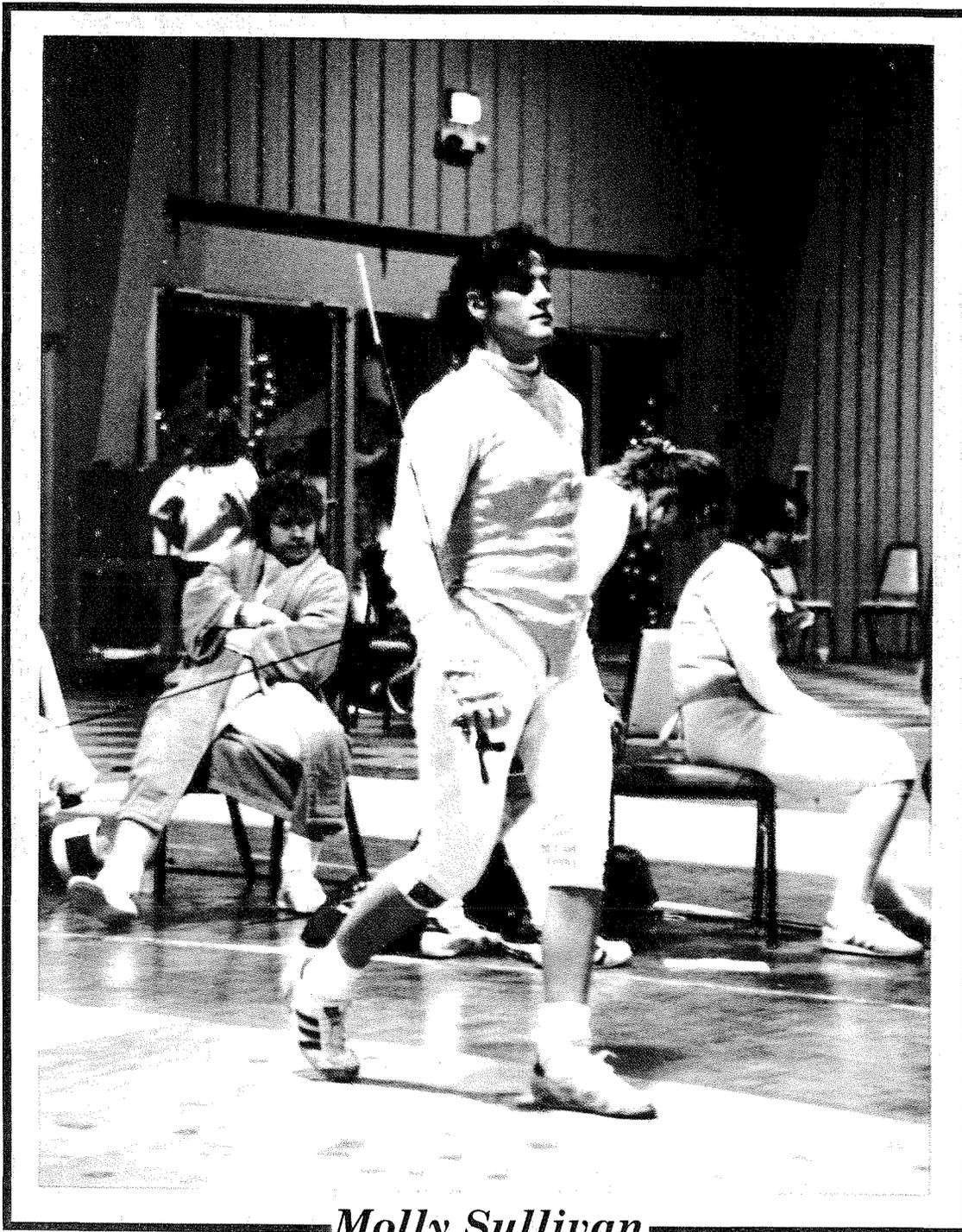


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# American FENCING

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#### On The Cover

*Molly Sullivan marching to the strip to meet her opponent in the fence-off for first place.*

*Photo by Albert Axelrod*



## On Taking Care of Our Own

The "Mini-Nationals", which is what the North American Circuit #2 event held in Portland seemed to be, was held without any delays or inconvenience for competitors or officials. As usual, Colleen Olney managed to find a new site when the competition grew beyond the space available in the Red Lion Hotel. And, as usual, the Canadians and the Cubans came in force showing significant strength in all weapons. There is doubt but that their presence in the circuit events is providing a broader base of experience and stronger competition for our fencers. In fact, the Cubans won first place in the Women's Epee (also 2nd, 4th and 5th), the Canadians won first place in the Women's Foil (also 2nd and 7th), and the Canadians won first place in the Men's Epee (also 3rd). In fact, in most of the events, half or more of the eight finalists were Canadians or Cubans. However, their success has raised questions in the minds of many people, not because of their presence, but because they were awarded a total of three thousand dollars in prize money!

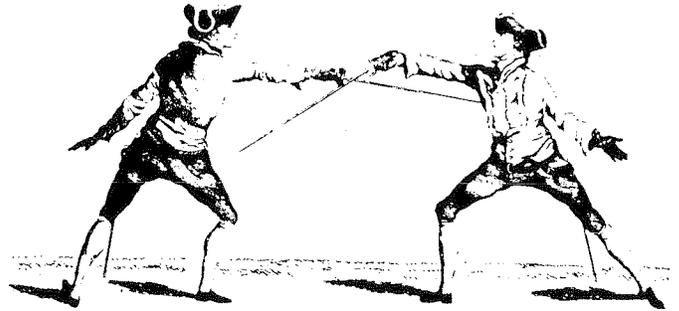
The Oregon Division has been successful in soliciting private funds for their competitions. Many corporations willingly donate funds for prizes for winners of these tournaments. However, cannot the same funds be solicited as awards for the *top United States fencers*, rather than citizens of other countries which, unlike the United States subsidize their fencers completely (as in Cuba) or heavily (as in Canada)? Would an American corporation really hold back contributions if they were awarded to the #1 American, even if nosed out by a non-national fencer? I doubt it.

And where has Caitlin Bilodeaux-Banos been these past two circuit events? Our National Champion and Pan-American Gold Medal winner, has been unable to attend circuit events because at this point in her life, she cannot afford to come to the very events required to qualify for World Championship and Olympic teams. Surely, our money might best be used to help our own fencers rather than them. Due to expense and schedule conflicts, not everyone could attend, but we ended up with a very good group who worked very well together and accomplished a great deal in the relatively short time we had to work.

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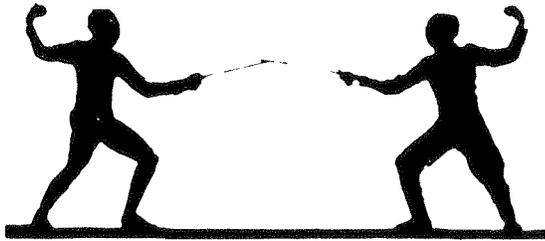
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# The West German Formula

## A REPORT ON THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S EPEE COACHES CLINIC

by Vincent Bradford  
University of Texas  
Peter Burchard  
San Jose St. Univ.



For four days, November 18-21, 1988, the United States Fencing Association had the privilege of hosting two West German coaches at the National Women's Epee Coaches Clinic at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The results were invaluable to everyone who attended and consequently we felt it in the interest of the USFA and its member coaches and competitors to consolidate our notes and provide an edited video tape to anyone who is interested. This video is available through the USFA office. We hope by the combination of this article and the video to be able to share the material presented and thus elevate the level of coaching and women's epee fencing nationwide.

The two gentlemen who presented the Beck style of fencing are both certified coaches in West Germany and were themselves competitors in Tauberbischofsheim (TBB) at the time when this tiny city emerged with the most successful fencing club in the world. Thus, they have seen the "Baukasten-system" from both sides of the fence. They are Walter Steegmuller, currently a coach at the famous center for epee fencing in Heidenheim, and Manfred Beckmann, currently a coach in Laupheim and 1980 Olympic team member as well as twice silver medallist at the World Championships. In short, as competitors and coaches, our guests were indeed world class.

The clinic was organized by Paul Soter, Vincent Bradford, and Peter Burchard. The original idea was to bring the highest level of coaches together with a large number of our highly ranked competitors. This way we would all be familiar with epee basics and could get right to work on understanding and implementing the German system. Due to expense and schedule conflicts, not everyone could attend, but we ended up with a very good group who worked very well together and accomplished a great deal in the relatively short time we had to work.

The American coaches were: Vincent Bradford of Austin, Texas; Peter Burchard of Oakland, California; Mark Holbrow of New Hope, Pennsylvania; Januaz Bednarski of Denver, Colorado; Ted Katzoff of Culver City, Los Angeles; Marietta Towry of El Paso, Texas; and Zoran Tulum of Stanford, California. The fencers were: Marlene Adrian of Warrenton, Oregon; Jane Littmann of Columbia, South Carolina; Kathy McClellan of Marblehead, Massachusetts; Sharon Chaplinski of Ringoes, New Jersey; Leith Askins of San Francisco, California; Lisa Erdos of San Francisco, California; Alison Reid of Stanford, California; Xandy Brown Robinson of Redondo Beach, California; and Sherry Woodruff of Denver Colorado. Also in attendance were the entire Cheris family, including their new baby (!), and Josh

Harris of Denver, Colorado.

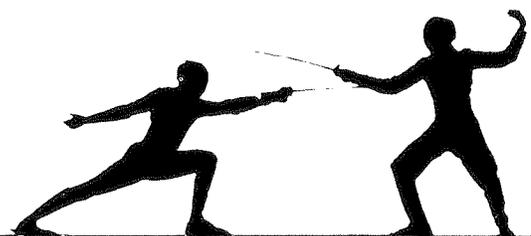
The format of the clinic was such that we worked intensely, giving and taking lessons Friday afternoon, all day Saturday, all day Sunday, and Monday morning with fencing each evening. On Saturday, we viewed a videotape of the epee final in Seoul and analyzed the bouts together.

Walter and Manfred used the blackboard to show us the theory of their system and we all took copious notes. Then we would break up into student/master groups and immediately apply the material introduced. It worked very well and we dare say that we all became quite familiar with the concepts and the specific movements.

Some of the interesting facts that came to light were sobering. Manfred estimated that he had taken 10,000 lessons in his life and that a West German athlete training for the World Championships for the Olympics takes 6-7 lessons daily, six days a week, for about four months before and normally might have 2-4 lessons daily. Theirs is a system which can easily be followed once grasped and does not require that the same coach give the students lessons all the time. Each coach at Heidenheim, for instance, has about 30 fencers of diverse ages for whom he is responsible, but it is not uncommon for him to give lessons to students other than those specifically assigned to him. This seems to promote comradely feelings among all the coaches and fencers and helps eliminate the ego problems which cripple so much fencing in this country.

Walter claimed that this rigorous schedule of daily training is followed by all, despite work conflicts, etc. They come to the club before work, during lunch, and after work, and before and after school. There is also a program where the athlete who makes the various World Teams are allowed to train full time and they continue to be paid and have their jobs waiting for them when the competition is over. Don't forget that West Germany, like most countries, has government support for their amateur sports. One glaring exception to this is the good old U.S. of A., as everyone is acutely aware.

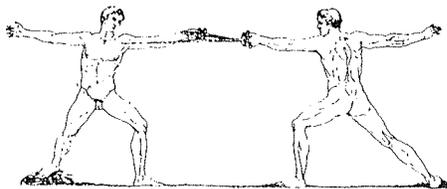
As Walter said, one must live fencing every day. If we hope to do well internationally, this is the type of commitment we have to make. We believe that epee is the quickest way to the top. We can point to Switzerland and Sweden as two countries which put virtually all of their efforts into epee and thereby have enjoyed success. Judging by the way our women have finished in world-level competitions, we think that the USA has a greater opportunity to jump right in as a world power in women's epee more than in any other weapon. It behooves us to listen to experts from the West German program and exploit their offerings to the utmost.



