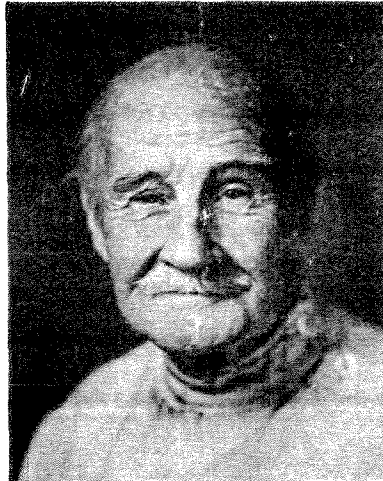


American Fencing



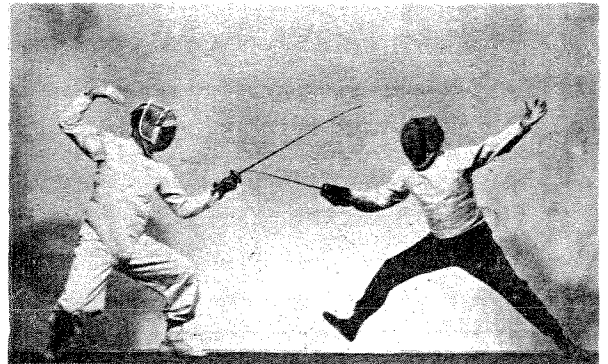
JAMES MURRAY *Dean of American Fencers*

Story on Page 2

Photos Courtesy Nickolas Muray



Paris, 1901—The great Kirchhoffer (left) warms up an old friend, James Murray, at Salle Jean-Louis.



New York, 1952—Dernel Every (left) is hard pressed by James Murray in exhibition bout on TV show "Life Begins at Eighty."

JAMES MURRAY Dean of American Fencers

By Dernel Every

This month the fencers of the New York metropolitan area will pay homage to Mr. James Murray — affectionately known as "Jimmy" — who recently retired after the most remarkable career as a fencing master in the history of the United States. No one except Jimmy knows for sure his exact age, and he won't tell; but the record shows that he taught fencing to the students at Columbia University for 55 years, and to the members of the New York Athletic Club for more than 60 years, before turning his exclusive attention to special classes for the sons of members (boys 8-11 years old) which he conducted until 1954.

Mr. Murray, for many years the acknowledged dean of American fencers, is warmly liked and admired by all amateurs and professionals who have had the good fortune to know him—no small accomplishment in a sport where individualism reigns. What has given this quiet, unaggressive man a place in American fencing which is no doubt the envy of many others? It is a combination of personality and accomplishment without parallel, at least in the United States. Literally thousands of American fencers and dozens of champions received their training from Jimmy—probably the first American to choose a professional fencing career in early youth and to attain real distinction as a fencing master.

The choice, however, was a natural one. His father, a great boxer and all-around athlete, conducted a professional gymnasium in Philadelphia. The elder Mr. Murray had a magnificent body, not unlike that of the great Sandos. (His picture, wearing the traditional fig-leaf may be seen on the wall of the New York Athletic Club's boxing room.) Jimmy, however, was small of stature. Although beautifully proportioned and quick as a cat, he never exceeded 5'6" in height or 150 lbs. in weight. And the father decided that Jimmy, while proficient in various sports, should become fencing master to Philadelphia's young gentlemen who might visit the gymnasium. Thus it was that young Jimmy, late in the 1880's, journeyed to Paris to learn fencing and the fencing master's art. There, at the Salle d'Armes Jean-Louis, he studied and trained with the best of France's classical stylists; there he mastered the French language (which he still uses at home with his French-speaking wife), and formed life-long friendships which he renewed in the course of subsequent visits to Paris and other European cities; there he worked regularly with young Kirchoffer (and on occasion privately bested him)—later to see him go on to become one of France's immortals as an unbeatable foil champion.

As matters turned out, soon after returning to the United States, Jimmy accepted the position of fencing master at Columbia University and shortly thereafter a similar post with the New York Athletic Club. His professional career in New York, therefore, has been practically co-terminous with the life of the Amateur Fencers League of America (founded in 1891) and of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (founded in 1894). Among his early pupils at Colum-

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bia were John Purroy Mitchell, who was to become New York City's greatest mayor; Gustavus Towne Kirby, President Emeritus of the United States Olympic Association; Fitzhugh Townsend, and several other great figures in the history of New York. It is impossible for any one man to list the outstanding American fencers who learned the sport from Jimmy Murray, for the roster extends too far back. One might mention only such names as William Bowman, the Bloomer brothers, Bill Block, Norman Armitage, Ralph Marson, and Hugh Alessandrini as fair samples.

In addition to being a great teacher, Jimmy was—and still is, despite his 90 or more years—a formidable competitor, giving and asking no quarter. For more than half a century, many of our top-flight amateurs, crossing foils with Jimmy at the New York Athletic Club, have felt and looked liked novices. Contrary to popular theory, the advancing years have left no mark upon the steel springs which Jimmy uses for legs; and his foil "hand" is unbelieveable: The blade whirls with lightning rapidity to present an impenetrable defense, and on attack the point is a deadly snake which glides through the most complicated parries without apparent effort. Three years ago, when Jimmy appeared on the well-known television program, "Life Begins at Eighty," he fenced an exhibition bout with me and touched me at will, despite my best efforts to make the score decently close. All I could say at the end of that experience was, "After this, Mr. Murray, please pick on someone your own age!"

Now on Saturday, February 26, 1955, the Columbia Rapier Club will hold its annual dance and exhibition at John Jay Hall. The feature of the evening will be the presentation of a silver loving cup to the A.F.L.A., donated by the fencers of the New York Athletic Club, which is to bear James Murray's name and is to be awarded annually to the winner of the Intercollegiate Individual Foil Competition—a Christmas vacation

fixture in the New York fencing calendar established more than 30 years ago and revived in 1953 for the first time since the war. It is quite fitting that this new trophy should honor "Jimmy," for no one has matched, and perhaps never can match, the contribution he has made in his lifetime to both college and amateur-club fencing in the United States.

COACHING CLINIC PLANNED FOR APRIL

By Joseph Mastropaolo

The National Fencing Coaches Association of America has appointed a committee on fencing-master education composed of Douglas Boyea, Edward Lucia, and Joseph Mastropaolo, chairman. The committee has planned a clinic during the Easter vacation in New York, tentatively the 9th, 11th, and 12th of April, 1955, at the City College.

The program will include lecture-demonstrations on theory and technique in the mornings, and lesson demonstrations and practice in the afternoon. Attention will be given to the fundamentals of foil, epee and sabre according to the French, Italian and Hungarian styles. A large attendance is expected, not only by member coaches, but also by amateurs interested in theory, definition of terms, and techniques.

CHANGES IN A.F.L.A. DIRECTORY

By Connie Latzko

Columbus Division: President: Arthur Borrer, 1593 Minnesota Ave., Columbus, O. Secretary: Robert Kaplan, 168 Linda Rd., Hilliards, O.

Harrisburg Division: President: W. H. (Jack) Hesperheide, 623 Elm Terrace, York, Pa. Secretary: Joseph M. Lee, 651 Linden Ave., York, Pa.

Tennessee: Secretary: Pierce M. Mahony, 924 Churchwell N.E., Knoxville 17, Tenn.

Official AFLA Notes

By RALPH GOLDSTEIN, Secretary

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee elected at the June 1954 annual meeting has submitted the following nominations for national officers for the fencing season 1955-1956:

For President—Jose R. de Capriles, Westchester

For Vice-President—Dr. Paul T. Makler (East)

For 2nd Vice-President — Harold Van Buskirk (Southwest)

For 3rd Vice-President — Gerard Biagini (Pacific Coast)

For 4th Vice-President — Edmund Zeisig (Midwest)

For Secretary — Ralph Goldstein, Westchester

For Treasurer — Rudolph J. Ozol, New Jersey

For Foreign Secretary — Tracy Jaeckel, New York.

Additional nominations for any office may be made by petition subscribed by 10 voting members of the A. L. F. A. and submitted to the Secretary of the League on or before March 5, 1955.

NOMINATIONS FOR NON-DIV. GOVERNORS

The Nominating Committee elected at the annual meeting of the non-divisional members of the A. F. L. A. has nominated the following to serve as non-divisional members of the Board of Governors for the fencing season 1955-1956:

Dorothy Friedman, Sol Gorlin, Norman Lewis and George Worth, Salle Santelli; Leo Nunes and Ralph Marson, New York A. C.; Dr. Daniel Bukantz and Mario C. Tishman, Fencers Club; and Basil Whittingham, Sallus-McBurney.

Additional nominations may be made by petition subscribed by 10 voting non-divisional members of the A. F. L. A. and submitted to the Secretary of the League on or before March 5, 1955.

REINSTATEMENT

The Board of Governors has approved the reinstatement of Allan Hostetler to amateur standing effective immediately. Mr. Hostetler coached the Oakland YMCA in 1949 and ceased professional activity in April 1952.

RULES COMMITTEE

The rules committee is beginning work on a new edition of the AFLA Rules Book, since the supply of present rules books is approaching exhaustion. All changes in the rules since 1951 are summarized in another section of this issue. Suggestions for improved draftsmanship will be gratefully received through the editorial office of **American Fencing**.

Rule 95 has been amended to provide that the Mid-West Championship shall be held at least sixteen days (instead of one month) prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

The Committee has under study recommendations that winners of divisional championships should not automatically become intermediates, but that winners of sectional championships should become intermediates; that metropolitan championships carry the same effect on the winners as in the case of sectional championships; that minor violations of amateur code be handled as disciplinary matters rather than as involving change in amateur status, and that the policy on reinstatements be consequently tightened.

COLUMBIA RAPIER CLUB BALL

The highly popular Columbia Rapier Club Ball, to be held this year at John Jay Hall, Columbia University, on February 26 at 9 p.m., will honor Mr. James Murray, who for more than 50 years coached the Lion teams. Among the fencing features will be an exhibition by Professor George Santelli, many-time coach of the U. S. Olympic Team. Tickets may be obtained from Barry Pariser, Captain of the Columbia Varsity Fencing Team, at \$3.50 per couple. A portion of the proceeds is earmarked for the Pan-American Fund.

