

American

# TENCING

DING-S

Summer 99

# After 500 bouts, 8,000 attacks, and 6,000 retreats...

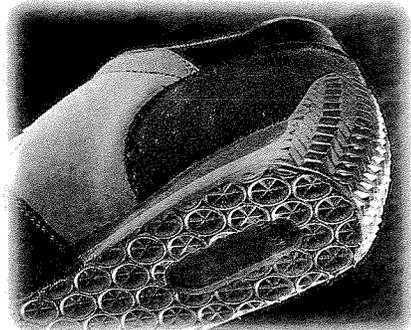
Stitched leather  
toe-protector  
reduces scuffing.



Lateral stabilizer  
offers insole  
support. EVA  
mid-sole absorbs  
shock.



Suction cup sole  
and razorback heel  
design provide  
excellent traction



Removable side  
stabilizers and thick  
cushioning around  
ankles provide  
comfort and support.  
(high-tops only)



## It's time for a new shoe.

Yes, after fencing for so long, your worn out shoes have had it. It's time for a change. Introducing, the all new Star Fighter fencing shoe. Designed especially for fencing, not tennis or volleyball, Star Fighter shoes provide support and comfort for fast-moving feet. And at a price of only \$69 for



low-tops and \$125 for high-tops, your feet and wallet will appreciate the relief.

So toss out the old and break in the new. Call or visit an authorized Star Fighter dealer and get your pair today.

Remember, only the best fighters become stars.



**AVAILABLE AT:**

Physical Chess 336 W. 37th St., New York, NY 10018 • (800) FENCING

Blade Fencing Equipment 212 W. 15th Street, New York, NY 10011 • (800) 828-5661

**United States  
Fencing Association  
1996 - 2000**

**President:** Donald W Alperstein  
**Vice President:** Edwin (Buzz) Hurst  
**Vice President:** Sherry Posthumus  
**Vice President:** Ralph Zimmerman  
**Secretary:** Michael Sullivan  
**Treasurer:** Bob Prifrel

**Official Publication of the  
United States Fencing Association**

**Dedicated to the memory of  
Jose R. DeCapriles, 1912 - 1969  
Miguel A. DeCapriles, 1906 - 1981**

**Editor:** Candi MacConaugh  
 email: EdAmFenc@usswim.org

AMERICAN FENCING magazine (ISSN 0002-8436) is published quarterly by the United States Fencing Association, Inc., One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to AMERICAN FENCING, USFA, One Olympic Plaza., Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. © 1998 United States Fencing Assn.

**EDITORS EMERITUS:** Mary Huddleson, Emily Johnson, Albert Axelrod.

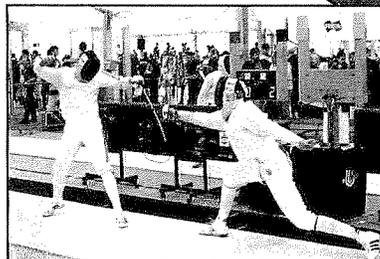
**EDITORIAL OFFICES:** Subscriptions \$18.00 in the U.S. and \$24.00 elsewhere. Members of the USFA subscribe through their dues. Please send all correspondence and articles for submission to Editor, AMERICAN FENCING Magazine, 1 Olympic Plaza., Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Contributors, please note: Articles, results of competitions, photos and cartoons are respectfully solicited, preferably on disk, ASCII format, otherwise typewritten, double spaced. Photos should be black and white and include names of those photographed. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of AMERICAN FENCING or the USFA. The Editor regrets that materials may not always be returned.

**PLEASE NOTE:** No art or articles from AMERICAN FENCING may be reprinted in whole or in part without the express written permission of the Editor.

**DEADLINES:** AMERICAN FENCING magazine will publish quarterly in January, April, July and October. Send materials two months prior to the month of issue.

# American Fencing

Summer '99/Volume 49, Number 2



**18** Junior & Cadet World Championships  
 by Chief of Mission George Kolombatovich

**22** Grassroots Fencing  
 by Stacey Johnson

**26** The Fencing Collector  
 by George Masin

ON THE COVER: Photographer Lisa Slater caught the tangled precision of the prime

## DEPARTMENTS

President's Corner ..... 2 by Donald Alperstein	Technical Talks ..... 14 by Joe Byrnes
Readers Write ..... 4	In the Trenches ..... 15 by Edwin (Buzz) Hurst
My Turn ..... 8 by Viveka Fox	Officials Lounge ..... 17 by Jonathan Moss
Cartoon ..... 9 by Steve Brosnihan	Cartoon ..... 25 by Nancy Norcross White
Sport Psychology ..... 10 by Jon Heil, Ph.D.	Fencing Bulletin Board ..... 28
The Gray Blade ..... 12 by Bob Block	Division I Results ..... 28
	The Last Word ..... 31 by John Heil, Ph.D.

# Let Your Voice Be Heard

The procedures that govern the USFA provide ample opportunity for members to influence important decisions, if only they will use them.

BY DONALD W. ALPERSTEIN, USFA PRESIDENT

I write these words having just returned from Summer Nationals in Charlotte. This event, having now concluded its third go-round, continues to impress. One cannot gaze upon forty active strips and four busy wheelchair frames without appreciating the vibrancy of fencing in the United States today. Only a few years ago things did not look so rosy. Indeed, during the early part of this decade, fencing's health was questionable and its ability to survive to the end of the millennium was in serious doubt.

Now, with our position in the Olympic Games on sounder footing, the sport is experiencing an unprecedented renaissance.

Many factors contribute to fencing's burgeoning popularity. Some, like the increased quality of our competitions, communications and financial management, result from a decade of hard work. We have also been the beneficiaries of certain serendipitous developments, like the spate of new films, TV shows and commercials (thank you, Michael Jordan – even if you can't fence a lick!) in which fencing features prominently. Surely the growing number of clubs, |

coaches and school programs have been major contributors. But regardless of the reasons for the elevated interest in swordplay, this is clear: if we can maintain the momentum, the future is bright for both recreational fencers and those who aspire to Olympic gold. Doing so will require sound leadership. And that brings me to the point of this column.

Not only does a great deal of fencing take place at Summer Nationals, so too do a number of significant meetings, particularly those of the Membership, the Congress, the Board of Directors and several committees. In these gatherings groups of individuals make the decisions that shape the future of the USFA and of fencing in this country. I can report to you that the decision makers in this organization go about their tasks with diligence and increasing proficiency.

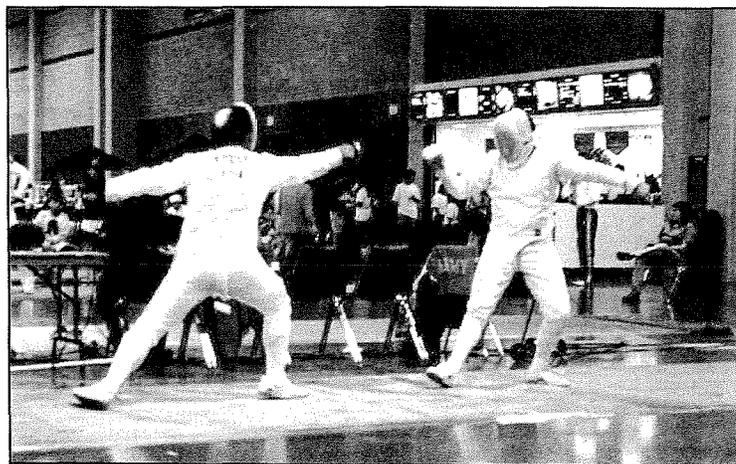
Three years ago in this column I urged the adoption of radical and

controversial changes in the governance of the USFA. Those changes were approved by the membership and have been in force since 1997. After ratification of the amendments we held our collective breath waiting to see whether the revisions would work as hoped. They have done so, perhaps even better than anyone had reason to expect.

“A spate of new films, TV shows and commercials (thank you, Michael Jordan – even if you can't fence a lick!) in which fencing features prominently.”

The “new” Board of Directors, now entering its third year, has proven the value of a smaller, focused group that balances continuity and turnover. The Board has melded into a cohesive working body that makes decisions far more efficiently and effectively than did its unwieldy predecessor. Though some seven times smaller than that earlier Board, the breadth of perspective and range of ideas has not diminished. The Board members' dedication is reflected nowhere so well as in their consistent attendance, a far cry from the hit and miss participation of prior years. The Board of Directors has responsibility for the management of the USFA, and the organization is in good hands. It is a group of which I am proud to be a member.

Congress, too, has proven an essential venue for the discussion of important issues. Congress is comprised of representatives elected in each of the USFA's Divisions. Its contributions affect the most basic levels of decision making and its influence permeates and colors the discussions and actions of the Board and the various USFA committees. Congress is to the USFA what the Agora was to Athens, the Forum to Rome, Hyde Park to London and the proverbial soap box to young America. It is a place for the free exchange and advocacy of the ideas that will become our guiding polices. It is also the venue where the voice of the member-



*Alperstein fenced Veterans, Team and Div. II events at Summer Nationals, taking 6th in the overall Veterans Epee*

ship is best. I encourage every member to learn who represents them in the Congress, and to make sure that those representatives know the concerns and view of their constituents.

Congress wields powerful influence through its election of four members of the Board of Directors, its approval of certain essential appointments (including the editor of this magazine), its advisory positions on matters before the Board and now, for the first time, in its selection of a Nominating Committee to choose candidates for the USFA's six elective offices.

And that brings me back to the matter of organizational health, momentum and leadership.

I announced to the Congress in Charlotte, and now confirm to the

readers of this magazine, that I will not be standing for reelection as president of the USFA at the end of my term next year. I do so with mixed emotions, for it has been a challenging, rewarding, I believe productive, and largely enjoyable three years. I have great hope for the balance of the term. But then it will be someone else's turn.

As the bylaws mandate, ten individuals, one from each of the USFA's Sections, make up the Nominating Committee: Marcella Denton (Great Lakes); Lew Siegel (Metropolitan); Bob Largman (Mid-Atlantic); Ed Kaihatsu (Mid-West); Linda Merritt (North Atlantic); Peter Burchard (Pacific Coast); Phil Rielly (Pacific Northwest); Gerrie Baumgart (Rocky Mountain); Leia Marx (South-east) and Gary Murray (Southwest).

To do a good job of selecting new leadership, these fine people must know the USFA's condition, its needs and its desires. They need to take its temperature and measure its pulse. They need to hear from the you, the members, what you like and dislike about today's USFA and what you think its direction should be. I urge you to communicate with them.

The future of the USFA depends on it.

*Unfortunately  
the office of  
USFA president  
doesn't come with  
it own armorer!*



**Ultralight Electric Jacket**

Made from extraordinary space age material with no metal threads in fabric, weighing about half as much as a standard stainless jacket, but about the same oxidation rate and low ohms rate. Smooth surface doesn't snag points as easily. Much more life than foreign-made jackets, in a washable, durable, US-made product. Right or left, men's or women's. US Patent.



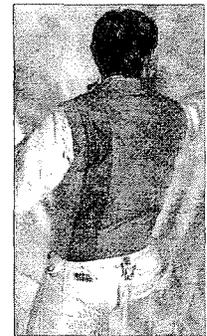
#010 Back Close, #012 Front Close

Sizes 28-46 - \$85.00      Sizes 48-54 - \$99.95

**Stretch Foil Electric Jacket**

We have developed a foil electric jacket with a stretch panel made from a nonmetal thread material similar to that used in ultralight jackets.

The jacket is very form fitting, stretches like lycra, and moves so well with you it feels like you're not wearing an electric jacket at all. Available in Ultralight or Super Duty Stainless version. Right or left, men's or women's. Sizes 34-46. US Patent.



#013 Ultralight - \$119.95

#013S Stainless - \$129.95



**Super Duty Electric Jacket**

World's most durable electric jacket. Inoxydisable nickel alloy is far more durable than steel, and the weaving of our metal thread much denser than that of other companies. Pattern redesigned to give the best fitting, longest lasting jacket available. Washable. Right, left, or back close, men's or women's.

#593SD Back Close  
#594SD Front Close

sizes	Saber	Foil
28-46	\$159.95	\$107.50
48-50	\$174.95	\$129.95
52-54	\$189.95	\$145.50



101 E. Main St.  
Elkin, NC 28621  
(336) 835-7774

Fax (336) 835-4099

Now in Elkin, "The Paris of the Piedmont"



**Stretch Saber Electric Jacket**

Our revolutionary new saber electric jacket is constructed by combining our Ultralight or Super Duty Stainless materials with panels of our new stretch lame material. The resulting freedom of motion of the

sword arm is a major advantage in competition, and is impossible to duplicate using standard materials. Front close men's or women's, right or left, sizes 34-46.

#014 Ultralight - \$175.00

#014S Stainless - \$175.00

### Masin's Article a Hit!

Just wanted to send along an "atta boy" for your outstanding AMERICAN FENCING piece on beginning collecting. Hope the response is heavy and positive.

BERNIE MCGOVERN  
TAMPA, FL



Thanks very much for a fine article and superior cover material in this magazine. I'm a minor, "catch as catch can" stamp collector and don't believe I've any fencing stamps. Drat.

Most important is that my students are very interested in the cover and a few might have read the material I coach from age 9 through adult. This cover might just motivate some to start collecting stamps.

These extra interest areas do much to round out the desirability of the sport.

JOHN H. WOLLERTON  
BAYBORO, NC

### Plus, Clarifications from the Author

In your caption, you said that the Goofy stamp is Spanish. Actually it was issued by Antigua & Barbuda which is in the Caribbean.

I sent you the three images of Nicaragua stamps to show a reissue in a different color and the difference between a perf and imperf stamp. But the cropping took out the perforations and, since it was inside the magazine, the stamps both came out in gray. You may have some readers wondering why what seems to be the same stamp is pictured three times.

In the article I mentioned that "Terminology useful for the collector is in bold italics" but the font changes seem to have not survived publication.

GEORGE MASIN  
NEW YORK, NY

### Additional Article Feedback

A crashing wave of remembrance engulfed me on reading Buzz Hurst's article demythifying "Fencing's Golden Age." There were no "good old days." The thirties were twice as bad as the fifties. Many of us became three weapon fencers just to have enough competitions to attend.

Sabre fencing was particularly difficult. There were four corner judges and a director. It was not unusual to see a National champion beating his head on the floor and screaming in frustration after a call.

To me, the smell of vinegar to this day brings back the epee fencing of yesteryear. We used a three pronged point at the end of a weapon. This was rouged and left a red mark on the opponent's jacket. This was wiped off with vinegar. The stink permeated everything and everyone and lasted forever.

Once again, congratulations to Buzz Hurst for a magnificent article.

AARON BELL  
MARBLEHEAD, MA

President Alperstein's article raises some excellent points, questions, and (hopefully) directions for solutions. Hopefully the NAC's scheduling will be adjusted so as not to make it impossible for those who work or attend school to make it to these events. Perhaps the expenses of the NAC's might be examined (and made public)—how much are we

actually paying for rent, official's rooms, travel and meals—and can these be reduced in order to make the NAC's more accessible financially?

In general, it seems that most of us are paying the USFA a lot more and getting a lot less these days (while a few seem to be getting an awful lot). This may be an incorrect perception, but it's an awfully prevalent one—maybe it's time for a little image-polishing, or even some rethinking of priorities.

RUDY VOLKMAN  
AUGUSTA, GA

### Creatine Caveat

Donald DeFabio raises useful points in his article dealing with nutritional supplements. It is particularly important for fencers to remain adequately hydrated during a competition, and to maintain high levels of energy. It is also important to avoid turning one's body into a nutritional wasteland between competitions. Primarily, good nutritional status can be achieved through adequate caloric intake; eating foods that supply needed vitamins, minerals and energy; and drinking appropriate fluids. However, fencers should be wary of suggestions to rely on supplements such as creatine monohydrate, chromium, glutamine and taurine.

In the interest of brevity, I will address only creatine since it is the most well known. Creatine has been used primarily by individuals interested in high levels of muscle hypertrophy, such as body builders, or those athletes requiring extremely high levels of power output, such as shot putters. The latter hope to augment power by increasing mass.

While fencers require explosiveness, the power and acceleration needed in our sport should be achievable through a well-constructed training program.

Furthermore, not all the studies that have assessed the effectiveness of creatine have shown positive results, so the verdict is still out. Also, it is still undetermined whether the increased weight gain is due to increased muscle mass, or water retention. Most importantly, the use of creatine is still too new to know whether there are pathological consequences to its use. The dosages suggested in the article seem to be low for achieving the desired results, the context for its use is not consistent with improving hypertrophy or reducing anaerobic fatigue, and, again, the safety of the supplement is unknown.

Interestingly, there is some discussion among ethicists and international sports administrators about banning creatine use by athletes in Olympic sports. It seems, again, that eating well and training effectively is a better approach to success on the strip than resorting to most supplements.

Thanks for the forum.

NAT GOODHARTZ  
COACH, ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER

Donald DeFabio's article "Gaining the Edge Through Nutritional Supplements" is irresponsible and one-sided. It makes no mention of the controversy surrounding creatine and other nutritional supplements - or the risks involved in taking them.

For instance, despite DeFabio's assurances of creatine's safety, there are indications that creatine supplements permanently alter the body's natural ability to use creatine. (1) There have also been reports of kidney dysfunction and other problems caused by creatine supplements (2, 3)

The is particularly worrisome for teens and children. Safety issues

like this as well as questions about the effectiveness of creatine have led many physicians and coaches to come to a different conclusion about the utility of creatine supplements than Mr. DeFabio has. (4)

A quick glance at the FDA's "Special Nutritionals Adverse Event Monitoring System" shows that physicians have reported side-effects -- often quite serious -- of creatine, taurine, glutamine and chromium. Thus when recommending the use of supplements, DeFabio would do well to be more circumspect than a salesman in a vitamin shop.

CHARLES SEIFE  
WASHINGTON, DC

#### REFERENCES:

- 1 Guerrero-Ontiveros ML; Wallimann T. "Creatine supplementation in health and disease. Effects of chronic creatine ingestion in vivo: down-regulation of the expression of creatine transporter isoforms in skeletal muscle." *Mol Cell Biochem*, 184(1-2):427-37.
- 2 Pritchard NR; Kaira PA. "Renal dysfunction accompanying oral creatine supplements." *Lancet*, 351(9111):1252-3.
- 3 Juhn MS; Tamopolsky M. "Potential side effects of oral creatine supplementation: a critical review." *Clin J Sport Med*, 8(4):298-304.
- 4 Mujika I; Padilla S. "Creatine supplementation as an ergogenic acid for sports performance in highly trained athletes: a critical review." *Int J Sports Med*, 18(7):491-6.



READERS WRITE continued on following page

## Where Have All the Americans Gone?

I have just returned from officiating at the Flower City Women's Foil World Cup in Rochester, New York. This was my third year of this and every year the event has been a great success. It is well organized, starts on time by fencing standards, puts the athletes first instead of the officials or cadre and always has an ample supply of friendly volunteers. This year's event promised to be the best yet. This event was listed on the FIE's calendar as a Grand Prix and it is an Olympic qualifier. The countries of Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Russia, Japan, Mexico, and Great Britain sent complete teams. Everyone was there with one notable exception, the Americans.

It is our World Cup, in an Olympic year and we were under-represented. Before I go any further I would like to congratulate the 22 Americans who did come, who did represent, who did sacrifice and who did enjoy fencing against and watching the best. Special congratulations to Felicia Zimmermann and her coach Buckie Leach. Felicia lost a close 15 - 14 bout to Giovanna Trillini to make the final. But I digress. We were sorely under-represented. Examples you ask for? We could barely, if we had to, field a composite New York City team a mere five hour drive from Rochester. We could not field a California team. We could not field a Massachusetts team. These are historically three of our stronger states, but where was everybody?

