

American Fencing

WHEN IS FENCING NOT FENCING?

by Allan Kwartler with Leonard Turk

Perhaps to answer reasonably one would have to first go back a bit to question, what is fencing? Well what is fencina? It it's training and drilling and disciplining the body and the reflexes, we'll all agree. If it's uniforms and weapons, and entry fees, O.K. again. If it's lessons and lunging and footwork and fingers, there are few who would squabble about including that in a definition too. But what actually is fencing? What is it to us? What does it mean to us? If you peel away the superfluity made up of all the things you **do** in fencing what remains fundamentally is that fencing is your **enjoyment**. Enjoyment is the reason for your **doing** all the things connected with the sport and it is also the answer to our question—what is fencing?

All right then, if fencing is your enjoyment, your relaxation, your avocation—call it what you will—when is fencing not fencing? Certainly if fencing is your pleasure and your avocation you aren't going to be very pleased very often where you have to worry. And it's a sure thing that you're going to worry yourself sick on a competition strip ruled by incompetent judges.

Now the odd thing about all this is that these judges who at times may be guilty of being inefficient, unreasonable, too strict, too lax or just plain "blind" are people in fencing, fencers themselves perhaps, or—let's face it—probably you!

You might counter with a little argument such as this: "Well, competitions put a person under pressure anyway. He or she worries about getting touches, about losing touches, about moving up to the next round. So what's the big fuss about just another worry like lousy judging?"

Bad officiating is not just another worry. It's a constantly harrassing factor. Whereas fencers improve their technique, their skill, their understanding of the game through practice, lessons and study, judging remains statically poor. Judging more doesn't necessarily seem to mean judging better. It would be nice and comforting to settle into that belief. But unhappily the facts point out that lots of folks who have been judging for a good many years are as unwelcome to fencers on strips now as they were years ago. Whereas both winning and losing fencers on a strip can be expected to do better as time goes on, with judging it's different.

In fencing we learn how to control many technical situations. We study the parry, the riposte, the lunge, the disengage, coupe, etc. We study, we practice, we learn. How then, in a sport which applies such highly specialized degrees of the intellectual and coordinative processes, can we improve judging? The answer is simple, in fact so simple, that if we have any feeling for our sport at all we must give it a try. The answer is studying, practicing and learning how to judge—just as we study, practice and learn how to fence.

A really workable solution appears to lie in school or salle sessions that stress an understanding of the fundamentals and the rules of the game. That is really the trouble at the bottom of all complaints. Once understand the game and half the problem is licked. Once a person learns to recognize such fundamentals as valid parries, valid touches, bent arm attacks, broken tempo, and the like, better judging must result.

The sessions being conducted in the Metropolitan area under the direction of Allan Kwartler are concerned with just such problems. Theoretically through interesting talks, and practically by means of actual bouts, those in attendance at the sessions will approach such problems as: what constitutes the right of way; what are the duties of the director; of the jury; etc.

The overall aim will be to make fencers as confident and at ease judging as they are fencing—for believe it or not it's tougher right now to judge than it is to fence. Directors and judges will earn classifications and will be awarded pins. Panels of qualified F.I.E. Directors will examine candidates through written and practical tests. Sessions of the judging school will be held at 7 P.M. on the following dates:

Nov. 24—Salle Lucia (743 8th Ave. bet. 46-47th Street).

Dec. 11—Saltus Club.

Dec. 18—Fencers Club.

Jan. 6—Fencers Club (foil).

Jan. 20—Salle Santelli (sabre).

Feb. 5—Saltus Club (foil).

Feb. 19—Salle Lucia (sabre).

March 5—Fencers Club (epee).

March 20—Salle Santelli (foil).

April 2—Saltus Club (sabre).

April 16—Salle Lucia (foil).

April 30—Fencers Club (sabre).

May 15—Salle Santelli (foil).

May 28—Saltus Club (sabre).

On June 4th there will be a written theory test, and on June 9th a practical test at places to be announced.

Each session will run for an hour and a half. Speakers such as Jose and Miguel de Capriles, Warren Dow, George Worth, Tybor Nyilas, etc., all men of outstanding national and international experience will speak to the groups on the different fencing problems. We look forward to seeing a good representative turnout of fencing folks from all Metropolitan clubs at these judging sessions.

If what has been said strikes no chord with some readers, the simple questions below will certainly give them a good idea of whether or not they need judging instruction. The questions are all basic and if your total correct answers are less than 9, brother you need judging school! (Correct answers are on page 3.)

1. Knowing the meaning of "validity of a touch" is the same as knowing the materiality of a touch. True or false?
2. "A" attacks "B" with a straight lunge and is short. Simultaneously "B" stop-thrusts and is short. "A" redoubles and "B" remains motionless. Both hit simultaneously. Who is right?
3. What is the difference between a reprise and a redoublement?
4. "B" attacks "A's" six line. "A" attempts to parry in opposition as he ripostes, and both are hit simultaneously as the blades glide along in sixth. Who had right of way, "A" or "B"?
5. Fencer "A" attacks and is parried in quart. "B" holds parry a considerable lapse of time. He then hits with a simple riposte and is also hit at the same time. Who gets touch?
6. There must be at least three members of the Bout Committee present at any competition to decide on an official protest registered by a contestant. True or false?
7. In epee, "A" attacks and clearly hits "B". Apparatus does not register touch. Director may award touch to "A". True or false?
8. In epee, "B" attacks and hits "A". Apparatus registers a hit. "A" finds that his cord is unattached from reel cord. Does "B" get touch?
9. An attacker in sabre makes an attempted point thrust, misses with point and grazes valid target with cutting edge. Is he awarded touch?
10. The attack starts when the lunge starts. True or false?

WORLD COVERAGE

Our readers may be interested to know that our last issues went to all parts of the World. We have readers in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holland, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monte-Carlo, Norway, New Zealand, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Sarre, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia. In all, 49 foreign countries.

We are still in desperate need of advertising, however, and urge all of you to do what you can to obtain small ads from local sources.

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CRUEL and UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT?

The following entry is found in a recent Criminal Court Docket:

"Cause No. 45326—Doe, John. Rape. Defendant withdraws former plea of Not Guilty and entered plea of Guilty to Sec. 23124. Defendant, having been detained in County Jail since Sept. 20, 1951, is stented to be confined in County Jail for period of 30 days and pay fine of \$200. and costs. **Weapon ordered confiscated.**"

AMERICAN FENCING

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The opinions expressed in signed articles reflect the personal views of the writers and not necessarily of American Fencing or the A.F.L.A.
No anonymous articles accepted.

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Changes of address should reach us promptly. Give us both the new and old address.

DEAD-LINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 9, 1953

Membership in the A.F.L.A. dropped off last season. This is entirely inconsistent with the tremendously increased interest in fencing and indicates we are missing a golden opportunity to expand the sport on a sound, permanent basis.

The situation requires a little more effort from each and every one of us. Certainly every fencer you now know should be a League member—urge them to join the A.F.L.A. When your local activities create interest, get the newcomers to enroll in the A.F.L.A. so that American Fencing can help you to retain their active participation in your events.

The high-school and especially the college fencers have always been an important group in the League and they stand to profit greatly from the experience gained in A.F.L.A. competitions. A canvass of your local institutions may be very advantageous to them and your Division.

