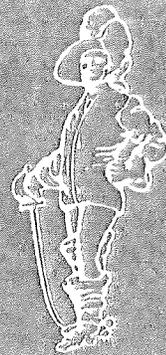


american
Fencing



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LAJOS CSISZAR
(Story on Page 27)

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1974

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DEADLINE FOR 1974-75 ISSUES

Issue Date	Closing Date for Copy	Mailing Date
Nov./Dec.	Oct. 10	Nov. 30
Jan./Feb.	Dec. 10	Jan. 31
Mar./Apr.	Feb. 15	Mar. 31

EDITORIAL

Except for a recent editorial recommending that the martingale be made obligatory for sabre (apparently we'll wait for a serious accident before this is incorporated in the rules), safety of the fencers only has been stressed.

We submit that the scorers, the timers, the electrical machine operators and the audience be considered as well. This not so innocent bystander was shocked at the last National Championship to note that the scoring tables between the fencing strips were much too close to the competitors. The excuse given was that there was simply not enough room between the strips. We do not accept this as we could have placed fewer strips in the room, if necessary.

That's bad enough, but when the officials permitted the fencing to proceed with the chairs of the audience within striking distance of the fencing strip, it was just too much! A wide sweep of the blade from one of the fencers on that side of the strip could easily have blinded a person seated there. We were fortunate indeed to have this situation corrected before anyone was hurt.

May we suggest that at every competition someone with experience be given the job of safety engineer with the authority to alter the physical layout for the safety of all concerned, before the fencing starts.

CONGRATULATIONS

Evelyn F. (Terry) Terhune and J. Osborn Fuller were married August 13, 1974 in Mahwah, New Jersey. Their new address is: 3928 Fairlington Drive, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43220. Mr. Fuller is Special Assistant to the President and Director of Continuing and Experimental Education at the Ohio State University. He was formerly President of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

"Terry" is President of Terhune, Winzer and McKelvey, Inc. educational marketing consultants, and a member of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Sports Committee. She was amateur Fencing coach of F.D.U., a member of the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team in Rome, and Chairman of the New Jersey Division of the AFLA.

CHARTER FLIGHT ORGANIZING FOR BUDAPEST Special 1975 World Championship Excursion for AFLA Members

AFLA members will have the opportunity to save money, enjoy a fascinating vacation, and help the 1975 U.S.A. World Championship team next year from July 5th to July 21st, by participating in an organized charter flight from New York to Budapest, during the time of these World Championships.

Through the professional services of Don Gordon, Executive Secretary of Jersey Beachcombers International, those persons who have joined the AFLA on or before December 31, 1974, will be eligible to take advantage of the charter flight at a greatly reduced rate (remember the recent increases in international air fares). Mr. Gordon has previously handled travel arrangements for the U.S. Junior teams and is currently negotiating with regular scheduled air lines for this charter.

This is an excellent opportunity for a combination vacation, viewing of the World Championships, and support of the U.S. team members who will be fencing. If we can get 300 boosters, the round trip flight may be as cheap as \$399.00!

REMEMBER: 1. Flight will leave July 5 and return later on July 21.

2. Regular schedule will be used!

3. You must be a member before 1974. (Don't forget Student, Associate other membership)

DO IT NOW!

Join the AFLA (See the Official bottom of page) and write to: **DON GORDON, JERSEY BEACHCOMBERS INTERNATIONAL, 34 Gould Street, Verona, New Jersey** for full charter flight information.

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249 Eton Place Westfield, N. J. 07090

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1974 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

by Richard J. Gradkowski
Chief of Mission

The pleasant mountain city of Grenoble hosted the 1974 World Fencing Championships under the leadership of the French Fencing Federation. The actual site of the fencing events was a huge Palais des Sports where upwards of 18 strips were available, with complete physical facilities for such an important event. The competitors were housed in dormitories, each with an individual room at the University, at a very reasonable price and with good facilities for food, shopping, and transportation.

The championships were well organized, with the exception of the communications system. This resulted in a number of misunderstandings and difficulties, and required constant keeping on top of things in order to be sure of changes in schedules, rules, assignments, etc.

There were a large number of rules and organizational changes which required instant adaptation on our part, and explanation to our cadre and team members. At the suggestion of a past Olympic team captain, I decided to institute a system of "seconds". These were individuals who, not competing on a particular day, would be responsible for one of our competing team members. They were to help him in any way necessary, from bringing him water or getting a weapon checked, to keeping him abreast of his scores and indicators relative to the other competitors in his pool. In general, the system worked very well, and the competitors were free to devote themselves completely to their fencing.

Before the championships began, I held a team meeting and we discussed each persons' function and responsibility to the group. In addition some brand new rules were divulged and explained.

The new FIE rules for the seeding of teams give a more rational evaluation for the individual performances (on which these team seedings are based). Under the old system the only datum that mattered was which round the fencer reached. The new system counts any bouts won favorably,

even if a fencer is eliminated. So, even if a fencer is "out" with too many losses, he should still try to win his last bouts for his team's seeding. This set up also cuts down on the many ties which had been occurring in the tete de series of the teams. These ties had to be resolved by a draw, with some unhappy complaints. This rule was carefully explained to the team at our pre-competition meeting, with the result that all of our people fought for each bout right down the line, never giving up.

As these championships were held in a geographically central area, they were marked by a very large number of competing nations with a very high overall level of performance. Even the Communist Chinese, who had sent a delegation to observe last year, had a good team entered. As more and more nations participate in these championships we will find the going tougher and U.S. fencers will have to prepare harder and raise their level of capability higher.

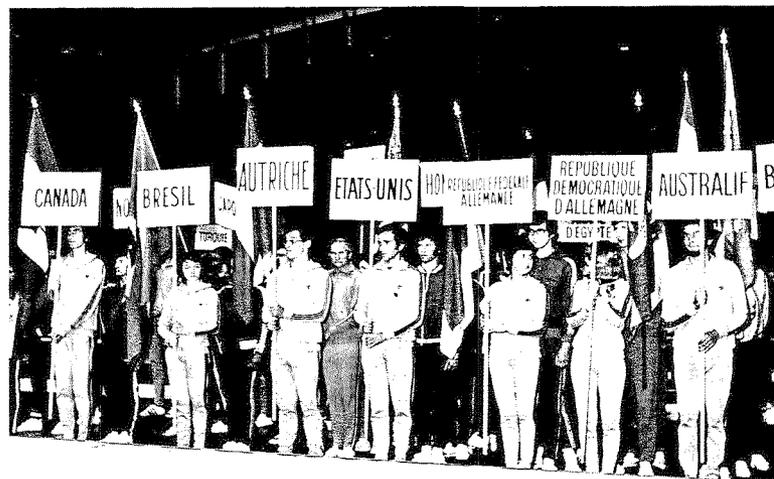
FOIL:

Four out of our five foilsmen made it into the second round. Bill Gelnaw, after a good start (he defeated Dabrowski 5-3) lost a few tough bouts and dropped out. In the second round the going got rougher and Lyons, Kestler, and Campbell were eliminated. Bert Freeman fought his way to the third round (the top 48 in the competition).

The U.S. foil team was seeded 13 in a field of 21 teams and placed in a pool with Holland and Italy.

In our first match, with Holland, team captain Bruce Lyons gave us a good victory in the lead off bout. With the score 2-0 in our favor, our boys lost several 5-4 heart-breakers and we slowed our momentum. The Dutch then surged ahead to 6-2 at the half-way point. At this time, I ordered our fencers to each take a thorough warm up lesson with the coaches, before their bouts. The fellows woke up and won five out of the last eight, but we still lost 9-7.

After this disheartening experience, the team resolved to keep the pressure on Italy from the very start. Again Lyons started us off with a win, but the Italians took no



A view of the opening ceremonies in the Palais des Sport. In the center under "Etats Bruce Lyons, Captain of the foil and epee squads, with Bert Freeman and Jeff Kestler ob the crowd.

chances and fought each bout hard to beat us 13-3.

In the individual final, the 20 year old Soviet fencer Romankov took the Gold medal, again demonstrating the typical Soviet phenomenon of a fencer who had never before entered a world championship competition, wasting no time and going right to the top ranks. The team event was also won by the USSR.

SABRE:

The FIE sprang a surprise on everyone by giving us a whole new set of sabre rules. Many of the participating federations, including the U.S.A., had received no previous notice and we all were greatly disturbed. At the Director's Clinic we went over the new rules carefully but the whole concept was too new and still left many unanswered questions.

As the sabre team was still unsure of these details and of the application of these rules, Averil Genton, our official interpreter, and I, had a special conference

with Edgar Mercier of the Comm Arbitrage. He very patiently went rules, case by case, and subsequently were able to relay this to our sabre

The new rules seem complicated actually work very well and do most of the horrendous "double". The sabre is much more enjoyable and the classical actions are reapp

All five sabremen made it up second round. While it is true that fencers qualified from this first part a world championship is extreme and this was a heartening performance. Wesbrook and Lekach went out second round, and Dow was eliminated the third series. This left Paul Apou only quarter finalist.

The Quarter Finals were held the next day in the new format man pools. Paul tried hard but the accumulated fatigue of his previous day had taken off his edge and he was to organize himself sufficiently.

The energy output which is required for world class fencing is enormous and considering how close some of the bouts are, every little advantage must be made to count. The four man pools (where there are only three bouts) also place a premium on intense concentration. Interestingly, during the sabre event, a team of physiologists was getting data by radio telemetered readings of the electrocardial functions of some of the top sabremen (Aldo Montano among others, had a little transmitter strapped across his chest underneath his jacket). These readings showed some extremely high heart rates during the stress of fencing.

