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trainer to the Zimmermanns

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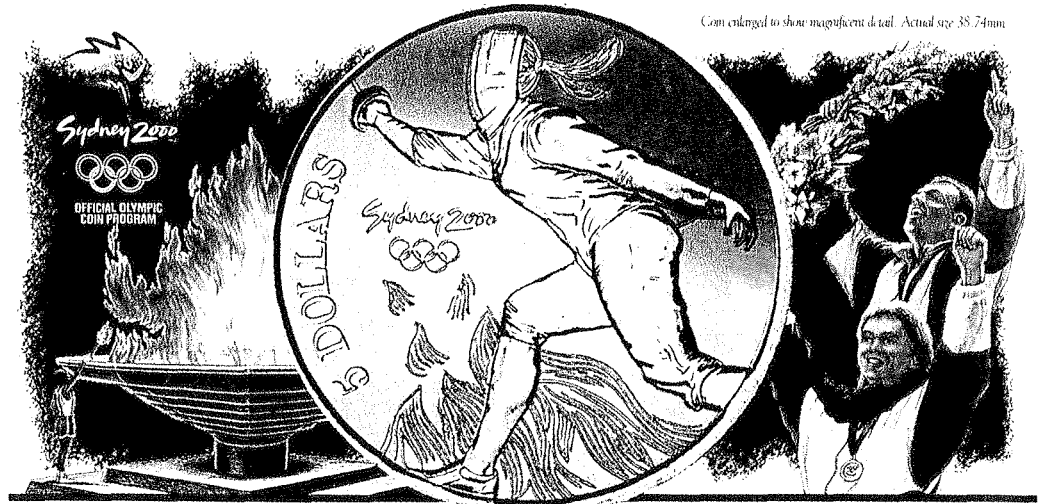
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July 2000 Volume 17 Number 1

FEATURES

- 26 COVER STORY
U.S. Women's Sabre Team
THE JOURNEY TO GOLD
by Cathy Zagunis
- 29 **FEATURE PROFILE: George Kolombatovich**
by Barbara Anderson
- 32 **OLYMPIC PREVIEW:**
The Long, Hard Road to Sydney
by Carl Borack

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Letter
4 Letter from the Editor
5 Your Letters
6 News
8 Tournament Highlights
16 Report from **Summer Nationals**
19 The Grayblade **On-Line...Ready?...Click!**
22 DIVISIONS/CLUBS **Promotions**
24 ask david statt **Building the Complete Fencer**
36 COLLEGE PREP **So, You Want to Fence in College?**
38 Sport Science **Successful Performance in Elite Women Fencers**
- 40 **TOUCHE A Letter from Donald Alperstein**
The departing USFA president reflects on four years

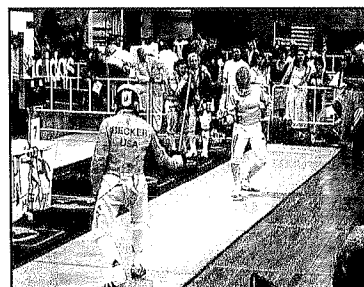
On the cover:

World Sabre Champions! Left to right, Chris Becker, Sada Jacobson, Mariel Zagunis, Nicole Mustilli. Photo: Cathy Zagunis.

Cover Inset: Winning "Summer Nationals Photo Contest" photograph by Joan S. Weber (see page 17 for details).



16



26



32



29

The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

The United States Fencing Association is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Escrime, the international federation for fencing. The mission of the United States Fencing Association is to develop fencers to achieve international success and to administer and promote the sport in the United States.

The United States Fencing Association

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American Fencing

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Please join *American Fencing* in welcoming Stacey Johnson as the USFA's new president. To read outgoing president Donald Alperstein's farewell remarks, please see page 40.

STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States Fencing Association

When I was 11 years old, I started fencing at a Jewish community center and by the time I was 16, I made my first U.S. Team. At 24, I qualified for a berth on the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team. From my competitive experience through today as USFA president, fencing has always served me as a metaphor for life. I believe it is one of the reasons so many of us love the sport and stay involved—because we use fencing as a way to reflect on our lives and realize some of our deepest friendships and life experiences. I remember when my San Jose State University collegiate fencing team was working on team psychology together; we discovered that the habits and attitude you demonstrate on the fencing strip often reflect the characteristics of who you are in your day-to-day life. We used fencing then as a way to discover ourselves and determine what aspects of our personalities we wanted to change, enhance or create for the future. We learned how to make new decisions about negative behaviors in order to help us change or enhance our competitive outcomes.

When I think about some of the most profound competitive outcomes I have observed in the last 15 years in fencing, I am struck by how our fencers have truly broken the psychological barrier of not only winning, but believing they can and should win. In 1984, Peter Westbrook captured a bronze medal in the Los Angeles Olympics. More recently, both Felicia and Iris Zimmermann have shattered the ceiling for what is possible in women's foil, and Cliff Bayer has shown his mettle and earned medals at numerous World Cup events. This summer at the U.S. National Championships in Austin, Texas, I stood with Kelly Williams, an athlete representative to the USFA Board, and hugged her as she cried tears of joy hearing the news of the Women's Sabre Team capturing the gold medal at the World Championships. All of these competitive examples show us the power to change and overcome the existing status quo. One success fuels the next victory, reminding us that we all have the capacity to change, to overcome, to succeed.

As an organization, we need to use the inspiration of our fencers to reflect on needed change and accelerate the success curve of the USFA as well. Our new team of officers have been doing just that in preparing for this new quadrennium. The officers include: Sherry Posthumus and Ralph Zimmerman who will continue as Vice President of Coaching and International, respectively; Barbara Lynch, Vice President Domestic; Donald Anthony, Secretary; and

Michael Sullivan, Treasurer. We have worked through two transition meetings this spring, creating the nucleus of a strategic plan and developing committee lists. In addition, we spent time with the USFA staff at a retreat in August to learn how to better cooperate and work together as a team. The Board of Directors meeting on October 20-21 will create another opportunity to enhance organizational communications and focus our future vision. We will hold a day-long planning retreat where the board will provide input into the strategic plan and learn more about their role in policy oversight. By the February board meeting, all of the various USFA committees will have the opportunity to integrate their objectives into the plan.

In this important process of creating a strategic plan with goals and objectives to guide the organization, we are also reviewing our sporting environment, assessing our strengths and weakness, and creating a plan that generates buy-in at all levels of the USFA. In my next article, after the October board meeting, I will share this plan in detail. For now however, I would like to plant the seed for what I hope is going to be one of the most important by-products of all this planning, beyond the accomplishing of goals. We need to pay attention to how we choose to interact and communicate with one another in the USFA. Are we willing to change our interpersonal communications from a competitive to cooperative model of engagement? If we can agree that a cooperative model will assist the USFA's ability to perform and achieve as an organization, perhaps then we can start to insist on operational change that emphasizes civility and negotiation as a prerequisites to participation.

In our organization, we have often seen exhibited an inherent combative culture (the very nature of our sport) that impedes organizational progress. We often get locked into the argument, into combat mode, rather than achieving the desired outcome. For example, sometimes the competitive atmosphere creates a driving force in folks to demonstrate greater knowledge or abilities. We may use this combative approach when developing new rules, or governance policy, for instance, by suggesting, "My way is better than your way," instead of the more cooperative approach: "What are the best ideas available in which we can agree?"

Through better cooperation and tolerance we can learn to negotiate and avoid making situations a "win-lose" scenario. We must learn to disagree with the idea without insulting the person who believes it. This kind of change in our fencing culture would be a huge shift for all of us, including yours truly. Changing out of the combative communications culture in the organization would help all of us at the club, division, section and national level. Through my years of work in education and in my own community, those organizations that know how to work cooperatively, not combatively, move the fastest and the farthest.

We have to spend time and effort learning how to better communicate. Our current planning process will offer this kind of opportunity; while working on creating a collective vision, we are working on how to better communicate in the process. Some of our veteran leaders, such as Steve Sobel and Irwin Bernstein, have demonstrated great negotiating and mediating skills in the past and can continue to show us more productive engagement

techniques in the future. We need to review our own approaches and work to make changes, if the shoe fits.

Again, using fencing as metaphor, we don't step onto a club, collegiate, or an Olympic team solely as an individual, but rather as part of a larger dynamic, part of a greater team effort. Similarly, using the premise of sports psychology training, if we choose to change the way we think, we then can make changes in our behavior and in the outcomes we desire. Our fencers have shown us how they broke the psychology barrier to win. We can overcome our own inherent combative psychology and behavior to focus on better communications—in all areas of the USFA—by first personally choosing the path of cooperative engagement.

Communication is always a two-way street. In order to better serve fencing, the USFA leadership team needs to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me or any of the officers with your ideas, suggestions or criticisms. I need to know what you think the USFA should be doing to promote fencing and better serve the USFA membership. I look forward to sharing the USFA strategic plan next issue!

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January 5-7, 2001

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Meg Galipault

Editor

Dear Readers:

It's 3:00 a.m., and just like in my real job—I'm the editor of a regional visual arts magazine—I have put off to the last minute writing my remarks. I'm not sure why I always do this—it could be that I value spontaneity, or believe I need to punish myself—but it's always the same: I'm staring at the computer trying to think of something brilliant, witty, insightful—I'm searching for some gorgeous piece of prose that will make you think, "Gee, that Meg, she's a fine writer." On top of that, I have to write something brilliant, gorgeous and witty about fencing—a sport in which I am, admittedly, a relative neophyte.

I started fencing at the sprightly age of 35. [Digressing a moment: I use the word "sprightly" with just a tad bit of sarcasm. I have discovered body parts that just don't respond like they used to. And then there is the whole distasteful idea that I will qualify for a brand new level of fencing this year—the 40-and-up club of Veterans Fencing. Not that there is anything wrong with being a veteran—it sounds quite worldly and wise, actually. *I'm just not ready for it.*] I came to the sport with few expectations—a good way to approach most things in life—and was surprised to find how much of a challenge, mentally and physically, it was.

When *American Fencing* posted its search for a new editor, I eagerly pursued the job. No pay. Lots of work. Potential for public humiliation and alienation by writers, fencers, coaches, the powers that be, you name it. When you edit a magazine, you leave yourself wide open for criticism. Still, I wanted the job. Though I've only been practicing and competing for five years, I have come to love this sport passionately.

It's like this: You stand on-guard, feeling like maybe you look kind of cool—head up, dignified. You think about what you have to do right here, right now, not tomorrow. You think about the tip on your opponent's blade and note where it is in relation to your own. It's like this, I tell my non-fencing friends: In my peripheral vision, I'm aware of my opponent's footwork. I hear my coach's voice like a mantra (that's dear Dr. Charles Simonian, a gentleman and scholar if ever there was one). I don't think about the deadline that I'm missing, about my bleak love life, about needing to clean the litter box. I don't think about my VISA bill. I think about how good it feels for my legs to move, to leap, to lunge. I think about strategy for this one

moment in time, this one opportunity right in front of me. And then there is that lovely aspect of "flow" that so many athletes experience—your body and mind and spirit are all melded together, working together. And I think, "Wow. I'm an athlete. I want more of this."

Any sport, of course, can bring you this zen-like confidence and serenity. I grew up a gymnast in a family of lacrosse players; I was surrounded by sports. The irony is that I never felt I was an athlete until now. But I have found that the older you get, the more you get from everything you do. So here I am, getting more—my desire to be editor of *American Fencing* was, I'm learning, completely selfish. There, I said it.

It is, of course, a great honor to be in this position, rubbing elbows (albeit, mostly through email) with the finest in the sport. And I'll admit to being a little starstruck. Ultimately, though, this is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference—and what a wonderful time to do so, as we are riding this wave of victories and amazing accomplishments. I am looking forward to creating a vehicle that gives all of us USFA members a deeper sense of pride, a richer experience of tradition, a closer look into the ways we win and lose and learn.

American Fencing has gone through many transitions over the years, but always it has served as a communications tool for the USFA. Its purpose is to motivate, teach, inspire, inform, to pull together 10,000-plus individuals who have one common love: fencing. As with every editor before me, my goal is to do the job even better.

I won't be doing it alone. Mike Sullivan, treasurer of the USFA board, has been and will continue to be instrumental in fine-tuning the magazine. He has been a tremendous help to me throughout this transition process, giving me insight into the inner workings of the organization, introducing me to those who are shaping the future of the sport, providing invaluable feedback in editing and article selection. The USFA is fortunate, indeed, to have the likes of Mike. Samuel Lillard, *American Fencing's* photo editor, has also been a great help—collecting images from all over the country, selecting the best ones, keeping track of who submitted what, and then doing his magic in Photoshop to make everything look better. I am especially fortunate that Samuel lives in my hometown—Columbus, Ohio.

I have been blessed with a great team of associate editors, many of whom have been writing for *American Fencing* for years and who have much wisdom to offer. I look forward to learning from them and the other writers who have generously offered their time and expertise. Finally, I'm honored to work with the new board of directors (see Stacey Johnson's letter on page 2) and the staff of the USFA—these talented individuals have propelled our beloved sport to great new heights. I'm sure they will keep me on my toes.

It's an exciting time to be fencing. Now if we could just get NBC to show our Olympians on television...sigh.

Remembering Tony Orsi

I was a long time student of Tony Orsi, both as a competitor and as an instructor. I have been deeply mourning the loss of an important voice in fencing. His contribution, aside from training National champions, was to constantly question all methods of instruction. He viewed the study of fencing as a dynamic endeavor. No well accepted practice was off limits to his scrutiny. He experimented with teaching an on guard in third position and in rejecting the lunge. He emphasized accuracy with the hand over athletic performance. Whether you agreed with him or not, there were always lively discussions at his Salle. You always went away questioning everything and that was his real contribution to the sport.

He taught very basic instruction, and yet, said that there was no such thing as a bad move as long as you meant to do it. This meant that once a student learned the basics well, he or she was free to fence an individually tailored game. This is exactly the path to excellence in modern art and jazz.

Those of us who were fortunate to study or train with him will miss his friendship, his wisdom, his caring, and yes, his homemade wine.

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American Fencing welcomes letters from readers. Please send your letter to:
Attn: American Fencing Editor; United States Fencing Association; One Olympic Plaza; Colorado Springs CO 80909 or email to magoo@iwaynet.net. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and/or space. Letters must be signed (except those emailed, of course) and include a phone number and address.

corrections

Our sincere apologies to the junior and cadet men's epeeists who participated in the Junior/Cadet World Championships in South Bend, Ind., April 18-25. In an article highlighting the event, these competitors were not mentioned due to an oversight. Though we can't go back and change our error, we can offer belated recognition to these fine men and their accomplishments: Junior epeeist Soren Thompson, who also leads the national point standings in Junior Men's Epee, took 11th place at the World Championships; Jansson Viviani, ranked second in the US, took 23rd; Weston Kelsey placed 58th. The junior men's team took 13th place, just behind Switzerland. At the cadet level, Michael Banks placed 12th, while Benjamin Solomon took 19th. Tied with two other competitors at 46th was Timothy French. Congratulations to all who competed.

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DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS JR.: FAREWELL TO A FILM KNIGHT

Douglas Fairbanks Jr.—swashbuckling film star, decorated war hero and honorary knight—died on May 7 in New York at the venerable age of 90.

Scion of silent film star Douglas Fairbanks and stepson of Mary Pickford, the young Fairbanks (profiled in a 1991 issue of *American Fencing*) carved out a niche for himself in early films like *Little Caesar* and *Morning Glory*, starred in classic adventures like *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *Gunga Din*, and *The Corsican Brothers*, and went on to command a British flotilla during World War II. But the ex-war hero who later received an honorary knighthood from King George VI and served as an unofficial ambassador of Anglo-American affairs never lost his magnetic charm.

"Fairbanks was a very gracious and affable person," said Tony Curtis, who starred in the swashbucklers *The Prince Who Was a Thief*, *The Purple Mask*, and *Son of Ali Baba*. "Like his father, he was well coordinated. His swordplay was very precise. And he was one of the most natural actors in films. He was like Cary Grant. You never felt that he was 'working.'"

Fans of swashbuckling adventures recall his bravura performance and excellent swordsmanship in the 1937 version of *The Prisoner of Zenda*. The movie climaxed with an exciting sabre duel, staged by the late Ralph Faulkner.

"Faulkner had confidence in our ability," said Fairbanks in an earlier interview. "We trained, rehearsed and laid out the choreography in a matter of four weeks, working on it approximately one to two hours a day. I had fenced

Douglas Fairbanks Jr. in *The Corsican Brothers* with Ruth Warrick, Akim Tamiroff, and Henry Wilcoxon. Copyright 1941. United Artists Corp.



since the age of 16 and was reasonably good at it."

In 1941, at 32, Fairbanks co-produced a successful adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic *The Corsican Brothers* (which was finished just before Fairbanks was called to active duty). The actor played identical twins, Lucien and Mario Franchi, who share a mystical bond as brothers. In the final reel, Mario avenges the death of his twin brother in a sabre duel with his epicene enemy Baron Colonna, portrayed by character actor Akim Tamiroff. Unfortunately, the portly Tamiroff required extensive doubling by Fred Cavens, who staged the three-and-a-half minute sequence that was shot with multiple cameras.

"Akim Tamiroff was fat, couldn't move, couldn't get around," said Fairbanks. "I never used a double. I didn't need one. Everything was carefully rehearsed. And, of course, I had fenced for years as a sport."

After the war, Fairbanks produced and starred in a trio of cinematic adventures—the English Civil War drama *The Exile*, the Arabian Nights fantasy *Sinbad the Sailor*, and the Celtic swashbuckler *The Fighting O'Flynn*.

Fairbanks' distinctive voice and magnetic presence graced a total of 75 films. Along the way, he dabbled in business and real estate, produced his own television series, starred in theatrical productions, and wrote two colorful memoirs—*Salad Days* (1988) and *A Hell of a War* (1993).

"I have loved every minute of what must be to most people the equivalent of 90 years of living," he told his biographer, Brian Connell, in 1955.

Contributed by Les Hammer, historian for Falcon Studios in Hollywood, Calif. Hammer is at work on a biography of Ralph Faulkner, to be published by Scarecrow Press.

UP ALL NIGHT

"Nothing like perfectly executing an on-target fleche at 4:03 a.m.," says Dan Collins, member and co-founder of the Chesapeake Fencing Club in Baltimore, Md. Collins and "partner in crime" Ray Gordon (who fenced at Vassar under Bruce Milligan, former *American Fencing* editor) are staging the club's first annual "Fence-a-Thon." The event is slated for October 27, beginning at 9:30 p.m. and running all night long.

The format is unusual, indeed. "This is *not* a tournament," says Collins. "It's a round robin affair so if we have 50 fencers on hand, we have one pool of 50!"