The over-all superiority which used to be manifest among N. Y. colleges in intercollegiate championships was directly traceable to the fact that these colleges urged their entire squads to join the A.F.L.A. and thus enabled their fencers to get additional experience in League competitions. In recent years we note that the N. Y. colleges no longer dominate the national collegiate scene, and if we look at the A.F.L.A. membership rolls we find the answer. More and more college fencers are joining the Divisions throughout the country and bringing up their level of competitive knowledge; whereas in N. Y. we note a marked drop in such activity. The N. Y. colleges are

not sending all their fencers into A.F.L.A. competitions and are therefore reducing their chances of developing a strong nine-man team. N.Y.U. is a notable exception, and that school's consistent record emphasizes the point.

The high-school and college fencer is the future of the A.F.L.A. and of fencing in this country. Don't let him get away, and as he grows older he'll thank you. When you canvass the colleges you'll also find several of the faculty who would like to fence and join the A.F.L.A.

You'll be surprised to learn that many members of the A.F.L.A. are not and never were competitors. Here again is a large source to be tapped. Many people like to belong to a national sports body and to receive published material about the sport. Fencing is "different" enough to have an appeal such as is evident in polo and yachting. If you can arouse and maintain the interest of non-competitive members you will often find them very helpful in local affairs. A little effort now can produce big returns. Let's put on a concerted membership drive. How about it?

—J. R. de C.

NEW ACTIVITY

We are pleased to note that Eddie Lucia has now established his own club—"The Salle Lucia"—at 754 Eighth Ave. in Michael's Studio. His group has sessions every night.

The inactive Mercado Club has come to life again, due largely to the efforts of Bernie and Henry Stein, and has already won a team competition this season.

Official A.F.L.A. Notes

by Ralph Goldstein, Secretary

REINSTATEMENTS

At its meeting of October 29, 1952, the Board of Governors approved two applications for reinstatement to amateur standing.

Gaston Hamory, Hungarian expatriate, had given lessons to U. S. Personnel in Germany during the trying days after the War as his only means of an honest livelihood. He now resides in the United States and has applied for citizenship. An earlier application had been tabled in the belief that the matter should be decided by the German Fencing Federation. Further study developed that the G.F.F. was not in existence at the time Mr. Hamory gave the lessons, and the A.F.L.A. has therefore taken jurisdiction inasmuch as the acts of professionalism took place in U. S. occupied territory. Reinstatement is effective as of September 1, 1952.

Harry Lucia returned from his naval assignment during the War and was unable to obtain work in his profession. He met his family obligations by assisting his brother Edward give fencing lessons for the interim period, and discontinued this activity as soon as he was able to follow his chosen career. The Board approved reinstatement as of November 1, 1952, without precedent.

THE NEW EPEE POINT

It is expected that the F.I.E. will adopt a new, safer electrical epee point at its annual meeting this Spring. The F.I.E. point will very probably be a convex surface cross-grooved in such manner that it presents a large number of small elevated surfaces but no sharp prongs. In this country Mr. Charles Willous and Mr. James Castello have designed a similar point with the exception that it is flat instead of convex, and this point has been approved by the N.C.A.A. for its official championships. Both points are as efficient as the present sharp prongs but materially reduce the danger of scratches and more serious injuries.

The Board of Governors recommends that A.F.L.A. members use the new point, either flat or convex, for the 1952-53 season and warns that upon adoption by the F.I.E. use of the new point will be obligatory.

NOTICE

The Board of Governors has ruled that all members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing, whose call to duty in the armed services takes them outside the continental limits of the United States will have their membership continued in good standing until their return without payment of dues. If you acquire an APO address therefore, and are in the armed forces, please notify the Recording Secretary so that you may receive your copies of American Fencing regularly.

SOUTHERN FLORIDA DIVISION

A Charter has been granted the Southern Florida Division. This new AFLA group will have jurisdiction over Dade County, Fort Lauderdale and the city of Hollywood, Florida. Major Corredor-Hurtado forwarded the petition to the Board of Governors and he advises us that the group includes students at the University of Miami and the "Sword and Glove" club. Al Murray is student coach at Miami.

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Effective February 1, 1953, there will be a new Recording Secretary of the A.F.L.A. The League wishes to express its sincere thanks to Mr. Chester Tuthill and his charming wife Henrietta for all the work they have done during these past years.

The new Recording Secretary will be Mrs. Beatrice Matzkin, 47-34 217th Street, Bayside, L. I., N. Y. All correspondence formerly addressed to Mr. Tuthill should be sent to Mrs. Matzkin.

ANSWERS

1. False. Validity is governed by right of way and time element; Materiality by the limits of the valid target. (Rule 801)
2. "B" is awarded the touch. The proper analysis is that "A" is wrong in that he provoked the simultaneous touch while being threatened by "B's" point, and "A" is therefore penalized. (Rules 825 and 834a)
3. It is largely one of definition. A reprise is a new attack executed after the end of a sequence of play (phrase d'armes) and is invariably preceded by a return to the on guard position, even though momentary. A redoublement is the renewal of an action, either because the opponent has opened the distance, or has parried and not riposted. (Rules 932 933)
4. "B" retained right of way because "A's" opposition (as distinguished from beat parry) failed to clear the line. (Rules 920, 922, 929)
5. "B" is awarded the touch. As long as "B" holds the parry and "A" takes no initiative or returns to on guard, "B" retains his right to riposte. When a parry is held, it is important for the director to determine whether the attacker breaks contact in a redoublement or the defender releases for the riposte.
6. False. No minimum number required.
7. False. Only touches registered by the machine may be awarded, except in the case of penalties. (Rules 704 and 718-722)
8. No. "A" is responsible for his body cord contact at the hilt of the weapon, but not at the reel. (Rule 713b)
9. No. It is the same as a graze in foil unless the attacker makes a separate cut as he is passing the target. Such a cut is not uncommon as the blade is brought back after the graze. (Rule 812)
10. False. The extension of the point in line originates the attack. (Rule 909)

An ad in American Fencing reaches fencers throughout the country. Write us for rates.

NATIONAL RANKINGS**Women**

1. Maxine Mitchell So. Calif.
2. Janice Lee York So. Calif.
3. Polly Craus So. Calif.
4. Dianne Millstein Metropolitan
5. Madeline Dalton Metropolitan
6. Dolly Funke Metropolitan
7. Grace Acel Westchester
8. Bernadine Meislahn So. Calif.
9. Eve Cohen Metropolitan
10. Paula Sweeney Michigan

Foil

1. Daniel Bukantz Metropolitan
2. Nathaniel Lubell Metropolitan
3. Albert Axelrod Metropolitan
4. Harold Goldsmith Metropolitan
5. Byron Krieger Michigan
6. Silvio Giolito Metropolitan
7. Jose de Capriles Westchester
8. Leo Kellerman Metropolitan
9. Jack Altabeff Philadelphia
10. (Neil Lazar Metropolitan
(Charles Steinhardt U.S.A.F.

Epee

1. Abelardo Menendez Cuba
2. Alfred Skrobisch Metropolitan
3. Edward Vebell Metropolitan
4. Paul Makler Philadelphia
5. Paul Moss Metropolitan
6. James Strauch Metropolitan
7. Norman Lewis Metropolitan
8. Howard Fried Northern Ohio
9. Ralph Goldstein Westchester
10. (Frank Buvaso Metropolitan
(Jose de Capriles Westchester
(Marvin Metzger Metropolitan

Sabre

1. Tibor Nyilas Metropolitan
2. George Worth Metropolitan
3. Umberto Di Martino Wash., D.C.
4. Jose de Capriles Westchester
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Olympic Aftermath . . .

