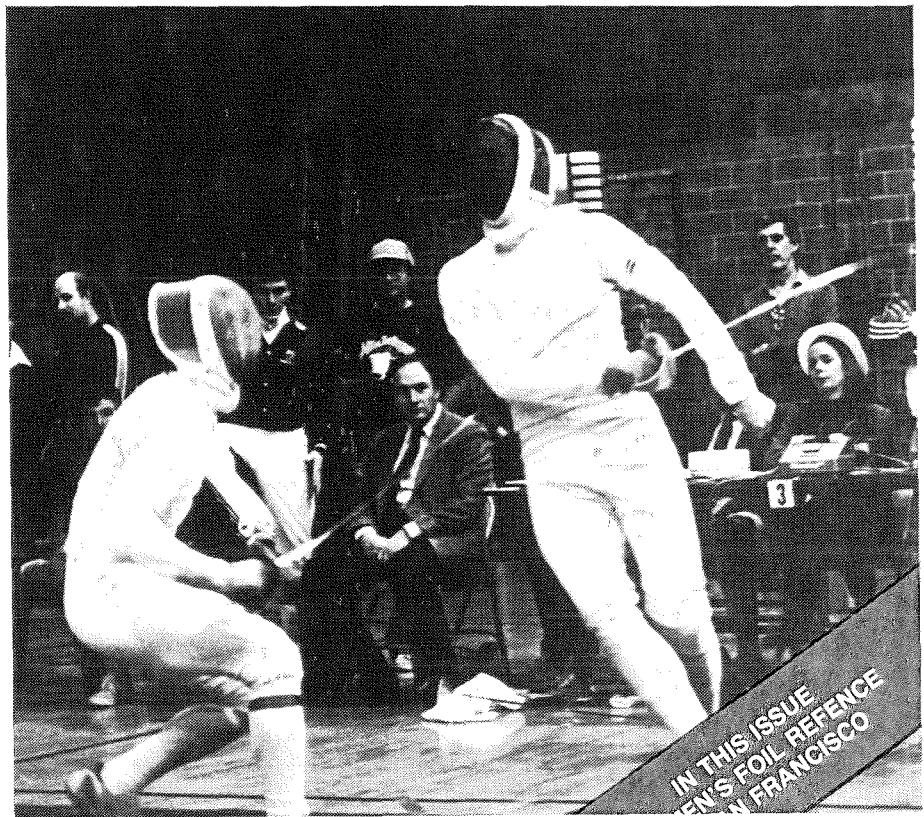


American
FENCING

MAY/JUNE 1984
Volume 35, No. 5



IN THIS ISSUE
MEN'S FOIL REFERENCE
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

May/June, 1984

Editorial
 Results: North American Circ
 Letters to the Editor
 In Memoriam, Dan Edwards
 Women's Foil Controversy
by Scott Knies
 The XII Hapoel Games
by Albert Axelrod
 In the Wake of Recent Devel
by Katzoff and Kariagan
 A Look at the Rating System
by Dick Oles
 Offences and Their Penalties
by Heroe Juille
 Epee— Annuling a Touch
by George Kolombatovitch ...
 More Results:
 Mid Atlantic College Conf.
 NCAA, N. England Wm. I
 Texas State Championship:
 Technical Talks
by Joe Byrnes
 Bulletin Board



ON THE COVER

In the finals at the Mardi Grass Sabr. Mormando. Photo Liz Claiborne.

EDITORIAL

A SALUTE TO OUR OLYMPIANS

Many fencers aspire to make the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team, but only five in each weapon will be selected, based on Olympic points earned from this season's circuit, world cup, and national championships events. We stand ready to applaud all of those who gave it their best efforts and who have improved upon their fencing technique as a result of the process. We hope to see them continue their progress next season, for we all gain from the struggle to obtain Olympic recognition and next season has many important championships to look forward to.

To those deserving few who will have fought their way through this season's many competitions to gain top ranking we offer our warm congratulations. It is not only this year's results which have lifted you above the crowd. Many of you have come up through the Junior ranks. This is

the culmination of long years of hard practice, of traveling many miles to competitions, of competing well, and of over-all dedication to our sport.

For our 1984 Olympians there is now a higher goal: to do your very best in an Olympic competition. The consequences of the Russian boycott are indeed discouraging, especially to those Olympians who were hit by the 1980, and now by the 1984 political boycotts. However, we look to our athletes to show the true Olympic spirit, even if no one else does. This means not to let down in training, not to quit in the face of obstacles and distractions, to fence well and hard on the strip in Los Angeles, and, off the strip, to extend the hand of friendship to all other fencers.

We will all be cheering for you.

—MTH

RESULTS NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT

Helene Mayer Women's Foil (115 entries)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.. J. Angelakis, Penn St. | 13. S. Marx, Auriol |
| 2. S. Monplaisir, NYFC | 14. J. Stark-F., Csis. |
| 3. L. Lozano, Mex. | 15. S. Steiner, Canada |
| 4. S. Badders, Auriol | 16. Jen. Yu. |
| 5. M. O'Neill, U. Pa. | 17. C. Louie-H., Halb. |
| 6. J. Ellingson, The FC | 18. K. Coombs, |
| 7. C. Bilodeaux, Col. | 19. E. Croumpone, Bard. |
| 8. M. Miller, Mori | 20. L. Roldan, Mex. |
| 9. V. Bradford, USMPTC | 21. M. Szabunia, Csis. |
| 10. A. Metkus, Yale | 22. A. Miller, Penn. |
| 11. F. Lopez, Mex. | 23. L. Volkamer, |
| 12. R. Reux, | 24. E. Cheris, Chey. |

Chicagoand Men's Foil (115 entries)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. P. Lewison, NYFC | 13. P. Burchard, The FC |
| 2. M. Marx, Auriol | 14. P. Gerard, Auriol |
| 3. M. McCahey | 15. H. Hambarzumian, Lett. |
| 4. G. Massinias, The FC | 16. N. Leever, |
| 5. D. Crable, | 17. M. Harris |
| 6. D. Valsamis, | 18. W. Wheeler, Alcazar |
| 7. J. Taichacek, NYFC | 19. J. Biebel, Gr. L. |
| 8. J. Bukantz, NYFC | 20. M. Smith, Atlanta |
| 9. G. Nonomura, | 21. S. Kogler, |
| 10. D. Blaney, Letterm. | 22. P. Bennet, NYFC |
| 11. P. Martino, | 23. J. Powers, |
| 12. D. Littell, | 24. C. Higgs-C., |

General Dynamics Epee (96 entries)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A. Bellman, W.G. | 13. P. Soter, Halsbers. |
| 2. H. Farley, NYAC | 14. J. Bouzou, Fr. |
| 3. L. Shelley, Orsi | 15. C. Schneider, FAM |
| 4. S. Treavor, NYFC | 16. L. Siegel, NYFC |
| 5. J. Moreau, USMP | 17. G. Losey, |
| 6. C. Michaels, USMP | 18. P. Four, Fr. |
| 7. W. Landers, Cap. | 19. R. Hurme, |
| 8. G. Masin, NYAC | 20. R. Cox, Halb. |
| 9. P. Schiffrin, D'As. | 21. W. Matheson, Lett. |
| 10. R. Marx, Auriol | 22. Juhuson, |
| 11. R. Stull, USMP | 23. I. Bramall, Can. |
| 12. P. Pestyh, S. Tex. | 24. J. Elliott, Mori |