Proceeds from money raised by the participating fencers and directors (they will solicit sponsorship) will go to benefit the Chesapeake Fencing Club, other participating clubs, and the House of Mercy, a local charity for underprivileged children. "Fencers get friends, family and co-workers to sponsor them for either how many bouts they fence, direct, or both," Collins explains.

For more information, contact the club at (410) 532-7445.

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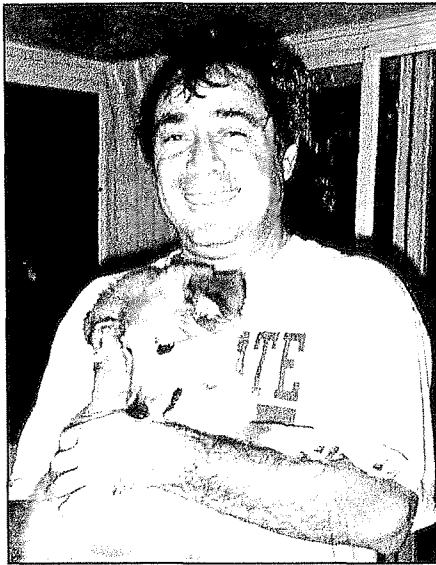
All members of the Army (active, reserve and National Guard) are eligible to be considered for selection. For details on how to qualify, contact: U.S. Army, World Class Athlete Program, Building 1662, Fort Carson, CO 80913, or call (719) 526-3908.

SABRE CHAMPION, FENCING MASTER YURI RABINOVICH DIES

Maestro Yuri Rabinovich, 50, an internationally renowned fencer and coach, passed away September 1, 2000, while vacationing in South Carolina with his wife. He defected from the U.S.S.R. to Israel 30 years ago, then settled in Michigan where he led a distinguished fencing career.

Rabinovich began fencing at age seven, immediately showing talent and promise in the sport. When he was drafted into the Red Army at 18, his only expected duties were that of training with the fencing team. It was during his service in the Red Army that he won the 19 and Under Junior National Championships in sabre.

That same year his parents, who were Jewish, took his sister and legally immigrated from Odessa to Israel.



Maestro Yuri Rabinovich with the family dog. Rabinovich passed away at the age of 50, leaving behind a legacy of great fencers and friendships.

Rabinovich was forbidden to join them because of his military service.

In 1969, he became a member of the U.S.S.R. Junior Team and was slated to compete in the World Championships at Rome. No one realized at the time that this event would be the opportunity for his defection.

When abroad, it was commonly evident that the U.S.S.R. team was sprinkled with KGB members posing as trainers and technicians. Team members and coaches openly deferred to them. When Rabinovich was called "on deck," he told a KGB member he "had to go to the john." He was then escorted to the bathroom where he shut the door, crawled out the window and ran to the French Embassy about a quarter mile away. He was immediately granted asylum, transferred to an Israeli consulate and removed from Italy within hours. Shortly after, he arrived in Israel to join his family.

In 1972 Rabinovich qualified for the Munich Olympic Games, representing Israel. Shortly before the Olympics, he became hospitalized with mononucleosis and was left behind. It was at the Munich Games that his replacement and 10 other Israeli Olympic athletes and coaches were killed by terrorists.

Rabinovich moved to the United States at the request of Maestro Istvan

Danosi and attended Michigan's Wayne State University (WSU) in 1973. While fencing for WSU, Rabinovich won the individual NCAA Division I Sabre Championships in 1975 and 1979.

In 1984, he coached at WSU under Maestro Gil Pezza, and in 1985 he was appointed head fencing coach at the University of Detroit where two sabre and two foil teams qualified for the National Collegiate Championships under his direction. He was also head coach at the Fencing Academy of Michigan.

During his career, Rabinovich coached both nationally and internationally recognized champion fencers—such as two-time Olympian Ann Marsh—and many other members of junior world teams.

Maestro Rabinovich is survived by his wife Suzanne and a sister. He will always be remembered with great affection by his many students and friends in the fencing community.

—Contributed by Gil Pezza, Dick Perry, and Sybil Hunter.

Friends Remember Yuri Growing up a Jewish boy in communist-era Odessa, Yuri Rabinovich certainly met his share of challenges, and as much as he lived life to it's fullest—even to go as far as defecting from the former U.S.S.R.—he shared his enthusiasm with those around him.

On Sunday, September 10, 2000, a memorial service was held at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Yuri's alma mater, Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit, Mich. About 130 teammates, contemporaries, and students—past and present—attended the service.

Yuri's appeal as a coach transcended generations. He was an amazing and talented teacher (wickedly fast), a mentor, and a friend. He was patient (usually), kind (always), and entertaining (ceaselessly). He was known for the art of being able to send an entire team of fencers into hysterics, without ever saying a word. He showed great pride in his student's accomplishments and treated every child as his own. He always seemed to know just the right thing to say.

Connie Whitmore, a fencer and now a fencing parent who has known Yuri for 10 years, said, "He not only was a teacher but a builder—a builder of foundations...He taught me how to love

fencing. We were very fortunate Yuri was in our lives."

There seemed to be nothing Yuri loved as much as fencing and coaching his kids—well, except maybe golf. "He's playing golf with all the angels up there right now," mused another speaker at the memorial. Apparently, many of Yuri's students learned their first golf swing from him as well as their first parry-riposte.

"If he was working with a kid he acted like a kid. He was like an adult who never grew up," said Whitmore.

Yuri could find humor in everything, including the family dog. When students arrived at the Rabinovich household Yuri would send his dog out to chase the newcomers, yelling, "Sic 'em!! Sic 'em!!" This "killer pooch" is but a 15- to 20-pound Sheltie.

Even at serious events, Yuri displayed his sense of humor, according to Nate Ritter, a Fencing Academy of Michigan (FAM) fencer who has worked with Yuri for about 10 years.

"At an NCAA Championship Team event Yuri was not happy with my fencing," Ritter recalled. "'You look like a f***ing ballerina,' he yelled at me. I continued fencing, then he yelled, 'You're off the team!' So I yelled back, 'You can't throw me off because I quit!,' and walked off the strip. Within 10 minutes we were both doubled over laughing."

He found pride in his fencers' successes and would celebrate them happily, often at his home. "We would all pile into his bed and have a drink," Whitmore said.

"I often had to spend the night at Yuri's," Joe Scott, a fellow WSU fencing alumnus, attested, "because we celebrated so much."

Along with his playful character, he had a knack of teaching. Fellow coach Dick Perry summed up Yuri's coaching style: "Yuri made champions out of kids. He knew how to win and he knew how to help others win."

"He demystified fencing for me," said Jonathan Riddle, a University of Detroit graduate, FAM fencer, and six-year student of Yuri's. "He gave challenging lessons and showed me there are many ways to achieve the same goal."

Said Whitmore, "Every single one of us is a reflection of Yuri. Set your goals high. Do the best you can and honor him."

—Contributed by Sybil Hunter.

DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABRE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS I

Colorado Springs, April 29-30

INDIVIDUAL 43 Competitors

1	Christina Crane, GA	9
2	Julie Smith, UT	10
3	Sada Jacobson, GA	11
4	Christine Becker, OR	12
5	Nicole Mustille, NJ	13
6	Caroline Purcell, MET	14
7	Mariel Zagunis, OR	15
8	Amelia Gaillard, GA	16

Bethany Cox, UT
Valerie Providenza, OR
Christine Latham, OH
Deseri Nally, SoTX
Vivian Imaizumi, IL
Ariana Klinkov, NewEng
Joy Miller, MET
Julie Conn, GA

TEAM 6 Teams

- Oregon Fencing Alliance (Oregon Division)
Chris Becker, Jennifer Oldham Cox, Valerie Providenza, Mariel Zagunis
- Nellya Fencers (Georgia Division)
Christina Crane, Rebecca Douville, Amelia Gaillard, Sada Jacobson
- Columbus Ohio Division Composite
Sara Bowen, Caitlin Hooper, Chris Latham
- Lilov Fencing Academy (New Jersey Division)
- Tanner City Fencers Club (New England Division)
- Sacramento Fencing Club (Mountain Valley Division)

WORLD CUP WOMEN'S FOIL I Rochester, NY, June 10-11

INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S FOIL 52 Competitors

- Bau, Sabine (GERMANY)
- Vezzali, Valentina (ITALY)
- T Giacometti, Annamaria (ITALY)
- T Youcheva, Ekaterina (RUSSIA)
- Mohamed, Aida (HUNGARY)
- Trillini, Giovanna (ITALY)
- Bojko, Svetlana (RUSSIA)
- Schiel, Gesine (GERMANY)
- Bianchedi, Diana (ITALY)
- Wuilleme, Adeline (FRANCE)
- Bortolozzi, Francesca (ITALY)
- Scarpa, Frida (ITALY)
- Granbassi, Margherita (ITALY)
- Zimmermann, Felicia (UNITED STATES)
- Knapek, Edina (HUNGARY)
- Lobyntseva, Olga (RUSSIA)
- Zimmermann, Iris (UNITED STATES)
- Luan, Jujie (CANADA)
- Velitchko, Olga (RUSSIA)
- Halls, Joanna (AUSTRALIA)
- Sevostianova, Nelli (KAZAKHSTAN)
- Mahoney, Julie (CANADA)
- Gutermuth, Martina (GERMANY)
- Jones, Melanie (UNITED STATES)
- Angelova, Annamaria (BULGARIA)
- Ament, Andrea (UNITED STATES)

- Thompson, Hannah (UNITED STATES)
- Kershaw, Debbie (GREAT BRITAIN)
- Leahy, Jacqueline (UNITED STATES)
- Bent, Cynthia (UNITED STATES)
- Thompson, Metta (UNITED STATES)
- Naidenova, Nely (BULGARIA)
- Cox, Susan (UNITED STATES)
- Egleston, Elizabeth (UNITED STATES)
- Alford, April (UNITED STATES)
- Voigt, Leigh (CANADA)
- Cross, Emily (UNITED STATES)
- Slater, Lisa (UNITED STATES)
- Falcon, Janet (UNITED STATES)
- Charbonneau, Martine (CANADA)
- Hasbani, Marlene (CANADA)
- Groes, Fane (DENMARK)
- Konecny, Hope (UNITED STATES)
- Austin, Anne (UNITED STATES)
- Spencer, Natasha (UNITED STATES)
- Donohue, Carol (UNITED STATES)
- T Enright, Irene (CANADA)
- T Humphrey, Meghan (UNITED STATES)
- T Sachs, Elif (UNITED STATES)
- T Korb, Erica (UNITED STATES)
- T Masters, Lara (UNITED STATES)
- Dewey, Aislinn (UNITED STATES)

MILITARY FENCING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS I Special Report by Abdel Salem

Viterbo, Italy, June 16-23

Thirteen nations headed to Viterbo, Italy, to compete in Champion International Sport Military (CISM). The event featured the 37th Military Fencing World Championships. The U.S. was represented by athletes in its armed forces, all of whom were required to qualify by placing in the top 48 or better in a USFA North America Cup event.

SPC Frets Olivares (US Army) and

Cadet 3rd Class Chris Jones (US Air Force) qualified for men's foil. Maj. Teresa Orcutt (US Air Force) was the only female; she competed in women's epee, finishing in 18th place with 11 victories. Commander Joshua Runyan (US Navy) fenced sabre, finishing ninth with five victories. Three men qualified for the epee team: SPC Chad Senior, Cadet 3rd Class Seth Kelsey and Cadet 4th Class

Luke Chilen. The team placed eighth. In individual men's epee, C3C Kelsey finished in fourth place, C4C Chilen finished 19th, and SPC Senior finished 29th. C4C Chilen joined SPC Olivares and C3C Jones to compete in the men's foil team and captured the bronze medal, following Italy and Holland.

SUMMER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

DIVISION I OLYMPIC TRIALS | Austin, Texas, June 30-July 9

In the interest of saving space and best utilizing the USFA's resources, only the top 8 finishes are listed here. For complete results, please go to www.usfencing.org and click on "competitions" to find the domestic results page

DIVISION I

Men's Épée (53 Competitors)

1. O'Loughlin, Chris S
2. Greenhouse, Rashaan O
- 3.T Feldschuh, Michael
- 3.T Normile, Jon
5. Hansen, Eric J
6. Rosenberg, David G
7. Tausig, Justin D
8. Viviani, Jansson J

Women's Épée (47 Competitors)

1. Eim, Stephanie
2. Stevens, Arlene
- 3.T Spilman, Elisabeth
- 3.T Szarwark, Case
5. James, Kamara L
6. Chilen, Hannah
7. Leszko, Julia A
8. Walton, Kerry E

DIVISION I-A

Men's Épée (77 Competitors)

1. Hansen, Eric J
2. Senior, Chad A
- 3.T Hicks, Terry R
- 3.T Moreau, John A
5. Kane, Geoffrey P
6. Yamashita, Taro
7. Toshcov, Petar B
8. Mattern, Cody M

Women's Épée (55 Competitors)

1. Leighton, Eleanor T
2. Obenchain, Janel
- 3.T Gilker, Daisy D

Men's Foil (52 Competitors)

1. Bayer, Cliff S
2. Dupree, Jedediah
- 3.T Longenbach, Zaddick X
- 3.T Tiomkin, Jonathan C
5. Cheng, Gerald C
6. Gerberman, Steven B
7. Cellini, Peter A
8. McClain, Sean

Women's Foil (44 Competitors)

1. Zimmermann, Felicia T
2. Smart, Erinn L
- 3.T Cross, Emily R
- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M
- 5.T Ament, Andrea E
- 5.T Jones, Melanie
7. Cavan, Kathryn M
8. Smith, Julie

Men's Foil (66 Competitors)

1. Snyder, Derek
2. Breen, Jeffrey A
- 3.T Cameron, Matt W
- 3.T Pasinkoff, Michael
5. Breden, Roland G
6. Gonzalez, John L
7. Urbain, Kevin M
8. Mosca, Nicholas D

Women's Foil (44 Competitors)

1. Cross, Emily R
2. Cox, Susan D
- 3.T Cox, Bethany A

Men's Saber (49 Competitors)

1. Spencer-El, Akhnaten A
2. Durkan, Patrick J
- 3.T Raynaud, Herby
- 3.T Smart, Keeth T
5. Lee, Ivan J
6. Morehouse, Timothy F
7. Friedman, Paul
8. Summers, Jeremy S



National champion Felicia Zimmermann with silver medalist Erinn Smart.
Photo: William T. Murphy.

Men's Saber (53 Competitors)

1. Sohn, Andrew
2. Runyan, Joshua B
- 3.T Courtney, Matthew A
- 3.T Magee, Andrew P
5. Vincent, Daniel
6. Mohacsy, Viktor PT
7. Greene, Joseph T
8. Etropolis, Mihail V

Women's Saber (53 Competitors)

1. Smith, Chaz
2. Nelson, Amanda L
- 3.T Cox, Bethany A

Below, left to right: Foilist Derek Snyder; photo: Chris Keegan; Meitta attacking, photo: Dariusz Wei, University of Rochester, NY; fencer take advantage of the special amenities offered at the Nationals, photo: Samuel Lillard.



Photo: Samuel Lillard.

- 3.T Korb, Erica M
- 5. Jacobson, Raelyn P
- 6. Orcutt, Teresa R
- 7. Frye, Mary P
- 8. Harris, Caitlin E

- 3.T Kotlan, Dely J
- 5. Ferguson, Diane F
- 6. Florendo, Jessica S
- 7. Lindsay, Lavinia M
- 8. Traylor, Dr. Elaine

- 3.T Jemal, Alexis D
- 5. Gaillard, Amelia F
- 6. Milo, Destanie
- 7. Dewsnap, Kelly
- 8. Kates, Megan E

DIVISION II

Men's Épée (171 Competitors)

- 1. Banks, Michael S
- 2. Bouloubasis, Matthew J
- 3.T Galvin, Matthew
- 3.T Janca, Robert A
- 5. Verigan, William R
- 6. Larsen, Niels C
- 7. Cox, Charles A
- 8. Clark, Timothy J

Men's Foil (168 Competitors)

- 1. Sohn, Brian
- 2. Smith, Nathaniel
- 3.T Dubrovich, Gary
- 3.T Thornton-Close, Tarquin A
- 5. Gates, Matthew W
- 6. Radu, Andrew
- 7. Durante, Eric T
- 8. Blakeborough, Alan

Men's Sabre (111 Competitors)

- 1. Stetsiv, Oleg
- 2. Greene, Joseph T
- 3.T Cornwall, Owen T.A.
- 3.T Meehan, Justin X
- 5. Dosmann, Matthew R
- 6. Farr, Ian G
- 7. Dolata, Philip P
- 8. Kirberger, Eric A

Women's Épée (103 Competitors)

- 1. Gorman, Liz B
- 2. McMenamin, Sarah
- 3.T Hohensee, Kira L
- 3.T Rubin, Alexie A
- 5. Chin, Meredith M
- 6. Wisham, Dianne M
- 7. Thompson, Jeanne M
- 8. Sullivan, Sharon L

Women's Foil (117 Competitors)

- 1. Breden, Senta E
- 2. Austin, Anne E
- 3.T Foellimer, Nele J
- 3.T Lee, Tammy A
- 5. Noble, Hollie M
- 6. Sachs, Elif Z
- 7. Slater, Lisa A
- 8. Wang, Christina

Women's Sabre (71 Competitors)

- 1. Jemal, Alexis D
- 2. Schwartz, Allison J
- 3.T Myers, Sakura M
- 3.T Shaahid, Sakinah N
- 5. James, Rosemary K
- 6. Filkins, Jessie M
- 7. Padula, Veronica M
- 8. Griffith, Kate E

DIVISION III

Men's Épée (194 Competitors)

- 1. Clark, Timothy J
- 2. Sisco, Matthew C
- 3.T Beski, Johnny J
- 3.T Jimenez, Ricardo E
- 5. Wainstein, Brian N
- 6.T Henzler, Thomas A
- 6.T Tundermann, Scott M
- 8. Evert, Todd H

Men's Foil (214 Competitors)

- 1. Tsinis, Alex
- 2. Morales, Cesar J
- 3.T Georgia, Rich R
- 3.T Yablon, Michael K
- 5. Braese, Niklas
- 6. Miner, Parker J
- 7. Barrow, Tom A
- 8. Roman, Augusto J

Men's Sabre (105 Competitors)

- 1. Farr, Ian G
- 2. Bai, Daniel C
- 3.T Igoe, Benjamin D
- 3.T Simpson, Jeremy
- 5. Gonzalez, Eric
- 6. Baum, Jeff D
- 7. Smith, John M
- 8. Vashro, Layne J

Women's Épée (103 Competitors)

- 1. Brendler, Kaela J
- 2. Forsythe, Sara M
- 3.T Pierre, Nathalie
- 3.T Rose, Alexa D
- 5. Thompson, Jeanne M
- 6. Ehmann, Rachel E
- 7. Kreidman, Elizabeth
- 8. Firoz, Solmaz