In the team event the U.S.A. was seeded 10 in a field of 17, and we were put into a pool with Great Britain and the USSR. Facing the British first, we had a thorough warm up and jumped out to a 4-0 lead. The ambushed British fought back hard but were unable to catch up, and we won. Against the USSR, the US fencers fenced well but lost 9-5. The officiating in this event was rather less than the best. The FIE had assigned a Director who was apparently taking his Exam, with Marcel Parent his examiner acting as a "side" judge. Such weak directing is unfair to the lower seeded team, as the Director tends naturally to favor the "favorites".

In the direct eliminations, the sabre squad lost to the Bulgarians 9-3 and went to the showers. Again, the officiating was so bad that Edgar Mercier himself observed and ordered one of the judges replaced.

The sabre team event was finally won by the USSR in an easy 9-3 victory over Romania. Subsequent to this, the FIE doping test revealed that one of the members of the Romanian team had taken drugs. Therefore, the Romanian team was disqualified, and their Silver medals went to Italy, with Hungary moving up to third place. It is interesting to note that, Alex Nilca, the Romanian team member who had taken the drugs, didn't win a single bout against the Russians in that final match.

EPEE:

Three out of five of our epeeists made the second round. Bert Freeman was overtired and Bruce Lyons pressed too hard in a crucial bout, to be eliminated. Kestler, Reith, and Israel were eliminated in the second round, but all fenced hard. Israel, in particular, had an incredibly difficult pool (it sounded like a semi final) with Hoskyns, Von Essen, Karagian, and Schmitt (with only three going up!).

An amusing incident occurred during Bill Reith's pool which demonstrates how one should be careful in applying the rules. Bill was fencing one of the Italians who fleched and bumped him. The inexperienced French director proceeded to give the Italian a warning for "corps a corp". Knowing that there is no warning for corps a corps in epee unless it is for "jostling" (and this is a very serious offense) I asked the director if the warning were for "corps a corps busculant?". He shook his head, "NO; just a corps a corp".

Leaving well enough alone, I withdrew from the strip. However, the Italian team captain Fini vehemently protested to the director that there is no warning just for corps a corps in epee, it would have had to be "busculant". "Very well, then," replied the director, "corps a corps busculant". I, of course made certain that this was entered properly on the score sheet. Sure enough, on the very next action the Italian fleched and bumped Reith again, but, unfortunately, Bill was too excited to fall down and pick up a penalty touch.

The Epee team was seeded 18 out of a field of 23 and found itself in a pool with Great Britain and Switzerland. Once again, sparked by Bruce Lyons' lead off victory, the team jumped out to a 3-1 lead. But the experienced British squad steadied and defeated us 10-6. The Swiss, who won the silver medal in Munich, were too strong for us and we went down 13-3.

In these bouts, Matthew Israel showed an excellent approach to his fencing. His thorough and rational physical and technical preparation is giving him a solid basis for future progress. I am sure that this was



A hot discussion between Bill Reith and Richard Gradkowski, Chief of Delegation, d epee event.

a valuable learning experience for him, and that, if he keeps up his fencing he must achieve good results.

The popular 1973 World Champion, Rolf Edling of Sweden, again fenced beautifully to repeat his championships performance of last year, and this time led his team to another Gold medal over the tough West German squad.

WOMEN'S FOIL:

Four out of five women advanced to the second round, with Virginia Bleamaster going out after winning her last bout. Elvira Orly did especially well in the first pool, fencing very aggressively and defeating one of the Soviets. In the second round, the going got too tough and all of our women were eliminated.

The women's team was ranked 13th out of 19 on the basis of the individual performances and met Holland and Hungary in its first pool. The initial match against Holland was sparked off by Cynthia Carter's win, but from then on it was all downhill

and our team lost 12-4. Orly, who I so well in the individual, couldn't Against the Hungarians, team capt er went 2-2, but the rest of the tea win any at all.

We really had a very good chance the Dutch, but our girls didn't get site of the competition early enough weren't warmed up. Except for Vicki this was a relatively inexperienced and not aware of proper procedures level of competition.

The women's final featured three ians and three Russians, with Bobi ing Schwarzenberger in a barrage Gold medal. The team event saw th fencers maintain their domination win over the second place Hungaria

In conclusion I would like to re the exceptional team spirit of o team. We had the advantage, in spect, of having a highly motivated inexperienced nucleus of fencers relatively experienced cadre. While v do as well as we would have like

16 of our 20 competitors advanced up from the first round, and overall we did just as well as some past teams with lots of "stars" on them. I attribute this primarily to the willingness to work and to learn which most of our fencers exhibited. By and large they trained together, discussed problems together, helped each other during the competition, and kept each other's morale up.

Finally, I must thank each member of our hard working cadre, for their dedication and sweat. They all surpassed the ordinary call of duty and gave of themselves unstintingly.

COACH'S COMMENTS

by A. John Geraci

If the individual and team spirit, motivation and desire to win could have won medals at the 1974 World's Championships in Grenoble, this American team would have won them. This younger, eager group of men and women fencers were determined to do as well as they could. They had strong motivation, they developed a group spirit from the first day, they supported each other at each event. They maintained the practice sessions established by the coaches. They worked hard to achieve good results. Even as they fenced in the individual and team competitions, they took specific drills with the coaches to sharpen a point movement or make a parry riposte more efficient, or practice a corrective movement. Most of them listened to the coaches. They came to fence. They were eager to practice with the fencers of other countries, individually and as a team to gain as much experience as possible. The women's team had several team matches with other teams, the foil and epee teams also had a team match or two and they all individually fenced with other European fencers. This kind of experience is invaluable to a young fencer. I wish to praise these fencers on their personal and team attitude. They came to work hard, to practice, to experience, to study, to learn, to drill, to perform and to win. Even though they were aware of their technical defici-

encies and their lack of high level of competitiveness, they were, most of them, were not awed by the Europeans and took the fight to them.

Some had difficulty in modifying winning tactics after they had achieved near victories. This I call **tactical inflexibility**.

Time and time again the fencers established a winning game, in the individual and team events, only to lose because they were incapable of adjusting to the opponent's change of game. Either they don't see it or feel it, or they are so frozen in the belief that their game is going to win, even as they lose point after point, to lose the bout. For example, Bill Reith failed to gain the 3rd round in epee because of this lack of flexibility in changing, and not recognizing and feeling the subtle changes and not sensing the time left in the bouts, and so he lost bouts he was leading 4-2, 3-0, 3-1 and failed to qualify. Our fencers have had enough experience to feel and understand this, but they lack the international ease and calm presence under this kind of pressure to effect the changes.

This was apparent in their work with the coaches during the warm-up sessions. In the three team events, the spirit and motivation and initial sharpness of the fencers, before nervous and physical fatigue set in, carried us to a 2-0 lead over the Dutch in foil, only to lose a critical 4-5 bout which broke our concentration, and we lost 5 more bouts in a row. In the epee team, we went ahead 3-1 against the British and again faltered to lose 10-6. In the sabre team we went ahead 4-0, only to falter again. However, the sabre team members had more individual experience and savvy and pulled it out 10-6. Our fencers earned and scored many excellent and brilliant points, but threw away still more points to lose the key bouts. Paul Apostol, reaching the quarter-final, shows he is still capable of very high International effort and capability; but he is going to have to condition and drill four times what he is doing to achieve the final six. Matthew Israel has long range promise. He has instinctive fighting qualities, fine sense of distance,



U.S. Team members in Grenoble. l. to r. (sitting) V. Smith, E. Orly, C. Carter, V. Bleam; Latham; (kneeling) N. Valsamis, R. Dow, P. Westbrook, P. Apostol, S. Lekach; (standing) M. V. M. Forrest, M. Masiero, W. Reith, B. Lyons, J. Freeman, J. Kestler, S. Israel, W. Gelnaw, J. A. Genton, R. Gradkowski. Camera shy were N. Campbell, D. Jacobson, A. J. Geraci, and M. V.

and explosive sense of surprise, and a very good sense of tempo and change of pace. He was not awed by the world fencers and took the measure of some of them. With proper technical training and top-level competition he is going to be near the top of American fencing in the near future. In the individual event, he surprised Erdos of Hungary and raised some eyebrows. In the team events he won two against the British and lost two 5-4 bouts and then lost three 5-4 bouts against the Swiss. Here his impulsiveness ruled his fencing sense. Jeff Kestler, taking two epee bouts from the British and two from the Swiss in the team events, showed his natural ability and calmness and poise on the strip.

We ran into the minor problem of the individual fencers coach's telling some team members not to take drills from the team coaches. This is not the first time this has come to the surface. Telling a fencer not to work with another coach or fencing master is a most narrow minded philosophy of coaching. It creates and nourishes lifetime

faults in a fencer, which limits his performance. This fencer's over-all ability and his capacity for technical expansion. After giving warm-up drill, I can understand why the fencer is so reflexively conditioned to not respond to another's warm-up movements. The fencer fails to react to a different sequence of movements of a different coach. When a man is so untrained, he is too vulnerable to known opponents movements.