# The West German Formula—

(continued)

Emil Beck's program is based on conditioned responses within a relatively narrow range of actions. He claims in his book that he has taken the most common actions in international fencing and has built a system to deal with them. Because the ideal in athletic performance is smooth, flowing motion without restrictive intellectual processes during the action, it is necessary to condition the athlete as to the correct response to any given situation. The athlete must instantly recognize situations and respond reflexively, unhampered by thought processes. The lesson should try to simulate combat. The student should be in complete fencing uniform and the coach should actually try to hit the student whenever possible. The system is designed to build in muscle memory through high repetitions. Speed and accuracy is at a premium but perfect form is not stressed. One is initially taught form, but later the personal style that evolves is not discouraged. The fact that no forward movement is allowed without first taking the blade and extending the arm instills the instinct to move the hand before the body and always have the point precede any jeopardizing of one's own movement with lunge, patinando, ballestra, and flèche and the taking of the opponent's blade in all actions seems to promote an active and dynamic game based on athletic conditioning and power.



The German coaching system involves four levels of lessons. In the first and second level, the lessons are dedicated to coupé actions and follows suit with the first two levels. It is during the fourth level that the coach attempts to simulate bout situations and emphasize tactical actions. In addition, all epee fencers will receive one lesson a week which focuses only on foil actions. During third type of lesson, only touches scored to the body are practiced.

For the first two or three years, fencers are given lessons in a highly automated and predictable way. The student always knows what is going to happen in the next lesson. In this way, the fencer has the opportunity to visualize and mentally practice beforehand. After a fencer has attained sufficient technical ability, the coach will move on to the third and fourth level of lessons. It is also at this level that the coach will begin to introduce tactics.

Coaches dress in full protection from head to toe and students are required to dress in full FIE approved uniforms as well. As mentioned earlier, the TBB teaching technique calls for the coach to act as an adversary would when the student makes technical or tactical mistakes. By donning proper equipment, injury is prevented when the coach scores on the student who makes a mistake. Safety has become a major concern in West Germany, and therefore many clubs will not allow fencers to participate in a lesson or bout without an FIE uniform.

## HAND POSITION AND PARRIES

The premise of this system is based on what is easiest to learn and which are the most efficient biomechanical movements for the action selected. The TBB system teaches only one hand position for all parries, except prime. This is thought to be very simple for fencers to learn, thereby minimizing the difficulty of the learning process. Students are taught to keep the hand in supination, with the thumb at two o'clock (sixth position for right handers). All parries are executed with the hand in supination (except prime); the position of four does not call for a rolling of the wrist, nor does the sixth position require an extreme outer rotation. The weapon hand is put in a relaxed position which is relatively easy to learn. The system recognizes only four parries, presented and taught in the following order: octave, sixte, quarte, and what they call "quinte" but which most closely resembles septime. They also use prime, but only as a continuation of a circular sixte. Seconde is never introduced. Keeping in line with the premise of this system, the seconde is considered inefficient. The path of the blade and the forced rotation of the elbow caused by wrist turning toward pronation is a longer distance to travel than that of the eighth position. The motion of seconde, biomechanically, is a longer way to meet the riposte. In addition, the seconde introduces a new hand position and this contradicts the TBB philosophy of "simple to learn".

## FOOTWORK

There are seven footwork patterns and each hand action is used in conjunction with all the footwork which is pre-



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# The West German Formula—

(continued)

sented below. This promotes the understanding that any action can be used as an attack, a parry riposte, or a counterattack. This also promotes changing directions and complete familiarity with the actions presented.

The footwork patterns below are performed in the lesson in the order listed and in a sequential manner.

## Offensive

1. Standing
2. Step forward
3. Step forward lunge
4. Jump forward lunge

## Defensive

5. Step back (with parry), riposte
6. Step back (with parry), riposte with lunge
7. Step back (with parry), riposte with fleche

To incorporate these footwork patterns into the lesson, it is important to understand how they are used. The footwork itself is fairly easy to comprehend, however there are a few rules you should be aware of.

The student should always hold the opponent's (coach's) blade in the appropriate line when stepping forward for a step forward lunge. The coach also has the option of having the student hold the blade during a jump forward.

An interesting thing about the German system is that it incorporates an action on the blade at the end of each movement. It is an additional hit from the end of each action from the position one finds himself in, i.e., lunge or on guard. This is called "absicherung", which, roughly translated, means "safety measure", and its function is that of an insurance policy. It is a bind, glide, or opposition to the body which is automatic and provides a sure touch at the end with control of the opponent's blade. Hereafter, the absicherung will be referred to as the "retake".

Whenever a student performs the action with lunge they do *not* recover for a retake. If the student is performing a jump lunge and a remise is called, the fencer must hit the first target on the jump and the remise target on the lunge. If no remise is involved, the fencer should beat in the appropriate line, thrust, and hit the target at the conclusion of the jump lunge.

For the step backward footwork, the student should retreat with or before the parry, never on the riposte. The fencer should also take another step backward if a remise is called for in the lesson plan. The step back lunge requires that a fencer *not* retreat or recover for a retake. When the lesson calls for a step back or a step back lunge to the leg or toe, the fencer should lunge backwards to score those touches.

The fleche is usually taught preceded by a back step, but this is not set in stone and the coaches often use step forward fleche as well. A coach should not teach students to fleche for the toe. Whatever target the lesson is calling for first should be the student's first objective when fleching, with the exception of the toe, and if possible, a remise to the body should also be included.

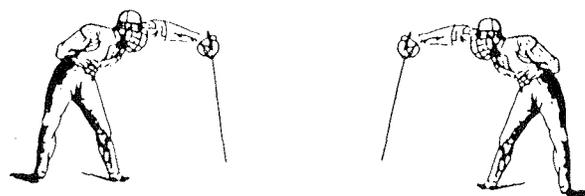
## THE LESSONS

As previously stated, there are four levels of lessons; direct, second intention, coupé, and mixture (the fighting lesson). Each level has four parts and within each part there are three to four series of actions. Every series of actions are performed in all four lines with the seven foot-

work patterns. For example, a student may take a lesson from the first level and work only on beat, parry, and opposition in octave. The next week this student may receive a lesson using this same series of actions, but must perform them using only beat, parry and opposition in sixte. It is important to remember that the very first parry German fencers learn is the parry eight.

As it is in all things, none of the guidelines set down by the West German system are unbreakable rules. There are exceptions to many rules, and as one goes through these actions many adaptations can be made if they make good fencing sense. So, if any readers decide to try this out, remember to combine this information with your own common sense and make adjustments where necessary.

Figure 1 shows the sequence of actions in the first level of lessons. The coach should eventually be able to take the



| ATTACK   | REMISE | RETAKE (absicherung)                                |
|--|--------|---|
| 1. a. Top*   | -----  | Opposition to the body*                             |
| b. Under*  | -----  | High line transport to low line opposition to body* |
| c. Leg   | -----  | Six convert to prime to                             |
| d. Toe*  | -----  | Opposition high line to body                        |
| 2. a. Top  | Under  | Six croisé to toe                                   |
| b. Toe   | Leg    | Parry high line to body                             |
| c. Top   | Toe    | Opposition high line to body                        |
| 3. a. Under  | Top    | Opposition to body                                  |
| b. Under   | -----  | Opposition to body                                  |
| c. Under   | Leg    | Beat & feint or disengage with opposition to body   |
| d. Under   | Toe    | Opposition high line to body                        |
| 4. During the fourth series of actions only foil type actions are performed. For example:  |        |   |
| 1. Beat direct to body   |        |   |
| 2. Beat feint to body  |        |   |
| 3. Beat disengage to body  |        |   |
| 4. Engage and glide to body  |        |   |
| * Top—Target is top of the hand  |        |   |
| * Under—Target is under the hand   |        |   |
| * Opposition to body—Choice of opposition parries is up to the coach and may be done in any line appropriate to the situation. Opposition can include bind, glide or croisé. |        |   |
| * High line transfer to low line opposition—Any high line parry with a transfer to the low line and opposition touch which is appropriate to the situation.                  |        |   |
| * Toe—The toe is the designated target   |        |   |
| Figure 1   |        | LEVEL ONE   |



# The West German Formula—

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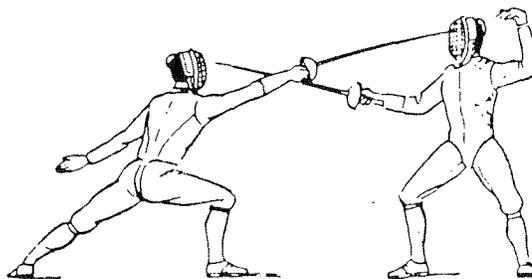
student through this entire sequence using one line (i.e., beat or parry eight) in ten to fifteen minutes. In this short time, all seven footwork combinations will be incorporated for each series of actions. As it was quickly found out during the National Women's Epee Coaching Clinic, it takes many lessons before a student can perform the entire sequence without error in fifteen minutes.

In the first level, first part, first series, the student working in eight will beat eight, hit the top of the wrist, and then use eight opposition to hit the body. This series is performed standing, stepping forward, stepforward lunge, jump forward lunge, stepping back, step backward lunge, and step backward flèche. Following is an example of how the first series of part one of level one goes, using the line of eight and all seven footwork patterns:

1. Standing, beat 8, hit the top of the wrist. Still standing (no movement), opposition 8 to the body.
2. Beat 8, step forward, hit the top of the wrist. With no retreat, opposition 8 to the body.
3. Parry 8, hold the blade while stepping forward, lunge and hit the top of the wrist.
4. Beat 8, jump lunge, hit the top of the wrist (it is optional to hold the parry 8 on the jump—coach's choice). Stay in the lunge, opposition 8 to the body.
5. Step back, beat 8, hit the top of the wrist. Retreat, opposition 8 to the body.
6. Step back, beat 8, hit the top of the wrist. Remaining in lunge, opposition 8 to the body.
7. Step back, beat 8, flèche to the top of the wrist, remise to the body as passing

As the series of actions of level one progress, other lines and parries are utilized. If the focus of a lesson is on parry eight, then all of the first actions will be executed with a beat in octave. However, as the lesson continues down the list of actions, other lines of defense are incorporated. Following is a summary of the sequence of actions used in level one in the line of eight as presented at the National Women's Epee coaching Clinic:

1. a. Beat 8 (top)—Eight opposition (body).  
b. Beat 8 (under)—Six convert to seven opposition (body).  
c. Eight opposition (leg)—Six convert to prime (body)  
d. Eight opposition (toe)—Six opposition (body).
2. a. Beat 8 (top)—Remise (under)—Six croisé (toe).  
b. Beat 8 (top)—Remise (leg)—Parry 4 or 6 riposte (body)  
c. Beat 8 (top)—Remise (toe)—Six or four opposition (body)
3. a. Beat 8 disengage (under)—Remise (top)—Six or four opposition (body).  
b. Beat 8 disengage (under)—Six or four opposition (body)  
c. Beat 8 disengage (under)—Remise (leg)—Beat 6 or 4, disengage or feint (body).
4. Foil actions to the body, for example;  
a. Beat 8, direct  
b. Beat 8, feint deceive  
c. Beat 8, disengage  
d. Beat 8, 1-2



After viewing the second level of lessons (Figure 2), it becomes apparent that this series of actions follows very closely to those in the first level. The main difference is in the addition of actions to the beginning and end of each series. In the first part, the attack is done twice and the retake is also usually performed twice. In the second and third part only one attack is executed, however the retake is always executed.