Women's Foil (150 Competitors)

- 1. Schubert, Tanja
- 2. Wang, Christina
- 3.T DeFabio, Monica N
- 3.T Prifrel, Megan M
- 5. Wang, Natalie
- 6. Becker, Nancy J
- 7. Pike, Julia R
- 8. St. Jacques, Jill

Women's Sabre (51 Competitors)

- 1. Schwartz, Allison J
- 2. Kohn, Elizabeth
- 3.T Bowen, Sara E
- 3.T Gresham, Carolyn N
- 5. Plekhanov, Marguerite
- 6. Griffith, Kate E
- 7. Eiremo, Annika M
- 8. Noble, Hollie M

UNDER 19

Men's Épée (69 Competitors)

- 1. Thompson, Soren
- 2. Mattern, Cody M
- 3.T Banks, Michael S
- 3.T French, Timothy L
- 5. Czopek, Brad M
- 6. Holtz, Donovan K

Men's Foil (100 Competitors)

- 1. Fisher, Joseph E
- 2. Woodhouse III, Enoch O
- 3.T Gerberman, Steven B
- 3.T Thompson, Soren
- 5. Eriksen, Kevin S
- 6. Snyder, Derek

Men's Sabre (61 Competitors)

- 1. Rogers, Jason N
- 2. Parker, G. Colin
- 3.T Crompton, Adam C
- 3.T Lee, Ivan J
- 5. Ghattas, Patrick E
- 6. Douville, David A

7. Guevara, Joshua
8. Sanders, Michael A

Women's Épée (60 Competitors)

1. McGlade, Jasmine A
2. Walton, Kerry E
- 3.T Gearhart, Sherice N
- 3.T Leighton, Eleanor T
5. Szarwark, Case
6. James, Kamara L
7. Hohensee, Kira L
8. Venable, Kim N

UNDER 16

Men's Épée (55 Competitors)

1. Lee, Martin J
2. Beski, Johnny J
- 3.T Henderson, Jason V
- 3.T Park, Daniel S
5. Verigan, William R
6. Cavan, James E
7. Vail, Bruce D
8. Ungar, Benjamin N

Women's Épée (50 Competitors)

1. McGlade, Jasmine A
2. Brendler, Kaela J
- 3.T Jacobson, Raelyn P
- 3.T Leighton, Eleanor T
5. James, Kamara L
6. Gearhart, Sherice N
7. Harris, Caitlin E
8. Orlando, Amy E

YOUTH 14

Men's Épée (65 Competitors)

1. Perry, Cameron D
2. Kline, Jared M
- 3.T Flack, Joshua B
- 3.T Scher, Elliot J
5. Stockdale, Jason T
6. Henderson, Jason V
7. Horanyi, Andras M
8. Adjemian, Aaron E

Women's Épée (44 Competitors)

1. McGlade, Jasmine A

7. Sinkin, Gabriel M
8. Stokes, Robert Nic

Women's Foil (62 Competitors)

1. Cross, Emily R
2. Ament, Andrea E
- 3.T Cavan, Kathryn M
- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M
5. Thompson, Metta K
6. Leahy, Jacqueline
7. Austin, Anne E
8. McGlade, Jasmine A

Men's Foil (101 Competitors)

1. Carter, Jonathan H
2. Galligan, Michael J
- 3.T Bras, Alejandro
- 3.T Woodhouse III, Enoch O
5. Perry, Cameron D
6. Lence, Bryan R
7. Thornton-Close, Tarquin A
8. Jorge, Jeffrey S

Women's Foil (68 Competitors)

1. Cross, Emily R
2. Luitjen, Cassidy C
- 3.T Austin, Anne E
- 3.T Leahy, Jacqueline
5. Florendo, Jessica S
6. Delahanty, Amy T
7. Menaldino, Janeane R
8. Mendelsohn, Alisa R

Men's Foil (100 Competitors)

1. Woodhouse III, Enoch O
2. Galligan, Michael J
- 3.T Meyers, Brendan J
- 3.T Patterson, Hunter
5. Horanyi, Andras M
6. Habermann, Blake J
7. Kirk-Gordon, Dimitri
8. Miner, Parker J

Women's Foil (65 Competitors)

1. Delahanty, Amy T

7. Hagamen, Timothy H
8. Awolusi, Ayodeji M

Women's Saber (37 Competitors)

1. Gelman, Julia
2. Crane, Christina
- 3.T Jemai, Alexis D
- 3.T Milo, Destanie
5. Providenza, Valerie C
6. Myers, Sakura M
7. Nelson, Amanda L
8. Jacobson, Emily P

Men's Saber (68 Competitors)

1. Clement, Luther C
2. Chernov, Ilan L
- 3.T Ghattas, Patrick E
- 3.T Magee, Andrew P
5. Krul, Alexander
6. Crompton, Adam C
7. Williams, James L
8. Douville, David A

Women's Saber (35 Competitors)

1. Gaillard, Amelia F
2. Providenza, Valerie C
- 3.T Eiremo, Annika M
- 3.T Stroud, Julia D
5. Jacobson, Emily P
6. Rake, Madeline O
7. Padula, Veronica M
8. Griffith, Kate E

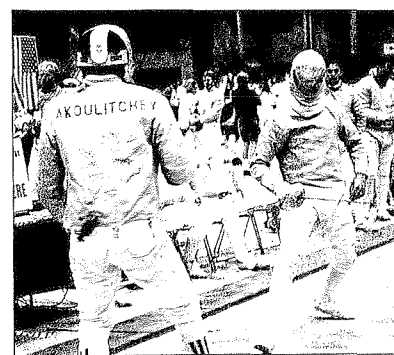
Men's Saber (65 Competitors)

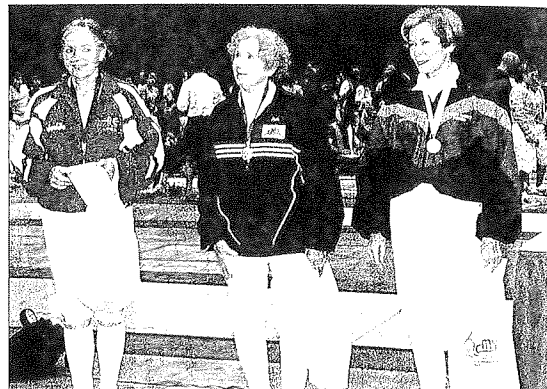
1. Farr, Ian G
2. Thanhouser, Bill L
- 3.T Igoe, Benjamin D
- 3.T Stearns, Matthew J
- 5.T Ahn, Steve J
- 5.T Quirk, Ian M
7. Sachs, Daniel S
8. Milliron, Joseph E

Women's Saber (30 Competitors)

1. Providenza, Valerie C

Below, left to right: Julien Mallet with pacifier; photo: Darius Wei, University of Rochester, NY; Congratulations or condolences?, photo: Samuel Lillard; Akoulitchey on strip, photo: Samuel Lillard.





Above, left to right: Wheelchair competition, photo: Bill Hall; women's veterans, photo: Samuel Lillard.

2. Vedder, Leslie A
- 3.T Kercksmar, Anne B
- 3.T Rose, Alexa D
5. Ambort, Chelsea A
6. Byerts, Keri L
7. Brown, Jessica J
8. Isaacson, Oriana M

2. Glasser, Allison D
- 3.T Mendelsohn, Alisa R
- 3.T Rush, Aly
5. Wang, Natalie
6. Pike, Julia R
- 7.T Bentley, Hannah C
- 7.T Cherf, Rhiannon D

2. Parker, Sarah J
- 3.T Jacobson, Emily P
- 3.T Liebing, Rachel
5. Siebert, Syvenna B
6. Paige, Stephanie
7. Eiremo, Annika M
8. Sitek, Zuzanna

YOUTH 12

Men's Épée (53 Competitors)

1. Lepold, Joshua E
2. Pearce, Michael A
- 3.T Kenney, Clayton
- 3.T Smith, Dwight A
5. Chinman, Nicholas
6. Moore, Nathan J
7. Balducci, Alexander
8. Cheris, Zachariah

Men's Foil (97 Competitors)

1. Kubik, Mark W
2. Stallings, William M.
- 3.T Chinman, Nicholas
- 3.T Cho, Kevin
5. Kershaw, Clinton E
6. Lepold, Joshua E
7. Yi, Alden J
8. Bisignano, Jesse J

Men's Saber (59 Competitors)

1. Quirk, Ian M
2. Williams, Maximilian
- 3.T Berkowsky, Jonathan E
- 3.T Milliron, Joseph E
5. Eiremo, Anders E
6. Randolph, William R
7. Douville, Michael C
8. Rudnicki, Alexander

Women's Épée (31 Competitors)

1. Byerts, Keri L
2. Park, Rachael A
- 3.T Hurley, Kelley A
- 3.T Isaacson, Oriana M
5. Vedder, Leslie A
6. Caven, Elaina M
7. McGlade, Grace E
8. Salvatore, Christina

Women's Foil (55 Competitors)

1. Rush, Aly
2. Emerson, Abigail C
- 3.T Svengsouk, Jocelyn L
- 3.T Willette, Doris E
5. Sinkin, Ilana B
6. Finkel, Kelsey J
- 7.T Hurley, Kelley A
- 7.T Parker, Melissa

Women's Saber (26 Competitors)

1. Parker, Sarah J
2. Jellison, Eva
- 3.T Bass, Molly M
- 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A
5. Sitek, Zuzanna
6. Ostrowska, Justyna
7. Blumenthal, Dena C
8. Murphy, Anna-Paula

YOUTH 10

Men's Épée (24 Competitors)

1. Adjemian, Nicolas E
2. Parker, Jonathan M
- 3.T Mansfield, Christophe
- 3.T Miller, Stuart J
5. Grubb, Ryan M
6. Cox, Reginald R
7. Planchard, Sean S
8. Kubik, Steven J

Men's Foil (62 Competitors)

1. Parkins, Benjamin B
2. Mansfield, Christophe
- 3.T Bentley, III, Frede
- 3.T Hodges, Grant
5. Holbrook, Jonathan L
6. Willette, David G
7. Adjemian, Nicolas E
8. Marshall, John W

Men's Saber (27 Competitors)

1. Berliner, Dan
2. Douville, Michael C
- 3.T Ochocki, Aleksander
- 3.T Strahorn-Brown, Calvin S
5. Thompson, Bobby B
6. Murphy, Max D
7. Holbrook, Jonathan L
8. Reid, Leonon J

Women's Épée (14 Competitors)

1. Caven, Elaina M
2. Cook, Meagan B
- 3.T Hurley, Courtney L
- 3.T Kroeker, Kathryn R
5. Vongries, Alyssa L

Women's Foil (27 Competitors)

1. Hurley, Courtney L
2. Cook, Meagan B
- 3.T Ross, Nicole
- 3.T Snider, Katherine
5. Hirschfeld, Rebecca C

Women's Saber (12 Competitors)

1. Ward, Becca C
2. Murphy, Anna-Paula
- 3.T Sachs, Elizabeth
- 3.T Vloka, Caroline N
5. Wiczorek, Martyna F

6. Gutierrez, Cameron A
7. Geiser, Ashley A
8. Barkley, Cleme

6. Coates, Megan E
7. Kim, Samantha J
8. McDermott, Elizabeth

6. Bass, Molly M
7. Brecunier, Ellie S
8. Dingwall, Annie C

VETERAN COMBINED

Men's Épée (68 Competitors)

1. Tyson, Julian F
2. Shalaurov, Alexander
- 3.T Chidel, Robert
- 3.T Gerring, Phillip E
5. Beihold, James K
6. Lattin, Kenneth A
7. Zakov, Alexander
8. Reith, William E

Women's Épée (21 Competitors)

1. Johnson, Karen
2. Telles, Anna
- 3.T Gresham, Carolyn N
- 3.T Leighton, Louise N
5. Micales, Jessie A
6. McMenamin, Dianna S
7. Lauze MD, Karen P
8. Finkleman, Jean M

Men's Foil (72 Competitors)

1. Kaihatsu, Edward
2. Douraghy, Jamie M
- 3.T Lutton, Thomas W
- 3.T Osborn, Kevin C
- 5.T Loper, Chris
- 5.T McCormick, Rob
7. Goldgar, Dirk
8. Baum, Robert H

Women's Foil (28 Competitors)

1. Aliberti, Elaine A
2. Offerle, Judith A
- 3.T Gresham, Carolyn N
- 3.T Slater, Lisa A
5. Keller, Nina G
6. Mitchell, Helen L
7. Groening, Joanne
8. Hopkins, Loy L

Men's Saber (38 Competitors)

1. Harper, Brian S
2. Baker, Keith L
- 3.T Lara, Alfred
- 3.T Sexton III, Ray L
5. Smith, Ted
6. Yung, Wang Y
7. Wharton, Franklin M
8. Meagher, Roderick

Women's Saber (17 Competitors)

1. Dorren, Karen
2. Turner, Delia M
- 3.T Baehr, Barbara A
- 3.T Pestotnik, Sharol A
5. Eyre, Jane E
6. Hurst, Susan E
7. Finkleman, Jean M
8. Marshall, Geri

VETERAN 50/59

Men's Épée (25 Competitors)

1. Tyson, Julian F
2. Cherry, Alfred B
- 3.T Cochrane Jr, Robert A
- 3.T Messing, Arnold
5. Linton, Gary A
6. Sexton III, Ray L
7. Kocsy, Alexander
8. Tatro, William L

Women's Épée (7 Competitors)

1. Kallus, Diane H
2. Runyon, Cindy
- 3.T Jordan, Marilyn
- 3.T Rheinheimer, Sophie Che
5. Bowden, Constance
6. Settlemire, Sharron
7. Brynildsen, Karen

Men's Foil (29 Competitors)

1. Sexton III, Ray L
2. Hayes, Harold C
- 3.T King, Ronald F
- 3.T Tyson, Julian F
5. Sessions, Adrian A
6. Block, Robert H
7. Pitt, David E
8. Kuhn, James D

Women's Foil (6 Competitors)

1. Kallus, Diane H
2. Rheinheimer, Sophie Che
- 3.T Graham, Bettie J
- 3.T Skelly, Patricia
5. Jordan, Marilyn
6. Ory, Arlene L

Men's Saber (16 Competitors)

1. Kovacs, Alexander
2. Volkmann, Rudy
- 3.T Goodman, Howard P
- 3.T Harper, Brian S
5. Sexton III, Ray L
6. Dolata, L. Mark
7. Kelly, Patrick T
8. Kasten, Ken W

Women's Saber (5 Competitors)

1. Hurst, Susan E
2. Seymour, Sally E
- 3.T Hand-Mihalek, Louise A
- 3.T Jordan, Marilyn
5. Brynildsen, Karen

VETERAN 60 +

Men's Épée (14 Competitors)

1. Hurley, Robert J
2. Micahnik, David M
- 3.T Adams, James H
- 3.T Miernik, Marcel
5. Zakov, Alexander
6. Benge, Donald E
7. Appling Ret., Ltc Donald
8. Brown, Felton R

Women's Épée (4 Competitors)

1. Dobloug, Lisa
2. Anderson, Ruth
- 3.T Anderson, Ruth
- 3.T Lafargue, Rosemary P

Men's Foil (12 Competitors)

1. Miernik, Marcel
2. Adams, James H
- 3.T Benge, Donald E
- 3.T Spinella, Ralph
5. Marmer, Daniel
6. Noble, Dr F. Pier
7. Sady, Edward L
8. Appling Ret., Ltc Donald

Women's Foil (4 Competitors)

1. Anderson, Ruth
2. Lafargue, Rosemary P
- 3.T Korda, Lya
- 3.T Malet'a, Dr. Melba

Men's Saber (10 Competitors)

1. Goering, William A
2. Hall, William N
- 3.T Alexander, Dean N
- 3.T Schlick Jr, Dr. Calver
5. Campoli, James A
6. Deiro, Count, Gui
7. Lillibridge, Glenn T
8. Appling Ret., Ltc Donald

Women's Saber (2 Competitors)

1. Mooney, Phoebe A
2. Watson, Ruby V

WHEELCHAIR

Men's Épée (6 Competitors)

1. Rodgers, John Scott
2. Day Jr., Roy E
3. Lovejoy, Curtis
4. Royal, Joey R
5. Collman, Peter D
6. Frayne, Michael L

Women's Épée (4 Competitors)

1. Hickey, Carol A
2. Lanier, Lisa D
3. Gilmore, Susan E
4. Taurman, Lois

Men's Foil (5 Competitors)

1. Rodriguez, Mario
2. Day Jr., Roy E
3. Rodgers, John Scott
4. Moreno, Gerard E
5. Frayne, Michael L

Women's Foil (4 Competitors)

1. Hickey, Carol A
2. Gilmore, Susan E
3. Lanier, Lisa D
4. Taurman, Lois

Men's Saber (5 Competitors)

1. Rodriguez, Mario
2. Moreno, Gerard E
3. Lovejoy, Curtis
4. Royal, Joey R
5. Collman, Peter D

DIVISION I TEAM

Men's Épée (8 Teams)

1. NY Athletic Club (Metropolitan Division)
Jon Normile, Chris O'Loughlin, Dave Rosenberg, Jan Viviani
2. TZCKA (Southern CA Division)
John Carpenter, Franco Cerutti, Carl Loeffler, Soren Thompson
3. US Modern Pentathlon (South TX Division)
Jim Gregory, Vakhtang Iagorashvili, Velizar Iliev, John Moreau
4. Salle Auriol - Oregon (Oregon Division)
5. DC Fencers Club (Capitol Division)
6. Golden Gate FC (Northern CA Division)
7. Central Pennsylvania Composite
8. Boston FC (New England Division)

Women's Épée (7 Teams)

1. DC Fencers Club (Capitol Division)
Lisa Dobloug, Julia Leszko, Kristin Suchorski, Marie-Sophie Tar
2. New York Athletic Club (Metropolitan Division)
Raven Johnson, Alex Mummery, Toby Tolley
3. US Modern Pentathlon (South TX Division)
Hannah Chilen, Emily DeRiel, Mary Beth Iagorashili, Sharon Sander
4. Seacoast Fencing Club (Northeast Division)
5. Salle Gascon (Southern CA Division)
6. Rochester Fencing Centre (Western NY Division)
7. No Fear (San Diego Division)

Men's Foil (6 Teams)

1. Metropolis (Metropolitan Division)
Robert Anderson, Matthew Catino, Zaddick Longenbach, Jonathan Tiomkin
2. New York Athletic Club (Metropolitan Div.)
Ben Atkins, Cliff Bayer, Peter Devine
3. Rochester Fencing Centre (Western NY Div.)
Peter Cellini, Sean McClain, Jeremy Sinkin, Alex Wood
4. Liberty Fencing Alliance (Philadelphia Div.)
5. Salle d'Esgrime/Utah Valley Sport (Utah-So. ID Div.)
6. Salle Auriol Seattle (Western WA Div.)