Mardi Gras Sabre (70 entries)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. P. Westbrook, NYFC | 13. G. Gonzales-R., NYAC |
| 2. P. Reilly, NYAC | 14. P. Friedberg, NYAC |
| 3. S. Mormando, NYFC | 15. D. Anthony, Univ. |
| 4. M. Lofton, NYFC | 16. B. Mebine, Halb. |
| 5. E. House, NYAC | 17. J. Marotta, |
| 6. S. Lekach, NYAC | 18T. M. Benedek, |
| 7. B. Keane, NYAC | 18T. G. Chang, Halb. |
| 8. S. Blum, NYFC | 20. W. Goering, FAM |
| 9. J. Glucksmann, NYFC | 21. A. Jeffery |
| 10. C. Maroil, Can. | 22. D. Richards |
| 11. P. Ott, Can. | 23. E. Sukunda, Can. |
| 12. M. Lavoie, | 24. G. Rodriguez, NYFC |

(More results on page 18)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TELEVISION AT THE OLYMPICS

Although the LAOCC Fencing Commission, Jan Romary states in her interview in the March/April issue of *American Fencing*, "We have been informed that we would have National and International coverage", with the indication that ABC would telecast some of the finals, the following quote from an article which appeared on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* April 5, 1984, should indicate exactly what the coverage will be:

"For example, ABC will shoot 188 hours of fencing for television viewers around the world. 'On the U.S. ABC television network, we will probably show only about 2½ minutes of fencing — and that's only if an American wins,' Mr. Barnathan (an ABC spokesman) says."

I fear that 1984 Olympic fencing coverage on TV in the United States will be another case of "deja vu" unless something is done now. I think it would be appropriate to encourage everyone to write to ABC. Our only chance is to convince ABC management that the American public is interested in seeing Olympic fencing on television.

Steven B. Sobel

Editor's note: WE AGREE!! Do our readers want to see only 2 1/2 minutes of televised fencing from the 1984 Olympics? Don't complain later if you are not willing to do something about it now. Write the ABC management NOW and let it know how you feel. Write to: Roone Arledge, ABC Sports, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

RARE COMMENTS

Congratulations on another outstanding (January/February) issue of *American Fencing*. It was, as usual, informative and entertaining, and well put together.

Of particular interest were the rare comments of our President, Michel A. Mamlouk. While somewhat leary of his radical autocratic stance, I agree with his emphasis on producing Olympic results. I have been fencing for over ten years and have only fenced in a USFA National Championship

once, but have been inspired by performance in other Olympic events. I would feel gratified if an American fencer in the Olympics. This provide publicity that would reach grassroots programs. Therefore amenable to more of my USFA to support our U.S. Olympic development.

One way to get more for our U.S. by eliminating waste and char resources more effectively would be Mr. Mamlouk's suggestion of a state to a sectional championship and only thence to the national ship. This would help in two ways: would increase the importance of competitions, and thus of themselves, which at present are a superfluous appendage of the U.S. higher-than-divisional level of competition is obsolete in the face of the circuit. Secondly, it would reduce expenses for those who currently travel to their divisions, but would not the nationals. The annual section competition would perhaps be a more appropriate place for such fencers to test their side their division, at less expense "monstrous annual convention"

In closing, I support Michel A. Mamlouk's spirit, and regret his reported disimplementing ideas whose time given recent changes and Perhaps if the USFA machinery a proposal to implement these could somehow be put before the ship for a vote.

B.E. Kjellander, North C.

ACKNOWLEDGING A T

In directing, when making call was not sure of the right-of-way action as simultaneous (and stat the fencers in the aforementioned gauge), there were occasions in of the fencers would acknowledge touch and I still made no reward

to say there was some discussion that followed.

The last time this occurred, a few weeks ago, one of the fencers objected strongly and told me that I should award the touch. He was a fencer with international experience and had won national championships. He said that although it was not in the rule book, acknowledged touches were awarded by directors through-out the fencing world.

What I would like to know is the logic behind this practice. Obviously there could be problems. The outcome of bouts could be controlled by fencers (though I have not seen a situation where I thought this was happening); the fencer acknowledging could be wrong (we have all heard and said "but I made the attack" or "what about my parry riposte?"). Does the fencer perceive the action more accurately than the director, and if so, does this apply at all levels of fencing from international class fencers to unclassified? If not, where is the cut-off? Lastly, when the director defers to the fencers acknowledgement, is he undermining his own credibility?

Or is the explanation that this is a custom or tradition and it has been found that where it is invoked it is usually right, not harmful or just a matter of courtesy.

If a yes or no answer cannot be given, an explanation and/or opinion would be greatly appreciated.

Joseph Steiner

IN REPLY

Yes, acknowledged touches are frequently awarded by Presidents throughout the fencing world. However...

Rule 66 states:

"The Jury is not bound to take account of the acknowledgement of a hit properly made by a competitor."

Rule 606 states:

"Every competitor is at liberty to acknowledge aloud a hit which he has received at the moment he receives it. But the Jury is not bound by this acknowledgement and can still deliberate on this hit (Cf. 66s, 72s).

It is, on the other hand, absolutely forbidden for competitors to make any gestures or comments — except the acknowledgement of a hit as allowed — which might influence the decisions of the Jury, or acknowledge a hit which has not been awarded, after the decision of the President (Cf. 645, 647 and 649)."

The rule is quite clear (well, at least as clear as most rules) about acknowledgements. If a fencer wants to acknowledge a touch that has just been received, it is correct, legal, and acceptable act.

To acknowledge touch after the President has made his or her call is both rude and illegal (Cf. 602,649). This is a "direct attack" (pun intended) on the President's ability, authority, and credibility.

The practice of acknowledging touches should not allow the outcome of bouts to be in the control of the fencers. The President still makes the call. When the Jury feels that the fencer acknowledging the touch is wrong, the Jury simply ignores the acknowledgement.

As to the question whether or not the fencer perceives the action more accurately than the President — this depends on both the skill of the President and the skill of the fencer. An experienced competitor will frequently "know" what happened better than an unexperienced President. But, as the great international fencing official, George Bernard Shaw said, "All generalities are false."

The only difference between a good official and a bad official is the good official makes fewer mistakes. Many a President, good and bad, has "lost the action" and been most grateful (albeit in silence) for the acknowledgement of one of the fencers. The President must never "defer" to the fencer's acknowledgement — the acknowledgement may be accepted.

Acknowledging touches is an old tradition in our sport. It is still the correct thing to do in "assaults" (Cf. 4) in the salle. It is a custom that has not hurt our sport but, as with good manners, it must be done correctly.

George Kolombatovich
Fencing Official Commission

LAG TIME

The generally high editorial standards of *American Fencing* call attention to its shortcomings.

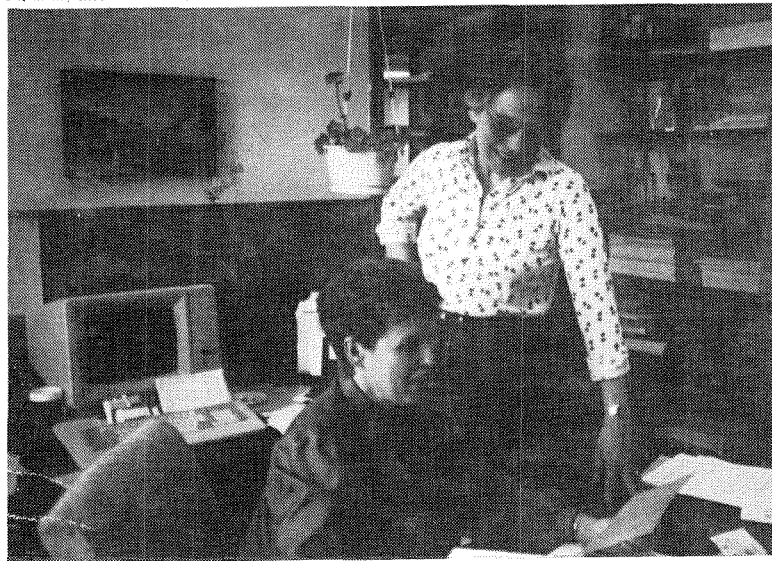
On 24 February I received the Jan./Feb. 1984 issue which requested all candidates for USFA office to send statements to *American Fencing* "before February 20." This reminded me that the previous issue, with the first official notice of the Csiszar Epee event, arrived after that event was held. Fortunately, I found out about it through the grapevine; but, unfortunately too late to avoid a \$5 late entry fee.

