

Thomas Hollis fencing with Mr. Martin, 1746, by John Green (1729-1757). Oil on canvas, 34x43½ inches. Reprinted through the courtesy of the Houghton Library of Harvard University.

—JRT

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# AMERICAN FENCING

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JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969

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Issue Date	Closing Date for Copy	Mailing Date
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## EDITORIAL

The other day we received our copy of "Fencing News", the South Jersey division's monthly newsletter, edited by John Lillback. Among numerous items of interest we were especially pleased to note that in reporting results of competitions, in addition to the names and places of the finalists, the names of directors and scorers were also listed. We submit that this will help in obtaining more and better officials. To enlarge on the idea, how about crediting the armurers, the timekeepers and the bout committee members as well?

We are reminded of the days when George Cointe was fencing coach at Cornell. He made it extremely interesting for the spectators and the fencers at every dual college meet. Before the fencing started, he would announce to the audience the names of each of the fencers from both schools, and they would come forward as their names were called. Then he would introduce the officials and one of them would give a short talk explaining the three weapons and the methods of scoring. It was most impressive and everyone came away with the feeling that they had learned something new and interesting besides having been able to enjoy and follow the fencing bouts.

Another important point which should be stressed: The score at each touch should be made clear and the overall score in bouts should be prominently posted.

Until we do this at AFLA meets as well as at college meets, the spectator interest will remain near zero. If we'd listen to comments from observers, we'd realize how important all the foregoing could be to our sport.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Rita Korponay and Rusty von Schwedler on the occasion of their marriage on October 6, 1973 at the Rutgers University Chapel in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

AMERICAN FENCING

## JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Steve Sobel

Three-hundred fencers representing 24 states and 30 divisions assembled at Florida State University for the AFLA Annual Junior Olympic Championships, and the competition was the strongest National youth event to date. None of the 1973 Under 19 National Champions were able to win first place. Miklos Benedek took second in Sabre following a close fence off with Ed Majtenyi, and Gay Jacobsen took second in the Women's event behind the undefeated final record of Vince Hurley. George Nonomura in Foil and Tim Glass in Epee each took sixth place in their respective events. In the Foil, Paul Martino defeated Michael Marx in a fence off for first place, while in the Epee, Greg Massialas of Michigan took first place ahead of Lee Shelley from New Jersey.

The U.S. Team to the Under 20 World Championships, determined strictly on points from the under 19 National Championship in June and the AFLA Junior Olympic Championship, will be very strong this year.

The Under 16 Event also was strong with Michael Marx, who qualified for the Under 20 Foil Team, winning the Foil event undefeated, with Michael Oles, nephew of coach Dick Oles, defeating Eric Kullman in a fence off to win the Epee event, with Tim Meiklejohn winning the Sabre event following two barrages, and with Joy Ellingson of Southern California taking first place in the Women's event after a 3 way tie with Lori Sobel who placed second, and Janet Etter of Southern California who placed third.

A Board of Directors meeting was held during the weekend, and the National officers, members of the Board, and fencing parents accompanying their children, provided a field of excellent officials to organize and officiate the events.

The U.S. Team to the Under 20 World Championships is fortunate to have many of the official party attending for a second year.

## U.S. UNDER 20 TEAM

**Chief of Mission:** William A. Goerin

**Manager:** Rev. L. Calhoun

**Coaches:** Michael Dasaro, Raoul St

**Physician:** Dr. M. Valsamis

**Foil:** M. McCahey, P. Martino, M. N  
G. Nonomura, R. Nonomura)

**Women:** G. Jacobsen, V. Hurley, S.  
(Alt: I. Farkas, P. Baron)

**Sabre:** M. Benedek, T. Graham, M.  
(Alt: E. Majtenyi, A. J. Keane)

**Epee:** G. Massialas, T. Glass, L. She  
G. Nonomura, T. McConville)

**Women's Team Captain:** Denise O'C

## UNDER 20 RESULTS

**Foil:** 1. P. Martino, N. Car.; 2. M. M  
3. P. Chew, NYC; 4. W. Kica, I  
Boutsikaris, N.J.; 6. G. Nonomur

**Women:** 1. V. Hurley, Tex.; 2. G. J  
Cal.; 3. S. Johnson, Tex.; 4. I. Far  
5. P. Hucker, N.J.; 6. A. Crowley,

**Sabre:** 1. E. Majtenyi, N.J., 2. M.  
N.J.; 3. T. Graham, Fla.; 4. A.  
N. Car.; 5. M. Sullivan, Mass.; 6.  
N.J.

**Epee:** 1. G. Massialas, Mich.; 2. L.  
N.J.; 3. R. Marx, Ore.; 4. R. Som  
5. M. Wheeler, N.J.; 6. T. Glass,

## UNDER 16 RESULTS

**Foil:** 1. M. Marx, Ore.; 2. R. Berlin,  
B. Thomas, Cal.; 4. M. Harris, P  
Pantel, N.J.; 6. G. Clauson, Cal.

**Women:** 1. J. Ellingson, Cal.; 2. I  
N.J.; 3. J. Etter, Cal.; 4. S. Foote  
K. Loury, Conn.; 6. L. Hanner, I

**Sabre:** 1. T. Meiklejohn, Fla.; 2. B.  
Cal.; 3. S. Rinshaw, N.J.; 4. T.  
N.J.; 5. J. Grummel, N.J.; 6. D. B  
N.J.

**Epee:** 1. M. Oles, Md.; 2. E. Kullmar  
3. T. Cullum, Ind.; 4. D. Murray  
L. White, Mass.; 6. D. Schnell, N

## SOME JUNIOR HISTORY

by Richard J. Gradkowski

At the initiative of Commandant Louis Bontemps of the French Fencing Federation the 29th Congress of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime, meeting in Brussels in March of 1948, considered a resolution to sponsor an international competition in foil exclusively for younger fencers. At the time there was considerable skepticism as to whether the FIE should get involved in an enterprise like this. It should be remarked that in those days the foil fencing was still non-electrical (The electrical foil was not used in the World Championships until 1955). It was practically unheard of for a "young" fencer to do well internationally. With the exception of the Italian Nadi brothers of the 20's and the French genius Christian D'Oriola (who won the World Championship in 1947 in Lisbon at the age of 17), top fencers as a rule were well into their 20's and 30's. A long apprenticeship was required to master the art of fence. Since the touches had to be seen and called by side judges, it was extremely difficult for a youth without reputation to get a completely objective scoring (not unlike sabre fencing today). Thus, an international competition solely for young fencers would give greater opportunity and incentive to youth.

Further resolutions of the FIE Congresses of 1949, 1951, 1955, 1959, 1962, and 1963 codified the format and procedures of this new World Championship.

In its final form the Championships were to consist of individual events in foil, epee, sabre, and women's foil. There are no team events. As in the Olympics, entries are limited to three fencers from each nation per event. From the beginning, it was specified that the competitions were to be held annually over the Easter Holidays.

The first competition was held only in foil in 1950 at Nice on the Cote d'Azur. Twenty five fencers from six nations competed and Favia of Italy took the Gold Medal.

The competition, while not considered important, was well received, and by 1952 in Cremona ten countries were competing.



A view of the enormous convention and sports center at Notre Dame University where the 1971 World Junior Fencing Championships were held.

Sabre fencing was added that year and the Italian Narduzzi took first place in a field of 48 fencers.

In 1955 in Budapest, Women's Foil was added to the program, with Kelemen of Hungary the winner.

The roster of weapons was completed the following year in 1956 in Luxembourg when Epee was introduced. By this time 14 countries entered, representing all the major fencing powers. Billeri of Italy won this first epee title. Since that time the format of the championships has remained substantially the same.

The 40th Congress of the FIE, held in May of 1959, reduced the age limit to under 20 instead of the previous under 21 and changed the name of the event from the "Criterium Mondial de Moins de 21 Ans" to the "Criterium Mondial de Jeunes". In all cases the fencer's age is determined as of the first day of the year in which the event is to be held. Thus, if the fencer is still 19 years old on January 1st, he is eligible for the year. He may in fact reach 20 on January 2nd, and thus be actually 20 years old as of the time of the competition, but still be eligible under the rules.

In 1963 the name was again changed, this time to the "Championnats Mondiaux

des Jeunes", reflecting the concept that this was indeed a legitimate World Championship. Two years later, the current name of the "Championnats du Monde de Moins de 20 Ans" was adopted.

The caliber of the participants in the Junior Championships has generally been of truly high quality. Some of the results have been very impressive. For example:

In 1955 Gyuricza of Hungary won the World Youth Championship in Foil. Later that same year he won the World Championship in Rome.

Mihaly Fulop of Hungary who won the Youth Foil Championship in 1956 in Luxembourg and in 1957 in Warsaw, also won the 1957 World Championship in Paris.

Ildiko Reijto of Hungary won the 1956 and 1957 Youth Championships in Women's Foil, going on to win the 1963 World Championship in Gdansk and the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

Alexandra Zabelina of the USSR reversed the process by winning the World Championship first in 1957 in Paris, following up the next year by winning the Youth Championships in Bucharest. The formidable Zabelina went on to win her second World Championship ten years later in 1967 in Montreal.

Jean Claude Magnan, the classical French fencer, won the Youth event in 1961 in Duisberg, graduating to be the 1963 and 1965 World Champion.