Women's Foil (4 Teams)

1. Rochester Fencing Centre (Western NY Division)
Ann Marsh, Hannah Thompson, Metta Thompson, Felicia Zimmermann
2. Metropolis (Metropolitan Division)
Emily Cross, Nele Foellmer, Melanie Jones, Zane Selkirk
3. Salle D'Esgrime (Utah-Southern ID Division)
Elaine Aliberti, Bethany Cox, Kelly Dewsnup, Julie Smith
4. Halberstadt (Northern CA Division)

Men's Saber (7 Teams)

1. Oregon Fencing Alliance (Oregon Div.)
Elliott Clinton, Patrick Ghattas, Marten Zagunis
2. New York Athletic Club (Metro. Div.)
Patrick Durkan, Luke LaValle, Kim Phillips, Paolo Roselli
3. Peter Westbrook Found. (Metro. Div.)
Ivan Lee, Herby Raynaud, Keeth Smart, Akhi Spencer-El
4. Fencers Club (Metro. Div.)
5. Fencing Ath. Club of Kan. City (KS Div.)
6. Columbus Division Composite
7. Nellya Fencers (Georgia Division)

OPEN TEAM

Men's Épée (30 Teams)

1. US Modern Pentathlon (South TX Division)
Velizar Ilieui, John Moreau, Michael Sanders, Chad Senior
2. NYAC (Metropolitan Division)
Charles Freeman, Neills Larsen, William Vislocky, Noah Zucker
3. Golden Gate Fencing Center (North. CA Div.)
Dylan Bethel, Philip Gerring, Eric Hansen, Sam Wallace
4. Salle Auriol (Oregon) (Oregon Division)
5. Twin City Fencing Club (Minnesota Division)
6. Salle Auriol - Seattle (Western WA Division)
7. Redlands Fencing (Oklahoma Division)
8. Fencing 2000 (Illinois Division)

Men's Foil (32 Teams)

1. Salle Mauro (Gulf Coast TX Division)
Michael Galligan, Steven Gerberman, Mauro Hamza, Vincent Sumrall
2. Kanza Fencing (Kansas Division)
Ryan Dunn, Merle Hodges, Gia Kvaratskhelia, Chris Miller
3. Southern California Division Composite
Meade Anderson, Jamier Douraghy, Marek Piatkowski, Derek Snyder
4. Salle d'Esgrime (Utah-Southern ID Division)
5. St. Louis Composite
6. Liberty Fencing Alliance (Philadelphia Div.)
7. Fencing 2000 (Illinois Division)
8. Fencing Acad. So. Jersey (So. Jersey Div.)

Men's Saber (23 Teams)

1. New York Athletic Club (Metro. Div.)
Alex Diacou, Mihail Etropolki, Ben Igoe, Byron Igoe
2. Kansas City Fencing Center (KS Div.)
Jeff Baum, Charlie Cooper, John Friend, Mike Momtselitze
3. Oregon Fencing Alliance (Oregon Div.)
Ian Farr, Patrick Ghattis, Bill Thanhouser, Martin Zagunis
4. Louisville Fencing Center (KY Div.)
5. Atlanta Fencers Club (Georgia Div.)
6. Lincoln Fencing Club (Neb.-SD Div.)
7. Colorado Division Composite
8. Fencing Athletic Club of Kansas City (KS. Div.)

Women's Épée (14 Teams)

1. US Modern Pentathlon (South TX Division)
Hannah Chilen, Emily Derieu, Mary Iagorashvili, Erin McGarry
2. Seacoast Fencing Club (Northeast Division)
Kira Hophensee, Irena Inman, Karen Lauze, Kerry Walton
3. South Texas Composite
Esperanza Barrera, Karen Johnson, Diane Kallus
4. Salle Auriol - Seattle (Western WA Division)
5. Long Island Division Composite
6. Pierre Le Chat Fencing Club (Colorado Div.)
7. University of Michigan (Michigan Division)
8. Mountaintop Fencing Club (New Jersey Div.)

Women's Foil (15 Teams)

1. Salle d'Esprime (Utah-Southern ID Division)
Bethany Cox, Kelly Dewsnup, Rachel Liebing, Julie Smith
2. Metropolis Fencing (Metropolitan Division)
Adeline Chung, Larissa Gonzales, Jody Jackson, Tanja Schubert
3. Beverly Hills FC (Southern CA Division)
Laura Armstrong, Justine Aw, Elizabeth Blase, Lauren Walker
4. Island Fencing Club (New England Division)
5. Arizona Composite
6. Salle Auriol - Seattle (Western WA Division)
7. Mountain Valley Composite
8. Twin City Fencing Club (Minnesota Division)

Women's Saber (15 Teams)

1. Sacramento Fencer's (Mtn. Valley Div.)
Annika Eiremo, Rosemary James, Amy Macarow, Chaz Smith
2. Salle d'Esprime (Utah-So. ID Division)
Bethany Cox, Kelly Dewsnup, Rachel Liebing, Julie Smith
3. South Texas Composite
Lesley French, Rachel Sacier, Sara Solomon, Nikki Wernli
4. International School of Fencing (VA Div.)
5. North Texas Composite
6. Minnesota Division Composite
- 7.T Nellya Fencers (Georgia Division)
- 7.T Oregon Fencing Alliance (OR Div.)

UNDER-19 TEAM

Men's Épée (14 Teams)

1. Northern Colorado Fencers (Colorado Div.)
Michael Banks, David Huff, Kasdon Ludwick
2. Lilov Fencing Academy (New Jersey Division)
3. California Fencing Academy (Central CA Div.)
Nathan Bragg, Alex Brusche, Jason Henderson
4. Salle Auriol - Oregon (Oregon Division)
Dusty Bittner, Casey Clagett, Martin Lee
5. US Modern Pentathlon (South TX Div.)
6. Fencing Academy of Philadelphia (Phila. Div.)
7. Texas Excalibur (Border TX Division)
8. Fencing Center of Long Island (LI Div.)

Men's Foil (22 Teams)

1. Rochester Fencing Club (Western NY Div.)
Alex Caven, Peter Cellini, Gabriel Sinkin, Jeremy Sinkin
2. Fencers Club (Metropolitan Division)
John Carter, Joe Fisher, Brian Sohn, Nick Stokes
3. Boston Fencing Club (New England Div.)
Alejandro Bras, Jeff Jorge, Jesse Platt, Enoch Woodhouse
4. TEAM EXCLUDED
5. Kanza Fencing Club (Kansas Division)
6. Liberty Fencing Alliance (Philadelphia Div.)
7. The Fencing Center (Central CA Division)
8. Northern Colorado Fencers (Colorado Div.)

Men's Saber (13 Teams)

1. Peter Westbrook Found. (Metro. Div.)
Ayodeji Awolusi, Ivan Lee, Harvey Miller, Dwayne Smith
2. Nellya Fencers (Georgia Division)
David Douville, Joseph Greene, Colin Parker
3. Falcon Fencing Club (So. CA Division)
Adam Boorstin, Ilan Chernov, Paul Friedman, Alex Krul
4. Fencers Club (Metropolitan Division)
5. Oregon Fencing Alliance (Oregon Div.)
6. Sacramento Fencing (Mtn. Valley Div.)
7. Kansas City Fencing Center (KS Div.)
8. Minnesota Sword Club (MN Division)

Women's Épée (10 Teams)

1. Seacoast Fencing Club (Northeast Division)
Kira Hoensee, Irena Inman, Kerry Walton
2. Rochester Fencing Club (Western NY Div.)
Rachel Ehmann, Amy Orlando, Alli Schirtz, Sharon Sullivan
3. US Modern Pentathlon (South TX Division)
Hannah Chilen, Caitlin Harris, Erin McGarry, Celest Rogers
4. Long Island Division Composite
5. Mountaintop Fencing Club (New Jersey Div.)
6. Boston Fencing Club (New England Division)
7. California Fencing Academy (Central CA Div.)
8. Bayou City Fencing (Gulf Coast TX Div.)

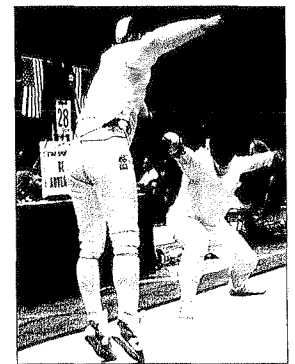
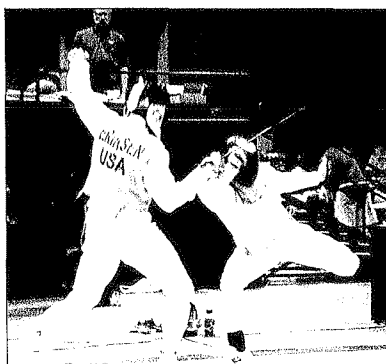
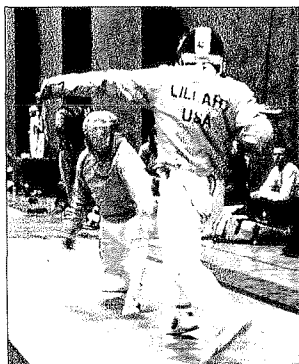
Women's Foil (8 Teams)

1. Rochester Fencing Center (Western NY Div.)
Allison Chaisson, Jacqueline Leahy, Hannah Thompson, Metta Thompson
2. Metropolis Fencing (Metropolitan Division)
Emily Cross, Nele Foellmer, Zane Selkirk
3. Fencers Club (Metropolitan Division)
Katie Cavan, Jessica Florendo, Taisa Malinovskya
4. Fencing Academy of Philadelphia (Phila. Div.)
5. Beverly Hills Fencing Club (Southern CA Div.)
6. Kansas Division Composite
7. Texas Fencing Academy (South TX Division)
8. Dana Hall (New England Division)

Women's Saber (8 Teams)

1. Nellya Fencers (Georgia Division)
Amelia Gaillard, Emily Jacobson, Sarah Parker
2. Peter Westbrook Found. (Metro. Div.)
Aziza Hassan, Alexis Jemal, Sakura Myers, Mai Yu
3. Sacramento Fencing (Mtn. Valley Div.)
Lauren Dunn, Annika Eiremo, Kate Griffith, Amy Macarow
4. Oregon Fencing Alliance (Oregon Div.)
5. Kansas City Fencing Center (KS Div.)
6. Lilov Fencing Academy (NJ Div.)
7. Dana Hall (New England Division)
8. Masters (New Jersey Division)

Below, left to right: American Fencing's Samuel Lillard and sabrist Eric Dew, photo: Chris Keegan; Dance anyone?, photo: Chris Keegan; Edward Kane, Division I Epee, photo: Spero T. Lappas, Esq., Harrisburg PA



SUMMER NATIONALS SETS NEW RECORD FOR PARTICIPATION

by Michael Sullivan

Once again, the USFA Summer National Championships held in Austin, Texas, June 30-July 9, 2000, set a new record for participation. Nearly 4,200 entrants competed in 93 events—94, if you count the Media Day event in which the Mayor of Austin squared off against two local sports writers. Numerous meetings were held, including those of Annual Membership, the USFA Congress and the Board of Directors.

There was so much fencing in Austin that it is difficult to cover it all. There were many outstanding performances. Emily Cross got our attention (and that of *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd") by winning the Under-16, Under-19 and Division 1A Championships and placing third in the Division I National Championships. Our Olympians showed why they are Olympians when they met the challenge of high expectations. Cliff Bayer and Felicia Zimmermann won National Foil Champion titles, while Arlene Stevens took silver in women's epee behind Stephanie Eim. Olympic team alternate Erinn Smart also took silver in women's foil and her brother, Keeth, placed third in sabre—both despite

heavy hearts, having learned only days before of their mother's diagnosis of cancer (see box).

In addition to the performance of our athletes in Austin, there were other equally heroic efforts by the scores of volunteers who make the Summer Nationals, like virtually all USFA competitions, possible.

As the organizational standards of USFA national competitions have improved, fencers have come to expect higher levels of amenities and, in fact, have become more demanding. Any divisional volunteer who has put together a weekend event that might attract 50 or 100 fencers can attest to the work and headaches entailed in producing such an event. Try doing it 93 times in 10 days.

By any standard, the USFA Summer Nationals is a gargantuan affair. With 50 strips active, often all at the same time, managing the event is similar to staging a 50-ring circus. Standing on the tournament committee's platform and looking out over the 50,000-square-feet of fencing action, it is difficult to believe that anyone could have a handle on what is happening. The ringmaster for the Summer Nationals was Tournament

So many strips, so little time. Photo: Chris Keegan.

Committee Chair Mark Stasinios. Stasinios arrived in Austin two days before the fencing began to organize the set-up and stayed for 14 days until the last strip was boxed and loaded on a truck, headed for storage until the North American Circuit (NAC) events begin anew in the fall.

Each event is staffed by two or

TRYING TIMES

Just days before the Summer Nationals, Erinn and Keeth Smart of the Peter Westbrook Foundation learned that their mother, Elizabeth, was diagnosed with cancer.

Keeth will compete in the sabre event in Sydney and Erinn will attend the Games as the alternate on the powerful American Women's Foil Team.

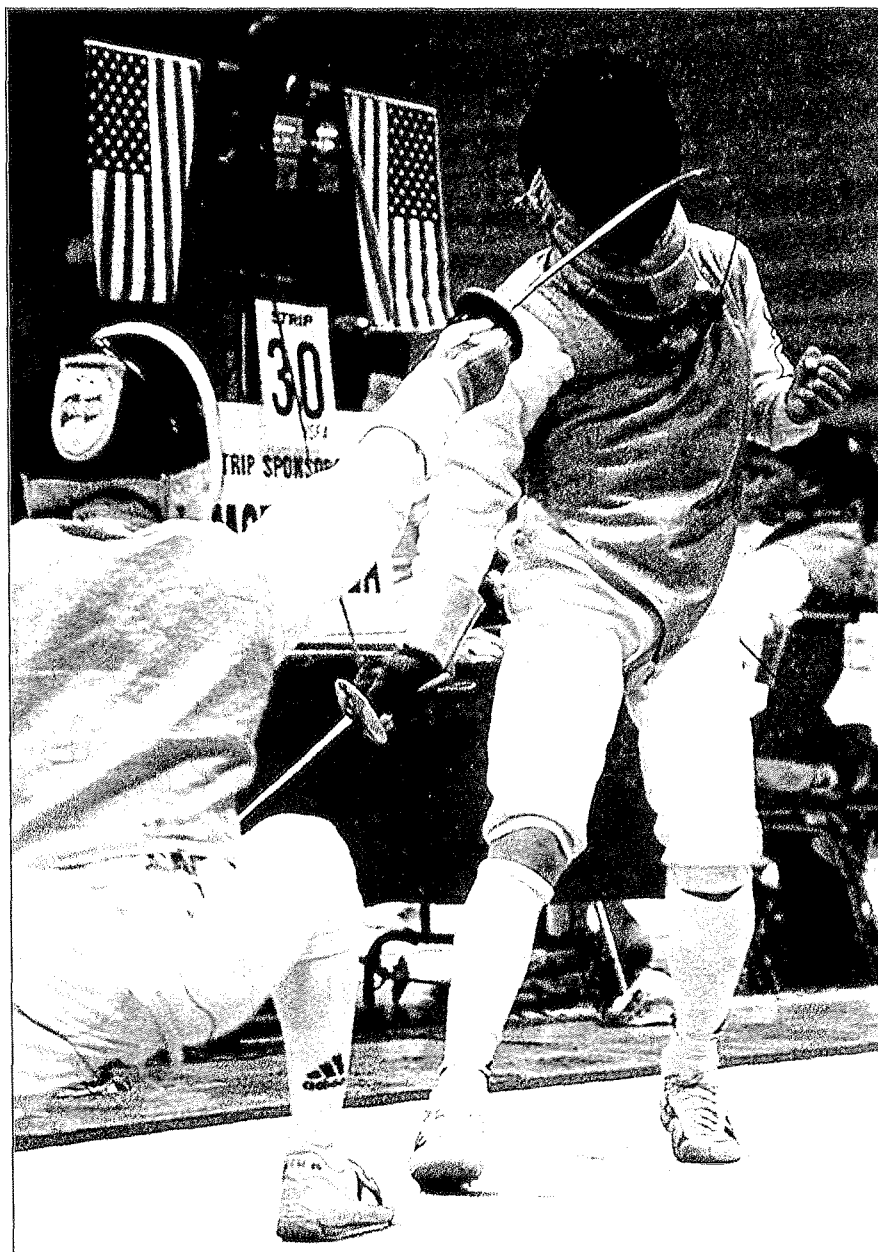
American Fencing recently learned from Peter Westbrook that Elizabeth is fighting hard and making plans to journey to Sydney to support her children. Please keep the Smart family in your thoughts and prayers.

three members of the tournament committee who find the space to hold the competition and manage the results as they come in from the pistes. A representative from the Fencing Officials Commission (FOC) assigns referees, avoiding conflicts, handling the inevitable complaints from disgruntled fencers, and keeping an eye on the performance of the referees.

The referees are often asked to officiate matches for 10 or more hours a day with only a few breaks for physical and mental nourishment.

Nearly 12,000 five-touch bouts and well over 3,000 fifteen-touch direct elimination and repechage bouts were judged by referees and recorded by tournament committee computer experts. Approximately 9,000 weapons were inspected—not to mention masks and lames—by armorers who also had to trouble-shoot problems with machines, reels and strips.

All told, volunteers at the Summer Nationals contributed approximately 10,000 hours to the cause—all paid for at a rate of \$40 per diem, a nutritionist's nightmare of a diet, sore feet, and the pleasure of sharing quarters



Arch of Victory by Joan S. Weber. From Men's Youth 12 final eight at the USFA Summer Nationals. Weber's photograph won the Summer Nationals Photo Contest hosted by "Salle Aramis Photo of the Week" and *American Fencing*. The photo was selected from more than 100 entries. Weber resides in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Thanks to all who participated in the contest—"it was a tough job choosing," says Samuel Lillard, *American Fencing* photo editor.

for the duration with a fellow volunteer and all the attendant inconveniences of such living arrangements.