Please consider the time lag in the future.

Robert S. Wiener
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Editor's reply: Our deadlines for copy are printed prominently on page 3 of every issue and our second class mail delivery takes two to three weeks after publication, so the "lag time" is too long for many meet managers to cope with in getting advance information to us. For more timely information concerned fencers should get in touch with their divisional secretaries or chairmen, who receive regular bulletins from our national office.

Our Colorado Springs office staff finds many needs to care for. Anne Whiting, administrative assistant (seated) Richards, executive director.



HELENE MAYER

Thank you for sending a copy of *Fencing* containing the photos article by M. deCapriles in Helene For the Olympic Tournament this year in Los . . . wish you all success.

Remarks to the article by M. *Item 1.* The first important appointment internationally of Helene happened Nov. 1927 in London, where she won the "Alfred Hutton Memorial Challenge Cup" against the elite of international women fencers besides F. Hartmann, who also participated in the tournament.

Item 2. The story behind Helene's participation in the 1936 Olympics is well known, at least to me and to many sports-scientists at German universities (documents available). It can be seen in one of the main impulses carried by the American Olympic Committee (see: TI 1935, pp. 61-62) and then from the perspective of Helene in Oct. 1936.

Item 3. Our father, Dr. Ludwig Mayer, was a general practitioner in Offenbach.

town famous for leather goods about 10 miles distant from Frankfurt, while Offenburg is a little country town in the Black Forest.

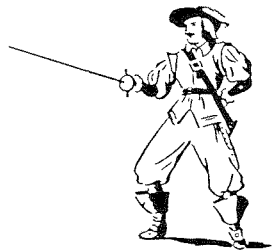
Item 4. Our father was born in Mayence, where his father, Martin Mayer, indeed was honorary Mayor.

Item 5. Helene died in Heidelberg. She is buried at Munich.

Our best regards to all,

Ludwig E. Mayer, Frankfurt, W. Germany

Editor's note: Helene Mayer's brother, Ludwig, and his wife, Erika, toured through California in the spring of 1982, at which time we were happy to make their acquaintance.

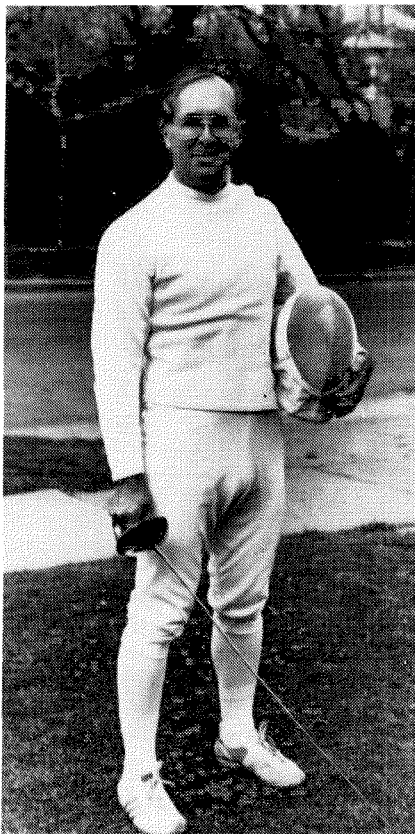


IN MEMORIAM DANIEL EDWARDS

by Wade R. Watts

Dan Edwards, fencing competitor, official and coach died in St. Louis, March 1, after a long illness. Dan, 56, began fencing at Lehigh University when he was a chemical engineering student. He came to St. Louis in 1957 as an engineer for Dennis Chemical Company and became senior vice-president in 1978. He was active in several industrial and professional organizations.

He became a member of the St. Louis Fencers club and was one of its most active members for 27 years. He won the St. Louis Division sabre championship 15 times (along with several other championships in epee and foil) as well as being a finalist in sectional and national events many times. However, the two fencing "awards" he seemed to value most highly were the USFCA Master diploma he earned in 1979 and the leather plastron Lajos Csaszar, his long-time coach and friend, gave him when



Daniel Edwards

he "officially" started teaching. Dan became the coach at SLFC in 1972, coached the Washington University team and taught beginning fencing at St. Louis Jr. College-Meramec.

Dan was an energetic man of many talents and interests. He was an accomplished pianist and, among his hobbies, his love of sports was equalled only by his love of music.

Dan is survived by his wife, Betty; five daughters, Pat Hine, Helen Forst, Carolyn, Becky and Margaret; and three sons, Tom, John and Robert. Tom was a sabre fencer at Notre Dame and John is currently a starter for the Notre Dame sabre squad.

Dan was a good man, a good coach and a good friend and we'll all miss him.

WOMEN'S FOIL CONTROVERSY SETTLED IN SAN FRANCISCO

By Scott Knies

It can be called fitting that the finals of the D'Asaro Women's Foil competition, racked by uncertainties over a scoring machine, ill timing and plain bad luck, was refereed on Friday the 13th.

The rematch, which affected only eight finalist's results, was held at the Halberstadt Fencer's Club in San Francisco April 13. Because of a split decision on whether a possibly defective scoring machine unfairly skewed the original women's finals results, a compromise on dividing the precious Olympic points attainable in this event was worked out beforehand.

The Olympic Fencing Committee decided that the points earned in the refereed tournament would be split with each finalist's results at the original D'Asaro Foil North American Circuit event, held January 21, 1984.

In contrast to its low-key atmosphere, the Friday referee represented the conclusion of a fiery dispute that erupted late the night of Jan. 21 and ran an unprecedented three-month course through Jury of Appeals, two OFC meetings, private attorneys and almost to the U.S. Olympic Committee. The finals in San Francisco had no name, no publicity, few spectators and fewer media representatives. It was known simply as "the referee."

The eight competitors, coming from as far away as Texas and Massachusetts, flew in the morning of the match, with the U.S. Fencing Association picking up the tab—which came to some \$5,000, including expenses for USFA officials Carla-Mae Richard, George Kolombatovich and Janusz Steplowski.

As a result of the referee, Vinnie Bradford improved on her original third-place finish by beating teammate Stacey Johnson for first, thus gaining eight Olympic points. Jana Angelakis' third-place victory over Joy Ellingson cost Ellingson eight points from those she originally earned by winning the event in January, but added eight points to Angelakis' standing. Sue Badders was the

finalist most affected by the referee of points, losing ten by finish after a second place at the D'A

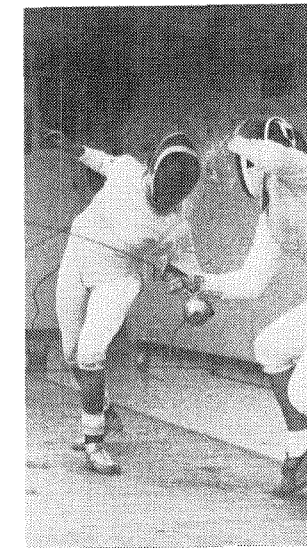
The results further tightened race for selection to the U.S. Olympic men's fencing team, where a me separate the third ranked woman eighth. The top five ranked at the Nationals results are counted the Olympic fencing team.