The scholarly Roland Losert of Austria also pulled a reverse by winning the 1963 Youth Epee Championship in Ghent, Belgium and the 1963 World Epee Championship in Gdansk. He then showed his versatility by winning the 1964 Youth Foil event in Budapest and the 1965 Youth Foil event in Rotterdam.

Zoltan Horvath of Hungary, the 1958 Youth Sabre Champion, went on to be 1962 World Champion in Buenos Aires.

Perhaps the most versatile switch was that of Ryszard Parulski of Poland who won the 1959 Youth Sabre title in Paris, then went on to win the 1961 World Foil Championship in Torino.

On the other hand, some very good performances in the World Youth Champion-

ships have not developed to any their original promise in later years. Favia of Italy, Closset of France, of Luxembourg, each won the World title twice in a row, without coming in the senior event. In sabre, Nagy and Rensky of the USSR also won the World Youth title twice, without failing to win the World title subsequently. Jacques Brodin of France won the World Youth title in Epee in 1962, 1964, 1965, and 1966 without gaining even a Bronze medal in the events.

The protocol for the Youth Championships parallels that of the World Championships. Each winner receives an Armband, FIE and a Diploma. Medals are for the organizing committee for from six places. The Romanian Olympic Committee offers an award annually to the national federation which does the best in the Youth Championships according to point system which reflects how fencers place. The winner of the FIE receives an award from the President of the United Arab Republic. The winner of Sabre receives an award from His Excellency the Shah of Iran, and the winner of Women's Foil receives an award from Madame E. in memory of Cdt. Louis Bontemps.

All fencing regulations and rules for the Junior Championships are identical of the World Championship.

In 1961, the first U.S. fencers participated when the Fairleigh Dickinson University girl's team (of Teaneck, New Jersey) Coach Terry Terhune, travelled to Germany, to fence in the women's competition. There were 22 entries in the competition and Madeline Miyamoto made it to the finals, unfortunately missing the final "belle" bout in a barrage with Craud Holland. The same year, in the boys' competition, the U.S.A.'s authorized representative Martin Becker, who lived in Switzerland and reportedly spoke no English at all, was eliminated in the first round.

The first full U.S. team entered the Championships in 1968 in London.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

again several people made the second round.

In 1971 the AFLA hosted the Junior Championships at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana (although the FIE records insist it was Chicago). While the long distance from Europe made the starting field rather small, the U.S. did well by getting four semifinalists, two finalists, and a Bronze medal by Ruth White. This was our first World Championship medal since 1960 when Albert Axelrod gained the Bronze medal at the Rome Olympics.

In 1973 in Buenos Aires we had two quarter finalists, five semifinalists, and one finalist, Losoncsy in Sabre.

In an effort to establish a formal procedure for selecting a regular U.S. team for the World Junior Championships, the AFLA came up with that peculiar institution: the Under - 19 age category. In the past, the U.S. National Championships had been a much smaller event, with far fewer entries than now. At the end of the Nationals there was held an event called the U.S. Three Weapon Championship, where fencers competed in all three weapons in a special competition. This was an interesting test of all around fencing ability, requiring versatility and maturity of knowledge. However, with

the growth of the Nationals and consequent administrative difficulties, it was felt that it would be best to cut this event, and the last one was held in 1964. This gap filled in 1966 with the U.S. National Under - 19 Championships. As the U.S. Championships were held usually in June or July, and the World Junior Championships were not held until the following Easter, the age bracket had to be kept under nineteen in order to preserve the age qualification. Also, in order to keep these Junior events manageable, the qualification system was made more restrictive than for the senior fencers; the under nineteens had first to qualify through their Sectional Championships. Sometimes, in the nine months or so between qualifying and actually competing in the World Junior Championships, the young fencer's condition and abilities suffered, with the result that the U.S.A. did not get the best possible representation. With the advent of the U.S. Junior Olympics in 1971, the selection system was modified to include the results of both these competitions. At the present time there is no proper U.S. Junior National Championship and the U.S.A. is the only country with the peculiar Under - 19 age category.

#### OLYMPIC TRYOUTS

The two Olympic tryouts scheduled for this Spring will take place on April 27 and 28, at Brooklyn College in New York and on June 1 and 2 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Eligible fencers are those who reached the quarter final round of the 1973 National Championships and 1972 Olympic team members. The competitions will take the form of three rounds of pools, with competitors progressively fencing towards their final ranked positions. The first tryout competition will feature the Epee, Saber, and Women's Foil on Saturday April 27 and the Foil on Sunday April 28.

#### PICTURE STORY

The March 1974 issue of COQ magazine features a picture story of fencing both on the cover and in a centerfold.

#### MELCHER TREASURER

James Melcher of the New York Fencers Club has been elected Treasurer of the Athletes Advisory Council of the United States Olympic Committee. The Advisory Council is composed of athletes who have been members of the last two Olympic and/or Pan-American teams.

#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

The December 1973 issue of the Research Quarterly of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation reprints an article "Characteristics of Male Fencers in the 28th Annual NCAA Fencing Championships" by Randy Kettlinski and Leon Pickens, originally appearing in the May/June 1973 issue of American Fencing.

#### MIGUEL A. deCAPRILES RETIREES FROM NYU

Miguel de Capriles, Vice President, General Council, and Secretary of New York University for the past seven years, will retire from these positions Aug. 31, thus bringing to a close half a century of association with his Alma Mater. A former Dean of NYU's School of Law, he will return to teaching as a full-time professor of law at Hastings College of the Law, University of California, in San Francisco.

In 1967, Dean de Capriles was appointed to the newly created position of General Counsel, with additional duties as Vice President and Secretary of New York University. He was scheduled to retire in 1972, at age 65, but remained on active duty pending resolution of various major financial and legal problems, such as the sale of the University Heights Campus in the Bronx, the merger of the NYU School of Engineering and Science with the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn last year, and the conclusion of the January 1974 election on faculty unionization when the faculty voted 507-404 against unionization.

Born in Mexico City, Mr. de Capriles entered New York University as a freshman in February 1924, and received degrees from its Washington Square College, Graduate School of Arts and Science and School of Law.

A national ranking fencer for many years he was National Champion in Epee in 1931 and 1944, Three Weapon Champion in 1933, 1934, 1941, 1942, and 1947, Outdoor Epee Champion in 1936 and 1938, a member of eleven National Champion teams, and garnered a total of 31 National medals in his career. He was a member of U. S. Olympic teams five times and 1951 Pan American Games team Captain.

As an international competitor in the sport of fencing for 20 years (1932-1952), Miguel de Capriles won two Olympic and three Pan American team medals. He was the first and only American to be elected President of the International Fencing Federation (1960-1964). He has been connected with the U.S. Olympic Committee in various



M. A. de CAPRILES

capacities for 40 years, and served of Mission for the U.S. delegation 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City in charge of fencing events for World University Games in Moscow currently President of the Pan Fencing Confederation and a meml Executive Committee of the Pan Sports Organization.

#### VANDERBILT INVITATIONAL FOIL TOURNAMENT

The Fifth Annual Vanderbilt Invitational Foil Tournament will be held in Tennessee on April 27 and 28, 1 fencers in both men's and women's will participate as members of 1 teams representing their club; a enter as many three-man teams a with the restriction that fencers c substituted from one team to another the course of the tournament. Advance is required and the fee is \$6.00. Please send entries or inquiries to Drake, Box 3630, Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. 3

## PHYSICAL FITNESS STATUS OF U. S. FENCERS

by James R. White, Ph.D.

This article was originally to have been submitted in scientific detail, but because of the 1973 World Championship report by Richard Gratkowski and John Geraci, the more formal presentation has been revised in order to provide only enough scientific data to illuminate their report.

During the week of June 30, 1973, 192 fencers and 14 coaches who were participating in the U. S. National Championships in Tucson agreed to take part in a study designed to measure personality characteristics, food and nutrition habits, life style, exercise program, strength, agility, reaction time and speed of movement, percent of body fat, cardio-vascular health, and general level of physical fitness. The fencers tested included several current national champions, as well as prior national champions and Olympic competitors. A nearly equal number each of A, B, C, and unclassified fencers were tested. One hundred and fifty-three men, thirty-nine women, and fourteen coaches completed lengthy questionnaires, squeezed mechanical devices, and rode a bicycle that went nowhere. The data were fed into the computer, and interesting results were obtained. These results indicated that of the 192 fencers tested, only 28 were in excellent physical condition.

Physical fitness was determined by the estimated maximum oxygen intake expressed in milliliters of oxygen per kilogram of body weight per minute. The estimated maximum oxygen consumption is determined from the Astrand Nomogram and represents the aerobic working capacity, i.e., the physical condition, of the heart, lungs, and vascular system. Scores of 35 to 39 MLO/KG/MIN. indicate fair physical condition, scores of 40 to 49 are considered good, and scores above 50 represent exceptionally fine physical condition. Scores from 34 down to 30 are below average. Persons with scores falling below 30 are considered either de-trained or not physically trained.

Of the 153 men tested, 139 were overweight to some degree and, of the 39 women tested, only one was considered at a proper

percent body fat. (Generally, 16 percent or less body fat for men and 22 percent or less body fat for women is considered ideal.) It is interesting to note that the average female tested had 28 percent body fat despite the fact that only the more trim females would even volunteer to be measured. When asked if they could be measured, the more obese female fencers typically said, "No way!"

Many of our fencers had foot and leg problems, with fatigue and cramps, which often are the result of non-scientific, inadequate, and improper training techniques.