This year's team was younger than last year's and they had more in common with each other and were more receptive to others' comment and criticisms, and more receptive to the coach's suggestions on timing, analysis and tactics. The most important thing is that they were willing to

From The President

by Steve Sobel



Two weeks after the Nationals I received a phone call from Todd Makler, who asked a simple question, "How can I fence epee and sabre in the January Squad Competitions when one is in San Francisco and the other is in New York at the same time?" He then stated that he was the only person on both the epee and sabre squads and his suggestion was to hold the sabre event in New York one week later on January 19th which would result in little inconvenience to other sabre men if announced prior to the start of the season, and would not interfere with the other three events already planned for January 11 and 12 in San Francisco. This incident in all its simplicity might otherwise remain unnoticed since it merely makes a slight adjustment to resolve an individual's schedule conflict, but if it is studied in close detail, it exemplifies the basic and most important issues facing the AFLA. Although on the surface it appears to be a simple story, I have decided to explore the lessons to be learned from it in more detail, since what is simple, may not be obvious.

Prompt Identification of the Problem plus Proposed Solution: It is obvious that in attempting to plan a schedule a year in advance in order to permit plans and avoid schedule conflict it was realized that there were fencers who qualified for the foil and epee squad, but due to an oversight the epee-sabre overlap was unnoticed. A correction without inconvenience can now be made for two reasons:

1. The conflict was immediately identified. (Contrast the approach of a **prompt report** in July with a **disgruntled complaint** in December).
2. The individual had the insight not only to see his problem but to appreciate the problems of others, and to

recommend solutions at the same time, which would be satisfactory for all.

Certainty (Early decisions, prompt announcements and reasonable reliance) versus change to correct oversights and possible errors: Individuals are not infallible, and committees composed of individuals are subject to the cumulative effects of this individual inadequacy. While it is desirable to make major decisions early, provide prompt announcements, and then make no change which will alter the plans of those who have acted in reasonable reliance, two possibilities occur which would question the wisdom of this approach.

First, suppose what **should have** been considered wasn't, as was true in the epee-sabre conflict. Second, suppose a subsequent event not foreseen occurs which was not considered when the original decision was made, such as the change in dates of the Pan American Games, the change in authorized competitive positions on the team, temporary disabling injury of two National Champions and one International Competitor prior to the National Championships, or a lack of anticipated funds. Unfortunately, anything which can go wrong often does go wrong. Does the original announcement become the gospel not subject to change, or does a Committee **balance the equities** on a scale-the hardships to those from the original announced decision compared to the inequities to other when a change is made. The latter approach appears preferable but the correct decision on each case that arises is not always clear or capable of unanimous agreement. I wish I could not only raise this problem but provide the answer as well, since this is probably the basic problem to be faced in the selection of International Fencing Teams.

An Amateur Organization with Volunteer Workers: A pitcher can hurl a no hitter one day and be knocked out of the box on his next performance. Athletes know that they have good days and bad days, but they can't tolerate or anticipate that the same can occur with a volunteer. They can complain vehemently when they see an error, be personally abusive when a situation of honest disagreement of opinion occurs, and be insulting and obnoxious when discussing these issues in public.

Errors obviously should be corrected, and injustices should be identified and discussed. But there must be a line between honest disagreement on issues, and individual personality conflicts on unrelated questions of motive, integrity and intention. The official must understand the athlete, but the athlete must also understand the official. The many fencers who serve in both capacities usually realize this clearer than the others. However, the inconsiderate few can jeopardize the successful promotion of the sport. Capable workers are often left with the perplexing question "Why should I volunteer for this"? When the answer becomes "I shouldn't", and "I won't in the future", the Sport of Fencing will be in serious trouble.

The immediate problem concerning the January squad competition in epee and sabre is solved, but the major underlying issues which were raised by a simple telephone call still remain.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The International Selection Committee invites applications to fill the cadre of the 1975 World Junior Championship team. The championship will be held from March 28 to 31 in Mexico City. Applications will be considered for positions of Chief of Mission, Physician, Armorer, Manager, FIE Official, etc., and should be sent to Steve Sobel, 18 Beverly Road, Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009.

1975 F.I.E. INTERNATIONAL CLASS "A" CALENDAR

Jan. 25	Paris	Martini F
Feb. 1	Milan	Spreafico
Feb. 15	Paris	Monal Ep
Mar. 1	London	Martini E
Mar. 8	Paris	Rommel F
Mar. 8	Hamburg	Saber
Mar. 15	Torino	Martini W Foil
Mar. 15	Bern	Epee
Mar. 22	Warsaw	Wolodjew: Sabre
April 5	Heidenheim	Epee
April 16	Minsk	Women's
April 26	Budapest	Sabre
April 26	Goppingen	Women's
May 10	Bonn	Foil
May 10	Paris	Women's
May 17	Padova	Luxardo S
May 24	Como	Women's
May 24	Poitier	Martel E
May 31	Bologna	Giovannin
July 10-20	Budapest	1975 Wor Champi

Listed here is the current FIE schedule of class "A" international competitions. Placings in these competitions awarded points by the International Committee of the AFLA. A more complete list of other international competitions available from C. M. Pallaghy, the Secretary of the AFLA. AFLA members may wish to compete are remind they must have the authorization AFLA in order to enter these competitions and must also obtain their Inter License from the Secretary of the Irwin Bernstein, 249 Eton Place, W. New Jersey 07090. There is no fee license, except for student members must pay \$1.00.

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**GIORGIO SANTELLI SPONSORS
PROFESSIONAL FOIL MATCH**

**Drimba and Richards Fence
at Nationals' Gala Night**

The first professional foils match held in the U.S. in over thirty years was held on July 29, Gala Night of the 1974 U.S. National Championships. Giorgio Santelli, owner of Santelli Fencing Equipment Co. sponsored the ten touch but between 1968 Mexico Olympic Champion Ion Drimba and 1970 World Professional Champion Ed Richards. The Romanian born Drimba, now teaching at the University of Arizona, defeated the former U.S. champion by a score of 10-4, in a cleanly fenced bout presided over by FIE Director Chaba M. Pallaghy.

The bout was witnessed by an enthusiastic audience of National's competitors, fencers and non fencers. Immediately after its conclusion, the winner was presented with a check for \$500.00 Prize money by Maestro Santelli, himself a former Olympic Gold medalist.

Maestro Santelli expressed the hope that this might be the first example of a resurgence in interest in professional fencing bouts. In years past the professional scene had provided the highest level of fencing skill and public interest in the sport.



photo by Gasorek

Ion Drimba (left) 1968 Mexico Olympic foil champion and winner of the professional exhibition match held at Gala night at the Hotel Commodore, Giorgio Santelli, sponsor of the match, and Edwin Richards, 1970 World Professional foil champion.

FENCING MASTER WANTED

A Fencing Instructor is needed in the Louisville, Kentucky area. For further information contact:

Francis Wolff
1810 Kline Court
Louisville, Ky. 40205
(502) 454-0222

TWO FENCING MASTERS WANTED

The Canadian Fencing Association, in conjunction with its' Olympic development program, requires two fencing masters. Interested parties should contact:

John Andru
National Technical Director
Canadian Fencing Association
333 River Road
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**NATIONAL WOMEN FINALISTS
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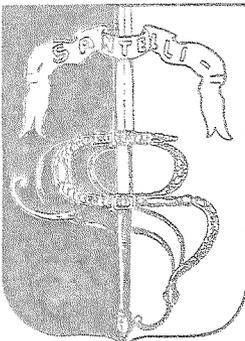
With the thought that fencing and champagne have been traditionally associated — at least in the past, the Comite Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne (the trade association of champagnes from France) gave trophies to the six finalists of the Women's Individual Championships at the Nationals fenced at the Hotel Commodore in New York on June 26. The girls were all the more pleased in that they had received no indication they were to receive the customized prizes.

Gay Jacobsen, who took first place was accompanied by her coach, Mike D'Asaro, whom we all remember as one of America's most brilliant sabre fencers of a few years ago.

FENCING QUESTIONNAIRE

The AFLA National Board of Directors has named a committee to investigate tent of interest in women's fencing of epee and sabre. We ask that you complete the questionnaire below and return it to the chairwoman of the committee: **Denise O'Conno West 35th Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002.**

1. Has your division hosted Women's Epee Women's Sabre
2. How many competitors in Women's Epee Women's Sabre
3. Number of entries in Women's Epee Women's Sabre
4. Did women officiate in these events
5. How many touches were fenced in Women's Epee Women's Sabre
6. Has your division hosted Co-Ed events
7. How many of these events has your division hosted
8. How many entries were there in these events: Male Female
9. Did the women use proper epee protective equipment Please describe
10. List any clubs, schools, etc. in your area that are interested in these Women's Women's Sabre, or Co-Ed events.
11. Any comments or reactions.



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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

by Steve Sobel

"An open Meeting of the AFLA International Committee was held during the Nationals and it was very clear that members of the International Squad requested notification of events and programs for planning purposes. This report is specifically prepared in compliance with that request. The announcements are based on Committee decisions at the June meetings and developments during the early part of the Summer. There are other facts which are not available at this time and could possibly result in modifications. First, the FIE International Calendar for 1975 was received at the end of July and the Olympic Fencing Committee must consider this at its September meeting. While this report will be received by the membership in October, it has been submitted for publication in August and other events might also occur requiring Committee action.

Squad Competitions — the first squad competition will be in January. Epee and both Foil events will be in San Francisco on January 11 and 12. Exact starting times are not yet firm but Epee and Men's Foil will be on separate days. The Sabre, originally announced for the same weekend, has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 19th in New York to accommodate the one member who is on both the Sabre and Epee Squads. The second squad competition for all events will take place in the New York City area March 1 and 2. The March dates are being announced now to enable Divisions to plan around the weekend and to avoid conflicts with collegiate championships, but unfortunately, prior to knowing collegiate championship dates and prior to considering the FIE International Calendar. It is hoped that there will be no major conflicts to require rescheduling but any such decision to this effect would be made as early as possible with prompt notice to all.