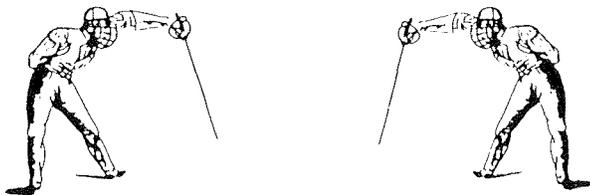
Whenever it is possible to add the same attack twice, it should be done. Following this same rule, a second retake should also be added wherever it makes sense. For example, it does not make sense to do a second retake after a fencer has stepped in with a prime since this action usually draws a halt for corps à corps. The second retake does not always have to be the same as the first retake. This is a situation which calls for the coach and student to determine which action would be most logical for the particular situation.

The third level of lessons introduces the coupé and the lessons follow the same formula as level one or two. It was suggested that the easiest way for a student to learn the coupé is to start from a position which is the longest way from the target. In other words, it is easier to learn the motion of the coupé by beginning in a low line. The path of the coupé blade from an engagement in eight is a longer distance than that from an engagement in the high line. In addition, the student needs to gain wrist strength to perform an effective coupé and starting from the low line facilitates the development of strength necessary to coupé from the high lines.

Once the coach feels that the student has gained sufficient technical ability, the fourth level of lessons is introduced. At this level, there is no formula to follow. The student and coach begin to work on tactics by setting up situations which the fencer may encounter in a bout. Often the coach will study a particular opponent and imitate that fencer in the lesson. The student must then work out an effective strategy to counter the actions of that opponent.

As an example, the student may want to set up a situation where she can use a beat six. To set this up, the fencer may invite the coach to her sixte line by stepping in and showing the target on that side. When the coach counter-attacks, the fencer will beat six riposte. At this point the coach must think of the next move and will feint to the student's sixth line and disengage the beat attacking the leg. It now becomes the student's turn to counter the coach's new tactics. So, the pupil will invite the counter-attack again, but instead of attempting a beat six, she may go straight to the coach's target when the coach attempts to feint.

# The West German Formula—



It is at this level that giving and taking lessons becomes highly creative for both student and coach. Both participants must be trying to out-think each other and be one step ahead of the other in their tactical maneuvers.

Addressing the question of strategy, the German coaches provided a sentence by the world renowned Russian coach, Arkadiev: "Be active, act unexpectedly, decisively, and fast, suppress the opponent's initiative, promote the opponent's misconception of one's own capabilities and intentions, force the opponent to make ill-advised actions, make him do what is least developed to him and exploit that game which suits your game best."

Although the first three levels of lessons are basically derived from a prescribed set of actions, it is always up to the coach to put these actions together in a way which makes sense. While figuring out which retake or remise would be best in a given situation, the coach is using a creative and logical process of thinking. If something in these lessons doesn't make sense, then don't use it. Make an alternative series of actions which fit in a logical manner.

The German game seems to have its advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, it instills self-confidence, power, speed and accuracy to a number of targets with multiple hits on each action. All of these can be seen as extremely helpful. What it lacks is fencing with absence of blade, avoiding the opponent's engagements, and finesse. As with most things, we, as Americans, should take what we can use and integrate it into our own systems. Herr Steegmuller and Herr Beckmann both told us to do exactly that. They are not of the opinion that theirs is the only valid system and this makes their presentation doubly valuable.



|  | ATTACK  | ATTACK      | REMISE    | RETAKE                                  | 2ndRETAKE              |
|--|---|-------------|-----------|---|------------------------|
| 1. a.  | Top (advance)   | Top (lunge) | -----     | Oppo to body                            | Yes*                   |
| b.   | Top   | Under       | -----     | High line transport to body             | -----                  |
| c.   | Top   | Leg         | -----     | Six convert to prime to body            | -----                  |
| d.   | Top   | Toe         | -----     | Oppo to body (high line)                | Yes                    |
| 2. a.  | Top   | -----       | Under     | Six croisé to toe                       | Oppo to high line body |
| b.   | Top   | -----       | Leg       | Beat feint or disengage w/oppo to body* | Yes                    |
| c.   | Top   | -----       | Toe       | Beat feint or disengage w/oppo to body  | Yes                    |
| 3. a.  | Disengage under   | -----       | Top       | Oppo to body                            | Same*                  |
| b.   | Disengage under   | -----       | -----     | Oppo to body                            | Same                   |
| c.   | Disengage under   | -----       | Leg       | Yes                                     | Yes                    |
| d.   | Disengage under   | -----       | Toe       | Yes                                     | Yes                    |
| 4.   | Foil actions to the body. For example:                              |             |           |   |                        |
| a.   | Beat direct to body   |             |           |   |                        |
| b.   | Beat direct to body, counter parry riposte with circle parry        |             |           |   |                        |
| c.   | Beat direct to body, counter parry, feint, disengage or 1-2 riposte |             |           |   |                        |
| d.   | Beat feint or disengage   |             |           |   |                        |
| * In part 1, all actions in the first column are executed with an advance, actions in the second column are executed with a lunge. |   |             |           |   |                        |
| * Oppo—abbreviation for opposition. Actions may be in the form glides, binds or croisé   |   |             |           |   |                        |
| * Yes—Actions should be performed in these columns, but are created to suit the situation.   |   |             |           |   |                        |
| * Same—The first retake should be repeated a second time   |   |             |           |   |                        |
| Figure 2   |   |             | LEVEL TWO |   |                        |

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# COACHES' COMBAT

by Maestro Gil Pezza

The purpose of this presentation is to outline the changes that foil fencing underwent in the past two decades, and to identify the complexities that have arisen in officiating and teaching foil.

In the past twenty years foil fencing has become similar to saber fencing; this similitude was apparent when Fabio Dal Zotto took the gold medal in foil at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Dal Zotto, Numa, Borella, Cipressa, Vaccaroni and many others are all students of Maestra Di Rosa, who is the chief-founder of the modern Italian foil, and who has developed, indeed, successfully, a school of fencing which uses the counter-attack as the main strategy against the attack.

Counter-attack is not to be construed as the action against the priority, but as the ensemble of all possible counter-offensive strategies which can be used to oppose the attack, i.e., a derobement on preparation, a counter-attack tempo beat, a breaking of the tempo, and many other, almost infinite, possibilities.

The development of the counter-attack is a logical effect of the introduction of the electric foil in the mid-fifties. In fact, before the electric foil, the best strategy was:

DEFENSE ↔ OFFENSE,

defense being the best of the two, because touches had to land on a practically limited target, and had to penetrate the defense rather than go over it in order to be recognized by the side-judges.

The electric foil reversed the DEFENSE—OFFENSE rapport to:

OFFENSE ↔ DEFENSE.

Quite simply, to attack became much easier than to defend.

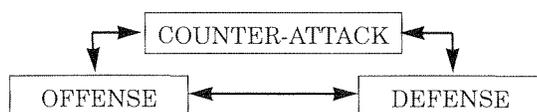
In addition, two other factors increased the power of the attack:

1. The professional and scientific approach to the training to the training and development of the fencer.
2. The abandonment of the classical method of instruction in favor of the modern tactical approach.

Hence, the attack became almost undefendable; this was a truism in saber for many years until the F.I.E. introduced the priority rule.

In the mid-sixties the top foil masters, including Di Rosa, were confronted with this problem: How to stop the attack? The answer to it was simple and crystal clear: Neutralize the attack by developing a game of counter-attack and by strengthening the fencer's ability to switch from defense to offense (and vice versa).

As a result, a new element was added to the OFFENSE-DEFENSE rapport—the counter-attack.



The increased use of counter-offensive actions affected the game even further, forcing fencers to:

1. Simplify the technical game.
2. Never present the blade prematurely on a first intention attack.

3. Use the advance only as a preparation, and the lunge as the only scoring distance.
4. Use deceiving preparatory and executional movements of offense, defense, and counter-offense.
5. Use unorthodox and unexpected tactical and technical strategies and movements.
6. Establish the priority by the breaking of the tempo.

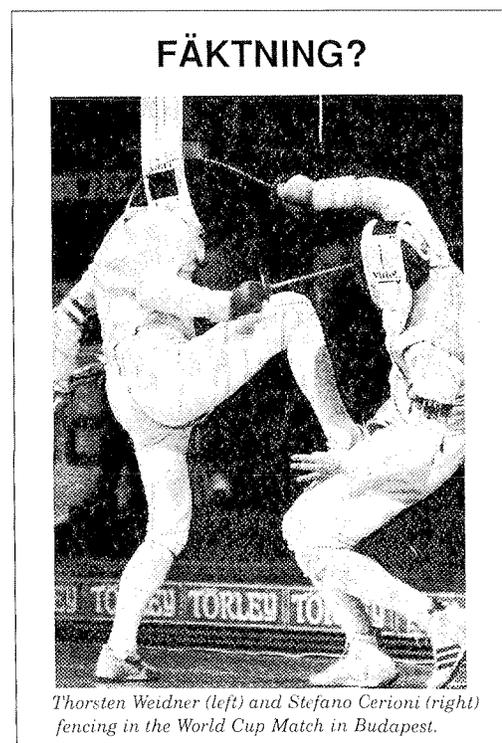
In this respect, the modern foil game is more complex, even to understand; in fact, those spectators who are unaware of the new developments, or who are expecting the technical marvels of the past, cannot appreciate a modern high-level foil bout.

Be that as it may, it is mandatory to understand the new foil game for those who wish to; a) write about foil, b.) officiate foil, c.) teach foil, and d.) fence foil.

Teaching modern foil is not an easy task, and the best advice for coaches is to obtain tapes of the world championships or world cup events, study them, and develop their own style and methodology.

The national training programs for coaches have been very beneficial; the preparatory materials are fine but need to be followed by the real substance of fencing, otherwise, as one of my dearest colleagues of Ukrainian extraction simply put it: "It is just like making love on the telephone".

My personal recommendation is that we place less emphasis on technique and more on strategy. More ideas and less movements. As for the fencers, my advice is: train, train and train; trust your coach and be grateful for what he taught you, and remember there are many good American coaches out there.



Quote without comment.

from the Swedish FÄKTNING

Dear Editor,

I have read Ted Katzoff's note in the Sep/Oct/Nov 1988 issue a half dozen times not just because of what he said, but also because of what he left unsaid. Having begun fencing in 1948 and now being an amateur coach (which I prefer to title "teacher"), I have watched the fencing world evolve to today's new athletic position.

Ted's note struck a nostalgic chord of my own past during which camaraderie and good sportsmanship seemed to pervade those earlier times. Certainly the older times had their champions to idealize, and there were many, but a seemingly natural division between the top-ranked and everybody else existed then as it does today. However, a quality of elitism has crept into the sport that didn't exist then. Somehow, the champions of yesteryear appeared more approachable, off the strip as well as on the strip. Today I know of young champions who have walked out on meets because the quality of the competition was not good enough for them; registering and then looking over the field and leaving. The prima donna-like quality of these young athletes is symptomatic of a special narcissism the new athletics is fostering. Not only is it instilling a special attitude of winning at all cost, or put another way, give no quarter, but it also requires that a depersonalization of one's opponent occurs. The man at the other end of the strip becomes a shadow person, a puzzle that one beats and forgets.

I have seen on the Olympic video tapes the failure to

salute and no handshake after the match with only the athlete's coach and friends rushing to congratulate the winner while the defeated opponent seems to disappear. This seems to be the wave of the future. There is the pervasive feeling in watching these young fencers that the adrenalin high of victory is all that matters.

