weapon.)

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 1980.

ENTRY: \$5 per weapon, plus \$5 registration fee, mail to: Colleen Olney, 2221 SE 117 Portland, Oregon, 97216 — include a self-addressed stamped envelope for your entry confirmation, **DEADLINE** February 1, 1980. **Withdraw** notification by February 9, 1980.

A competitor may enter all events for which he is qualified. In case of two or more events running concurrently, the fencer must bear the burden of fencing bouts in each weapon in rapid order when called.

ENTRY FORM

1980 AFLA JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Name (please print) _____ Division _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____ Section _____ Club _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Telephone _____ AFLA Membership # _____

Classification: J. O. Foil _____, Epee _____ Sabre _____, AFLA Foil _____, Epee _____, Sabre _____

PLEASE CHECK THE MANNER OF QUALIFICATION

Div. Qualifier _____, '79 U-19 _____, '79 J.O. _____, Auto _____

UNDER 20 EVENTS		UNDER 16 EVENTS	
Men's Foil _____	\$5.00	Men's Foil _____	_____
Women's Foil _____	\$5.00	Women's Foil _____	_____
Epee _____	\$5.00	Epee _____	_____
Sabre _____	\$5.00	Sabre _____	_____

REGISTRATION FEE (for every fencer in the J.O.'s) \$5.00

Total Amount enclosed: \$ _____ DO NOT SEND CASH

Make check payable to the Oregon Division-AFLA.

All entries must be received by January 31, 1980 with a stamped, self-addressed leg envelope and include completed form and proper fees. Mail to: Colleen Olney, 2221 SE Portland, Oregon 97216. If it is necessary to withdraw, the request for refund must be received by February 9, for you to receive a refund.

"Upon entering these events under the auspices of the AFLA I agree to abide by the rules of the AFLA as published in the 1974 edition of "Fencing Rules and Manual" and amend thereto. I enter at my own risk and release the AFLA and Vancouver School District and release them from any liability. The undersigned certifies that the individual for which this entry is submitted is duly qualified to enter the 1980 Junior Olympic Championships and the individual's birth date is as stated above and the individual is a member of the AFLA for 79-80 fencing season.

Parent or Guardian's signature _____ Fencer's signature _____

UNDER 19 RESULTS

EPEE: 24 Entries			MEN'S FOIL: 40 Entries		
PLACE	FENCER	PTS. EARNED	PLACE	FENCER	PTS. EARNED
1.	David Adams	25	1.	Demetrios Valsamis	25
2.	Thomas Lansford	18	2.	Joseph Wolfson	18
3.	Richard Vidor	16	3.	Raymond T. Curn	16
4.	Jay Thomas	14	4.	George Infanzon	14
5.	David Boxmeyer	12	5.	Nestor Rosario	12
6.	Scott Hollenbeck	10	6.	Richard Vidor	10
7.	John Hodde	5	7.	Kevin Dunham	5
8.	Kevin Frazzini	4	8.	Dan Miller	4
9.	Raymond T. Curn	3	9.	Thomas Lansford	3
10.	Jonathan Goldman	2	10.	Frank Fox	2
11T	William Shuford	1	11.	E. Bentley Storm	1
11T	Steve Trevor	1	12.	James Barnett	1

SABRE: 20 Entries			WOMEN'S FOIL: 35 Entries		
PLACE	FENCER	PTS. EARNED	PLACE	FENCER	PTS. EARNED
1.	Brian Reed	25	1.	Jana Angelakis	25
2.	Mark Wasserman	18	2.	Joy Ellingson	18
3.	David Fingerman	16	3.	Sharon Monplaisir	16
4.	Joel Spielman	14	4.	Magda Fabian	14
5.	Neal Andres	12	5.	Ruth Logan	12
6.	Darryl Gray	10	6.	Marta Nagy	10
7.	Steve Boides	5	7.	Tracy Yelton	5
8.	David Donadio	4	8.	Mary Bilodeaux	4
9.	Demetrios Valsamis	3	9.	Helen Valsamis	3
10.	Mark Poehler	2	10.	Christine Bosco	2
11.	John Friedberg	1	11.	Judy Camiener	1
12.	Bennett Katz	1	12.	Tracy Burton	1

FENCING TEACHER'S HANDBOOK

Marek S

Eds note: Mr. Szaflowski is a fencing teacher from Warsaw Poland. He submitted a manuscript in english which contains many interesting ideas for fencers at all levels. This is the second of a number of extracts from his manuscript.