"We made the most equitable could in an unfortunate situation," batovich said. "The important over! We go on from here."

The issue of the referee sur Prieur club scoring machine the first four bouts of the D'A held at the Fencing Center in USFA Armourer Dan DeChaport reported to the OFC that there was "a lot of unreliability" of lights from due to cost-cutting techniques construction.

The OFC decided at a February meeting in Portland, Oregon, and on 25 in New York that the final

Ellison (left) vs. Sullivan. Photo by B. D.



referenced because of the probability of error in the machine.

Not surprisingly, some of the finalists disagreed with the OFC decision, namely those in the top four slots of the D'Asaro. "The athletes are being penalized by a judgement made in retrospect after we fenced the first time in good faith," Badders said.

After it appeared obvious at the New York meeting that the OFC would order a reference and negate all the finals' results from the D'Asaro, the women who opposed it—Ellingson, Badders Bradford and Johnson — all agreed on a compromise engineered by Athletes Rep. Joe Shamash, to salvage one half of D'Asaro results and have the other half earned at the reference. "Everybody wanted to get the protest issue over with so we can go about picking the Olympic team and relieving the tension among the women," Shamash explained.

The reference did seem to reduce some pressure. Everyone expressed relief that the incident was finally over and, in fact, would serve to initiate needed changes to make future tournaments better.

Richards said the USFA Operations Manual must be amended to accommodate specific technical information — like which machines not to use. Also, a USFA Technical Commission would be set up to identify equipment criteria and standards for U.S. competitions and to establish a method for testing and rating technicians.

Also the rules concerning protests, counterprotests and Jury of Appeals were brought into sharper focus. According to FIE rules, which the USFA follows, technical protests can be lodged up to one hour after the occurrence, so the fencers' protest at the D'Asaro was indeed timely (contrary to what a weary Jury of Appeals ruled in the early morning hours of Jan. 22)

Additionally, the protest issue helped to spotlight the actions of the OFC and bring some of its important policy, athlete, and funding decisions out into the open.

The role of the OFC, according to Richards, is to act as a buffer between the athletes and the USFA, but the athletes can always appeal to the U.S. Olympic Com-

mittee, she added. When the OFC ruled in February for a March reference in Los Angeles, Bradford went to the U.S Olympic Committee to complain. The U.S.O.C. advised that all possibilities of reconciliation should be exhausted within the USFA before the U.S.O.C. became involved.

Would the reference have happened if this wasn't an Olympic year?

"The pressure wouldn't have been as great on the (Olympic Fencing) committee and the athletes," Richards said. "Remember, we are coming off 1980 when nobody from the U.S. went to the Olympics."

PTS. FOR PL.	ORIGIONAL FINALS	REFERENCE
100	1. Ellingson	Bradford
92	2. Badders	Johnson
88	3. Bradford	Angelakis
84	4. Johnson	Ellingson
80	5. Waples	Waples
76	6. Miller	Miller
72	7. Angelakis	Badders
68	8. Sullivan	Sullivan

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THE XII HAPOEL GAMES

—by Albert Axelrod

The XII Hapoel Games, a mini-olympics organized by the Hapoel Sports Association, took place from April 30 to May 7, 1983 in Israel. An invitation was received for four of our best representatives and one official (the first ever received by this country). The group finally selected consisted of a balance of two fencers who had achieved status as olympic squad members and two who were noteworthy for their performance in the under-19 championships. These were Jeffrey Bukantz, Stefan Kogler, Peter Lewison and Russell Wilson — accompanied by Albert Axelrod as official. The various sports venues were scattered throughout Israel. Fencing was held in Acco, a small Arab village about 20 kilometers north of Haifa. The events were held in a small elementary school gymnasium, and although crowded, had five good strips and good lighting.

Seven countries participated in the fencing. They were Great Britain, Canada, Fr-

ance, Germany, U.S.A., Israel, and a sabre fencer from Chile.

The quality of the fencing was considering that the world championships kept (with the except West German's epee and two squads) the strongest fencers in

In the foil individuals, Israel's class fencers, Eyal and Carmi, took second place, respectively. Jeff Bukantz, Eyal, the gold medallist-to-be in direct elimination pool and went through repechage from which he emerged. Kogler and Lewison each lost in one of sixteen and had to face each other in repechage, with the results as shown in the table.

In the epee individuals, Bu Bukantz, Lewison fenced well taking fifth place, an excellent achievement considering that the West Germans swept the four places, losing only to each o-



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same West Germans also swept the epee team event losing but one bout during the day.

The United States team had a star in Russ Wilson who placed fourth in sabre in a strong and experienced field. It would have been gold if Russ had not, after several successful cuts to the arm which the judges did not see, triumphantly turn his back to the opponent only to be hit with a counterattack/ Russ, who had been fencing only two years at this point in time, fenced with the poise, skill and control that belied his experience and was a credit to his teacher. Stefan Kogler was second in the preliminary pool of six. In the round of sixteen he lost to Kay of Great Britain, won his first repechage bout and lost the second. Kogler's fencing is clean, well styled and with good technique, however he must learn to shed his nice manners and gentleness when he goes to the piste. This done, we will have another potentially fine sabre fencer.

The ladies foil events, team and individual, were dominated by the West German team which included world champions, olympic medallists and the then current world-cup leader. There was an especially exciting bout in which Bischoff, the world-cup leader, was trailing a ten-year-old Israeli girl who scored the first hit and reestablished her one point lead each time Bischoff tied the score. At 4-4, the Israeli girl launched an attack which missed - and Bischoff with an out-of-time stop thrust and a sigh of relief, won the bout.

A foil team consisting of Bukantz, Lewison, Kogler and Axelrod was entered. Axelrod suited up for the first time in four years because four men were required. The team fenced hard and well, particularly Bukantz and Lewison, finishing fourth in a field of seven.

The events were well organized. Transportation to and from the events was readily available and without delays. The team was comfortably quartered, two in a room, in a seaside motel. The meals were good, plentiful, and supportive of competitive needs. A medical staff and medical attention was constantly available.

RESULTS: HAPOEL GAMES

FOIL INDIVIDUAL

1. Eyal, Isr.
2. Carmi, Isr.
3. Harper, G. Br.
4. Gloister, G. Br.
5. Kay, G. Br.
6. Bartlett, G. Br.
7. Siebert, W. Ger.
8. Blank, Isr.
9. Valentin, France
10. Broquiere, France
11. Lewison, USA
12. Bukantz, USA
13. Masiero, France
14. Seaman, G. Br.
15. Parizat, Isr.
16. Kogler, USA

EPEE INDIVIDUAL

1. Fischer, W. Ger.
2. Gerull, W. Ger.
3. Haoch, W. Ger.
4. Horgler, W. Ger.
5. Bukantz, USA
6. Lewison, USA
7. Tavar, Isr.
8. Elgraniti, Isr.

SABRE

1. Berthier, Fran.
2. Kay, G. Br.
3. Gomez, Chile
4. Wilson, USA

5. Gay, Isr.
6. Zurab, Isr.
7. Bartlett, G. Br.
8. Fishmah, Isr.

LADIES FOIL INDIVIDUAL

1. Bischoff, W. Ger.
2. Weber, W. Ger.
3. Schaffner, W. Ger.
4. Drori, Isr.
5. Hanisch, W. Ger.
6. Hatuel, Isr.
7. Hoad, G. Br.
8. Van Moppes, Isr.