DIRECTORS' SCHOOL

The first two sessions of the Directors' School were held on December 2 and January 6. The rest of the schedule is:

3. Thursday, February 3, Fencers Club, 7:30 p.m.
4. Thursday, March 3, Fencers Club, 7:30 p.m.
5. Thursday, April 7, Fencers Club, 7:30 p.m.
6. Thursday, May 5, Fencers Club, 7:30 p.m.
7. Thursday, June 2, Fencers Club, 7:30 p.m. (written test).
8. Tuesday, June 7, Fencers Club, 7:30 p.m. (practical test).

—Allan Kwartler

SOUTH FLORIDA

The suspension of South Florida continues in effect, inasmuch as the situation has not changed. The investigating committee is awaiting further information from the individuals charged with improper conduct, but expects to render a report at the February meeting of the Board of Governors.

ELECTRICAL EPEE

A new small-size amphenol plug has been approved for use in the body wire.

HELENE MAYER MEMORIAL TROPHY

By Mary Huddleson

The second annual Helene Mayer Memorial Trophy competition will be held on Sunday, April 3, 1955, at 2 P.M. in the Women's Gym of the City College of San Francisco. Any woman fencer in good standing in any division of the A.F.L.A. is eligible to participate, and members outside Northern California are specially invited. Entry fee is \$1.50. Entries should be sent to Mrs. Shirley Canter, 2580 Polk St., San Francisco, not later than March 27. Maxine Mitchell is the current trophy holder.

News from Japan

By Alfred P. Rubin

On December 5, a Japanese team of nationally ranked fencers won a three-weapon match from a composite "foreign" team, 6-3 in foil, 6-3 in epee and 5-4 in sabre. Members of the "foreign" team were Cpl. Albert H. Yee (US Army, formerly University of California at Berkeley), Cpl. John Thompson, and Lt. A. P. Rubin, USN, in foil; Clifford Hill, 3d Secretary of the British Embassy and formerly of Cambridge, St. Jacques Marx, USA, formerly of France and Australia, and Pfc. John Stomfay-Stitz, USA, formerly of Hungary, in epee; Commander Wilmer Rawie, USN, Naval Academy '38, Major Ley (USAMSC) formerly of Harvard and John Stomfay-Stitz, in sabre.

Any fencers headed for Japan should communicate with Commander Rawie, Com-NavFE, Assistant Operations Officer, Yokosuka Navy Base. He may be reached by telephone (Kanto area).

Ed. Note—Mr. Rubin has now returned to the United States.

INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING ASSOCIATION

At the annual meeting held on December 7, Mr. Ivan Geiger of M.I.T. was elected president, succeeding Mr. James Gilloon of N.Y.U. The following Bout Committee was appointed to conduct the 1955 Championships on March 11 and 12 at the Concourse Plaza Hotel: Alfred Skrobish (Columbia), Chairman; Norman Lewis, N.Y.U.; Daniel Bukantz, C.C.N.Y.; Commo. Leonard Doughty, Navy; Tracy Jaeckel, Princeton; Hamilton Millard, Cornell; Rudolph J. Ozol, M.I.T., and Joseph B. Ullman, Yale. Brooklyn College was elected to membership, succeeding Army. It was voted to limit the size of teams to 12 competitors (three regulars and one substitute in each weapon), for the championship only, not for dual meets. The no-foul rule was adopted for the 1954-55 season, and as a consequence, the use of color in uniforms, masks, etc., outside the valid target, was approved.—George Shiebler

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SELECTION OF PAN-AMERICAN TEAM

By Jose R. de Capriles

The results of the two-day round-robin of 15 to 17 finalists in each weapon were so close among the top contenders that it was a very difficult task to select a squad of only nine men.

I want to express my sincere admiration and thanks to the Olympic Committee members, some of whom traveled great distances, for the attitude with which they tackled a thankless but serious obligation. Each one faced the problem with evident sincerity; differences of opinion were resolved by majority vote after all candidates had been discussed fully and impersonally; the decision in each case was accepted without rancor. Two Committee members, Norman Armitage and Ralph Goldstein, were candidates for the team; and in the case of Goldstein his record in two weapons was so good that it placed him in contention for one of the places until the last of several ballots was taken. Nevertheless, both men participated in the Committee's deliberations with the utmost impartiality, looking only towards the selection or the best possible team. It is really a shame that, inevitably, our selections must disappoint several fencers who tried so hard and did so well. The Committee selected the following team:

FOIL: Albert Axelrod, Harold Goldsmith, Allan Kwartler, Paul Makler, Tibor Nyilas and Jose de Capriles.

EPEE: Abram Cohen, Richard Dyer, Harold Goldsmith, Paul Makler, Sewell Shurtz and Jose de Capriles.

SABRE: Abram Cohen, Richard Dyer, Allan Kwartler, Tibor Nyilas, George Worth and Jose de Capriles.

Ralph Goldstein was named first alternate. Norman Armitage, Byron Krieger, James Strauch and Edward Vebell were picked as unnumbered alternates so that a Committee vote will be required if more than one regular team member is unable to go to Mexico.

Our National Champions, Shurtz in epee and Worth in sabre, and Axelrod as our highest ranking eligible foilsman, were picked as anchor men and will be used only in their specialty in both the team and individual events.

There is a complete turn-over in the personnel of the team since the Pan American Games of 1951 with the exception of Nyilas, the defending Pan-American sabre champion, and Worth who tied Nyilas and placed second in a three-way fence-off. Looking ahead, it is good to see so many young men on the squad. For Cohen, Dyer and Shurtz this will be their first severe international test and should season them for the 1956 Olympics.

In the tryouts themselves, the foil performances of Axelrod and Kwartler were what we expected, and it is interesting to note that, while Nyilas posted only a 7-7 record, his victories included wins over every one of the Olympic foilsman present in that event. In epee, Harold Goldsmith turned in an impressive record with very few epee competitions under his belt; he could develop into a consistent winner in this weapon. In sabre Worth proved himself a true champion and Kwartler emphasized his value as a top-flight two-weapon man.

UNITED STATES FENCING TEAM II PAN AMERICAN GAMES Mexico City, March 12-26, 1955

Captain-Manager

*Jose de Capriles, Fencers Club...Westch.

Men

Albert Axelrod, Salle Santelli...Met. N.Y.
Abram Cohen, Fencers Club...Met. N.Y.
R. Richard Dyer, Salle Csiszar...Phila.
Harold Goldsmith, Fencers C...Met. N.Y.
Allan Kwartler, Salle Santelli...Met. N.Y.
Paul Makler, Salle Csiszar...Phila.
**Tibor Nyilas, Salle Santelli...Met. N.Y.
Sewall Shurtz, Faulkner S.F...So. Calif.
George Worth, Salle Santelli...Met. N.Y.

Women

Grace Acel, Salle Santelli...Westch.
Maxine Mitchell, Hollywood A.C...So. Calif.
Eve Siegel, Salle Santelli...Met. N.Y.

*Authorized to compete as a substitute in all three weapons if necessary.

**Defending Pan-American sabre champion.

On January 30 the personnel of the team was rounded out by the selection of three girls. There was no doubt as to the first two: Maxine Mitchell and Grace Acel. The selection of the third was more difficult, but after considering several possibilities, Mrs. Eve Siegel was unanimously chosen. Madeline Dalton and Judy Goodrich were named alternates.

Results of Final Tryouts (Men)

FOIL

(1) Albert Axelrod and Allan Kwartler tied at 11-3; (3) Harold Goldsmith and Ralph Goldstein tied at 10-4; (5) Byron Krieger, Paul Makler, James Strauch and Edward Vebell tied at 8-6; (9) Neil Lazar and Tibor Nyilas tied at 7-7; (11) Richard Berry and Arthur Schiller tied at 5-9; (13) Arthur Spingarn, 4-10; (14) Daniel Rubinstein, 2-12; (15) Umberto Milletari, 1-13.

EPEE

(1) Harold Goldsmith, 12-4; (2) Abram Cohen, Paul Makler and James Strauch tied at 11-5; (5) Edward Vebell, 10-6; (6) Richard Berry, Thomas Bickley, Richard Dyer, Ralph Goldstein and Paul Moss tied at 9-7; (11) Michael Mamlouk and Umberto Milletari tied at 8-8; (13) Norman Armitage, 6-10; (14) Melvin Hiller, 5-11; (15) Walter Henry, 4-12; (16) Kevis Kapner, 3-13; (17) Arthur Schiller, 2-14.

SABRE

(1) George Worth, 14-1; (2) Allan Kwartler, 11-4; (3) Norman Armitage, Richard Dyer and Tibor Nyilas tied at 10-5; (6) Abram Cohen and Neil Lazar tied at 9-6; (8) Byron Krieger and Arthur Spingarn tied at 8-7; (10) Walter Henry, 7-8; (11) Michael Mamlouk and Umberto Milletari tied at 6-9; (13) Daniel Rubinstein, 5-10; (14) Kevis Kapner, 4-11; (15) Thomas Bickley and Paul Moss tied at 2-13.

Results of Women's Tryouts

West Coast: Maxine Mitchell won both tryouts.

Eastern and Midwest Finals: (1) Grace Acel, 16-0; (2) Eve G. Siegel, 13-3; (3) Madeline Dalton and Judy Goodrich tied at 12-4; (5) Ida Balint, 10-6; (6) Paula Sweeney, 9-7; (7) Saliye Chambers and Julia Schoeck tied at 8-8; (9) Mildred Boyce and Betty Santelli tied at 7-9; (11) Anne Drungis, Dolly Funke and Sue Thompson tied at 6-10; (14) Louise Knab, 5-11; (15) Grace Marchant and Vivienne Sokol tied at 4-12; (17) Sophronia Pierce, 3-13.

ABOUT THE PAN-AMERICAN GAMES

The official bulletin of the Second Pan-American Sportive Games, issued in Mexico City on December 1, 1954 (No. 8) lists the following fencing schedule:

- March 13—Women's Foil (Complete)
- March 14-15—Foil Team Events
- March 16-17—Individual Foil Events
- March 18-19—Epee Team Events
- March 20-21—Individual Epee Events
- March 22-23—Sabre Team Events
- March 24-25—Individual Sabre Events

The women's team event, originally included in the plans for the Games, seems to have been cancelled.