Never any recognition of the thousands of fencers who have come before, who, each in his own way contributed to their coaches' understanding of how a thing could be done better, or reinforcing why a thing should not be done at all. Yet despite these unsatisfactory feelings, it is clear that the constant evolution, now athleticism, is going somewhere, though I doubt any of us really knows where. But that is evolution after all, isn't it? We are all adapting to the newness and despite our failures, both young and old, some cumulative effect is occurring. Maybe the idea of an ideal as a hoped for outcome should be set aside and let's follow the trail of this recent trend to see how much we can all adapt. I guess I'm saying I don't like the outcome of much of the new fencing but I find a real wonder, surprise and joy in much of it, too. To keep a balanced perspective, as a teacher, is part of the awesome responsibility I think Ted alluded to. For we older teachers should not forget our humanness and part of our job is to pass that torch on to the young

Sincerely  
Stephen V. Sikes  
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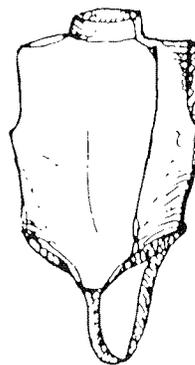


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# American FENCING and the USFA

by the Editor

The Policy Board of AMERICAN FENCING met in June, 1983, and reviewed the "1949 Memorandum of Basic Agreement for the Publication of AMERICAN FENCING" and the 1969 resolutions of the Board of Directors. With very few modifications of detail, the memorandum was considered sound and the "1983 Memorandum of Agreement for the Publication of AMERICAN FENCING" was approved. The significant portions of this memorandum are presented here, and the changes from the prior agreement are underlined.

## "1983 Memorandum of agreement for the Publication of AMERICAN FENCING"

1. Management: AMERICAN FENCING is the official organ of the USFA, owned and controlled as to policy by the USFA; policy control is exercised by a "Policy Board" consisting of the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the USFA, the editor and the editors emeritus. The editor has full discretion over the selection of news items and articles, subject to general policies set by the Board. In the event of resignation of the editor, the Policy Board selects his/her successor.

2. Editorial policy is to encourage membership in the USFA among fencers in the US and to promote the best interests of the sport. AMERICAN FENCING will print all notices received from the Secretary without alteration; other news and stories are to be determined by the editor. Non-news items are to be signed by the authors. The magazine is open to comment for and criticism by fencers with respect to the management of the USFA or of any other fencing organization. Opinions expressed in signed articles represent the views of the author, not of the USFA. This notice is to be printed in each issue.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Directors at its meeting September 24, 1983:

Resolved, that the editor of AMERICAN FENCING may not also serve as editor and as an officer of the USFA, and

Further resolved, that the editor of AMERICAN FENCING, or a designate of the editor, ex-officio, be privileged to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of its Executive Committee and all other committees with voice but not vote.

Resolved, that the editor be elected by vote of the Board of Directors for a term of four years, subject to removal by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors with notice, and shall be eligible for re-election and shall serve until his/her successor shall have been elected and qualified. The term of editor shall be coordinated with the quadrennial period.

Resolved, that it is a policy of AMERICAN FENCING to print responsible suggestions and criticism together with the response of appropriate Association personnel in the same issue and in close proximity to each other.

Resolved, that the editor be authorized to appoint an assistant editor, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, and to oversee his/her full exposure to and participation in the work of preparing the magazine for publication.

The 1983 Memorandum is being presented at the request of the editors emeritus and with the concurrence of the editor. It was further suggested that it be published once a year. The reason for its publication is that there is not sufficient awareness of its content, a situation which has led to confusion and to inadvertent violation of the Memorandum. For example, during the previous president's term, the Operations Manual (1986 revision) was re-issued *and contained changes affecting the Policy Board (and which required approval of the Policy Board)* and without these changes having been submitted or approved by that Board. It is not surprising that at a recent Board of Directors meeting several items affecting AMERICAN FENCING policy were erroneously submitted to the attendees for acceptance. The expressed make-up of the Policy Board is in error since the 1986 version of the Operations Manual, and should be corrected.

The only members of the Policy Board are those detailed in Item 1 of the 1983 Memorandum. The current administration is always fully represented on the Policy Board by inclusion of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Thus, the AMERICAN FENCING magazine is the official forum for the general membership of the USFA, and this is assured by the 1983 Memorandum of Agreement. When articles are clearly critical of specific areas of management and/or administration, the attempt to print them in the same issue is made. In general, when specific viewpoints or opinions are published, contrary responses or sources cannot be predicted however these are indeed published in the issue following their receipt.

AMERICAN FENCING seeks to provide articles and news of value and interest to the membership, and fulfill its role as our forum. But remember, "If you don't send it, we can't print it."

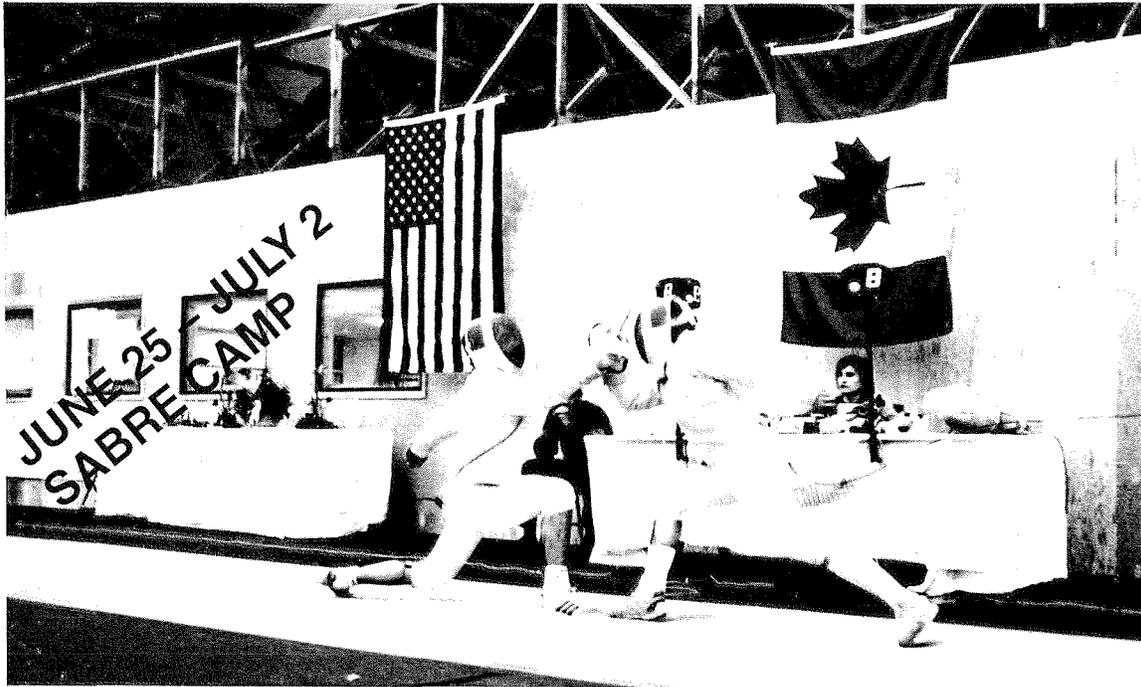
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# Uhlmann Electric Saber Special



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Uhlmann has been selected as the Official Supplier to the 1989 World Championships in Indianapolis — the first all-electric World Championships ever. In connection with this special event, Uhlmann and Quantum are pleased to offer the following new 3-weapon scoring equipment at special discount prices:

- 11 Uhlmann FIE-approved "Olympic MC 2000" scoring machines for foil, epee and SABER! Advanced micro-computer technology, with dual timers, anti-block, and unique sensor test for saber.
- 11 pairs of Uhlmann digital light towers, with high-visibility fluorescent score displays, front and back
- 11 pairs of Uhlmann cable reels

These brand-new units will be used only for the World Championships, and will be available for pick-up or delivery at the end of competition (July 15). Uhlmann's Chief Technician will be present in Indianapolis to supervise the care of the equipment, and answer any questions. "Olympic MC 2000" machines come with Uhlmann's full 2-year guarantee.

In addition, as a special bargain, Quantum is offering:

- 19 Uhlmann foil/epee scoring machines from the 1987 Pan Am Games, at savings of 15 - 20%

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## Eleanor Turney Memorial Trophy

One of the best-loved figures on the American fencing scene was lost to cancer late last summer. Eleanor Turney was a driving force in fencing as a fencer and an administrator. Her leadership produced many lasting changes in American fencing. As U.S.F.A. National Secretary, she pioneered the automation of U.S.F.A. records and communications. As Chair of the Pacific Coast Section and Northern California Division, she oversaw the renaissance in West Coast fencing of the last few years. As one of the earliest, strongest, and most persistent advocates of women's epee and saber, she was largely responsible for making the phenomenal growth in these weapons possible. As a mentor and friend, she encouraged and taught a generation of fencing administrators throughout the country.

To honor Eleanor's memory, her friends are seeking contributions for a perpetual trophy for the Division II Women's Saber National Championships. We hope that such a trophy will promote two of Eleanor's deepest interests: grass-roots fencing, which has led to large-scale participation in the Division II events, and women's saber. A committee consisting of Demi Huddleson, Bruce Mebine, and Paul Soter has been formed to collect contributions and coordinate the purchase of the trophy with the National Trophy Committee. We hope to be able to award the trophy at the 1989 Nationals in Orlando.

Contributions should be sent to the Eleanor Turney Trophy Fund, c/o Demi Huddleson, 2201 Bywood Drive, Oakland, CA 94602. No contribution is too small!

## Special Notice for Saber Fencers

Electric Saber is in official use at all World Cup Tournaments. Since the USFA will be hosting a World Cup Tournament 18-19 March in New York City, it is crucial that our fencing equipment companies be prepared to fulfill all orders from our athletes.

In addition, the North American circuit in April in Boston (28-29 April) will use electric saber starting at the direct elimination round of 16. Efforts are being made to have equipment available for rent or sale at these tournaments. Please contact Edgar House for the World Cup tournament (212-213-0745), and Dr. Michael O'Donnell (617-735-2955) for the April circuit event.

Saber fencers must be aware that a complete electric saber outfit, including a metallized mask, metallized cuff or glove, lamé jacket and two weapons (necessary for reporting to the strip to compete) may cost as much as \$600. A foil-type body cord will also be needed.

The Division I National Championships in June in Orlando, Florida will be conducted completely in electric saber.

Any fencers competing in a World Cup saber tournament, junior or senior, in the World Championships, or in the World Under-20 Championships must have electric saber equipment.

## Important Notice for Fencers

A few essentials for any fencer planning to fence abroad are:

1. Obtain a passport, with the knowledge that passports may take six weeks to process, and should a visa be required, an additional six weeks may be added.
2. Apply to the National Office, in Colorado Springs, for a F.I.E. card, including \$25.00 with your request, otherwise you will not be allowed to fence outside the United States.
3. To participate in a specific competition, send a request for entry to your foreign secretary: Charles Higgs-Coulthard, 1802 Miami Street, South Bend, Indiana, 46613. This request to participate in a foreign event must be received **no later than 30 days prior** to the competition date, or it will cost you **\$150.00** for you to enter. There is no fee if the application is received in time.
4. Unless you are on a representative team, where the rules differ slightly, and these would be instructed to the fencers involved, it is your responsibility to make all the arrangements for your accommodation and travel to and in the country to be visited.
5. When participating in an F.I.E. event you will be required to wear an F.I.E. approved uniform: i.e., Kevlar jacket and pants, F.I.E. approved mask, and use maraging blades in your weapons.
6. Competitors are required to wear an arm-band, identifying the country they represent. **Failure to wear this arm-band will get you a warning the first time you come to the strip, and after that it will incur a \$100.00 fine.**

An F.I.E. card lasts from January until December, not from August to July, as do your U.S.F.A. cards. Make careful note of all tournaments you may wish to enter, post them in a place where they have high visibility, and be sure to initiate appropriate action in timely fashion.