I have heard every excuse that exists. Sixty dollars!! Sixty dollars is a lot to fence in a tournament! You would pay fifty to fence the same old Americans at a NAC but that extra ten is just too much to ask to fence the best in the world. Golfers drop hundreds, if not thousands, to play in a Pro Am, just to say that they hacked their way through a round with Tiger or The Golden Bear. Here's another good excuse; the flights were too expensive to Rochester!! This event was on our calendar when the season started, so plan ahead and get the good fares. Poker players will fly to Vegas and drop thousands to have the honor of being beaten by the champ. But we as fencers won't. Is it pride? Do we think "I'm not spending all of that money just so I will go out in the first round?" If that is the reason then think of the World Cup as a weekend fencing camp where you get to fence, video tape and learn from the best.

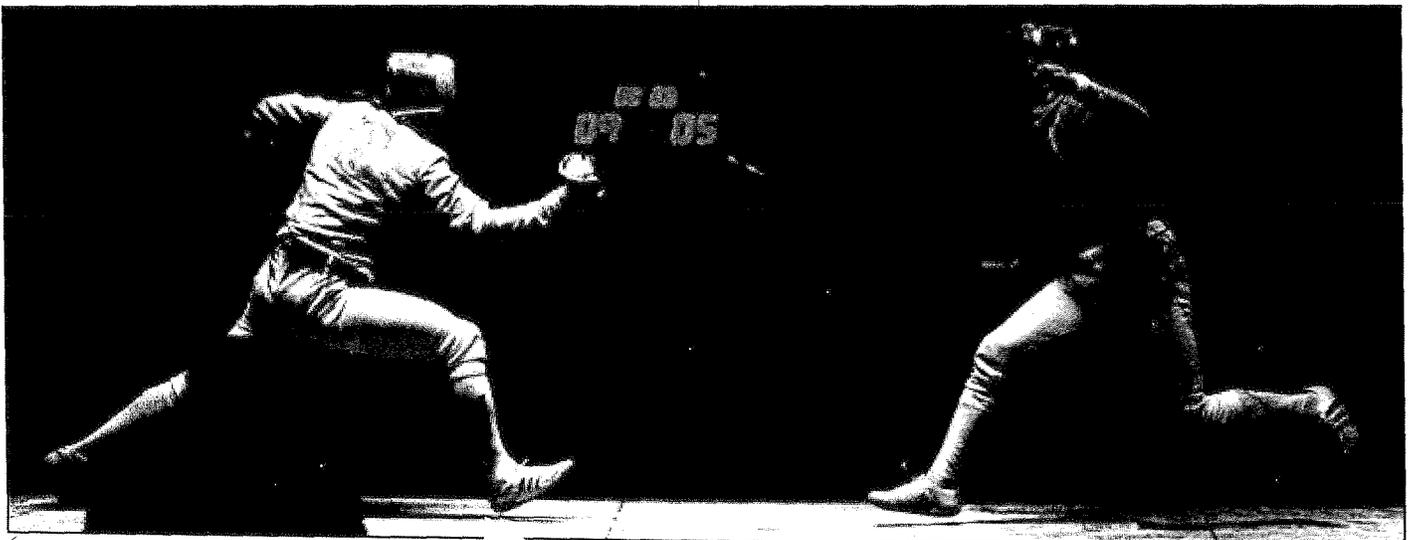
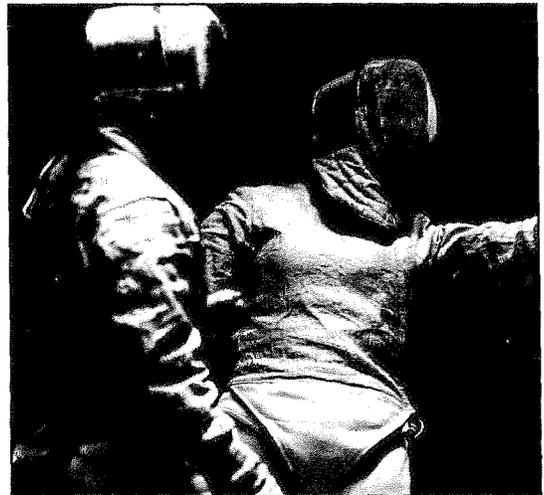
I know that some of you are thinking that the Euros would not be

going if they were not funded or subsidized. You do have a point there but I would counter with a very simple fact. Before the Euros get funded they must prove they are worthy. How do they do that? They spend their own money and try to fence and get noticed when the World Cup is in their own country. But they have it tougher than we do. They must, in some instances, qualify to fence in their own World Cups. In both Moscow and Paris I have witnessed big qualifying tournaments where the top eight will get to fence in the World Cup. Imagine an open tournament, with more entries than our World Cup, held the day before and the day of the world cup. The finalists get to enter. Imagine us holding a NAC to determine who gets to enter! Our entries were open. Just pay your money, get some FIE equipment and show up ready to go. But I suppose those stringent requirements were just asking too much.

Not to be excused from this are our nations coaches. Where were you? You must share equally in the blame for at least not telling your students that they should attend. Do we, as coaches, know our trade so well that we have nothing to learn from the coaches or their athletes, who are near the top of the world' standings?

No, I would argue there is a serious case of apathy out there. We do not care to make the sacrifices to be the best. I am not speaking here of being the best in the world or even the USA. I mean the best we can personally be as a coach or athlete. The world's best will not always come to America to compete and more of us should take advantage of the experience while it lasts.

DEREK  
COTTON  
LOS  
ANGELES,  
CA





# Put Some Energy into Building Our Divisions!

In its quest to develop elite, and particularly junior elite, fencers the USFA seems to have forgotten the rest of us.

BY VIVEKA FOX

I think I am typical of many fencers out here in the trenches keeping fencing alive. Like the vast majority of fencers, I never had the opportunities, time, money, ambition, or talent to have Olympic aspirations. I work hard for my medals in local and sectional tournaments, the success is meaningful to me, and it keeps me going.

I am 36 years old, a C-rated foil fencer, D rated in epee. I fence for fun, fitness, personal satisfaction, and because it has been an important part of my life since I was 12 years old. If you attend a tournament in my division, you will find me organizing the meet, refereeing, competing and coaching, all on the same day. I make a part of my living as a fencing coach. I also work two other jobs.

When I started fencing in the 1970s, I was the only child in my club, and one of a handful of juniors in my division. There were no circuit events. The division was where everyone competed. We few juniors were permitted to fence alongside the adults. Those adults encouraged and nurtured us, and did not hesitate to call us to task when we behaved immaturely. We knew that the adults in the division were not running a Little League for our benefit, but would respect us as fellow fencers if we showed ourselves deserving of it. The adults were dedicated amateur athletes, and we emulated them. We strove to improve our games, but never lost sight of good sportsmanship, camaraderie and the fun factor.

Fast forward to the present day. We out here in the trenches are struggling to create divisions like the ones we fondly remember, and finding it an uphill battle. What has happened? In its quest to develop an elite, and particularly a junior elite, the USFA seems to have forgotten the rest of us. The pages of AMERICAN FENCING are filled with news of a few select fencers, and the results of national-level tournaments. Members are bombarded, issue after issue with the message "if you are not young and on the points list, you are nobody."

Adult recreational fencers, who used to make up the core of our membership, arrive for their first divisional tournament, see it's mostly kids, and quietly excuse themselves. With few new adults coming into the division, the same "lifers" are left year after year to keep it going. Although the kids may participate in tournaments, they do not usually serve as division officers and meet managers, and by the time they have the skills to help run the division, they grow up and move away.

As for the kids, not mature enough to set appropriate goals for themselves, many buy into the message that you only matter if you're at the top. They either drop out of fencing, or if wealthy enough, convince mommy and daddy to bankroll a quest for those all-important national points by attending the circuit events. As soon as they obtain a few national points (which doesn't take outstanding talent, just perseverance, money and reasonable skills), they decide that local fencing is for losers. After all, the USFA tells them that if they have as much as one national point, they are exempt from various divisional and sectional qualifiers.

Lest you get the impression that I am a jealous, child-hating curmudgeon, I would like to point out that I am a former high school teacher with a number of junior fencers in my club (a few with national points, even). I do enjoy coaching and fencing with

youngsters, it's just that I want adults to feel comfortable and welcome in the sport as well. Furthermore, I do not object that some of my USFA dues go toward

**“I miss the time when fencing at the local level thrived, being a divisional champion meant something, and sections had a reason to exist.”**

elite programs. I admire the accomplishments of our national team fencers, and feel they deserve our support. However, even if we see the Zimmermann sisters on a Wheaties box (which in itself is unlikely), fencers' biggest fans will always be other fencers. An Olympic medal will not suddenly change the status of fencing in this country. It will always be a non-commercial sport, and our greatest hope is to fuel the growth of fencing at the grassroots level.

What is the solution to this quandary? Surprisingly, divisions don't need money thrown at them. A well-run, thriving division is capable of generating enough revenue to keep itself going. What we need is to attract more participation, with greater diversity of age and skill level of competitors. There are a few things we can do for ourselves. For example, my division this year started a "points race" to make the division feel more like a real league, with end of the season awards. I would like to hear ideas that other divisions have tried successfully to boost participation and enjoyment of local meets.

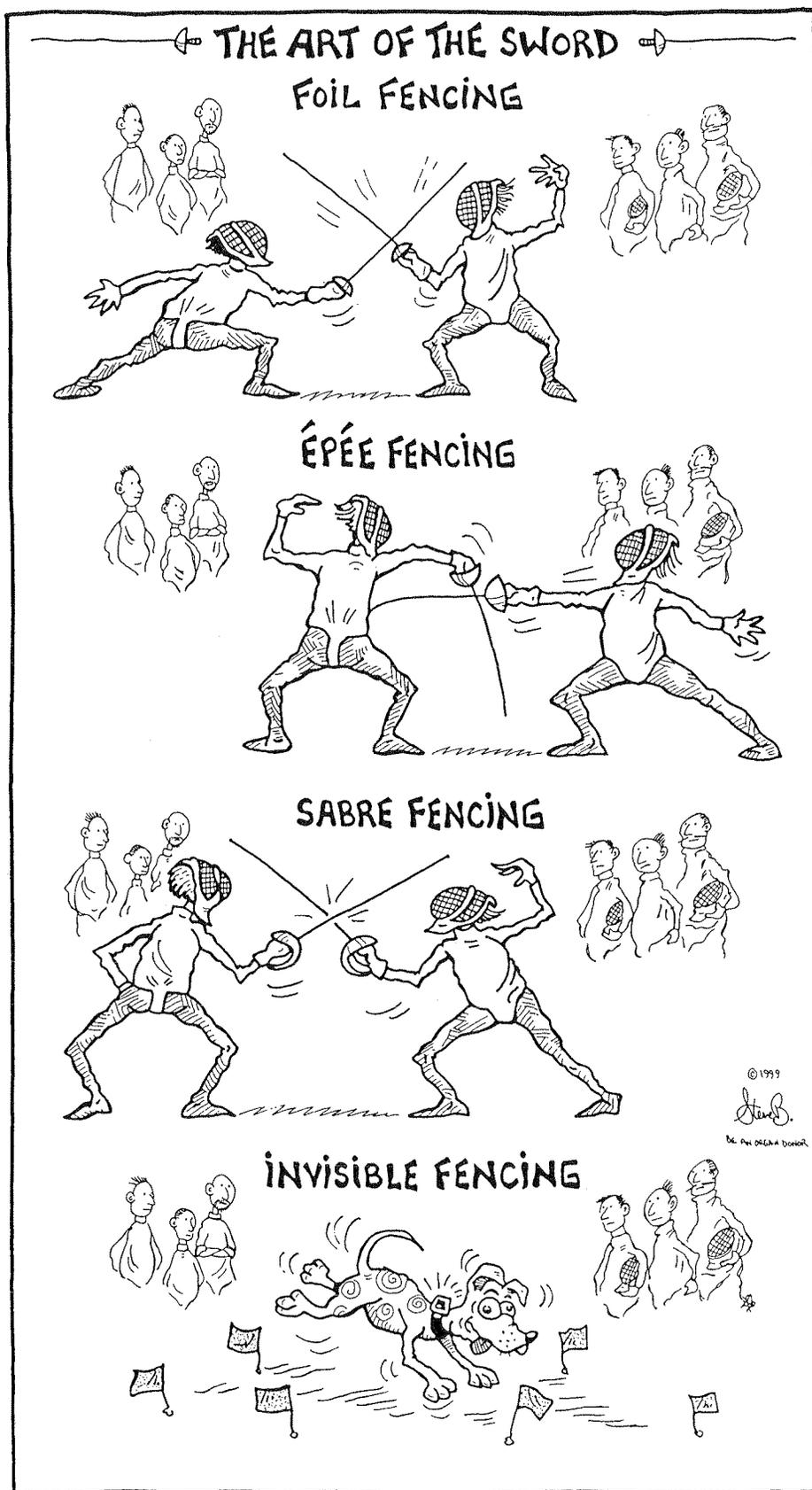
However, we hometown fencers can't do it all ourselves. We need policies from the USFA that support local fencing. The most sensible suggestion I have heard to date is the regionalization plan outlined by Eric Rosenberg several issues back. Here's how I would do things: for each weapon/age group, 25% of the field at the divisional championships qualify for sectionals. At the sectional

championships in the spring, 25% of the field earn a "national license" to compete the following season in the NACs, age group, and Division I national championships (get rid of Division I-A, it's meaningless). No license, no national competitions. The only fencers who would automatically be granted a license would be the top 10 national point winners from the previous season. With the exception of a few truly outstanding individuals who are already competing internationally, I feel it's not too much to ask our better fencers to attend divisionals and sectionals once a year.

This system would benefit both the elite fencers and the rest of us. For the elite fencers, it would mean more select and competitive national events. Since it would be fairly difficult to earn a national license, holding one would have some cachet. An aspiring contender without the means to attend national-level meets would therefore have more success fundraising with potential sponsors (my club currently attends the Junior Olympics but not the NACs for the very reason that we can elicit sponsorship from local businesses when we have qualified for a prestigious event). The system would be easier to explain to the media than our current mish-mash of events, and therefore easier to promote.

The system would breathe new life into divisions and sections, giving the whole fencing community the message that local fencing is important, and is where you belong until (and even after) you earn the right to compete nationally. At least once a year, we mere mortals would get to fence with, watch and be inspired by the best fencers in our region. Divisional and sectional championship titles would mean something, because the best fencers would be there to compete. Higher ratings could be earned closer to home. With fewer fencers concerned about going to national events, divisions would be freer to schedule their meets on NAC weekends, and with more weekends to play with, more diverse and fun events could be planned.

So, USFA, please help us here in the trenches before our divisions wither and die. Adopt some form of regionalization plan. Print more articles by and for lifetime, grassroots fencers. At least open this issue to discussion. If you simply leave us to get by on our own while devoting every resource to grooming a select elite for international success, you may find that you have killed the goose that laid the golden egg.



# Sport Psychology in Action

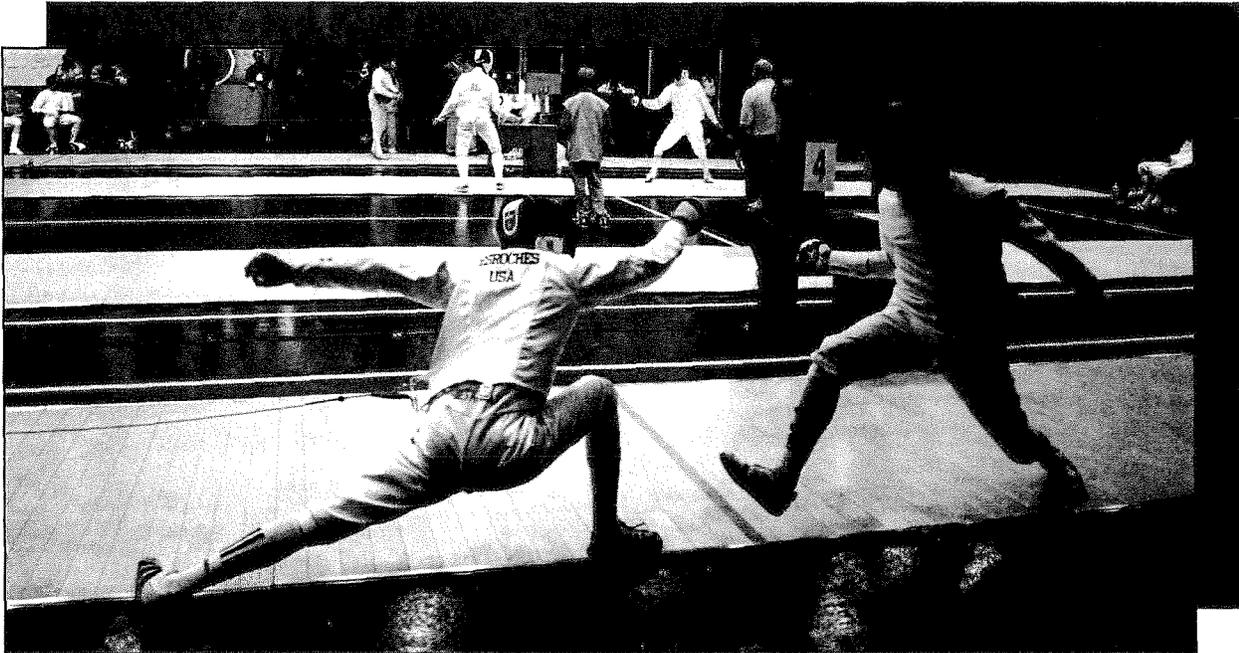
Tactics and technique aren't enough; you need the perfect the mental aspects of fencing.

DR. JOHN HEIL

The mental game, the zone, focus — by whatever name, the meaning is the same. Success in sport is linked to psychological skills. The search for the mental edge in competition has given rise to sport psychology. This article describes the “why? where? what? and who?” of sport psychology, and offers advise on how to incorporate sport psychology into your fencing.

student studying sport psychology. Jim Thorpe along with the rest of the U. S. Olympic team was on board ship heading toward Sweden for the 1912 Olympics. Obviously, their training was seriously curtailed. One day, Jim was observed to be sitting quietly by himself, eyes cast downward looking at the deck. Someone approached and asked if things were all right with him. He responded that he was fine. Jim then pointed out two marks that he had made on the deck mentioning that it was the distance he planned to cover in the long jump. Jim Thorpe went on to have a successful long jump, to win the gold medal in the decathlon, and to be named “the world’s greatest athlete” by the King of Sweden. Like Jim Thorpe, all outstanding athletes have a strong mental game, but are often silent about it. Until recently, we have lacked the means for sharing the mental secrets of successful performance from one athlete to the next and one generation to the next. Sport psychology has appeared to fill this void.

Ultimately, the mental game begins with you, the athlete. As one strives for competitive excellence, success is first seen in the mind’s eye. In this sense, seeing gives rise to believing—and, in order to



## Why Sport Psychology?

Excellence will not settle for less than the best that can be. Research with Olympic athletes shows that “sport thinking” pervades their consciousness. It goes beyond what they do, to define who they are. This is why athletes who take their mental game to the highest level usually experience success in life after sport. Hall of Fame baseball player, Yogi Berra, has said “sport is 50% physical and 90% mental.” With his unique way with words, he has told us both how critical the mental game is to success and how difficult it is to understand. It is one of those things “you know when you see,” but are left wondering ...