The epee event of the Modern Pentathlon is scheduled for March 15.

The official bulletin of November 15 (No. 7) indicates that an effort is being made to use the electrical foil apparatus, but the matter seems to be in doubt at this writing.

* * *

All fencing events will be held in the top-floor gymnasium of the Centro Deportivo Chapultepec. Visiting teams will be housed in two buildings of the new University City: the teachers' apartment building and the school of medicine dormitory.

* * *

Ten members of the U. S. Olympic Fencing Committee met at the Fencers Club in New York on Sunday evening, January 9, to select nine men for the U. S. Pan-American team. The committee members were: Jose R. de Capriles, of Chappaqua, N. Y., chairman; Norman C. Armitage, of Clemson, South Carolina; Miguel A. de Capriles, of Pleasantville, N. Y.; Lajos Csiszar, of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania; Dr. James H. Flynn, of Montclair, New Jersey; Ralph Goldstein, of Yonkers, N. Y.; Alvar Hermanson, of Chicago, Ill.; Howard A. Hayden, of Detroit, Mich.; Tracy Jaekel, of New York; and Nickolas Murray, of New York.

* * *

The United States will defend the foil team and sabre team championships it won at the I Pan American Games in Buenos Aires four years ago. Dr. Tibor Nyilas will defend the individual sabre championship.

* * *

The 1951 U. S. team set a high record of performance in Buenos Aires. In addition to the three first places mentioned above, the U.S. epee team finished second,

George Worth came second in the individual sabre, Nat Lubell was third in foil and Edward Vebell third in epee. Every individual entry contributed to the unofficial point total, which covers the first six places, as Byron Krieger finished sixth in foil and sabre, and Albert Wolff was sixth in epee. The six men who comprised the regular team were supported by Miguel de Capriles, captain-manager of the fencing team, and Col. Fred R. Weber, captain-manager of the modern pentathlon team, both of whom fenced only in the team events. The United States did not compete in the women's events.

* * *

The 1951 Pan American Games in fencing were practically a dual meet between the United States and Argentina. Argentina was first in epe team and second in foil and sabre teams. Argentina's full entry in the individuals won first and second in foil and first in epee. Other individual medalists were Ramos of Mexico in epee and Molnar of Brazil in sabre.

* * *

Argentina's 1951 Pan American women's fencing champion was E. Irigoyen. In the 1952 Olympic Games at Helsinki, Miss Irigoyen reached the semi-final round, where she lost a close bout to Jan York.

* * *

The women's team event was included in the 1951 schedule, but no official championship was held inasmuch as only Argentina and Brazil entered the event and the rules require a minimum of three teams. In an informal match, Argentina won an easy victory.

CUBA-U.S.A. MATCH

An informal practice match between Cuba and the United States, arranged as part of the Pan-American training program for both teams, was held at the Fencers Club on January 26. Although the Cuban squad was only at half strength, every effort was made to provide the visitors with the strongest available competition in New York. Two three-man teams were fielded in foil and epee, and one four-man team in sabre (with J. de Capriles substituting for Kwartler in one bout). The line-ups were as follows:

Foil: Cuba No. 1 (Garcia, Jordan, Menendez) v. U.S.A. No. 1 (Axelrod, Goldsmith, Kwartler); Cuba No. 2 (Martinez, Pereda, Rivera) v. U.S.A. No. 2 (Bukantz, Lubell, Nunes).

Epee: Cuba No. 1 (Garcia, Jordan, Menendez) v. U.S.A. No. 1 (Cohen, Goldsmith, Shurtz); Cuba No. 2 (Pereda, Rivera, Varela) v. U.S.A. No. 2 (de Capriles, Goldstein, Jaekel).

Sabre: Cuba (Aldama, Garcia, Martinez, Valera) v. U.S.A. (Cohen, de Capriles, Kwartler, Nyilas, Worth).

Cuba's young, athletic and fast team showed to best advantage in epee, with Pereda making a clean sweep. Col. Varela and Martinez were outstanding in sabre.

—M. de C.

CCL. HAROLD M. RAYNER, U.S.A.
U.S. Olympic Fencing Team 1912, 1920, 1928
Captain, U.S. Olympic Pentathlon Team, 1928

Colonel Harold M. Rayner, U.S.A. (retired), distinguished internationalist in fencing and modern pentathlon, died at the age of 66 in the Veterans Hospital, Montrose, N. Y., on December 8, 1954.

A formidable epeeist, a classical foilsman, a superb rider, an excellent linguist, and a polished diplomat, Harold Rayner served as aide de camp to President Wilson, President Harding and General Pershing, and as military aide to King Albert of Belgium and Crown Prince Olaf of Norway. Graduated from West Point in 1912, he was attached to the Army General Staff and later to the War Department's military intelligence unit during World War I.

Harold Rayner's warm personality, his unflinching courtesy and good sportsmanship won him friends and admirers all over the world. His example was a source of inspiration to many a young fencer in the New York area during Rayner's tour of duty as Master of the Sword at West Point and the training period for the 1928 pentathlon squad stationed at Governors Island. Mrs. Rayner, who survives, resides at 206 Linden Avenue, Glen Ridge, N. J.

—M. de C.

From Harrogate, Tenn.

On January 8, Lincoln Memorial University was host to some fifty fencers for a day-long fencing session before an audience of approximately 250 fans. In the morning, LMU fenced an army team from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, which included Lt. Robert Byrom (ex-C.C.N.Y.), Lt. Eugene Stokes (ex-West Point), Lt. Robert W. Bristol (ex-Michigan State), and Cpl. Jack Berger (ex-Brooklyn). Fort Campbell won, 17-10. In the afternoon, LMU defeated a University of Kentucky contingent by the same score. In the evening, there was an invitational round-robin tournament for competitors representing Knoxville YMCA, University of Kentucky, Fort Campbell, and Tri-State Club, a newly organized group in the Cumberland Gap area. Miss Kay Pressley, Tennessee and Kentucky's ladies' foil champion, and Mrs. Penny Newton, former champion of the Washington Fencers Club, gave a foil demonstration. The highlight of the day was a sabre exhibition between Koumillo Szathmary, former Roumanian champion, and Harold Newton, four times sabre champion of Washington, D. C.

The LMU fencing schedule this season consist of five triangular meets: January 8, U. Ky. and Fort Campbell; January 29, U. of Ky. and Vanderbilt; February 19, at Indiana U. with U. of Cincinnati; February 26, Indiana and No. Carolina State at home; March 5, at Chapel Hill, U. of No. Carolina and No. Carolina State.

—Louis Lutz

SANTELLI-DEDOUSIS

George Santelli and Betty Dedousis announced their marriage in December. "Giorgio", long one of the most colorful figures in American Fencing, is not only the guiding head of the most successful private Salle d'Armes in the country, but also the Director of U.S. Fencing Equipment Co. Mrs. Santelli, for some time associated with George's business activities, is also his enthusiastic pupil, attaining the finals and national ranking in 1953. Our heartiest congratulations!



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Bring Your Rules Book Up To Date

Listed below are all the changes and additions in the rules approved by the Board of Governors since the current 1951 edition of the Rules Book was printed. It is suggested that you make the necessary corrections on your copy.

(4) Membership Rules

Page 5

Par. 1—Membership in the AFLA is open to residents or citizens of the U.S. who are genuinely interested in the development of amateur competitive fencing. There are six classes of membership: Honorary, Life, Active, Collegiate, Student and Associate. All classes except Associate have equal rights to participate in AFLA competitions; the rights of Honorary, Student and Associate members to participate in the management of the League are subject to Constitutional restrictions.

Par. 2—Delete first word, "Senior," and change "Active members" to "Collegiate." Add: Honorary, Life and Associate memberships have no age restriction. Associate members are non-competitors and need not be amateurs.

Page 6

Par. 1—Change third sentence to read: "Such enrollment as a provisional member carries full rights of the particular class of membership until the next meeting of the Board of Governors. . . ."

Par. 2—Change last sentence to read: "The basic annual dues for 1954-1955 are \$6.00 for Active members, \$4.00 for Collegiate members, \$3.00 for Associate members and \$2.00 for Student members."

Par. 3—Change end of first sentence to read: "As part of their membership." Delete "Senior" at beginning of third sentence.

Page 8

Par. 5—Insert "amateur" as the second word of first sentence.

RULES

Page 17

Rule 14 (b)—Change "All Eastern" to "North Atlantic," and add at end of rule: "Other interdivisional championships shall have the same classification as a Divisional Championship (see Rule 9, d).

Page 22

Rule 28 (c)—(New)—Every entry certifies its eligibility for the particular event.

Page 44

Rule 59 (New) — The rules covering withdrawals shall not apply to cases where an ineligible fencer has competed. All bouts fenced by an ineligible entry shall be cancelled and the results of the pool or competition shall be determined accordingly.

Page 45

Rule 61 — Substitute the following: "There shall be no limitation on the number of team entries from a club unless a specific limit is fixed by the local governing body. Members of two or more teams representing the same organization may not be interchanged during a competition."

Rule 63 (a) — Add: "The individuals whose names are submitted shall certify their eligibility to compete."

Page 50

Rule 76 (c)—(New) "The above rules shall not apply to ineligible entries (see Rule 79)."

Rule 78 — Number present Rule "78 (a)" and make present Rule 79 "78 (b)."

Rule 79 (New)—"A team using an ineligible fencer shall forfeit the match or matches in which such member participated and in the event that the competition, or any part thereof, is re-fenced the team and all its members shall be barred from participation."

Page 51

Rule 81 (a)—Change from second sentence on to read: "In exceptional cases, subject to approval by the Board of Governors, a member of the AFLA may be permitted to qualify from a division other than the one to which he belongs if he was physically unable to compete in his qualifying competition, had earned qualification from his division in the qualifying competition of the previous season, and obtains the consent of the Executive Committee of the division from which he seeks to qualify. No individual who has for the same season unsuccessfully attempted to qualify in a divisional or non-divisional qualifying competition shall be permitted to qualify by any other method.