AFTER COPENHAGEN AND HELSINKI by Aldo Nadi

Maestro Aldo Nadi needs no introduction. He is unquestionably one of the world's all-time greatest fencers and in Jan York he sees the opportunity to develop an international champion. This article could have been titled "The Case for Jan York," but it presents a challenge. There is no doubt that our best fencers will never be quite good enough until we can have them compete regularly in the World Championships.—Ed.

I was not there, and I don't know all the men of our team. But I know the girls and I do know how to read a score-sheet.

Let us start with Copenhagen. The girls' team showing in the Women's World Championship was honorable as a whole, although the evidence tells us that it might have been much better. On the face of it, it seems quite impossible that in two consecutive and crucial bouts two U. S. girls could be defeated 4-0 when only three touches given in those two bouts would have meant victory against Denmark—and perhaps more victories to come, instead of defeats only. Yet the impossible did happen, with, as I say, deadly consequences. But the fact that all the U. S. Team defeats were sustained by 9-7 scores proves that anything can be expected from a similar or, if possible, improved team next time.

Now about Helsinki. After a word of praise to what seem to have been our best men, that is, Axelrod, Jose de Capriles and Worth; and regretting with everyone else the unfortunate accident which prevented the man whom I have considered the best fencer in the United States since '43 or '44, Nyilas, from finishing the Games, I had better limit my few comments to the girls. However, since Polly Craus was eliminated in the semi-finals I shall concentrate on the other two girls who were the only members of the entire U. S. Team to reach the finals in the Games' individual contests. These were of course Jan York and Maxine Mitchell, and first of all I must extend to them here my personal congratulations.

Mitchell barely squeezed through her first preliminary strip. But in the second round and semi-finals she proved her right to be admitted to the finals. York was never in any danger of not getting there.

In her first bout in the finals York was beaten by Mitchell, and this very defeat by one touch (4-3), was enough to make York lose the only Olympic medal the entire U. S. Team might have taken out of the XVth Olympics. Worse still, of what metal that medal might have been no one can say.

That York and Mitchell are the two best U. S. girl fencers seems to be obvious (and that York is the better of the two is also obvious—at least to anyone who knows anything about Fencing). Yet, a brief examination of their records throughout the last U. S. season will show that although by far the best

in total points York had won only two out of the seven contests she had participated in on the Pacific Coast, dropping even the sectional championship. As to Mitchell, her record in those same contests was even worse than York's, though she succeeded in winning the sectional championship and, later, the National Championship. (York had won the Nationals in '50 and '51, and the Pacific Coast in '51, but this year she was second in both events.)

Such lack of stability clearly proves, if we didn't know it already, that neither girl is a complete fencer yet—indeed, how astronomically far from it! For what makes a fencer good or bad is his or her cumulative final victories, not sporadic results. This is so obvious that it does not need to be proved by the fact that while Mitchell thrashed the then current Olympic Champion Elek in the Helsinki finals, in the more important, for her, subsequent four-way tie for third place she sustained three shocking defeats in which she received 12 touches dispensing only 2 (and here York defeated her 4-1).

All this, however, is out of the past, and I am interested only in the future. The point is: what are we to do to improve our fencers' performance in the next Olympics? Most assuredly now is the time to think about it—not Christmas '55.

* * *

After his return from Helsinki the Team-Captain suggested to me that Jan York should participate in the annual World Championships as preparation for the next Games. It seems difficult to deny that this suggestion is the most important and useful ever made by any AFLA official. I answered him something to that effect. But I added that I would be interested to know what he intended to do about it, and if he did intend to do anything to please do it NOW. But Mike de Capriles is a very busy man; and I have no idea if, what and when he does intend to do something for at this writing my query has remained unanswered.

In addition, Giorgio Santelli reported to me immediately after the Games that "Jan York let the Olympic Championship slip through her fingers," because, according to him, although well and easily ahead of Lachmann she was finally defeated by the latter. The reason? Absolute lack of the most elementary fencing intelligence—something which of course I do not for a moment doubt. Giorgio also said that "the European girls are not a shade better than our top-flight women fencers." And this last statement seems to be perfectly proved by: (a) that the Italian Winner, Camber, was defeated by both York and Mitchell; (b) that Elek took a terrible beating by Mitchell; and (c) that Lachmann was, at least in the finals, far too nervous and erratic to be classified as unbeatable. If this were not enough, I shall add that in the finals Camber and Elek had, in

seven bouts, two defeats each—too many for either to be considered outstanding.

On top of all this, let us not forget that both Elek and Lachmann, because of their ages, can hardly improve as the years go by.

Surely, in these conditions and circumstances we all subscribe to the Chairman's idea of having Jan York participate in the annual World Championships. But, again, is anyone going to do anything about it?

It's all a matter of six or at most seven hundred miserable dollars. Is it really impossible for a nation like ours to invest annually such an amount of money which, for the first time in U. S. Fencing history, could eventually bring an Olympic Gold Medal into our sport?

I understand there are about 1,600 AFLA members. If, without the slightest coercion of course, each of them would contribute **fifty cents**—and more would not be forbidden—the moneys thus collected would be more than enough to cover Jan York's expenses for her first participation in the World Championship which next year will take place in Brussels. The surplus, if any, could be kept for the following year, provided of course the girl proves that the sponsors' hopes were justified. But if, for reasons that I shall never comprehend, this rather simple scheme is not going to be approved by the AFLA President, what has he to suggest? And cannot the U. S. Olympic Committee itself do anything on the matter? Perhaps the Editor of this magazine will not mind my saying here that any suggestion from anyone will be appreciated.

At this moment I hear voices: "But what about Mitchell?" My answer, if you must have it, is this: (1) For at least half a dozen reasons I do not believe in Mitchell; and (2) by all means, if you want to, do send Mitchell too, and as many girls as the World Championship allows any one nation—if you have the money. **But do get IT.**

* * *

About Jan York I will say this: Just as I predicted in writing to Mike de Capriles that in Helsinki she would obtain the best individual results of the whole 18-member team but that she would not win a medal (and that she would not even win this year's National Championship), I say now that she is the only American fencer, not excepting any male, from which we can reasonably expect in the future several Olympic medals. But in order to prove that she deserves the honor and privilege of participating in the annual World Championships, and have a favorable chance in the next Olympics, Jan York must quickly organize her private life in such a manner as to be free to dedicate herself to fencing as much as necessary—certainly not too much to ask, nor too difficult to do; continue to work most seriously and without let-up; learn how to control herself, intellectually, emotionally and technically, off and on the

strip; do her utmost to shed the ungodly weaknesses which can be seen by a blind man half a mile away and which she seems to have such an incredibly hard time to correct; realize that Olympics are won only through thoroughly concentrated efforts of soul, mind and body and that therefore such victories are no laughing matter; and, finally, acknowledge the responsibility she has acquired toward the Fencing of her country.

Just because the teacher loves his pupil as if she were his own daughter, and because he is in the best position to realize that to overcome the difficulties lying ahead will not be easy, he must be implacable; and so I must fulfill my duty, and frankly say to Jan York that unless she now feels willing to give her best, and is determined to succeed in all that is and will be asked of her—she will never improve her modest performance in the XVth Olympics.