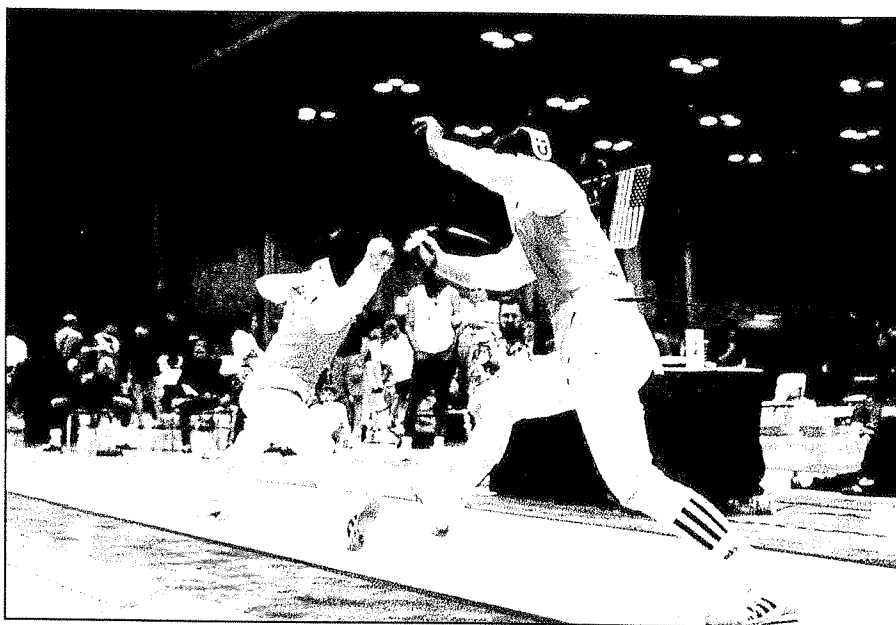
Not all of the work was done by volunteers. USFA staff Michael Massik, Carla Mae Richards and Toni Dreher were present for the duration, welcoming participants, handling com-

plaints, and ensuring that people and things were where they were supposed to be when they supposed to be there. Still, it is hard not to think of the long hours of overtime and time away from home as anything other than the essence of volunteerism.

There were heroes aplenty at the Summer Nationals. From our victorious Olympians to the novice fencer, who, having qualified for his first national event, had eyes opened and new challenges presented. To much of America and the world, fencing remains a secret. That so many fencers and volunteers share this secret passion and support each other in making the USFA work is a testament to the joy we derive from participating in this best of all sports.

In the recent past, *American Fencing* has printed the full results of the National Championships. With the ready availability of

results from the USFA's web site www.USFencing.org, printing the full results here is redundant and a misuse of money and ink. In lieu of the complete results, here is a list of the volunteers at the Summer Nationals with an indication of the amount of time each gave to support the event.



Longenbach versus Bayer; 2000 Olympic Trials at Summer Nationals. Photo: William T. Murphy, Atlanta, GA.

Thanks to all of the following volunteers who made the Summer Nationals possible—and thanks to those from Fence Austin, the local organizing committee for the event. *American Fencing* regrets any oversights. If your name belongs on this list, please let us know.

SUMMER NATIONALS VOLUNTEERS

Bout Committee	days worked
Omar Bhutta	11
Linda Dunn	7
Mary Griffith	6
Meredith Leahy	8
Barbara Lynch	12
Catherine Marchand	9
George Masin	9
Linda Merritt	10
Chris Moss	5
Computers	
Marc Courtney	10
Marcella Denton	7
Sheryl Eberhardt	5
Diane Ferguson	11
Graham Norris	6
Yvonne Wong	10

FOC	
George Kolombatovich	11
Jon Moss	10
George Nonomura	7
Bill Oliver	6
Referees	
Tomek Amborski	10
Barbara Anderson	9
Anna Anguelova	11
Garik Balayan	11
Gerrie Baumgart	11
Cindy Bent	11
Randy Bruno	11
Pascal Cantin	6
Luis Casado	3
Derek Cotton	4
Iana Dakova	6
Philip Daly	12
Michael D'Asaro	9
Greg Dilworth	8
Larry Dunn	7
Sharon Everson	10
Doug Findlay	10
Mary Frye	11
James Gillispie	9
Bruce Gillman	7
Tim Glass	4
Bruno Goossens	12
Dan Gorman	10
Charles Greene	12
Victor Groupierre	8
Chris Hagen	5

Erik Hansen	10
Paul Harris	10
Laura Horton	10
Alan Kuver	10
Alexey Kuznetsov	11
Garrett Leahy	6
Vladimir Lilov	6
Janet Loomis	10
David Mandell	6
Mike Maurin	7
Francisco Martin	12
David Micahnik	10
Sandra Moran	7
Zachary Moss	8
John Ramsey	7
Ed Richards	11
Eric Ricketts	6
Ron Schmeidle	6
Michael Shearer	9
Misha Shimshovich	10
Michael Sypes	10
Atilio Tass	7
Thomas Thliveris	8
Daniel Torchia	6
German Valderama	11
Gary Van der Wege	9
Jim Vesper	12
Christian Vidosa	11
Josif Vitebskiy	11
Suzanne Vogt	10
Juanjing Wang	11
Charlie Washburn	5
Techs	
Melanie Chun	6
Hugh Cunningham	12
Fernando Delgado	10
Bill Hall	6
Jacob Miller	6
Bill Murphy	6
David Neevel	11
Boris Shepshelevich	13
Brian Wolf	12
TC Rep	
Bob Cochrane	11
Mark Stasinos	14

Michael Sullivan is the treasurer for the USFA board of directors.

FENCERS, ON-LINE...READY?... CLICK! by Robert Block

Next time you're surfing the net and catch a cyber-wave to the USFA web site, check out the left sidebar. Click on "Internet Links" and you'll notice a new feature called Veteran Fencing. The USFA Veterans Committee created this feature to bring information together in one place for veterans. This way, if you overlooked an announcement in the USFA Newsletter or your dog ate your latest copy of *American Fencing*, you can still catch up on what's happening with USFA veterans. If you're able to get on guard but not on-line, then what can I say except feed your dog better and keep Fido away from your letter carrier. Seriously, folks, even though readers of this magazine might subscribe to the antiquated notion of "living by the sword," it's time we all recognize that it's the 21st century and consider stepping on board the technology e-train or face the risk of being left behind at the station without a full fencing bag of information.

So the Veterans Committee has gone on-line with its web site and, although at certain times some sections will be "under construction" as my web-footed friends like to say, the initial framework is in place. There's a home page where you can find a brief mission statement, as well as a Veterans Resources section that lists media designated by the USFA as official sources of information about veteran fencing in the US. You will also find the e-mail address of the current chairperson of the USFA Veterans Committee. This is your opportunity to send in your questions, suggestions, complaints, etc.

A Committee page provides information about the next scheduled Veterans Committee meeting. The committee usually meets three times a year at national tournaments and all veteran fencers are welcome to attend. This page also lists the current committee members and where they live. A mission statement can be

found on the bottom of the page that explains what your committee is supposed to be doing for you, the way it functions and how people are appointed to it.

Next on the web site is a Veterans Competition Schedule where you will see qualifying North American Circuit (NAC) events, the Summer Nationals and the Veteran World Championships listed. The intent is to include the veteran NACs as they are scheduled and any other national or international events, such as the World Masters Games, that are elements of the qualifying path. News about other competitions that might be of interest to veterans, but are unrelated to the qualifying path, may appear elsewhere on the web site.

The last part of the site is devoted to Veteran News—items that may be especially important to veteran fencers, such as decisions made by the committee or the USFA board of directors or the FIE. For example, the FIE's frequent changes in the date of birth requirements for competitors in the Veteran World Championships is explained on this web page. The committee wants to keep the site dynamic and updated with information not only about competitive issues, but also about social events, clinics, tours, camps and other activities for veterans.

Personally, I think the inception of this web site is also an important step to broaden the direction of the veterans fencing movement. During the program's formative years that direction was pretty much upwardly focused toward such things as point standings, qualifying paths, NAC events for veterans, Summer Nationals and, now, the World Veterans Championships. This focus was probably needed to capture the interest of more serious veteran competitors who have continually raised the fencing standards. As the numbers and the quality of veteran fencers keep improving at our nation-

al competitions, we continue to succeed at the international level. Such developments have not gone unnoticed by our national and international associations—and that's why veteran fencing is now accepted as a viable program in the fencing community.

Stepping off of my soapbox for a moment and back into cyberspace, I would like to see the Veteran Fencing web site offer information that is useful to the recreational fencer as well as the international champion. If you look around at our local clubs, it's rather obvious that the majority of over-40 fencers are not going to win national titles or world championships. Whatever the individual reasons might be—lack of motivation, talent, coaching, or time—this is just the way it is. Let's face it, a lot of veterans don't give a hoot about formal competitions and are perfectly happy fencing in the club environment. I'm sure all of us have some fencing friends who fit this description. But they can't be ignored if the veterans movement wants to build a strong grassroots foundation, something it currently lacks. Ideally, the web site is a step in that direction and will become a service that helps veteran fencing grow outward as well as upward from the local level. What are you waiting for? On-line...Ready?... Click!

Note: The Veterans Committee would like to express a special "thank you" to Tom Raffey of the Mile High Fencing Club in Denver for constructing the Veteran Fencing web site.

Bob Block, aka The Grayblade, competes in all three weapons in veteran competitions and coaches fencing at the Denver Fencing Center and the Mile High Fencing Club when he isn't at his day job as a project manager for the federal government. He has a Ph.D. in geography from UCLA, where he was also captain of the varsity fencing team as an undergraduate.

MEDIA EXPOSURE DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN. YOU HAVE TO DO A RAIN DANCE.

by Louis L. Akin

How come they (you know, the popular sports—tennis, golf, etc.) get all the media exposure and we don't? Maybe it's because they go after it in a systematic way. Public relations isn't like rain—it's not destined to come eventually, it doesn't just happen by itself. You have to know a good rain dance—or so I learned as volunteer PR agent for Fence Austin, the local organizing committee for the Summer Nationals.

Our first big break was word from *Texas Monthly* magazine—the magazine in Texas (it's our *New Yorker*)—that it was interested in doing a full page photo for its June issue. We had sent a "query" letter (a brief letter that pitches a story idea to an editor) and the editor responded by sending a photographer and writer. Then, after repeated email inquiries and telephone calls to the media during the weeks leading up to the Nationals, information started to trickle out in the press and we started getting booked on television and radio talk shows.

By opening day the clouds had burst and we were awash in media coverage—in spite of the fact that we were competing against two fairly big news items: the Tour de France bike race (which starred our own Austin homeboy Lance Armstrong), and our other homeboy, George Bush Jr., running for president. In all, we were on nightly television sports broadcasts 25 times, on television morning shows four times (they were even doing the morning weather from the convention center). We were on radio talk shows twice and had 46 spot ads and community calendar mentions. We were in the newspapers with

photos 11 times and appeared in two major magazines (the other one was *Time*). There was even more publicity after the event in local weekly and monthly magazines. All this PR didn't happen by accident. It required four months of careful planning and some good dancing.

Fencing clubs and divisions can benefit from learning a few steps in the PR dance—publicity is, after all, essential for the growth of the sport. Here are 10 dance steps we learned that helped and a couple that didn't.

Step 1.....

Understand the media. Appoint one person to deal with the media. The media will get to know that person and seek him or her out when they want information.

Reporters and editors are professionals and want to present you in a positive way, but they have constraints. Television commercials are 28 seconds long and most major news stories are less than a minute. If you get on television or radio, you will be lucky to get 30 to 40 seconds of air time. Long-winded speeches aren't going to make the cut, but don't boil everything down to succinct sound bites either. They sound rehearsed.

When the media shows up, let them have free reins. They don't need to be led and will most likely resent it if you try.

Approach each media outlet (i.e., print, television, radio) on its own terms. They are not the same. For example, the prime time TV news crew will be in a bigger hurry than a weekly newspaper reporter. Television reporters have too much news to report already. Resist the temptation to teach them the history of fencing since the first pointed stick. They want more action than talk. Have a couple of fencers demonstrate the sport with athleticism, loud yelling, and clanging weapons; you want to destroy the myth that fencing is a boring, stuff-shirt sport in which no one perspires.

Equally important, though, is to remember that the media will *not* cover a staged event. So never tell them you are staging anything for them. Let them see ordinary fencers practicing like they always do—very athletically, loudly yelling, sweating like crazy.

Weekend television news crews have more time and they are often looking for stories. Get them to come out first. The story they do may well trigger the prime time crew to follow up with a story during the week. The morning show television people may also follow up on weekend stories, and when they find out that you can bring fencers to their studio (yelling loudly, sweating, clanging), they'll grab you. They'll want you in the studio at 5:30-6:00 a.m. They can give you a week or two's notice, but seldom more than that.

Go after the radio stations, too. If you get on a radio talk show during the commute hour (also known as "drive time") you will have 20-30 minutes—instead of 28 seconds—to talk to a captive audience.

Most cities have one or two daily papers. It's hard to get their attention, but if you do they will want athletic

fencers to photograph and articulate people to interview. They may be the last to show interest.

Don't ignore the weekly newspapers in your city. They're more open to press releases and almost always willing to run action photos.

Local monthly magazines are a good source of publicity. They need to be contacted at least two months in advance. They'll send out a writer and photographer and do an in-depth story that may involve several interviews. Local weekly magazines operate the same way but need only two weeks' notice. The big statewide, glossy magazines are looking for stories that have statewide appeal. They'll need two months' advance notice.

Step 2.....

Get an early start. Four months is not too early. There will be a lot of information to gather before you start making contacts.

Step 3.....

Make a table of every media outlet in your area, including the telephone number, email address, and fax number of the assignment editor, feature editor, and producer. You'll need individual numbers and addresses. What you send to the sports department that gets rejected will not get to the morning show producer who may be frantically looking for a story. Start calling and talking to these people. Tell them about your event and ask how you can work with them to get coverage.

Step 4.....

Set up a Contact Log on your computer and make notes of every conversation. This requires cruel self-discipline, but it will pay off many times over. The log should have columns for the date, the media outlet name, the person contacted, and remarks. Later, you can go back and see who you talked to and what they said.

Step 5.....

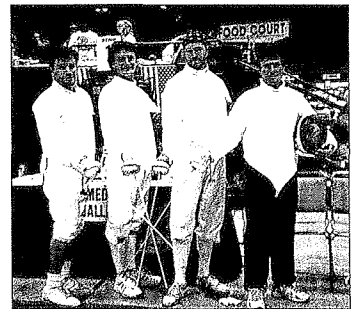
Set up a Media Appointments Schedule that includes columns for the media outlet's name, the contact name, the contact's phone number and email address, the date of the appointment, and the talent who will be in the event (coaches and fencers), as well as a column for remarks and a status column (go, reset, done). This may seem like duplicate bookkeeping, but it isn't. The contact log will be important in reviewing your history of contacts, whereas the media appointments table will allow you to see at a glance who is to be where on what day and at what time.

Step 6.....

Make a Talent Table that has the name, phone numbers, email address, and job (coach, foilist, epeeist, saber-

Get the media involved in special promotions to help gain coverage of your event. At

the Summer Nationals, Louis Akin and Fence Austin organized a "Media Challenge." At right, above, four Austin reporters cross epees peacefully after having dueled their way to top honors. Matt Huggins, second from right, won the gold medal, while Jeff Blair (to his left) and Louis Akin (to his right) tied for silver. Dylan Rivera (far left) won the bronze.



At right, below, Austin Mayor Kirk Watson and newspaper reporter Dylan Rivera are congratulated by Fence Austin Chairman Ben Heimsath for their demonstration of good sportsmanship in their bout at the Media Challenge. The mayor defended his position to the hilt and taught the reporter something about the duel system of politics in Austin. Rivera had a hard time sticking to his point and an even harder one avoiding being stuck by the mayor's.



Photographer: Laura Nye.

saurus) of several people you can contact to cover media appointments.

Step 7.....

Begin making your media contacts early by telephone, fax, and email. Distribute a press release with all the vital information about your event and keep it to one page.

Step 8.....

As the event draws closer, send fax and email reminders a month in advance, two weeks in advance, a week in advance, a day in advance, and during the event.

Step 9.....

Keep a "Yes" attitude towards reporters and your talent. If a coach calls and asks, "How about having an epeeist fence a sabersaurus?" Say, "Yes, that's a good idea." As long as it doesn't endanger life or limb, don't object.

Step 10.....

Send personalized letters to thank each media person who worked with you. The media get lots of complaints but few compliments on their work. They appreciate positive feedback. Lavish it on.

Louis L. Akin is an Austin freelance writer/photographer and PR agent who specializes in sports and fast action photography. His daughter, Maya, takes foil lessons.

BUILDING THE COMPLETE FENCER

Beginning with this issue, American Fencing will be running an ongoing column by trainer David Statt. In future issues, David will answer questions you have about the best methods to integrate weight lifting, aerobics, diet, and other fitness elements to build your fencing abilities. You can email David with your questions at fitstatt@frontiernet.net.

By David B. Statt, M.S., C.S.C.S.

The days are gone when elite fencers could rely on practice to develop strength and power. Most fencers these days train "off the strip" in areas that will improve their ability to react, be powerful, and prevent injury. Will weight training slow the fencer down and make them bulky? Maybe so, if the fencer trained like a body builder. But definitely not if the athlete trained specifically for fencing. Just the opposite occurs—one becomes quick, powerful and lean with proper training. "Training specifically for fencing has improved my strength and power and made me a more effective fencer," says Iris Zimmermann, U.S. Women's Foil Olympic Team member.

"Looking fit on the strip" involves many aspects of conditioning. The fencer can't just lift weights. Sport-specific strength, power and quickness, balance, anaerobic and aerobic endurance, and flexibility training are all important components to building the complete fencer.

Strength training with weights provides a solid foundation. Fencers will become more powerful in their lunges, more stable in their en garde position, and quicker with their advances and retreats if they are stronger. Injuries are also prevented with stronger muscles.

The type of strength training

should be specific to fencing. Exercises that develop strength in the legs—such as lunges and squats—are important. To transmit the force generated in the lower body to the upper extremities during a bout, the abdominal and lower back muscles must be trained. To strengthen the upper body, use exercises such as dumbbell bench presses, rows, tricep extensions, and forearm exercises. Doing exercises with one arm or leg at a time is especially effective because in fencing the athlete is often using one arm or leg at a time. It also improves any muscle imbalance, which is common in fencers and if not corrected can lead to injury.

So what do we do with all that strength from the weights we lifted? We use it to be quicker in advances, retreats and evasions, and more powerful in the attack. Power is the ability to use the strength as fast as possible, which is what fencing is all about. However, one can be strong but not powerful. To improve your power and speed, you can use methods such as plyometrics, exercises with rubber cords, and Olympic lifts such as the power clean. Many of these exercises mimic the fencing motion. "This type of training has made me much faster and explosive," says Felicia Zimmermann, also on the Women's Olympic foil team with her sister, Iris.

Often the fencer is off balance when attacking or defending. Therefore, it is important to train off the strip on unstable surfaces such as balance boards or beams so that you can become strong in an unbalanced position and still produce a powerful attack or parry. Doing exercises such as shoulder presses standing on one leg on a balance beam is very challenging and involves tremendous strength and coordination.