Page 52

Rule 82 (a) — Delete all after "determined" in third line and substitute: "(1) by the competitive membership (Life, Active, Collegiate, Student) in good standing in the division or non-divisional group at the time of the competition, and (2) by the number of fencers actually competing for qualification. The minimum number of qualifiers shall be three if there are 25 or less competitive members in good standing; four if there are 26 to 50 inclusive; five if there are 51 to 100 inclusive; six if there are 101 or more. Additional qualifiers shall be permitted if there are 14 or more actual competitors in the qualifying competition, as follows: 10 to 19 competitors (inclusive), two additional qualifiers; 20 to 29 inclusive, three additional qualifiers; 30 to 39 inclusive, four additional qualifiers; 40 or more, five additional qualifiers. In other words, three shall be the minimum, and eleven the maximum that shall be allowed to qualify from any divisional or non-divisional competition.

Rule 82 (b)—Delete "four or less" on second line and substitute: "less than the minimum established by membership."

Rule 82 (d)—Delete all except last sentence and substitute: "Additional representation shall be afforded on the basis of proven strength by permitting the following to qualify automatically for the championship tournament in each weapon, without taking part in the qualifying competitions and without reducing the number of other qualifiers from the division or non-divisional group to which they belong: the finalists of the previous national championships in each weapon; all former national champions in each weapon; members of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Team selected not more than four years prior to the championship tournament,

in the weapon fenced; current Sectional Champions in each weapon; fencers of Veteran classification (aged 50 or more) who have been national championship medalists or members of a U.S. Olympic Fencing Team."

Page 55

Rule 87 — Change first paragraph to: "Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, the first round of the championship competitions, team and individual, shall be held by the round-robin or pool method but byes may be given at the discretion of the Bout Committee."

Rule 87 (d) — Change to read: "In all rounds of the national individual championship, qualification shall be determined on the basis of bout victories. If two or more fencers are tied for the last qualifying place on the basis of bout victories there shall be a fence-off. If after a fence-off there is still a tie in bout victories, the tie shall be resolved by counting touches, and the touch score in the original pool shall be added to the touch score of the fence-off to determine the relative standing of the fencers involved. The bout and touch scores among the qualifiers from the same pool may be used to determine their comparative standing for the purpose of seeding the following round."

Page 56

Rule 90 (c) — Delete the quotation marks.

Rule 90 (d) — "The North Atlantic Championships are open to all divisions east of the state of Ohio and north of the state of North Carolina."

Page 58

Rule 95 — Change "one month" to "sixteen days."

Rule 95 (a) — "Participation is limited to the divisions which are members of the Midwest Section and to such other divisions and individuals as may be invited by the Midwest Executive Committee."

Rule 96 — Delete. New rules will be drawn up for North Atlantic Championships.

Page 69

Rule 220 — "The mesh and bib of the mask, and for sabre all parts of the mask liable to come in contact with the opponent's blade (mesh, bib, reinforcements, straps and sides), and the front surface of the visor (which, if used, must always be placed within the mask) must be white or very light ecru in color. On the other hand, the inside surface of the mask and bib, the back spring and, in foil and epee the outside trimming may be of any color whatsoever."

Page 96

Rule 523 — Insert after second sentence: "When the bout is prolonged in this manner the contestants shall go on guard at the places they occupied on the strip when the time fixed for the bout expired."

Rule 525 — Insert before the last sentence: "When the bout is prolonged in this manner the contestants shall go on guard at the places they occupied on the strip when the time fixed for the bout expired."

Page 97

Rule 601 — "The Bout Committee for all A.F.L.A. events shall consist of members of the League in good standing. If professional Associate members serve on the Committee they may not participate in the seeding of pools."

Rule 603 — Add: "The Director and Judges in official A.F.L.A. competitions shall be amateurs in good standing except that for divisional or non-divisional competitions a jury may contain one or more non-amateur members of the League if such a decision is made by affirmative action of the appropriate governing body."

Rule 608 — "In team matches, the Director and Judges shall not be members or teachers of either club* participating in the match."

Rule 609 — "In individual events, the Director and Judges should not belong to the same club* as or be the teachers of either contestant. For practical reasons, however, final decision in this matter as regards amateur officials rests solely with the Bout Committee."

METROPOLITAN - - -**INTERCOLLEGIATE FOIL****By Allan Kwartler**

Philip Craig of Boston University defeated Audrey Seeman of C.C.N.Y. 5-1 to win the AFLA intercollegiate foil invitation for men over the Christmas holidays. There were 41 competitors representing Boston College, B. U., Columbia Cornell, C.C.N.Y., Navy, N. Y.U., Stevens, Tufts, V.M.I., Yale and Yeshiva.

Final round: (1) Craig, B.U., 4-1; (2) Seeman, CCNY, 4-1; (3) Piperno, CCNY, 2-3, 20 t.r.; (4) Gonzelas, Navy, 2-3, 21 t.r.; (5) Smith, Princeton, 2-3, 23 t.r.; (6) Zechlin, Navy, 1-4.

Semi-finalists: Mouquard, Cornell; Keggi, Y.; Hill, Navy; Prosnick, B.C.; Chioco, V.M.I.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE INVITATION**By Herta Friedrich**

Harriet King, Hunter, defeated Jane Dardia, Patterson, 4-1, in the final bout of the tournament to win the A.F.L.A. Christmas invitation meet for college women on December 18. Brooklyn College was host to 36 fencers representing eight New York and New Jersey colleges.

Finalists

(1) Harriet King, Hunter, 8-0; (2) Jane Dardia, Paterson, 7-1; (3) Connie Shames, Hunter, 5-3; (4) Jean Rawcliffe, Montclair, 4-4, 20 t.r.; (5) Lorette Crevero, Paterson, 4-4, 21 t.r.; (6) Joan Monteverde, Farleigh-Dickinson, 4-4, 23 t.r.; (7) Phyllis Victor, N.Y.U., 2-6 (8) Olive Stevens, Brooklyn, 1-7, 30/12; (9) Annette Hermon, N.Y.U., 1-7, 30/10.

Other Events Reported on P. 10**NOVICE FOIL****By Leo Sobel**

Dr. Peter Frank of Fencers Club defeated Milton Markowitz, Salle Santelli, in the last bout of the final round-robin, 5-4, to win first place. There were 44 contestants.

Final round: (1) Frank, F.C., 5-0; (2) Markowitz, S.S., 4-1; (3) Wertlieb, C.C.N.Y., 3-2; (4) Canvin, F.C., 2-3; (5) Flynn, N.Y.A.C., 1-4; (6) Glassner, C.C.N.Y., 0-5.

WOMEN'S NOVICE**By Grace Acel**

Clean, confident fencing earned for Connie Jenkins of Salle Lucia the Madeline Dalton gold medal on November 21. There were 23 entries.

Final round: (1) Jenkins, Lucia, 6-1; (2) Rawcliffe, Montclair STC, 5-2; (3) King, Hunter Coll., 4-3, 21/24; (4) Parker, Rhodes Ac., 4-3, 21/22; (5) Jancu, N.Y.T.V., 3-4; (6) Stollerman, NYU, 2-5, 22 t.r.; (7) Herman, NYU, 2-4, 23 t.r.; (8) Schwabe, Hunter, 2-5, 25 t.r.

PREP FOIL**By Anne M. Drungis**

Alfred Peredo of N.Y.U., undefeated in three rounds of competition, was touched only 11 times in eight final bouts and easily won first place. There were 30 competitors and an all-college final.

Final round: (1) Peredo, NYU, 8-0; (2) Gottlieb, Fordham, 7-1; (3) Wolfe, CCNY, 5-3, 22 t.r.; (4) Leffand, Columbia, 5-3, 30 t.r.; (5) Mo-shang, Col., 4-4; (6) Hochman, CCNY, 4-4; (7) Paletta, NYU, 2-6; (8) Chill, Yeshiva, 1-7; (9) Podroza, NYU, 0-8.

JUNIOR EPEE TEAM**By Pieter Mijer**

C.C.N.Y.'s "A" team scratched through three 5-4 victories in the final to win the event, and its B squad finished second. The Fencers Club, despite a clean sweep by Harold Goldsmith of the U. S. Pan American Team in all its matches, could do no better than third. Six teams competed. The members of the winning team were Maldin, Ulenas and Zafman.

NOVICE EPEE**By William Latzko**

Wm. J. Andre, U. S. Naval Academy, defeated N. Ayers, Columbia, 3-0, in the fence-off for first place. There were 25 competitors.

Final round: (1) Andre, USNA, 7-1; (2) Ayers, Col., 7-1; (3) Peredo, NYU, 5-3; (4) Zafman, CCNY, 4-4, 13 t.r.; (5) Gotkin, NYU, 4-4, 16 t.r.; (6) Civan, Col., 3-4, 15 t.r.; (7) Wolfe, CCNY, 3-5, 17 t.r.; (8) Seeman, CCNY, 2-7; (9) Ulenas, CCNY, 1-8.

A.F.L.A. SHIELD

The A.F.L.A. shield emblem is to be worn on the cuff of the rear arm. The gold, silver or bronze stars for men should appear on the gray field, from left to right, for foil, epee and sabre ranking. Bronze is novice, silver is junior or intermediate, gold is senior. Shield 75c; Stars 25c.

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

News from the Divisions

Southern California

By Fred Linkmeyer

The division has established a monthly bulletin for distribution to the membership. The November issue called the attention of the members to a number of rules which have not been strictly observed. The Bowen Foils has been postponed and will be rescheduled later. Results of all other 1954 competitions were as follows:

Foil Novice, 10/8/54, Beverly Hills YMCA (59 entries): (1) Quentin Booker, Cav.; (2) Ken Lieberman, KFC; (3) John Wiggins, FSF.

Foil Junior, 10/8/54, B.H.Y. (64 entries): (1) Phil Romano, FSF; (2) Fred Rayser, LAAC; (3) Hiroshi Kamiya, MFS.

Faulkner Mixed Doubles, 10/10/54, FSF (30 entries): (1) Bonnie Merwin and Bill Morey; (2) Pat Mees and Keeneth Marx; (3) Alice Gerakin and George Slocum.

Women's Novice, 10/15/54, Valley JC (23 entries): (1) Madeline Iyamoto, FSF; (2) Deane Heller, Cav.; (3) Diane Sorenson, Vince.