## Where Does It Come From?

John Steckbeck, author of *The Carlisle Indians*, related the following story about Jim Thorpe to me while I was a graduate

achieve, you must believe in yourself. Intuitively, all athletes understand the importance of envisioning the path to success. Sport psychology is designed to systematize and refine the athlete’s mental game already shaped through the trial and error of training and competition. High performance sport psychology strives to meet two fundamental goals: building the mental skills upon which success depends; and clearing away the mental clutter that can sometimes interfere with the effective use of mental skills developed through training. All of us carry some psychological baggage linked to unsuccessful performance and unfortunate life events. The path to success is clearer and straighter as mental baggage is left behind along the wayside.

## What Is It?

Technically, sport psychology is a by-product of psychology and

the sport sciences. It draws on many of the methods of psychology, but focuses these on the unique needs of the athlete. As an academic discipline, it covers a wide range of topics including the health benefits of exercise, cultural diversity, aggression and violence, child development through sport, and much more. A little over 30 years ago, the beginnings of sport psychology were marked by the first international meeting held in Rome. Over the last three decades, psychology has grown tremendously. Sport psychology is reaching all levels of sport from professional and Olympic athletes to youth sport competitors. As an applied science, sport psychology focuses on both the well-being of athletes and successful performance. However, the heart of sport psychology is in performance enhancement through mental training. Mental training methods include relaxation/activation, refining concentration; mental imagery, self-talk, and competition routines. (See "The Cardinal Skills of Mental Training" in *AMERICAN FENCING*, Winter '96). The pressures of sport can also bring about problems—and sport psychology will deal with these too. Specialized approaches have been developed to work on managing pain and injury, dealing with overtraining and burnout, and coping with issues ranging from retirement to substance abuse.

Sport Psychology can take many forms. It is both a set of ideas, and a guide to action. At its best, it resembles coaching in that it is practical, sensible, and improves performance by developing competitive skills. Of course, there is no magic, no short-cuts. For sport psychology to work, it takes a committed effort over time. In essence, mental skills must be developed and refined through practice and repetition much like physical skills.

It can be useful to think of the sport psychologist as working in parallel with the strength and conditioning coach. Just as the strength and conditioning coach deals with the basics of physical fitness and sport skills, the sport psychologist deals with the fundamentals of mental performance. Both roles have arisen as a consequence of a growing body of theory and research in sport science, and increasing specialization within coaching.

## Who Practices Sport Psychology?

The sport psychologist typically has a doctorate with a specialization in sport psychology either from a clinical/counseling psychology program, or from an exercise and sport science department. Any given psychologist's skills and range of expertise will be a reflection of this initial training. Because sport psychologists may pursue many different pathways to developing expertise, it is useful for you as a consumer to ask pertinent questions of the sport psychologist in regard to his or her training and experience and approach to working with athletes. Over the last ten years, two standards of competence have been recognized. The United States Olympic Committee has developed a Sport Psychology Registry based on review of individual's credentials. The Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology has developed a more in-depth evaluation and credentialing procedure that leads to formal certification. Recently, these two groups have combined their efforts in order to recognize a basic level of competence in the practice of sport psychology.

Many, but not all, sport psychologists have a background as competitive athletes. Often, athletes and coaches ask if it is necessary for a sport psychologist to have a high level of training in a particular sport. Although it is important for the psychologist to gain a fundamental understanding of the sport of each athlete with whom he or she works, it is not essential that they have a high level of

expertise in that particular sport. Typically, sport psychologists will work with athletes in a variety of sports. Typically, they will adopt a team work approach, with the athlete (and often the coach) providing information about the physical and mental demands of sport—and the sport psychologist offering expertise on mental training. In this way, sport psychology is typically a collaborative effort.

## How Sport Psychologists Can Help You Master Your Goals?

The simplest and most direct approach to improving your mental gain is to subject it to careful scrutiny. Work with your coach to identify your mental strengths, and the areas that you would like to improve. Then set specific and realistic goals for progressing your mental skills. For those who would like to take a more in-depth approach, there are a wide variety of sport psychology resources that can guide you in the development of your mental game. The single best resource on mental training for fencers is the text, *Preparing the Mind* by Dr. Aladar Kogler, National Men's Epee Coach. It is published by CounterParry Press and is available for sale at many of the major competitions. Other books by Dr. Kogler include: *Clearing the Path to Victory*, *Planning to Win*, and *Yoga for Every Athlete*. *The Pursuit of Excellence* by Dr. Terry Orlick of the University of Ottawa is the most widely read work in sport psychology. It is available through Human Kinetics Publishing in Champaign, IL. The special strength of this text is the way in which it links sport skills and life skills. To those of you who are computer oriented, there is an excellent CD-ROM product from Compton House Multimedia by Dr. Robert Nideffer entitled *Focus for Success*. There is an excellent videotape entitled, *Sports Mental Training*, in which top level athletes discuss their experiences with sport psychology. It is available from the USOTC in Colorado Springs. I would also encourage you to look back through recent issues of *AMERICAN FENCING* for additional information on sport psychology (e.g., "Mental Training to Deal with Distractions," Spring '96; "Test Profiling," Fall '96; "How to Manage Stress and Avoid Burnout," Spring '97).

The Sport Science and Technology Committee of the United States Fencing Association has been working actively to develop sport psychology programs specifically for the fencer. The first of these is "Sport Psychology Test Profiling" which uses psychological assessment devices to measure attributes and abilities linked to success as a fencer. This program was developed initially for work with elite athletes, but is now available to the general membership. You can also receive detailed information about "Sport Psychology Test Profiling" through the United States Fencing Association Fax Line.

The successful athlete has a strong mental game. Although its workings are less apparent than technical sport skills, the mental game is nonetheless of critical importance. By developing your mental game, you can gain a competitive edge in sport and more fully realize your potential as a fencer.

---

Please address comments or questions to: Dr. John Heil, Chair, United States Fencing Association, Sport Science and Technology Committee, Lewis-Gale Clinic, 4910 Valley View Boulevard, Roanoke, Virginia, 24012. Phone Number 540-265-1605. E-Mail jheil@REV.NET.

# In the Hall of the Mountain King

High in the Colorado Rockies Mountains, fencers celebrate their sport in the Annual Silverton Fencing Thing.

BY BOB BLOCK

Wouldn't "Peer Gynt" be a perfect name for a fencing champion? It has a certain direct ring to it, sort of like Eh La! I've never read Henrik Ibsen's play of the same name, but my encyclopedia describes Peer as an "egocentric but imaginative opportunist." That's enough for me, no question about it, this guy would have been a great fencer.

Before we fence our way into the hall of the Mountain King, so called from the piece in Edvard Grieg's musical composition Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, let me remind you that an intriguing opportunity exists for imaginative and talented veteran fencers over 50, the FIE's Veteran World Championship that will be held on the last weekend in August in Siofok, Hungary on Lake Balaton. Men's foil, men's saber and women's epee have been added to the championships which last year featured only men's epee and women's foil. Each event has been expanded from three to four entries per country. Presumably, women's saber will be included by the time the championships are held next year. Yes, they will be held next year even though the FIE originally announced a biannual schedule. It now appears that the Veteran's World Championships may be held annually just like the senior and junior Worlds. For the time being, at least, the FIE is staying with a two age-group format: 50-59 and 60+. By the time you read this issue of AMERICAN FENCING the American team will have already been determined from the point standings after the final veteran qualifying events are completed at the Summer Nationals.

I knew I wanted to go to the hall of the Mountain King high in the Colorado Rockies, yet I was a little worried about the weather up that altitude in late March. A fencing tournament that I'd heard about for years is held there at over 9,000 feet above sea level. For various reasons, some job and family related, but mainly because I'm a weather wimp, I had never gone to the tournament despite annual encouragement from some of my oldest veteran fencing friends. It would require driving one-way more than 300 miles from where I live and take me over a number of high mountain passes, some of them well over 11,000 feet. The five-day weather forecast in my local paper said that this year I would probably have a window of decent weather for the trip. It was now or never, especially since the tournament was being promoted as the last of the millennium. So, I gathered up my foil gear, gassed up the old van and headed up into the mountains wondering what the odds were that I still might run into the dreaded late spring snow storm at a high altitude.

My traveling partner was an older fellow who had fenced in this tournament in either the first or second year of its existence about

30 years ago. Since we had never met until now, our talk was mostly about the one interest we had in common: fencing. He was from an earlier local fencing epoch, before I moved to the region and experienced my own rebirth in the sport. So I plumbed his memory with questions about the fencing scene in our area during the years when he was actively competing. As always, in the relatively small fraternity of the sword (Shouldn't we have a secret handshake or something?), we found that we had friends, opponents and experiences in common. As I soaked up this information, the miles rolled by in what was becoming a rather uneventful trip.

Then we left the town of Ouray and began climbing up, up and up on a two-lane mountain road called the Million Dollar Highway that goes over the sometimes difficult Red Mountain Pass. We entered a few stretches on the road where there are no guard rails and I could see out of the corner of my eye that the sheer cliffs seemed to drop off for more than a thousand feet. No problem, I gripped the steering wheel with both hands and kept my eyes fixed directly ahead at the lane in front of me. Then I noticed that those were white flakes and not raindrops that were beginning to hit my windshield.



It was about then that my traveling companion began to reminisce about the time years ago when he and his wife had been driving to the same tournament on this very road at night and were hit by a heavy snow storm that caused them to fear for their lives, unsure if they had the traction to get up over the pass or to stop themselves on the way down. Thanks, buddy, I really needed that. I gripped the wheel a little tighter, recalling that my tour book advised that the route should be driven with caution by anyone unfamiliar with mountain driving, and tried to mentally calculate the remaining distance we had left before reaching the summit.

But the snow passed as quickly as it appeared, only a mild flurry after all, and my spirits brightened considerably as we careened down the other side of the pass, knowing full well that we would soon be at the hall of the mountain king. A short time later we rolled into the old mining town of Silverton in southwestern Colorado (population 700). It was late on a Friday afternoon and the 5 o'clock rush consisted solely of us; nothing else on legs or wheels was moving on the street.

We pulled up to a three-story edifice made of building stone that featured a gilded, Victorian facade and a zinc roof. Large gold letters on the main window proclaimed it to be the "Grand Imperial Hotel, 1882." There was a feeling of grandeur about the "GI," as the locals

affectionately call it, but to me it was the hall of the mountain king looming above its neighbors at an elevation of 9,032 feet. We found a parking space directly in front, not a parking meter anywhere in sight, and carefully unloaded our fencing gear. A vision of gasping for air in the final stages of oxygen deprivation while trying to win a fencing bout passed through my mind. Yet, somehow, it made the mountain king's challenge all that more intriguing.

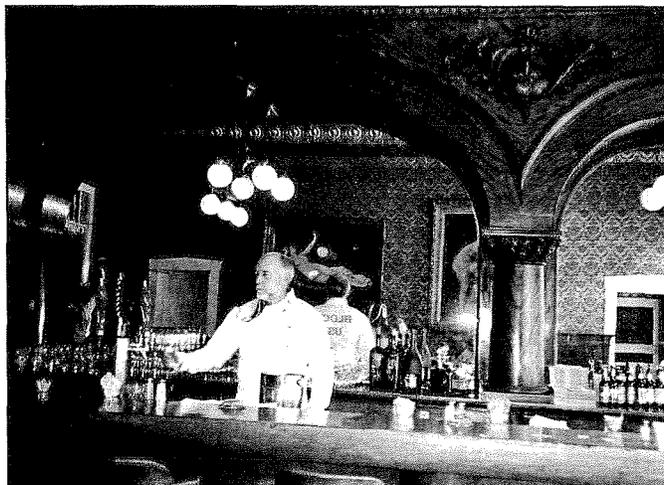
We entered the hotel lobby where, on one side of it, we noticed a leprechaun sitting at a small table busily doing some sort of paperwork. Yes, I mean a full-fledged leprechaun: green trousers and green frock coat, green top hat and a gray, pointy beard. We checked in with the wee' one for the tournament and then at the main desk for our hotel rooms. As it turned out, the desk clerk, a young man in his mid-twenties, was keenly interested in fencing because of some previous exposure with the Society for Creative Anachronism, and informed us that he planned on giving real fencing a try by entering our tournament which would commence the next morning.

Tourist season wouldn't begin for at least another month and for this weekend the Grand Imperial was pretty much the domain of its

strange elixir of camaraderie and competitiveness when we travel to distance places to match bladed weapons and wits.

There were two venues for the Last Annual Silverton Fencing Thing: our beloved bar in the Grand Imperial and the equally historic American Legion/Miners Union Hall that stood a block away down the street. The Union Hall, which has a weathered wood floor and a very high ceiling, would make an excellent facility for a fencing salle. But, I'm not so sure that an isolated community with a permanent population of about 700 whose economy is dependant on the short mountain tourist season is the best place to stake an investment in fencing lessons.

The tournament began on Saturday morning and ran at a leisurely pace until Sunday afternoon. Everyone fenced under a pseudonym, and mine was, what else but, the Gray Blade. Veterans faced each other as well as both experienced and inexperienced youth from the next generation. This year fencers came from such places as California, Washington, Colorado, Wisconsin, Missouri and New Mexico to test their foil skills in the thin air of the Colorado mountains. At some point, everyone found themselves gasping for breath in a



*Photos by Beth Lee, left to right: strips fit nicely on the bar room floor. The venerable old Imperial Hotel. Bob Block, the Gray Blade, behind the bar.*

owners and our contingent of about 35 fencers and friends. Some of us wandered the virtually empty streets until dusk on Friday evening, soaking up the ambience of a frontier town that seemed to have changed very little since the reign of the silver kings in the 1880s. Towering granite peaks completely surrounded this small valley and sheltered the hall of the mountain king.

There were no claymores or rapiers on the walls; but, like any self-respecting mountain king's hall, the Grand Imperial was resplendent with filigreed wallpaper, bannister carvings, lace curtains, wainscotted hallways, graceful figurines, ornately framed mirrors and over-stuffed furniture in velveteen. And in this quaint Victorian atmosphere the hotel owners and local restaurateurs were glad to be our hosts since the Last Annual Silverton Fencing Thing was the only action in town.

Over a group dinner in the grand dining room followed by rounds of drink under the tin ceiling of the Grand Imperial's stately bar, where portraits of Rubenesque nudes in massive gilded frames adorn the walls, we got to know each other on the eve of competition (Which also meant an opportunity to slyly size up the field of opponents we would be facing over the next couple of days). We became for this brief moment in time a cohesive unit of the ancient fraternal order of fencers that often coalesces in that pleasantly

closely contested bout, but I know that a memorable time was had by all.

That evening we again convened for a communal banquet in the bar of the Grand Imperial. This time we were serenaded with an impromptu bagpipe performance by a young man who apparently was a piper by night and a fencer by day. After the last squeals of the goat bladder, an old miner regaled us with tales of life in Silverton when it was still an active mining center. We finally dragged ourselves off to our little rooms and identical brass beds, confident that on a Saturday night in this little town we would be swathed in the sounds of silence.

For the Silverton Fencing Thing, every competitor brings a trophy of some sort as part of the entrance requirement, so each fencer goes home with a prize. At the afternoon awards dinner the emphasis was on humor and friendship not tournament placing.

There are probably other fencing tournaments similar in longevity and philosophy to Silverton. Wherever such events occur, the important point is that there is so much more to fencing than wins and losses and final placement in the standings. Over the long run, most of us come to the personal realization that we are in it for the love of the sport and the personal bonds we form with other people who share our passion for the ways of the sword.

# The Default Does Nothing

With the new scoring boxes you don't know that you're not set up to register a touch until you don't!

BY JOE BYRNES

When I mentioned, a few articles ago, the fact that fencing machines, by themselves, do not draw much in the way of power from the electrical grid, I hope I did not set anyone up to make a mistake that I have both seen, and have had described to me as having once again recently occurred.

True, a fencing machine by itself doesn't draw much power. Even when you add on all the peripherals it might have in an elegantly set-up first-class competition, it still will not overload a line all by itself. You can, in other words, run more than one fencing strip from one power line, provided that a lot of other stuff isn't packaged along with them. If, however, you insist on trying to run other equipment on the same line, all bets are off.

Somehow, I am reminded of a plaintive letter from a European machine designer that I once translated from its original German for the American importer who waded it at me. In response to a complaint about a certain untoward behavior pattern of his machine, as reported, he had this to say (as I recollect—freely paraphrasing my translation from memory), “it looks as though I shall have to design my machines to be connected by idiots.” When one reflects on what we now see in our bookstores, bearing such attractive titles as “Whatzis for Dummies,” “Thingamabob for Dummies,” and so forth—one of these days, I expect to see “Toenail-Paring for Dummies”—maybe he had something there.

It all goes back a long way, so bear with me. When scoring machines were made for one weapon—foil or epee—and you turned them on, that was where they were: set for foil or epee, obviously. Then machines were made, sensibly enough, for both foil and epee, switchable. When you first turned them on, they would be set for foil, or for epee, or for neither; in any case you had to do something with another switch. If the designer had tried to simplify (and, believe me, save a little money on the switching) the machine usually came on in foil mode, so you knew it was really working. Of course, it buzzed or burped and lit up and made a nuisance of itself; it might as well have been a new-born baby. Then about a dozen years ago, things got a bit more complicated: behold the three-weapon machine. By this time, however, solid state technology had pretty much taken over, and consumer convenience was being thought about (even by fencing designers—however improbable that may seem). As a result, what we have tended to get for some years is a machine, which, when first turned on, discreetly goes into epee mode and, outside of lighting up a little LED, just sits there, as

well-behaved as the supposedly conventional Victorian child.

That's fine, except for one small potential problem. Obviously, if you turn the machine off, it will come back on in epee, the way it was designed to behave. We have all grown used to calling this sort of thing the “default,” after computer usage, never mind how the word was originally used in the language. (There's the former professor of English getting in his little gripe.) Now such shutting down and restarting shouldn't bother you, of course, if you are fencing epee; you probably wouldn't even notice it. But if it's a foil or saber bout on the strip, that's another story. The likelihood, with many,

perhaps most, machines of this class—I haven't had a chance to look at every last one in production these days—is that you will get no warning that you are not set up to score touches, until somebody does just that, and naturally doesn't get any result. Arrgh....

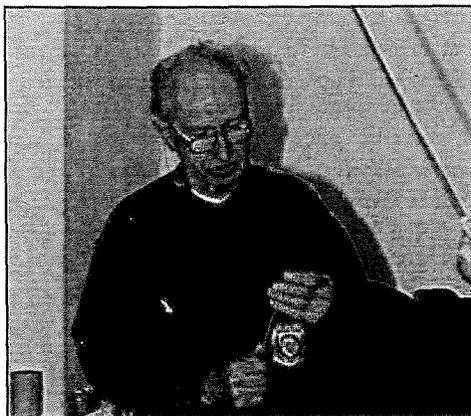
I hear you saying, what fumble-fingered double idjit is going to mess with the on/off switch in the middle of a bout? However, it doesn't necessarily require the flipping of the on/off switch to reset the machine to its epee default. Any interruption of the output from the wall socket will do that, and unless you have a machine that beeps or flashes distinctively when first turned on,

you are not likely to realize it in the heat of action. One of the reasons that the FIE has always insisted on nothing but big clunky 12-volt automotive batteries to run the scoring machines at the Olympics and all World Championship-type events, is the fear that AC power, frequently unreliable around the world, would go out suddenly at a critical juncture, and lose a touch, or do something else horribly irregular.