International Selection — all teams will be selected strictly in accordance with point standings of the Olympic Selection System at the time of selection. Both the Pan Am

Team and the World Championship Team will be selected in March at the conclusion of the second Squad Competition in accordance with the point standings at that time.

Tentative Team Preparation Plans for the Pan Am Team — The AFLA Martini-Rossi Internationals are scheduled for March 21, 22 and 23 (although they were incorrectly listed on the FIE Calendar at a different time). We understand that plans are underway for an International Competition in Canada on April 5. Tentative training plans will be for the team to participate in the AFLA Martini-Rossi, have training sessions and team meets with the Foreign Teams in New York City during the following two weeks and to travel to Canada to participate in the International Event there. The FIE Calendar lists a Sabre invitational March 13 to 17 in Moscow and if possible the U.S. Sabre Team will be entered.

Funding — Application is being made for "team preparation" funds from the USOC to reimburse the out-of-pocket expenses of the members of the U.S. Team for the Pan American Games, from the time of selection. This would include travel to the AFLA Martini-Rossi, and other planned training events. Based upon fund allocation, the Sports Committee will plan accordingly. Last year all squad members received approximately 1/3 of their travel fare to each squad competition. Due to a modest increase in the development budget and a higher entry fee of \$15.00 for each event, a larger travel reimbursement is anticipated. (The exact amount of course can't be computed until after the event since it is dependent on how many squad members enter).

Squad Composition — The Sports Committee retained the concept of a 24 person squad per weapon. There is one exception whereby a squad member under limited conditions pertaining to a medically certified temporary incapacity is retained as an additional member of the Squad. (A statement of the squad member plus medical verification is required to be submitted to

the Committee Secretary). A substitute appointment of the next ranking fencer in point standing is authorized only in the event of a resignation or removal for cause. Squad members who do not have the interest or who are not in serious training for International Competition are encouraged to resign to permit other deserving competitors to be appointed to the Squad.

NOTE: For simplicity of presentation, one integrated international program is discussed. However, for clarity, it should be understood that two separate independent committees are involved. The U.S. Olympic Fencing Sports Committee appointed by and responsible to USOC has 13 members. They are nominated from 4 organizations: 9 AFLA (S. Sobel, R. Goldstein, D. Micahnik, C. Pallaghy, J. Romary, E. Terhune, P. Tishman, G. Worth, E. Zeisig); 2 IFA (A. Deladrier and E. Lucia); 1 NFCAA (M. DeCicco) and one Armed Forces (K. Jordan). Its responsibility is selection, training, and development of teams for the Olympic and Pan Am Games only. All other international programs in the FIE such as World Championships, are administered by the AFLA International Committee, which is appointed by and responsible to the AFLA Board of Directors. It is composed of only the 9 AFLA representatives above. Due to an overlap of the nine AFLA nominees who form one committee in its entirety, and represent a majority of the other, and due to apparent duplications such as the AFLA use of the Olympic Selection System for selecting other U.S. teams, and USOC development programs including AFLA events, there is often a tendency to overlook this important distinction.



NEWS FROM ABROAD

Forty three Federations participate in the F.I.E. Congress in Monte Carlo from May 16th and 17th. The Federal Saudi Arabia and Peoples Republic of China were admitted as new members. China refused to accept the affiliation Amateur Fencing Federation of China (China)

The F.I.E. increased the membership dues for all Federations by 10%, beginning January 1, 1975.

Mr. Giancarlo Brusati, Vice-President of the F.I.E. has been elected as an H member.

Mrs. Kate d'Oriola of France has been elected to the Rules Commission. She is an outstanding fencer here the wife of 2 times Olympic Champion Christian d'Oriola.

The 1976 Under 20 World Championships have been awarded to Poland and will take place during the Easter Holidays in Poznan. The duration of fencing at the Olympic Games and World Championships has been reduced to 10 days.

It is notable that the International Fencing Federation lists an increased number of options for Under 20 Fencers.

NATIONALS RESULTS DELAYED

Because of technical difficulties, results of the 1974 Nationals will not be printed here until our next issue (November).

SENIOR OLYMPIC FENCING

by Fred Rayser

Fencing, one of 40 sports in the 1974 Annual Senior Olympics, was held from May 15 and 16 at the Los Angeles Fencing Club. A feature of the Senior Olympics is that competition is by age groups in increments.

Entries included Dr. James H. Flynn, 1947 National Sabre Champion and member of the bronze medal 1948 Olympic Sabre Team; Max J. Mulder, 56, who is a rating of Master in all three weapons in the Netherlands and Indonesia.

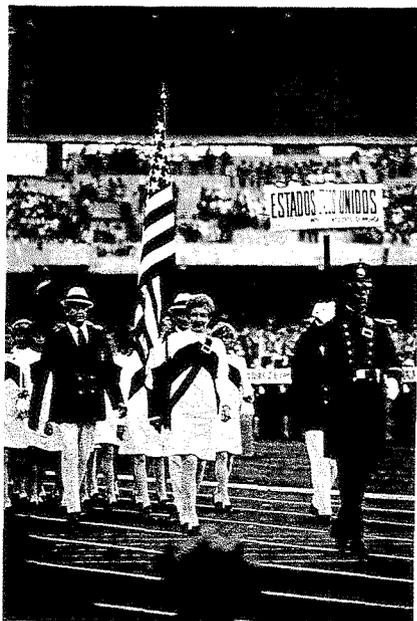
COVER GIRL by Alex Solomon

While leading experts on the matter are not entirely certain as to the exact number of photographs that have been snapped at all the Olympic Games since 1896, they do agree roughly on certain basic aspects of the matter, that if all those pictures taken were stretched out end to end they would be a public nuisance. There is, of course, a secondary school of thought, however, that feels if they were piled one on top of another they would probably fall over.

But to the point. Fencers everywhere in this country can take great pride in the fact that out of these zillions of photos available the one selected for the cover of its quadrennial sixteen page pamphlet "The Olympic Games", by the U.S. Olympic Committee, features our greatest woman fencer, Jan Romary, as she leads the United States team into the stadium in Mexico City at the opening ceremonies of the 1968 Olympic Games.

This was truly a historic moment as Janice Lee Romary became the first woman ever to carry the flag and head the entire U.S. Olympic Team. Actually, the Olympic Committee must feel that way because this is the second time it has placed this picture in "The Olympic Games" pamphlet. But in the previous pamphlet (ante 1972) it was on the inside while now it is the cover picture, indicating an ever increasing appreciation thereof.

To detail how truly worthy Jan is of this super honor one can most simply recall excerpts from an article in the May 1966 American Fencing brought up to date. "Her ten championships spread over nineteen years (in which she won 14 medals) is a remarkable record as is her membership on six Olympic teams. Not only does it stand out as the greatest number of fencing championships and finalist medals won by an American woman but in the whole history of American sports only one other American woman has surpassed this period of national domination in longevity, Babe Didrikson,



Janice Lee Romary, ten times U.S. National Women's Foil Champion, leads the U.S. Olympic team into the stadium at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. The outstanding fencer shared the honor of carrying the U.S. flag in this event with the late great sabre fencer, Norman C. Armitage, who carried the standard for the U.S. in 1952 (Helsinki) and 1956 (Melbourne).

whose championships in track and field, golf, etc., extended from her javelin victory in 1930, to her last open golf win in 1954.

"But these outstanding accomplishments are only a part, perhaps the lesser part of a fabulous career. For Jan is a multi champion of a very special type, a type so unique that neither fencing nor any other American sport has produced another like it. Not even in the most imaginative dramas of stage, screen or television are you likely to see a character achieve what Jan has accomplished in her normal stride. For in addition to being ten times National champion she is what no other American multi-champion has been, the mother of two children, Lisa Loren who is eighteen, and Charles York who is fifteen."

SPORTSMANSHIP

by Dan Lyons

For some time I have been anguished when reading articles in "American Fencing" which somehow make it appear that there are good guys and bad guys in our sport. The good guys wear the white hats apparently. They are presumed to reflect some special virtues like behaving chivalrously and being strongly conscious that what counts is how you play the game not whether you win or lose. The bad guys are presumably those who are hell bent in winning and couldn't care less for chivalry and sportsmanship.

In actuality, the case is substantially over drawn by the partisans. There is among some an excessive sentimentality about fencing which a thorough reading of fencing history would dispel. There appears almost an attitude that all other sports are tawdry in comparison.

Yes, fencing does have some traditions as a sport not unlike others in many respects. As I noted in a prior article, particularly in the U.S., fencing as a sport grew up not of the people, but for the so-called aristocracy of the country, military officers and gentlemen of wealth or "breeding". That era is long departed. Fencing goes on in many diverse places and on many levels as each of us knows. In light however, of our early history we still tend to cling to the past by many means including the use of plumed knights as our insignia. So it is easy to see how the impression is still widely held by the general public that fencing is not a true, red-blooded athletic sport requiring rigorous training, hard conditioning, steel nerves, lightning speed and reflexes and a storehouse of knowledge on how, why and when to attempt to score. Each of us recalls thru the years seeing newspaper articles on fencing competitions or about our champions replete with cute words or phrases like hackers, slashers, knights in combat, etc. Where fencers have been invited to appear on talk shows, the star often acts zany scarcely making fencing recognizable.

The real question we should talk about is what should we expect of our fencer different from other sports. The answer is a really very little. Greet the official audience and one's opponent for the beginning of a bout. Heed the rules, obey the rules, avoid public use of profanity and shake hands at the end precisely what is done in all sports.