FOIL TEAM

1. France
2. Gr. Brit.
3. Israel I
4. USA

EPEE TEAM

1. W. Ger.
2. Israel II
3. Israel III

LADIES FOIL TEAM

1. W. Germany
2. Israel I
3. Gr. Britain
4. Canada

SABRE TEAM

(Not Fenced)

IN THE WAKE OF THE EFFECTS OF SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FENCING

by Theodore Katzoff, Maitre Salle Garcon, Nikilai Kariagan, Man

In the wake of recent serious accidents in fencing tournaments, world attention has been turned to the question of safety; and fencers have wisely taken the lead in customizing their own gloves, jackets, and masks for greater protection, while certain equipment manufacturers have experimented with unbreakable blades and extended bibbing.

We would propose, however, that a significant factor affecting safety in combat relates not to equipment, but to technique.

There is no question that foil fencing style has been deeply altered since the introduction of electronic scoring. Foil today is fenced much the way that epee has been fenced since being electrified in the 1930's. We have lost the substance of the science of foil.

We have forgotten that the foil was originally invented as a training weapon for dueling with rapier or small sword, which were too dangerous to use in training. Foil competitions did not exist. The rules of foil fencing were established to promote the execution of proper actions in practice: right-of-way, by forcing the fencer to first deflect the attack, taught him not to push onto his opponent's point. Since stuffed dummies were used in practice, the target area became defined as the torso of the body. The emphasis was on accurate and effective blade work; not only were stop actions and fleche attacks extremely rare, but the rule book specified that a fencer should be warned and penalized if he made a second or third unsuccessful fleche attack.

Although the rule book has not been changed and still requires that the attack be preceded by the extension of the arm, today we observe more touches awarded for jabbing at close range.

This rough style of fencing is traceable in part to the influence of famous fencers, such as Svechnikov, whose success in the early 1950's resulted in widespread imitation of their technique; and partly to an increasing dependency on the scoring box,

with directors reluctant to halt a light appears.

It is at close range, jabbing with that control is lost and blades taken by the force of infighting. Forward motion is ruled to be regardless of whether or not the blade is extended, this illegal and technique is more and more forced.

Not only has foil fencing, through consistent application of the rules in this way, approached the technique of fencing, but foil blade stiffness increased as a result of electronic scoring.

Fortunately, in epee fencing the hand and forearm are target, fencers keep a greater distance from each other thus are less vulnerable to physical technique and breathing.

Some of us may be concerned that the science and substance of foil fencing become obscured; but whether we choose to stand up for the beautiful and classic art, surely we stand together as instructors, coaches, judges, and insist on proper judgment for the sake of our fencers' safety.

We suggest that bouts be held whenever fencers come into contact regardless of whether a light is shown and that those who direct observe closely and award right-of-way to the fencer who started the attack with a extended arm.

Furthermore, a parry should be valid when made with the blade guard — not with the arm or elbow by pushing and shoving.

It may also be possible to require a pressure of the tip, to distinguish lighter touches from greater depth.


We would like to invite discussion of this problem, and an exploration of which fencing can be made to be more scientific; and we welcome response and suggestions of others in this regard.

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JUNE 1983

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For premier blade electric add 3.50		
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34	Woman's (3) weapon jacket - stretch nylon knit - front zip	47.95
35	Men's practice jacket - padded duck - back zip	26.95
36	Woman's practice jacket - padded duck - back zip	26.95
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54	Woman's (3) weapon knickers - stretch nylon knit	31.95
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1012	Epee body cord	10.95
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1014	Electric epee guard socket	3.75
1015	Spaghetti wire - per foot	.09
1016	Blade wiring glue	2.95
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A LOOK AT THE RATING SYSTEM

by Dick Oles

We've had the revised rating system for tournaments in operation for a year now. While it is a step in the right direction, I feel there are some things which could be done to make it better and more effective, and at the same time solve the problem of what-we-do-with-all-those-unclassified-fencers. To illustrate some of the problems, consider the following:

1) PDQ division schedules an U-19 event. There are 16 entries, with 2 "Bs" and 2 "Cs" in the final. The winner, presently "D" ranked, gets nothing. A week later, at a senior A event, nobody but U-19 fencers show up. Same entries, same ranks in the final, same kid wins. This time he gets a "B" rank!

QUESTION: Why should age have anything to do with rating?

2) PDQ division schedules a Class C event. Only 7 entries show up, all of unclassified rank. Rating is Group IV; winner get "D". Later in the season, at a U event, again 7 entries, again all are unclassified. Winner gets nothing.

QUESTION: What, given equal ranks among the entrants, does classification of the tournament have to do with the strength of the field?

3) PDQ division holds Class A event; 20 entries, two "Bs" and one "C" in final, Group III rating. Silver medalist, unranked, get a new "D" rank. At another Class A event earlier in the season there were 6 unclassified entries, with the winner also receiving a "D" rank since the rating was Group IV.

QUESTION: Are we seriously saying that the two "D" ranks thus earned are equal or even comparable?

4) Again PDQ division holds a A event. Eighteen turkeys, all first-year fencers or close to it, show up. Winner get "C" rank.

QUESTION: Are we kidding? This guy merits a "C"?

The Maryland Division has been trying to solve the problem; over the past ten years we've experimented with "D" and "E" ranks (although we call them "unclassified"

and "novice"), as well as Group IV and even Group V tournament ratings, and a system was developed which we think might well serve American fencing in general. It worked like this:

- (a) Two "sliding scales" are independently applied to every USFA individual tournament: **classification** (Class A, B, C, D, E, U); and **rating** (Group I, II, III, IV, V). The classification of a tournament is stated on the schedule and denotes — as it does now — the highest rank of fencer eligible to enter. The rating of a tournament — as now — denotes the strength of the entry field, and is determined during the event.
- (b) Fencers earn ranks based only upon the criteria set forth in the rating system; restrictions such as age (under-or-over-whatever) and education (high school, college) do not prevent the application of the rating criteria. Whether the tournament is open or closed is irrelevant. Naturally all fencers must be USFA members, and all other USFA rules followed:

- (c) Tournaments are rated as follows:

#Entries	Ranks in Final (Top 6)	Winner Gets	2&3 Get	4-6 Get	Rating
15	2A + 2Bs	A	B	C	I
15	2B + 2Cs	B	C	D	II
12	2C + 2Ds	C	D	E	III
18	4Ds	C	D	E	III
10	2D + 2Es	D	E		IV
15	4Es	D	E		IV
6	2Es	E			V
10	—	E			V

Note that the requirements for Groups III-V are simply extrapolations of the requirements for Groups I-II, which is both logical and easy to remember. Note also that the principal (you can't get an "A" or a "B" by beating only "C" fencers) is carried to its logical conclusion: to earn **any** rank you must beat at least two fencers of that rank or, say, 4 fencers of the rank below. Again logical, again easy to remember.

Finally, I think the practice of giving lower rank awards in the other two weapons (e.g. giving a fencer a "D" in foil and sabre when he earns a "B" in epee) should be dropped; particularly at lower rank levels, the argument that if you're an "A" in foil you can at least bludgeon your way to a "C" in one of the other two weapons just doesn't hold up. More to the

point, I feel that you should have your rank in **any** weapon, not just you specialize in. Isn't it obvious, should be more easy (or difficult) ranked in one weapon than another?

Perhaps if the fine-tuning set for is implemented, the rating system made much more consistent and for all.

MID ATLANTIC COLLEGE CONFERENCE

The Johns Hopkins men's fencing team won the 33rd annual Middle Atlantic Conference Championship in February. The Blue Jay swordsmen were led by Andy Goldberg and Dave Wiener, who placed first and second in individual foil and who paced the winning foil squad.