The sport of fencing requires

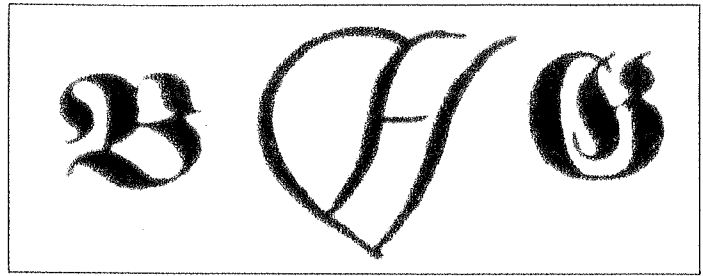
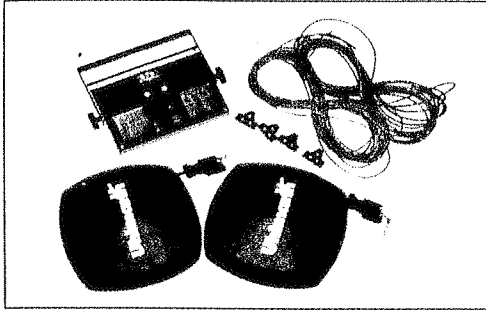
bouts that last five or 15 touches, with each touch lasting from a few seconds to as long as a minute and with a few seconds of rest in between each touch. This type of demand is mostly anaerobic in nature but over time becomes aerobic as well. Therefore, the training program should include both aspects. A typical workout for Iris and Felicia Zimmermann involves running at various speeds for different time intervals over the course of 30 to 40 minutes. This is called "interval training" and is an effective way to improve fencing stamina. Interval training is also an excellent tool for strengthening your ability to be mentally sharp throughout the bout.

Fencers should be diligent with their flexibility training. Not only should you do static stretching but some dynamic stretches as well. Climbing over hurdles one leg at a time improves your hip flexibility—often a trouble spot with fencers. Flexibility training will not only help prevent injury but will improve performance and help recovery.

A completely fit fencer will be a good fencer. The athlete must train all of the above components to be most effective. Being in specific fencing shape will not only give you the physical edge but greater mental strength as well. You will become a more confident fencer.

Dave Statt is the exercise physiologist/certified strength coach for Mid-Town Athletic Club in Rochester, NY. He has been training Iris and Felicia Zimmermann in preparation for the 2000 Olympic Games. Fitness and training questions can be sent to Fitstatt@frontiernet.net and will be answered as part of this regular column in American Fencing.

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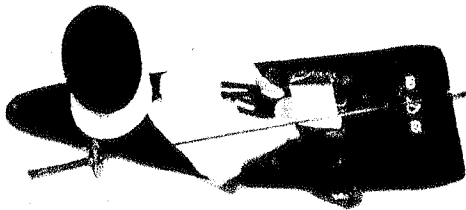
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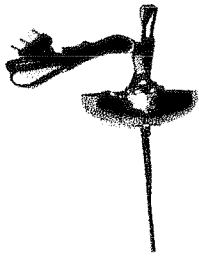
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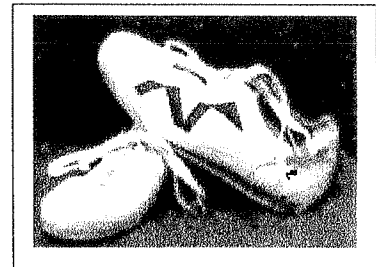


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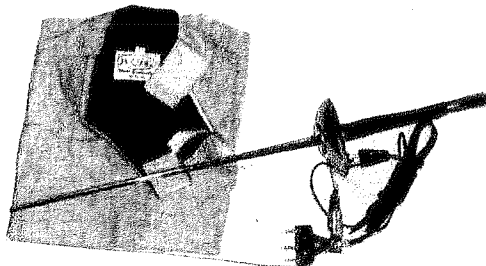


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U.S. Women's Sabre Team The Journey to Gold

by Cathy Zagunis

How does a U.S. team upset the fencing powers of the world, such as France and Italy? Simply put, with spirit and passion. That is exactly what Sada Jacobson, Mariel Zagunis, Chris Becker and Nicole Mustilli did on July 2, 2000, making history as the first U.S. fencing team to win a medal—and a *gold* one to boot—in a World Championship event. The U.S. women's sabre team was, indeed, a force to be reckoned with at the Women's Sabre World Championship in Budapest, Hungary, this summer.

Becker and Zagunis, the number-one and -two nationally ranked women's sabrists respectively, had their positions secured on the U.S. team before the end of the fencing season. The last two team positions were in contention until the final designated Sabre World Cup in Germany on June 4, 2000. Mustilli had a remarkable finish of 16th, placing her on the team. Jacobson, despite a mediocre finish in Germany, maintained her number three position on the team. All U.S. women sabre fencers participating in the World Cup meets this year had a great season, posting strong results on the World Cup circuit. This was a group of women who slowly became best friends as the season progressed. They came from across the country, each with her own style and strengths. In this unique blend, the women supported each other and served as cheering squads for each other, regardless of person-

al results. It was this closeness that became the key to developing a team with such passion that it won them the gold.

The four selected women met in Portland to begin training as a team in mid-June. A week of hard training at camp brought them even closer. The team left for Budapest a week before the competition to continue training together and to acclimate to the time change.

Individual Competition

Despite a unique closeness not seen before in previous teams, the journey to the gold was not easy. The U.S. team came away after the individual competition with results below their expectations and abilities. Jacobson, 17, of Atlanta's Nellya Fencing Club, had impressive results after the round of pools coming out as the number-two seed behind Socha of Poland.

Becker, who had been ranked in the top 16 throughout the season, fell to 20th seed and therefore didn't get a bye from the pools. As an experienced fencer, Becker, 36, of the Oregon Fencing Alliance, came away from the pools with five victories and strong indicators.

Mustilli had her bouts choreographed to a T and finished with four victories and strong indicators. Mustilli graduated last year from Notre Dame and is in the Air Force Athlete Program, which allowed her to travel and train this season while fulfilling her service duties. She currently fences at the Lilov Fencing Academy.

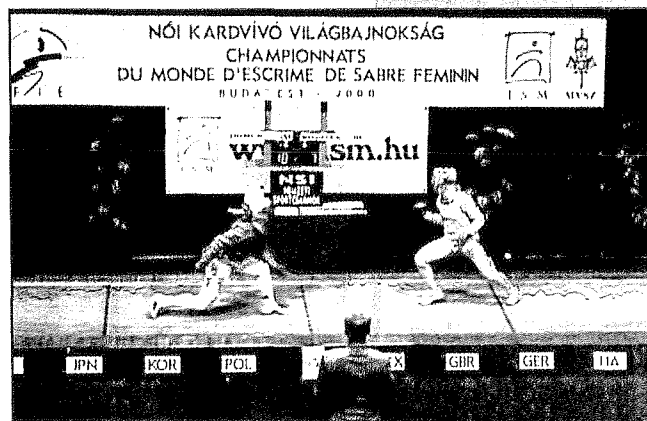
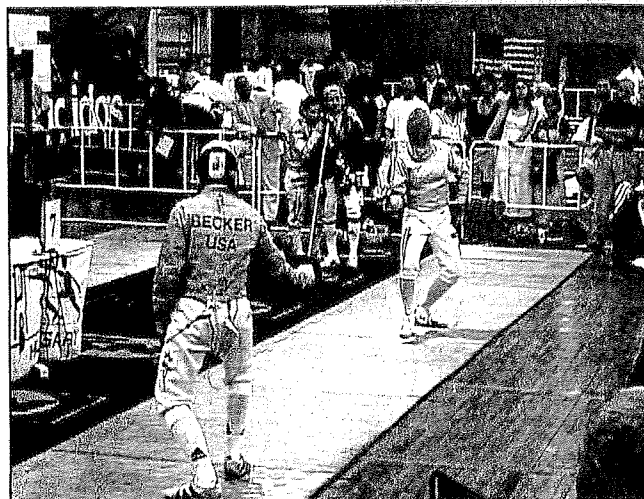
At 15 and the youngest member of the team, Zagunis faced some tough competition in her pool. Usually strong in the pools, Zagunis was able to gain only two victories. This placed her close to the bottom of the seeding list for the direct eliminations on the second day. Unfortunately, Zagunis and Jacobson met for their first direct elimination to make 32. Zagunis, from the Oregon Fencing Alliance, won decisively 15-5. She was unable to make it past her next opponent, Csaba of Hungary.

Becker sailed through her first

Opposite: World Champions, left to right, Ed Korfanty, Vladimir Lilov, Chris Becker, Emmick Kaidinov, Sada Jacobson, Mariel Zagunis, Nicole Mustilli, Arkady Burdan.

This page: top, Chris Becker; middle, Jacobson, Mustilli, Zagunis, and Becker proudly display team U.S.A.; below: on the left, Zagunis.

Photos: Cathy Zagunis.





National Weapons Coach Ed Korfanty with Mariel Zagunis (left) and Chris Becker (right). Photo: Cathy Zagunis.

Coach Ed Korfanty was instrumental, by all accounts, in the team's success. As the National Weapons Coach for Women's Sabre and personal coach of Becker and Zagunis—and bearing in mind the efforts he made to hold national team training camps this year, and the fact that he was designated by the USFA as Chief of Mission, Manager, and the only designated coach for this team on a shoestring budget, he should receive recognition where it is due.

direct elimination against Sassine of Canada, but lost her next DE, 12-15, against Argiolas of France. Mustilli had an exciting DE against an Englishwoman, Bond-Williams, squeaking by her 15-14. Mustilli then faced number-two seed Touya of France, but lost 10-15.

Final results in the individual competition were as follows: Becker—22, Mustilli—24, Zagunis—31, and Jacobson—34.

Team Competition

Based on the individual results, the United States was seeded 10th as the team competition started. Our first round was with the Hungarians. The hometown crowd's cheers and TV cameras did not phase the U.S. team. Jacobson started a little tentatively but the team picked up momentum as Zagunis overcame each of her opponents, placing the U.S. in a secure lead to finish 45-37.

With the expertise of U.S. National Women's Sabre Coach Ed Korfanty, the U.S. team walked through Azerbaijan in the next round, despite facing the reigning world champion, Jemaeva. Becker gave them a piece of action by beating Jemaeva, 5-1, in her first bout. With this great victory Becker's teammates took the psychological advantage and won 45-35.

If doubt was to ever enter anyone's mind, now was the time. The next round against the number-two seeded French team was going to be a tough match. But even with the temperatures rising to an uncomfortable level in the venue, the U.S. team kept their cool. Mustilli had incredible focus and clean touches. Zagunis kept the pace up and delivered touch after touch. Jacobson, the team's anchor, wasn't about to let the French catch her off guard and battled each of her opponents with determined tunnel vision. An unbelievable victory by three points placed the team into the gold medal round.

At this point, none of the women wanted to settle for less than gold. Even though all four of the Italians they were

to fence—Ferraro, Marzocca, Bianco and Tognolli—placed in the top eight the day before, the Americans weren't going to let themselves be discouraged. Zagunis and Jacobson remembered all too clearly their loss by two points to the Italians in the gold medal round at the Junior World Championships just a few short months earlier. They now faced two of the same Italians who made up the Italian Junior Team—Bianco and Tognolli. A two-hour break to eat and be pampered by their coaches and family members provided the U.S. women with the extra preparation to enter the evening's match.

The United States started the gold medal round in control. Jacobson began the match by winning quickly, 5-1, against Tognolli. With the lead established and maintained by a couple of points through the body of the event, the Italians began to show concern. Animation, injuries, and stalling to adjust their shoes or socks were displayed as their disbelief mounted in the face of the U.S. team's formidable fencing.

Zagunis and Mustilli continued their bouts with solid, strong tactics. The Italians slowly began to gain momentum when Marzocca made a jump in touches against Mustilli as the last round of fencing began. Zagunis started the next to last bout down by one, at 34-35. Keeping her focus under incredible pressure, she finished her bout placing the United States ahead by two, 40-38. As Jacobson began, she knew she needed to remain confident and fence strong against Bianco. When Bianco slowly gained on Jacobson, bringing the score to a tie of 42-42, one might have thought the United States was going to see the gold slip away. There was no way Jacobson was going to let that happen. She continued to fence with determination, bringing home the gold with a 45-43 victory.

Cathy Zagunis is the U.S. Team Manager of the Women's Sabre Team, and the self-confessed "chief cook and bottle washer." She is also the mother of Mariel Zagunis.

faces of fencing
**A Conversation
 with GEORGE
 KOLOMBATOVICH**



By Barbara Anderson

George Kolombatovich began fencing at the age of four in New York City, where he was coached by his father and fencing master (who is still teaching at the age of 80), Oscar Kolombatovich. A year and a half later he became a student of the great Georgio Santelli. At 23, following a car accident in which doctors told him he would never fence competitively again, Kolombatovich turned professional—focusing on a career of coaching. He attended New York University where he coached before joining Columbia in 1978 as an assistant to Lou Bankuti. He succeeded Bankuti as head coach in 1979 and was named director of fencing in 1983.

From 1978-1993, Kolombatovich, along with co-head coach Aladar Kogler, led the Lions, a struggling Columbia fencing team, to six Intercollegiate Fencing Association (IFA) Championships, two NCAA Championships, 10 Northeast Regional crowns, 11 Ivy League men's and three Ivy League women's championships. He has coached the U.S. team in six Junior Worlds and seven Junior Pan American Championships. He is vice president of the Pan American Fencing Confederation. Kolombatovich produced national champions, Olympians, and many U.S. national teams. He

also won the National Masters Championship (a competition among coaches through the United States Coaches' Association) title in 1970.

Kolombatovich, an FIE A-rated referee, is also a member of the USFA's Fencing Officials Commission (FOC). He has refereed at the Pan American and World University Games, World Championships, and Junior/Cadet World Championships and World Cups. Kolombatovich was selected as a referee for the 1984, 1992, and 1996 Olympic Games, and has been the chief assignor of referees for the USFA National Championships for many years. He created the FIE's written test for referees, and has published a complimentary instructional manual, *Handbook for Referees*, soon to be released by the USFA.

Kolombatovich and his wife, Etta, still reside in New York City, a block from the Columbia campus, in the home where they raised their four children.

In her continuing series of interviews with "the faces of fencing," *American Fencing* talks with Kolombatovich about his many achievements and challenges.

AF: What single word best describes the feeling of fencing for you?
GK: Excitement.

AF: How long did you train with Georgio Santelli and what was his most inspirational teaching you passed on to your students?
GK: I trained with him from 1951 to 1955. His most inspirational teaching was the absolute requirement for discipline—the need for perfection in your technique to enable the creativity of the tactics.

AF: What motivated you, following your accident, to continue with fencing, knowing you could never compete again at a national level?

GK: My father was teaching at a Salle on Long Island in New York called the Huntington Fencing Academy. I definitely was not ready to stop fencing, so I agreed, at the request of my father, to teach the little kids. It was the best physical therapy I could've had because it forced me to move...I was concentrating to such an extent that I was oblivious to any discomfort. Refereeing and coaching

duel today?

GK: Both U.S. presidential candidates. Seriously, despite what some people might think, I am really not physically aggressive. I don't enjoy hurting anybody. I don't want to challenge anyone to a duel.

AF: Did you attend any of the Coaches' Colleges [organized by the USFA] and do you recommend them?

Fencing is a sport made of people with strong egos.

had nothing to do with the accident. They were always a desire of mine.

AF: Who is your fencing idol and why?

GK: There were a number of them. I remember, as a child, observing the perfection of form and execution of fencers like Christian Noel and David Revenue. Later in my career, Valdimir Nazlymov's phenomenal footwork and ability to control distance completely amazed me. I would also have to include my teachers: Georgio Santelli, and my father, Oscar Kolombatovich. Also, Lajos Czisar, although not a teacher of mine, was a teacher I had great respect for.

AF: What was the key to becoming a National Masters Champion?

GK: Stubbornness more than anything else. Prior to the National Masters Championship was my accident. I needed to prove to myself that maybe the doctors were wrong. Sports medicine is an entirely new science in our country today. A lot of changes have occurred over the years. Thirty years ago, if you gave lessons to someone in the club where a person paid dues, yet you received nothing for it, you were still considered a professional. If I wanted to compete at all, I had to compete with professionals. We now have fencing masters competing in the Olympics.

AF: Who would you like to challenge to a

GK: Yes, I taught for a number of years at the very beginning of Coaches' College. I loved doing that. The old cliché, "When you stop learning you're dead," is very true. Our sport is forever changing... evolving. Certain techniques I was taught as a student years ago I would never teach today. For example, I was taught with the Italian foil. Nobody in Italy uses the Italian foil today. It is totally impractical for today's modern game. In Coaches' College you are taught what the game is today and ways to get that across to your students. The importance of fluidity in movement and cues can be a tremendous help that you get out of Coaches' College. I highly endorse them.

AF: What effect did your extensive traveling have on the raising of your family?

GK: My phone bill was extremely high. There is a lot of truth in the quote, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Much of my time spent at home was completely devoted to my family and, though it seemed limited, I believed in quality not quantity. My family has always been very supportive of my intense passion for the sport.

AF: What are some of the high and low points of serving on the FOC?

GK: One of the high points is that I consistently hear how the officiating is much better than it was years ago. I get great pleasure from the development of

referees—all over the country, not just New York City like it used to be—and how they have been supported and utilized. The low point is how subjectively the judging of referees by the FOC has to be. Fencing is a sport made of people with strong egos. Ego tends to have a negative connotation, but if you don't have a strong sense of self-awareness and self-assuredness you can't be a successful referee or fencer.

AF: What rule/s would you like to see changed or added?

GK: I'd like to see the flèche return to sabre. I'd like to see the rules regarding right of way in foil and sabre, which are written exactly the same, applied to both weapons equally—in terms of the attack being more of a threatening action as opposed to the current convention that exists today. I'd like to see the current rule on discipline reverse back to the old rule: Warnings valid for the entire pool, so you can send messages to the fencer that their behavior is not going to be tolerated. The purpose of the (warning) cards is to control the situation in order to allow fairness on the local playing field for both fencers. Most rules are aimed at the person who has done something wrong.

AF: What advice would you give to a referee starting out internationally?

GK: I would give the same advice as I would to a fencer going out for their first international competition: You have to know what your abilities are. As a referee you have to watch other referees and get a sense of what's going on. The most important thing is maintaining the confidence that got you to the level where you are now being assigned. Referees make mistakes at all levels. The difference between a good referee and a not-so-good referee is that a good referee makes fewer mistakes.

AF: Do you think that a world or Olympic fencing champion necessarily makes for a great referee?