Women's Junior, 11/5/54, Valley JC (29 entries): (1) Peggy Lundeberg, Cav.; (2) Bonnie Merwin, FSF; (3) Deane Heller, Cav.

Foil Junior Team, 10/15 and 11/26 (17 teams): (1) Cavaliers No. 1 (DeBellis, Booker, Kirchner); (2) Faulkner SF No. 3 (Marx, Wiggins, Duncan); (3) Knights FC No. 2 (Deitsch, Lieberman, Morey).

Epee Novice, 10/22 and 11/26 (36 entries): (1) Paul Breitman, Cavaliers; (2) John Babcock, Cavaliers; (3) Ken Marx, F.S.F.

Epee Junior, 11/5 and 12/7 (32 entries): (1) John Babcock, Cavaliers; (2) Steve Lundeberg, Cav.; (3) Bob Korkegie, SFC.

Epee Junior Team, 11/12 and 11/30, Pasadena Y (11 teams): (1) Aguilas (Traylor, Welsh, Noah); (2) Cavaliers No. 2 (Davenport, Babcock, Craig, Lundeberg); (3) Cavaliers No. 1 (Hiner, Kirchner, Booker).

Sabre Novice, 11/19/54, Pasadena Y (33 entries): (1) Martin Kirschner, FSF; (2) Ken Lieberman, KFC; (3) Quentin Booker, Cav.

Women's Junior Team, 11/19/54, Pasadena Y (8 teams): (1) Faulkner No. 1 (Bettie Merwin, Bonnie Merwin, P. Mason); (2) Cavaliers No. 1 (D. Heller, A. de Long, G. de Lucca); (3) Faulkner No. 2 (C. Ford, M. Miyamoto, B. Vaughn).

Sabre Junior, 12/3/54, Long Beach Y (26 entries): (1) Martin Kirschner, FSF; (2) Ken Lieberman, KFC; (3) Bob Crawford, FSF.

Sabre Junior Team, 12/10/54, Beverly Hills Y (7 teams): (1) Faulkner No. 1 (Crawford, Carter, Slocum); (2) Cavaliers No. 3 (DeBellis, Breitman, Booker); (3) Knights No. 1 (Rogers, Lieberman, Solomon).

Women's Senior, 12/10/54, B.H.Y. (8 entries): (1) Maxine Mitchell, H.A.C.; (2) Iris Hoblit, Unatt.; (3) Alice Gerakin, FSF.

Foil Senior, 12/17/54, Pasadena Y (11 entries): Josef Lampl, LAAC; (2) Phil Romano, FSF; (3) Fred Linkmeyer, LAAC.

Westchester

By Grace Acel

The Westchester Fencers' Association, a division of the County Recreation Commission, has obtained the expert coaching and guidance of Odon Niederkischner for its Monday evening sessions at the County Center in White Plains. Officers for the 1954-55 season are Curtis Ettinger, chairman; Jane Struve, Secretary, and Larry Johnson, Treasurer.

Northern California

By Ferard Leicester

The following are the results of recent competitions in the San Francisco Bay area:

Epee Intermediate, 11/19/54, Halberstadt (10 entries): (1) Leal Kanstein, BFC, on fence-off; (2) Gordon Scheile, HSF; (3) Jack Baker, Olympic Club.

3-Weapon Championship, 11/26/54, Halberstadt (9 entries): (1) Salvatore Giambra, O.C., 8-0; (2) Gerard Biagini, O.C., 6-2, 77 pts.; (3) Albert Lambert, BFC, 6-2, 73 pts.; (4) Gordon Scheile, HSF, 6-2, 68 pts.

Sabre Junior, 12/3/54, U.C. Berk. (10 entries): (1) Herbert Rhodes, L.A.H.; (2) Jerome Klotz, U.C.; (3) Laurance Brownlee, L.A.H.

Epee Intermediate Team, 12/10/54, Halberstadt (4 teams): Won by Halberstadt SF (J. Adams, G. Scheile, N. Schultz).

Women's Intermediate, 12/17/54, HSF (8 entries): (1) Patricia Barkduil, HSF; (2) Shirley Kanter, FFA; (3) Mary Huddleson, HSF.

Foil Intermediate, 1/14/55, Letterman A.H. (13 entries): (1) Laurence Brownlee, LAH; (2) Jack Baker, O.C.; (3) Gordon Scheile, H.S.F.

Illinois

By Nathan Shapiro

Leon Strauss served as instructor at the session of the men's directors school held on November 15. Results of recent competitions:

Foil Open: (1) Herman Velasco; (2) Art Schan-kin; (3) Richard Berry.

Foil Novice: (1) Charles Abele; (2) Jay Bitterman; (3) Markido Zirino.

Women's Handicap: (1) Bretta Reinhardt; (2) Justine Wincek; (3) Karen Roth.

A new fencing club, Salle Calvert, was the site of the men's and women's prep foil competitions. Headed by Del Mar Calvert, former member of the French Foreign Legion and instructor at California's Falcon Club, Salle Calvert promises to become one of Chicago's popular fencing centers. Results of these competitions:

Foil Prep, 1/16/55: (1) Herbert Zipperian, U of C; (2) Robert B. McDowell, USN; (3) Jerome Gross, U of C.

Women's Prep: (1) Mary Curl, Harand; (2) Bretta Reinhardt, Harand; (3) Claire Michaels, Harand.

Central Illinois

By Marvin Metzger

The division has had the good fortune of having Joseph Mastropaolo take the position as Assistant Coach at the University of Illinois, where he serves under the popular Coach, Mac Garret. The quality of fencing in the four competitions held thus far has been more than satisfactory. Results:

Sabre Junior, 12/4/54, 12 entries: (1) Marvin Metzger; (2) Jim Sandstrom; (3) Jim Bell, on touches.

Epee Junior, 12/11/54, 11 entries: (1) Jim Dammann; (2) Pete Velasco; (3) Jay Sheffield.

Women's Prep, 1/9/55, 4 entries: (1) Vikki Costas on fence-off over Sylvia Lord.

Foil Prep, 1/15/55, 12 entries: (1) Chuck Blahous; (2) Tyler Hunt; (3) Dave Brown.

Oregon

By Dolores Geier, Sec.-Treas.

The results of recent competitions follow:

Epee Novice, 11/12/54, Nottingham's (7 competitors): (1) Bob Geier, NSF; (2) Tate Minckler, Reed; (3) Allen Nettek, Reed.

Women's Novice, 11/21/54, Reed College (5 competitors): (1) Dolores Geier, unatt.; (2) Barbara Hammond, Portland SC; (3) Nancy Standhardt, Reed.

Foil Novice, 11/21/54, Reed (10 competitors): (1) Robert Reed, NSF; (2) Gary Lewis, Reed; (3) Robert Fortner, Portland St. C.

Foil Winter Handicap, 1/7/55, Nottingham's (13 entries): (1) Pat Buie, —5, Reed College; (2) Bob Geire, —6, NSF; (3) Donald P. Naylor, —6, Portland FC.

Women's Winter Handicap, 1/7/55, Nottingham's (3 entries): (1) Dolores Geier, —1, Unatt.; (2) Barbara Hammond, —1, P.S.C.; (3) Charlene Molden, no handicap, P.S.C.

Maryland

By Jane O. Burger

The division is off to a good start this season, with five events completed before the first of the new year. Participation in all events thus far has been good, and hopes are high for a busy year. There are active fencing groups at Baltimore Polytechnic, Baltimore City College, Johns Hopkins, Goucher College, Druid Hill Branch and Central Branch YMCA, International Center Branch YWCA, Jewish Community Center, and Tri-Weapon Club. Results are as follows:

Women's Prep, 11/16/54: (1) Mary Leary, Goucher, on fence-off; (2) Betty Bruening, Goucher; (3) Pat Gaines, Goucher.

Women's Novice, 12/1/54: (1) Jane Buebel, Trie-Weapon, on fence-off; (2) Arlene Ward, Goucher; (3) Marty Hesperheide, York YMCA.

Bailey 3-Weapon, 12/4/54: (1) Calvert Schlick, YMCA, on fence-off; (2) Eaton Bayor, YMCA; (3) Al Hurwitz, YMCA.

Women's Handicap, 12/11/54: (1) Abbie Rose, Trie-Weapon, after three-way fence-off; (2) Jean Millman, Tri-Weapon; (3) Skip Scriverich, International "Y".

Mixed Doubles, 12/12/54: (1) Eaton Bayor and Abbie Rose; (2) Lee Stanley and Doris Bernard; (3) Mat Sciuillo and Jane Burger.

Kentucky

By John H. Gehant

The feature of the season thus far was a team competition between the St. Louis division, AFLA, and the Louisville YMCA on December 5, won by Louisville 18-16. Joe Trembley of St. Louis scored half of his team's points, winning all six of his foil and sabre bouts and two of his four epee bouts. For Louisville, Charles Thomas swept his four epee bouts. St. Louis won the foil 7-2, and Louisville took the epee 10-6 and the sabre 6-3. Results of other competitions:

Foil Open, 11/7/54: (1) Carl Burge, Louisville Y; (2) Albert Wolff, Louisville Y; (3) Bill Snedegar, Lexington.

Epee Open, 12/12/54: (1) Charles Thomas; (2) John Gehant; (3) Carl Burge—all of Louisville YMCA.

Gulf Coast

By Mable Morse, Secretary

Four invitational meets have been added to the original schedule in order to provide additional competition for advanced fencers. The new Foil Open and Women's Open will be held with the "no foul" rule. Results of recent events follow:

Women's Open, 11/27/54, St. Joseph's, Houston (10 entries): (1) Betty Day; (2) Nancy Derrick, on touches; (3) Mabel Morse.

3-Weapon Team, 11/27/54, St. Joseph's, 5 teams: (1) Composite (Derrick, Mercado, Day); (2) Houston FC (Strobel, Endel, Strobel); (3) Rice "A" (Applebaum, Reed, Sklar).

Women's Open, 12/4/54, U. Texas (6 entries): (1) Waneen Wyrick, UT, on fence-off; (2) Pat Fiske, S.E.; (3) Betty Day, S.E.

Foil Open, 12/4/54, U. Texas (2) entries: (1) W.T. Brown, Buc.; (2) Jim Stevenson, U.T.; (3) Jack Baird, Buc.