Of the 192 fencers tested, 47 were top-ranked. To be termed top-ranked fencers, they must have received the A rank or must have qualified for the quarter finals. Of the 47 top-ranked fencers tested, only 9 were found to be in excellent condition, 25 were in fair to below-average shape, and 13 were considered de-trained or in poor physical condition.

Only 12 of the fencers tested were on a suitable running and conditioning program. Another 16 were on a fair conditioning program.

In the Gratkowski and Geraci report on the 1973 World Championships in Sweden, it was rightly stated that the U.S. team members are not appointed early enough and, thus, time needed to train and prepare for maximum effort is lost. The overwhelming majority of fencers tested at the Nationals agreed that, whatever the administrative and technical problems, the training period for the World Championships is not adequate. The conditioning portion of an adequate preparatory program would require at least three to six months of vigorous training. The data from Tucson indicate that only a small percentage of the team members taken to Sweden were in adequate physical condition to fight against the best fencers in the world. The A.F.L.A.'s International Committee must, in the future, select a cadre of fencers proven fit and willing to train as no Americans have trained in the past. The training program must be

scientifically sound, must include development of agility, strength, balance and speed, and must use both aerobic and anaerobic components of conditioning.

The knowledge that he is in top physical condition will give an athlete confidence that he can put out maximum effort for extended periods of time. In Gratkowski and Geraci's report, it was stated that our fencers got off to a "shaky start" and that they "succumb to the tense atmosphere." Any important competition involves stress, which, in turn, produces anxiety in the individual. However, the study made at the Nationals showed that well-conditioned athletes, besides having better resting heart rates and better resting, working, and recovery blood pressure, responded more acceptably on the portion of the questionnaire pertaining to degree of anxiety. It is important to understand that proper fitness can help reduce anxiety symptoms and provide a fencer with the ability to cope with high-pressure fencing for prolonged periods of time. Fitness will provide him with reserves, so that he can effectively return for future bouts. Since there is such a fine balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems, anxiety symptoms produce devastating effects on poorly-conditioned athletes because their systems are not efficient enough to cope with catecholamines and other blood chemistry phenomena which are produced in the body during stress. Not only do poorly-conditioned athletes tend to have high heart rates and blood pressure, slower reaction time and slower speed of movement, tire more quickly, recover more slowly, and perform at a distinct disadvantage both physically and mentally, but they have greater hand tremor, more nervousness, and more muscular co-contraction, all of which ultimately cause loss of speed and accuracy.

In the Gratkowski and Geraci report, it was further stated that several fencers "ran out of steam" and were eliminated. The test results at Tucson would have made this easy to predict. It was also stated that several fencers (mentioned by name) were physically fit and had good nervous organization and control. I went back through the individual

Fitness Profiles taken at Tucson covered that this was indeed true. The fencers who did well in the Worlds had made high scores Fitness Profile at Tucson, and most men are on a daily running program.

In a section describing our women and their difficulties, the report states the ten-minute walk from the hotel place of competition seemed to members of the women's team. It is for me to conceive of a ten-minute fatiguing our women fencers. However looking at the data from Tucson, I believe this report. The data show females tested were grossly over-weight. Their physical condition was graded as "physically trained." It is even more surprising to realize that the women at Tucson were the thinner and better conditioned of the women at the meet. A common response from those women tested was, "I don't want to see what poor shape I'm in.") women been in even average shape at the World Championships, they could have run a two-mile run as part of their pre-warm-up.

It is possible that many fencers know what a sound exercise program consists of and what would be expected in the way of exercise on a daily basis. Over the past several years we have data on hundreds of athletes and non-athletes and have found that most fencers are in only slightly better shape than average non-athletes of the same age. Surprisingly, the women fencers produce more data than that of the average man. The data from Tucson indicates some of our better conditioned young fencers are on effective running programs. Future publications of American Fencing will describe typical physiologically sound conditioning programs.

Fencers who are in excellent physical condition can more effectively develop their skills. Their fencing masters are trying to teach them. They are better able to refine their movements because of the greater efficiency of the neural pathways emanating from the brain.

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cerebral cortex. Also, they are able to develop lower thresholds of anxiety by altering the sympathetic and parasympathetic relationships; this allows them to more effectively cope with stressful situations. They can be quicker, faster, stronger and more confident, knowing they are physically fit. They can also be more agile and effective on the strip if they are not toting large amounts of fat!

It is imperative that a physiologically-sound conditioning program be established and that exercise and training techniques incorporate kinesiological mechanics which will enable our fencers to achieve excellence. It is recommended:

1. That fencers interested in international competition be advised concerning proper physical conditioning techniques and skills.
2. That the fencing coaches and masters throughout the U.S. encourage and even demand that their students be in top physical shape. (An interesting fact brought out at Tucson was that the older coaches, age 40 and above, were in about the same physical condition as their fencers. It would seem reasonable to assume that fencers should be in considerably better shape than their coaches.)
3. That a squad of fencers be maintained, and, in order to be considered for the squad, a fencer must be **physically tested** and must achieve an excellent physical fitness rating. The fitness test would eliminate those not-so-serious competitors who are merely "off to Europe for a trip and vacation." The fitness testing would, hopefully develop a new breed of eager and willing athletes who would train and put in the time to become physically fit to represent the United States.
4. That no obese fencers be considered for the squad. An individual's percent of body fat is the determining factor in measurement of obesity, not actual body weight. A male with over 16 percent body fat should not be considered for international competition, nor should a female with over 22 percent body fat. Athletes

who are in proper condition are not fat! The very process by which a person becomes fit causes a concomitant loss in percent body fat.

It is true that America's fencing is near the bottom in world competition. A positive step upward would be to require our fencers to demonstrate excellent physical condition before becoming candidates to represent the United States in international fencing competition.

(Ed. Note: It is to be hoped that the AFLA's International Selection committee will pay some attention to the conclusions of this article. It would be entirely appropriate for this body to consult with physical educators and observers of the foreign scene on methods of bringing out the best in the U.S.A.'s potential.)



### Fencing Camp

This year, right after the World Fencing Championships in Grenoble, France, the best fencers from France, Italy, Hungary, Russia, Poland, and Romania and their Fencing Masters will come to spend the month of August 1974 at the European Fencing Camp to be held in Yugoslavia.

In addition to the fencing and lessons, there will be held two International competitions, in all three weapons and in Women's Foil.

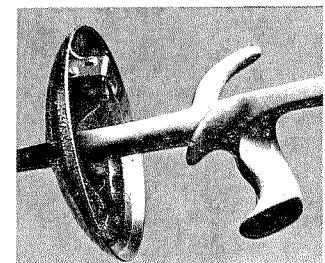
All practice for foil and epee will be fully electrical with metallic grounded strips.

There will be a direct Charter flight from New York to Yugoslavia.

For further information write:  
**EUROPEAN FENCING CAMP**  
 Branimir Zivkovics, Director  
 182 West Hill Road  
 Stamford, Conn. 06902

### ANOTHER COLLEGIATE FENCING PROGRAM

In contrast to the report on fencing at Lehman College of the City University of New York in the last issue of American Fencing, it is interesting to compare their program with that of a small independent college. Pratt Institute of Brooklyn with only a few thousand students must get by with only one fencing coach. Pratt, a professional school offering programs in such fields as art, architecture and engineering, has no degree program in physical education, no grants for athletes, no former high school stars. What does exist is a strong men's varsity fencing team (est. 1969), a strong women's varsity team (est. 1971) and an elective P.E. program, consisting of four sections of co-ed fencing classes. That adds up to a total of about two hundred and fifty students, introduced to fencing each year. By the time a class such as the Class of '73 graduates, over one-sixth of its student body will have had some direct exposure to fencing. And since the same facilities are used by all major and minor sports for practice as well as for intra-mural games and regular physical education classes, virtually every Pratt student has seen fencing; of course it also is helpful that the *Prattler*, Pratt's newspaper, runs feature stories on fencing with photos and drawings or that the library has exhibitions on fencing and a growing shelf of fencing books ranging from those of E. Castle to A. Nadi. One of the more unusual requirements, imposed on the more than forty varsity fencers by former Salle Santelli Coach Guy Burton, is that everyone learn to be a competent director and technician before they graduate—"knowing how to rewire a blade is a must!" It is lucky that Guy has three to four hours of commuting from New Jersey each day or he would never have the time to prepare his lectures on world literature or on theatre arts—as was indicated earlier, Pratt is indeed a small school, after all.



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# From The President

by Steve Sobel



Every year, as the Spring approaches, our best fencers prepare for the major international competitions-The Martini-Rossi in March, Under 20 World Championships in April, World Championships in July, plus other special international events. During the same period the following questions will probably be asked: Why can't the teams be selected earlier? Why can't we make an early selection of the officials to accompany the team? Why don't we send more international officials with the teams? Why don't the teams train together at special training camps with the coaches and other officials in attendance? Why don't the fencers arrive earlier at international events to allow sufficient time to adjust to the time change and the competitive conditions? Why can't group economy fares be arranged? What can be done to ease the financial burdens of the competitors and officials who attend? These are all valid questions on important issues. While I cannot give definite answers to these inquiries, I will try to provide an insight into the complexity of the problems.