We hope, however, that she will—and, as an American, here are my best wishes.

Some Personal Notes On FENCING AND THE OLYMPICS

by Alfred Skrobisch

These notes were set down in the dawn hours of the week after the Olympic trip when I had not yet readjusted to New York time. They were not intended for publication. They were written because I urgently wanted to clarify, explain and summarize for myself, briefly, what my reactions were to the Games while these reactions were still vivid. Had I waited till now they would never have been written. If, in some places, I seem intemperate consider the vividness of my impressions. Here they are then, purely personal and unretouched. (Ed. Note: Except for deletions due to limited space.)

A rather good analogy can be drawn between the position of the U. S. in world fencing and the position of a remote AFLA division, say Southern North Dakota, in American fencing. If anything, the U. S. is more out of touch with the world fencing than S. N. D. is with American fencing for S. N. D. does get a chance each year to send competitors to the Nationals at somewhat less expense of time and money than in the other case.

Given equality in the caliber of the material, which is usually the case, the factors which make the difference are the quality of the coaching and the amount of experience acquired by the fencer. The various clubs of S. N. D. do not have coaching to equal that of New York nor do their local divisional championships give them the experience needed to do well in the Nationals. The same situation exists for American fencing in the Olympics.

Up to 1936 coaching and fencing in the best clubs here resembled closely that of Europe and an occasional outstanding American took a medal. Now the game has changed and the effects of the long isolation of 1936 to 1948 have become painfully evident. We find now that we come to the Olympics to learn, not to meet Europe's best on relatively equal terms.

Let us go back to the two fundamental factors, coaching and experience. Experience in Southern North Dakota will not do for the Nationals in New York;

experience in the Nationals here will not do for the Olympics. Every year, wherever the World's Championships are held, all the best of Europe's fencers meet each other as we do at our Nationals. They all know each other personally as we do here. During the year many countries hold dual matches with each other and further this relationship. The best fencing is constantly being examined, analyzed and studied. Then we come—once in four years—only to learn then what we should have been assimilating throughout those four years.

Isolation works a hardship on the coaches of America as well as on the fencers. How can they be asked to train fencers throughout the country from whom to build a team to give the Europeans real competition when they do not have the opportunity to see the latest and pass it on to their pupils. This is a great danger for, where additional experience can raise a man's possibilities for the future, coaching tends to groove him into a certain manner of or approach to fencing which is difficult to change. There are always certain fencers whose individual manner of fencing breaks through any training they may have received. Where this manner happens to be in accord with what is being done in Europe, they may do well in the Olympics.

I have heard it said that, in Europe, we are regarded, like the Hungarians, as essentially a "saber nation" since we have done much better in that weapon than in any other. Looking at the make-up of our saber team explains this attitude. Two of our finest sabermen are transplanted Hungarians who learned the game in Hungary. True, they practice and fence here now but they were "made in Hungary." When they retire who will replace them? Who will prevent the back-sliding that will occur when other men, perhaps with equally good coaching but without their experience, have to replace them? The United States may not even be a saber nation then.

In foil and epee the story is the same. In our fencers we have the material to do well even against some of the best "professional amateurs" of Europe. If the coaching and experience available to these fencers were the result of a complete and continuous interplay of European and American fencing, the performance of these men would quickly prove their strength in international matches. The United States can expect no improvement in its place in world fencing until we send a number of fencers and/or coaches at least to the World's Championships each year. This may be expensive beyond all consideration (I don't think so) but it would be of tremendous importance to the progress of fencing in this country.

Training for the Olympics

I have gone on record long ago as a firm believer in picking the Olympic team at the beginning of the final season before each Olympiad and not just before the Games. The intervening three years should show who were the best men and this method would also spread over all four years the wild scramble to get into

the Nationals that now occurs only every fourth year. A team so selected would have the time to train specifically for the Olympics rather than for the Nationals. One or two positions in each weapon might be left open to allow for the emergence of some particularly deserving man in the last year but more than that would be unnecessary.

Training at the site of the Olympics proved to be a matter for very serious thought. When we settled down in Helsinki a schedule of two workouts a day was arranged with lessons and bouts. Where we practiced other teams were practicing in adjacent rooms and it was the custom to have a few informal bouts with men of other teams. (It is noteworthy that this camaraderie prevailed among the fencers only; even the weight-lifters would stop practicing if a stranger showed up.)

It may be stated as a fact that this schedule caused at least as many sore arms and legs and stale fencers as any of the actual competitions did. Of course, those fencers who thrive on daily workouts at home were not adversely affected but the rest left their best fencing in the practice room and were stale for the matches. True, it was stated that any fencer who felt he was getting tired could take a day off but this could not cure the basic error. This error was that, in a one to two week period, no fencer can be improved by being driven at a rate far beyond his normal level of many years. With six months in which to build up this might have been effective; for this short period it was harmful to many of us. The nervous tensions of an Olympic match are severe enough without the handicap of stale fencing due to overwork.

The training schedule was not alone at fault. The individual fencers respond to the charged atmosphere of the Games by wanting to do more and be "sharper" than ever. We lose the balanced approach to the game and its requirements developed over years of fencing at home and we try to do even better. Then too, we meet in neighboring practice rooms fencers of other countries and it is inevitable that, when we bout with them, we take on "just one more" to see how we make out against someone we haven't met before. It's friendly, informal—and also tiring, as we realize too late. We inevitably do too much.

Present Styles in Olympic Fencing

In all weapons Olympic fencing has become a game of mobility and timing and the long wait for the right break. This difference from the game we are accustomed to in the U. S., subtle though it may seem to an outsider, was vast enough and surprising enough to many of us that it caused a number of "bull sessions" back in our rooms after we had seen the first day or two of fencing. We agreed that it was new to us and that we had not been trained to meet it and we were uniformly disturbed that such a situation should be allowed to exist.

In foil the fencers stand on guard like epee men, slightly bent legs and arms three-quarters extended. No longer does one "open up" the opponent by playing

with the blade in a compound attack. The effort is all in trying to catch the opponent at the wrong distance and with his hand moving the wrong way at that moment. Then a relatively simple attack and it's all over. At the most there will be a parry, a riposte and perhaps a counter-riposte. They are continuously shifting ground with an ease and timing that makes it possible for them, in effect, to parry with their feet many of the attacks.

The differences between the French and Italian schools of fencing have vanished completely. In the foil team finals between France and Italy it was not possible to tell one side from the other by their styles. They may still use different types of weapons but the Italian power play and the French intricate blade work have both disappeared and been melded into the type of game described above.

In epee the same game exists now as in foil. It is useless to look for the opponent's blade on which to begin an attack. You get no blade to play with. Because epee can tolerate a wider deviation from the norm than foil you still meet trick shot artists and "fleching fools" but only those with a fine sense of time and distance make even slight progress in the matches.

In the light of the above it is interesting to note that the French, the last exponents of epee fencing as we know it, were eliminated in the quarter finals of the team event. In the individuals, Bougnol was their only man to reach the semi-finals and did not win a bout there. Having fenced him twice, I can say that I found his style most familiar and can understand why he had trouble with the rest.