Epee Novice, 12/5/54, Austin A.C. (12 entries): (1) John B. Carter, UT, on fence-off; (2) Larry Anderson, UT; (3) Walter Anderson, A & M.

Sabre Novice, 12/5/54, Austin A.C. (14 entries): (1) Fred Sklar, Rice; (2) Walter Anderson, A & M, on touches; (3) Larry Anderson, UT, on touches.

Epee Open, 12/11/54, Houston YMCA (13 entries): (1) John Carter, UT, on fence-off; (2) R. W. Derrick, UH; (3) George Whisenand, HFC, on touches.

Sabre Open, 12/11/54, Houston YMCA (15 entries): (1) W. T. Brown, Buc.; (2) Jim Stevenson, UT, on touches; (3) Jack Baird, Buc., on touches.

Women's Novice, 1/8/55, Rice Inst., Houston (4 entries): (1) Nancy Derrick, SDE; (2) Pat Fiske, Ind.; (3) Mabel Morse, Ind.

Novice Foil, 1/8/55, Rice Inst. (12 entries): (1) Carl Hill, A & M; (2) Jim Stevenson, Texas; (3) D. F. Roth, A & M.

Women's Team, 1/15/55, St. Joseph's Houston (8 entries): (1) Janet Thigpen-Elnora Noack, Austin, on touches over Ruth Peaceman-Mabel Morse, SdE.

Foil Open, 1/15/55, St. Joseph's (16 entries): (1) Arnold Mercado, Ind.; (2) Jim Parker, Texas, on touches; (3) John Curry HFC.

One-Touch Epee, 1/15/55, St. Joseph's (7 entries): (1) Don Burton, A & M, on fence-off; (2) Jim Pigg, A & M; (3) Arnold Mercado, Ind.

New England

By Harriet Brewster

The division has the good fortune to welcome Ray and Sallye Chambers to Boston. They have just moved here from Detroit. The results of competitions, up to January 9, are as follows:

Foil Novice (7 entries): (1) Larry Zimmerman, Salle Elde, on fence-off; (2) Paul Demoge, Salle Vitale; (3) Paul Sherman, BFC.

Epee Novice (4 entries): (1) Paul Demoge, Salle Vitale; (2) Edwin Richards, Salle Elde; (3) Harold Miller, M.I.T.

Sabre Novice (5 entries): (1) Phillip Craig, Boston U.; (2) Paul Demoge, Vitale; (3) Paulo de Moura, B.U.

Women's Novice (9 entries): (1) Barbara Lenehan, BFC, on fence-off; (2) Mrs. Sydney Farber, BFC; (3) Mrs. Alyce Smetana, BFC.

Epee Prep (5 entries): (1) D. Fitch, Harvard; (2) Walton Rawls, Harvard; (3) Paul Sherman, Vitale.

Foil Prep (7 entries): (1) Ben Edwards, M.I.T.; (2) Felix Poupolo, Vitale; (3) Leonard Rose, BFC.

Sabre Prep (4 entries): (1) Janis Kenigs, Latvian Fencers, on fence-off; (2) Egils Katkins, L.F.; (3) Eugen Strieps, L.F.

Women's Prep (5 entries): (1) Joan Zinck, Vitale, on fence-off; (2) Alberta Griggs, Y.W.C.A.; (3) Dorothy Brightman, Salle Elde.

North Texas

By Kay Cottingham

Divisional membership is already at 50 and should before long surpass last year's mark of 73. New fencing groups include the Amarillo Club, the Merkel "Knights" and the North Texas State College team. The division's future looks bright, except for the lack of professional guidance. The results of the four official tournaments thus far were:

Nov. 6, 1954, Fort Worth

Foil Intermediate: (1) Gene Allen, Abilene, on fence-off; (2) Ed Sims, Texas Tech; (3) Dick Cottingham, Ft. Worth.

Epee Novice: (1) Raymond Smith, TCU; (2) Tom Neatherlin, Texas Tech; (3) Eugene Miles, Texas Tech.

Men's Teams: Texas Tech defeated Fort Worth, 5-1 in foil, 5-1 in sabre, 5-1 in epee.

December 4, 1954, Texas Tech, Lubbock

Epee Open: (1) Ed Sims, Texas Tech; (2) Gene Allen, Abilene; (3) Jack Carnell, Texas Tech.

Foil Prep: (1) Tom Neatherlin, Texas Tech, on three-way fence-off; (2) Mike Jenkins, Abilene; (3) Don Ferguson, Texas Tech.

Men's Teams: Texas Tech defeated Abilene, 5-3 in sabre, 5-4 in foil.

December 11, 1954, Abilene

Sabre Intermediate: (1) Ed Sims, Texas Tech; (2) Gene Allen, Abilene; (3) Billy Bridgewater, Ft. Worth.

Foil Novice: (1) Billy Bridgewater, Ft. Worth; (2) Worth Baugh, Abilene; (3) Mike Jenkins, Abilene.

Women's Open: (1) Helen Gray, Dallas, on fence-off; (2) Kay Cottingham, Ft. Worth; (3) Pat Randolph, Texas Tech.

January 15, 1955, Dallas

Sabre Open: (1) Dick Cottingham, Ft. Worth; (2) Billy Bridgewater, Ft. Worth; (3) Gene Allen, Abilene.

Foil Junior: (1) Billy Bridgewater, Ft. Worth; (2) Jimmy Herrington, Abilene; (3) Mike Jenkins, Abilene.

Women's Intermediate: (1) Marietta Towry, Dallas, on three-way fence-off; (2) Mildred Luday, Dallas; (3) Kay Cottingham, Ft. Worth.

Women's Team: Dallas defeated Ft. Worth, 5-2. (Women's Prep and Men's Team events postponed.)

New Jersey

By Lucy Stamilla

The first four competitions of the current season yielded the following results:

Foil Prep, 11/19/54, at Farleigh Dickinson (9 entries): (1) Ronald Finne, F-D; (2) Ludlow Clark; (3) Malcolm McKinnon.

Women's Prep, 11/23/54, Farleigh Dickinson (33 entries): (1) Shirley Hayak, F-D; (2) Annette Schillaci, Paterson STC; (3) Prudence Schwabe, Hunter College.

Foil Novice, 12/4/54, Farleigh Dickinson (14 entries): (1) Ben Kramer, N.Y.; (2) Sam Fixman, N.Y.; (3) Alan Siegal, Jersey City.

Women's Novice, 12/7/54, Farleigh Dickinson (38 entries): (1) Joan Ulrickson, Paterson STC; (2) Harriet King, Hunter; (3) Jean Rawcliffe, Montclair STC.

From Schenectady, N. Y.

The Tri-City Fencers' Club of Schenectady, N.Y., which hopes eventually to establish an AFLA division in the Albany-Troy-Schenectady area, announces that it will sponsor an Invitation Foil Tournament to be held in Schenectady on Saturday, April 16. A.F.L.A. membership is not required. Entries should be addressed to Mr. P. V. Johnson, 18 Witbeck Drive, Scotia 2, N. Y.

—Ed

Northern Ohio

By Donald S. Thompson

A new fencing coach has been added to the division. He is Menyherth Kadar, who was at one time a pupil of Lajos Csizsar. He has been engaged as a fencing teacher by the City Recreation Department of Cleveland and at three other recreational centers in the city on the three other days. We now have an opportunity really to get rolling on a good fencing program with two professional coaches in the city—Kadar and Chuck Simeone. Chuck seems to be coming along very well with a steady increase in pupils.

Results of season's competitions to end of 1954:

Sabre Open, 10/24/54, 6 entries: (1) Walter Henry, Woodland; (2) Alan Bischoff, Ohio St.; (3) Dave Gillespie, Ohio St.

Epee Open, 10/31/54, 14 entries: (1) A. Musy-chuk, Cuyahoga Falls, after two triple fence-offs; (2) James Gosline, Salle Simonian; (3) William Durrett, Woodland.

Foil Open, 11/7/54, 21 entries: (1) James Gosline, Salle Simonian; (2) M. Wilson, Fenn; (3) Arthur Wade, Woodland.

Women's Open, 11/14/54, 4 entries: (1) Judith Paiffy, Woodland, after three-way fence-off; (2) Myrna Papurt, Ohio St.; (3) Joan Steigerwald, Woodland.

Epee Open, 11/21/54, 13 entries: (1) Howard Fried, Unatta., after three-way fence-off; (2) William Durrett, Woodland; (3) J. Gosline, Simonian.

Sabre Open, 12/5/54, 4 entries: (1) John Shelly, Woodland; (2) R. Boyajian, Akron MCA; (3) J. Reed, Fenn.

Miami Valley

By William J. Pardee

Activity in the division is concentrated at the Central YMCA in Dayton, and at Wright Patterson AFB. The YMCA team split a home-and-home series with Ohio State University, and defeated the University of Cincinnati in dual meets. Bob Goodbar, divisional chairman, was sidelined early in the season with an arm injury, so that the brunt of the team's performance has been carried by Bruce Smith, 1954 Ohio State sabre champion, Gary Bruggeman, ex-N.Y.U. fencer, Bill Pardee, ex-U.S.N.A. folsman, and Paul Mayhew.

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Metropolitan Events

HERMAN WALLNER WINS SENIOR EPEE

By Milton Markowitz

Herman Wallner, Fencers Club, defeated his team-mate, Alfred Skrobisch, 3-2, 3-2, in the final match to win first place. Abram Cohen, also of the Fencers Club, took third.

Preliminary Roundrobins

Pool 1: (1) Makler, Salle Ssizar, 6-1; (2) Henry, S.S., 5-2; (3) A. Cohen, F.C., 4-3, 13 t.r.; (4) Vebell, F.C., 4-3, 15 t.r. Others: J. de Capriles and F. Bavuso, F.C.; J. Flynn, NYAC; Kapner, SS.

Pool 2: (1) M. Mamlouk, NYAC, 5-2, 12 t.r.; (2) R. Dyer, Salle Csiszar, 5-2, 13 t.r.; (3) H. Wallner, FC, 5-2, 14 t.r.; (4) A. Skrobisch, F.C., 4-3, 15/17. Others: R. Goldstein, S.S. (4-3, 15/16); J. Shaw and J. Strauch, F.C.; W. Andre, U. S. Navy.