**1. Time of selection:** Ideally, the best fencers should be selected at the earliest time. Practically, many fencers don't know whether they can make the trip until the last moment due to money availability or uncertain vacation schedules. Do we decide early in favor of maximum preparation or later in favor of quality? Once selection has been made other contingencies can still occur. Individual plans change and either a member of the team suddenly can't go, or an outstanding fencer who did not apply can now go and would substantially strengthen the team if he went in place of another. Do we decide ruthlessly in favor of the strongest team, or equitably in favor of the weaker fencer who has made plans and preparations to go?

**2. The Accompanying officials:** For the Olympic and Pan American Games, where the individuals' expenses are reimbursed, the Olympic Fencing Sports Committee must select a team captain, manager, coaches and armorer among many qualified candidates. However, for World Championships and other international events, the problem changes from who **should** go to who **can** go. What is needed are capable, competent officials willing to travel at their own expense to an international event with a U.S. Team, and very often there are literally no applicants for a position. Last minute phone calls and other requests serve as a stop-gap measure in many instances. In other situations the team must settle for a person who can only stay for part of the event since it is the best available alternative.

**3. A Training Camp:** It is very nice to say that International Teams should train for one month together in a camp with all the officials together since this is what other successful international teams do, and it is easy to write an article after a competition rationalizing that this is why our fencers did not do as well as others. And perhaps this may be true, but let us face the realities as they exist in the United States. A training camp program was planned for the last U.S. Olympic Team, and the University of Colorado offered outstanding facilities for this purpose. It never took place. Other universities which have always supported AFLA fencing events would do the same. The problem is the fencers with employment and family obligations just cannot spend time in training camp followed by additional time to become accustomed to the time and climate changes at a competition followed by the time necessary to compete. Remember, our fencers most often are traveling at their own expense and in limited time taken

from either studies or employment. An administration must work with its international fencers and the problems they have; not create obstacles for them which are ideally wonderful but practically impossible.

**4. Travel arrangements:** Economy fares plus group travel are all possible to reduce costs. There are problems here too, as any travel agent or others with knowledge of the complicated rules can verify. First they require definite plans early, and often with deposits. Second, they often require departure and return dates convenient for some but not all. Third, arrangements must be made by one volunteer serving as a manager who must individually work with many different fencers with their individual problems and uncertainties. When all is done, the volunteer will have little to show for his work except personal satisfaction. The good efforts will remain unnoticed, and there will be complaints and criticisms for whatever went wrong.

**5. What can be done to ease the financial burden:** The answer is very easy—get money. The problem is how? Every effort is being made to secure earmarked contributions for specific purposes, and training and development funds from available sources. Any help in raising funds to promote our fencing programs will be appreciated.

One helpful thought: The AFLA International Committee is composed of dedicated individuals devoted to the selection and planning for international teams. It receives very few comments or suggestions from interested individuals. Usually, the first report members of the Committee receive concerning a particular International event is what appears in the pages of American Fencing. Such articles often contain comments and criticism which would be more appropriate and more favorably received in a private report to the Committee, the fencers or the coaches involved, rather than in a public article in the only magazine which serves in 3 separate capacities — An AFLA official source, a free press, and a Public Relations image for the sport of fencing. The Editor must of course serve as the final arbiter walking a tight line between a censor which

he shouldn't be and the respons authority on what is appropriate, must be. The most important ex discretion concerning what shou print and what should be in a rep committee must come from the w

Conclusion: A law school pro Federal Taxation began his cour "There are tax problems in every commercial or individual activity. If not found the problem, do not assi is none. There is a problem; you see it."

There are many problems involv developing winning international tea perhaps I have just superficially dis few of the administrative ones at I don't know the answers, but the in finding any solution is to re there is a problem, and exactly complex issues are.

## NEW AFLA RULES BO

Orders for the new AFLA Rules now being accepted. See page 3 tails and order form.

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AFLA

by Irwin Bernstein

A special meeting of the AFLA, held in Tallahassee, Florida on Feb 1974 at the site of the AFLA National Olympic Championships. The meeting called to order at 4:00 P.M.

The only business on the agenda was the amending of the AFLA By-Law established in the Sept./Oct. 1973 AMERICAN FENCING.

1. Changing the fiscal year from September 1 - August 31 to August 31. PASSED 39-2
2. Changing the term of office of officers from one year to two, with the officers elected at Annual Meeting. PASSED unanimously
3. Changing procedures regarding the Separate Accounts unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at

## AFLA NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Manny Forrest, has reported the nomination of all incumbent national officers for the term beginning with the 1974-1975 season and continuing through July 31, 1976. The slate consists of:

President: Stephen Sobel  
Executive Vice-President: William Goering

Vice-President: Emily Johnson  
Vice-President: Chaba Pallaghy

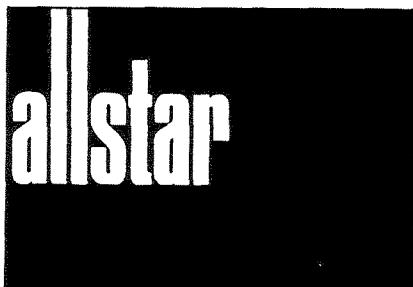
Secretary: Irwin Bernstein

Treasurer: Peter Tishman

Additional nominations may be made by petition received by the Secretary of the AFLA no later than May 1, 1974, under the provisions of the AFLA By-Laws. Article XI.

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## THE HYDRA HEADED MONSTER

by Carla-Mae Richards

Once again the question has arisen on the eligibility of professionals to compete in the AFLA National Championships. As usual the pat answer is "No, of course not". In preparing entry material for the 1973 Nationals I decided to investigate the rules book on this issue and to my surprise I have found two different items regarding this issue.

First of all, there is no statement that professionals cannot compete — Chapter V, Section B, para. 1. (a) "Only members in good standing at the time of the entries for Nationals are closed are entitled to compete in the National Championship competition. (b) Entry to the National Championship Competition is limited to qualified U.S. citizens and permanent residents only."

Secondly, Chap. V, Section A, para. 1: "The National Championship competitions . . . shall be held in two parts: First, a preliminary open QUALIFYING COMPETITION (consisting of one or more rounds) which shall be held in each division for its AFLA members in good standing; Second, a subsequent CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION limited to duly qualified contestants. The championship competitions shall constitute the National Championship Tournament and shall include open individual and team events in men's foil, epee, sabre, and women's foil . . ."

And therein lies the pivot on professionals in Nationals — yes or no? The events both on divisional and National level are termed "open" events and the only restriction is that fencers be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and paid-up members of the League. Additionally, Chapter 1, Section 1, para. (e) states that, "Amateurs may compete against professionals in all competitions, as long as the professional is a competitive member of the AFLA, except in those competitions specifically limited to amateurs only by the Board. No purse, however, may be awarded to either amateur or professional in any competition." Thereby, professionals may compete in ALL AFLA events except those that the Board has decreed closed to professionals!

Now the Operations Manual reflects decisions by the Board and yet in a detailed chapter devoted to the National Championships there is no mention made that the events are restricted to amateurs only. So why can not the U.S. professionals who are bona fide competitive members of the AFLA be treated as any other fencer and be allowed to participate in divisional national qualifying events? And if they succeed in qualifying to compete why can they not participate in the Nationals?

What are we talking about anyway when we call a group of fencers professionals? We are referring to those who earn their living TEACHING the sport. They can not compete for money as that does not exist in this country and is not even contemplated! Why are we so prejudiced against professionals and why do we, by this prejudice, hamper a number of top amateur fencers who have considered converting their talent and experience to the benefit of others as fencing teachers? Most "amateur" fencers reach a point in their fencing careers where they realize they have attained all that is attainable but not desire to "retire" from competition. At the same time they can see the great demand in this country for fencing teachers and would be interested in making their contribution in developing fencers but the "price of professionalism" is too high for many. Thus we leave untapped a vast resource for improvement and growth of our sport. Let us drop the term professional altogether from the fencing vocabulary and instead speak of amateurs and teachers and start putting the emphasis where it rightfully belongs.

Since we are all so concerned on the application of the rules let us start applying the rules as printed and not continually interpret between the lines for the sake of the "amateur ego".

(Ed. Note: We are puzzled by Mrs. Richards' contention that professionals appear to be excluded from the National Championships arbitrarily, as Chapter V "Special Rules for the National Championship Tournament," Paragraph B "Eligibility for the Tournament," Section 3 (a) of the AFLA Operations Manual clearly states: "The divisional qualifying competitions shall be held at least six

weeks prior to the date set for the open Tournament and shall be open to all fencers of the AFLA in good standing the requirements hereinafter set forth" of the yellow section of the 1970 Rules question as to what constitutes a p fencer is not entirely a matter of AFLA as our regulations must conform to U.S. Committee and IOC rules. There are situations where U.S. college coaches r amateur status and perhaps those who deterred from turning professional might this alternative. May we also remind sions that AFLA regulations do permit peting in any Open competition.)

## FENCING MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1974 Congress of the Academie Internationale will be held August 25 to 31 at Karlsruhe, D. Germany. At this time the World Masters Championships will also be held. The defending champion in Foil is the USA.

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## DO YOU FIT THE PROFILE?

by Jean Williams

(Ed. Note: Miss Williams is fencing coach at the University of Arizona and is active in the DGWS.)