Footwork

Basic technique of footwork hasn't changed too much for a long time so is no use describing each movement. The main trouble with footwork is that work on getting strong enough habits is generally not interesting. It takes time and patience.

We can connect step and lunge in two ways. First: after the step stop for a moment and then lunge. So the whole movement is divided into two parts: step and lunge. This kind of combination step-lunge we use mostly together with attacks composed (beat or pressure).

The second combination goes a different way. Movement is divided into three parts: first — the right leg (for righthanders of course) beginning the step is rather slow, second — the left leg ending the step is about twice as fast as the first movement, third — lunge. This kind of combination step-lunge we use with both simple and composed attacks. Attacks composed are mostly with feints. A push off by the left leg in this combination, is stronger than in the first one.

In teaching, it's better to begin with the second combination (so-called patinando) because after it our pupils are more self-confident in attacks. It also helps develop speed. So at the first level, the proportion between first and second kind of combination of step-lunge has to be 1 to 3.

Movements by weapon

Exercises perfecting thrust direct

1. Thrust only by arm without hit from 6th position (show).
2. The same with step forward, with lunge, with step-lunge.
3. Thrust only by arm without hit from different positions.
4. The same with footwork as 2.
5. Thrust only by arm from 6th position (hit on the wall or partner's body).
6. The same with different footwork.
7. Thrust with hit in a particular place with

Exercises perfecting attacks by 1 rect in pairs or with teacher

1. Holding middle distance by by lunge after partners signale ample, movement from 6th to position).
2. Blades are engaged. Holdin or long distance by steps, hit or step-lunge when partne engagement.
3. Long distance. Hit by lunge a ner steps forward.
4. Long distance. If partner chan tion from 6th to 2d or 4th be forwards, hit by lunge, if not, c distance.
5. Keeping long distance by ste ward and forward, hit by lun chooses the time.
6. The same, but hit by step-lun
7. Middle distance. After touchir blade by partner's blade, hit w
8. Hit by lunge or step-lunge fense against partner's attac tance/steps backwards.
9. Hit by lunge or step-lunge wl ner after his short attack come on guard.
10. Hit by lunge when partner stop: after step during his attack lunge.

The exercises above help us to both sides of fencing movemer technique and tactics. Thrust direc tack by thrust direct have to be lear exactly because these movemr basic for more composed mov therefore errors will have an influer perfecting skills in the future. We improve these movements all the the next parts of this article ther more exercises developing attac together with other movements.

Exercises perfecting thrust indir

1. Holding arm straight do horizz vertical movements by blade. movements of the fingers and
2. Holding arm straight do circles blade, clockwise and counte wise. Do small movements of gers and wrists.
3. Holding arm straight write figu

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- Starting with arm in position on guard do circles clockwise simultaneously by straightening arm, then go back to on guard doing circles counter-clockwise.

With partner or teacher:

- Partner does different movements trying to touch your blade. Avoid it.
- From 6th engagement do thrust indirect without hit.
- The same with hit.
- Exercises 2 and 3 from other engagements.
- From 6th engagement do thrust indirect after partner's pressure. Do it only by arm.
- As above but with footwork.
- Exercises 5 and 6 from other engagements.
- Middle distance. Keep arm straight. Partner changes position from 6th to 4th and back. Don't let him touch your blade.
- The same keeping distance by steps.
- Middle distance, absence of blade. Partner is trying touch your blade with or without step forward. Do thrust indirect only by arm or with step forward.
- Long distance, absence of blade. Partner is trying touch your blade with step forward. Do thrust indirect by lunge.
- Middle distance, engagement 4th or 6th or 2d or 8th. Do one by one thrust indirect by step holding end position for the moment.