Direct Elimination

Quarter-finals: Skrobisch d. Makler, 3-1, 3-1; Cohen d. Dyer, 3-1, 3-0; Wallner d. Henry, 3-0, 2-3, 3-2; Mamlouk d. Vebell, 1-3, 3-2, 3-1.

Semi-finals: Skrobisch d. Cohen, 3-0, 3-0; Wallner d. Mamlouk, 3-1, 3-1.

Finals: Wallner d. Skrobisch, 3-2, 3-2 for first place; Cohen d. Mamlouk for third, 1-3, 3-2, 3-0.

ALBIE AXELROD WINS SENIOR FOIL

By Dorothy Friedman

Top-ranked Albie Axelrod, Salle Santelli, defeated his club-mate, Ralph Goldsmith, 5-4 and 5-4, to win first place on November 30. Dean Cetrulo, also of Santelli, whose quarter-final match with Harold Goldsmith was the most hotly contested of the competition, was third.

Preliminary Roundrobins

Pool 1: (1) Axelrod, SS, 5-1; (2) Makler, Salle Csiszar, 4-2, 17 t.r.; (3) Goldsmith, FC, 4-2, 18 t.r.; (4) Goldstein, SS, 4-2, 20 t.r. Others: Cohen, FC; Marcell, SS; Spingorn, FC.

Pool 2: (1) Lazar, SS, 5-0; (2) Cetrulo, SS, 3-2, 17 t.r.; (3) Kwartler, 3-2, 18 t.r.; (4) Kellerman, FC, 2-3, 18 t.r. Others: Strauch, FC; Dyer, Salle Csiszar.

Director Elimination

Quarter-finals: Axelrod d. Kellerman, 5-1, 5-4; Cetrulo d. Goldsmith, 5-2, 0-5, 5-4; Kwartler d. Makler, 5-1, 5-3; Goldstein d. Lazar, 5-4, 5-2.

Semi-finals: Axelrod d. Cetrulo, 5-0, 4-5, 5-2; Goldstein d. Kwartler, 5-4, 5-4.

Finals: Axelrod d. Goldstein, 5-4, 5-4, for first place; Cetrulo d. Kwartler 5-4 for third place (one bout only, by agreement).

INTERMEDIATE FOIL TEAM

By Allan Kwartler

Salle Santelli's team (Price, Oldstein, Rubenstein), although defeated 5-4 by Fencers Club A (Brandeis, Marmer, Strauch) captured the championship by the margin of one touch, by virtue of the fact that the Fencers Club "B" team upset the "A" team, 5-4, in the first match of the final round-robin. Santelli, with two match victories and 16 bouts, received only 92 touches; Fencers Club A, with the same number of victories, received 93. Fencers Club B and Saltus tied with one match victory and 12 bouts for third place. Princeton University also competed.

INTERMEDIATE EPEE TEAM

By Connie Latzko

The Fencers Club quartet of F. Bavuso, H. Goldsmith, H. Salzburg and J. Sonnenreich nosed out the Armed Forces Composite team (Andre, Edmonds, O'Hair), 5-4, in an early match which proved to be decisive. The N. Y.A.C. was third.

INTERMEDIATE SABRE TEAM

By Leo Sobel

Salle Santelli's "A" team, barely getting past its "B" squad, won the George V. Worth gold medals. Steve Sobel, Neil Lazar, Bob Blum and Kevis Kapner composed the winning team; W. Henry (formerly of Northern Ohio), H. Spector, L. Shaff and T. Bickley were the members of the second-place Santelli "B" team, which scored the same number of bout victories as the "A" team. Fencers Club was third in the field of six.

MADELINE DALTON TOPS FIELD OF 19

By Larry Olvin

Madeline Dalton, Fencers Club, undefeated throughout the event, captured first place in the Open competition for the Maria C. Tishman medals, which rated as a Pan American tryout. Eve Siegel won second on touches over Grace Acel and Ida Balint in the field of 19.

Finalists

(1) Dalton, FC, 8-0; (2) Siegel, SS, 6-2, 14 t.r.; (3) Acel, SS, 6-2, 17 t.r.; (4) Ida Balint, Saltus-McB., 6-2, 20 t.r.; (5) Betty Dedousis, SS, 4-4; (6) Mildred Boyce, FC, 2-6, 24 t.r.; (7) Louise Knab, SS, 2-6, 28 t.r.; (8) Vivienne Sokol, 2-6, 30 t.r.; (9) Ronnie Pierce, SS, 1-7.

Semi-finalists

A. Drungis and C. Kopp, SS; J. Schoeck and D. Stack, FC; A. J. Gottlieb, Lucia; and Harriet Brewster, New England.

WOMEN'S INTERMEDIATE TEAM

By Grace Acel

The Salle Santelli "A" team (A. Drungis, D. Friedman, J. Shaff) easily won the five-team round robin for the Dolly Funke medals, and the Santelli B squad (L. Knab, K. Kopp, S. Pierce, M. Rosenbaum) placed second. Salle Lucia was third.

WOMEN'S JUNIOR TEAM

By Larry Olvin

Salle Santelli (Louise Knab, Sophronia Pierce, Marilyn Rosenbaum) won an easy victory, 5-2, over Paterson St. T. C. (Jane Dardia, Jean Moreck, Joan Ulrickson) to win the event. Five teams competed.

WOMEN'S NOVICE TEAM

By Eve C. Siegel

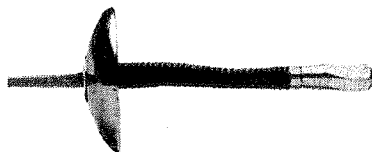
Montclair State Teachers College (J. Rawcliffe, J. Perraudin, D. Kopp, T. Buliczky) won its three final-round matches by 5-4 scores to take first place. Salle Lucia was second, Patterson third, and Hunter fourth in the field of six teams.

LYON TROPHY

By Pieter Mijer

Two pairs of old rivals met in the final match of this popular epee-sabre team event, but this year Jose de Capriles and Abram Cohen, Fencers Club, upset the 1954 winners, Paul Makler and Dick Dyer, Salle Csiszar, 5-3. Both pairs of finalists are members of the U.S. Pan American Team. The Fencers Club gained a 3-1 lead in sabre on J. de Capriles' two victories, and the epee honors were even all around, each man winning one and losing one. The Fencers Club duo won easily over C.C.N.Y. and Santelli B to reach the final, and then defeated Santelli A and N.Y.A.C. by 6-2 scores before meeting Salle Csiszar. The Philadelphians defeated the Fencers Club B team and the New York A.C. B team in the preliminary, swept through Santelli A, 7-1 in the final, but squeezed past the N.Y.A.C. "A" team by only one touch, 25-24, after a 4-4 tie in bouts.

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Other Events Reported on P. 7

National Calendar

MARCH

1	Central Ill.—Women's Novice	7:00 p.m.	Women's Gym
3	New Eng.—Special Mixed Foil Team	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.
4	No. Calif.—Epee Open	8:00 p.m.	Berkeley FC
	Oregon—Sabre Junior	8:00 p.m.	Nottingham's
	So. Calif.—Foil Team	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.
5	Gulf Coast—Epee Junior	2:00 p.m.	Texas A & M
	Gulf Coast—Sabre Junior	2:00 p.m.	Texas A & M
	No. Texas—Sabre Jr., Epee Prep	1:00 p.m.	T.C.U.
	No. Texas—Women's Novice	1:00 p.m.	T.C.U.
	Met.—Foil, National Qual. Rd.	Noon	G.C.Y.M.C.A.
6	Met.—Sabre, National Qual. Rd.	Noon	N.Y.A.C.
	Mich.—Sabre Senior	Noon	Cannon Mem.
	New Eng.—Women's Intermediate	2:00 p.m.	Cambridge YWCA
7	Westchester—Sabre Junior	7:00 p.m.	White Plains CC
11	No. Calif.—Epee Team	8:00 p.m.	Berkeley FC
	Oregon—Epee Junior	8:00 p.m.	Nottingham's
	So. Calif.—Epee Open	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.
11-12	Intercollegiate Fencing Assn.		Concourse Plaza Hotel, N.Y.
12	North Atlantic College Conf.	All day	U. of Buffalo
	Gulf Coast—Epee Prep	2:00 p.m.	Houston YMCA
	Gulf Coast—Sabre Prep	2:00 p.m.	Houston YMCA
	No. Texas—Foil Open, Sabre Novice	1:00 p.m.	Texas Tech
	No. Texas—Women's Novice	1:00 p.m.	Texas Tech
13	Mich.—Women's Senior	Noon	Patton Pk.
	Mich.—Foil Senior	Noon	Patton Pk.
	New Eng.—Epee Intermediate	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.
18	No. Calif.—Women's Open	8:00 p.m.	Berkeley FC
	Oregon—Pac. N.W. Preparatory	8:00 p.m.	Nottingham's
19	Gulf Coast—Foil Prep	2:00 p.m.	Rice Inst.
	Gulf Coast—Women's Prep	2:00 p.m.	Rice Inst.
	Md.—Pavese Tournament	2:00 p.m.	Y.M.C.A.
	Met.—Women's National Qual. Rd.	Noon	Saitus-McBurney
	No. Texas—Sabre Open, Epee Junior	1:00 p.m.	Ft. Worth
	No. Texas—Women's Intermediate	1:00 p.m.	Ft. Worth
20	Met.—Epee Junior Ch.	10:00 a.m.	Fencers Club
	Mich.—Epee Senior	Noon	Cannon Mem.
	New Eng.—Sabre Intermediate	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.
22	Central Ill.—Foil Novice	7:00 p.m.	Old Gym Annex
25	No. Calif.—Foil Open	8:00 p.m.	Letterman AH
	So. Calif.—Epee Team	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.
25-26	N.C.A.A. Fencing Championships		Mich. St. College
25-26	Pacific Northwest Tournament		Seattle
26	Gulf Coast—Epee Novice	2:00 p.m.	U. of Houston
	Gulf Coast—Sabre Novice	2:00 p.m.	U. of Houston
	Met.—Sabre Junior Ch.	Noon	G.C.Y.M.C.A.
	No. Texas—Epee Open	1:00 p.m.	T.S.C.W.
	No. Texas—Women's Open	1:00 p.m.	T.S.C.W.
27	Met.—Foil Junior Ch.	10:00 a.m.	N.Y.A.C.
	Mich.—Foil Open	Noon	Cannon Mem.
	New Eng.—Women's Prep	2:00 p.m.	Cambridge YWCA
29	Central Ill.—Women's Junior	7:00 p.m.	Women's Gym