Last year at the National Championships in Tucson, several of the fencers asked what had become of the personality data gathered on some of the female competitors in the 1968 National Championships held at Miami, Florida. At that time, Barbara Hoepner, Dorothy Moody, and I studied paper-pencil psychological tests taken by 30 of the 1968 female fencers to determine if there were any distinct personality traits characteristic of national level female fencers. A definite fencer's personality emerged which was quite different from national norms and profiles in other sports. However, it did bear a resemblance to traits of other champion athletes. A summary follows of some of the traits attributed to the female fencer. A more complete discussion can be found in the article "Personality Traits of Champion Level Female Fencers" published in the October, 1970, *Research Quarterly*. (I would be happy to mail a reprint to anyone interested. Please send a stamped, self addressed envelope.)

As might be expected, the national level competitive fencer was a very ambitious person. She desired to be the very best and was an intelligent, creative, experimenting, be independent person. Her strong need to be independent, self-sufficient, and autonomous in her actions was coupled with a below average need to affiliate with groups or organizations. In other words, she much preferred to do things her own way and would tend to avoid situations where she would be expected to conform. This does not mean she disliked people, she simply did not need their agreement and support. She also tended to be aggressive.

The female fencer had only an average desire for leadership and a below average desire to dominate. Although she did not wish to dominate others, she also did not wish to be dominated. She scored average on emotional stability and general anxiety

level and ranged from average to below average on need to give and receive affection. In general, her personality was reserved rather than outgoing, which would indicate a rather detached, critical, cool person.

It should be noted that the preceding personality traits represent the "average" of the 30 national competitors who completed the tests. Five of the 1968 finalists were included in the 30. I was also pleased to see that many of these same fencers were competing in the 1973 Championship! I wonder if the male fencer's profile would look the same?

Coaches might be interested in noting that according to Bruce Ogilvie, a noted sports psychologist, many of the above personality traits make an individual very difficult to coach.

(Ed. Note: We feel that a word of caution should be expressed in interpreting the results of such a personality test. One should note, for instance, that this was sample of top U.S. women fencers, a far different population than might be found in the Olympics or World Championships. To thus suppose that all good fencers exhibit these personality traits might be misleading. In addition, Drs. Ogilvie and Tutko, who have done considerable research into personality traits of world class athletes in many sports, have found that generally speaking, top athletes are very "coachable" and exhibit a willingness to work with and follow a coach's advice. We would be very interested in further research on this topic.)

## CHARLES de BEAUMONT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The second annual Charles de Beaumont Memorial will be held at the University of Colorado in Boulder on Saturday, May 25. Foil and Women's Foil will be fenced. All interested fencers please contact Susan Reginelli, 995 Humboldt Apt. 103, Denver, Colorado 80218, for details.



AMERICAN FENCING

## SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL

by George Nelson

The twelfth annual Modern Pentathlon Open Fencing Tournament was ranked international for the first time this year. The competition was organized by the US Modern Pentathlon Training Center, LtC. Donald Johnson, officer in charge, at Ft. Sam Houston on January 26-27, 1974. Among the entries we saw champions from England, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and many parts of the U.S.

After a difficult start, Mrs. Bleamaster (Los Angeles) won the women's foil in a field of 32 after a dramatic fence-off (4-3) in the finale with the Mexican champion, Miss Estrada. For the third place, Mrs. Posthumus (Arizona) beat the Brazilians Marcia and Yara on indicators.

Foil counted 40 entries and Pesthy won undefeated, preceding Marin (San Francisco), Charron (Canada), Buonafina (Brazil), and Campero (Mexico).

Originally exclusively an epee competition, this tournament has become one of the best in the U.S. at this weapon. The final counted three US pentathletes, two Brazilians and one Mexican. Cramer (Brazil), former Pan American gold medalist, won ahead of Johnston and Tempey from San Antonio.

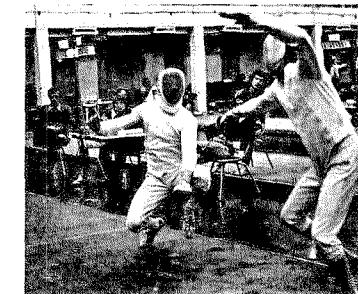


Photo E  
A view of the Epee Fencing at the Sar International.

## Results

**Women's Foil:** 1. Bleamaster, Los Angeles; 2. Estrada, Mexico; 3. Posthumus, Arizona; 4. Brazil; 5. Yara, Brazil; 6. Johnson, San

**Foil:** 1. Pesthy, San Antonio; 2. Marin, San Francisco; 3. Charron, Canada; 4. Buonafina; 5. Campero, Mexico; 6. Hurley, Houston.

**Epee:** 1. Cramer, Brazil; 2. Johnston, San 3. Tempey, San Antonio; 4. Calderon, M Douglas, Brazil; 6. Fitzgerald, San Antoni

## QUICKIE QUIZ

What is the maximum allowable time the foil point? (See Paragraph 719-128 of the 1970 Rules Book.)



## 1974 MID-ATLANTICS

The 1974 Mid Atlantic Sectionals will be held at the new Stouffers' National Center Inn in Arlington, Virginia on May 4th and 5th. It is the responsibility of each fencer to make sure that he has submitted a proper entry form by April 15, 1974, to Lewis W. Siegel, 4001 Harrison Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20015.

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## RETROSPECT IN SEARCH OF FORESIGHT

by Michael A. Sebastiani

In my last "visit" to AMERICAN FENCING (March-April, 1973) I stated that I had already started a long-range experiment with some dedicated students in order to hopefully bring back some medals from Montreal. Every qualified opinion agreed at the time that it was not too early to build up a team for '76.

As expected, very few candidates survived my program (although they are back this year to try again). But this is exactly what I am looking for: to find a future champion among a group of hard workers. Carefully prepared mentally, they knew that failure to reach their objective this year would not be of much impact on their fencing career.

About ten boys responded to my call on the first day. All were enthusiastic at the announcement of the program. Six preferred to wait one more year after the first two hours of training; four decided to continue. Only two were to survive and one made it brilliantly. I expected nothing less from conscientious, directed enthusiasm.

The program has no secrets: it is simply hard work under my constant supervision. It is not anything like a social gathering, a summer session, a week-long lecture series with movies and demonstrations, nor is it "enjoy fencing in three easy lessons". It is work on a daily basis, 350 days a year — the only way to learn, to improve and to perform (the U.S. swimmers are certainly not going to contradict that . . . and they win.)

What goes into the program might be summarized as follows:

1. First of all, the group had to "enjoy" a healthy running plan. I shall not go into details, but after having tested the athletic possibilities of each individual, I assigned every student to a personal schedule of mileage similar to that of track athletes for improving their endurance. Daily distances covered (of the interval training type) varied from six to ten miles.

2. Our exercises were executed in the gymnasium under a strict rule of order and precision that disciplined the participants

as gymnastics is designed to do. These sessions would range, depending on the day, from one to one and a half hours. How many of our fencers take these exercises seriously? By the same token, how many are able to execute basic fencing moves correctly without extra body motion, off-balance actions and weight compensations of all kinds?

These sessions are designed to improve stretching, strength, balance, and above all to instill in my men the notion of control of "body motion in space".

3. Weight lifting program: another science of precision that requires the supervision of an expert in matters of weight lifting. What is apparently the simplest exercise of all can turn out to be a very dangerous friend. My goal is to improve the explosive power of both legs and arms. Most of the boys enjoy these sessions, which are, of course, carefully dosed out according to everybody's capabilities. Each fencer has his own chart which I would change to correspond to apparent physical condition, fatigue, lack of desire or over-zeal (very common in young people when confronted with weights). Practice was at least three times a week.

4. Specific fencing exercises: these hard and somewhat boring drills which are so painful for the Sunday fencers. Foot motion, body control, rhythm, speed . . . These sessions would alternate with weight lifting at my discretion, based on needs and balance of the program. In any case, these exercises take place before each fencing session.

5. Study of the theory of fencing: what huge work is yet to be done in this field! How might we explain to our fencers, even at the National level, that their arguing with judges' decisions is, in 90% of the cases, the public display of their unbelievable lack of knowledge of the theory of fencing and consequently of the rules of fencing?

I do not want to enter into the matter of directors' ability, which we know is not infallible. But, let's face it: is it possible to argue every decision . . . unless you are ignorant . . . or dishonest? In order to avoid these troubles for my fencers, and for fencing in general, I interrogate my students on

the theory that has been given to them with the understanding that I will not waste one minute of my time with anyone who is not able to answer without hesitation.

6. The rules: This is the easiest part of my mission as the A.F.L.A. book of rules is the best source of information at my disposal.

7. Of course, this whole program is only the basis of what we are present for: Fencing, lessons, directed bouts, tactics, etc. — everyone in the fencing family knows what we are talking about. According to the type of lesson and its objective, I spend from 15 minutes to one hour or more, if needed, with each individual.

The above seven points can be wrapped up in an overall program in which obviously every second must be used. This program is for use both during vacations and during school time. It must fit everyone's weekly schedule. I faced my men with this very clear situation: if you want to do it, then do it! If there is any argument about it, I simply direct them to another activity.

Soon, results showed: my two survivors entered as many competitions as they could. Both were under nineteen years of age. Both qualified for the Junior Olympics in Los Angeles.

The foilman missed the final due to his lack of competitive experience and perhaps also due to his ardour that irritated more than one director. The epee man was more effective and his efforts were rewarded with a selection for the U.S. Junior team, which in turn earned him a ticket to the Under-20 World Championships in Buenos Aires.