## Video Tape on Steroids

*from the USOC SPORTSMEDISCOPE*

The use of anabolic steroids by athletes of all ages and at all levels of competition is a continuing and growing concern to all involved in athletics. In recognition of this, Ross Laboratories has recently produced a 22-minute video tape, **CHAMPIONS AT ANY PRICE**, presenting the physiological and psychological problems typically associated with steroid use. The problems are described by athletes who have taken steroids, including nine-time World Champion powerlifter Larry Pacifico. Also included in the video are interviews with selected sports medicine experts, including Dr. Herbert Haupt, who is well known for his work with steroid abusers. Copies of the tape may be purchased for \$10.00 each from the following address: Champions at any Price, Exceed Sports Nutritionals, Ross Laboratories, Dept. 436, P.O. Box 1317, Columbus, OH, 43272-4177

# The Caesar's Atlantic City Invitational Pro-Am Classic

by Maitre Mel North

Many fencers throughout the United States (including Hawaii!), Canada, and Mexico remember the excitement, the fun, and—oh yes—the fencing, in the Riviera Classic at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas.

The Riviera Classic was created and produced by Maitre Mel North. That meet was for amateur fencers only. The participants had a wonderful time and the awards were trophies and medals. At that time no remuneration was permitted.

Now, Maitre North has created and is producing what will be the world's first real Pro-Am exhibition and tournament. The \$150,000 Caesar's Atlantic City Invitational Pro-Am Fencing Classic will be the most publicized, as well as the most lavish production in fencing history.

The Classic will be held Tuesday, July 18 through Saturday, July 22, 1989—three days following completion of the World Championships in Indianapolis. Thus, it is expected that competitors from as many as 30 countries will participate.

Winners of the Men's and Women's Epee will receive \$5,000. Prize money will be awarded to the second through eighth place finishers.

The Classic is an F.I.E. sanctioned meet. All World Federations are invited. Since this is not a World Cup event, however, a federation will be permitted to enter as many fencers as they wish.

Many American fencers will be invited, including some of our greats who have retired from the sport. The Caesar's Classic Committee will review the USFA fencers and will invite as many as feasible, both in terms of number and abilities.

The Classic is destined to stand high in world perception as the meet that will *single out fencing as one of the most exciting and prestigious of all sports.*

This will be a marvelous opportunity for Americans to compete in what may be the largest and strongest field of international fencers ever assembled in one meet.

Events will include:

- o Epee for men and women
- o A Three-Weapon Greco Memorial for men
- o A Two-Weapon Nord (Foil and Epee) for women
- o Electric Saber for men, and
- o The Great Pacific Rim Epee Team Challenge, for the nations of Japan, Korea, China, Hong-Kong, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

In order to promote the participation of women in all areas of our sport, an electric saber event will be added if sufficient interest is generated.

The feature event will be the exciting Masters Saber. The eight best saber fencers in the world will fence for the honor of being considered truly *The Best in the World*. This is a must—an opportunity to witness this event should not be denied!

In addition to the fencing events, there will be a three-day Fencing Pedagogy Seminar covering foil, epee and saber. The Seminar will be staffed by some of the world's most successful Masters. This is one seminar that no one can afford to miss. A Certificate of Proficiency will be presented to each participant.

The F.I.E. will afford an opportunity to take the examination for an F.I.E. director's license (you must be fluent in French).

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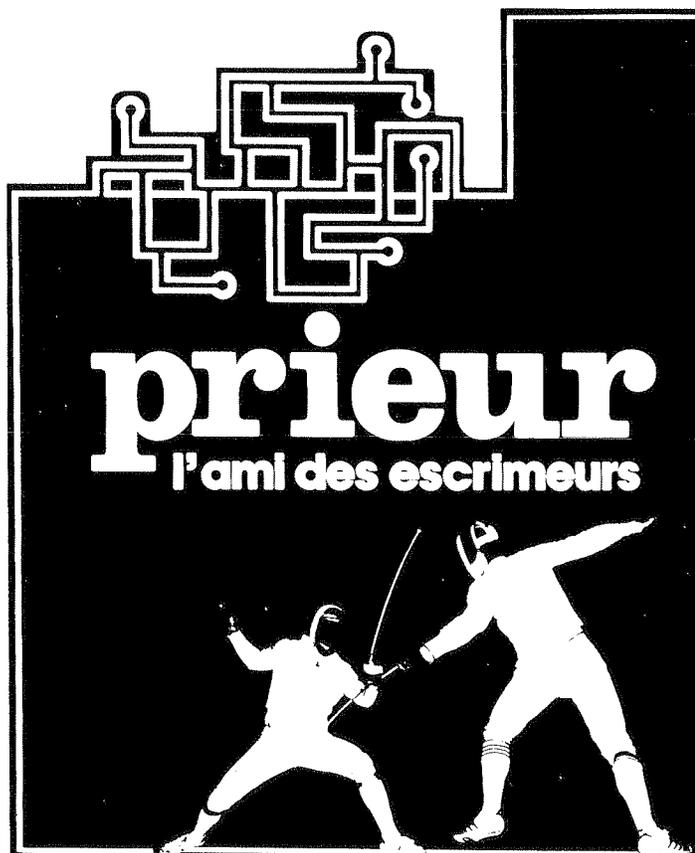
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# Let's Not Change the White Light Rules

by Roderic L. Notzon

In the September/October/November 1988 issue of American Fencing, Charles Simonian proposed two rule changes which he felt would make fencing "more logical and more interesting," especially to non-fencer spectators. The proposed new rules would cure "two common situations which," Mr. Simonian felt, "make little sense."

The first situation is: "(1.) An attack is made with priority and hits on the leg. The opponent immediately counterattacks and with a valid hit, but it won't count. The attacker's inaccuracy actually protected him." To fix this, Mr. Simonian proposes: "...If the original attack hits off target and is immediately followed by a valid hit by either fencer, allow the hit." The basic idea is that "in other sports, low blows or bad serves do not protect the perpetrator; rather, they are penalized."

In this situation, the attacker's inaccuracy did not "protect" him; it cost him a chance to score a valid hit. The defender has nothing to complain about (except maybe a bruise on the leg). If the attacker had been more accurate, he would have scored a valid hit on the defender, who would have no opportunity for any "immediate counterattack." Both fencers have erred—the attacker by an inaccurate thrust, the defender by failing to parry—so neither one deserves to score and, under the present rules, neither one does score.

Try explaining to a non-fencer how (under Mr. Simonian's proposed rule) a swordfighter can ignore a dangerous wound in weapon-arm, face, or thigh, and go on to hit his opponent as if nothing happened. The spectator would justifiably conclude that fencing is a silly game, not at all like the swordfight he expected to see. The present rule makes good sense if a fencing exchange is thought of as a modified swordfight. Only vital thrusts are scored, but no thrust can be ignored.

The second situation is "(2.) The attacker originally hits off-target and immediately remises or redoubles on target without being hit himself. The second action and valid hit will not count even though the defender did not land a touch anywhere at any time in that phrase." To fix this, Mr. Simonian proposes: "...When an attack terminates with both white and colored lights showing essentially simultaneous hits for the attacker, allow the valid hit if there was no valid light showing for the defender as a result of a correctly executed parry and riposte."

This seems to contradict Mr. Simonian's principle that foul blows should be penalized; in this situation, the proposed new rule would remove any penalty for the attacker's inaccuracy. Sometimes the attacker is not much to blame: it is frustrating to make a good attack and have it come to nothing because you nicked your opponent's moving sleeve on the way in; here Mr. Simonian's rule would reward the better fencer and give a more realistic result. But the proposed new rule would surely lead to arguments about what "immediate" or "essentially simultaneous" action, complicating instead of simplifying things. It would encourage bad habits like remises and redoublements. It might open the door to a new form of cheating, i.e., deliberately touching one's opponent off-target to make him pause or to gain distance, then immediately making another thrust on-target. Both fencers will learn to not to

pause even after hits have occurred; we'll have brawls and accidents. At least the present rule encourages clean, accurate fencing and helps discourage the tendency to get blades all wrapped up in opponents' limbs.

Of the proposed new rules, the first mentioned above is arbitrary and unrealistic, the second messy and dangerous.

At bottom, Mr. Simonian and I disagree about what is "logical" in terms of fencing rules. Mr. Simonian seems to think that what is common in other sports is "logical" in terms of fencing rules. I think fencing has a logic of its own, based on its character as the 18th-century game of swordfighting. Whatever makes fencing more like a gentlemanly swordfight is logical for fencing; what goes on in badminton or basketball is irrelevant. Mr. Simonian mentioned "how long it took to abandon the concept of a touch being scored against the person who was hit" and exults that "at last, we have adopted the logical system in which the bout winner has the most points." In fact, the old system was quite logical in fencing terms. The old system remembered that fencing is a swordfight, and in a fight "the name of the game" is survival—disabling the opponent is only a means to that end. The old system logically and realistically presumed that whoever had the fewest holes poked in him was the survivor and, therefore, the winner. This idea also appears in the tiebreaking method of counting the fewest number of hits received. (The old system also dovetailed with natural director's gestures; under the new system everybody is confused when the director points one way to show the direction of the attack but the scorelight appears on the other side.) If people can understand why low score wins in golf, why not in fencing? I think non-fencers can understand and appreciate fencing's peculiarities when the logic of the swordfight is explained to them. I suspect people might actually like fencing better if they saw it as a swordfight and not just another arbitrary game that racks up a score.

Let's not change any more fencing rules just for conformism's sake. Let's not continue to disregard fencing's own internal logic in favor of superficial comparisons with other sports. Fencing is not "just another sport." May it ever remain special.

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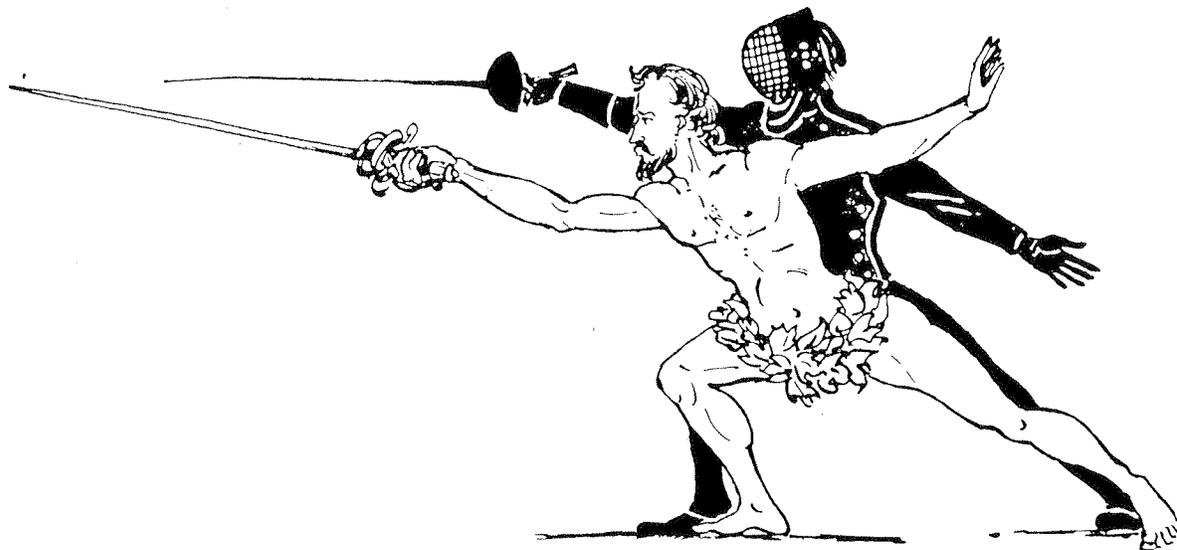
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## Electric Saber Again?

OK, I can hear you: "not again; what have we done to deserve this?" What is this "this" again? Why, electric saber, of course; what else? It's the only hot topic anywhere these days, at least so it seems.