Tempers may sometimes flare and not something which should annoy our officials. Finely tuned athletes to win are occasionally disappointed by their own ineptitude, a ruling or by their own ineptitude, a with a degree of emotional display. seen in all championships, in all sports regardless of the level of competition or world. The best officials have a quelling this behavior by a calm, firm standing response. Disciplinary action under the rules can always be taken if required.

So, I maintain, fencing should be different from the past but move on to the present. Fencing is like other sports when it comes to the requirement for sportsmanlike behavior.



FENCING DIPLOMA AWARDED

John A. Gillham of Madison, Wisconsin, coach at the University of Wisconsin, has been awarded the National Fencing Association of America's Diploma of Fencing Master.

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Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



About time to say something about sabre. What? Sabre? In a technical talk? There's nothing technical about sabres — or so some people, including a lot of sabre men, seem to think. I mean the physical hardware sense of the word, naturally, not sabre technique, which is another whole story. But even in the hardware sense, there are some things to be noted.

The new rule book for the first time has some pretty good illustrations of what is involved in the most obvious new physical requirement for the sabre (see pages 55 and 56, particularly the latter). Eyeballing the new sabre tips, you must be able to see daylight through the loop, as shown. At the 1974 Nationals, there were very few sabre blades made in the last year or so which clearly did not meet the new minimum dimensions. (A few old-time specimens had to be rejected.) It would seem that the manufacturers are catching on.

There is another quality of the sabre blade that is far more difficult to check. Rule 406 says "blades that are too stiff or too whippy are prohibited." Not too many sabre fencers seem to like a stiff blade, so that's rarely a problem. But what, pray tell, is "too whippy"? Unfortunately, there is no method prescribed for measuring the degree of flexibility of a sabre blade, as there is for the foil and epee. So every man becomes his own whippiness expert. Every time somebody asks me if a sabre blade is too whippy, I duck. That sort of decision ought to be put into the hands of a jury of experienced sabre fencers — and with sabre, although I own a couple, I claim no genuine experience.

Another question that has occasionally arisen, and will do so more frequently, I suspect, has to do with the dimensions and shape of the guard. The rules (Art.

407) say that it must pass through a rectangular gauge. Fine, but they don't say **how** it must be held when passing through. For foil and epee, in the similar test, the weapon can be rotated any way you like to get it through the cylindrical gauges used, and as long as it doesn't jam there, it passes. By analogy, for years now, sabres have been diagonally and otherwise angled to get them through. The latest method that is supposed to be used, which was recommended to the FIE Congress earlier this year, requires the weapon to be drawn up through the gauge with the blade as nearly vertical as possible and squared off parallel to the long and short sides of the box. Let me tell you, applying that rule strictly would flunk a lot of guards currently in use.

Then there's the no longer so remote possibility of electrical sabre. About a year and a half ago, a Hungarian TV engineer's invention in this line was demonstrated for the FIE Committee on Electrical Scoring and Equipment, which declared that it worked and packed it off to the 1973 FIE Congress in Paris. There the matter was apparently left, with the report submitted. The FIE official minutes don't show any formal action: no vote, either yes or no. One can only guess that the idea was deferred to let it marinate some more, or to see if a groundswell of demand would arise — or something.

Anyway, I may get a chance to describe the system some time; on paper it sounds like a dilly. But, as the Committee said, it works. Maybe some day not too far off we'll be seeing our sabre fencers worrying over their weapons in the sort of way that foil and epee fencers have grown accustomed to doing?

QUICKIE QUIZ

What is the difference in warning and penalty for a corps a corps made with or without jostling the opponent? (See Rule 641, page 121 and Rule 645, page 122, of the 1974 AFLA Rules Book.)

OKLAHOMA FENCING CLINIC

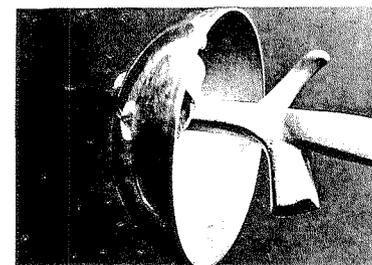
by Oscar A. Parsons, Ph.D.

The first fencing clinic held in the State of Oklahoma occurred May 31, June 1 and 2, 1974. The Clinic was sponsored by the Oklahoma Division of the AFLA and, in the opinion of all participants a resounding success. Jacques Piguët, fencing coach for the State University of New York at Binghamton, conducted the Clinic. Maitre Piguët, one of the youngest of the French educated fencing masters, is a superb teacher. Actually, we had known Maitre Piguët's teaching abilities first-hand since his first year in this country was spent in Oklahoma City.

The process of developing a "Clinic" started in January. At the same time we sampled interest in the Clinic at several of our fencing meets. With positive responses on both dimensions, we then made more specific plans. What were the needs of the fencers? It appeared that there were three classes of needs: basic technical aspects of fencing, strategies of competition and new interpretation of rules, especially in sabre.

The Clinic was attended by 25 persons. There was representation from most of the fencing groups throughout the state. As the Clinic continued, interest mounted as did fatigue. On the third day it became apparent that most of us had not followed a good conditioning program. Nevertheless when the quitting time came, a number wanted to continue on in their fencing; despite fatigue there was an intense interest in applying what had been learned while the Maitre was there as a resource person.

What are the results of such a Clinic? First, the instance on conditioning, basic form and "classic" quality in fencing left all of us determined to upgrade our efforts. Second, it was extremely helpful to have an emphasis on teaching each other and working on exercises to promote mutual learning. Third, explicit instruction on directing and rule interpretation as in current practice in the more urban fencing circles was educational. Finally, the whole group left with a zeal for more fencing.



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THE WESTBROOK STORY

by

Werner R. Kirchner

After considerable scrutiny of the envelope handed to me at the Registration Desk, I found a red ballpoint pen with a caption conspicuously displayed on the side, "1974 AFLA National Championships". I consider this a conspiracy perpetrated by the not so idealistic AFLA Olympus. They want us to strain our system; to write something — right? This plume de la AFLA tante is not going to coax me into an intellectual cul de sac, unveiling my uncanny penmanship to all the perils of exposure and disclosure.

Tossing the pen into my fencing bag, I quickly dismissed any additional correlation or synergism between the Fencers, AFLA and the Pen, devoting instead a disproportionate amount of study to a statuesque scorekeeper clad in a pair of punishingly tight jeans exposing the spare elegance of a bare midriff. Suddenly, in a flash of revelation it all came to me. Of course! It is the clever idea of Ralph Goldstein, that intrepid editor of "AMERICAN FENCING" That's right, it just fits his mantle. In between bouts he wants us to splash some ink on paper instead of wondering about the many virtues of the scorekeepers.

But ah ha (and also Alas) I am not gushing like a rock groupie from my insularity into his intricately woven net. Neither am I a patsy, a pushover, a setup, an easy mark nor a second fiddler playing on Goldstein's roof.

However, I did resolve to reminisce about the last touch during the sabre finals.

Just before the call for the finals, I found myself in the bar where usually my Fencing Muse and Gods respond to my libations after I slip off my sabre jacket, having a lively discussion about the intricacies of a sabre engagement with a fencing neophyte who gropingly but urgently was trying to secure a reasonable understanding of the game. In a burst of enthusiasm I suggested we watch the finals together with the hope that my excitement would prove contagious and, in addition, I

might find out "how come" I was eliminated from the distilled sextet. There has to be a cogent reason.

So, here we are. The score is four all and the adrenaline is flowing high. Pallaghy is hoping, of course, for a spectacular clean touch. It seems the previous touch — a complex synthesis of instinctive reactions — proved somehow difficult to analyze leaving the fencers partisan audience in utter despair. The resulting verbal assault from a spectator taking exception to Pallaghy's analysis, promoted a slow turnaround from the Director who pierced that individual with a look capable of evoking transfiguration.

Westbrook fought for his life. The one thing he needed most was "lebensraum", a term perhaps foreign to him, but instinctively he knew he needed more than elbow-room.

He obviously would pass for every inch of the strip which would mean a simple straight attack on his opponent. Orban, conversely, would exploit his laboriously gained advantage and pursue similarly simple attacks or run his opponent off the strip. I turned to my companion and said, "From here on the plot thins. There are going to be a bunch of Tempo Communes."

Why neither Orban nor Westbrook was not possessed by the sacrificial courage of the second intention is beyond my comprehension. It probably was considered a very poor investment. After the fourth simultaneous action, Orban elected to follow the advice of his sideline supporters and embark on a defensive retreat, always an extremely effective phase of his fencing. In his retreat he has an annoying penchant to redirect precipitously into an attack, you find Orban's blade all over you while laboring under the assumption that you are driving him off the strip. This is exactly what happened. Except that Westbrook's defenses were superb. He intercepted Orban's blade in two phrases concluding with an attack on the head provoking a riposte to the flank, both executed and parried exquisitely, while stepping simultaneously to the side of the strip; separated by about

three feet. Here, the entire action was suspended. The mastery of the fencer's craft was underlined by the pregnant pause and silence and by the extraneous left out by their blade work.

The gravity of the few seconds or was it milliseconds? did not escape my companion nor the entire audience. Who is going to take the first agonizing step? Westbrook's drive for the entire year to reach the championship suddenly came to a magnificent crescendo, no fencer was more rewarded for his utter simplicity with as much arrogant success as Westbrook, when he suddenly tapped Orban's shoulder, as if knight-ing him into second place. The audience exploded. Pallaghy's left sideburn on his handsome face twitched indicating touche a gauche. I looked into my companion's eyes and saw a newly addicted sabre enthusiast.