APRIL

1	No. Calif.—Sabre Open	8:00 p.m.	Halberstadt
	So. Calif.—Sabre Open	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.
2	Central Ill.—Foil Invitation	1:00 p.m.	Old Gym Annex
	Gulf Coast—Foil Novice	2:00 p.m.	U. of Texas
	Gulf Coast—Women's Novice	2:00 p.m.	U. of Texas
	Md.—Foil Open	2:00 p.m.	U.S.N.A.
	Met.—Women's Junior Ch.	Noon	Fencers Club
	New Eng.—3 Weapon Ch.	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.
	New Eng.—Women's Open	2:00 p.m.	Cambridge YWCA
3	No. Calif.—Helen Mayer Mem.	2:00 p.m.	Halberstadt
	Md.—Women's Closed	2:00 p.m.	Int. Y.
	Met.—Sabre Championship	Noon	N.Y.A.C.
	Mich.—Epee Open	Noon	Cannon Mem.
	Oregon—Women's Junior	1:00 p.m.	Reed College
	Oregon—Foil Junior	1:00 p.m.	Reed College
6	Central Ill.—Epee Div. Ch.	7:00 p.m.	Old Gym Annex
9	Western Intercollegiate Conf.	8:00 p.m.	U.C. Berkeley
15	No. Calif.—Women's Team	8:00 p.m.	Funke FA
	So. Calif.—Sabre Team	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.
	So. Calif.—Women's Team	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.


16	Women's Intercollegiate F.A.		To be announced
	Md.—Foil Closed	2:00 p.m.	Y.M.C.A.
	No. Texas—Divisional Finals	1:00 p.m.	Dallas/Ft. W.
16-17	Gulf Coast—Women's Open, Ind.-Team		U. of Houston
	Gulf Coast—Foil Open, Ind.-Team		U. of Houston
17	Md.—Women's Eastern Sectional	2:00 p.m.	Y.W.C.A.
	Mich.—Sabre Open	Noon	Patton Pk.
	Mich.—Women's Open	Noon	Patton Pk.
19	Central Ill.—Foil Div. Ch.	7:00 p.m.	Old Gym Annex
	Met.—Foil Prep	7:00 p.m.	Rohdes Ac.
22	No. Calif. Sabre Team	8:00 p.m.	Halberstadt
	Oregon—Foil Prep	8:00 p.m.	To be announced
	So. Calif.—3 Weapon Ind.	8:00 p.m.	L.A.A.C.
23	Central Ill.—Women's Invitation	1:00 p.m.	Women's Gym
	Met.—Foil Championship	10:00 a.m.	G.C.Y.M.C.A.
23-24	Gulf Coast—Epee Open, Ind.-Team		Texas A & M
	Gulf Coast—Sabre Open, Ind.-Team		Texas A & M
24	Md.—Epee Closed	2:00 p.m.	J.C.C.
	So. Calif.—3 Weapon Team	2:00 p.m.	Knights FC
26	Central Ill.—Sabre Div. Ch.	7:00 p.m.	Old Gym Annex
27	Central Ill.—Women's Div. Ch.	7:00 p.m.	Women's Gym
29	No. Calif.—Foil Team	8:00 p.m.	Letterman AH
	Oregon—Sabre Open	8:00 p.m.	Nottingham's
30	Met.—Women's Championship	Noon	Saitus-McBurney
	New Eng.—Epee Team Ch.	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.

MAY

1	Md.—Sabre Closed	2:00 p.m.	J.C.C.
	Met.—Epee Championship	10:00 a.m.	Fencers Club
	New Eng.—Foil Team Ch.	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.
6-7	Inland Empire Tournament		Spokane
7	Met.—Epee Interm. Ch.	Noon	Fencers Club
	New Eng.—Sabre Team Ch.	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.
7-8	North-Atlantic Sectional Ch.		Philadelphia
	Midwest Sectional Championships		Cleveland
	Pacific Coast Championships		San Francisco
8	Met.—3 Weapon Team	10:00 a.m.	G.C.Y.M.C.A.
	New Eng.—Epee Championship	2:00 p.m.	M.I.T.

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Classification Rules in Need of Revision

By Roger F. Jones, Chairman
Committee on Statistics and Research.

It has been felt for several years that there are two major weaknesses in the present classification system: (1) A disparity exists in the ease with which fencers of equal ability attain higher classification in the various divisions; and (2) despite the basic policy stated in the rules, "intermediate" rather than "junior" is the favored category above the novice ranks.

To check this impression, a survey was made by means of questionnaires mailed to 35 divisions. Seven divisions did not respond: Border, Connecticut, New England, Northern Ohio, Tennessee, Spokane and South Florida (currently under suspension). The Metropolitan group (12 per cent of the national membership) was unable to supply the desired data. The 28 reporting divisions, comprising 74 per cent of the national membership, showed the following breakdown in the various ranks for 1953-54.

Percentage	National Statistics				Total
	F	E	S	W	
Senior	3.9	5.2	4.7	5.8	5
Intermediate	10.6	10.0	9.4	13.5	10
Junior	9.8	9.2	9.5	11.0	9
Novice	41.4	35.0	33.8	35.2	37
Prep	34.3	40.6	42.6	34.5	39
Totals	100.	100.	100.	100.	100

The divisional membership can be broken down into five major geographical areas: (1) The East, comprising 37 per cent of the total membership and including Mid-New York, Harrisburg, Washington (D. C.), Maryland, Philadelphia, Delaware, New Jersey and Westchester; (2) The South, constituting 15 per cent of the membership, and including Florida, Georgia, Gulf Coast, New Orleans and North Texas; (3) The Mid-West, accounting for 30 per cent of the membership and including Western New York, Miami Valley, Columbus, Michigan, Kentucky, St. Louis, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska; (4) The Pacific Coast, 13 per cent of the membership, including Northern California and Southern California; (5) The Pacific Northwest, 5 per cent of the membership, and including Oregon and Seattle. By geographical areas, the figures show up as follows:

Percentage	East	South	N.W.	P.C.	P.N.W.
Senior	5	3	4	8	0
Intermediate	13	4	12	11	6
Junior	10	9	11	9	9
Novice	28	29	38	55	25
Prep	44	55	34	17	60
Totals	100	100	100	100	100

The bulge of intermediates over juniors is especially pronounced in the East. In addition, the Pacific Coast Section has nearly as many Seniors as Juniors, and at the

present rate of advancement the Southwest Section may have more Seniors than Intermediates before long. About 15 or 20 members transfer from one division to another in a season. These are the fencers most directly affected by overly rapid advancement, since half of them held ratings above Junior.

Classification Theory

The key philosophy of the whole classification system is contained in section (g) of rule 9. It reads:

"The theory . . . is that, up to the Junior classification, any marginal case should be decided in favor of the higher class in order to protect other inexperienced fencers; but beyond the Junior rank the fencer should clearly prove his right to be classified in the upper categories."

The writer is of the opinion that there are two listed ways of advancement that conflict with this policy. By winning a Prep competition a fencer becomes a Novice, and by winning a Novice meet, a fencer becomes a Junior. This is in agreement with the theory; when a fencer demonstrates that he is the best in his classification, he is moved up to protect the others. But under present rules, the winner of a divisional Junior championship becomes an Intermediate, and the winner of a sectional Intermediate championship becomes a Senior. Here is the inconsistency: **The fencer has only proved that he is the best of his classification, not that he is as good as the fencers in the next classification.** Thus, he has not clearly proved his right to be classified in the upper categories. It is not correct, therefore, to advance Juniors and Intermediates by the same method as for Preps and Novices.

I propose that the situation be rectified by not permitting winners of Junior and Intermediate to advance beyond the highest classification allowed to fence in the event. One other point: all too frequently, divisional team competitions produce medalists who are classified Juniors and have in fact only won the medal because two strong teammates carried the load; the individual in question would never have been advanced in category in an individual competition. This is not right, and could possibly be corrected by advancing medalists in Open team championships only, to the Junior rank. This leaves latitude in scheduling for the many divisions which have small turnouts for team competitions, too.

Finally, I would like to quote J. R. de Capriles in an article entitled, "The F.F.L. A", which appeared in the December 1953 issue of *American Fencing*:

"General Assistance: the national office is always available to guide and assist in solving local problems. Its advice is based on the sum total of experience throughout the country since 1892."

This function of the national office appears to have been overlooked as regards local event schedules. New divisions in particular seem to have fallen unawares into the trap of scheduling Junior, Intermediate and Open "championships", without realizing until too late that they were turning out Intermediates at much too high a rate. Improper scheduling, and the failure to observe the distinction between "competitions" and "championships" has not been limited to new divisions, by any means. The national office should be ready to help divisions with problems such as these. It is not suggested that the national office do any more than advise; the principle of "Home Rule" is not infringed. Therefore, I repeat: **This advice is sorely needed by many divisions, particularly smaller ones, and its availability should be unmistakably emphasized.**

Recommendations

A poll of divisional officials showed that 59 per cent believed that the classification system needed revision, 27 per cent did not think so, and 14 per cent had no opinion. Many suggestions were received, and from these the following recommendations are made:

(1) The national office should establish a program to help divisions with classification problems. Divisions should be encouraged to seek this advice and to focus more attention on the classification given competitions in the season's schedule of events.

(2) Rule 9 of *Fencing Rules* (1951 ed.) should be rewritten. Proposed changes are as follows:

a. Waive the time limit for retention of the Prep classification for student members attending secondary school.

b. Winners of personal prizes in team competitions should advance to Novice, but if the event is an Open team **championship**, then the fencer should advance to Junior.

c. Winners of Junior events should be advanced no higher than Junior.

d. Winners of sectional Intermediate events should be advanced no higher than Intermediate.

e. Require **two** accomplishments on the part of a fencer to raise his classification, i.e., in order for a Novice to become a Junior, he would have to win a Novice competition and place in a Junior event.

(3) Re-emphasize the difference between a "competition" and a "championship."