Attempts at stop-thrusting an attack are nearly useless in this modern epee. Attacks come with timing and distance and no preliminary build-up so that there is no time to react for a stop. The defense is a choice of rapid footwork or a solid, foil-game parry leading, whenever possible, to a powerful riposte or counter-attack. The present game certainly seems to favor the attack which is always treated with respect and seriously parried. Any attempt at extending the blade purely as a feint will be ignored unless the opponent is ready and waiting; then he will use the action to launch a hard attack of his own.

Saber fencing, as someone put it, has now become the duller of the three types from the spectator's point of view. Two Hungarians fencing each other may move back and forth slightly, looking for time and the right distance, for boringly long periods before anything happens. The Italians display somewhat more movement. When it does happen the action is tremendously fast and simple. There will be an attack, then very frequently a stop cut, otherwise a parry and riposte and the whole action is over. Complicated "phrases" are almost entirely passe.



FEET ARE FEATURED

by Dernell Every

Upon the return of our Olympic Team from Helsinki this summer one of the most frequent comments brought back from these Games was that the European fencers made such excellent use of their legs. This was not in reference to speed but to the shifting of distance with the result that the European fencers seemed always to be at just the right distance at the moment of attack. Immediately upon completion of a lunge European fencers were back and away, frequently out of distance of the riposte. This flags up a major weakness in American fencing and may well serve as the subject of another article through which the author has been endeavoring to point out ways by which most of our fencers could improve their fencing, particularly their foil fencing.

The immobility to which most American fencers are prone is due in large part to a lack of basic training for the legs. American fencers do not have the advantage that European fencers have in being exposed to fencing at an early age. Although some of our leading fencers began to fence during their high school days most of them did not learn to fence until they were in college. This

late start hurried their training. Their coaches had to make them capable of fencing in competition within so short a time that they were unable to permit them all of the basic training in footwork that a good fencer requires. Once a fencer becomes involved in competitive fencing and concentrates on the movements of his own and his opponent's foil he forgets his legs and such footwork as he accomplishes is, for the most part, automatic and based upon the most elementary training. When one considers just how elementary this training is, it is amazing that our fencers do as well as they do.

The result of all this is a group of half-fencers; boys competing equipped with some parries, some ripostes and some attacks but with a complete inability to shift backward and forward to upset an opponent's sense of distance or to steal distance for themselves. They lack the in-and-out attacks by which a fencer attacks and gets away before the riposte or counter attack can tally.

One of the first American fencers to whom this shifting of distance came naturally was Norman Lewis who began his successful competitive non-college career along about 1937 in which year he won both the Junior foil and Junior epee titles. His footwork was perhaps exaggerated but the fact that it was right converted a sound but relatively simple hand game into one National Foil Championship and three National Epee Championships. This game, as Lewis plays it, requires tremendous stamina for he is on the move every moment that he fences. As a result, he has no disciples. It is unfortunate, that more fencers do not note the value of such footwork and adapt it in a more modest form to their own fencing.

No attack has any value unless it reaches. No attack can reach unless the distance at the finale of the attack is right. It is, therefore, necessary for any attacker to place himself within distance at the start of his final action. This distance can usually be attained against an experienced fencer only by a stealing of distance. You can steal distance in two ways. First, by a fast march or balestra attack by which you take two steps forward while your opponent usually takes only one step backward. The other method is to lure the opponent into a shortening of distance between him and you. This can be done by pressing forward and forcing him reluctantly backward until you have gained the few inches necessary to outreach him in an attack or by stepping backward yourself inviting him to come forward but in doing so see that he advances by longer steps than you have retreated. By such a fake retreat you bait him into a shorter distance than he intended.

Not only is it important that you keep shifting your distance in order to make your offense more effective but the shifting of distance is also a valuable defensive action. Never permit an opponent to get set well on guard and then come within striking distance of him. Retreat to break his composure and cause him to come forward whenever he is ap-

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parently anchored to make a straight lunge.

The shifting of distance, however, is of the greatest defensive importance in connection with the parries. One should seldom parry from a stationary stance. At the start of any attack made upon you, you should either step forward or step backward with your parry. Either of these actions will spoil the distance preconceived by the attacker. As a bout continues and you continue this reaction to his attacks, the attacker becomes confused as he tries to guess whether you will retreat from or advance upon him during the attack. It adds one more guess to the many that any good fencer forces his opponent to make during a bout.

Individually, we should all work upon our footwork. Be assured that it will pay off in touches against any of your heavy-footed opponents. Collectively, we should also work upon it for the Olympics have shown that our own present flat-footed method of fencing is obsolete. The members of our Olympic team were just as good as the others in their attacks, parries and ripostes but their footwork was poor. Our next team must correct this and you must correct yours, particularly if you hope to be on that team.

QUOTES FROM L'ESCRIME FRANCAISE

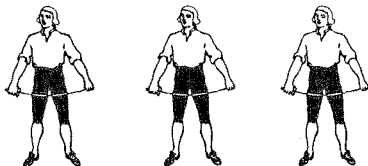
The official F.I.E. publication of October 1952 contained reports of all the Olympic events except foil, which will appear in its next issue. The following items are of interest:

Women's Foil — "Miss Janice York fenced very well and well deserved her fourth place."

Sabre—"The judging question, thanks to technical progress, seems to be going in the right direction: the epee has been electrified and the foil is close to it. To resolve the problem in sabre appears to be more difficult; it is true that in judging this weapon the eye is assisted by the ear—even though the F.I.E. rules do not say so. Until the electrical equipment has been adopted for all fencing, it might be desirable to establish an age limit for judges. . . .

"In the elimination rounds (individual), the following fencers distinguished themselves: Gurath (Romania), Heyvaert (Belgium), Sande (Argentina), de Capriles (U.S.A.), Loisel (Austria), Levavasseur (France), and the two young Poles—Suski and Uowlowski. . . .

"The role of president of the (final) jury was fulfilled by Mr. de Capriles with perfect competence; he amply merited the congratulations and thanks addressed to him from all sides. He grasped the actions well and analyzed them clearly. His entire performance revealed the active competitor."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

London S.W. 7
November 12, 1952

I always read American Fencing with particular interest because I am privileged to count many American fencers among my friends, also it recalls one of the happiest fencing trips I have ever made which was with the British team to New York in 1934.

In your October issue I was frankly alarmed by one line which read: "The question is how long are we going to be permitted to send full teams to Olympic Games that don't win."

. . . although it must be very nice to win gold medals (we here of course have little recent experience of this!) that's not the primary reason for representing one's country at these Games.

May I be allowed to say, having some experience of international fencing competitions, that your fencing team made a great impression in London, in Copenhagen and at Helsinki and that these events would have been much the poorer had they not been there. As competent and impartial presidents and judges they were greatly in demand and rightly esteemed and respected.

. . . I hope that whoever is responsible for the decision as to the future participation of U.S. fencers in Olympic and similar events will learn of the great contribution your fencers made to international friendship and the prestige of your great country at Helsinki and will appreciate how much more important that was than whether or not they collected the medals which, in any case, you must by now have almost a surfeit.

Yours very sincerely
C. L. de Beaumont

Of course Mr. de Beaumont is right, and the phrase was unfortunate. We are confident that our future Olympic teams will not be selected on the basis of probable Olympic victories. The purpose of the article was to urge the development of young material to provide stronger fencers for the future and increase our national activity in the sport. Fencing is a "minor" sport and England and the United States are two of the few remaining countries where government funds are not accepted to finance Olympic participation. A greater interest in fencing must be created to facilitate our efforts to raise the funds.