Here again, mental approach to high-level contests and high-level conditioning paid off . . . and in Argentina the caliber was far above our college meets.

Let the statistics talk: This novice fencer missed a world final by one touch; it has happened to many world-class fencers before. But a point that is of enormous importance for all fencers to consider: between this man's first step in one of my fencing classes as a complete novice and his performance in the Under-20 World Championships, only eighteen months had gone by. A matter to meditate upon!

## TRACK COACH BUSH CA FOR YOUTH PROGRA

(Ed. Note: Extracted here from the Dec 1 issue of the USOC Newsletter are some by Jim Bush, head coach at UCLA and coach of senior and junior national track squads

If we want to remain number one we must expose our youngsters to more national experience and let the old ones go to foreign countries and our own. They do not need the experience our youngsters need.

It is more important to win the 'titles' all the battles. I would rather lose battles in 1973, 1974, and 1975 in order to win the wars in 1976, 1980, etc.

One of our troubles now with our tours is that the older, seasoned ones want to do "their own thing", do what they want to, when they want to. I say, "do it". If they get caught, that's their problem.

I think we will win in 1976, but it will close because our overall program is in trouble, we are outdated.

If we want to keep ahead of the Europeans and Africans we must have a national training sites, more clinics and most of all a sports medicine program on a par with the Germans and Russians. They are ahead of us.

In conclusion, we still have the best athletes, best facilities, best coaches. We are not doing the job the way it should be done if the USA is to remain as number one.



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## AN AMERICAN SYSTEM OF FENCING THE TIME IS NOW!

by Dan Lyons

The foremost problem of American Fencing is that there is no consistent method used in teaching, throughout the country. If you are a free-lancer in New York, San Francisco or a few other major cities, you may pick your teacher from among a group of professionals, good, bad or indifferent. If you are in college, you are a captive of your coach. If you are in any one of a hundred other towns or cities you may find either a professional or devoted amateur for your once or at most, twice a week training. In many other places there are small groups fencing without any available instruction. It matters little whom you select to teach you, if you have the choice. Each will teach you how to do the basics in a different manner, even if you happen to work with one of the top coaches.

Would you believe that American fencers don't have a consistent on guard position? Some are balanced forward, some on the back leg, others with weight equally balanced, some with the rear foot at 90 degrees, others going all the way to a straight ahead position. The body? Well, it may be anywhere from the narrowest profile facing the opponent to a full front exposure. There are many other variations in the way the knees are bent, the weapon is held, the arm positioned, etc. Think of all the ways fencers can be taught to advance, retreat, fleche, parry, beat, disengage, riposte and then perform a series of actions in combination and you know what trouble we are in.

After over a dozen years of teaching in Washington, a city of itinerants, I've seen them all, products of our best to least proficient coaches. With despair I recognize my inability to be of help to most because changes in style or technique are usually impossible for them after years of training. Let me hasten to say that I am not claiming any superiority for either my own teaching skills or my methods. I too am doing my best with what I know and think is the most satisfactory way of doing things. My way is not the only way.

The lack of an American system has a number of subsidiary evil effects on many fencers. First, it causes them to become rigid in their approach to the game. Second, it causes them to have a generalized disrespect for other teachers. Third, it makes them reject training with designated coaches other than their own, even when they are on Olympic or other national teams. Fourth, and not least, is their refusal to accept advice on boutting techniques.

How did we get to the state we are in? It was a natural accident. Fencing was a transplant from Europe, not an indigenously development game like baseball, basketball or football. Beyond this it came to America not as a sport of the people but as one for the so-called aristocracy of the country, military officers and the gentlemen of wealth and "breeding". The coaches came to us primarily from Europe, and were mainly French, Italian, Hungarian, Belgian and Spanish. During the early part of this century differences in fencing schools of several countries were particularly pronounced and coaches had tremendous pride in their particular school of teaching. So, our American fencers inescapably had imposed upon them the double disability of being considered not really as athletes and like the people at the Tower of Babel speaking a multiplicity of languages in their fencing styles. As some of these same Americans went on to teach they used not only the styles they were taught but they improvised and instituted their own "improvements". Thus, we have our foreign-born coaches as well as our native-borns using an ever-growing variety of methods. As each imparts his great wisdom and special expertise I almost hear that ancient oath demanded of the students by the masters. It went along the following line — "Keep the secrets I impart to you and promise that you will never use them against the master".

What can we do? We must put in motion now the machinery to get an accepted U.S. system for performing all the basic fencing moves. The initiative should come from the coaches, hopefully throughout their organizations. Certainly some will have to accept

change in their teaching ways, but the net effect should be most happy for them. Fencers coming to them from anywhere in the country will be able to be absorbed easily and their progress toward a higher degree of skills will be unimpeded. College coaches who recruit high school fencers should be delighted. This must inevitably bring us better fencers, strengthen our competitions, and enhance our chances for winning internationally. I, for one, would be glad to change everything I teach today.

It is interesting to note that many countries have national schools or national coaches. The French, Italians, Hungarians and Russians have strong central organizations. In recent years, I know the British and Swiss have named national coaches to foster a unified approach. Interestingly, the Cubans, with whom I had some contact when I served as head of the U.S. team during our visit in 1969 for the World Championships, had brought in a principal coach from Hungary. His duties were not only to train the best fencers, but to train Cuban coaches in a consistent method. The

strength of the Cuban team in the American Games says something to be listening to.

The U.S. is sadly lagging in the ment of fencing. The time for est an American system was years ago can only lament the past. The tim and we must start.

## NATIONALS CONTESTANT

Of the 408 entries in the 1973 Championships, 64 percent were Class C or lower.



"Keep up your bright swords  
for the dew will rust them"  
Act I, Scene II

— Othello

culled by Lou Sh.

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Director: Raoul S.

Cornell University Head Co

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## AMERICAN FENCING

## 1974 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS INSTRUCTIONS

The 1974 Nationals will be hosted by the Metropolitan Division at the Hotel Commodore, June 22-29. The Co-Chairmen of the Organizing Committee will be Kevin McMahon and Dr. Marius Valsamis.

**WHAT TO FILE:** Every entry must contain an entry application with the entry and registration fees payable to AFLA Nationals (checks or money order) along with a stamped self addressed legal size envelope. **WHERE AND WHEN TO FILE:** Entries must be received by May 24 and sent to Mrs. Connie Latzko, 33-62st.: West New York, New Jersey, 07093.

**WHO MAY FILE AN ENTRY:** Entry is open to all American citizens and permanent residents of the U.S., who have qualified thru Divisional qualifying rounds or through automatic qualification (Chap. V, section B 1970 AFLA Operations Manual). Team entries must be filed by Team Captain. Anyone wishing to enter, is personally responsible for filing a complete entry on time.

**ACCEPTANCE:** Within one week of entry deadline entries will be checked against the list of certified qualifiers and alternates endorsed by the Secretary of the AFLA. All entries accepted will be so notified at the same time.

**CERTIFICATION:** Immediately upon the completion of the qualifying competition in each weapon the Division Secretary must transmit to the AFLA Secretary the following information:

1. The number of eligible fencers taking part in the qualifying competition.
2. The names of the qualifiers including automatics in order of their placing in the qualifying competition.
3. The names of alternates in each weapon.
4. The teams authorized to represent the Division and any alternates.

This information must reach the League Secretary by May 14, 1974. Each Sectional Secretary MUST SUBMIT the list of Sectional Champions, finalists and Under 19 qualifiers to the National Secretary by May 14th. Each Under 19 competitor must have present at the Nationals, evidence of birth date.

**FEES:** Registration fee is \$7.50 for each competitor. The fees for events are as follows: each senior even \$12.00, for each Under 19 event \$7.50, for each team event fee is \$25.00 per team. All fees must be included with the entry. Entry forms with insufficient payment will be returned.

**FORMAT OF NATIONALS:** The individual event will be conducted by round robin pool method through the Final six fencers. All ties for qualification to the next round will be resolved by use of indicators, with a fence off only in case of a tie on indicators. All events will begin at 8:30 A.M. sharp.

**GALA NIGHT:** All registered fencers at the Nationals will receive a ticket to Gala Night held Saturday June 29 at 8:30 P.M., in their Hospitality Folder. Others may purchase tickets during the week of the Nationals at the Hospitality Desk.

### 1974 NATIONALS SCHEDULE

Sat. June 22	Foil ( to QF) Director's Clinic
Sun. June 23	Sabre (to QF) Foil (SF & Final)
Mon. June 24	Foil Team Sabre (SF & Final)
Tues. June 25	Women's Foil (to QF) Sabre Team Annual General Meeting
Wed. June 26	Epee (to QF) Women's Foil (SF & Final)
Thur. June 27	Women's Team U-19 Foil Epee (SF & Final)
Fri. June 28	Epee Team U-19 Sabre Board of Directors Mtg.
Sat. June 29	U-19 Women's Foil U-19 Epee

### AMERICAN FENCING WORKSHOP

During the National Championships to be held in New York, the staff of American Fencing will hold a workshop for all interested persons. On the agenda will be talks on production of the magazine, procedures suitable for contributions to the magazine and general discussions on policy and ideas as to how the magazine can better serve the fencing community.

## AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA ENTRY FORM: 1974 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Name (Please Print) ..... Division .....  
Street Address ..... Birth Date .....  
City, State, Zip Code ..... Club Affiliation .....  
AFLA Membership # ..... Section .....