GK: Oh, not at all. I know numerous Olympic medalists who were terrible referees. As a fencer, face-to-face with

an opponent, they knew when to move, when to take advantage. Standing in the referee's position, perpendicular to the action, they simply couldn't analyze the phrase at all. There's no direct correlation between the ability to fence well and the ability to referee well.

AF: What sports figure, other than fencing, would you trade places with if you could? Why?

GK: Right now, because of all the money involved—(chuckling)—and having had four kids finish college and graduate school, I would have to say Tiger Woods.

AF: What advice would you give to the youth fencers of today?

GK: Don't be so concerned with winning. One of the things we see happen far too often, by many parents and coaches, is the goal of trying to get their students/kids to win competitions prematurely. I see coaches and parents screaming out profanity at them for common mistakes. The saddest thing I ever heard a young kid say was, "I have to take at least third place or my parents aren't going to pay for any more competitions."

AF: What other interests do you have when not occupied with collegiate, national, and international fencing?

GK: Live theater. Last year we went to 47 shows. That's one of the great benefits of living in New York.

AF: How would you compare the international programs during your career with the international programs of today?

GK: Night and day. A lot of it is (attributed) to the very serious attitude we have now as an entire association. We have fencers who are fencing five, six, and seven days a week for hours a day. We have high-level coaching, and not all are Europeans who moved here either. We have Bucky Leach, who started a program in Upstate New York in Rochester, who has turned out junior, cadet, and senior world finalists and champions. He is a coach who has done phenomenal things. A lot of it is

his work ethic.

It was not that long ago when the USFA board of directors debated whether or not we should even allow Under-16 or -14 competitions, saying people were too young. What was pointed out to them was that if we didn't have specific age competitions we were going to have 13-year-olds competing against 20-year-olds. Our association moved in the direction of allowing younger people to have competitive experience. In the Under-12 groups in Austin, we had medalists who have been fencing three, four, and six years. This was unheard of years ago. The big change now is we have people entering the cadet, junior, and senior levels who have years of positive experience with good coaching and good parental support.

AF: What out-of-body experience were you having while refereeing the Olympic Games in Atlanta? Will you be going to Sydney?

GK: The Olympics is the epitome of sport for us. I refereed the men's epee individual gold, the men's epee team gold match, and a final bout in men's foil. If you take the intensity of the World Championships and multiply it many, many times you'll get a sense of what the Olympics meant to the athletes. You could feel it in the air. To be part of that was a tremendous honor and thrill. I will not be going to Sydney this year. I made a conscious decision that it was time to step down and make way for some of our younger, highly qualified, referees.

AF: Can you explain, once and for all, the reality behind the common belief that "anyone can referee epee"?

GK: Interesting question...I was recently speaking to a few FIE A-rated referees, in epee and other weapons as well, and the general consensus was that the one weapon most difficult to referee is epee. You can stand out there for hours, bout after bout, and do absolutely nothing and then the one time you blink is when the point hits the floor, or a fencer accidentally hits himself, etc. If you lose your concentration—even for



The saddest thing I ever heard a young kid say was, "I have to take at least third place or my parents aren't going to pay for any more competitions."

one moment—all hell breaks loose. In epee, even after a touch is scored, you have to put your full attention on the fencer who was hit to see if that fencer is trying to pull out a wire and so on. There's just no time to rest, which can make it extremely tedious.

AF: What has been your utmost favorite role in life?

GK: The role of being a father would have to be the most fun. I have four children and what pleases me most in the world is being able to say that I have four happy children.

AF: What one thing in all your contributions to the sport of fencing would you like people to most remember you for?

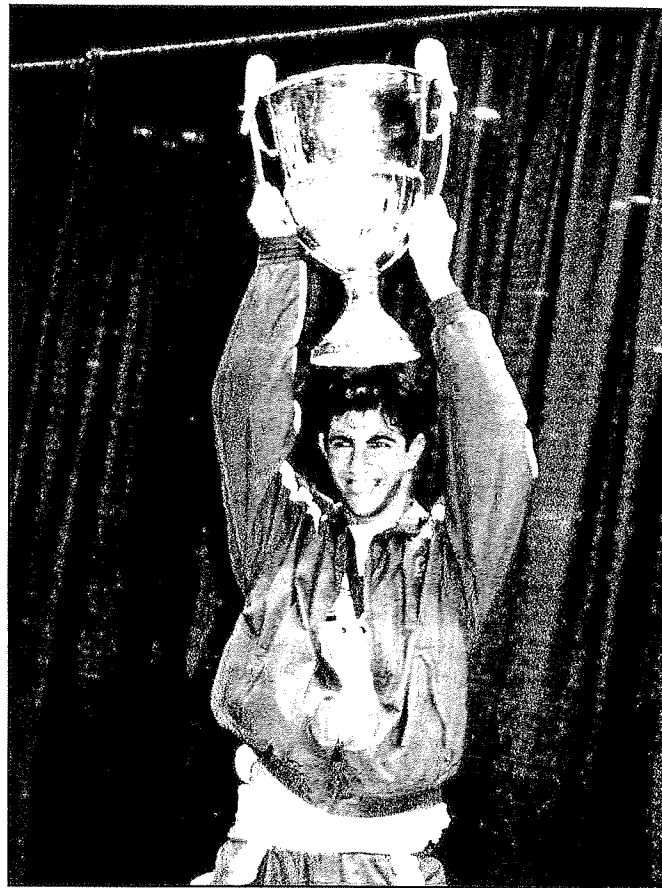
GK: That, above all else, I cared about the fencers.

Barbara Anderson, who began fencing in 1980 in Los Angeles, is a nationally rated referee. She is a fashion freelance stylist for Nordstrom and lives in Michigan, where she is also a substitute coach for the handicapped. She is currently studying journalism and American sign language at Oakland Community College.

the long, hard road to Sydney

**OLYMPIC TEAM CAPTAIN CARL BORACK SHARES
HIS HOPES FOR AMERICA'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST**

By the time most USFA members receive and read this article the results will already be known. The dreams and aspirations of these terrific athletes will have been met, exceeded, or not achieved. I wanted to have this article "on record" so to speak, before the Games. This will be the fourth Olympic Team that I've been selected to captain and had the honor to serve. I'm very proud to be associated with this fine group of athletes and I think the USFA and its membership should be proud of the fencers we have representing us in Sydney. Win or lose, these athletes and their coaches have braved a long, arduous, unglamorous road to get to Sydney and no one wants medals more than they do. The competition will take on its own life and produce the human dramas that always unfold in the Olympic arena, but their talent, efforts, sacrifices and achievements need to be acknowledged, let alone appreciated.

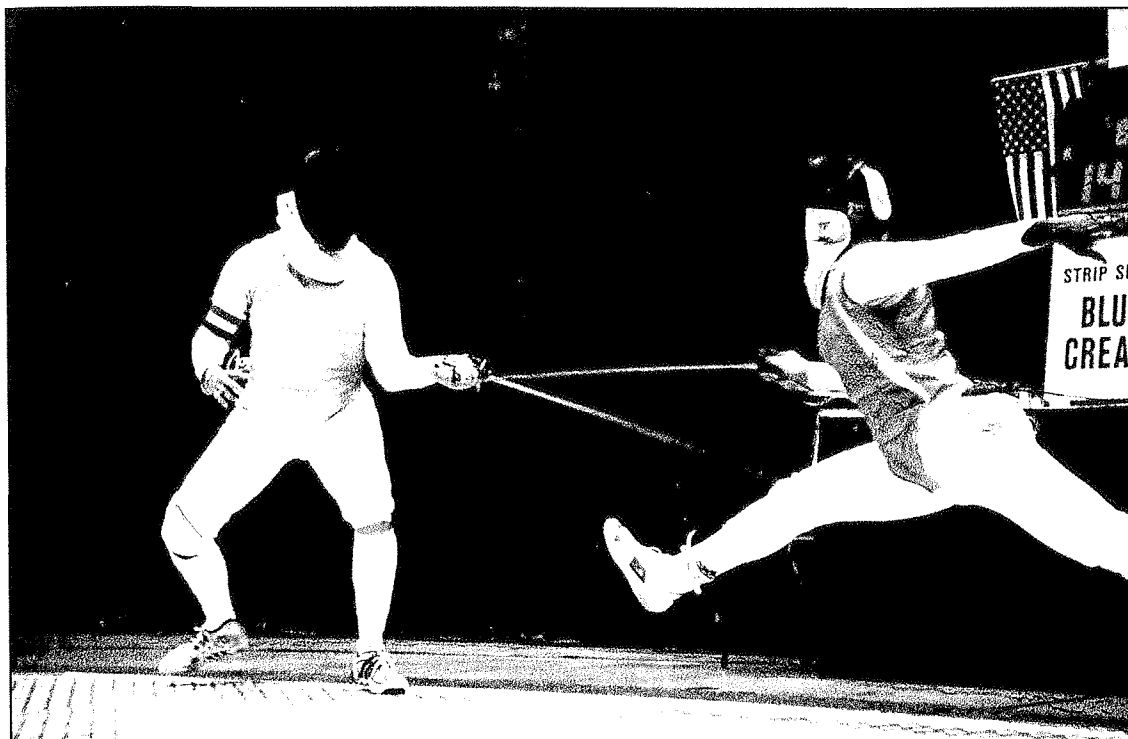


Cliff Bayer raises the trophy as Men's Foil National Champion in Austin this summer. Photo: William T. Murphy, Atlanta GA.

Looking towards Sydney I can say we have a wonderful group in different stages of their fencing careers. We have a blend of veterans and newcomers in the individual events, which, you are now probably aware, entail direct elimination from the first bout—a very difficult format in which to compete, particularly if you're not used to it.

We enter Sydney with high hopes for our women's foil team, the one U.S. fencing team that qualified to compete. Their road to an Olympic medal will be difficult and will depend on a number of factors, including their individual results, the officiating, their draws, the pressure of the Olympic environment, and hundreds of other factors that will come into play before and during the Games. If our women compete with total confidence they will surprise the fencing world. Hopefully, everything will have come together by the time you read this article.

I use a lot of superlatives to describe our Olympic athletes, but their impressive personal and academic achievements juxtaposed to their fencing achievements make them some of the most special people who will be competing in all the Olympic disciplines. Think about the complement of our women's team, for example, led by Dr. Ann Marsh, 29, a three-time Olympian (undergraduate at Columbia Univ.;



The Summer Nationals gold medal bout in Women's Division I Foil saw Felicia Zimmermann opposite her Olympic teammate Erinn Smart. Photo: William T. Murphy, Atlanta, GA.

medical school at University of Rochester, and now serving her residency in Buffalo, NY). Balancing her academics and medical career with the training needs of preparing for the Olympics, Ann is an extraordinary woman who is a wonderful role model and teammate.

Felicia Zimmermann, 25, has blossomed from the enchanting young competitor who blazed new trails for U.S. fencers in the cadet and junior world competitions into a woman competitor of stature and respect around the world. This will be her second Olympic team and she is a few units shy of graduating from Stanford University (her fencing career delayed the graduating process for a few months). Felicia has become a leader. At this year's Junior World Championships in South Bend, Ind., for

example, her vision, wisdom, and insight were helpful to sister Iris and Erinn Smart in their bouts. She has a good "eye" and a positive way of conveying information. After her competitive days are finished she will make a terrific team captain, as would Ann. I certainly hope for the sake of our sport that both stay actively involved.

Senior World Medalist and Junior World Champion Iris Zimmermann, 19, has more than followed in her sister's footsteps and her achievements have been well documented in this magazine and other periodicals. This will be her first Olympic Games and it is only fitting and proper that she gets to compete in the team event with her sister and her friend/teammate, Ann. These women have trained countless hours together, competed with and against each other,

spent days and weeks in uncomfortable hotels and on airplanes, and eaten more bad meals than they'd like to admit. But they've come together to place themselves in the position to win an Olympic medal. One must stop and think a minute about how much they've sacrificed their private and social lives to achieve this opportunity. They have as strong a chance for a medal as any team we've ever fielded, but it wasn't an easy road to get to this point and we're very fortunate to have some motivated athletes. Iris will have the additional pressure that follows the athletes who medal in the individual events in the World Championship the year prior to the Games. But Iris can handle pressure and if she maintains her poise and confidence, she will be in the thick of it. I truly believe that Ann, Felicia, and Iris

HOW THEY GOT THERE: THE QUALIFYING PATHS TO THE 2000 OLYMPICS

Exactly how does one qualify for Olympic fencing? Individual fencers qualify either through their personal world rankings, one of the four zonal qualifying tournaments in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia-Oceania, or membership with a qualified team. All team members

automatically qualify to compete as individuals. As host nation, Australia also is guaranteed five fencers besides any who otherwise would qualify.

Teams qualified solely through their performances in the 1999 World Championships at Seoul.

are all capable of winning an individual medal. Felicia's game has been on the rise, Ann is a great competitor who just needs to maintain her confidence, and of course their match-ups are always a key. Then we'll go through the process of seeing how the individual results impact the psyche of the team, something that every nation faces in these events. The fact that we have so close-knit a team helps greatly in maintaining

Olympians. She must remain ready and positive while not knowing whether she gets to compete. She's a wonderful young woman who is only beginning to achieve the greatness that we will see from her over the next Olympic cycle. Erinn is a product of the Peter Westbrook group and is joined on the team by her brother, Keeth Smart.

I can't say enough good things about Cliff Bayer. After graduating

solidly on the right path.

Tamir Bloom, men's epee, will be competing in his second Olympic Games. Bloom, 28, has taken the year off from studies at Mt. Sinai Medical College to qualify for the Games and will proceed with his fourth year in school after Sydney.

This will be Keeth Smart's and Akhi Spencer-El's (also a product of the Westbrook foundation) first Olympics. Smart, 22, and Spencer-El, 21, both of New York City, qualified by virtue of their World Cup rankings and will face an incredibly difficult journey given their seeding. Nonetheless, this experience will serve them well because our men's sabre team has a bright future and the ranks are thick with talent. I expect to see our men's sabre team coalesce over the next four years and become a force in the international sabre environment.

Épéeist Arlene Stevens, 19, will also be competing in her first games and will face a difficult path. She has enormous potential and this Olympic Games will serve her well in the future. Arlene and Keeth will resume their academic careers at St. John's University after the Games.

This is a very distinguished group representing us in Sydney. The USFA and its members should be proud of our Olympic representatives, not only as athletes but also as people. We need to appreciate and respect their efforts no matter what the results. They wear the name "Olympian" with great distinction and we should be proud they are our representatives. I am very proud to be their captain.

One final note, I'd like to thank our coaches—Buckie Leach, Yefim Litvan, Dr. Aladar Kogler, and Yuri Gelman—for their contribution and efforts and the sacrifices that they, too, have made on behalf of our team. Also much thanks to Bob Largman and Carla Mae Richards for their tireless work on behalf of our athletes.

Carl Borack, of Beverly Hills, Calif., has been an Olympic athlete and team captain during his 30 years in the sport.



Iris Zimmermann during her moment of glory in winning the Junior/Cadet World Championships at South Bend, Ind., earlier this year. Photo: Chuck Linster.

focus and motivation.

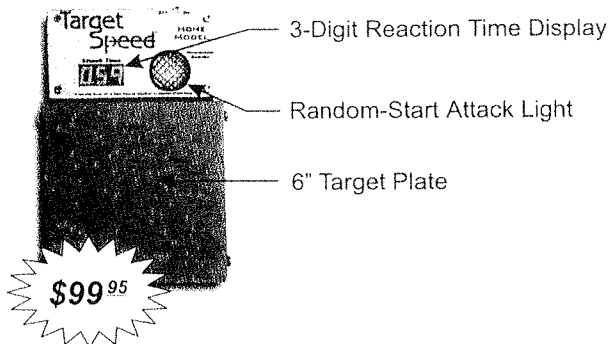
The fourth member of our women's team, Erinn Smart, 20, is the alternate and replacement athlete. This is her first Olympic team. Erinn has been side-by-side with Iris, blazing the cadet and junior ranks, achieving terrific results, and becoming a seasoned veteran member of our senior team as a teenager. Today, Erinn attends Columbia University and has balanced the rigors of her academic schedule with a junior and senior world cup campaign. This has been an arduous year for her with a number of injuries, making her Olympic path more difficult. I'm very appreciative of the role she plays as our back-up weapon. (The current inane Olympic rules prevent us from using all four women.) Erinn has the most difficult role of any of our

from the University of Pennsylvania in three years, he put Wharton Business School on hold so he could focus on the Sydney Games. Cliff, 24, has become very popular with the other athletes and his two World Cup victories stunned the fencing world. As he fences with heart and determination, the impact of Cliff's success is just starting to rub off on our young men's foil fencers in the U.S. If we can harness this energy and keep Cliff around for another Olympic cycle, our future men's foil team has the opportunity to be in the medal rounds. Cliff has achieved success along the cadet, junior, and senior path. His breakthrough in men's foil parallels the achievements on the women's side and tells our next generation of athletes that victory is achievable. No matter what has happened at the Olympics we are

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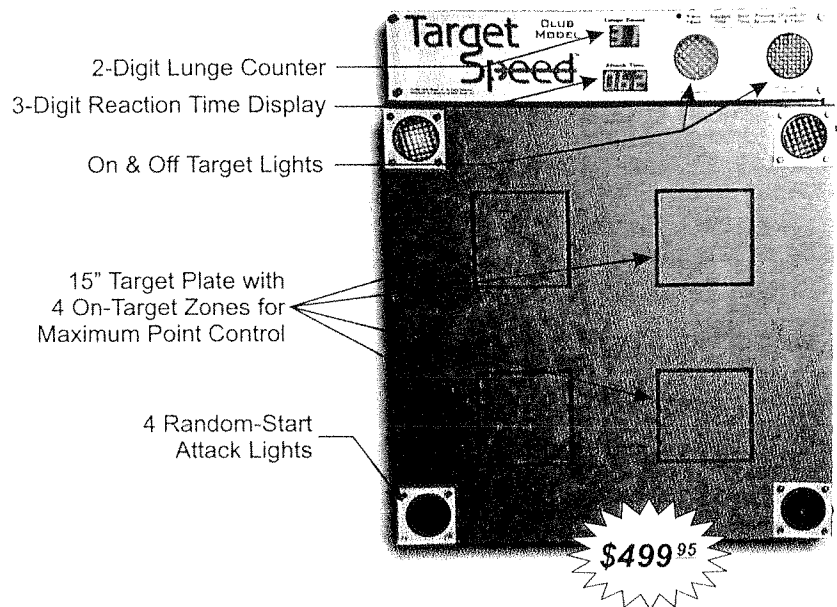
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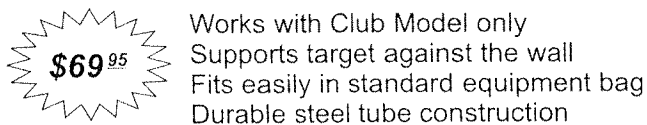
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SO, YOU WANT TO FENCE IN COLLEGE

Sherry Posthumus provides some tips on preparing for collegiate fencing.