* * *

Baltimore, Maryland

While attending the National Epee competition in June, I was somewhat dismayed to note that the contestants tested their electric epees first by trying the points on the floor and then on each other's bell guards.

These two tests effectively demonstrate that the epees do not have open

circuits and that the bell guard circuits are in order. However, they give the fencer no assurance that his weapon is not "grounded"; that is, that the scoring circuit wires have not somehow contacted the weapon itself. Such a grounded epee will register perfectly when tried on the ground but will fail to register a touch scored with the blades in contact with each other as in a binding or enveloping movement.

This condition can readily be detected by testing the weapons with the blades touching each other.

Sincerely,
Eaton E. Baylor

Thank you! Epee fencers and directors please note.

* * *

Baltimore, Maryland

In directing foil and sabre bouts there has been a tendency in the United States—in the provincial divisions more than in New York—to favor the "stop" at the expense of the right-of-way by interpreting the "sufficient interval of fencing time" as too brief an interval. The consequence is a deterioration of fencing style, the defenders relying less on their ability to parry than on their ability to stop the attack, and the sequences of play becoming unduly short because attempted stops replace the more elegant and desirable sequence of parry, riposte, parry, counter-riposte, etc. I understand that American fencers in competitions abroad have found that the European directors are usually less generous than American directors in allowing the validity of a stop if the attack lands.

What I have to suggest as a possible remedy has in fact been common practice in many European salle d'armes where the maestros insist that a defender try to parry an attack even after he has executed a stop. If the defender has not enough time to parry the attack which he has attempted to stop, this is taken as an indication that his stop was not in time.

I propose that Rule 832 be amended by adding another clause to the second sentence, to read as follows: "During a composite attack the defender has the right to stop-thrust or stop-cut, but the stop, to be valid, must precede the attacker's touching action by a sufficient interval of fencing time. That is to say, the stop must touch before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack so that the defender can still parry the attack or would have enough time to do so if he tried. . . ."

Sincerely yours,
Fritz Machlup

Thank you. This is a good rule of thumb for a difficult problem created by the great difference in relative speeds among fencers.

News from the Divisions

Western New York

by Frederic Marschall

The much-publicized **International Invitation** at the University of Buffalo drew 43 entries and only 23 were local fencers. Contestants came from Rochester, Cleveland, Sampson A.F. Base, Boston, New Jersey and Niagara Falls, Ont. Advance publicity was obtained in newspapers and on radio and television.

The tournament ran off smoothly, thanks to the skillful directing of Donald S. Thompson of Cleveland, Joseph Coppola, coach at the Jewish Center, Robert Green of the Buffalo F.C., and Frederic Washburn of the U.B. Alumni.

Fence-offs were required in the women's event and the epee, and in both instances were decided by one touch. Sidney Schwartz of the Buffalo F.C. was undefeated in sabre, as was Arthur Plouffe of Rochester in the foil. Our Division Chairman, Jules Goldstein, took third place in sabre while his charming spouse Ruth placed second in the women's event after a fence-off. This couple has been winning medals together for the last three years. Robert Dorderian's second in foil should be very encouraging to the boys from the A.F. base at Sampson, for the competition was very tough.

Results WOMEN

1. Fran Breton* Jewish Center
 2. Ruth Goldstein* Jewish Center
 3. Ellie Rulof R.I.T.
- *Breton d. Goldstein 4-3 in fence-off.

FOIL

1. Arthur Plouffe Rochester
2. Robert Dorderian Sampson Sabres
3. Dave Bohackett Rochester

EPEE

1. James Gosline* Sword & Mask, Cleveland
 2. Fulton Dye* Buffalo F.C.
 3. Henry Buczkowski Canisius College
- *Gosline d. Dye 3-2 in fence-off.

SABRE

1. Sidney Schwartz Buffalo F.C.
2. Tony Orsi New York A.C.
3. Jules Goldstein Jewish Center

A Division Newsletter, without chairman as editor, is now being published regularly and we expect it will increase the interest among our many scattered groups.

Maryland

by Calvert E. Schlick, Jr.
Division Chairman

This summer we held for the first time an outdoor event at the country home of Miss Abbie Herring, our Open Champion. The event was a mixed foil team, with partners drawn by lot. Gisela Trurnit and Eaton Bayor were both undefeated against the nine teams they met. A crowd of more than sixty fencers and friends acclaimed it a tremendous success and we hope it will become an annual event.

Results

1. Gisela Trurnit, Eaton Bayor
2. Gloria Schnitker, Cal Schlick
3. Abbie Herring, Harry Telman

Illinois

by Lillian Vondra
Division Secretary

Open Foil—Welfare Gym

Don Thompson beat Tom Soddy in a fence-off, 5-4 to open the 1952-53 season. Both are from the University Club. Carl Roth of the U. of Wisconsin took third.

Open Foil Team—Welfare Gym

Thompson, Soddy and Al Rose won the event for the University of Ohio. A composite team of Roth, Dan Havens and Bob Appel took second while Senn, last year's high school champion, took third.

* * *

Free instruction is being given each Sunday morning to selected high school freshmen by experienced fencers from our Division. Athletic Directors of seven schools, where instruction is not available, have referred 25 students to date and several are showing real promise.

Open Sabre

John Westley of the University Club and two fellow club members, Don Thompson and Frank Tiefenbach, made a clean sweep of the first open sabre meet, finishing in that order, respectively. Westley, 1952 Midwest sabre champion, won all of his bouts.

Open Epee

Tom Soddy of the University Club beat Palmer True of Northwestern University 3-2 in a fence-off for first place in a closely contested open electric epee meet. Frank Tiefenbach of the University Club was third and Irving Freidin of the Chicago Fencers Club fourth. Six competed.

Colorado

Fencers from the Denver and Boulder area competed in the 7th annual 3-weapon competition at Colorado University. Sadaichi Kubota, C.U. Fencers Club, placed first while his club mates John Giele and Frank Pinnock won the silver and bronze prizes.

THE

BERKELEY FENCERS

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•

ARTHUR W. LANE, Instructor

Northern Ohio

by Margaret J. Warnock
Division Secretary

FOIL

1. Donald Thompson
2. Howard Fried
3. William Bishop

SABRE

1. John Shelly..
2. Oswald Topolczarnyi
3. Walter Henry

EPEE

1. Walter Henry
2. Bill Durrett
3. James Gosline

On Nov. 8th we held foil events for men and women and were very pleased that some fencers from Buffalo came over. Everyone enjoyed the meet, which resulted as follows:

MEN

1. John Shelly Northern Ohio
2. Sidney Schwartz Buffalo
3. Dan Boyle Buffalo

WOMEN

1. Frances Breton Buffalo
2. Gail Thompson Northern Ohio
3. Nancy Zielinski Buffalo

Northern California

by Ferard Leicester
Division Secretary

Women's Prep—Halberstadt S.F.

1. Patricia Kanstein Berkeley F.C.
2. Florence Coe Funke F.A.
3. Alicia Nagel Halberstadt S.F.

Prep Foil—Halberstadt S.F.

1. Carl Walter Stanford U.
2. Ned Beatty Funke F.A.
3. Allan Dorius Funke F.A.

Prep Sabre—Halberstadt S.F.

1. James Robinson Funke F.A.
2. Mel Rubin Berkeley F.C.
3. William MacNulty Stanford U.

Prep Epee—Halberstadt S.F.