### A. REGISTRATION FEES (For every fencer in Nationals)

..... Entrant's Registration Fee @ \$7.50	\$.....
..... Registration Fee(s) for each team member not entered in any other event @ \$7.50/person (Fill in number of persons)	&.....

### B. ENTRY FEES (Fill in no. events for each category)

..... Senior Individual Event(s) @ \$12./event	\$.....
..... Under-19 Event(s) @ \$7.50/event	\$.....
..... Team Event(s) @ \$25./team event	\$.....

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: Sum of Registration plus  
entry fees \$.....  
Make Check or Money Order Payable to AFLA-NATIONALS

All entries must be received by May 24th with STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED Large Envelope, entry form and total fees. MAIL TO: Connie Latzko, 33-62st. West New Jersey 07093

"Upon entering these events under the auspices of the AFLA I agree to abide by the rules of the AFLA as published in the 1970 edition of "Fencing Rules and Manual" and aments thereto. I enter at my own risk and release the AFLA and/or their sponsors from any liability. The undersigned certifies that the individual for whom this entry is submitted is duly qualified to enter the 1974 Nationals and that the individual's 1973-1974 membership dues have been paid."

..... Parent or Guardian's Signature  
for those fencers under 18

..... Fencer's Signature

**ENTRY INFORMATION: 1974 AFLA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

UNDER-19 EVENTS				A. INDIVIDUAL EVENTS				SENIOR EVENTS				
Men FOIL	SABRE	EPEE	Women FOIL	Fill In Required Information		Women FOIL	SABRE	EPEE	Men FOIL			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Check Each Event Entering								
				Qualifying Position (Note if alternate)								
				Place in '74 Sectionals								
				Place in '74 Jr. Olymp. Champ.								
				Special Cases: Check One								
				National Petition								
				Automatic Qualifier								
				National Rank: 73 Nationals								
				National Classification (A, B, C or Unclassified)								

**B. TEAM EVENTS**

Fill In All Information Below	MF	S	E	WF
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Team Event(s) Entering				
Place In Qualifying Event (Note If Alternate)				
Club Name				
Names of Team Members** Note Captain				

\*\* NOTE: Mark the name of each team member not entered in any other event with a (T).

NAME OF ENTRANT: ..... DIVISION .....

**RULES  
& OFFICIATING**

by  
**Chaba**  
**Pallaghy**

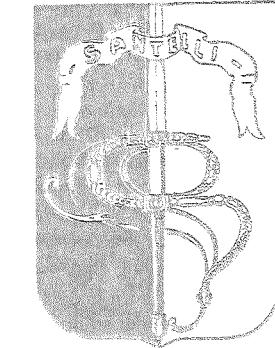


A recent protest lodged at a national competition brought several points to attention, worth discussing in this column. The basic rule to be observed when making a protest is to make it **immediately**, when the alleged infraction of the rule by the director occurs. The fencer lodging the protest should not recommence fencing before an acknowledgement of the protest by the director has been given. If the protesting fencer continues fencing and another decision regarding a subsequent hit follows, the protest can not be considered. (Rule 659-a). However, if the director persists in the alleged violation of the rule, the fencer is entitled to turn to the Bout Committee for a decision. This further protest has to be done immediately also. Protests regarding other matters have to be made within one hour of their occurrence, in writing, accompanied by the re-

quired protest fee (if specified), generally required in order to pre-lodging of frivolous protests. If the protest is upheld, the fee is generally refunded. Other matter to observe carefully is the following: A warning issued by the director to be marked on the score sheet for a penalty touch to follow. (Rule 636). If the warning was not recorded on the score sheet, the penalty touch can not be awarded. A hit on an offender already received the maximum number of touches but one, for the next touch, an offense, punishable by a touch, will take the deduction of a touch from the offender's score. If the offending fencer scores a hit, credit will be established in favor of the non-offending fencer. Subsequent touches scored by the offender will be annulled in direct ratio to the number of "negative" touches accumulated by the fencer. (The determination of scoring manner was decided upon at the 1973 Congress held at the site of the World Championship at Goteborg).

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## Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



We're back with the epee, but not with what I had originally intended to write for this issue. We'll get around to that yet, but in the meantime I've been to several large competitions for high school age fencers in my home division of New Jersey, where we have large numbers of such fencers and competitions. There were things wrong with the fencers' equipment at all of them, of course, but at one of them I must have seen ten defective epees to one defective foil, although I think that the number of foils in use there exceeded the number of epees.

Some of the troubles arose from uninformed amateur assembly, but some must have had their origins at a factory or even with a fencing master. (Cries of shame, shame!) The most common fault was actually a violation of FIE (and AFLA) rules which have been in effect for over a year now (Articles 217, 314). I've said it here before and obviously it needs saying again (and you foil fencers out there, this applies to you too): the little wrapped cotton insulation that covers the wires in epees and foils is not sufficient to protect them. Sensible assembly has always required using some kind of insulation over these wires to keep that easily damaged cotton wrap from being rubbed off. The rules are now quite specific: each wire in an epee and the one wire in a foil must be completely covered by its own piece of insulating sleeving, from the point where it enters the guard up to where it is fastened to the socket for the body wire. Anything else is illegal, also stupid.

This is a detail—one of many—for which the inspectors at the National Fencing Championships and the Under-19 Nationals will definitely be looking, and I hope that inspectors at all our Sectional Championships will do the same. Formal weapon

checks at divisional events, even the championships, are less common, I know, but these rules are supposed to be enforced by the director on the strip (see Article 18 of the Rule Book, the new translation of which may be out by the time this appears in print, incidentally).

Quite apart from common sense in protecting the relatively delicate wires, there are other grounds for the FIE's insistence on this form of protection. With defective or no insulation, the wires can be the source of unwanted effects: unearned touches in epee or grounded out weapons in both foil and epee. Such results could be innocent accidents, or they could even be deliberate attempts at cheating. (I shall not be more specific here, least I tempt some would-be Machiavelli into trying tricks. Besides, you can figure them out for yourselves.)

Even worse than leaving off the insulating sleeves is the not uncommon boo-boo of running the wire(s) into the guard between the inside of the guard (bell) and the bracket holding the body cord socket. No. No. A thousand times NO. Even with the sleeving over the wire(s), the screwing down of the pommel or locking nut will cut into the insulation and either ground out the weapon or break the wire.

Most—although apparently not all—of these defective (and illegal) assemblies were the product of home workshop efforts by teenagers or their coaches, and they just didn't know any better. Presumably they didn't use insulated sleeving because they didn't have any. It would be a good thing if all our suppliers of fencing equipment, in selling a wired electrical blade, would automatically furnish about six inches of sleeving over each wire. (I understand that some suppliers regularly do so now.) It would be even better if these pieces of sleeving were anchored—glued, that is—where the blade joins the tang, so that nobody could be dumb enough to remove them and discard them.

## URIAH JONES LAUNCHES SALLE DU LION

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

Uriah Jones, 1971 National Foil Champion, launched his professional coaching career with the opening of the newest and possibly the most glamorous fencing salle in the United States; the Salle du Lion. A grand opening on December 15 attracted many prominent fencers in the Northeast to the Salle's quarters near the Yale University campus, in New Haven, Conn.

The "Den of the Lion" features six fencing strips, a large lounge area (with free refreshments), continuous music and even a sauna! The distinctive club is situated on the first floor of 1044 Chapel Street, New Haven. Off-street parking is in ample supply.

Group and private lessons are available from the club's maître and guiding force, Uriah Jones. Besides being past national foil champion, Mr. Jones was a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic Team and a bronze medalist in the 1971 Pan-American Games. During his extensive career he represented the Salle Santelli of New York City on several national championship foil teams, at the same time gaining the North Atlantic Sectional Championship four times and the Connecticut Divisional Title on six occasions.

A special feature of the opening ceremony was a round-robin of ten in foil, "by invitation only," that included the present U.S. National Champion, Ed Ballinger; U.S. Olympian John Nonna, and Olympic Bronze-Medalist Albert Axelrod. Ed Ballinger went undefeated to take first place, but it was only afterward that it was learned that Ed had bicycled to New Haven that morning from his Bronx home, 68 miles away! (Post-



Photo by P

Uriah Jones (right) maître of the Salle embraces Edward Ballinger of Salle Salle National Foil champion, after Ed went up in the ten man round robin held at the opening. Note Coach Jones' paisley fenc-

script: He got a lift home by car astounded clubmate.)

Uriah is extremely enthusiastic prospects for the club's growth, an out proudly that, along with Ed and new Salle Richards in Newtonville "the 'gaps' are beginning to be filled between the Northeast's two major centers, New York and Boston." A brochure with more information on the club and rates is available by writing to Jones / Salle du Lion / 1044 Chapel St., New Haven, Ct. 06510.

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### SUMMER FENCING CAM

West Point Fencing Coach A. John Geraci will host a Junior fencing camp for June. For complete details contact: Geraci, Fencing Master, Army Athlete, U.S.M.A., West Point, N.Y.

## *Letters to the Editor*

**The Editor**  
**American Fencing**  
**Dear Ralph**

The most frequent platitude which appears in American Fencing is that more attention be given to the development of U.S. performance in international competition. But the method for selecting members of this year's World Championship team fails to recognize the performance record of the current fencing season. Two "Olympic" qualifying competitions, the Martini-Rossi International, and the National Championships will be held before the time of the World Championships. Are the results of all of these competitions to be ignored in the selection of the World Championship team?