Darn you, Ralph Goldstein; the pen is being returned to you under separate cover.



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MODERN PENTATHLON

by George Nelson

The 1974 Modern Pentathlon I championship took place at Fort Sarton, San Antonio, Texas, from July to August 3rd. Twenty-five junior twenty-five seniors participated in five competitions, including five events each athlete: horse show type riding, epee fencing, round robin, shooting from 25 meters at turn gets, 300 meters freestyle swimming, 4000 meters cross country running.

In the juniors' division, the fencer gave the following results:

1. Crawford, 1046 points; 2. Case; points; 3. McCormick, 931 points; man, 908 points.

The final ranking of the eight d'petition was:

1. Fitzgerald, Skokie, Illinois, 5340
2. Losey, Calistoga, California, 5194
3. Cherry, Newport, Oregon, 4977 pt
Glenesk, Burlington, California, 4942

The US Modern Pentathlon junior senior teams will compete at the championship in Moscow at the August.

Any person interested in modern pentathlon may write to: Lt. Donald Johnson, US Modern Pentathlon Training, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, 78234.



CORNELL FALL OPEN

The annual Cornell Fall Open held again this year on the first weekend in November.

Sat. Nov. 2
12:00 Sabre
12:00 Women's Foil

Sunday, Nov. 3
9:00 A.M. Foil
12:00 Epee

Entries should be sent in to the Fencing Club, Cornell University, Hall, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

ZERO FOR MARTINI & ROSSI

by Richard J. Gradkowski

(Ed. Note: Following is a reprint of an article originally published in American Fencing in 1971. While some of the details have changed, we believe its original point still merits some consideration.)

Let us assume a hypothetical situation: Peter Potato of the Idaho Division wins the Martini & Rossi Foil. In the process of winning his Gold medal he defeats such stars as Woyda and Dabrowski of Poland, Kamuti of Hungary, Noel of France, and Granieri of Italy, not to mention many top U.S. fencers.

Ordinarily one would consider Peter to be a hot prospect for the U.S. Olympic team; right? Wrong; according to the Amateur Fencers League of America. Peter does not get a single point for his achievement. The reason? It seems that the Martini is an "invitational" and not an "open".

Now how did Peter get invited to the Martini? Well, some time ago he was sitting in a barber shop, thumbing through some old magazines, when he saw in a copy of American Fencing there was going to be a big fencing championship at the N.Y.A.C. Peter sent in his entry. After all, he had worked on barbed wire and cyclone fences all his life and he figured he could do just as well as any of these Eastern dudes.

Receiving a reply from the organizing committee confirming his entry, he drove to New York with his tools. Imagine his surprise when he found out that this was a different kind of fencing. However since he was already here, he decided to stay. Using some borrowed equipment, he proceeded to win the competition.

With his victory, Peter became really enthusiastic about the sport. He even thought he might have a chance to make the U.S. Olympic team: after all, he had defeated a lot of good international fencers. Alas, he was informed that the Martini & Rossi didn't really count, he would have to try again at the National Championships which, though not as tough as the Martini, were truly "open". Peter thought that this was kind of silly, so he went back to his farm in Idaho.

This little fable would be amusing if it's point were not true. It makes very little sense not to award Olympic points to the toughest competition in the Western hemisphere. The argument that the Martini is an invitational can be handled by simply making certain liberal rules as to how an American can qualify for this event.

Briefly, I would propose that a fencer be entitled to fence in the Martini by achieving the following results:

1. Making the quarter finals of the previous Nationals; or
2. Making the finals of the previous Under-19 Nationals or;
3. Making the finals of the previous NCAA Championships (for women we would use the NIWFA Championships); or
4. Being a member of the current U.S. military team.

The total number of qualifiers would be a maximum of 45, under the above rules.

Certainly, under the above qualifications any serious competitive fencer would have an equitable chance to show his merit. Let us see how this system would have worked in the 1971 Martini in Foil. At the last competition we had 66 entries with 16 foreign fencers and 50 Americans. Had we allowed the Americans to qualify as per the above suggested new rules we would have had 30 Nationals quarter finalists, 6 under-19 finalists, 6 NCAA finalists, and the 3 Military fencers. However, because some of the NCAA, Under-19, and Military competitors also made the Quarter finals, there would have actually been just 40 American entries. If these 40 had fenced with the 16 foreign fencers the total would have been 56 competitors, an excellent size for a competition of this sort.

Note that under this system, at least 12 places will be guaranteed for younger "developing" fencers.

Even though it is too late to modify the present Olympic point set up, there is still time to use this proposed qualifying system for the 1972 Martini-Rossi.

Let's try it, and see how it works.

WOMEN'S SABRE

by Julie Selberg

Why not add a second weapon to women's fencing; Women's Sabre?

Surely, the original reasons for limiting women's fencing to only foil no longer apply. The Victorian fragile-flower image of women has long since gone the way of other outdated ideas. If indeed that image ever reflected fact.

Originally foil was the lightest weapon and thus deemed suitable for women. Now, however, the sabre is as light, if not lighter than the electric foil. One of the major drawbacks to women's fencing is the fact that improvement takes longer because of the one-weapon limit. After technique is learned, tournament experience is necessary to develop "strip sense" and as a "reality check" to see if what has been learned and practiced is valid. Male fencers wishing to improve more rapidly can gain tournament experience by competing in all three weapons. Women fencers can gain such improvement only one third as quickly.

The matter of temperament should also be considered. The male fencer is free to concentrate or specialize in the weapon which best suits his temperament, natural skills, and inclinations. The female fencer, having as much variety of temperament as the male, is once again limited in her means of expression. I doubt that a man who loved sabre but was only allowed to fence foil would like it much. And I can't help but wonder how many women dropped out of fencing altogether because foil was almost, but not quite, what they were looking for. Maybe they might still be fencing if there was an alternative choice weapon.

Concerning the sabre game itself, there are numerous aspects of it which greatly enhance one's performance in all weapons. In sabre, it seems much more natural to get the "feel" of tempo, timing, and distance. All of these qualities, once experienced, readily transfer themselves to one's foil game. It seems only logical that an increase in level of performance in one segment of fencers could not help but raise the level of performance in all fencers eventually. It certainly could not hurt fencing in any way!!

If a woman enjoys fencing sabre, why let her learn sabre? It's very hard at present time for a woman who wants learn sabre to even get her coach to let her desire seriously. If she does get some instruction, then she can fence some sabre at the salle. But what if she would rather like to develop her sabre game to the limits of her skill and ability? There is no point to go, no incentive, no encouragement, nothing but frustration! There are a few specialized areas which hold a woman's sabre tournament every year, every other year or once in a while, but this is hardly sufficient for any real skill to be developed.

Sabre is a unique game retaining, in the human jury, a certain human-nature which has disappeared from the electrical weapons. Sabre is a great game and totally unfair to deny women the experience of it.

With all of the above in mind, I make following proposals:

1. The A.F.L.A. should add Women Sabre to the official weapons in which women may participate.

2. Fencing coaches should teach sabre technique to any of their women students who desire it.

3. Women's Sabre tournaments should be added to each Division's tournament schedule.

4. After a year or two, when some sabre has been developed, Women's Sabre should be an official event in the A.F. National Championships.

In conclusion, the major question seems to me to be not: Why have Women's Sabre but, Why not?

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PROTESTING

by Emily B. Johnson

You are outraged. That last call proved that the Director is a nearsighted ignoramus who doesn't know a parry from third base. Now what?

In my many years of running tournaments at all levels up to national championships I have observed that most fencers don't know how or when to protest. Its all in the fencer's bible, the Rules Book.

WHEN CAN YOU PROTEST?

The Director's decision "on the materiality and validity (right of way) of a touch" cannot be protested. This means exactly what it says. There is no room for argument. The Bout Committee has no power to overrule the Director. There is no recourse or appeal.

"However if the Director ignores a formal prescription of the rules, or makes a decision contrary to the rules, a protest may be entertained on this ground."

Suppose the Director refuses to award an otherwise valid touch on the grounds that you had one foot off the strip when you made the touch. Or suppose he awards the final touch of the bout against you in foil because your unarmed hand is dangling in front of the target.

Protest. He is wrong. Do it **immediately** and before any decision is made on a subsequent touch. (Otherwise you will lose your right to protest.)

STEP ONE:

Remember that Directors are people who wish they were some place else. Don't roar at them. Politely explain the basis for your protest. **Point out the rule in the Rules Book.** This may take care of it. If it doesn't ask for a ruling by the Chairman of the Bout Committee. (But remember, if the Director says you were hit and you think your opponent hit the floor, forget it. That also goes for the validity of a touch.)

STEP TWO:

The Director will call for the Chairman of the Bout Committee if your protest is protestable.

STEP THREE:

We all have our own ways of dealing with

protests. If I am the Bout Committee Chairman I usually go to the strip and ask the Director what has happened in the presence of both fencers. This may upset the protester who wishes to make an impassioned speech with impassioned gestures. It shouldn't. There is no point in getting the Director angry. Also, if the protest is legitimate I can make the ruling without any further fuss. I will always give the protester a chance to speak up. I also discourage spectators very strongly.

Remember, our rules provide that other members of the Bout Committee are merely advisors (unless there has been a delegation of power by the Chairman.) If there is a real question most Chairmen call the Bout Committee and they go into a huddle and make the ruling.

STEP FOUR:

If the decision is unfavorable you can appeal if it is a decision that can be protested. (See your Rules Book). Your chances of success are, at best, remote.