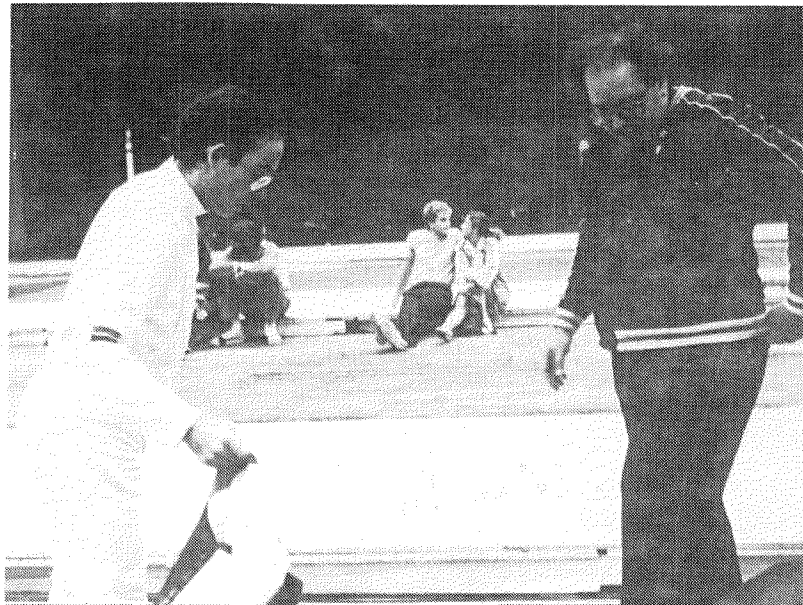
Johns Hopkins defeated Lafayette College, 38-32, in one of the tightest overall finishes in conference history. Stevens Institute of Technology finished in third place with 30 points. Haverford, the defending champions, tied the College of William &

Mary for fourth place with 28 points while Temple University placed last points.

In individual sabre, Jeff Hyson of was undefeated (10-0). Epee individual won by Troy Peple (9-1) of William in a fence-off with Geoff Tombaugh Haverford. William & Mary and H tied for first place in epee team; won the sabre team event.

Dick Oles, veteran John Hopkir was selected the 1984 Coach of the William & Mary won the Frankl Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

WHAT have we here? (Photo N. Kossler).



NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT

Csiszar Women's Foil (April '84, 85 entries)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A. Metkus, Yale | 13. C. Mitchell, Can. |
| 2. V. Bradford, USMPTC | 14. A. Everson |
| 3. D. Waples, Auriol | 15. S. Badders, Auriol |
| 4. J. Poirier, Canada | 16. C. McClellan, TCFC |
| 5. M. Miller, Mori | 17. H. Cormier, Canada |
| 6. M. O'Neill, U. Pa. | 18. J. Ellingson, The FC |
| 7. C. Biodeaux, Col | 19. V. Marmora |
| 8. S. Steiner, Canada | 20. C. Louie-H., Halb. |
| 9. E. Cheris, Chey. | 21. S. K-Cook |
| 10. J. Starks-F., Csis. | 22. H. Konecny, NYFC |
| 11. S. Monplaisir, NYFC | 23. M. Szabunia, Csis |
| 12. M. Sullivan, TCFC | 24. A. Miller |

Cherry Blossom Epee (April '84, 99 entries)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. P. Merencio, Cuba | 13. R. Nieman, USMP |
| 2. P. Pesthy | 14. H. Farley |
| 3. A. Nussa, Cuba | 15. D. Wells |
| 4. P. Schiffrin, D'As. | 16. R. Stull, USMP |
| 5. L. Siegel, NYFC | 17. T. Glass, Sebast. |
| 6. S. Trevor, NYFC | 18. V. McGovern |
| 7. O. Portella, Cuba | 19. T. Thompson |
| 8. C. Schneider, FAM | 20. M. Murphy |
| 9. R. Marx, Auriol | 21. W. Matheson, Lett. |
| 10. J. Motcau, USMP | 22. O. Polaez, Cuba |
| 11. M. Storm | 23. W. Landers, Cap. |
| 12. P. Soter, Halb. | 24. S. Monamad |

Cherry Blossom Men's Foil (April '84, 97 entries)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. P. Lewison, NYFC | 13. E. McNamara, NYFC |
| 2. M. Marx, Auriol | 14. H. Hamblitzumian, Lett. |
| 3. J. Tichacek, NYFC | 15. P. Schmidt |
| 4. M. Cardinas, Cuba | 16. D. Littell |
| 5. M. McCahay, NYFC | 17. P. Gerard, Auriol |
| 6. J. Bukantz, NYFC | 18. D. Blaney, Lett. |
| 7. P. Morales, Cuba | 19. D. Comas |
| 8. G. Nonomura | 20. M. Decena |
| 9. M. Smith, Atlanta | 21. T. Glass |
| 10. A. Flom | 22. G. Massialas, The FC |
| 11. M. Lang | 23. S. Gross |
| 12. E. Ballinger, Sant. | 24. D. Crable |

PREVENTING HEAT ILLNESS

Water loss means a loss in performance and in severe cases may even mean death. You must replace lost water. Cool, cold, and even ice water can be taken by most people without difficulty to replace water and cool the body.

Don't depend on thirst to tell you when to replace water. Weigh in before the practice or event. Drink water before, during, and after the event and weigh again after the event to help determine how much water you need to drink to replace loss. One-half liter (two cups) of water equals one pound.

If your weight doesn't recover, see your team physician.

If you wear pads, a sweat suit, or other clothing that prevents evaporation, you will slow the cooling process and body temperature will rise. To prevent heat illness; avoid heavy exercise during the hottest part of the day: wear light, loose clothing that allows free circulation of air; schedule rest and water breaks and move to the shade; take off your jersey when it gets wet — wet clothing cuts the skin's ability to cool you; drink water before, during, and after practice sessions and competition.

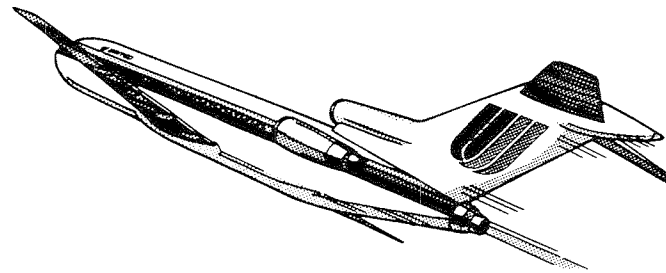
(The above was prepared for the U.S. Olympic Council on Sports Medicine by the Swanson Center for Nutrition, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.)