If the AFLA is truly interested in the development of U.S. fencing, surely the clearest indication of concern would be to recognize current performances, rather than past history. One would also assume that some form of financial assistance would be provided so that the best American fencers of 1974 would be able to compete in the most important international fencing event of the year.

Sincerely  
Emily Grompone  
Jersey City, New Jersey



### **1975 PAN AMERICAN GAMES**

The 1975 Pan American Games will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Sao Paulo also hosted the Games in 1963..

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**The Editor**  
**American Fencing**  
**Dear Ralph,**

Yesterday the AFLA Junior Olympics ended. For three days and nights I organized, talked, listened, made decisions, smiled, almost wept, laughed, walked, ran, stood, sat, seeded and reseeded, pleaded, swore and dried tears from my shoulders. I now have such a great feeling of pride in our young fencers that I feel I must share it with everyone not lucky enough to have been there.

Elsewhere in this issue are the results. The official report from Reverend Calhoun will be in the next issue. This is my personal report.

There were over two hundred competitors fencing in the Under 16 and the Under 20 Championships.

The organizing committee did an excellent job except that through a series of foul-ups we were short on machines and reels.

Pools were delayed — bouts were delayed. Reels would break down in the middle of a bout and the fencers would have to sit until it could be repaired. It was enough to drive a competitor crazy.

How did our young fencers react? By displaying the utmost in sportsmanship, good manners, patience, cheerfulness and understanding. It was almost unbelievable.

We, the League officers and other adults who were running the competition, were not only proud of our young fencers exemplary behavior on and off the strip, we were tremendously impressed with the high level of fencing skill displayed. Fencers who were good enough to have made the finals several years ago were going out in the early rounds. If I were a top senior fencer I would be looking nervously over my shoulder and practicing every day.

All in all, despite the headaches, it was one of the most rewarding and exciting experiences of my life and I feel sorry for everyone who was not there.

Sincerely yours  
Emily Johnson  
San Francisco, California

### **NIWFA WINTER INVITATIONAL**

by Julia Jones

Hunter College of CUNY hosted the first NIWFA Winter Invitational on Feb. 23rd. This tourney replaces the annual Christmas Tournament. At the present time there are forty six member colleges and entries were limited to these.

The tournament included 90 fencers representing twenty four schools and required five rounds of fencing. Last years' winner, Marissa Biegel, was not eligible to defend her title.

Olympic Team Coach Michel Alaux presented the Julia Jones medals to the six finalists.

### **RESULTS**

1. Peggy Walbridge, Cornell; 2. Jeannine Lynch, Paterson; 3. Kathy Stevenson, Cornell; 4. Iza Farkas, Paterson; 5. Regina Reynolds, NYU! 6. Debbie Cinotti, Bernard.

### **FENCERS INVITED TO COMP 5th ANNUAL SENIOR OLYM**

by Fred Rayser

All fencers 35 or older are invited to compete in the 5th Annual Senior Tournament to be held in Los Angeles this summer. Sabre and Women's Foil will be held Saturday, June 15th, while Foil and Epee will be held Sunday, June 16th, at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, 7th and Wilshire, Los Angeles.

A feature of the competition is that fencers are pitted against their peers and are staged in age groups in 5-year increments and awards given in each age group. Age groups start with 35 through 39, 40 through 44, etc. In addition to first and third place awards, all fencers receive a certificate or other recognition participation.

For information and entry form: stamped, self addressed envelope to Sports International, Mutual of Omaha, Suite 302, 5225 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90036.

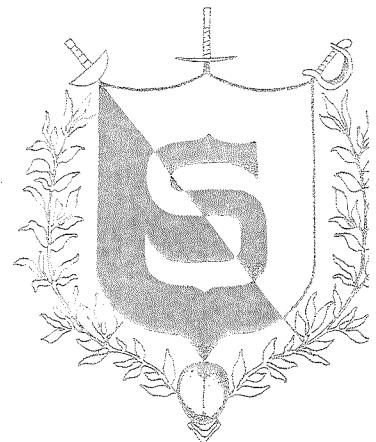
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Shown here are some of the colorful patches and emblems available to AFLA members from the League Secretary. From left to right are: The AFLA shield patch (in red, white and blue); the AFLA classification patch (in blue and gold), with gold, silver, and bronze classification star pins; the AFLA Nationals patch (in red, white, and blue); and the AFLA Decal (in red, white, and blue). The AFLA shield patch is 3½ inches high by 3 inches wide. Orders for the following cataloged items should be sent **PREPAID** to:

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AMERICAN FENCING

Page Thirty

**FENCING MASTERS TO  
TEACH SUMMER COURSE**

by Maria Del Drago

More than 30,000 persons in the United States are currently engaged in some sort of fencing activity. However, only a few hundred can advance beyond an elementary level because of the lack of professional fencing training. Alan Ruben, former president of the Amateur Fencers League of America, said in 1970: "There is no doubt that the single greatest handicap which American fencing labors under, is the paucity of professional fencing teachers . . . The majority of persons interested in fencing must rely upon the amateur coach as their only resource. Even where an instructor who has received some formal training is available, the instructor is unable to improve fencing techniques for want of an established professional fencing training center."

This summer a unique six-week program will get under way June 17 at the University of California, Berkeley, in an effort to begin to fill the demand for more professionally qualified fencing coaches and to provide a continuing professional training environment. University of California Extension with the support of the Amateur Fencers League of America and the National Fencing Coaches Association of America will sponsor this first-of-its-kind national program. Pro-

fessor Julius Palffy-Alpar, Director of the Program, has designed it for experienced amateurs who would like to build up to a professional level or become professionals, and for coaches who would benefit from intensive directed instruction.

Participants in the program will earn seven units of credit in education from University Extension. Qualified students will be encouraged to apply for masters certification through NFCAA and take the masters certification test given at the conclusion of the course.

An outstanding two-man team, Prof. Palffy-Alpar in this workshop, Charles Selberg and Michael D'Asaro, Selberg, is an Associate Supervisor of Education at the University of Santa Cruz.

Mr. D'Asaro was a member of the Fencing Team at the 1960 Rome Olympics and has won the World Military Sabre championship (the first American to do so) and the individual sabre champion in the 1963 Pan American Games.

The tuition cost to participants is \$375 for the entire program schedule, June 17 to July 26. Enrollees will be assisted in making housing arrangements in the Berkeley area. For further information, please write: Fencing; A Master Class; University of California Extension, 1000 Fulton Street, Berkeley, California.

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Enclosed is a check or money order payable to AFLA, Inc. in the amount of \$..... for ..... copies (at \$3.00 each) of the 1974 FENCING RULES BOOK. I understand that I should not expect to receive the book(s) in the mail until March 1974. Please send the book(s) to:

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AMERICAN FENCING

Page 31

**AFLA DIRECTORY 1973-1974  
ADDITIONS AND CHANGES**  
**DIVISION CHAIRMEN AND ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS**

03 Arizona: Steve Gerstein, 1425 N. Park Ave., #C-5, Tucson, AZ 85719  
11 Florida: Lucille Heintz, 4815 Eastchester Dr., Sarasota, FL 33580  
14 Gold Coast: (Add'l) Manny Forrest, 920 Oriole Ave., Miami Springs, Fla. 33166  
22 Iowa: John Hanzalik, 333 Wartburg Pl., Dubuque, IA 52001  
30 Minn.: David Juncker, 16 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
39 Phila.: David Micahnik, 308 Brookline Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
44 No. Texas: R. E. Nash, 200 Booth Calloway, 106B, Hurst, TX 76053  
50 Wisc.: John Bosanec, 3038 N. 47 St., Milwaukee, WI 53210  
53 North Carolina: Ron Miller, 504 Hillsborough Rd., Carrboro, N.C. 27510

**SECRETARIES**

03 Arizona: Susan Baker, 2616 E. Helen, Tucson, AZ 85716  
11 Florida: Lucille Heintz, 4815 Eastchester Dr., Sarasota, FL 33580  
18 Hudson-Berkshire: Bruce Wright, 12 E. Pleasant St., Hamilton, NY 13346  
22 Iowa: Nancy Engel, Box 225, Vinton, IA 52349  
30 Minn.: Mabel Pearson, 8115 Plymouth Ave. N, Golden Valley, MN 55427  
45 Wash. DC: James Hamill, 9115 Springhill Lane, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
50 Wisc.: Loran Hein, 1429 30th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140

**SECTION CHAIRMEN**

Metropolitan: Marilyn Masiero, Apt. 20 C, 401 First Ave., N.Y. 10010  
Southeast: Ronald Brown, 1611 Sharkey Street, Tallahassee, Fla. 32304

**HARMONIE INTERNATIONAL**

The Harmonie International will be held in Toronto, Canada on April 20 and 21. The schedule of events is Saturday: Epee at 9 AM and Ladies Foil at 10:30 AM, Sunday: Foil 9:30 and Sabre at 11:00. Advance entry is required and the fee is five dollars. Please send entries to Patricia Wiedel, 87 Black Creek Boulevard, Toronto, Canada.

**MAGAZINE MAILINGS**

All AFLA members are reminded that if they haven't been receiving American Fencing they should check with their division secretaries to be sure that their memberships have been properly forwarded to the AFLA Secretary Irwin Bernstein, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey, 07090. Our mailing lists are updated frequently and all AFLA members should be getting the magazine regularly.

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