IF YOU HAVE A BAD DIRECTOR:

Your alternatives are to keep fencing and hope for the best or to quietly ask the Chairman of the Bout Committee for an observer. However, first consider the following.

Is there a more competent Director available? The Bout Committee can't conjure one up. If there is, is he being saved for the next round? Is he really better or do you feel his directing favors your style of fencing?

And, bluntly, is it his incompetent directing or your poor fencing- (I wasted a lot of righteous indignation before I learned that if you try to parry a beat in progress the Director correctly calls a beat attack not a parry riposte.) Do the better fencers on the strip agree with you? Are you enraged about one isolated call or a whole series of "bad" calls? Every Director makes an occasional error. Try directing — you will see.

The Bout Committee is more apt to listen to a fencer who is skilled both at fencing and directing and who rarely complains, than it is to a chronic grumbler who can't or won't direct.

AFLA AND NFCAA

Al Peredo, President of the National Fencing Coaches Association of America (NFCAA) has announced that the NFCAA has approved the appointment of the AFLA President to the NFCAA Executive Committee as a full voting member. AFLA By-laws provide that the NFCAA President is a member of the AFLA Board of Directors, and it has been the custom of the Board to elect the NFCAA President as a voting member of the AFLA Executive Committee. However, this is the first time that the AFLA President has been a full voting member of the NFCAA Executive Committee.

The creation of a reciprocal relationship between a Sports Governing Body and a Professional Coaches Organization of a Sport, whereby the President of each is automatically a voting member of the other, follows by less than a year the creation of a joint Rules Book which was done through the cooperative efforts of three organizations — AFLA, NCAA, and NFCAA.



The first West Point fencing camp for Junior Olympic fencers from the ages of 17 was held at the United States Military Academy over two one week periods from June and from June 23-28. Thirty young fencers all over the Eastern part of the United States came to the camp. A Fencing Notebook prepared by Fencing Master A. John Geraci was given to each of the campers to read. Pictured above are some of the enthusiastic campers and cadre in the West Point gymnasium.

It's time to work on your comeback



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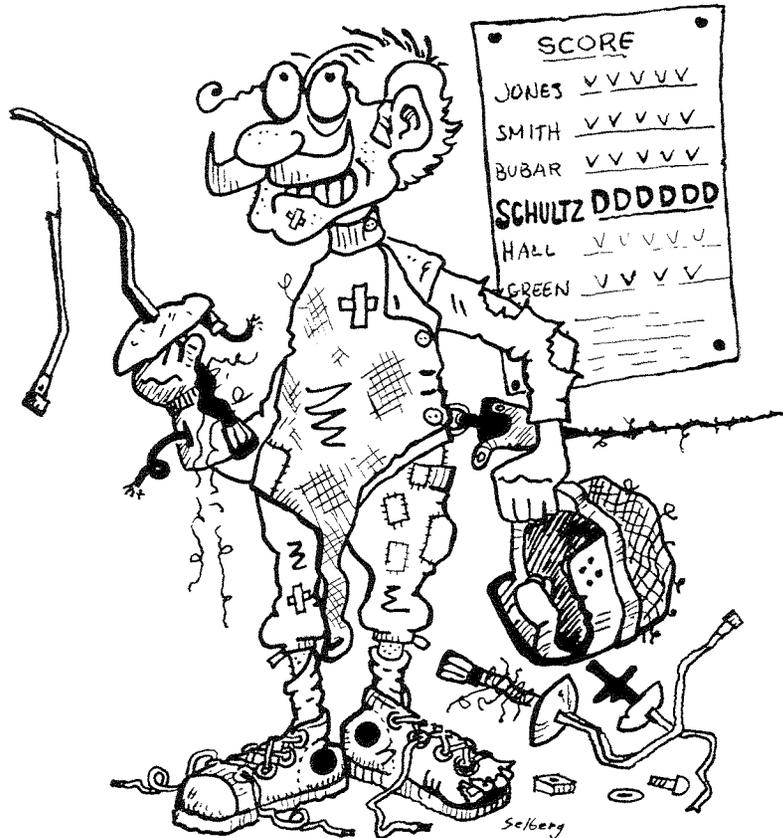
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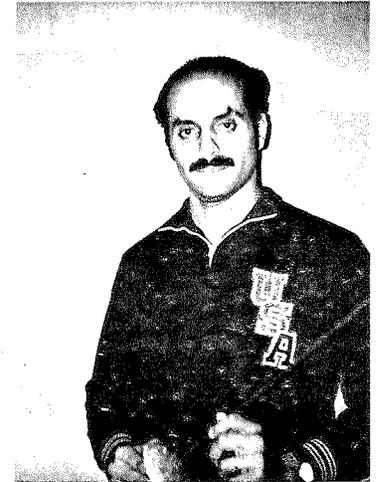
LAJOS CSISZAR RETIRES COACHED PENN 26 YEARS

Maestro Lajos Csiszar, head fencing coach at the University of Pennsylvania for the past 26 years, has retired, Fred Shabel Director of the Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics, announced. Shabel also announced that Csiszar will be succeeded by one of his most distinguished fencers, Dave Micahnik.

Since his arrival in the U.S. in 1947 from his native Hungary, Csiszar has established himself as of the world's outstanding coaches. He guided Penn to two NCAA championships and was twice selected as the Coach of the Year in collegiate ranks.

The Maestro was U.S. Olympic coach in 1956, coach of the U.S. team in the World Championships of 1970, a Pan-Am Games coach in 1971 and an advisor to the U.S. Olympic team in Munich.

Micahnik graduated from Penn in 1959 and went on to fence on the U.S. Olympic teams of 1960, 1964 and 1968. He was a two-time Maccabiah Games champion as well as having won several U.S. national crowns. He is a member of the board of directors of the AFLA and a member of the U.S. Olympic Sports Committee for Fencing.



Dave Micahnik, newly appointed Coach University of Pennsylvania, succeeding Csiszar.

For the past year Micahnik has been recreation supervisor at Penn and coach of the women's fencing team as well as having assisted Csiszar with varsity.

CSISZAR EPEE MEET

The Gladius Society of the University of Pennsylvania has scheduled the Annual Lajos S. Csiszar Invitational Epee Competition for January 5, 1975, to be held at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Each year this limited-field meet is second only to the Nationals in strength. The International Epee Squad and last year's entrants will receive entry applications. Others wishing to enter should request information and an entry application by writing to David M. Micahnik, Fencing Coach; Department of Intercollegiate Athletics; Weightman Hall, E-7; University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, PA 19174. Entries will close three weeks prior to the tournament.

THREE RIVERS INVITATION

The Western Pennsylvania Division holds its 5th annual Three Rivers Invitational in Pittsburgh on November 2nd and 3rd. In the past, the Invitational has had fencers from such areas as Washington, D.C., Ohio, West Virginia, and New York.

Men and women's foil, epee, and sabre will comprise the events.

It's the Western Pa. event of the season. Don't miss it! For more information, contact: Keven H. Macassar, 320 Macassar Drive, Apt. 1, Pgh. 15236; (412) 653-6031.

HUGO AND JAMES CASTELLO HONORED AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER

by Jeffrey Tishman

Almost one-hundred present and former New York University fencers and their friends gathered on April 19 at a testimonial dinner for Hugo M. Castello and James M. Castello, N.Y.U.'s coaches for 27 years who are retiring from teaching at the end of this season.

The event was held at the New York University Club in Manhattan. The special speakers of the evening included Dr. James M. Hester, President of New York University; Marion Miller, of the United States Olympic Committee; Irwin F. Bernstein, Secretary of the AFLA; Ralph M. Goldstein, Editor of **AMERICAN FENCING MAGAZINE**; Peter Tishman, Treasurer of the AFLA; Alfred R. Peredo, President of the National Fencing Coaches Association of America; Miguel de Capriles, Vice-President and General Counsel of New York University; Edward DeVivo, of the current N.Y.U. varsity sabre team; Edward Lucia, the coach of City College of New York and representative of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association; Stanley Sieja, coach of Princeton University; and Oscar Kolombatovich, fencing master of the Metropolitan Opera. The masters of ceremonies for the occasion were James Bonacorda and Charles Donges, co-captains of the varsity.

A special gift presented to each Castello brother from the N.Y.U. fencers was a framed print of the "Angelo" variety depicting 18th century fencing. Helen Castello and Mary Castello, Hugo's & James' wives, respectively, each received a gold charm with appropriate "thanks" engraved for sharing their husbands" with N.Y.U.'s fencers for the past quarter century.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Eileen and Kevin McMahon on the birth of Marie Pascal, April 14th (8 lbs., 10 oz.). The proud grandfather is Hugo Castello.

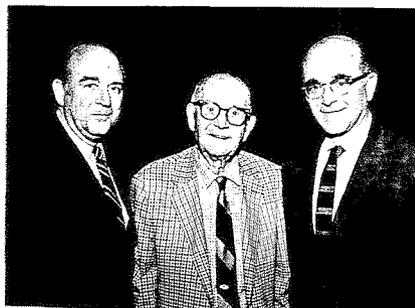


photo by NYU

Dr. Hugo M. Castello, the late Julio M. Castello, and James M. Castello at an eighty eighth birthday party held in 1969 for Julio M. Castello, father of Hugo and James, and NYU's first fencing coach.

ECAC APPOINTS SURDI

Robert Whitelaw, Commissioner for the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference announces the appointment of Vincent Surdi of the Giorgio Santelli Fencing Equipment Co. as supervisor of fencing officials. Mr. Surdi's duties will include recruiting, assigning, and ranking officials for over one hundred inter-collegiate fencing meets in the northeastern United States.