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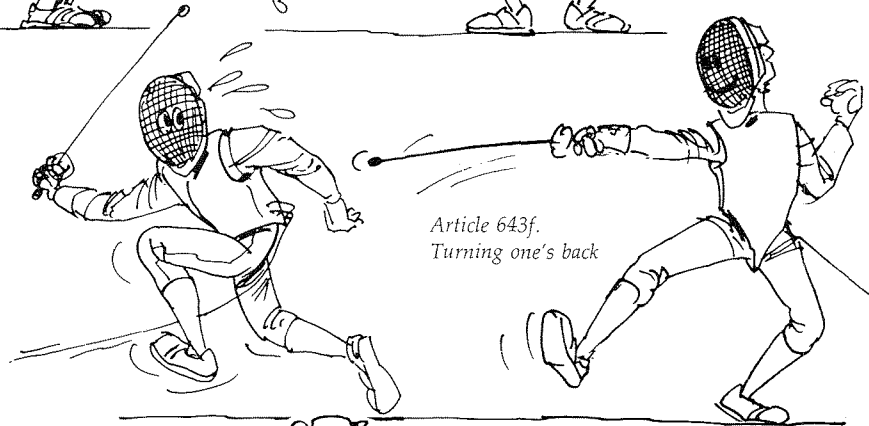
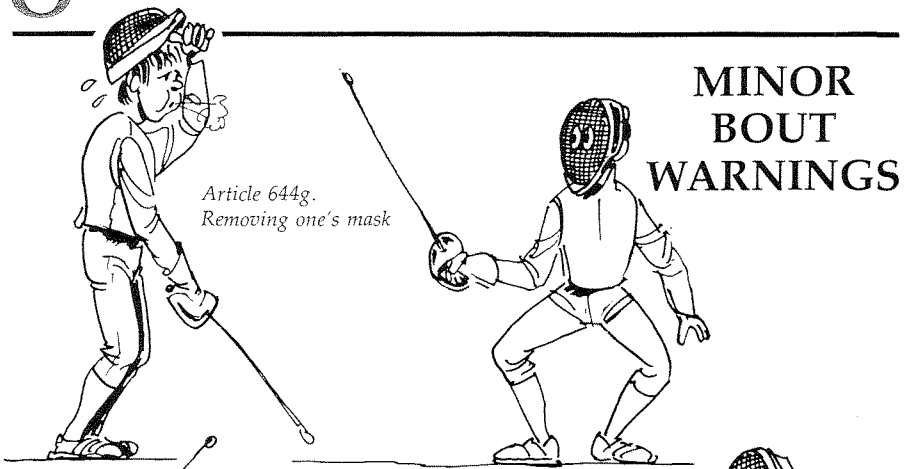
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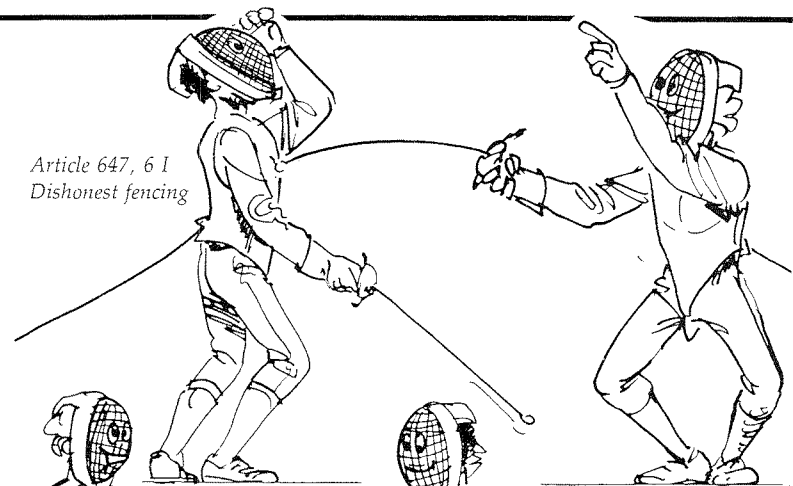
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O FENCES & THEIR PENALTIES



— SPECIAL WARNINGS



ANNULING A TOUCH

by George Kolombatovitch, F.O.C.

After you award a touch against a fencer, watch that fencer closely. Make sure that the fencer does **nothing** to the equipment that could cause it to malfunction. This includes such things as:

- continuing a fleche after being hit to cause the reel or connecting cord to the reel to be torn out (Cf. 35).
- touching the wires inside the bell guard.
- pulling on the body cord either by the bell guard or in back.
- twisting the barrel.
- putting a bend in the blade.
- testing the weapon with violence.

The President **should** allow the fencers to **gently** test the weapons themselves if they

so desire. Demanding that the fencers only present their weapons to the President for testing is too disruptive to the flow of a bout. Contrary to popular superstition, there is no rule which states that if the fencer tests the weapon before presenting it to the President, the touch against the fencer cannot be annulled. The fencer's test is, however, strictly informal, and only tests conducted by the President can cause the annulment of a touch.

In cases where a fencer requests that the President test his/her weapon, use the following steps before any decision is made:

1. Look at the connection at the fencer's back. If the body cord is unplugged — test no further. Do not annul the touch. However, if the reel cord does not have a means of securing the body cord or if it does not function, you do annul the touch (Cf. 327 (f)). And then change reels.
2. Look inside the guard. If the body cord is unplugged or one or both of the wires is disconnected — test no further. Do not annul the touch.
3. Hold the guard with one hand, and with the other hand, test that the barrel of the tip is securely screwed to the blade. If the barrel is loose — test no further. Do not annul the touch.
4. Hold the guard with one hand and, with the other hand, press the tip in. (This method will not allow the weapon to slip in your hand causing doubt as to whether or not you did push the tip completely.) When depressing the point, press it straight down using firm pressure on the center of the point. Do not press on the edge of the point. Points which fail to register only when pressed on one side do not cause the annulment of the last touch. The blade should not be held in a bent position while making the test. The only bend allowed in the blade is that which resulted from the last fencing action. If the weapon does not work on any three tries, annul the touch. Conduct

these further tests to determine what equipment should be changed:

- a) Check if the body cord will activate the scoring apparatus by unplugging the body cord from the weapon and then holding the "A" and "B" prongs of the cord (the two that are closest together) against the guard. If the apparatus comes on, confiscate the weapon.
- b) If the apparatus does not come on, leave the weapon unplugged, take a metal object (a coin or pen knife works well) and make contact with "A" and "B" prongs of the body cord at the connection to the reel wires. If the apparatus comes on, confiscate the body cord.
- c) If the apparatus still does not come on, leave the body cord unplugged, take a metal object and make contact with "A" and "B" prongs of the floor cord at the connection to the reel. If the apparatus comes on, replace the reel.
- d) If the apparatus still does not come on,

take a metal object and make contact with "A" and "B" prongs of the floor cord at the scoring apparatus. If the apparatus comes on, replace the floor cord. If the apparatus does not come on, replace the apparatus.

5. If in doubt — Call for a technician.

In all cases where the annulment of a touch is caused by a fencer's fault (bad weapon or body cord), the equipment should be confiscated and submitted to the technician for examination (Cf. 21).

Do Not Allow The Fencers, S
Or Coaches To Influence You In
A Decision You May Make!





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TAKING THE BLADE

A NOVEL
by Craig Bow

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RESULTS

1984 NCAA

Men's Foil:

1. C. Higgins-Coulthard, N.D.
2. S. Kogler, Wayne St.
3. J. Brown, Penn St.
4. S. Chauvel, Wayne St.
5. B. Hamada, Cal St. Full.
6. S. Sabharwal, Ohio St.
5. N.Y.U.
6. St. Johns
7. Ohio St.
8. Cal St. North.
8. Wisconsin-Mad.
8. Yale

Men's Epee:

1. E. Bianchi, Wayne St.
2. C. Zebuth, St. Johns
3. J. Pitt, Columbia
4. C. Scherpe, Cal St. N.
5. G. Petranek, St. Johns
6. A. Quaroni, N.D.