Whether you are the top freshman recruit in the nation or a local high school interscholastic fencer, you can enjoy four years of collegiate fencing. There are two categories of collegiate fencing: club and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). If the school to which you are applying does not give varsity status to fencing, it is considered to be a club sport and does not adhere to the strict rules of the NCAA. In the majority of cases fencers are looking at collegiate programs within the NCAA.

The NCAA was founded in 1906 to govern the manner in which institutions compete with one another, both on and off the playing field or fencing strip. Together with colleges, you are responsible for following the rules and failure to do so may affect your eligibility for intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA school.

Since there are very few opportunities for a collegiate fencer to make the "pros," choose your college carefully. What will really matter in the long run is your college education. Prepare with the right kind of high school courses, maintain the highest grade point average, challenge yourself academically, and don't settle for the minimum requirements of the ACT or SAT exams. Remember, you are a student first and a fencer second, ergo the name, *student-athlete*, not athlete-student.

Start by writing a letter to each of the coaches of collegiate fencing pro-

grams to which you may be interested in applying. In the letter introduce yourself and give a brief description of your fencing career. Ask for details about the fencing program, financial aid, scholarships, and any information that might help you in making a final decision. A coach can respond to you in writing at anytime. However, there are rules regarding the times the coach may call you on the phone. In Division I and II, in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall not be made nor shall telephone calls be permitted with a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardians prior to July 1 following the completion of the junior year in high school. Once past that date a coach may only call you once a week and is required to keep a log of phone calls.

NCAA Clearinghouse. What is the NCAA Clearinghouse? If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you want to fence in Division I or II intercollegiate athletics, your initial-eligibility status must be determined by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Students normally register after completion of the junior year in high school. If you have been home-schooled during all of grades nine through twelve, you do not have to register with the Clearinghouse. In the latter case, contact the college you plan to attend for more information on how to waive the certification status.

If the coach at a specific college

invites you to visit, know the difference between official and unofficial visits. You are limited to a total of five official visits. An official visit to an NCAA institution is a visit financed in whole or in part by the institution, or in Division III by a representative of the institution's athletic administration. An unofficial visit is one made at the prospect's own expense.

On your visit ask questions, attend classes, talk to members of the team, observe a practice, watch a lesson, and most of all, be honest with the coach. It is not acceptable to tell each and every coach that his/her institution is your "number one" choice and that if you are admitted, you will most definitely attend. The coach will spend many hours helping with admissions, preparing your visit, and processing the necessary paperwork to help you have a pleasant and successful college career.

Collegiate fencing is fun and you want to enjoy your four-year experience. The opportunity to practice every day, have a strength training program personally designed for your needs, get expert medical care in your own training room, and make friends for a lifetime is worth every moment spent in the college admissions process. For a list of schools sponsoring men's and/or women's fencing programs in Division I, II or III, check out www.NCAA.org.

Keeping Records: One Way to Sell Yourself to College Coaches

Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, an accredited USFCA coach who has produced dozens of champions, shares his experience in keeping statistics. "Before each tournament, I give each fencer a mini-booklet that gives me wins/losses by pools and DE's, number of entrants, starting seed and finishing place, plus total win/loss." Calhoun keeps records for all his fencers throughout the season, including USFA results

broken down by weapon and fencer. The totals are entered for the year, giving college coaches a full view of each fencer's abilities before even talking with the potential recruit. Says Calhoun, "If the coach doesn't keep these records, then the fencer must do so. Over the years, such records have helped many of my fencers present themselves better and get into a good college." For more information, contact Calhoun at LCPadrecal@cs.com.

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Cognitive and Affective Factors Linked to Successful Performance in Elite Women Foil Fencers

Dale G. Pease, Jay Lee, Lee Branum-Martin, University of Houston

1. Project Overview

Purpose of Study:

To investigate the cognitive and affective substrates of psychological states linked to successful fencing in elite women foil fencers during competitive bouts.

Method:

To increase ecological validity, competitive bout cognition and emotions were extracted through the use of stimulated recall using video tapes of the competitive bouts. Metamotivational constructs from Reversal Theory were used to guide the qualitative analysis of individual fencer recall.

Subjects:

High ranking women foil fencers (N=6) were recommended by USFA to participate in this study.

Procedures:

At a major fencing competition, December 1999, all bouts of the selected six fencers were video taped. Within 24 hours, individually each fencer reviewed selected bout tapes with an inquirer directing the attention of the fencer to the thoughts and feelings she was experiencing at that point in the bout. These recall sessions were video taped providing data for this project. Questionnaires involving motivational perspective, coping skills, and metamotivational variables related to reversal theory were given prior to the competition and also used during the recall sessions. Standard qualitative methods were used to analyze the data.

2. Using Video for Performance Enhancement

Video has most often been used for: (1) visual learning (as in modeling); (2) analysis of technical skills; (3) analysis of strategies; and (4) identifying motivational objectives.

In this study, video was used to stimulate recall of thoughts and feelings experienced during competition. The basic idea underlying the method of stimulated recall is that a subject may be enabled to relive an original situation with vividness and accuracy if presented with a large number of cues or stimuli which occurred during the original situation (Bloom, 1953).

3. Why Use Stimulated Video Recall?

- Especially at high levels of performance, coaches and athletes report that it is the "mental game" that is most important.
- In many efforts to understand the mental factors involved in the competitive experience, pre-

and post questionnaires or interviews are used.

4. What Are We Trying to Learn from Stimulated Recall?

- We want to know what the athlete was thinking at a specific stage of the competition. Examples: Strategies/tactics, opponent, self, coach, significant others, audience, outcome of bout
- We also want to know what the athlete was feeling. Examples: Confidence, anxiety, fear, anger, fatigue.

5. How the Stimulated Recall Was Done

- We video taped bouts of each fencer.
- Rather than taping the fencer's action, we focused on her face to provide greater visual stimulation when recalling.
- Within 24 hours, each fencer viewed selected bouts.
- While viewing the tape, the fencer was instructed to focus on her thoughts and feelings.
- The fencer used the television remote control so she could stop the tape if she wanted to reflect on a specific happening.
- A second person served as a facilitator.

6. Role of the Facilitator (Inquirer)

The Inquirer:

- Asked brief, exploratory, open-ended questions focused on the fencer's thoughts and feelings.
- Did not tell, interpret, counsel or teach — nonjudgemental.
- Questions focused on "what" and not on "why." Examples: "What were you thinking?" "What do you think your opponent was thinking?" "What would you do differently?" "What kind of feeling did that give you?"
- Participants were not rushed or hurried during the process.
- Fencers were asked to stop the tape on each touch and also to stop the tape often to explore their inner selves.

7. General Findings

One of the major issues studied in high level sports is the relation between arousal and performance. Without mental and physical activation an athlete could not perform well. Athletes know they need arousal in order to perform. They also have found that at times too much arousal may interfere with optimal performance.

We found some interesting and hopefully useful ideas regarding arousal and performance. When sport performance is studied "arousal" refers to a multifaceted notion of psychophysiological activation. Athletes may have both negative and positive responses to arousal. The differences have more to do with how the athlete interprets the arousal than with a particular level or type of arousal.

Rather than having a particular level of optimal arousal for a specific situation, the fencers experienced varying degrees of arousal as "good" or "bad" depending on their mental states.

Fencers alternated or "reversed" between mental states that can be thought of as an achievement or goal-oriented state and a here-and-now state.

While in the here-and-now state, fencers enjoyed their fencing for the excitement the activity provides. In this state fencers are hardly aware of arousal level.

In the goal-oriented state, goals and achievement were most important to the fencer. Fencers were more aware of arousal. Arousal was experienced as unpleasant, but the fencers either tolerated the arousal or attempted to increase it if they perceived that increased activation would provide an advantage.

If goals are being met (e.g., being ahead on points), the fencers will often adopt a different, more passive, fencing style in an attempt to decrease arousal. Arousal was sought or tolerated before, but it becomes easier to avoid the negative feelings of high arousal when the goals of the achievement state are being met.

Thinking about long term goals while in the middle of a bout is very distracting from performance.

8. Motivational State Profile of Elite Women Foil Fencers

According to reversal theory, individuals are in a combination of 5 paired states at any given moment. From the video recall sessions, certain state combinations were identified as being associated with successful and unsuccessful performance. For each of these identified states, there are particular characteristics and strategies which are detailed in the following table.

Observed State Profile in Successful Moments	Opposite States in Less Successful Moments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ strategies to keep or obtain this state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ danger signs: examples of being in these states
SELF focused on self, unconcerned with others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ focused on performance ✓ put others in the background (you are fencing) 	OTHER concerned with others' success or feelings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ worry for opponent ✗ concern for audience/coach's opinion
MASTERY focused on winning, achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ focused on own performance ✓ performance more important than points 	SYMPATHY concerned with own feelings or the feelings of others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ feeling sorry for opponent ✗ feeling disrespected, resentful ✗ wanting recognition
CONFORMING fitting in, following rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ let annoyances go ✓ focus on finishing bout 	CHALLENGING rebellious, angry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ blaming self, opponent, or director
SERIOUS serious, planning, goal-oriented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ stay serious about goal of finishing 	PLAYFUL spontaneous fun loving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ becoming engrossed in an exchange at the expense of strategy

Notes:

The above profile is NOT a recipe. One may fence successfully in any state combination, provided the mental strategies are appropriate to the state and to successful performance. However, successful fencers most often exhibit the combination of states show in the left column. A more successful fencer exhibits the capacity to adapt quickly to changing situations and changing states.

9. Recommendations

- Clearly define long and short-term goals. (Learn how to use goal-setting strategies.)
- Develop arousal modification skills (both for increasing & decreasing arousal)
- Maintain appropriate levels of arousal throughout each bout.
- Develop pre-competition routines.
- Learn to recognize changes in mental states during bouts.
- Develop centering and refocusing skills.

This project was funded by the United States Olympic Committee, Sport Science and Technology Division, Grant 0699-SST99-FEN-201 and supported by the United States Fencing Association.

FENCING AWARDS

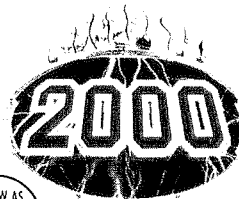
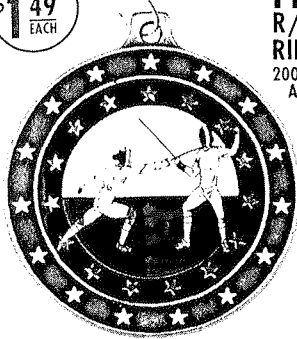
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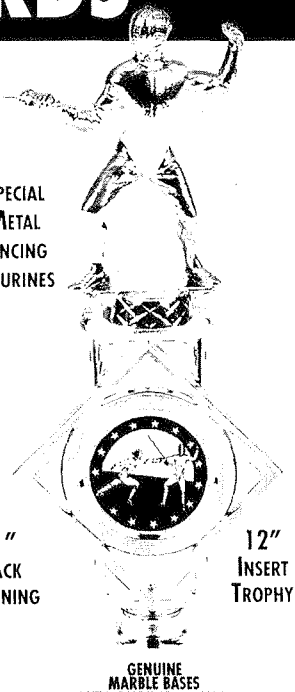
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A Letter from Donald Alperstein

The USFA's departing president reflects on the past four years

While contemplating this, my last column as president, I considered a number of topics.

There are so many people to thank, countless experiences to relive, milestones and accomplishments to recount and a bright future to contemplate. But fear of leaving someone out, appearing self indulgent or growing maudlin dissuaded me. I thought of touting our hopes for the Olympic Games and the ramifications of our performance there. But by the time this issue reaches its readers, the Olympics will be old news and my observations will seem either painfully obvious or embarrassingly off target.

As these thoughts were fermenting, I had dinner with two coach friends. We spoke of the USFA's goals and functions, and the influences of its various groups and factions. Over the last four years, I've certainly come to appreciate our diversity, the impossibility of satisfying all constituencies, and the importance of ignoring none. After all, those groups define who we are.

We are fencers, first and foremost. We take up arms, or care deeply about those who do.

We are novices of all ages, attracted by the athleticism, complexity, romance or beauty of swordplay. We are long time battlers, suffering no illusions of Olympic glory, still we constantly seek to better our technique and savvy in small but satisfying increments, entranced by the nuances of the game and engaged by its camaraderie.

We are driven competitors, goal oriented and talented, who aspire to supremacy in our division, age group or the world.

We are coaches, many living meagerly, not for lack of other talents or opportunities, but because fencing is our life, fencers are our families, and there is nothing we'd rather do.

We are the Association's employees, who labor long hours under intense pressure with little financial reward, but whose dedication, loyalty and professionalism are matched by none.

We are division officers and meet managers, who sacrifice personal and family time to find floors, scrounge equipment, do the books and spread the word, so that others may play.

We serve on committees and boards and volunteer for

all manner of work, doing the business of fencing without recognition or reward, save the satisfaction of a job well done.

We are referees, overworked, underpaid, unappreciated and too often abused, who sacrifice innumerable days to stand countless hours on concrete floors, doing our best to assure fair competition within the rules. We are clubs and the people who sustain them, enticing new fencers to the sport with the fervor of true believers.

We are spouses, parents and siblings, who spend precious vacations in stuffy gymnasiums, our hard-earned resources supporting those we love, because they love to fence.

We are technicians who scrape and scrap in basements and garages, dark corners and cavernous convention centers during lonely hours, coaxing a bit more time from equipment that long since deserved the spare parts bin.

We are purveyors of fencing equipment and novelties who endure marginal profits because we, too, are fencers, and there is nothing else we'd rather sell.

We are as well the vocal dissidents—sometimes truly caring; sometimes motivated by less lofty values—whose protestations engender caution and careful consideration of important decisions that affect us all.

We are champions of divisions and sections, world cups and the world.

We are the young: bubbling with enthusiasm, boundless energy and untarnished optimism, we are fencing's future.

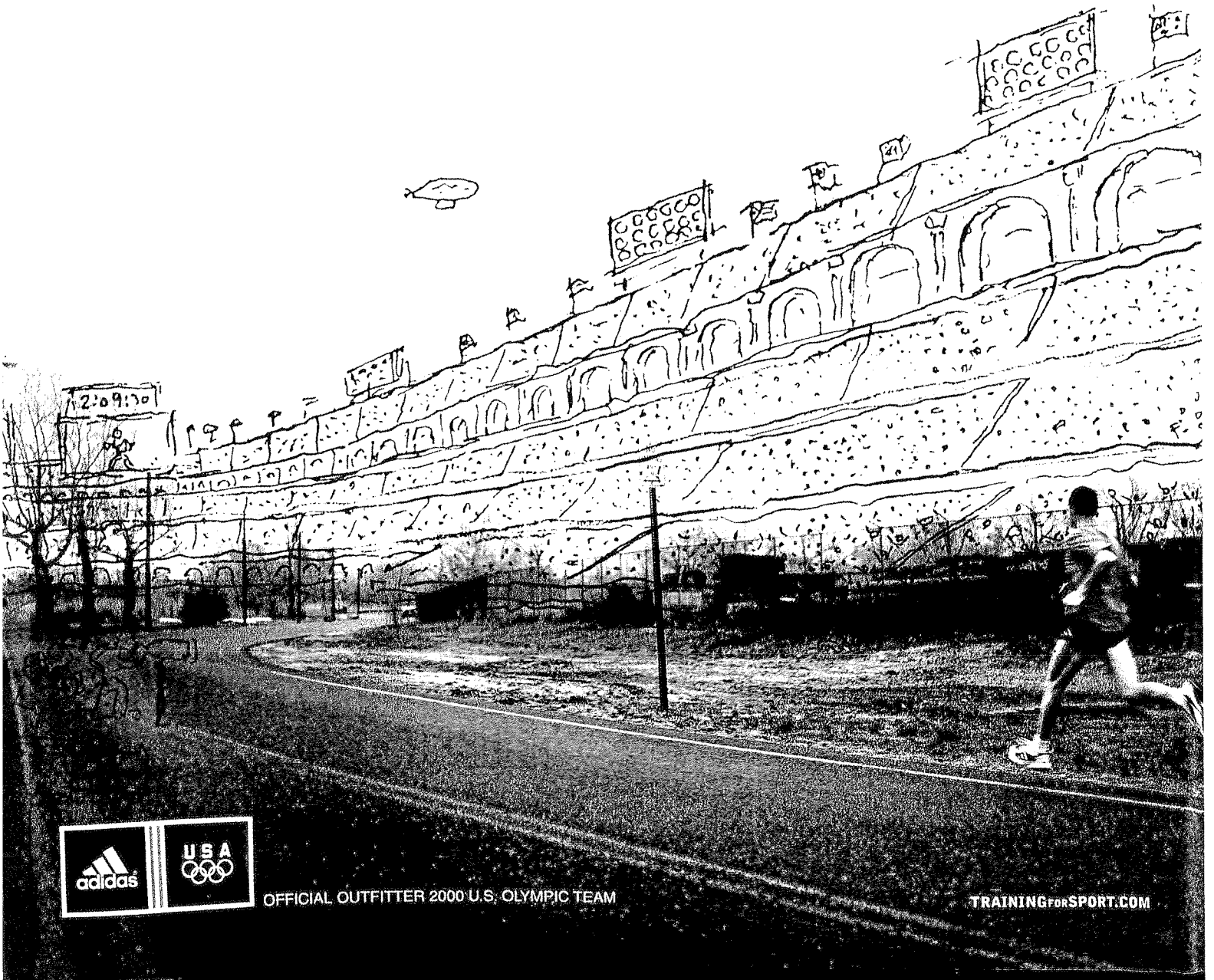
We are the legions—ever growing—for whom the Internet is our neighborhood and far-flung fencers our neighbors and friends.

All of these and more, we are in the end a community. We comprise a collection of individuals and groups whose shared love of the sport binds us together more strongly than our differences tear us apart. True, there dwell among us a few who, motivated by pure selfishness or nihilism, would tear our society asunder. But together we surmount their destructiveness and advance our commonweal.

We have forged, to borrow from Rousseau and Hobbes, a "social compact," a bargain of convenience and compromise where the vast majority curbs narrow self interest in the realization that without each other we have nothing. Like combatants who take the strip and strive mightily for cherished victory, we tacitly agree to honor conventions and rules, so that our efforts do not degenerate into chaos and mayhem. Regardless of how we may differ, that complicity keeps us united, healthy and progressive.

Over these four years past it has been my great pleasure to become better acquainted with the many components of our community, appreciating their contributions and their variety. The members of my administration have served all elements of this association as best we know how. On behalf of us all, I thank America's fencers for the experience of knowing you, and for the opportunity to serve you.

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