Of course, here in the good old USA, we do not suffer—much—from sudden or odd power outages (but I can remember a few). What we might very well have, however, is a sudden voltage drop that will appear to a sensitive solid-state scoring machine as a deprivation of power—and thus turn it off, for perhaps as much as a second, though it wouldn't necessarily take so long. The machine will then automatically reset, perhaps without anybody on the strip being aware, at first. What might cause such a disconcerting event? Ah ha, here I am, circling around to where this column started.

If you make the mistake of putting one or more of your scoring machines on a power line that is also running something subject to occasional heavy power demands, you may easily get a sudden overload on that line—perhaps not enough to shut it down by blowing a fuse or tripping a circuit breaker, which would be inconvenient though obvious, yet enough to starve a sensitive scoring machine into thinking it has been turned off and back on. In a recent example reported to me, a machine was sharing a line with the bout committee. Whenever all the computer printers started working away at once, the power demand was enough to drop the available voltage at the scoring machine to the point where it would turn off momentarily and come back on—in epee.

So you will want to add to my previous advice about keeping your power lines securely plugged in, and taped down, etc., this additional bit: be sure that you haven't overloaded any of them. In effect, “dedicate” them, as the saying goes.



# The USFA Congress

So, what's all the fuss about?

BY EDWIN (BUZZ) HURST

In its brief two years of life, the concept of the USFA Congress seems to have caused an inordinate amount of vertigo amongst the membership, to say nothing of division officers. Therefore, I am going to attempt, utterly without slides or transparencies (nor even one of those neat laser pointers) to explain what the hell this is all about. The reason I am going to take the plunge is that the Congress as a body is important to the best interests of the Association, and Congress members have a crucial role to play in their Divisions and Sections.

First, let's refresh everyone's memory as to what the Congress is and how it got that way. The short answer is that the Congress is composed of the same people who used to be the Board of Directors. The current Board of Directors is a new body that is quite small (30 members, max) compared to the Congress, and is not based primarily on local representation the way the Congress is. Your entire Section may have no more than one or two members on the Board, but both your Division and Section can have significant representation in the Congress.

This all came about because the USFA was ordered to change by the U.S. Olympic Committee. For reasons that have considerable historical justification in some sports, the USOC became concerned that international-level athletes were not getting any say in the way their own sports organizations established the policies under which they competed and trained. The Big Kahuna in Colorado Springs, with a shove from the Even Bigger Kahuna in Washington, D.C., therefore mandated that all member federations would restructure themselves so that their governing bodies would be comprised of at least 20% elite athletes. They subsequently defined an elite athlete as one who had officially represented the United States at an Olympic, Pan Am or World championship within the preceding ten years. Since the Olympic Committee is, in that charming French phrase *Le riche Américain avec des dollars*, the USFA had to comply, even though by the USOC definition, our prospective jury pool of elite athletes is pretty small compared to say, Track, Swimming or Soccer.

Since the Board of Directors is our governing body, it had to be reduced in size in order to have any chance of meeting the 20% mandate. Nobody wanted to lose the input from local divisions, though, so the USFA Congress was created. In order to escape the ever vigilant eye of the USOC and its 20% police, the Congress had to act as an advisory body rather than a voting one, although it did retain the

authority to elect the editor of AMERICAN FENCING and the USFA Nominating Committee (not inconsiderable powers, these, if one thinks about it). However, it is its advisory role that is most significant. If we can judge by last year - the first time that the new structure was in full operation - when members of Congress speak, the Board and the Executive Committee listen. It is, after all, the Congress that is the voice of the average fencer out there; the person who pays most of the freight in this organization.

Just as importantly, the equation is reversible: it is your local Congress member who should best be able to explain to you what is going on at the national level. Every division is supposed to have a direct pipeline to the Board of Directors and the USFA's Executive Committee. I say "supposed" because a number of divisions, acting with sublime indifference to the avalanche of words previously written about this, never elected any Congress representatives. Some other Division Executive Committees, only partially confused, tried to appoint their Congressional Reps - an action that I hope all the foregoing makes clear just ain't kosher. If a Congress member is supposed to represent

everybody in your division, then everybody in your division should have the chance to elect him. The USFA ByLaws mandate exactly that. I'm astounded by the number of members who don't know that the USFA ByLaws dictate precisely who constitutes the Section Executive Committee and

**“Becoming a member of the USFA Congress is the ideal way to break into administration on the section and national level while still keeping a foot in your own backyard.”**

the minimum composition of a Division Executive Committee. Read the USFA ByLaws (Oh, all right: Chapter XIV Sec. 7, 8, & 11). Observe that a division is represented on its Section Executive Committee by its Chair, one additional member, and every member of Congress. Since the average Section Executive Committee decides such bread-and-butter issues as when and where the section championship is going to be and how much you're going to have to pay to fence in it, it could be viewed as felony dumb for a division not to fill its full quota of Congressional Representatives.

It's not all swords and roses for the hardy souls that become Congress Reps, however. You have an obligation to keep yourself informed about what the USFA Board and Executive Committee are doing, and pass it on to your local folks. You also should be prepared to discuss intelligently issues of concern if you do go to the annual meeting. The agenda and minutes of each Board meeting are published on the USFA's website, and even if you are a computer luddite, such as myself, you can still find someone in your division to print copies for you. It would also be wise to liaise with the member of the Board representing your section since you might be able to fill in missing bits of info for each other.

Our association of almost 15,000 members most certainly includes a huge untapped pool of talent, people whose professional and personal abilities, if aimed in our direction, could make this organization better. If you're one of them, and you would join the Congress, it would give our talent scouts a forum by which to discover you. No group can ever have enough people with a positive charge on their batteries.



# Fencer's Edge

## SPORTS NUTRITION PRODUCTS

*Fencer's Edge* formulations are designed by fencers, for fencers. Don't rely on supplements and performance enhancers designed for other sports! THE EDGE has arrived to bring you into the finals. Our best seller, **Competition Formula**, contains only the highest quality ingredients and our vitamin, mineral and herbal formulas are extracted from natural sources in a cold pressed process that assures maximum bioavailability. No artificial binders, fillers, or silver coatings. Only the nutrients you need to sharpen your game and improve your health. All formulas are hypoallergenic and free from wheat gluten, sugar, starch, soy protein, sodium, or yeast.

Call today for details on all of our products or visit us on the web at [www.FENCERSEGE.com](http://www.FENCERSEGE.com)

**\*COMPETITION FORMULA: Our Best Seller!**

Specifically designed for the competitive fencer to feel as strong in the finals as you do in the first round! **COMPETITION FORMULA** mixes easily with water, tastes great and comes in single serving bottles @ \$2.25 each or \$27.95 for a 2 lb. container (20 servings).

**\*ENERGY & SPORTS FORMULA:**

A comprehensive multiple vitamin/mineral supplement that acts as the cornerstone of your nutritional program. This high potency formulation is designed for the serious athlete who desires increased energy on a daily basis. Order today! **FENCER'S EDGE ENERGY & SPORTS FORMULA** - \$24.95 for 120 tablets.

**\*\*\*SERIOUS NUTRITION FOR SERIOUS FENCERS\*\*\***

**Endura:** The ultimate rehydration drink with Magnesium.

**PowerPaws:** Customized supports for foot, heel knee and back pain.

**Recovery Formula:** To accelerate healing.

**Grape Seed Extract:** A potent antioxidant.

**Kava-Kava:** To control nervousness.

**Standard Bars:** A 40-30-30 nutrition and sports bar made with REAL FOOD only.

**Ultra-One Daily:** An excellent daily multiple.

PH 908-771-0811

ORDER FORM

FAX 908-771-0114

Fencer's Edge, LLC

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Send order to: 308 Springfield Ave

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Berkeley Heights, NJ, 07922

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

VISA MC AMEX

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	ITEM	TOTAL
	NJ Residents add 6% sales tax	
	Shipping & Handling \$7.95	
TOTAL		

# The USFA's Referee Development Plan Takes Shape

The new FOC installs a long awaited plan for earning or improving your referee's rating.

BY JONATHAN MOSS, FOC REFEREE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Fencing Officials Commission's Referee Development Plan is now complete. Implementation of the program began with the Summer Nationals in Charlotte, NC. So, now that this program is in place, how does one become a referee? The procedure is divided into three sections depending upon the referee candidate's ratings as of the Summer Nationals: 1) new referees, 2) referees with ratings of 7-10 and 3) referees with ratings of 6 or better. In addition, beginning with the Summer Nationals of 2000, all referees will be required to attend a Rules Interpretation Meeting every season in order to maintain their ratings. The FOC will offer an optional Rules Interpretation Meeting this season (1999-2000), but beginning with the 2000-2001 season attendance at this meeting will be mandatory. Below are the procedures for each category:

## NEW REFEREES

1. Take the Referee Course from a Certified Referee Instructor
2. Take the written test from a Certified Referee Instructor or an FOC Examiner. To pass, the candidate must score at least a 90% on the General section and at least a 90% on each weapon section tested.
  - ◆ Passing the test gives the candidate a 10 rating in the weapon tested
  - ◆ Ratings of 9-10 may be given by a Certified Referee Instructor based upon practical examination.
  - ◆ Ratings of 5-10 may be given by the FOC Examiner based upon practical examination.

## REFEREES WITH RATINGS OF 7 TO 10

1. Take the referee course from a Certified Referee Instructor
2. Take the written test from a Certified Referee Instructor or an FOC Examiner. To pass, the candidate must score at least a 90% on the General section and at least a 90% on each weapon section tested.
  - ◆ Passing the test allows the candidate to be eligible for a higher rating.
  - ◆ Ratings of 9-10 may be given by a Certified Referee Instructor

based upon a practical examination.

- ◆ Ratings of 5-10 may be given by the FOC Examiner based upon a practical examination

## REFEREES WITH RATINGS OF 6 OR HIGHER

1. Ratings are maintained without the need to take the course. Five and six rated referees are encouraged to take the course.
2. Higher ratings will be determined by the FOC at its ratings meeting each season.

Referees currently in the 7-10 category will have to take the new written examination before advancing to a higher rating. Once any referee has passed the new written examination, that candidate will not have to take the test again.

What about those two characters, the Certified Referee Instructor and the FOC Examiner? Who are they and how can you find them? Good questions!

At the Summer Nationals in Charlotte approximately 40 referees were taught how to teach the Referee Course. These dedicated souls are the Certified Referee Instructors. Their duties are to offer the Referee Course in their divisions (and other divisions) upon request, to conduct the mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting in their

own division and sections, and to administer the written examinations. They are also qualified to award ratings of 9 or 10. A list of these individuals and their respective divisions will be published in an upcoming USFA Newsletter and posted on the USFA home page.

The most recent FOC examiners were listed in the spring 1999 USFA Newsletter.

The complete list should appear in an upcoming issue. What role do these individuals play? As in previous seasons the FOC Examiners give written and practical examinations and award ratings from 5 through 10.

This plan is intended to address and correct the problems with the old system: 1) insufficient numbers of qualified referees at all levels, 2) inconsistencies in the ways rules are interpreted by the referees, 3) insufficient opportunity to learn referee skills and 4) insufficient opportunity to take referee examinations. With the Referee Course and trained Referee Instructors, the FOC expects to develop a large number of referees. Not all may be top national level referees, but all will have a common understanding of the rules and their proper applications. The "that's not how they call it in Pompton Lakes" syndrome should be drastically reduced.

So, where does this leave us? The FOC has set in motion a plan with the potential to solve our most pressing problems. The responsibility now resides with you. If you've thought about being a referee, but for one of many millions of reasons you have not tried, get on the ball and become a referee. Download the current Rules Book and Study Guide from the USFA Website. Read them. Contact a Certified Referee Instructor. Take the class. Practice. Practice. Practice. Pass the examinations. Practice. Practice. Practice some more.

See you at the bout committee table and at the strip!

THE GOAL: the elimination of the "that's-not-how-they-call-it-in-Pompton-Lakes" syndrome.

## Chief of Mission Report

# 1999 Junior & Cadet World Championships

*Photos clockwise from the top: Seth Kelsey on his way to the finals. Andrea Ament awarded her first of two bronze medals. The sabre final. Former USFA President and FIE Executive Committee member Sam Cheris awards the bronze medal to the Junior Men's Epee Team. Jessica Burke takes home a bronze too. Photos George Masin.*

BY GEORGE KOLOMBATOVICH

**T**he 1999 Junior and Cadet World Championships was a most memorable one for our team. Keszthely, Hungary, on beautiful Lake Balanton, was the site of the tournament and fencing took place from March 30 to April 5. This was a very large and very strong tournament with 827 individual competitors and 114 teams. There were

many wonderful results and accomplishments by the USA Team. Our fencers won four individual medals. For the first time ever, a woman won two individual medals in two different weapons, and that woman was our own Andrea Ament. The USA had eight individual finalists and a team bronze medal. The entire USFA should be very proud of these fine accomplish-

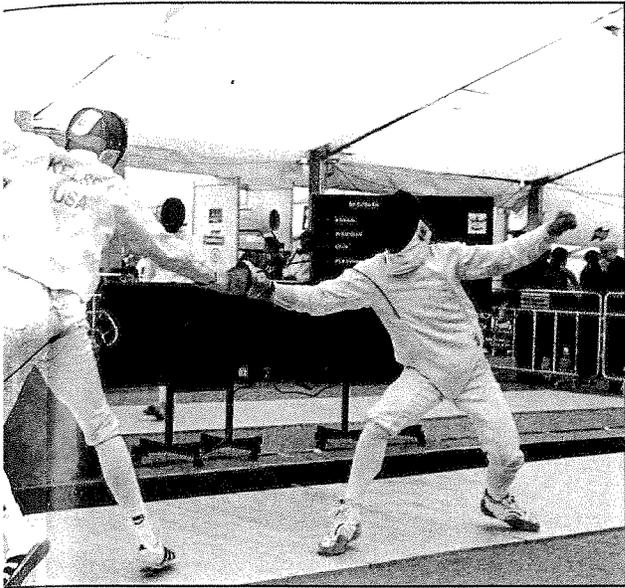
ments; they were possible only through the programs that the USFA has that support our fencers. The fine fencers with their placings are shown to the left:

### Individual Results ♦ 1999 World Championships

CADET MEN'S EPEE	CADET MEN'S FOIL	CADET MEN'S SABRE	CADET WOMENS EPEE	CADET WOMEN'S FOIL
Michael Banks 37th	Steve Gerberman 47th	Colin Parker 3rd	Andrea Ament 3rd	Andrea Ament 3rd
Tim French 43rd	Gabe Sinkin 23rd	Jason Rodgers 9th	Meredith Chin 23rd	Kate Cavin 6th
Ben Solomon 10th	Derek Snyder 56th	Darrin Whitmer 15th	Kerry Walton 46th	Cassidy Luitjen 16th
JUNIOR MEN'S EPEE	JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL	JUNIOR MEN'S SABRE	JUNIOR WOMENS EPEE	JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL
Seth Kelsey 6th	Jed Dupree 8th	Ivan Lee 19th	Jessica Burke 3rd	Andrea Ament 27th
Soren Thompson 21st	Peter Rosen 81st	Jason Rodgers 25th	Kate Rudkin 40th	Erinn Smart 24th
Jan Viviani 22nd	Jon Tiomkin 11th	Akhi Spencer-El 10th	Arlene Stevens 22nd	Iris Zimmermann 8th



It was reported in the local newspapers and on television that the USA was showing that it was becoming a real



the team competitions at the Junior and Cadet Worlds are a full three-person team in each weapon using the relay system with each competition being done by Direct Elimination. Our teams are made up of our Junior Team with the replacement being the top Cadet.

The Men's Epee Team did very well. After defeating South Africa (45-22) and then Norway (45-33), the team drew Italy in the table of 8. Italy was not allowed to get on track. It was a decisive 45-28 win for the USA. Ukraine then defeated us (33-45) which left us with one match the next day. It was USA vs. Spain for the Bronze Medal. Spain was pounced upon; USA took the Bronze Medal with a strong 45-24 showing.

Women's Foil had a bye in the table of 32 and our first opponent was France. Always a power in fencing, they just weren't powerful enough this

beat last year for the Bronze Medal. This time Poland was ready. It was a 25-45 defeat as Poland went on to win the Gold. The final place for the team was 7th.

Men's Sabre had a strange competition.



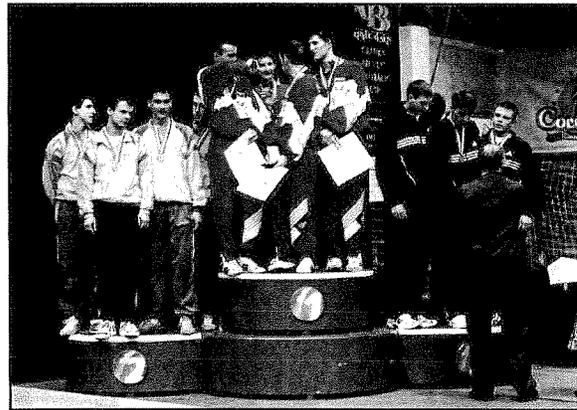
The team had a bye in the table of 32 and drew Spain for its first match in the table of 16. With many strange calls in both directions by the referee, Spain won 45-42. As the Spanish Chief of Mission stated after the match: "We were just luckier than you." The USA finished 9th. Spain finished 3rd.

The Men's Foil Team had Ukraine in the table of 32. A solid performance brought them a 45-29 win. Russia was next. It was a match of "almosts." The team was almost there. A 43-45 heartbreaker placed the USA 9th.

Great assistance was provided to this team by a number of people. The Team Coaches - Yuri Gelman, Simon Gershon, Aladar Kogler, Buckie Leach, and Michael Marx - gave their all for the team. They were most ably assisted by additional coaches - Arkady

fencing power. (That may have been reported to explain the number of Hungarians who lost to our fencers; the USA was 6-1 in DE bouts against Hungarians, including two wins in sabre.)

These championships were held in tents. Yes, you read correctly: tents. Only the final strip was in a building. There were three large tented areas that held twenty-two strips. It was quite cold in the mornings (one could see one's breath) and rather warm in the afternoon (we had to take off the multiple layers that were most welcome earlier).



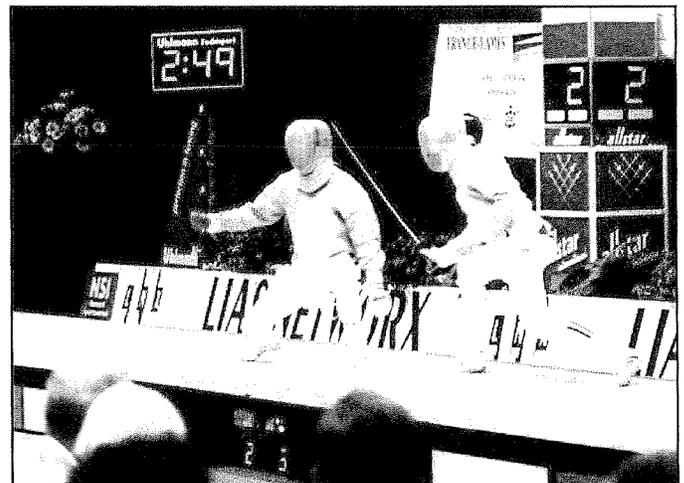
Each day found us with fencers in at least two of the areas; more often than not, we were in three. Communication was difficult, but we managed.