1. Mel Rubin Berkeley F.C.
2. Chris Viken Halberstadt S.F.
3. Edgar Talley Halberstadt S.F.

Romaine Trophy

This women's team event, held at the Berkeley F. C., was won by the Halberstadt School of Fencing when it defeated the Funke Fencing Academy 15-10.

Novice Foil—Berkeley F.C.

1. Richard Dahl Berkeley F.C.
2. Ralph Amado Stanford U.
3. Gordon Scheile Halberstadt S.F.

Women's Novice

1. Jean Ures San Fr. State Coll.
2. Patricia Kanstein Berkeley F. C.
3. Alicia Nagel Halberstadt S. F.

Women's Handicap

1. Frances Carter (-3) Halberstadt S. F.
2. Tommy Angell (-3) Halberstadt S. F.
3. Harriet Coe (0) Funke F. A.

Novice Epee

1. Gordon Scheile Halberstadt S. F.
2. Arnold Kirschner Funke F. A.
3. Arthur Pardee Unattached

Handicap Foil

1. Daniel De La O (-3) Olympic Club
2. Albert Lambert (-3) Berkeley F.C.
3. Gerard Biagini (-4) Olympic Club

Novice Sabre

1. James Robinson Funke F.A.
2. Elwood Flitcroft Berkeley F.C.
3. Richard Dahl Berkeley F.C.

Metropolitan Events

The Prep Events

by Dorothy Friedman

The Women's Prep, held Nov. 1, at the Saltus Club, was won by Beverly Feigelman of Hunter when she beat Marilyn Rich of Brooklyn College 4-2 in a fence-off.

The prep foil held the following day at the New York A.C., was won by Ralph DeMarco of Columbia.

Each event drew only fifteen entries, but the field showed amazing ability. Everyone present agreed we had not seen such good prep fencing in years.

Results WOMEN

1. Beverly Feigelman Hunter
2. Marilyn Rich Brooklyn College
3. Rita DiLello Hunter

MEN

1. Ralph DeMarco Columbia
2. Herbert Gardner Columbia
3. Pat Petix N.Y.U.

Women's Novice Team

by Larry Olvin

Seven teams met at the Rohdes Academy and the Hunter College team (Beverly Feigelman, Rita DiLello, Marilyn Rosenbaum and Diana Vivaldi) turned back all opposition to win the Santelli trophy.

Results

Preliminary I: Hunter d. Patterson Teachers "B" 5/1 and Saltus Club 5/0. Brooklyn "A" d. Patterson Teachers "B" 5/0 and Saltus Club 5/0.

Preliminary II: Patterson Teachers "A" d. Brooklyn "B" 5/3 and Montclair Teachers 5/2. Montclair Teachers d. Brooklyn "B" 5/4.

Final: Hunter d. Patterson Teachers "A" 5/4, Brooklyn College "A" 5/3, Montclair Teachers 5/0. Patterson Teachers "A" (Miller, Monaco, Stamilla) d. Brooklyn College "A" 5/4, Montclair Teachers 5/4. Brooklyn College "A" (Gogolick, Leah, Rich) d. Montclair Teachers 7/2. Montclair Teachers (Hoon, Kopp, Orlovski, Rawcliffe) No victories in final.

Novice Sabre

by Leo Sobel

Louis Schaff of the Salle Santelli won the Norman Armitage gold medal from a strong field of thirty-one at the Fencers Club. Ben Schoeck of N.Y.U. nosed out his team mate Bob Miller by one touch to take second place in the final round of nine while Taporksky of Yeshiva tied Schoeck and Miller but dropped to fourth on touches.

Results

Finals: Schaff, Santelli, 6/2; Schoeck, NYU, 5/3 (26 vs); Miller, NYU, 5/3 (27 vs); Taporksky, Yeshiva, 5/3 (28 vs); Milletari, Fencers Club 4/4 (30 vs); Canvin, Fencers Club, 4/4 (31 vs); Ledak, U.S.A., 3/5 (28 vs, 27 for); Robbins, Columbia, 3/5 (28 vs. 25 for); Goldwyn, Lehigh, 1/7.

Other Entries: Hemendinger (Brooklyn); Myers, Schwartz, Stroh, Sugin (CCNY); Pariser, Setaro, Weinstein (Columbia); Schnell (Mercado); Antonick, Griffith, Trapani (N.J.); Abrams, Dollinger, Gelenter (NYU); Schlicht (Pace); Drecksal, Kadis, Mugler (Riverdale); Haisler (Yale); E. Tokayer, N. Tokayer (Yeshiva).

Novice Foil Team

by Anne Drungis

The Mercado Fencers Club, represented by Milton Markowitz, Bernard Stein and Nick Terracuso, was undefeated in this event which drew an entry of ten, and the victors were never hard-pressed. N.Y.U.'s "A" team took second, bowing only to the winning trio. The winners received the Dernel Every trophy.

Results

Preliminaries (Direct Elimination): Mercado F.C. d. Stevens Inst. 5/2; N.Y.U. "A" d. C.C.N.Y. 5/0; Saltus Club d. Columbia "B" 5/0; Salle Santelli d. Brooklyn College 5/2; Columbia "A" d. N.Y.U. "B" 5/2.

Final Round: Mercado F.C. (Markowitz, Stein, Terracuso) d. Saltus 5/0; Columbia "A" 8/1; Salle Santelli 7/2; N.Y.U. "A" 6/3. N.Y.U. "A" (Barnes, Schoeck, Taylor) d. Saltus 7/2; Columbia "A" 5/1; Salle Santelli 6/3. Saltus Club (Lane, Lostaglio, Stephens) d. Columbia "A" 6/3. Salle Santelli (Broderick, Kanef, Podnos) and Columbia "A" (Brostik, Gardner, Zenberg) lost all.

Novice Foil

by Dorothy Friedman

Charles Broderick of the Salle Santelli was undefeated in the final round of nine to capture the John R. Huffman gold medal. Fifty-one competed. Second place went to Zigfeld Jesswern of Yale and Bernard Schoeck of NYU nosed out his team mate Robert Alessio for third by three touches.

Results

Final Round: Broderick, Salle Santelli, 8/0; Jesswern, Yale, 6/2; Schoeck, NYU, 5/3 (28 vs); Alessio, NYU, 5/3 (31 vs); M. Taylor, NYU, 3/4 (28 vs); Markowitz, Mercado, 3/4 (30 vs); Dier, Mercado, 2/6; Dollinger, NYU, 1/5; Bodner, Yale, 0/6.

Other Entries: Kamki, Lazovick, Seeman, Zwiren (CCNY); Bernstein, Breslow, Brostik, DeMarco, Gardner, Valsamis, Zinberg, Zydney (Columbia); Goldberg, Wertheimer (B'klyn College); Abrams, Gotkin, Pons, S. Taylor (NYU); Hermanos, Kaeyer (Riverdale); Antoniuk (Patterson Teachers); Berger, Feder, Millen (Yeshiva); Citti, Julie, Parker, Rohdes (Rohdes Acad.); Rifas (Salle Lucia); Barthel (Fencers Club); Schoff (Salle Santelli); Ford, Goering, Keggi, Leppelmeier, Sheemaker, Solan, Torchia (Yale); Schnell, Terracuso (Mercado); Reyes (Turn Verein); Weiss (Unattached).