Men's Sabre:

1. M. Lofton, N.Y.U.
2. D. Johnson, N.D.
3. B. Keane, Penn St.
4. G. Girotto, Wayne St.
5. B. Kogler, Wayne St.
6. T. Yassir, Cal St. LB

Final Team Standings:

1. Wayne St.
2. Penn St.
3. Notre Dame
4. Columbia

Women's Foil:

1. M. O'Neill, U. Pa.
2. A. Metkus, Yale
3. H. Meyer, Penn St.
4. L. Piazza, Columbia
5. J. Angelakis, Penn St.
6. C. Bildeaus, Colum.
7. J. Yu, Stanford
8. S. Kimball-C., Yale

Women's Foil Team:

1. Yale
2. Penn St.
3. U. of Pa.
4. Temple
5. Columbia
6. Wisconsin
7. Ohio St.
8. St. Johns

NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE

by Laurie Katz

The twentieth annual New England Women's Intercollegiate Fencing team and individual championships were held on February 26, 1984 at Holy Cross College. Ten schools participated in the varsity competition; five in the junior varsity.

Varsity team results

1. Wellesley
2. M.I.T.
3. Harvard
4. Brandeis
5. Rhode Island
6. Brown
7. Trinity
8. Holy Cross
9. Dartmouth FC
10. Southeastern Mass.

JV team results:

1. Harvard
2. Wellesley
3. Southeastern
4. Rhode Island
5. Brandeis

Varsity individual results:

1. A. Huber, M.I.T.
2. M. Campbell, Wellesley
3. S. Sessler, Brandeis
4. S. Ward, Wellesley
5. V. Wang, M.I.T.
6. V. Fuchs, Harvard

(More results page 26)



TECHNICAL TALKS

by

I have been asked (by a couple of foil fencers who have occasionally been the recipients of electrical shocks from the equipment) whether the new GFCI approach I outlined here a couple of columns ago will prevent that from happening to them again.

As the saying goes, "sorry about that," but the answer is: not really. If they had been the victims of the kind of shock the GFCI is designed to prevent, they wouldn't be likely to be in any sort of condition to ask the question. The GFCI is designed to prevent you from being killed, if a breakdown in the transformer insulation or some other associated part of the AC input suddenly lets the full line of voltage into your equipment. (Actually, I have never heard of a case of this sort happening.)

To the best of my knowledge, as I have remarked before in these columns, there has been only one electrically-caused fatality in all the years of electrical fencing, and that was the result of an incorrect (i.e., incompetent) re-assembly of a pull-apart power plug on an epee machine in Budapest some years ago.

Why then the international huffing and puffing? Well, the FIE Commission which makes these rules is now based in Italy, where they put the battery-only rules into effect nationally some years ago. As the ancient formula has it: "When in Rome do as the Romans do." Apparently the FIE is at present convinced that the whole world is, or should be, Rome. Anyway, Italian fencers won't even practice anymore with a machine that isn't run off batteries; at least, so I have been assured.

Since far more fencers have been seriously injured — and killed — by broken blades than electrically (a factor of how-many?-to-one), I am inclined to hazard a guess that a psychological phenomenon is

being illustrated here: a kind of transfer of the worry from an area which (so far) a solution, to an area where 'safety' can be claimed.

The fact that the FIE powers do not want to see any voltage more than 120V (DC) in the immediate vicinity of a strong indication of how much of a "strong indication" they are demanding in their search for "solute" safety somewhere. (It is acknowledged that it takes 35 volt to be dangerous to a healthy adult.)

No. To come back to our first case: the kind of shock that a foil fencer receives if sweating heavily, and the equipment an older design (relay-operated particularly), is only a low-voltage (usually) non-lethal jar or tingle, from less than 12 volts. Unpleasant, especially when unexpected, as it usually is, but not dangerous. However, once it happens to you at a competition, anticipation that it might happen again can sure throw you off your balance.

"Unpleasant...but not dangerous."

I well remember that in the early days of electrical foil this sort of thing used to be fairly common occurrence, even with a machine was being run off a cell (series-wired 6-volt "hot shot" dry cell type). I also remember when it wasn't anybody on the strip who got the shock. At a (then AFLA) National Championship, one of the non-fencers suddenly let out a yell and knocked the scoring table complete. He had got a wicked jolt from a 12-volt battery being used to power the machine. He seems he had a metal artificial leg even through his trousers — made contact with the battery cabinet. He didn't think it was very funny.

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In other words, 12-volt car or truck batteries, which the FIE likes to think of as offering "absolute safety," have their own dangers. For one thing, they're full of sulfuric acid. For another, a metal tool, say, accidentally or carelessly bridged between the positive and negative terminals, will heat up like an electric stove and badly burn anyone touching it. At the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, the opening of the epee individual finals was marred by some bungling during a hasty exchange of scoring machines: the battery cables were allowed to short together. They burned up in a spectacular, downright glorious red-orange mess. The resulting pall of grayish-black smoke from the burned insulation rose ever so slowly and majestically to the very high ceiling of the gymnasium where it took something like a half an hour to be drawn out of the opposite end of the building by the air ducts and blowers. That was funny.

Speaking of what's funny: in a sport like ours, to talk of "absolute safety" seems a bit odd. What would be required to make it ABSOLUTE? India-rubber blades, I suspect.

NOTICE

The Fencing Officials Commission will have an audio cassette course available in May titled "Fencing French For Americans." French is the official language of fencing and is used by directors in all FIE competitions. "Fencing French For Americans" is designed to help both competitor and the official in international competition. The cost of the course is only \$6.00 to cover the expense of printing the study guide, reproducing the cassette, and postage. Anyone who would like a copy of the course should send a check (payable to George Kolombatovich) to:

George Kolombatovich
USFA Fencing Officials Commission
450 Riverside Drive, #54
New York, NY 10027

TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Diana Troup

Back on March 24-25, the North Texas Division hosted the Texas State Championships in Irving at The Dallas International Fitness Center. There is a great amount of active fencing in Texas and to assemble everyone for a weekend event is quite a big job. Despite the distances that many traveled, there was a turnout of 85 entrants, at least 64 of those in men's foil. The entrants included fencers of all ratings in the three weapons, modern pentathletes, collegiate groups, and others.

Men's Sabre:

1. C. McCraw
2. P. Anderson
3. E. Sims
4. M. Johnsen
5. H. Williams
6. S. Clark

Men's Foil:

1. A. Skopik
2. B. Walter
3. E. Sims
4. M. Husband
5. H. Williams
6. S. Clark

Men's Epee:

1. D. Glensk
2. D. Brynestad
3. L. Beres
4. E. Falt
5. M. Burley
6. B. Withers

Women's Foil:

1. AM. Walters
2. R. Valquez
3. J. Cull
4. S. Rober
5. M. Middlebrook
6. M. McCreary

BULLETIN BOARD

GARDEN STATE GAMES SET FOR 1984

This season, we will hold 13 events, with 4 Interscholastic events added to the 5 Opens and 4 Masters events. All finals will be held at the Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway on July 14-15 and will be run as 12 fencer round robins on two strips.

July 14, Saturday 8-12:30
Men's Open Foil
Men's Masters Sabre
Men's Interscholastic Epee

July 14, Saturday 12:30-4:30
Women's Open Foil
Men's Masters Epee
Men's Interscholastic Sabre

July 15, Sunday 8-12:30
Men's Open Epee
Women's Masters Foil
Women's Interscholastic Sabre

July 15, Sunday 12:30-4:30
Men's Open Sabre
Men's Masters Foil
Men's Interscholastic Foil
Women's Open Epee

Eligibility is limited to amateurs residing or attending school in New Jersey, who hold membership in the USFA. Qualifying events will be held in each of 4 regions on June 23-4, with 3 qualifying for each Final from each region. Masters are those 40 years or older on July 14, Interscholastics

are those who have not completed Grade by July 14. Entries to events must be received by June 15, accompanied by a fee of \$5 per weapon.

For further information, contact Bernstein, Garden State Game Chairman, 249 Eton Place, West 07090.

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