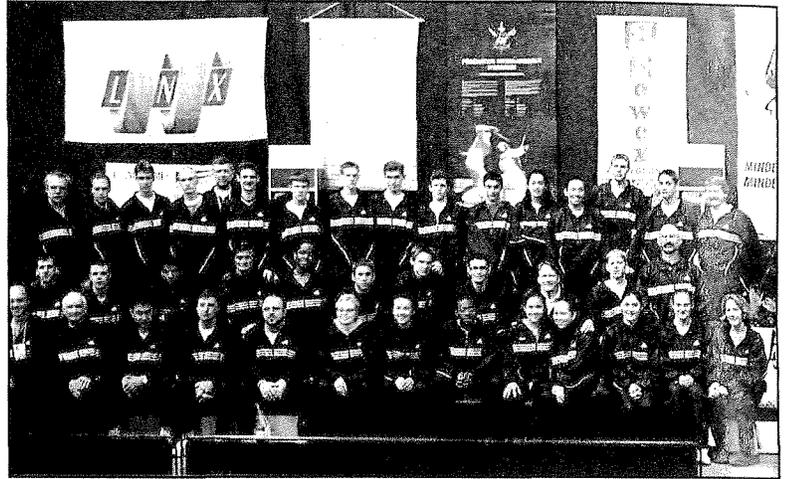
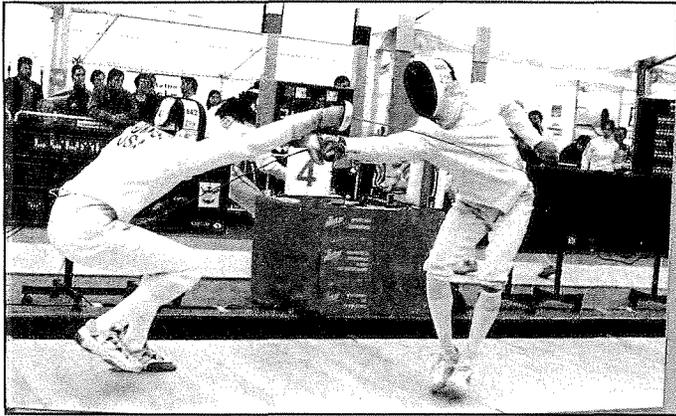
This was a World Championships that had an uncommon aspect to it. We were less than 100 miles from a country that the USA was bombing. The proximity to Yugoslavia necessitated some special requirements for the team regarding traveling in groups, curfew, et cetera, and, though it was certainly a tense time for the cadre, all were pleased that there were no incidents.

The Team Championships were very exciting and very strong. For the past few years

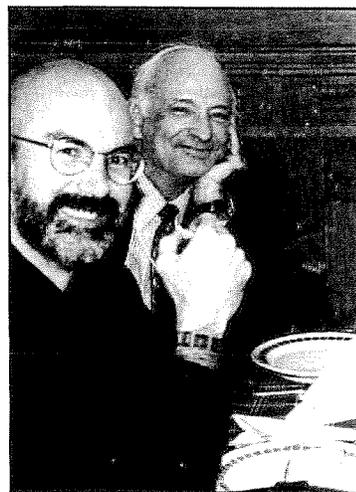
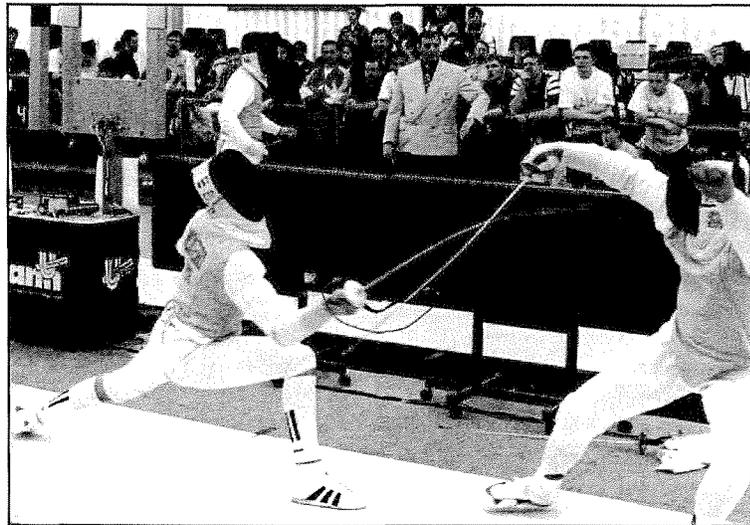
day. It was a 45-40 win for the USA. In the table of 8 our opponent was Korea, a most formidable foe. We started off well, but Iris Zimmermann had to be pulled due to her recurring knee injury. An 18-45 loss gave the USA fifth place. Korea went on to finish 4th.

The Women's Epee Team dominated Austria (45-31) for their first match, which was in the table of 16 after a bye for the table of 32. Their next opponent was the team they

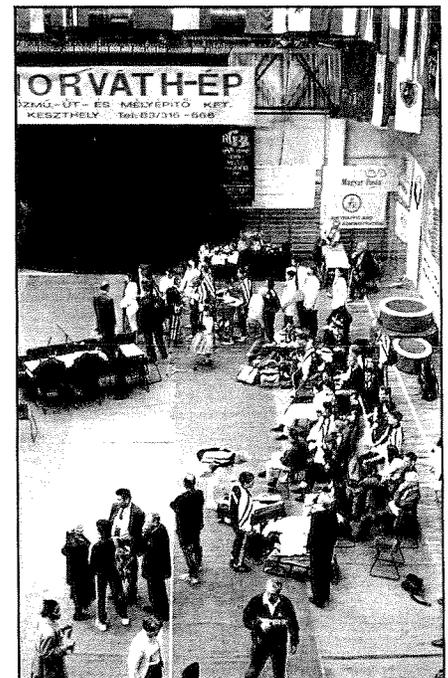
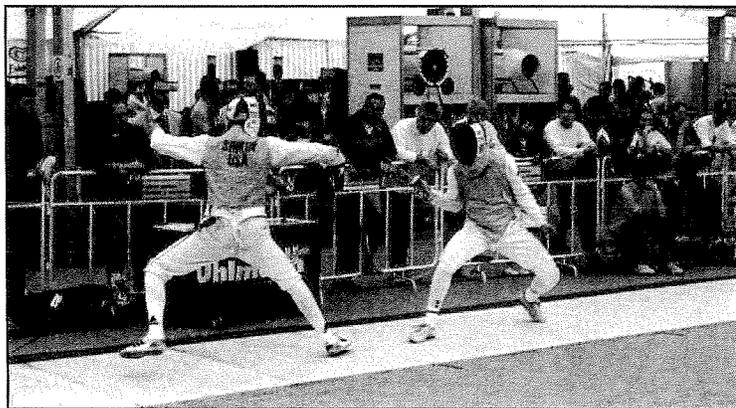
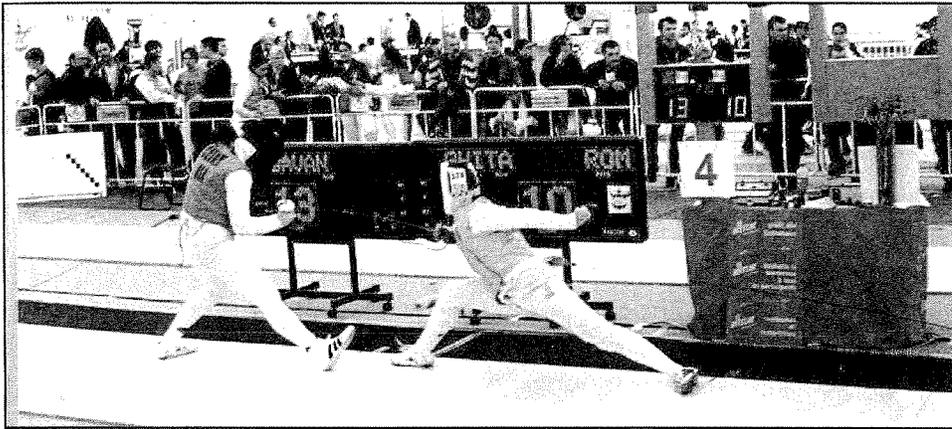
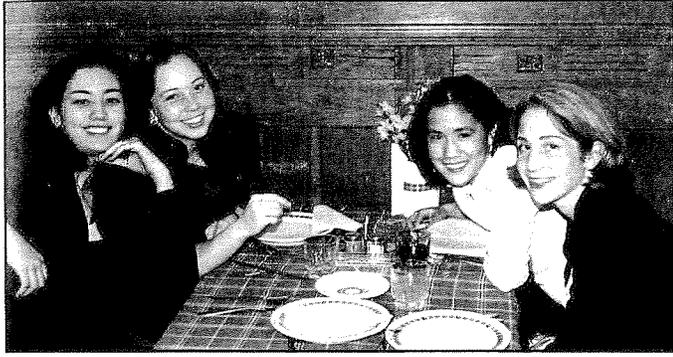




Burdan, Gary Copeland, Dan Costin, Janos Gasparin, Nat Goodhartz, Michael Itkin, Michael Pederson, and Bill Reith. Nancy Anderson was invaluable as manager. With all her language skills, she is always able to communicate and get what the team needs whether dealing with the FIE or finding ice (a rare commodity in that part of the world) for the trainer. Peter Harmer is not only an excellent trainer, he is always willing to do whatever is necessary to help. It is a pleasure to have such a professional person with such a pleasant disposition. As has become the norm, people from all over the world stop by for help from our "Peter." A new person on our trip was Dr. Dannie Ritchie. She was a real asset. Having a second medical person who was also professional and most pleasant was a welcomed luxury. I do hope we can avail ourselves of her services in the future. George Masin was the extra hand, always ready, willing, and able to assist. It was especially helpful to have that spare person when we were split amongst the three areas. Matthew Porter was there as the Armorer while Dan DeChaine was present as the Assistant Armorer. These two people worked late into the night and were with us first thing every morning; their stamina was most commendable, and the quality of their work was excellent. Emik Kaidanov, National Training Director, was also present. All these talented people share an unselfish attitude; they always did whatever was needed for the important people on the trip - the fencers.



The USA is truly becoming an international power. There is much more work to be done, but with talented fencers such as we had on this team and the continued support of all of the members of the USFA, the future looks very bright.



Photos left page clockwise from the top: Another inch ... no touch. Team photo. Women's individual foil. Left Iris Zimmermann, right Seth Kelsey, Sorin Thompson. Left: Arlene Stevens, Steve Gerberman; right: Derek Snyder, Gabe Sinkin. Left trainer Peter Harmer; right armorer Dan DuChaine. Right page clockwise from the top. Left Arlene Stevens, Katie Cavan; right Andrea Ament, Cassidy Luitjen. Left Armorer Matthew Porter, Team Manager Nancy Anderson. The introduction of finalist Iris Zimmermann. The finals venue. Gabe Sinkin. Katie Cavan. All photos by George Masin.

---

# Build a Grassroots Fencing Program

San Antonio's Dreams for Youth Program demonstrates that community partnerships and grant support contribute to success

---

BY STACEY JOHNSON

---

**T**he last six years of my 33-year love affair with fencing has yielded, perhaps, the greatest rewards ever because I know I've come full circle and back to the love and involvement in grassroots fencing in my own community. I have served the USFA as an athlete representative, referee, national officer and currently as an U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors member, but the greatest joy I've felt came from developing the Dreams for Youth

Program, a program introducing San Antonio children to the best of sports — fencing.

The reason I am writing this article is to share some of the remarkable contacts that helped make this journey one that I believe is possible in many other cities and commu-

nities in the U.S. The contacts that I've used could help many existing U.S. fencing programs grow stronger and faster in the future. If enough interest is generated through this article, I will commit to holding a seminar, perhaps at the coaches college or at a future

Nationals. First, however — a bit of history on Dreams for Youth (DFY).

While I served as USFA Vice President from 1992-96, I worked with Peter Westbrook, U.S. teammate and fellow Olympian, to help write and secure his first \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Olympic Committee. Peter's phenomenal foundation and work with inner-city kids inspired me to go back to my own home town and develop a grassroots program. At the time, I was a member of the board of directors for the San Antonio Sports Foundation and I knew they had many contacts in the city which could help me.

I started by forming a small committee and drafting a simple plan which set the following broad goals for the DFY: 1.) To introduce kids to Olympic Sports; 2.) To assist kids with demonstrated talent through additional lessons, equipment, travel, coaching, etc.; 3.) To identify and train coaches, especially minority coaches; 4.) To support the development of training facilities in parts of the city where none currently existed.

Next, I targeted the most disadvantaged kids in our city — Housing Authority children. My Sports Foundation committee members helped arrange the first meeting with the San Antonio Housing Authority where I presented an overall plan for DFY and a pilot model to start a fencing program. They liked the uniqueness and individuality of fencing and the long-term opportunities of offering six more Olympic sports which was part of the plan. The Housing Authority grant folks knew about a grant through the Housing and Urban Development Department called the Youth Sports Grant (which still exists). This grant looked like the perfect match to pilot our fencing program.

It took about three months until we got the news



we were successful with our first grant request and \$125,000 was the payoff. With the grant money in hand, we approached the local community college with a deal where we purchased enough equipment (50 standard sets and electric equipment for 15, with a scoring machine, reels and cables). The community college (Palo Alto College) could use the equipment in their PE department and we started a fencing program utilizing their gymnasium free of charge after school and on the weekends. Viktor Svatenko, U.S. Modern Pentathlon, and I started the first classes, using coaches from our division, Oscar Barrera, Paul Schimelman and others as we needed to teach the first fencing program with about 50 kids.

That first year we worked the kinks out of the program and then used the fencing program as a model to start six other Olympic sports in 1995. One of the keys to the grant, however, was that we were required to track the productivity of the kids in the program. A small sum of \$5,000 from the original \$125,000 was used to pay for a research project (done by local university students) to track the success of kids not only in the program, but in their daily lives.

The University of Texas at San Antonio Health Science Center developed a survey administered to the parents of the children who participated in our program and found some phenomenal results. In the UT study 60% reported an improvement in school performance by a least one letter grade. Parents said 31% reported an improvement in their children's self-respect and respect for others, and 26% reported an increase in self-esteem.

Creating this kind of intrinsic change and tracking it is a key to the program's success and ability to garner other grants. The San Antonio business/corporate community and other granting agencies are much more likely to provide funds to a sports program that assists kids in improving their self-esteem, staying in school and off the streets. Anyone who participates in fencing knows the power that sports can play in individual. Studies have shown that kids who have at least one more significant adult in their lives (coaches), beyond the parent, have much stronger odds of succeeding in life. Having some bonafide survey information to document individual improvements in your fencing program is a great way to build credence to any program.

In its short history, DFY has enrolled 10,000 full-time registrants in the DFY. More than 50,000 children have participated in

camp, or tried short-term training sessions in at least one of our seven sports which include: badminton, cycling, diving, gymnastics, swimming, volleyball and most importantly—fencing. The fencing program has enrolled approximately 300 kids to date and we continue to track our kids, with the coaches requiring children to provide their grades.

After obtaining the first HUD grant, it was definitely easier to garner other grants.

The old adage, "it takes money to make money" is very true in the grant business.

Other grants we've secured to date for the program have come from: Nike, Levi Strauss, Sporting Good Manufacturers Association, YMCA, and Red McCombs (owns the Minnesota Vikings/Car Dealer in San Antonio). The San Antonio Sports

Foundation also started an annual dinner three years ago to raise money on a permanent basis for DFY as this program has now become their key program fulfilling their mission to "...be a catalyst for fitness programs for youth, particularly disadvantaged youth." The largest subsidy grant was still to come, however.

In the fall of 1996, the DFY was named a Community Olympic Development City by the USOC. Along with this designation came \$1 million in funding that would catapult the DFY toward securing long-term programmatic stability focusing on goal three of the program - assisting those talented athletes along the competitive pipeline.

During the 1996 Olympic Games media coverage, the USOC was taken to task about focusing all of its resources on elite level athletes. The Community Olympic Development Program is an attempt to provide support to quality grassroots programs around the country.

The USOC wants to help strengthen the

athlete pipeline providing support along the way for athletes identified as talented by coaches through organized local programming. To date, four cities have received this designation: Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Atlanta.

Although Minneapolis and Salt Lake are focusing more on winter games sports, fencers should check to see if they might join the CODP in those cities, particularly Atlanta. Once athletes are identified by coaches in

the grassroots program and they meet CODP program criteria (Vincent Bradford can provide that criteria), they become eligible for monetary support, additional training opportunities, and assistance with equipment and travel.

Approximately 23 fencers in San Antonio have received some support and notable athletes include Luke Chilen, 1998 U-17 Men's Epee champion; his sister Hannah Chilen, who placed second

in the 1998 U-17 Women's Epee, and Cassidy Luitjen, member of the 1999 Cadet World Championship team (in 1999 ranked third in U-17 Women's Foil, fifth in U-20 Women's Foil).

Currently, the San Antonio Sports Foundation administers the \$1 million CODP grant providing approximately \$250,000 each year through 2000. The DFY works as the feeder program into the CODP where talented athletes and coaches are provided additional support.

With this kind of funding on an annual basis, the first thing we did was to hire outstanding coaches and institutionalize the programs. A core principle all fencers know to be true is that good fencing revolves around great coaches and strong clubs and training centers. We knew this was a once in lifetime chance. If we never saw any more grant money after 2000, we needed to ensure the programs would continue on their own.



Coach Vincent Bradford

*Continued on following page*

We knew we could identify great coaches and we wanted to open access to more kids. To do this we needed to create some new partnerships. For example, the Alamo Community College District and the San Antonio Independent School District signed agreements hiring full-time coaches in fencing, badminton and cycling. The first four years, the SASF pays their salaries (through the support of the USOC grant monies). At the end of the four years, the ACCD and ISD agree to pay the coaches salaries in full as part of their regular physical education offerings. We are using the CODP grant monies to leverage the future of the program, to institutionalize our grassroots activities. These agreements provide a win-win for both sides.

Vincent Bradford was hired as the CODP fencing coach in San Antonio at Palo Alto College, where she is a fulltime, tenure-tracked faculty member. "Half day I work on the DFY program and the other half I teach physical education courses and fencing for the college. I am developing young fencing coaches from my college classes who are

teaching after school programs for kids with the ISD," Bradford said. "This is a unique opportunity to help fencing develop a new pipeline of young fencers and help institutionalize fencing within the ISD and the community college system. The CODP funds also allow me to work with the existing clubs in town, Salle Poudjardieu and Modern Pentathlon. If their fencers meet CODP criteria, we make sure and help their athlete with additional monies and support the coaches with joint fencing camps and tournaments."

Several threads connect all these activities which I will summarize in steps that anyone can attempt in their own community.

First - check and see if you have a sports commission/foundation in your town. Nasc@sportscommission.org is the web site for the National Association of Sports Commissions which boasts a 200 plus membership list. The USFA is a member as well. Many sports commissions have as part of their mission to develop or support sports programming for kids. See if you can get involved and develop contacts which can

help you in developing fencing programs. (DFY has a standing Executive Committee which fields community leaders who are really interested in kids and sports.)

Second - focus your energies to develop a good written plan that you can present, modify and utilize to target a first agency or individual that you think might want to start or enhance your existing fencing program. If you can get a first sizeable chunk of money, it is much easier to get subsequent grants. (I am willing to share my materials!)