It is not that I really want to keep going over some of the same ground again, but the F.I.E. keeps making these little changes. As soon as I have told you they have just asked for, here comes the change and they make a liar out of me almost before the magazine comes off the press. The last time I had a go at this subject I reported that the F.I.E. had apparently decided—however silly it might seem—that they didn't mind if a saber fencer uppercut his way to victory by using an uninsulated guard to slug his opponent.

Evidently this turned out to be too silly an idea even for the F.I.E. And, friends, that means it's silly, if we reflect on some of the things they have asked for in the past. So, for the future, all saber guards will be insulated from the guards. That means that some kind of sleeve, probably plastic, will have to go over the tang of the blade and project a little bit forward of the guard. (No, it will not count as part of the blade length in the measuring process, thank goodness.) Since the pommels are going to be insulated too, that means that the blade will make one electric line of its own; the guard will be another. Some insulation—probably not very permanent, and therefore something that will have to be constantly renewed or repaired, will be required on the interior of the guard and on the outside rear of the guard, nearest the pommel.

The new plug they want to use happens to be a standard item from your local Radio Shack. (Now watch Radio Shack delete it from its inventory!) Anyway, for the present, it's the Archer part No. 274-002, a "4-pin chassis mount socket (for CB and audio use)," and it will go on a metal bracket welded or riveted, or whatever, to the guard, down under the fingers. The matching 4-pin connector end (Archer part No.274-001) will have to be gimmicked up by the manufacturers of the scoring machines to accommodate their "capteurs", as they are calling them, in elegantly international French.

The only hopeful point is that some new, and on the face of it more rational and sensible, specifications for the system have been produced at the last F.I.E. meetings, so the pace of things may slow down—he said hopefully. Some of the more detailed suggestions, or rules, rather—the F.I.E. doesn't suggest anything, it tells you—involve the cut of the saber jacket, for example. To keep it from hiking up and reducing the target illegitimately, the lower front of a new saber jacket will be made rather like that for foil and epee, the difference being that the front section below the hips will not be made of conductive cloth. (It is needed just to provide a place for the cuissard to be attached.) Now all we have to do is keep fencers who sweat a lot from getting their lower fronts so wet that they become conductive and extend the target!

A special tab of lamé cloth will be added to the rear of the jacket near the collar, to make a convenient attachment place for the alligator clip from the mask. The mask end of that connector, however—it says in the new rules, any-



Joe Byrnes and apprentice

photo by A. Axelrod

way—is supposed to be soldered to the mask. Lots of luck fellows. Since all masks are eventually supposed to be made of stainless steel, that means that somebody is going to have to solder those wires to stainless steel mesh. Soldering anything to stainless steel is not exactly easy, as you will find out when you try. Perhaps the wire will be soldered to a metal base of some sort riveted to the mask mesh? Well, we shall see.

The "capteurs" are supposed to be manufactured marvels—at least, so I conclude from the F.I.E. desire to see them absolutely unadjustable from without. They will apparently have to go back to the factory that produced them to be disassembled and regulated, if any such repair is ever needed. Anybody want to bet that such repairs will NOT be needed? I conclude that all the manufacturers had better supply not just two, or even three, "capteurs" with each machine, but a whole clutch of them.

I can see how the F.I.E. knowing the sneaky disposition of your average saber fencers, would want to remove any shadow of temptation from the rascals, and thus render it impossible for them to make adjustments to the capteurs while standing on the strip waiting for the "Allez". This is perfectly parallel to the recent F.I.E. of all sorts of exteriorly adjustable epee points, since we all know how easy it would be for an epee fencer to conceal a mini-screwdriver in the palm of this hand, and while innocently smiling at the official be subtly adjusting the travel in his point—also while waiting for the "Allez". In some circles it's called paranoia; but never in the F.I.E.

Let me end by throwing in a few words about epee. In a year's time, on the international level, and then inevitably all the way down, we will be seeing new epee points—and every one you've got now will be obsolete. The joker in this pack is that even the F.I.E. has only a thin idea of what it wants in the new point. They are asking for drawings and prototypes, for heaven's sake. What they have in mind, apparently, is more or less an improved version of something that has been tried at least two, maybe three, times in the past. Every time, it has been set aside because it didn't really work all that well. This time we are supposed to get it right, apparently. Old timers will probably remember it: the pressure spring carried the current out to the tip and the circuit was closed by a solid rod coming down the middle; instead of two little brass nubs side by side, you had two concentric circles, insulated from each other, to act as contacts in the base of the point. Doubtless a good idea, if it could be made to work consistently, without bugs.

# Results

## NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT #1 Dec 10-11, 1988 Chicago, Illinois

### Men's Foil—117 Entries

1. Lewison, Peter—Metro., NY
2. Biebel, Joseph E.—Wisconsin
3. Chatel, Mark—Canada
4. Huttenbach, Joshua—Metro., NY
5. LaFleur, Pierre—Canada
6. Bukantz, Jeffrey—New Jersey
7. Tichacek, Jack D.—New Jersey
8. Demarque Jerome P.—Metro., NY
9. Wheeler, Wilbur—Northern Ohio
10. Atkins, Ben—Metro., NY
11. Rosenberh, Eric—Metro., NY
12. Rosario, Nestor—So. California
13. Mufel, Edward—Cent. Pennsylvania
14. Weber, Alan E.—Philadelphia
15. Landry, Bernard—Canada
16. Elvin, Mark A.—So. California

## Dec 9-10, 1983 Chicago, Illinois

### Men's Epee—123 Entries

1. Chouinard, Jean-Marc—Canada
2. Normile, Jon—Metro., NY
3. Nowosielski, Dan—Canada
4. Marx, Robert—Oregon
5. Dessaurault, Michel—Canada
6. Messing, Arnold—Metro., NY
7. Carpenter, James—Metro., NY
8. Pinel, Jean-Francois—Canada
9. O'Loughlin, Chris—Philadelphia
10. Socolof, Joseph D.—Illinois
11. Soter, Paul—No. California
12. Shong, Laurie—Canada
13. Block, Claus Dieter—No. California
14. Bakonyi, Ronald—Canada
15. Griffiths, Steven—New Jersey
16. Stull, Robert—So. Texas

## Dec 4, 1988 Chicago, Illinois

### Men's Saber—92 Entries

1. Friedberg, Paul—Metro., NY
2. Westbrook, Peter—Metro., NY
3. Mormando, Steve—Metro., NY
4. Gonzalez-Rivas, George—Metro., NY
5. Cottingham, Robert—New Jersey
6. Plourde, Tony—Canada
7. Pleskun, Igor—Metro., NY
8. Gravel, Evens—Canada
9. Keane, Brian G.—Metro., NY
10. D'Asaro II, Michael—Metro., NY
11. Ridriguez, Gerard—Metro., NY
12. Nowosielski, Leszek—Canada
13. Carignan, Steve—Canada
14. Friedberg, John—Metro., NY
15. Cox, David B.—Cent. Pennsylvania
16. Anthony Jr., Donald K.—Phila.

## Dec 10, 1988 Louisville, KY

### Women's Foil—77 Entries

1. Sullivan, Molly—New England
2. McClellan, Kathy—New England
3. Stone, Donna Lee—New Jersey
4. Piper, Heidi McKnight—Indiana
5. Hamori, Isabelle—Metro., NY
6. Yu, Jennifer—Cent. California
7. Wetterberg, Shelley—Canada
8. Verhave, Michelle—Westchester
9. Hayes-McDaniel, Rachel—Phila.
10. Marx, Suzanne Brown—Oregon
11. Moy, Tzu Ling West—Metro., NY
12. Bourdages, Helene—Canada
13. Hayes, India Ruth—New Jersey



*Some day, top billing!*

*photo by Albert Axelrod*

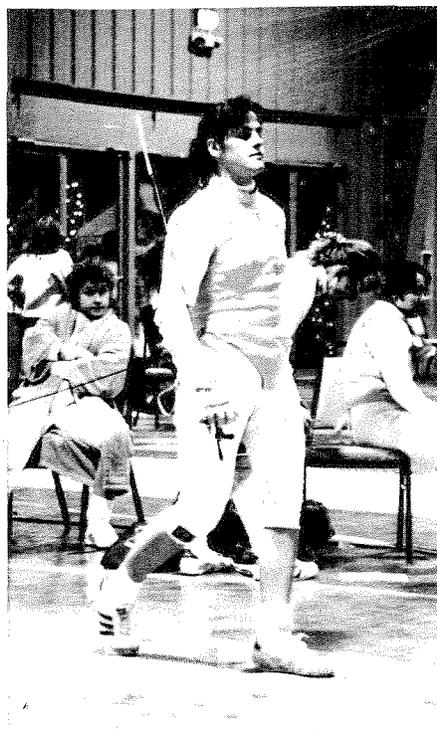
14. Tremblay, Thalie—Canada
15. Hervieu, Marie-Francois—Canada
16. Medina, Paula—Metro., NY

## Dec 11, 1988—67 Entries

### Women's Epee—67 Entries

1. Stone, Donna Lee—New Jersey
2. Littmann, Dr. Jane R.—Piedmont, SC
3. Tygeson, Tanya—Canada
4. Cheris, Elaine—Colorado
5. McClellan, Cathy—New England

6. Paquin, Marie-Josée—Canada
7. Adrian, Marlene—Illinois
8. Clark, Laurel—No. California
9. Wylie, Dorshka—New England
10. Turpin, Barbara—Oregon
11. Chouinard, Ysabell—Canada
12. Lederer-Tass, Natalia—National
13. Robinson, Xandy—So. California
14. Maskell, M.D., Laura—Oregon
15. Bannon, Margaret, A.—Canada
16. Holly, Madeleine C.—Metro., NY



*Molly Sullivan, marching to her first place atch*

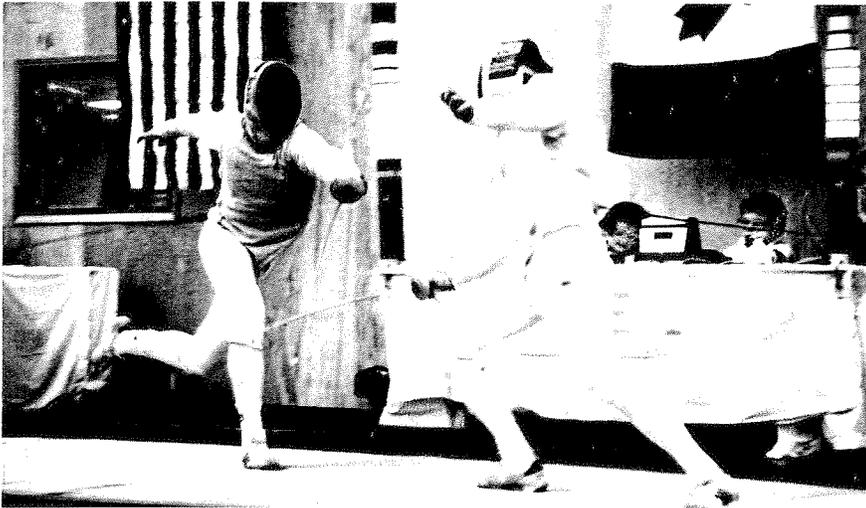
*photo by Albert Axelrod*



*Molly Sullivan, the victor!*

*photo by Albert Axelrod*

# Results



Peter Lewison, right, parries Bukantz's flèche attack

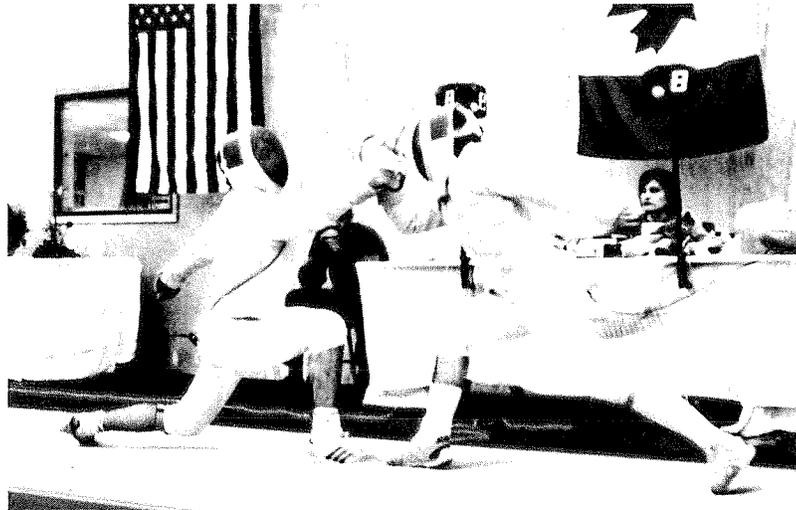
photo by Albert Axelrod

## Jan 15, 1989 Portland, Oregon Men's Saber—53 Entries

1. Anthony, Jr., Donald K.—Metro., NY
2. Ferretti, Vincent—Canada
3. Deschenes, Bruno—Canada
4. Friedberg, Paul—Metro., NY
5. D'Asaro II, Michael—Metro., NY
6. Westbrook, Peter—Metro., NY
7. Cottingham, Robert—New Jersey
8. Friedberg, John—Metro., NY
9. Gonzalez-Rivas, George—Metro., NY
10. Nowosielski, Leszek—Canada
11. Mandell, David—Metro., NY
12. Capin, Bruce—Or.Cst.CA
13. Rodriguez, Gerard—Metro., NY
14. Roehr, Christopher—Metro., NY
15. Pietrusinski, Zbigniew—Canada
16. Cox, David B.—Cent. Pennsylvania

## NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT #2 Jan 13-14, 1989 Portland, Oregon Men's foil—107 Entries

1. Lewison, Peter—Metro., NY
2. Bukantz, Jeffrey—Metro., NY
3. La Fleur, Pierre—Canada
4. Rosario, Nestor—So. California
5. Chatel, Mark—Canada
6. Demarque, Jerome P.—Metro., NY
7. Rochelieu, Luc—Canada
8. Gerard, Pascal A.—Oregon
9. Walsh, Marc—So. California
10. Biebel, Joseph E.—Wisconsin
11. Bravin, Eric Nick—So. California
12. Landry, Bernard—Canada
13. Carter, Al—Philadelphia
14. Huttenbach, Joshua—Metro., NY
15. Kent, Marc—Metro., NY
16. Cheu, Elliott—Western New York

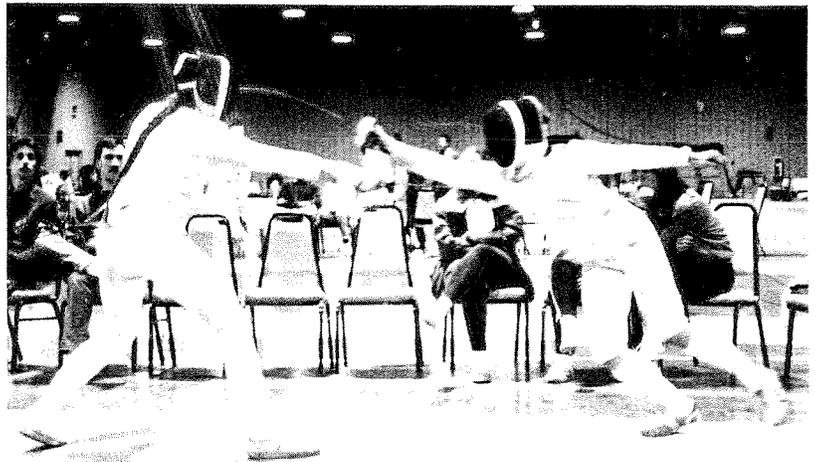


Paul Friedberg, left though parried in this action by Deschenes of Canada, wins and moves up.

photo by Albert Axelrod

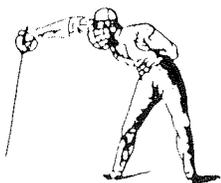
## Jan 13-14, 1989 Portland, Oregon Men's Epee—115 Entries

1. Shong, Laurie—Canada
2. Socolof, Joseph D.—Illinois
3. Cote, Alain—Canada
4. Normile, Jon—Metro., NY
5. Thompson, Tristram—No. California
6. Carpenter, James—Metro., NY
7. Stull, Robert—So. Texas
8. Christe, Mark K.—So. California
9. Pinel, Jean-Francois—Canada
10. Habib, Karim—Canada
11. Marx, Robert—Oregon
12. Griffiths, Steven—New Jersey
13. Block, Claus Dieter—No. California
14. Masin, George D.—Metro., NY
15. Bakonyi, Ronald—Canada
16. Harris, Mathew S.—No. California



Laurel Clark, flèches and hits Dorshka Wylie

photo by Albert Axelrod



# Results

Jan 14-15, 1989 Portland, Oregon

## Women's Foil—96 Entries

1. Pillion, Madeleine—Canada
2. Tremblay, Thalie—Canada
3. Sullivan, Molly—New England
4. Aacuna, Mayliat—Cuba
5. O'Neill, Mary Jane—New England
6. Clark, Laurel—No. California
7. Bannon, Margaret—Canada
8. Delgado, Regla—Cuba
9. Batista, Martha—Cuba
10. Yu, Jennifer—Cent. California
11. Bourdages, Helene—Canada
12. Hayes-McDaniel, Rachel—Phila.
13. Stone, Donna Lee—New Jersey
14. Hamori, Isabelle—Metro., NY
15. McClellan, Cathy—New England
16. Chernyak, Olga—No. California

Jan 13, 1989 Portland, Oregon

## Women's Epee

1. Figueroa, Yamila Ruiz—Cuba
2. Hernandez, Iliana—Cuba
3. Robinson, Xandy—So. California
4. Maskell, MD., Laura—Oregon
5. Chappe, Taimy—Cuba
6. Vidal, Melania—Cuba
7. Stone, Donna Lee—New Jersey
8. Pillion, Madeleine—Canada
9. Krusen, Kathryn—No. California
10. Chouinard, Ysabelle—Canada
11. Sanchez, Diane—Cuba
12. Turpin Barbara—Oregon
13. Clark, Laurel—No. California
14. Adrian, Marlene—Illinois
15. Klinger, Anne—Oregon
16. Miller, Margo—So. California

## TENNESSEE DIVISION

### JUNIOR OLYMPIC QUALIFYING COMPETITION

Dec 2-3, 1988 Baylor School, Chatt., TN

#### U-20 Men's Foil

1. Ewing, Miles
2. Tjongsen, Phil
3. Miller, Erik
4. Campbell, Mike
5. Sikes, David

#### U-17 Men's Foil

1. McBride, David
2. Tjongsen, Phil
3. Miller, Erik
4. Campbell, Mike
5. Sikes, David

#### U-20 Men's Epee

1. Ewing, Miles
2. Tyree, Walter
3. Nuckols, Bill
4. McBride, David
5. Miller, Erik

#### U-17 Men's Epee

1. Campbell, Mike
2. McBride, David
3. Miller, Erik
4. Tjongsen, Phil
5. Sikes, David

#### U-20 Men's Saber

1. McBride, David
2. Tjongsen, Phil
3. Miller, Erik

#### U-17 Men's Saber

1. McBride, David
2. Tjongsen, Phil
3. Campbell, Mike

## TENNESSEE OPEN

### 1988 CUMBERLAND OPEN

Nov 5-6, 1988 Vanderbilt Un., TN

#### Men's Foil

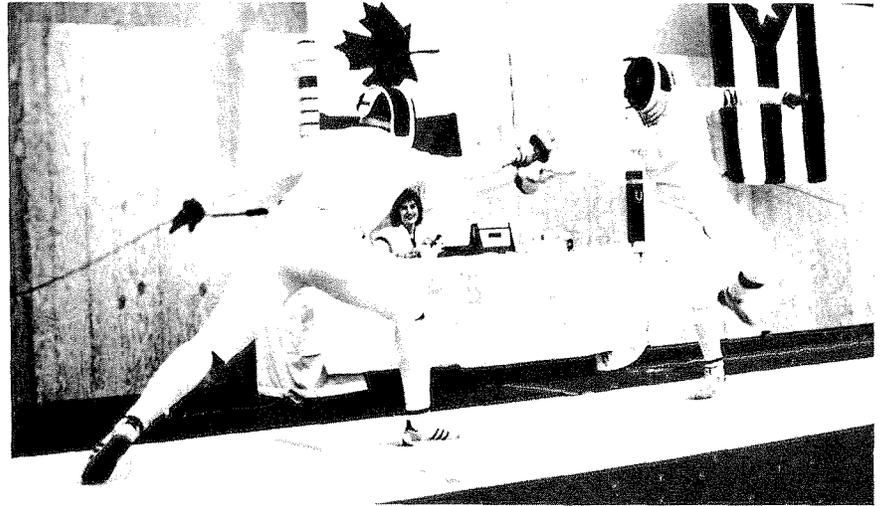
1. Nieman, Brent
2. Merrill, Doug
3. Smith, Paul

#### Men's Epee

1. Nieman, Brent
2. Ellis, Darrel
3. Hyder, Kirk

#### Women's Foil

1. Simpson, Katy
2. Arnold, Susan
3. McAdams, Christina



Yamila Figueroa of Cuba, left, hits Iliana Hernandez of Cuba and takes first place

photo by Albert Axelrod

## YOUTH FENCERS SHINE

by Don McGuirk

The Third Annual Clarion Cup was held in Denver, Colorado from October 8 through October 10. As in years past, this competition afforded young fencers an opportunity to hew their fencing skills against competitors against competitors of a similar age.

The venue for this years competition was the Clarion Centennial Airport Hotel. The highly successful competition boasted fifty-eight entries from forty-five competitors, representing over twenty different clubs. The top four competitors in each event were awarded prizes. Plans are already under way to make next years competition even more successful. Elaine Chervis, the inspiration behind this competition since its inception states, "next year's competition will include the under-17 age group competitors. Some thought is also being given to include other weapons as well."

If you have youth fencers at your club, continue to watch for more information regarding next year's Clarion Cup.

## CLARION CUP CHALLENGE

### Under-15 Men's Foil

1. McClain, Sean—Salle Poujardieu
2. Higgs-Coulthard, Peter—Univ. FC
3. Chervis, Aaron—Cheyenne Fenc. Soc.
4. Trujillo, Tony—Mid Valley
5. Sale, McClain—Boulder Blades
6. Devine, Peter—Salle Santelli

### Under-13 Men's Foil

1. McClain, Sean—Salle Poujardieu
2. deBruin, Elliott—Oreg. Epis. Sch.
3. Devine, Peter—Salle Santelli
4. Atkinson, William—Chey. Fen. Soc.
5. Nunez, Jusin—Univ. FC
6. Padwa, Mariner—Boulder Blades

### Under-11 Men's Foil

1. Dupree, Jeff—Tanner City
2. Jared, Kevin—Cheyenne Fenc. Soc.
3. Tribbett, Eric—Cheyenne Fen. Soc.
4. Hamilton, Fred—Tuscan FC
5. deBruin, LLoyd—Oreg. Epis. Sch.
6. Green, Joel—Waldorf

Oct 8-10, 1988 Denver, Colorado

### Under-15 Women's Foil

1. deBruin, Claudette—Or. Epis. Sch.
2. Riesner, Monica—Fenc. Ac. of Mich.
3. Martin, Tasha—Salle Auriol
4. Calabia, Alison—Chevy Chase FC
5. Dyer, Jenny—Northern Co. Fencers
6. Hickling, Rebecca—Boulder Blades

### Under-13 Women's Foil

1. deBruin, Monique—Oreg. Epis. Sch.
2. Calabia, Alison—Chevy Chase FC
3. McGuirk, Kiera—Cheyenne Fenc. Soc.
4. Ross, Hilary—Cheyenne Fencing Soc.
5. Dyer, Jenny—Cheyenne Fencing Soc.
6. Hall, Alison—Northern Co. Fencers

### Under-11 Women's Foil

1. deBruin, Monique—Oreg. Epis. Sch.
2. Ross, Hilary—Cheyenne Fenc. Soc.
3. Rising, Meredith—Cheyenne Fen. Soc.
4. Hall, Alison—Cheyenne Fenc. Soc.
5. McClain, Kelly—Salle Poujardieu

# Results

## ILLINOIS DIVISION REMEYIK OPEN

Oct 29-30, 1988 Northwestern Univ.