Exercises perfecting attacks by thrust indirect in pairs or with teacher

- Middle distance, engagement 6th. Keeping distance by steps. Attack by lunge after partner's pressure.
- The same from other starting engagements.
- Middle distance, absence of blade. Keeping distance by steps attack by lunge after partner's engaging in 6th or 4th.
- Long distance, absence of blade. Keeping distance by steps sometimes let him engage blades in 6th or 4th, sometimes do attacks by step-lunge.
- The same as 1 and 2 but don't attack after each pressure.
- Middle distance, engagement 6th. Press partner's blade. After his counterpress, attack by lunge.
- The same from different engagements.
- The same changing distance.
- The same as 6, 7 and 10 but don't at-

tack after each counterpressure.

Exercises perfecting attacks by thrust and indirect together with special skills like "distance feeling" and "blade feeling"

- Short distance, absence of blade. Partner slowly moves back from start distance. Attacks directly with right footwork.
- Short distance, engagement 6th. Exercise as above but attacks indirectly.
- The same as 2 but from different engagements.
- Exercise as 1, 2 and 3 but partner changes distance from middle to short, then to long, then to short and so on.
- Middle distance, absence of blade. Attack direct with right footwork. Partner changes distance during your attack time so you have to change footwork suitable to distance.
- Middle distance, engagement 6th. Exercise as above but attack indirect.
- The same as above but from different engagements.
- Middle distance, engagement 6th. Press partner's blade. If he keeps weapon softly do attack direct by lunge, if stiffly do attack indirect by lunge.
- The same from different engagements.
- Long distance, engagement 6th. Do attack direct by step-lunge with light pressure on the partner's blade. If he will try parry by 6th finish your attack by thrust indirect.
- The same from different engagements.

* * *

COMING ATTRACTIONS

HELENE MEYER COMPETITION

The 27th Annual Helene Meyer memorial competition, now an international women's foil competition, will be held in Oakland, California on Sunday, March 2, 1980. For further information please contact Mary Huddleson, 2201 Bywood Dr., Oakland, Ca 94602. Entries must be mailed before February 10, 1980.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

10TH ANNUAL

GASPARILLA TOURNAMENT

The final round of the 10th Annual Gasparilla Fencing Tournament will be telecast in Florida in February, and, depending on the calibre of the competition, elsewhere around the nation shortly thereafter.

The tournament, dedicated to the memory of the late Fencing Master Julio M. Castello, will hold its preliminary rounds Feb. 2 at the Countryside Mall in Clearwater, Fla., its traditional site. For the finals on Sunday, Feb. 3, the tournament will cross Tampa Bay to the South's newest and largest sound stage in Tampa where events will be videotaped for initial presentation as a sports special the following weekend.

The Gasparilla, Florida's largest fencing tournament, will switch this season from an Open to an Open Invitational. The move was made because the tournament has grown too large to complete as a two-day event, according to tournament chairman Jim Campoli.

Each of the tournament's four events (WF, ME, MS) will be limited to 24. Entry application is open to all fencers. The limited lists will be filled by the tournament committee from among the entries.

Entry information is available from
Jim Campoli
313 East Shore Dr.
Oldsmar, Fla. 33557

* * *

WESTERN WOMEN'S CLASSIC

The Western Women's Classic held on March 8 (Sabre) and March 9 (Epee) at Foothill College located in California. For further information in the next issue of American Fencing.

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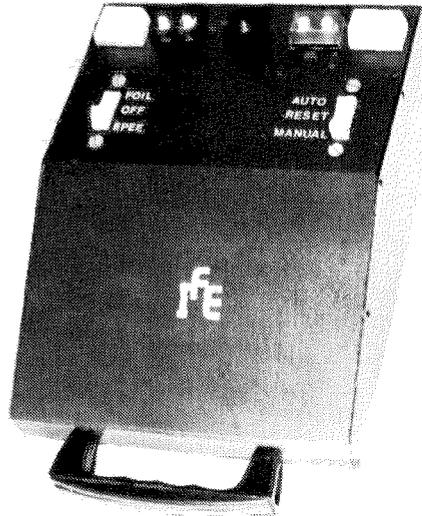
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