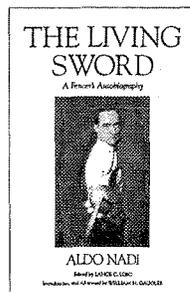
Third - make sure that your plan includes not only a sound fencing program, but a social/educational viability factors that demonstrate fencing is not only great fun and a healthful sport, but it helps kids in meaningful ways. Do simple surveys of parents, or track grades, gender and ethnicity patterns, etc. Start a database of information on your kids programming.

Finally - find a zealot in your club who is passionate about the sport and who likes to write and organize. Then find an influential parent or club mate who has local contacts if we start to work better in teams in fencing, we really can accomplish incredible things. Work to build advisory committees that reflect cross sections of business, sport, education and agency members. My program has only succeeded to date through help and cooperation from many folks. Peter Westbrook will tell you the same.

Feel free to email me at Sjohnson@accd.edu and let me know if you want more information. Based on your responses, I will determine if I should try to do more outreach to groups about this project. Each city or community has its own unique mix of factors, but by cooperating with a variety individuals, developing a sound plan, and garnering some initial funds, grassroots fencing programs can grow stronger in the U.S.

## The Next Two Minutes Can Change Your Life and Inspire You to Greatness!

"Best Buy of Summer '95 (★★★★)." —Hammerterz Forum



### The Living Sword: A Fencer's Autobiography **NEW**

by Aldo Nadi • 416 pages • \$17.95

The epic story of the most powerful fencer ever known. He was the "bad boy" of fencing, the "black sheep" of his family, the super champion who crushed his adversaries then celebrated his victories with champagne and beautiful women.

"Aldo Nadi was possessed of the most perfect mechanism, the most brilliant mind, and the stoutest competitive heart of any fencer I have ever known" —**Giorgio Santelli**

45 photographs • Softcover, 5.5 X 8.5 • ISBN: 1-884528-20-1



### On Fencing

by Aldo Nadi • 300 pages • \$19.95

"On Fencing is a work of cardinal importance, the testament of perhaps the greatest swordsman of modern times; it goes without saying that it should be in the library of every serious fencer and aspiring champion." —**American Fencing Magazine, USFA**

"A cosmopolitan and brilliant individual, his insights into the psychology of combat are revealing. Fencing coaches and fencers would do well to study Nadi's ideas. Each page merits close attention." —**United States Fencing Coaches Assoc.**

8 photographs • Softcover, 5.5 X 8.5 • ISBN: 1-884528-04-X

**Satisfaction Guaranteed • Order Now to get a First Edition**

\$3.00 shipping, regardless of how many books you order. • FL res. add sales tax. Call our Toll Free Order Hotline or send a check or money order to Laureate Press.

 **Visa/MasterCard Orders: 1-800-946-2727** 

Laureate Press, P.O. Box 450597-305, Sunrise, FL 33345 • 305- 370-5095 • Fax 305-370-5093

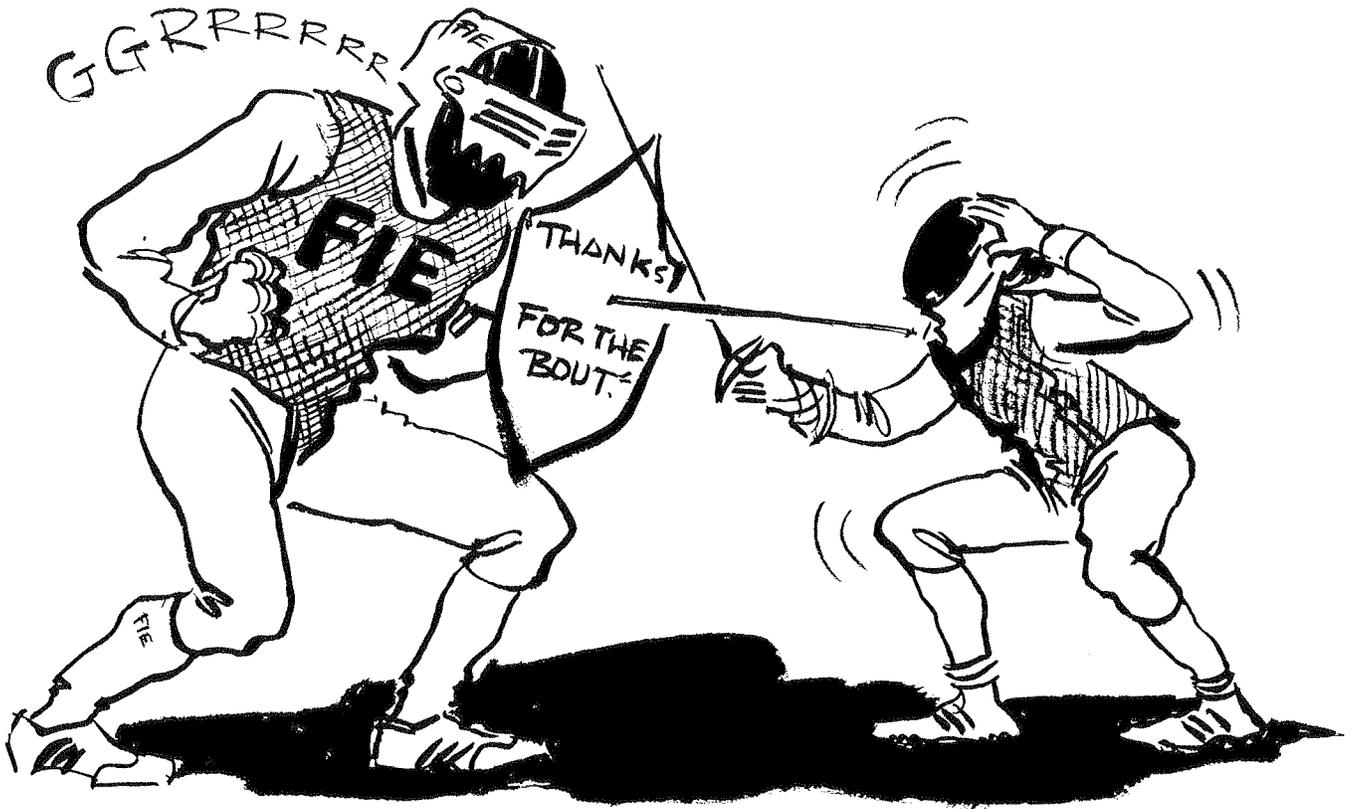
# Duel in the Desert

Las Vegas

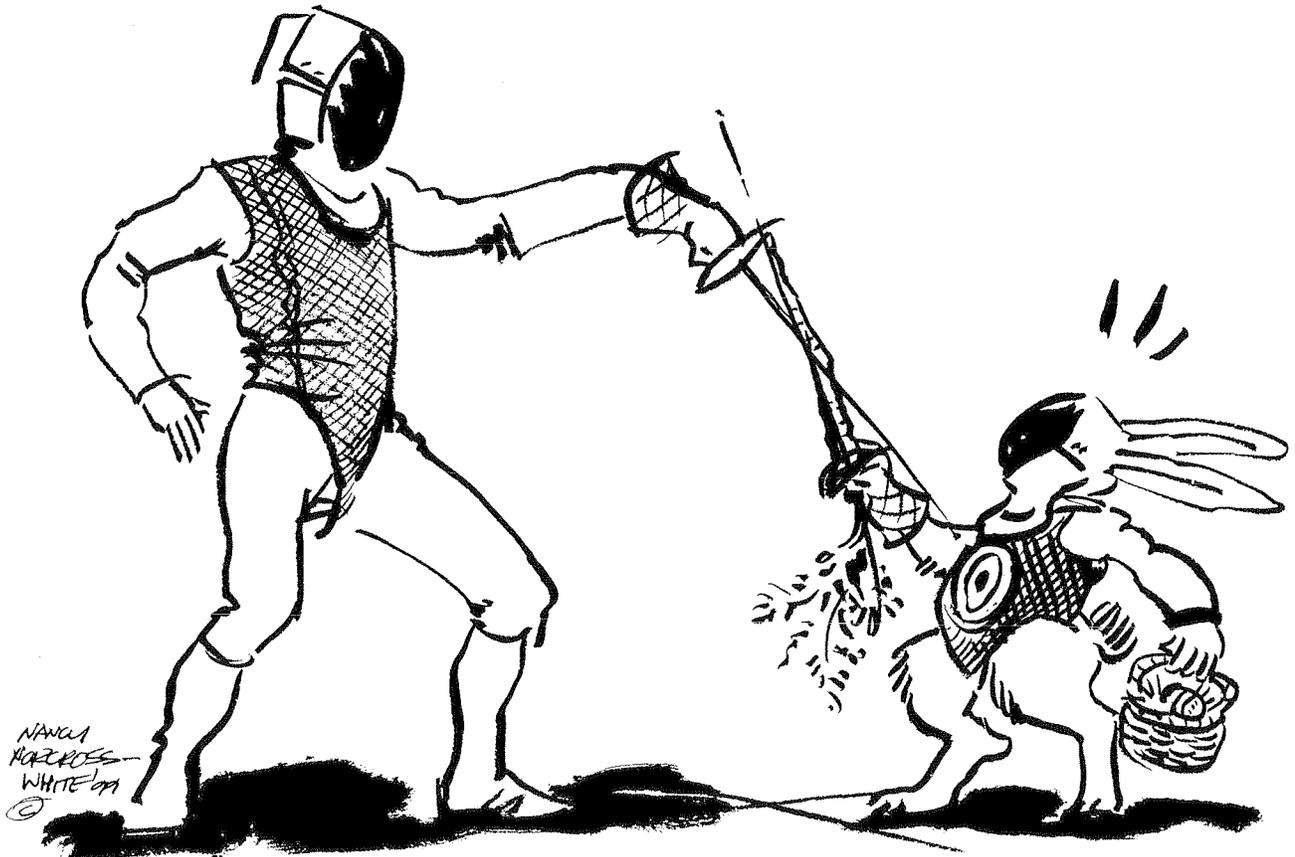
January 7 - 9, 2000

702.242.0765 Fax 702.242.6391

www.lasvegasfencing.com



OPPONENT AS SEEN BY GREENHORN FENCER.



OPPONENT AS SEEN BY SEASONED VETERAN.

# The Fencing Collector

## - Part II

Coins commemorating the sport of fencing are a rare but rewarding collectible.

BY GEORGE MASIN

Coins are legal tender, issued by a country's mint, and worth some amount of that country's currency (known as its *denomination*). There are also coin-like objects that are not legal tender. They can be *tokens* which are issued as a substitute for

money, for example to pay transit fares, or *medals* or *medallions* issued by some organization, usually to commemorate some event and/or raise money.

While there may be older coins showing swords or swordsmen, coins showing the sport of fencing are of recent issue. This is fortunate because it means that we don't have to be too concerned about the myriad of grading codes like "About Good," "Very Fine," "Almost Uncirculated," etc., for indicating the condition of coins that have been in circulation. Coins showing fencing were minted especially for the collectors' market and are available in either "Uncircu-

lated" or "Proof" condition.

*Uncirculated* indicates that the coin was never in circulation as actual spending money. As soon as the coin was minted it was put aside and sold in the collectors' market. This means that the coin should not have nicks and wear marks.

*Proof* indicates that the coin was specially minted. A true proof coin must be at least double-struck using dies (often themselves polished) of the highest qual-

ity. The result is a coin with a mirror-like finish. Modern proof quality usually consists of a frosted raised design surrounded by mirror-like flat areas. Sometimes the coins are only struck once. As a result, these coins are sometimes referred to as "proof-like."

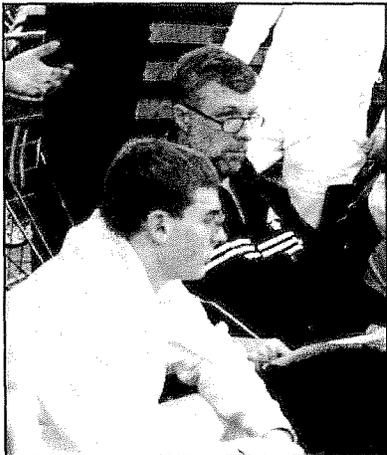
Fencing coins can be available only uncirculated, only proof, or both. Proof coins are usually more expensive than uncirculated coins.

Coins are usually sold in hard plastic cases, in stapled-together cardboard squares with a plastic film middle section, or in heavier-gauge plastic film envelopes. Storing the coins in hard plastic cases is best since they are more airtight and so reduce the chances of oxidation. There have been some reports about the cardboard squares causing a problem because of traces of acid in the cardboard. Any discoloration on a coin is known as toning and makes the coin less desirable.

Coins are made in a variety of metals. Some of the metals used (in order of increasing cost) and their abbreviations are: copper (*Cu*), copper-nickel (*CN*), silver (*Ag*), gold (*Au*), and platinum (*PT*). Since fencing coins are meant for the collectors' market, they tend to be made in one of the precious metals. It's good to know ahead of time what metal(s) a particular coin was made with. Platinum, silver, and copper-nickel coins look the same to the untrained eye but vary widely in price. As a result, if an individual coin was minted in different metals, it's helpful to know the size of the coin, its diameter in millimeters (mm), since a coin minted in different metals is sometimes made in different sizes.

In addition to the metal, the price of a coin will depend upon its weight, fineness, and mintage.

A coin's *weight* is usually given in grams (abbreviated "g"). Its *fineness* is an indication of the ratio of the primary metal to the total weight of the coin. A silver coin with a fineness of .500 contains one half pure silver. So multiplying the weight of the coin by its fineness gives you the amount of the metal in that



Author George Masin at Junior & Cadet World Championships, with Seth Kelsey in the foreground

*Terminology useful for the collector (as I understand it) is in bold italics.*

coin. For example, a coin listed as "12.90g .900 Gold" means that it contains 11.61 grams (12.9 x .9) of pure gold.

**Mintage** is the number of coins made by the mint. The lower the mintage, the harder it will be to get the coin and the more expensive it will be compared to other coins with the same metal content.

There are some varieties known for fencing coins. Sometimes more than one die is made for producing coins. If the mint is not careful, the dies can be different enough so that the resulting coins are noticeably different. The fencing coins from Mauritania and Viet Nam are known to exist in two different (though minor) varieties. **Piedfort** (also sometimes spelled "piefort") coins are coins minted twice as thick as the normal issue for the collectors' market. **Trial** (or **trial strike**)

coins are also varieties of the normal issue made for the collectors' market. They might have the design only on one side or have a special inscription. A Hungarian trial strike is known as a **probaveret**.

As with stamps, the prominence of fencing on a coin can vary. The Isle of Mann coin on the left of the middle row shows many sports with fencers under the word "second". The Colombian coin in the middle of the bottom row shows the sports pictograms used for the Pan American Games in 1971. The fencing pictogram is the one in the bottom left hand corner next to the word "pesos." (This is actually the middle coin in a set of five. There are two smaller coins in the set with even smaller fencers.)

The catalog used by coin dealers in the US is World Coins by Krause and Mishler. Coins

listed in this catalog are identified by a number preceded by "KM". This is important to know if you are ordering by mail or over the internet. Also, most coins are illustrated in this catalog, so you can look at the coin before you order it if you can find this catalog in your library.

The table below lists all of the fencing coins that I know about. In the comments column I put "logo" if the fencing is only a small pictogram. For the Mauritania and Viet Nam coins I've indicated the nature of the two die varieties. The prices indicated are approximate.

Country	Date	Denomination	KM#	Metal	Size	Weight	Fineness	Mintage	Unc.	Proof	Piefort	Comments
Boznia & Herzegovina	1996	500 dinara	55	CN	38.61	28.28		No Limit	\$6.00			
Boznia & Herzegovina	1996	750 dinara	59	Ag	38.61	28.28	0.9250	30,000		\$40.00		
Boznia & Herzegovina	1996	10000 dinara	63	Au	22.00	6.22	0.9999	5,000		\$190.00		
Canada	1976	5 dollars	107	Ag	38.00	24.30	0.9250	82,302	\$4.50	\$10.00		
China Peoples Republic	1988	5 yuan	172	Ag	38.60	30.00	0.9000	20,000		\$30.00		
China Peoples Republic	1988	100 yuan	173	Au	27.00	15.57	0.9990	10,000		\$300.00		sword dancing
China Peoples Republic	1990	1 yuan	264	Ni steel	30.00	8.60		25,608,000	\$3.50			sword dancing
China Peoples Republic	1993	10 yuan	493	Ag	38.61	30.00	0.9250	30,000		\$30.00		
Colombia	1971	100 pesos	248	Au	20.00	4.80	0.9000	6,000		\$100.00		logo
Colombia	1971	200 pesos	249	Au	23.90	8.60	0.9000	6,000		\$175.00		logo
Colombia	1971	300 pesos	250	Au	28.00	12.90	0.9000	6,000		\$250.00		logo
Colombia	1971	500 pesos	251	Au	35.00	21.50	0.9000	6,000		\$400.00		logo
Colombia	1971	1500 pesos	252	Au	50.00	64.20	0.9000	6,000		\$1,400.00		logo
Cuba	1997	10 pesos		Ag	36.00					\$70.00		
Egypt	1984	5 pounds	558	Ag	37.00	17.50	0.7200	20,000	\$16.00			& wrestling
Egypt	1990	5 pounds	698	Ag	37.00	17.50	0.7200	5,000	\$20.00			logo
Egypt	1992	5 pounds	701	Ag	37.00	17.50	0.9000	999	\$45.00			
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2,999		\$40.00		
Egypt	1992	50 pounds	709	Au	24.00	8.50	0.9000	49	\$425.00			
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	99		\$425.00		
Egypt	1992	100 pounds	717	Au	32.00	17.00	0.9000	49	\$800.00			
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	99		\$800.00		
Hungary	1995	1000 forint	716	Ag	38.60	31.46	0.9250	5,000	\$35.00	\$45.00		
"	"	" - probaveret	"	"	"	"	"		\$400.00	\$400.00		
Isle of Mann	1980	1 crown	67	CN	38.60	28.28		30,000	\$3.00	\$6.00		logo
Isle of Mann	1980	1 crown	67a	Ag	38.60	28.28	0.9250	10,000	\$25.00	\$40.00		logo
Isle of Mann	1980	1 crown	67b	Au	38.60	39.80	0.9170	1,500		\$650.00		logo
Isle of Mann	1980	1 crown	67c	Pt	38.60	52.00	0.9500	100		\$1,200.00		logo
Kampuchea	1989	20 riels	80	Ag	38.00	32.00	0.9990	10,000		\$37.50	\$165.00	
Mauritania	1984	500 ouguiya	M2	CN	38.00	27.15				\$20.00		pointy weapon
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"			\$40.00		blunt weapon
Panama	1988	1 balboa		CN	31.10	14.40		50,000	\$7.50	\$12.50		
Panama	1988	1 balboa		Ag	31.10			20,000		\$37.50		
Panama	1988	1 balboa		Pt	31.10			15		\$1,250.00		
Turks & Caicos	1992	5 crowns	69	CN	39.00	26.50			\$5.50			logo
Turks & Caicos	1992	20 crowns	79	Ag	39.00	31.14	0.9990	20,000		\$35.00		logo
Turks & Caicos	1995	20 crowns		Ag	39.00	31.14	0.9990			\$30.00		
Viet Nam	1986	100 dong	24	Ag	30.00	12.00	0.9990	10,000	\$17.50			small coat of arms
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		\$70.00			large coat of arms
Yemen Arab Republic	1975	10 riyals	16	Ag	45.00	36.00	0.9250	8,000	\$100.00			logo
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4,000		\$150.00		logo
Yemen Arab Republic	1975	75 riyals	21	Au	28.00	13.65	0.9000	8,000	\$275.00			logo
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4,000		\$375.00		logo

## The Secret History of the Sword

Occasionally, a fencing book comes along that challenges the way the art of the sword is perceived. *THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE SWORD*, by J. Christoph Amberger (Multi-Media Books, 1999), is one such book. It is, simply put, a fascinating read.