Novice Epee Team

by Mildred Boyce

The Columbia "A" team (Bernstein, Wald, Winograd) won the Jose de Capriles trophy by turning back all opposition in the seven-team event. Stevens Institute, N.Y.U., and Brooklyn College were the other finalists and placed in the order named. For some unknown reason the local clubs failed to enter this event.

Final Round: Columbia "A" d. B'klyn 8-1, Stevens 5-2, N.Y.U. 6-3; Stevens Institute (Kouyoujian, McIntyre, Romano) d. B'klyn 5-4, N.Y.U. 6-3; N.Y.U. (Pefix, Pons, Schafft) and Brooklyn College (Datner, Oshinsky, Wertheimer) lost all.

Other Teams: C.C.N.Y. (Malden, Miller, Reich); Columbia "B" (Bertol, Bronstein, Civan, Willoughby); Riverdale (Chagnon, Hermanos, Mugler).

PLEASE COOPERATE

Despite ample warning that the Metropolitan Bout Committee was prepared to enforce the rules about entries and late arrivals, many individuals have been indignant or annoyed to find the rules applied against them. There are no privileged fencers and compliance with the rule is one of the obligations of membership. The Committee is working hard to organize competitions efficiently and it is requested that fencers refrain from calling upon the Chairman of the Metropolitan Group to make an exception in their favor.

We are still handicapped by the scarcity of judges and directors, and it is requested that officials accept assignments as often as possible.



RENE PINCHART . . . Twenty-five Fruitful Years

Rene Pinchart has earned many tributes during his career, but it is doubtful that he or any other coach in this country has been honored by an assemblage of so many past and present fencing celebrities as was at the Fencers Club to celebrate his silver anniversary as fencing master of that organization.

Rene and Madam Pinchart came to us from Belgium shortly after the first World War and they have since that time become a very important and integral part of the organization which has played an essential role in American fencing. The love and respect which both have inspired in fencers through all these years, regardless of club affiliations, was warmly reflected at the gathering in their honor. Special tribute on behalf of the Fencers Club was paid to Rene by Mrs. Florence Schoonmaker, Mr. Frederick Coudert, Colonel Henry Breckinridge, Robert Driscoll and Tracy Jaeckel. Appreciation on behalf of the American Fencers League of America and the American Olympic Teams was expressed by Miguel de Capriles. —J. R. de C.

New Equipment Buys!

FOILS

French foil Olympic	3.30
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Women's trousers	7.50

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Sabre glove	3.00
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GQ sabre glove (Buckskin)	3.70
GEE duelling sword glove, Electric	3.75

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AFLA National Calendar

JANUARY

- 5—Western N.Y. Jr. Foil. Canisius College
Western N.Y. Novice Epee. Canisius College
- 8—Met. Women's Foil. Qual. Rnd. Individual Intermediate all-eastern. 7 P.M. Rohdes Academy. \$1.60
- 10—Met. Epee. Qual. Rnd. Individual Intermediate all-eastern. 12 noon. Fencers Club. \$1.60
- 11—Met. Foil. Qual. Rnd. Individual Intermediate all-eastern. 12 noon. New York A.C. \$1.60
Wash. D.C. Mixed Foil Team. 1 P.M. Central YMCA
- 17—Met. Open Epee Team Championship. Qual. Rnd. for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. 12 noon. Fencers Club. \$7.80
Western N.Y. Prep. Foil. Clark Gym., U. of Buffalo
Western N.Y. Women's Jr. Clark Gym., U. of Buffalo
- 18—Met. Sabre. Qual. Rnd. Individual Intermediate all-eastern. 12 noon. New York A.C. \$1.60
No. Cal. Open Epee. 2 P.M. Halberstadt S.F.
- 24—Met. Women's Open Team Championship. Qual. Rnd. for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. 12 noon Rohdes Academy \$4.80
Western N.Y. Intermediate Foil. Clark Gym., U. of Buffalo
Western N.Y. Women's Intermediate. Clark Gym., U. of Buffalo
- 25—Met. Open Foil Team Championship. Qual. Rnd. for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. 12 noon. New York A.C. \$4.80
No. Cal. Open Epee Team. 2 P.M. Halberstadt S.F.
Wash. D.C. Open Foil. 1 P.M. Central YMCA
- 28—Western N.Y. Prep. Epee. Jewish Center, Buffalo
Western N.Y. Novice Sabre. Jewish Center, Buffalo
- 31—Met. Women's Open (Greco Individual Trophy). 12 noon. Fencers Club. \$1.60
- 8—All Eastern Intermediate Foil Team Championship. 12 noon. *Fencers Club \$4.80
No. Cal. Three Weapon. 2 P.M. Halberstadt S.F.
Wash. D.C. Women's Open. 1 P.M. Central YMCA
Wash. D.C. Women's Prep (2nd) 1 P.M. Central YMCA
- 13—All Eastern Intermediate Sabre Team Championship. 7:30 P.M. Dillion Gym., Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. \$4.80
Western N.Y. Intermediate Epee. Canisius College
Western N.Y. Prep Sabre. Canisius College
- 14—All Eastern Intermediate Epee Individual Championship. 10:30 A.M. Plainfield H.S., Plainfield, N. J. (9th St. & Arlington) \$2.60
No. Cal. Junior Sabre. 8 P.M. Berkeley F.C.
- 15—All Eastern Intermediate Foil Individual Championship. 12 noon. *New York A.C. \$1.60
- 21—All Eastern Intermediate Women's Individual Championship. 10:30 A.M. Plainfield H.S., Plainfield, N.J. (119 W. 9th St.) \$1.60
No. Cal. Junior Foil Team. 8 P.M. Berkeley F.C.
- 22—Met. Epee Team (Washington Square Cup). Unlimited entries. 12 noon. Fencers Club. \$7.80
Wash. D.C. Open Sabre. 1 P.M. Central YMCA
- 25—Western N.Y. Intermediate Sabre. Jewish Center, Buffalo
Western N.Y. Women's Prep. Jewish Center, Buffalo
- 27—No. Cal. Junior Sabre Team. 8 P.M. Halberstadt S.F.
- 28—All Eastern Women's Intermediate Team Championship. 10:30 A.M. Fairleigh-Dickinson College, W. Passaic Ave., Rutherford, N. J. \$4.80. (Lincoln Tunnel, Route S-3 to Park Av. cut-off, to W. Passaic Ave., Rutherford.)

MARCH

- 1—Met. Novice Foil. 12 noon. A.F.L.A. medals. Fencers Club. 85¢
Wash. D.C. Open Epee. 1 P.M. Central YMCA
- 2—Western N.Y. Three Weapon. Clark Gym., U. of Buffalo.
- 6—No. Cal. Women's Intermediate. 8 P.M. Halberstadt S.F.
- 7—All Eastern Intermediate Sabre. Individual Championship. 1 P.M. U. of Pennsylvania Hutchinson Gym. (34th & Walnut Sts., Philadelphia) \$1.60
- *Place tentative. Entries will be notified if changed.

FEBRUARY

- 1—Met. Open Sabre Team Championship. Qual. Rnd. for Nationals. A.F.L.A. medals. 12 noon. New York A.C. \$4.80
No. Cal. Women's (Halberstadt). 2 P.M. Halberstadt S.F.
- 6—All Eastern Intermediate Epee Team Championship. 7:30 P.M. Dillion Gym., Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. \$7.80

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