### Men's Foil—52 Entries

1. Kovacs, Yehuda—Notre Dame
2. Biebel, Joseph—Acuerna
3. Gillette, Steve—Un. of Illinois
4. Wheeler, Wilber—Alcazar
5. Schicker, Glen—Un. of Illinois
6. Snow, Mark—Un. of Illinois

### Men's Epee—34 Entries

1. Ferman, David—Unattached
2. Gilham, Tim—WISC
3. Goldin, Steven—Unattached
4. Rush, Scott—U/ILL
5. Vargas, Colby—U/NU
6. Abel, Kevin—U/ILL

### Men's Saber—45 Entries

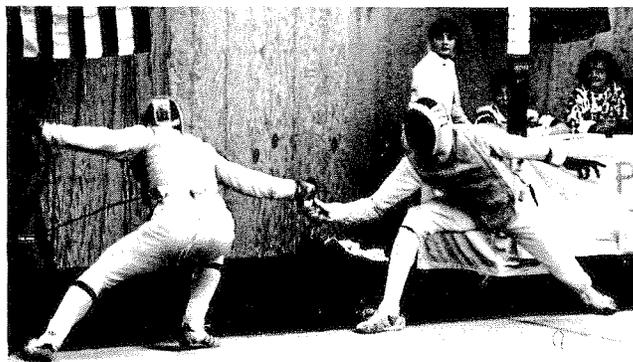
1. Moriarty, Sean—Windsor FC
2. Dossman, Matt—Wayne State
3. Warshaw, Larry—Midwest FC
4. Gilham, Tony—WISC
5. Koser, Dan—Midwest FC
6. Song, Ken

### Women's Foil—36 Entries

1. Bobesch, Deann—OSU
2. Hovanyi, Krisztina—OSU
3. Sperling, Debbie—WISC
4. Obenchain, Janel—NU
5. Fronista, Stephanie—OSU
6. Huey, Gina—Gamble-Nippert FC

### Women's Epee—8 Entries

1. Buder, Cristy—Unattached
2. Obenchain, Janel—UN/NU
3. Thompson, Joanne—Unattached
4. Smith, Linda—Indianapolis FC
5. Hunch, Debby—UN/NU
6. Thompson, Jeanne—Unattached



Peter Lewison, left, hits Chatel of Canada with an opposition counter-attack  
photo by Albert Axelrod

## ALABAMA DIVISION "THE POINT"

Oct 15-16, 1988 Shelton St. Comm. Coll.

### Men's Foil

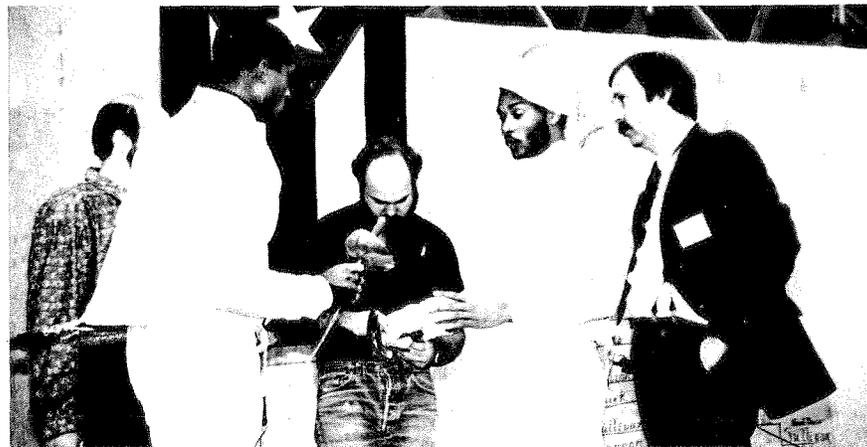
1. Bizzoco, Bruce—Corsairs
2. Claybaugh, Jarod—Corsairs
3. Smyth, John—Corsairs

### Men's Epee

1. Moore, Jason—Corsairs
2. Bizzoco, Bruce—Corsairs
3. Claybaugh, Jarod—Corsairs

### Women's Foil

1. Field, Suzie—Corsairs
2. Reed, Tricia—Corsairs
3. Duncan, Valerie—Corsairs



Electric saber, with birthpains of its own

photo by Albert Axelrod



Donna Stone, left, sidesteps the attack and scores

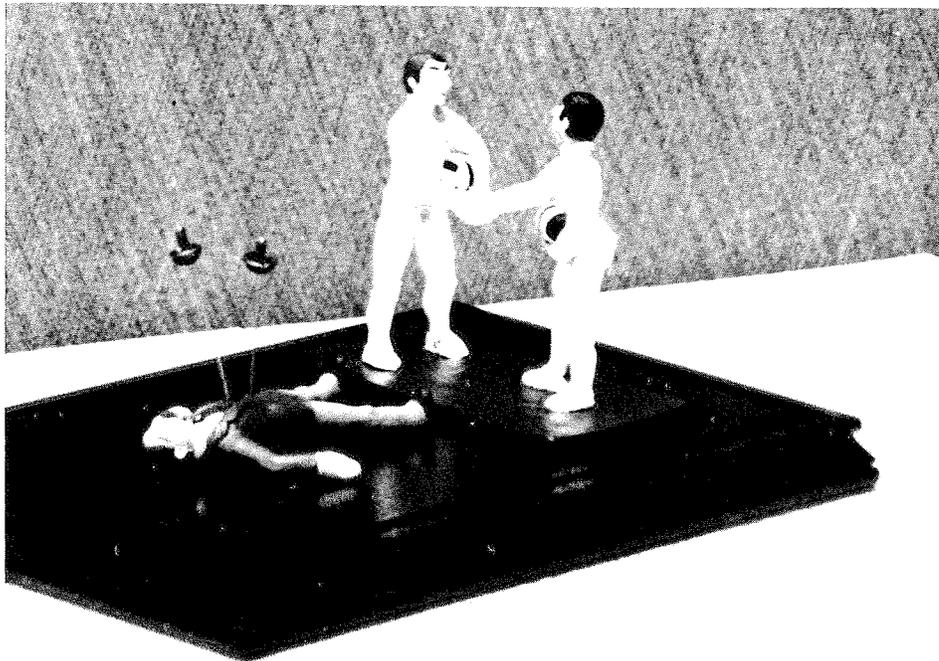
photo by Albert Axelrod

### NOTICE:

The number of entries in National Division I and Division II Competitions, Circuit Opens and J.O. events have grown significantly in recent years. The use of repechage and inclusion of the Brazilian system has added still further to the amount of records required for each competition. For this reason, complete reporting of all events cannot be accommodated in American Fencing.

Complete records can be obtained from the USAFA office in Colorado Springs for \$2.50 + postage.

# Results



A dream oft felt and wished! A miniature model on display at the Louisville circuit event

photo by Albert Axelrod

## NEW JERSEY DIVISION 11th ANNUAL NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS Feb 4, 1989 Morristown H.S.

| 23 Teams Participating      | Bouts Won |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ramapo High School       | 88        |
| 2. Montclair Kimberly Acad. | 83        |
| 3. Hackettstown High School | 82        |
| 4. Morristown High School   | 81        |
| 5. Lakeland High School     | 74        |
| 6. Voorhees High School     | 73        |

### ATTENTION

When reporting competition results, please include the following information:

1. Division (or Section)
2. Date of Competition
3. Name of Competition
4. Competition Site
5. Number of entries

Thank you,  
The Editor

### MAX GARRETT PENN STATE OPEN

Nov 19-20, 1988 Penn State

#### Men's Foil—67 Entries

1. Kovacs, Yehuda—Notre Dame
2. Holeman, Derek—Notre Dame
3. Fernandez-Madrid, Ivan—Columbia
4. Kent, Marc—Columbia
5. Mufel, Ed—Penn State
6. Russel, Geoff—Penn State

#### Men's Epee—76 Entries

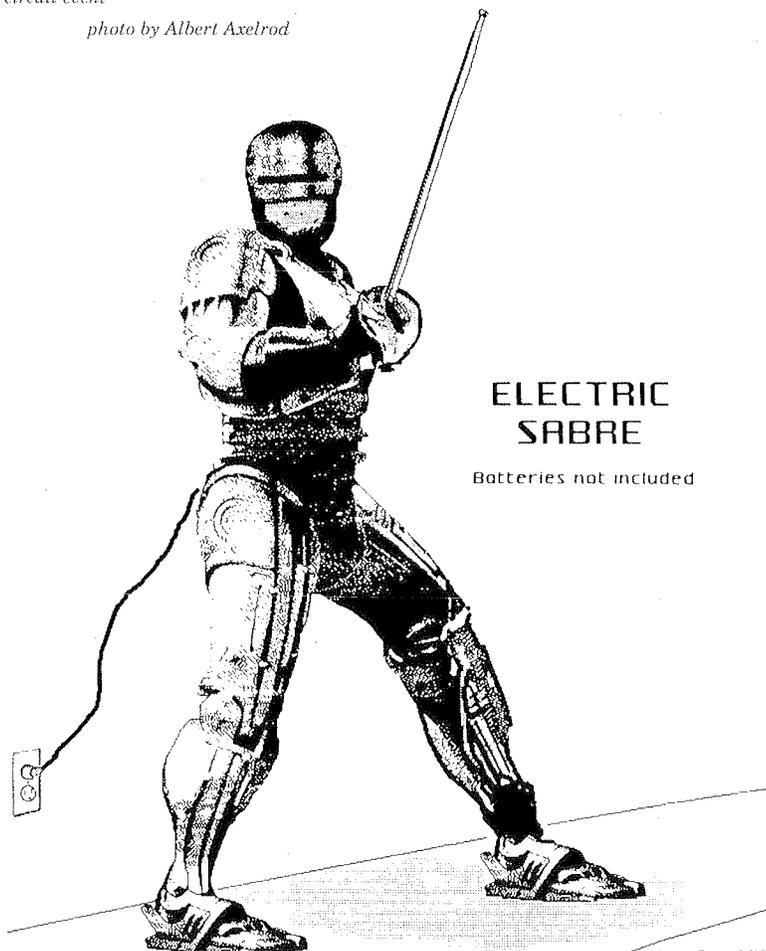
1. Shinberg, Scott—USAF Academy
2. DesAmours, Francois—USAF Academy
3. O'Loughlin, Chris—UPA
4. Marsh, Jim—Penn State Univ.
5. Engdahl, Chris—Duke
6. Orvos, Joe—Penn State

#### Men's Saber—66 Entries

1. Cox, Peter—Penn State
2. Gemins, Peter—Columbia
3. Cox, David—Penn State
4. Mandel, David—Columbia
5. Stollman, David—Un. of Penn.
6. Fallenbuchi, Rob—Un. of Windsor

#### Women's Foil—96 Entries

1. Piper, Heidi—Notre Dame
2. Piccinino, Denise—FDU
3. Kowalski, Katie—Penn State
4. Hall, Jane—UPA
5. Zester, Hennifer—Temple
6. Hynes, Hanice—Notre Dame



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