I should say right off, don't be surprised or bothered by the eclectic nature of *THE SECRET HISTORY*. This is part of the book's strength. It is not just another history competing with Egerton Castle's classic *The Schools and Masters of Fence* (1885), or Dr. William Gaugler's fine recent work, *The History of Fencing* (Laureate Press, 1998).

*THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE SWORD* is in a category all its own. It covers a lot of uncharted territory.

This book is not so much an alternate history-although it does deviate provocatively from standard fare at times-as it is a grand collection of the bits of fencing lore that have fallen between the cracks of time, and have been otherwise forgotten or ignored.

Amberger's writing adds a new dimension to fencing's perceived character. It reminds us that the history of the sword is not merely the accounts and teachings of the Marozzos, Labats, and Angelos, but that there is a wealth of information beneath an often explored surface.

Amberger covers such diverse topics as the origins of the saber target area, the dynamics of duelling, a look at the politics of fencing salles in London in the late 1700s, a study of sword injuries gleaned from an ancient battle site, and an enthralling account of the author's own duelling (schlager) experiences while a university student in Germany. All of this material is interwoven with numerous accounts of duels throughout history.

By the way, I think it's fair to mention that Mr Amberger's background is as varied as his book's, which may explain, to a certain degree, *THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE SWORD*'s penchant for its wide ranging subject matter. Born in Germany in 1963, Amberger has studied Latin, English, history, dentistry, Gaelic, American and English literature, journalism, philosophy, and economics. Now a resident of the U.S., he is considered one of the foremost experts on the continuity of Western sword fighting systems. In this capacity, he has acted as a consultant for New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and was featured as an expert on the Discovery Channel's mini series *Deadly Duels*. He is also the editor/publisher of *Hammerterz Forum*, a much respected sword history journal.

There are many curious facets, some opinion, and much entertaining reading to be had in this book. By all means, buy it and read it from cover to cover. Savor it. J. Christoph Amberger is a talented writer. Unless your brain is set in concrete, you won't be disappointed by *THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE SWORD*.

BY NICK EVANGELISTA

*THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE SWORD* is available for \$19.95 through any bookstore, as well as on the Internet at <http://www.swordhistory.com>. By the way, Evangelista is the new editor of the *Veteran Fencers Quarterly* ... congratulations!

## New Jersey Division Wins Web Site Award

"Links2Go" recently named the NJ USFA web site one of the top 50 sites associated with fencing. This award is based on objective

# Division I Nationals

### Individual Men's Epee

- 1 Bloom, Tamir (NEW JERSEY)
- 2 Normile, Jon (METRO NYC)
- 3T Bonner III, Herman M (CAPITOL)
- 3T Tausig, Justin D (METRO NYC)
- 5 Stull, Robert (SO. TEXAS)
- 6 Marx, Robert (OREGON)
- 7 Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
- 8 Oshima, Marc (METRO NYC)
- 9 Lyons, Michael J (CAPITOL)
- 10 Iagorashvili, Vakhtang (SO. TEXAS)
- 11 Kelsey, Weston Set (OREGON)
- 12 Thompson, Soren (SAN DIEGO)
- 13 Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
- 14 Greenhouse, Rashaan O (METRO NYC)
- 15 Iliev, Velizar K (SO. TEXAS)
- 16 Hansen, Eric J (NORTH CA)
- 17T Banks, Michael (COLORADO)
- 17T Mattern, Cody M (OREGON)
- 19 Rostal, Scott E (MINNESOTA)
- 20 Zucker, Noah L (METRO NYC)
- 21 Ringwald, Kelly P (SO. CALIF.)
- 22 Lafving, Brandon (NORTH TEX)
- 23 Gostigian, Michael (METRO NYC)
- 24 Demirchian, Gagik M (SO. CALIF.)
- 25 Feldschuh, Michael (METRO NYC)
- 26 Cerutti, Franco (SO. CALIF.)
- 27 Chilen, Luke P (SO. TEXAS)
- 28 Krause, Daniel F (WESTERN WA)
- 29 Arenberg, Jeffrey A (SO. CALIF.)
- 30 Masin, George G (METRO NYC)
- 31 Bradford, Deon L (NORTHEAST)
- 32 O'Loughlin, Chris S (METRO NYC)
- 33 Atkins, Ben Z (METRO NYC)
- 34 Dragonetti, Walter E (NORTH OHIO)
- 35 Aufrichtig, Michael N (METRO NYC)
- 36 St. Francis, John M (NORTH CA)
- 37 Wormack, Anthony W (CAPITOL)
- 38 Christie, Scott M (SO. TEXAS)
- 39 Baby, Brendan (CENTRAL PA)
- 40 Burke, Nathaniel (MT. VALLEY)
- 41 Moreau, John A (SO. TEXAS)
- 42 Snider, Jeff H (VIRGINIA)
- 43 Senior, Chad A (COLORADO)
- 44 Larsen, Niels C (NEW JERSEY)
- 45 Gold, Roni (NEWENGLAND)
- 46 Blake, David I (NEWENGLAND)
- 47 French, Timothy L (SO. TEXAS)
- 48 Schindler, Sergey M (CENTRAL CA)
- 49 Stone, Brian M (INDIANA)
- 50 Redwine, Jake B (SO. TEXAS)
- 51 White, Marcus R (CAPITOL)
- 52 Gaither, James L (NORTH CA)
- 53 Castillo, Alejandro (NORTH CA)
- 54 Gregory, James O (COLORADO)
- 55 Greenbaum, Isaac S (PHILADELPH)
- 56 Clawson, Brian C (SAN BERNAR)
- 57 Baldwin, Seth K (OREGON)
- 58 Hoffman, Joe (VIRGINIA)
- 59 Aljibury, Halim (GATEWAY FL)
- 60 Rosenberg, David G (METRO NYC)
- 61 Meakim, Brian J (S. JERSEY)
- 62 Weatherbie, Brett E (COLORADO)
- 63 Artiaco, Brian (OREGON)

### Individual Men's Foil

- 1 Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLAND)
- 2 Bravin, Eric Nick (CENTRAL CA)
- 3T Bayer, Cliff S (METRO NYC)
- 3T Dupree, Jedediah (METRO NYC)
- 5 Longenbach, Zaddick X (METRO NYC)
- 6 Lidow, David R (CENTRAL PA)
- 7 Kellner, Dan J (METRO NYC)

- 8 Devine, Peter E (METRO NYC)
- 9 Chang, Gregory (NEWENGLAND)
- 10 Cellini, Peter A (WESTERN NY)
- 11 Fisher, Joseph E (INDIANA)
- 12 Lu, Gang X (NEW JERSEY)
- 13 Chang, Timothy (CENTRAL CA)
- 14 Basaraba, Greg P (GEORGIA)
- 15 Gerberman, Steven B (ILLINOIS)
- 16 Converse, Pat D (WESTERN NY)
- 17 McClain, Sean (SO. TEXAS)
- 18 Breden, Roland G (CAPITOL)
- 19 Nivelle, Alex B (WEST-ROCK)
- 20 Gargiulo, Terrence L (NEWENGLAND)
- 21 Maurin, Mike R (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 22 Findlay, Douglas D (COLUMBUSOH)
- 23 Breen, Jeffrey A (PHILADELPH)
- 24 Keckley-Stauffer, Joshua (CENTRAL CA)
- 25 Eriksen, Kevin S (NORTHEAST)
- 26 Thliveris, Thomas A (KENTUCKY)
- 27 Anderson, Robert J (METRO NYC)
- 28 Aurioi, Stephane A (INDIANA)
- 29 Cameron, Matt W (ILLINOIS)
- 30 Kaihatsu, Edward (ILLINOIS)
- 31 Bruckner, Raphael J (METRO NYC)
- 32 Diaz, Julio P (GEORGIA)
- 33 Mulholland, Mark B (NORTH CA)
- 34 Riffaterre, Jason P (METRO NYC)
- 35 Catino, Matthew J (CONNECTICUT)
- 36 Snyder, Derek P (SO. CALIF.)
- 37 Charles, Jonathan D (NORTH CA)
- 38 Stifel, Andrew (CAPITOL)
- 39 FENCER EXCLUDED
- 40 Merritt, Davis A (NEWENGLAND)
- 41 Cho, Michael H (MICHIGAN)
- 42 Sun, Linus D (NEWENGLAND)
- 43 Jones, Christophe (WESTERN WA)
- 44 Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
- 45 Carter, Jonathan H (WEST-ROCK)
- 46 Douraghy, Jamie M (SO. CALIF.)
- 47 Miloslavsky, Eli M (NEWENGLAND)
- 48 Lutton, Thomas W (NEWENGLAND)
- 49 Urbain, Kevin M (NORTH CA)
- 50 Milligan, Bruce C (CAPITOL)
- 51 Cellier, Brad F (WESTERN PA)
- 52 DesRoches, Christophe (GEORGIA)
- 53 Bruno, Randy M (WESTERN PA)
- 54 Haynes, Bryant J (ARIZONA)

### Individual Men's Saber

- 1 Spencer-EI, Akhnaten A (METRO NYC)
- 2 Smart, Keeth T (METRO NYC)
- 3T Lasker, Terrence L (KANSAS)
- 3T Lee, Ivan J (METRO NYC)
- 5 Raynaud, Herby (METRO NYC)
- 6 Clinton, Elliott (OREGON)
- 7 Summers, Jeremy S (KANSAS)
- 8 Whitmer, Darrin S (MICHIGAN)
- 9 Maggio, Jonathan S (METRO NYC)
- 10 Momtselidze, Mike (KANSAS)
- 11 LaValle III, Luke P (METRO NYC)
- 12 Yilla, Ahmed K (METRO NYC)
- 13 Bednarski, Andrzej (INDIANA)
- 14 Anthony Jr., Donald K (COLUMBUSOH)
- 15 Crompton, Andre (NEW JERSEY)
- 16 Morehouse, Timothy F (NEWENGLAND)
- 17 Summers, Timothy M (KANSAS)
- 18 Friedman, Paul (SO. CALIF.)
- 19 Zampieri, Joseph A (NEW JERSEY)
- 20 Zagunis, Marten R (OREGON)
- 21 Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)

- 22 Durkan, Patrick J (METRO NYC)
- 23 Roselli, Paolo (NORTH OHIO)
- 24 Siebert, Kitzeln B (KANSAS)
- 25 Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
- 26 Guy, Dmitriy (SAN DIEGO)
- 27 Awolusi, Ayodeji M (METRO NYC)
- 28 Fabricant, Matthew W (NEW JERSEY)
- 29 Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
- 30 Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
- 31 Thomson, Vernon R (MT. VALLEY)
- 32 Bower, Brian P (NEWENGLAND)
- 33 Phillips, Kim V (METRO NYC)
- 34 Perry III, Clint S (MT. VALLEY)
- 35 Trimble, Mario T (METRO NYC)
- 36 Boorstin, Adam S (SO. CALIF.)
- 37 Kim, Paul H (METRO NYC)
- 38 Runyan, Joshua B (SAN DIEGO)
- 39 Stuewe, Aaron C (CENTRAL CA)
- 40 Isaacs, Joshua A (KANSAS)
- 41 Chou, Edward (NEW JERSEY)
- 42 Magee, Andrew P (KENTUCKY)
- 43 Loftin, Guy B (KANSAS)
- 44 Cox, Matthew A (OREGON)
- 45 Vincent, Daniel (PHILADELPH)
- 46 Mathias, Marc (INDIANA)
- 47 Etropolski, Mihail V (METRO NYC)
- 48 Efstathiou, Evangelos (NEWENGLAND)
- 49 Ernoehazy, John A (NORTH CA)
- 50 Berman, Thomas D (SO. CALIF.)
- 51 Cohen, Benjamin D (LONG ISLAND)
- 52 Washburn, Jess W (MINNESOTA)

### Individual Women's Epee

- 1 Stevens, Arlene (WESTERN NY)
- 2 Orman, Sarah Cath (MINNESOTA)
- 3T Burke, Jessica B (WESTERN NY)
- 3T Eim, Stephanie (CENTRAL PA)
- 5 Cheris, Elaine (COLORADO)
- 6 Lawrence, Maya A (NEW JERSEY)
- 7 James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
- 8 Foellmer, Kristin N (CAPITOL)
- 9 Orcutt, Teresa R (SO. TEXAS)
- 10 Rangl, Roopa (NEW JERSEY)
- 11 Le, Nhi Lan (GEORGIA)
- 12 Obenchain, Janel (NORTH CA)
- 13 Andrew, Rachel (OREGON)
- 14 Hurme, Kristiina (NEW JERSEY)
- 15 Leszko, Julia A (CAPITOL)
- 16 Tar, Marie-Soph (CAPITOL)
- 17 Jacobson, Raelyn P (CENTRAL CA)
- 18 Spilman, Elisabeth (SO. CALIF.)
- 19 Campbell, Lindsay K (NORTH OHIO)
- 20 Gilker, Daisy D (ARIZONA)
- 21 Marx, Suzanne Br (OREGON)
- 22 Wertz, Janet L (SAN DIEGO)
- 23 Campi, Lisa Miche (NEW JERSEY)
- 24 Carnick, Anna N (WESTERN NY)
- 25 Miller, Margo L (SO. CALIF.)
- 26 Kedoin, Yvonne K (CAPITOL)
- 27 Kehoe, Rebecca L (LONG ISLAND)
- 28 Runyon, Cindy (SAN BERNAR)
- 29 Herold, Caroline L (NORTHEAST)
- 30 Rudkin, Kate A (COLORADO)
- 31 Bosco, Marianne H (ALABAMA)
- 32 Brodsky, Anya G (METRO NYC)
- 33 Tolley, Toby M (NORTH CA)
- 34 Mummery, Alexandra (METRO NYC)
- 35 Shaahid, Sakinah N (WESTERN PA)
- 36 Lisagor, Jessica A (CENTRAL CA)
- 37 Conley, Monica A (NEW JERSEY)
- 38 Larsen, Mary Beth (SO. TEXAS)
- 39 Fortune, Amy M (SO. CALIF.)
- 40 Johnson, Karen (SO. TEXAS)

criteria, in particular the value that users receive from the page and the number of "hits" the web site receives. Ken Lyons, creator of the site and webmaster, deserves the credit and plans to make the pages even more fencer friendly and accessible.

## Robert Boyer, '65 Foil Champion

Robert (Bob) Boyer, 65, 1965 United States Men's Foil Individual Champion, died at his home in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, early Easter Sunday morning, April 4, 1999.

During his military career Bob developed an interest in the sport of fencing, which became his lifelong passion. After his honorable discharge in 1957, Bob moved to New York City and began working for George Santelli, Inc. as a fabric cutter and uniform designer. While employed by the Santellis, Bob was instrumental in bringing forward innovations in fencing uniform design, including the front zippered version of the metallic foil jacket and the use of stretch fabric and Velcro.

Bob's competitive fencing career began when he enrolled at New York University and became a member of its fencing team. He also fenced at and represented Salle Santelli in Greenwich Village, where he was men's foil team captain for many years. Bob was instructed in foil and epee by Giorgio Santelli, Alan January, Edward Lucia, Michel Alaux and Csaba Elthes, among others.

During his long and distinguished competitive career, Bob captured many titles, including the United States Men's Individual Foil Championship in 1965 and the United States Men's Foil Team Championship in 1964, 1968, 1970 and 1972, representing Salle Santelli. Bob went on to represent the United States at the World Fencing Championships in Montreal, Canada, where he placed 16th in the men's foil individual competition. Bob also represented the United States at the World Fencing Championships in Vienna, Austria in 1971 and won a silver medal at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada in 1967. He was first alternate in men's foil for the 1964 and 1968 Olympic Fencing Teams.

Because of his intensity on the piste, whether in a competition or practice situation, and his dynamic personality and disarming wit, Bob was always a formidable presence on the fencing scene.

Bob's competitive career ended in 1978 when he began studying boat construction at the Pioneer Marine School at the South Street Seaport in New York City. Upon completion of his training, Bob moved to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts where he worked on new boat construction at the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard until his retirement in 1985.

In retirement Bob's passion for fencing was rekindled and he began teaching fencing and was instrumental in the formation of the Martha's Vineyard Fencing Club.

Bob is survived by his wife of twenty-three years, Ann O'Donnell-Russell, 1976 Woman's Foil Champion and 1972 and 1976 Olympian; his brothers, James of Windsor, Ontario and Joseph, of Pahrump, Nevada; his sister, Mary Sue MacClean of Dearborn, Michigan; and, many nieces and nephews in the Dearborn area. Bob was predeceased by his sister, Patricia Matigian, of Dearborn.

# How to Figure Out Where You Placed

Linda Dunn, a experienced member of many NAC and Nationals bout committees, has had to answer the question easily thousands of times: Where did I finish? Repechage makes that calculation a little tricky for the uninitiated, so Dunn prepared a helpful "cheat sheet" which we reproduce here.