Qualified persons who may be interested in becoming officials for the ECAC may contact Mr. Surdi at (212) 245-4053, during the business day. ECAC officials receive a fee and travel expenses for their assignments.

U.S. NATIONALS DATES

The 1975 U.S. National Championships will be held in Los Angeles from June 21 to June 28, 1975.



Where is Demetrius? O how fit a word is that vile name to perish on my sword.

Act II, Scene II
A Midsummer Night's Dream
— culled by Lou Shaff

Letters to the Editor

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

I would very much appreciate it if you could, in several of the **AMERICAN FENCING** magazine, mention that I am presently trying to locate as many fencers in the United States who are **BAHAMIAN** citizens. I am presently involved in starting a Bahamian Fencing League, being a Bahamian myself, and would be most grateful if you could help me locate more Bahamians who are involved with fencing. With many thanks for any help you might be able to give me, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Victor C. Symonette

P.S.: Please ask any Bahamians to write or call me at:

3348 Mahan Drive
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20th Century Fox p

The latest cinematic version of Dumas' classic adventure was released with a sequel due sometime in the duelling and sword-fighting sequences of the finest we've seen; and consider stick is added in the tradition the Rit established with their version. With **THE THREE MUSKETEERS** and its se provide the same popular appeal for that the Kung Fu movies of Bruce Le the Oriental martial arts.

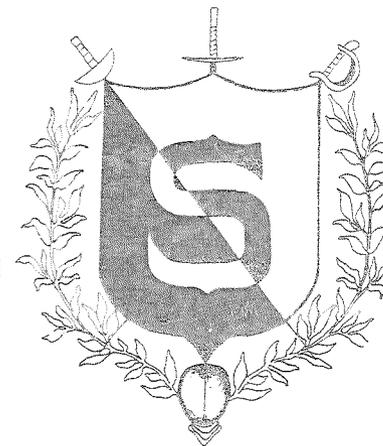
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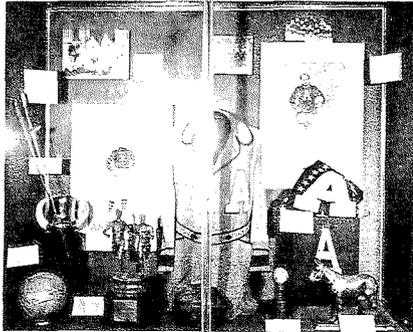
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FENCING AT WEST POINT

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

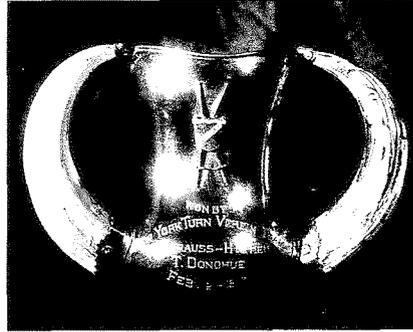
Fencing has had a long history at the U.S. Military Academy. Along with horsemanship, it was considered an essential part of the education of early cadets. In 1814, Pierre Thomas was appointed Sword Master, becoming the first full-time physical education instructor in any institution in America. He was followed by one Herman Koehler, who carried the title Master of the Sword. This colorful position was renamed Director of Physical Education in 1947.

Army joined the Intercollegiate Fencing Association in 1902, winning the foil team title and the Little Iron Man Trophy that year. When the Three-Weapon Team Championship was introduced in 1923, Army became the first winner of the massive Alumni Trophy. Although fencing was discontinued as a corps sport at Army in the mid-nineteen fifties, it was revived as a club sport in 1962 and as a corps sport in 1968, primarily through the efforts of the late Warren A. Dow, former AFLA Secretary and amateur coach. Assisting him during those years was his son Robert, Nathaniel Lubell, and A. John Geraci; as well as Maestro Csaba Elthes, our three-time Olympic Coach.



U.S. Army photo

Display case featuring "ATHLETIC LIFE OF A WEST POINT CADET" — at the Museum of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Note the two foils at the far left, near the staghorned trophy won by the 1909 varsity. An early squad is portrayed in the center photo above the army tunic.



U.S. Army photo

First won in 1906 by the Turn Verein, a German-American Athletic Club still operating on New York's East 85th Street, this staghorn trophy cup was finally won by the Army team of 1909.

Through their work, Army earned second place in the 1966 NCAA Championships. A. John Geraci is currently entering his fifth year as head coach.

Much of Army's history and success in fencing is reflected in the space they devote to it in their post museum. An excellent collection of authentic cavalry weapons is also on display at the museum. *American Fencing Magazine* is indebted to Richard E. Kuehne, the West Point Museum Director, for his assistance in providing the photographs that accompany this article.

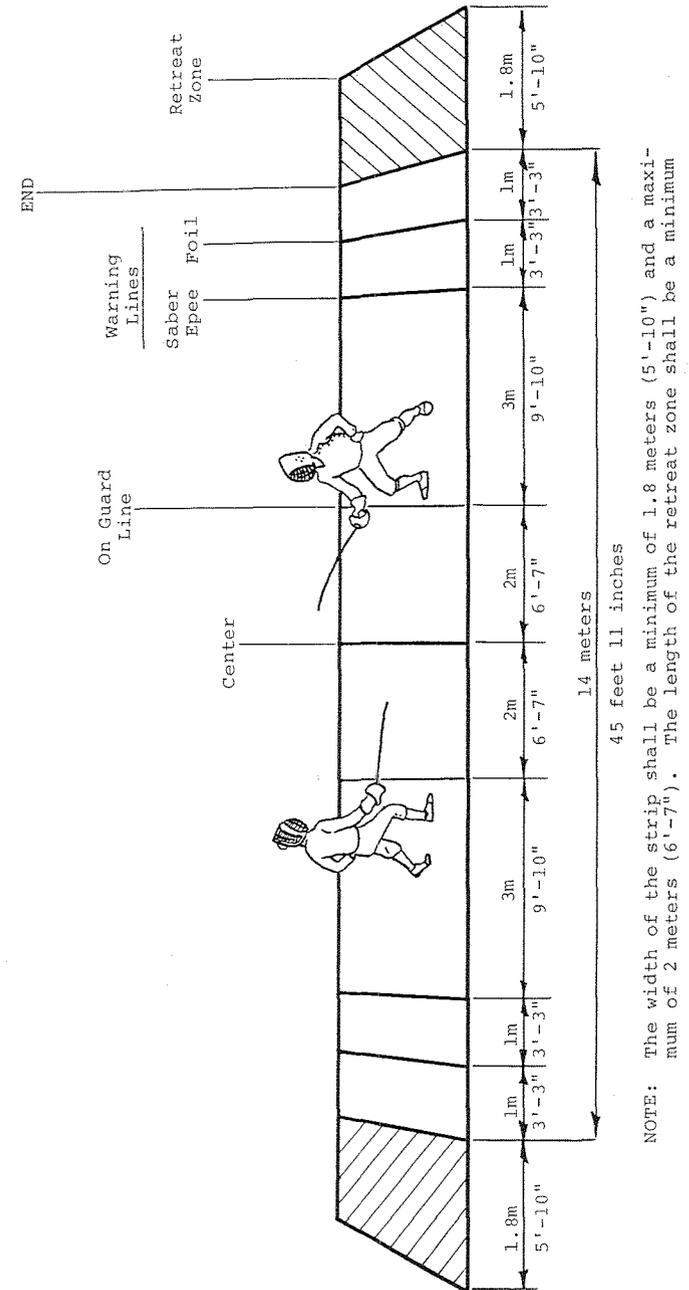
WESTCHESTER FENCERS

Westchester Fencers' Club meets Wednesday's 7:30 P.M., at the Seely Place School, Henry Street, Yonkers, N.Y.

We have a broad spectrum of fencers of varied experience and have been meeting regularly since the 50's. The club includes Kurt Ettinger, Leonard Essman, Zelda Morley, Joan Intrator and coach Al Kwartler. For further information call 914-633-7766.

There are a large number of experienced fencers in the Westchester area who are not aware of the existence of the high level of fencing now available in Westchester.

THE OFFICIAL FIE AND AFLA FENCING STRIP



NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING TOURNAMENT

by Eugene R. Williams

On March 2, 1974 eleven New England colleges met in the 22nd Annual New England Intercollegiate Fencing Tournament hosted by Southeastern Mass. University, North Dartmouth, Mass. The organization of the tournament was led by Eric Sollee, the armourer was Arnold Behre; the host coach, Eugene R. Williams.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

SABRE: 1 Park, M.I.T.; 2. Guidi, Dartmouth;
3. Bourgeois, Southeastern Mass.

FOIL: 1. Akerman, M.I.T.; 2. Jeff Yu, Worcester Polytech; 3. Reimer, M.I.T.

EPEE: 1. Farley, M.I.T.; 2. Eckel, M.I.T.; 3.
Kahan, Brandeis.

TEAM RESULTS

Place	College	Sabre	Bouts Won			Total
			Foil	Epee		
1	M.I.T.	10	15	19	54	
2	Worcester Polytech	13	17	11	41	
3	Dartmouth	18	11	7	36	
4	Southeastern Mass.	15	7	11	33	
4	Brandeis	10	9	14	33	
6	Norwich	8	10	10	28	
7	Brown	9	5	12	26	
8	Trinity	7	11	6	24	
9	Fairfield	4	9	10	23	
10	Northeastern	9	5	4	18	
11	Holy Cross	1	7	6	14	

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