Here's how a Direct Elimination Table of 32 with Repechage works:

Table A - no re-seed; initial DE table continues

Winners advance to Table B

Losers to Table D

Table B - no re-seed

Winners advance to finals (Table H - positions 1 - 4)

Losers advance to top half of Table G (positions 1 - 4)

Table D - no re-seed

Winners advance to bottom half of Table E (positions 9 - 16)

Losers are out (two losses)

Table E - individual positions are re-seeded based on original seed; swaps may occur if fencers have already met in Table A)

Winners advance to Table F

Losers are out (two losses)

Table F - no re-seed

Winners to bottom half of Table G (positions 5 - 8)

Losers are out - (two losses)

Table G - individual positions are re-seeded based on original seed; swaps may occur if fencers have already met in Table A)

Winners to bottom half of finals table (Table H)

Losers are out - two losses

Table H - Finals table; individual positions are re-seeded based on original seed. No swaps

Winners to final 4

Losers are out - two losses

Table I

Winners to Gold Medal bout (final place 1st or 2nd)

Losers fence for 3rd or 4th place or share 3rd place depending on format

And, now, how to figure out where you placed If you lost in

Table D you finish 25 - 32 (based on original seed going into DEs)

Table E you finish 17 - 24 (based on original seed going into DEs)

Table F you finish 13 - 16 (based on original seed going into DEs)

Table G you finish 9 - 12 (based on original seed going into DEs)

Table H you finish 5 - 8 (based on original seed going into DEs)

- 41 Johnson, Raven (METRO NYC)
- 42 Bensing, Amy (NORTH TEX)
- 43 Frye, Mary P (PHILADELPH)
- 44 Park, Gaelyn M (KENTUCKY)
- 45 Sander, Sharon (SO. TEXAS)
- 46 Chin, Meredith M (NEWENGLAND)
- 47 Lang, Sabine (S.CAROLINA)
- 48 Eyre, Thyrsa (NORTH CA)
- 49 Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
- 50 Linton, Kimberly B (S. JERSEY)
- 51 Wangner, Lauren M (LONG ISLND)
- 52 Daley-Hurd, Dawn I (WESTERN NY)
- 53 McGalliard, Amanda K (PHILADELPH)
- 54 Backes, Kari A (NEWENGLAND)
- 55 Decker, Katharine (CENTRAL CA)

## Individual Women's Foil

- 1 Zimmermann, Felicia T (WESTERN NY)
- 2 Smart, Erinn L (METRO NYC)
- 3T Jennings, Susan K (WESTERN NY)
- 3T Marsh, Ann (WESTERN NY)
- 5 Zimmermann, Iris T (WESTERN NY)
- 6 Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
- 7 Martin, Tasha (OREGON)
- 8 Cavan, Kathryn M (METRO NYC)
- 9 Jones, Melanie (METRO NYC)
- 10 Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 11 Martin, Margaret A (WESTERN NY)
- 12 Tar, Marie-Soph (CAPITOL)
- 13 Bent, Cynthia L (WESTERN PA)
- 14 Leahy, Jacqueline (COLORADO)
- 15 Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
- 16 Luitjen, Cassidy C (SO. TEXAS)
- 17 Borresen, Karen (WESTERN NY)
- 18 Rostal, Mindy K (MINNESOTA)
- 19 Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
- 20 Selkirk, Zane C (METRO NYC)
- 21 Staudinger, Lauren F (WEST-ROCK)
- 22 Kenessey, Katalin Ga (NORTH OHIO)
- 23 Eggleston, Elizabeth (NORTH OHIO)
- 24 Blount, Ellen M (PHILADELPH)
- 25 Cox, Bethany A (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 26 Kappagoda, Manel H (NORTH CA)
- 27 Fielding-Segal, Stephanie (METRO NYC)
- 28 De Ieso, Gina (NEW JERSEY)
- 29 Alford, April C (SO. TEXAS)
- 30 Bjonerud, Deborah T (NORTH CA)
- 31 Sachs, Elif Z (NEWENGLAND)
- 32 Shaahid, Sakinah N (WESTERN PA)
- 33 Gilker, Daisy D (ARIZONA)
- 34T Ferguson, Diane F (VIRGINIA)
- 34T Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
- 36 Beecher, Jaime (LONG ISLND)
- 37 Horton, Laura A (SO. CALIF.)
- 38 Blase, Elizabeth (SO. CALIF.)
- 39 Leslie, Lisa M (NEW JERSEY)
- 40 Kotlan, Dely J (GEORGIA)
- 41 Falcon, Janet (CENTRAL CA)
- 42 Breden, Senta E (CAPITOL)
- 43 Toland, Jennifer R (MT. VALLEY)
- 44 Lindsay, Lavinia C (PHILADELPH)
- 45 Thottam, Elizabeth (SO. CALIF.)
- 46 DiPalo, Melissa A (LONG ISLND)
- 47 Ocampo, Christiane (NEW JERSEY)
- 48 Lee, Tammy A (SO. CALIF.)
- 49 Vega, Keeley (MT. VALLEY)
- 50 Sun, Hong Joo (METRO NYC)
- 51 Kirk, Angie M (SO. CALIF.)
- 52 Gordon, Judit (CENTRAL PA)
- 53 Slater, Lisa A (WESTERN NY)
- 54 Hicks, Colleen (CENTRAL PA)

- 56 Masters, Lara (PHILADELPH)

## Individual Women's Saber

- 1 Mustilli, Nicole (INDIANA)
- 2 Bartholomew, Sue A (MINNESOTA)
- 3T Latham, Christine (KANSAS)
- 3T Purcell, Caroline M (METRO NYC)
- 5 Goellner, Natasha L (KANSAS)
- 6 Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
- 7 Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
- 8 Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 9 Cox, Bethany A (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 10 Smith, Chaz (MT. VALLEY)
- 11 Hooper, Caitlin M (KANSAS)
- 12 Nally, Deseri D (SO. TEXAS)
- 13 Brosnan, Heather J (OREGON)
- 14 Oldham Cox, Jennifer K (OREGON)
- 15 Cummins, Judith S (METRO NYC)
- 16 Kates, Megan E (KANSAS)
- 17 Klinkov, Ariana (NEWENGLAND)
- 18 Taft, Leslie A (SAN BERNAR)
- 19 Douville, Rebecca A (GEORGIA)
- 20 Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
- 21 Marx, Leia E (N.CAROLINA)
- 22 Milo, Destanie (INDIANA)
- 23 Mustilli, Marisa A (NEW JERSEY)
- 24 Crane, Christina (GEORGIA)
- 25 Feldman, Jill A (CAPITOL)
- 26 Miller, Joy M (METRO NYC)
- 27 Chan, Brindisi M (NEWENGLAND)
- 28 Turner, Delia M (PHILADELPH)
- 29 Ferguson, Diane F (VIRGINIA)
- 30 Conn, Julie L (GEORGIA)
- 31 Crane, Cindy S (GEORGIA)
- 32 Steyer, Meredith J (NEWENGLAND)
- 33 Deming, Clare L (GATEWAY FL)
- 34 Ferris, Cathleen A (ST. LOUIS)

## Team Men's Epee

- 1 NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division (Ben Atkins, Tamir Bloom, Jon Normile, Jan Viviani)
- 2 GOLDEN GATE FENCING CENTER, Northern Calif. Division (Robert Cotter, James Gaither, Eric Hansen, J.M. St. Francis)
- 3 TZCKA, Southern Calif. Division (Franco Cerutti, Gagik Demirchian, Carl Loeffler, Soren Thompson)
- 4 USA PENTATHLON, South Texas Division
- 5 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FENCERS CLUB, Capitol Division
- 6 SALLE AURIOL, Oregon Division
- 7 STANFORD FENCING CLUB, Central Calif. Division
- 8 FENCING2000, Illinois Division
- 9 ALCAZAR FENCING CLUB, Northern Ohio Division
- 10 U.S. ARMY, Colorado Division
- 11 ESCRIME DU LAC, Indiana Division
- 12T CULVER ACADEMY, Indiana Division
- 12T OBERLIN COLLEGE FENCING CLUB, Northern Ohio Division
- 12T ON TARGET, Northern Ohio Division

## Team Men's Foil

- 1 NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division (Ben Atkins, Cliff Bayer, Peter Devine, Marc Oshima)
- 2 METROPOLIS FENCING, Metro NYC Division (Bob Anderson, Zaddick Longenback, Jason Riffaterre, Jon Tiomkin)

- 3 CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DIVISION COMPOSITE (Nick Bravin, Joshua Keckley-Stauffer, Sean McClain, Sergey Schindler)
- 4 BOSTON FENCING CLUB, New England Division
- 5 PENN STATE FENCING CLUB, Central Penn Division
- 6 FENCING2000, Illinois Division
- 7 ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western New York Division
- 8 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FENCING CLUB, Capitol Division
- 9 WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY, Michigan Division
- 10 OLDE TOWN FENCERS CLUB, Virginia Division
- 11 SWORDPLAY, Southern California Division
- 12 OBERLIN COLLEGE, Northern Ohio Division

### Team Men's Saber

- 1 PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION, Metro NYC Division (Ivan Lee, Herby Raynaud, Keith Smart, Akhi Spencer-El)
- 2 KANSAS CITY FENCING CENTER, Kansas Division (Terrence Lasker, Guy Loftin, Mike Momtselidze, Kitz Siebert)
- 3 NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division (Patrick Durkan, Luke LaValle, John Maggio, Kim Phillips)
- 4 OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE, Oregon Division
- 5 FALCON FENCING CLUB, Southern Calif. Division
- 6 NEW ENGLAND COMPOSITE
- 7 NELLYA FENCERS, Georgia Division
- 8 SACRAMENTO FENCING CLUB, Mountain Valley Division
- 9 INDIANA COMPOSITE
- 10 MASTERS FENCING ACADEMY, New Jersey Division
- 11 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMPOSITE

### Team Women's Epee

- 1 ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western New York Division (Jessie Burke, Anna Carnick, Ann Marsh, Felicia Zimmermann)
- 2 PENN STATE FENCING CLUB, Central Penn Division (Stephanie Eim, Ola Korfanty, Jun Liang)
- 3 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FENCING CLUB, Capitol Division (Kristin Foellmer, Yvonne Kedoin, Julia Leszko, Marie-Sophie Tar)
- 4 SALLE AURIOL, Oregon Division
- 5 SALLE SANTELLI, New Jersey Division
- 6 USA PENTATHLON, South Texas: Division
- 7 CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DIVISION COMPOSITE
- 8 FENCING ACADEMY OF PHILADELPHIA, Philadelphia Division
- 9 GOLDEN GATE FENCING CENTER, Northern California Division
- 10 NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division
- 11 INDIANA DIVISION COMPOSITE

### Team Women's Foil

- 1 ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western New York Division (Susan Jennings, Ann Marsh, Margaret Martin, Felicia Zimmermann)
- 2 SATURN FENCING CENTER, Northern Ohio Division (Andrea Ament, Elizabeth Eggleston, Katalin Kennessey)
- 3 FENCERS CLUB, INC, Metro NYC Division (Katie Cavan, Stephanie Fielding-Segal, Jessica Florendo)
- 4 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMPOSITE
- 5 HALBERSTADT FENCERS CLUB, Northern California Division
- 6T OBERLIN COLLEGE FENCERS CLUB, Northern Ohio Division
- 6T ON TARGET, Northern Ohio Division

### Team Women's Saber

- 1 LILOV FENCING CLUB, New Jersey Division (Margaret Jordan, Marissa Mustilli, Nicole Mustilli, Catherine Pack)
- 2 OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE, Oregon Division (Heather Brosnan, Jennifer Oldham-Cox, Mariel Zagunis)
- 3 NELLYA FENCERS, Georgia Division (Christina Crane, Rebecca Douville, Amelia Gaillard, Sada Jacobson)
- 4 KANSAS CITY FENCING CENTER, Kansas Division
- 5 FENCERS CLUB INC., Metro NYC Division
- 6 TANNER CITY FENCERS CLUB, New England Division
- 7 INDIANA DIVISION COMPOSITE
- 8 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FENCING INSTITUTE, Western Penn Division

## Olympic Sport, Values & the Media: A Place for Fencing

Sport is driven by "heart," entertainment by the "bottom line," and society by its own need for fulfillment. As such it should be no surprise that sport, entertainment ( sport plus media equals entertainment ), and society can be a curious mix. For example, the June 8, 1998 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT describes an interchange between Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright and NBA Commissioner, David Stern about bringing basketball to Bosnia. Albright argued that lack of access to independent media threatened the fragile peace in Bosnia and that appealing programming like NBA games would improve the political climate there.

What about media and the Olympics? Will you be able to "tune in" to fencing in 2000 ?

Let's look at sport and the media through the perspective of social theory and consider the impact of media coverage on fencing. Sport and the media are social institutions. As such they are simultaneously a reflection of society and an agent of change. That is, they are shaped by and in turn shape society. Sport ( at least some sports) have shared a mutually beneficial relationship with the media. In fact, you could say that through the latter part of the 20th century sport ( especially, "professional sports" ) and the media have grown up together. In the process those involved in the sport- media enterprise have accumulated tremendous wealth and power. But with power and influence comes responsibility. Increasingly, social critics are raising the question of whether the sport-media enterprise and the media , in general, are meeting their responsibility to society, in particular, in relation to the portrayal of violence. The key question is are they part of the problem or part of the solution ? This is a potent question given recent developments domestically in the schools, and internationally with diverse ethnic groups-both flashpoints of contemporary life. If sport can be part of the solution in Bosnia, then can it be part of the solution elsewhere ? The bigger the "game", the bigger the stakes and the more important it becomes that a sensible balance is struck among sport , media and society-for this relationship to continue as a mutually beneficial one. Fulfillment of societies' baser needs -such as diversion and excitement -can sustain the system for awhile. But without some grounding in societies' more essential needs - cooperation, unity and peace - the system will begin to spin down.

From its inception, the Olympic movement was designed to reaffirm the brightness of the human spirit, to be a counterpoint to the dark side of life-intolerance, racism and hatred. The Olympic Movement is the ultimate celebration of unity and diversity in sport and society, a veritable showcase of sport skills, sport traditions, sporting bodies and sporting minds. The extent to which media coverage embraces the fundamental idea of diversity, is the extent to which sport, society and the media itself are well served.

Would fencing benefit from media coverage ? Has media coverage helped gymnastics and figure skating ? From the perspective of grass root interest and broad -based appeal, both sports appear to have benefited greatly. This would be good for fencing too. Fencing offers daunting technical skill and tactics of dizzying complexity, all at warp speed. This is both its strength and its weakness-fencing's speed and complexity lead it to be relatively inaccessible to the general viewing audience. But there is a remedy for this. The level

of broadcast programming and technology available for the Olympics can open fencing up to the eyes of the world. Slow-motion replay and detailed commentary would be a boon to the audience from the most to the least sophisticated.

Media dollars flow from advertising which in turn is directed to the audience (or market). Ultimately the broadcast media exists at the pleasure of this audience/market. You are the audience. Write a letter, send a fax or an e-mail. Ask to see programming that celebrates the unity and diversity that the Olympics represents, ask for fencing. But please keep in mind that what is important about fencing begins with what is important about the Olympic Movement. Our strength is rooted in the values and purpose of Olympism. When we speak for the Olympics we speak for fencing, and vice

versa. Cast your vote for true diversity in Olympic programming. Help the media see the value added beyond the bottom line.

A copy of my vote is below. By the way, a copy will also go to: Peter Diamond, Senior Vice President, Programs; NBC Sports, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112

For more information on "Tune In 2000" contact U.S. Fencing at [USFencing@aol.com](mailto:USFencing@aol.com). Contact Dr. John Heil, Chair of the USFA Sport Science, Safety and Technology Committee, at Lewis-Gale Clinic, 4910 Valley View Blvd., Roanoke, VA 24012; 540-265-1605; e-mail, [jheil@rev.net](mailto:jheil@rev.net).

Dick Ebersol, President  
NBC Sports  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Mr. Ebersol,

Give Olympic fencing a spot on the world stage in Sydney 2000.

Fencing is one of the original modern Olympic games. With a tradition that dates to prehistory it combines the appeal of star wars with the medieval duel of honor. Its blend of daunting technical skill and complex tactics has lead fencing to be characterized as physical chess. As a contemporary martial art it allows for the controlled expression of aggression within the bounds of safety. Fencing is a growing sport in America. Visibility at the Sydney Olympics would give U. S. fencing a boost as Americans move toward medal contention, competitive internationally for the first time in decades.

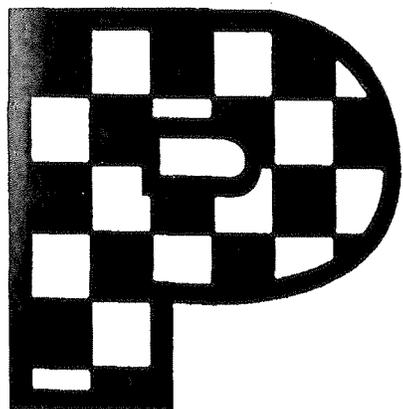
Give the Olympic family of sport its due in Sydney 2000.

The Olympic movement is the greatest celebration of diversity in sport and society, a veritable showcase of sport skills, sport traditions, sporting bodies and sporting minds. In its diversity the Olympic Movement stands as a counterpoint to much of what plagues contemporary society, intolerance, racism and hatred. From Belgrade to Columbine, society watches and wonders - What is the problem? What is the solution? Is there a role to be played by the media?

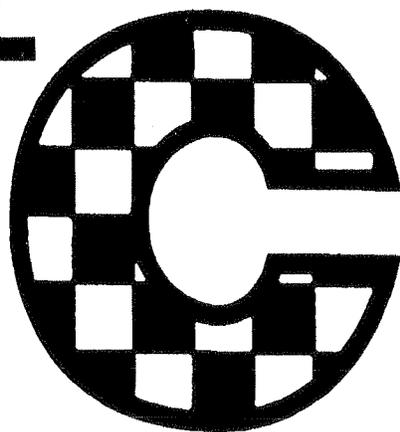
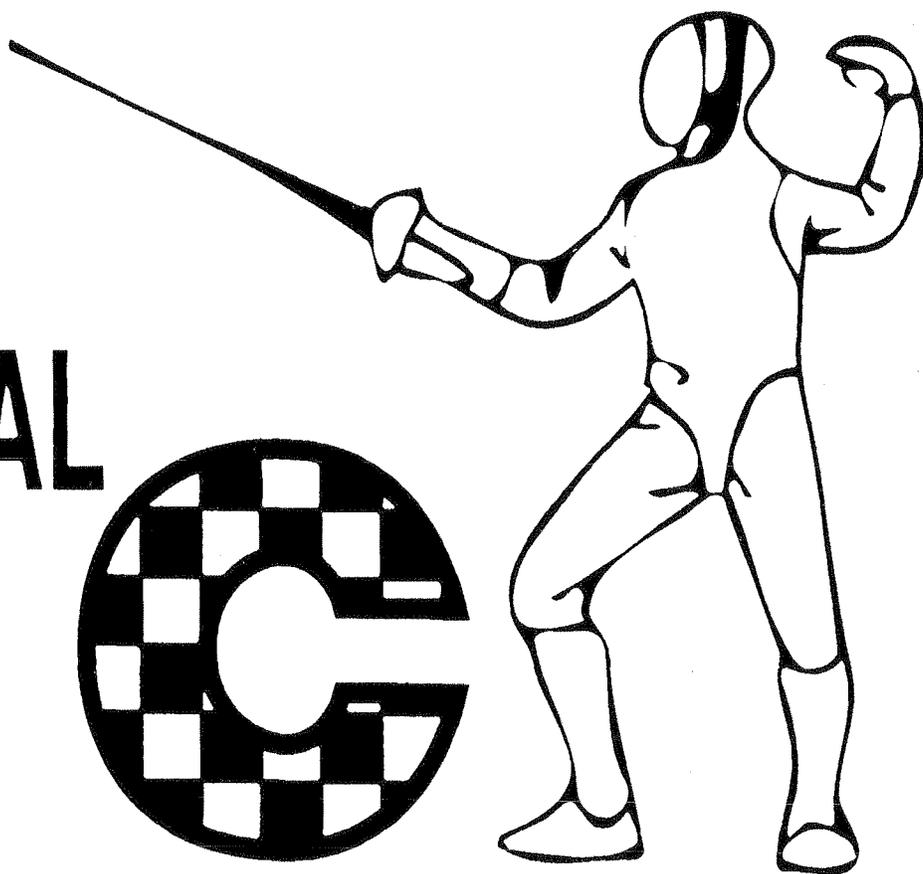
The Olympic Games are not just a handful of proven TV- worthy sports but a rich and vast family. Each sport is like a culture unto itself, with unique customs and practices evolving from its own tradition of excellence. Perhaps as we come to know and appreciate one another's sport we better understand that beyond the trappings of sport or culture lies a common ground. Celebrate this diversity with diversity in programming. Don't relegate the shining achievements of the quadrennium in sports like fencing to media darkness. The broadcast media possesses the combination of programming skills and technology to open the eyes and the ears of the world to the sports and its heroes who strive away from the bright lights. Help these sports thrive with the exposure your coverage provides. Take the lead and trust that you audience will follow, that your audience will celebrate the true richness and diversity of the Olympics and be grateful for the effort you have made in sharing it with them. Add value beyond the bottom line, as you take your game to the next level as a player on the world stage.

Sincerely,

John Heil



**PHYSICAL  
CHESS,  
INC.**



---

**1-800-FENCING**

---

***www.physicalchess.com***



[www.blade-fencing.com](http://www.blade-fencing.com)

**Blade Fencing Equipment**

**245 West 29th Street  
New York, NY 10001**

ph 212 244 3090 fax 212 244 3134 toll free 800 828 5661