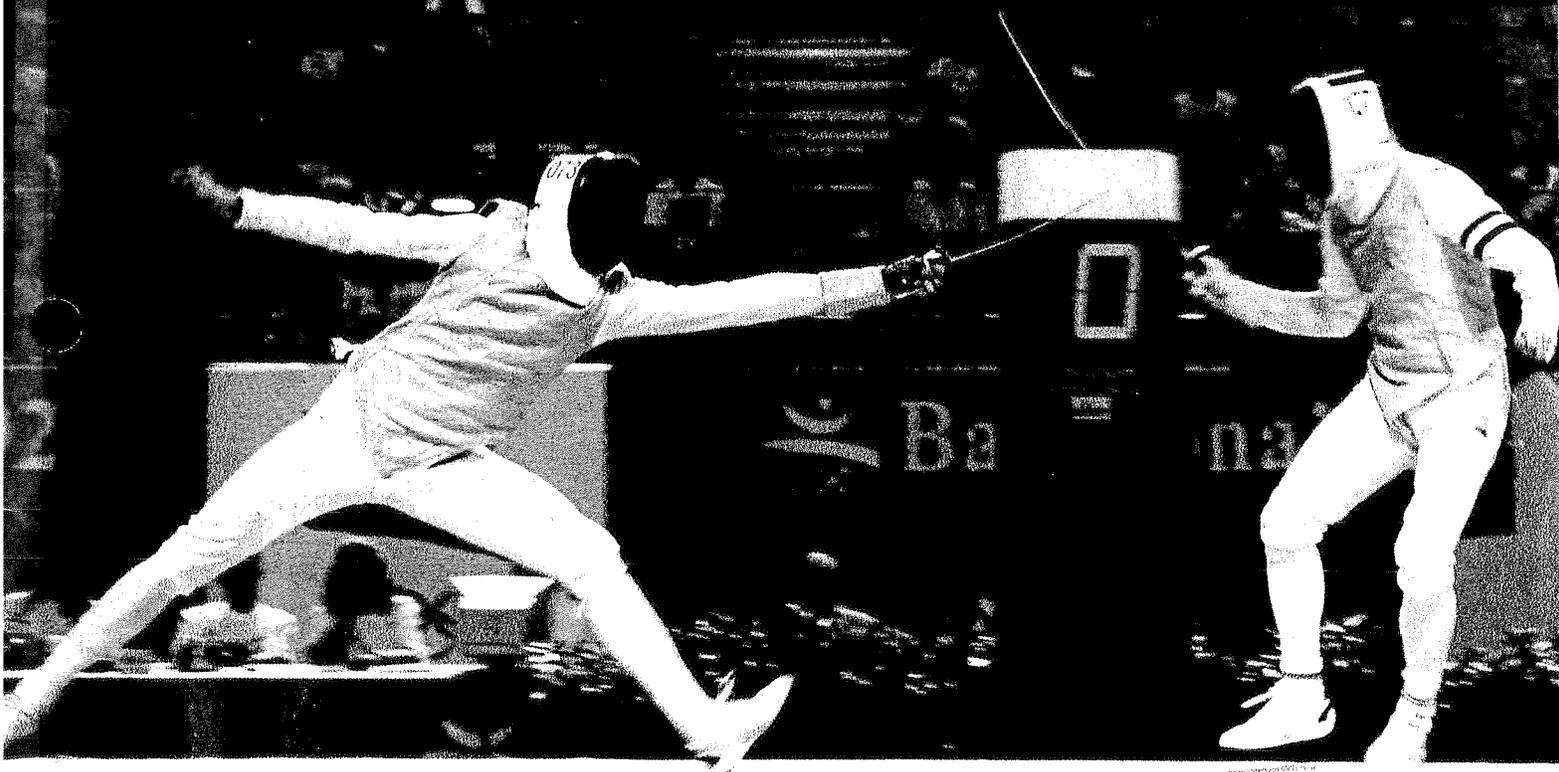


# American FENCING

Winter '93/Volume 43, Number 2



- ◆ 1992 OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS
- ◆ ATHLETES OF THE YEAR
- ◆ NCAA RECRUITMENT



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Official Publication of the  
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# American FENCING

Winter/Volume 43, Number 2

**10** **Below the Belt** by Christoph Amberger  
 The standard explanation for the sacred protocol of sabre just doesn't hold up to scrutiny.

**12** **Equipment: What's New** by Ted Li  
 New scoring boxes feature some high tech "whistles and bells" that offer much more than cosmetic value.

**14** **Only Winners Make the Olympic Team**  
 by Sherry Posthumus & Carl Borack  
 Before we close the chapter on the '92 Olympic Games, let's celebrate our athletes.

**16** **So, You Want to Fence in College?**  
 A Coach, who needs to remain nameless, explains the quirky prohibitions that govern the coach-recruit relationship.

On the cover: Patrice Lhotellier (France) parries the attack of Dmitri Chevtchenko (Unified Team) in the Men's Foil event at last summer's Olympic Games. Cover photo (and other Olympic coverage in this issue) by Team Manager Carl Borack. Special thanks to Eastman Kodak's Michael Tette for photo processing in Barcelona.

## DEPARTMENTS

<b>From the Editor</b> .....	2	<b>Success Stories</b> .....	7
<b>The President's Corner</b> .....	3	by Jennifer Hilton	
by Steve Sobel		<b>Official's Lounge</b> .....	8
<b>Readers Write</b> .....	4	by Russell Wilson	
Letters to the Editor		<b>Coach's Column</b> .....	9
<b>Technical Talk</b> .....	5	by Janusz Bednarski	
by Joe Byrnes		<b>In the Trenches</b> .....	9
<b>To the Point</b> .....	6	by Edwin Hurst	
by Edwin Hurst and		<b>Results</b> .....	22
Marius Valsamis, M.D.		<b>Fencing Bulletin Board</b> .....	24

# Stay Tuned ... This Is Only the Beginning

BY CANDI MACCONAUGHA, EDITOR

The most profound changes, those that are organic, frequently require a little time to your attract attention. Ortho-Gro's celebrated fertilizer won't green your garden overnight, but give the additive a few weeks of quiet labor and its results are undeniable.

The current goings-on in the USFA are another case in point. Our new administration, led by President Steve Sobel, set forth an agenda of reform during last Spring's campaign. The seeds of those improvements have been sown; the results of months of meetings and concentrated planning will bear fruit during the next few months and beyond.

This current issue of American Fencing describes a number of administration works in progress: plans for a demonstration event to showcase some startling proposed changes in competition; revitalized, dedicated support for clubs, divisions and sections, as well as the acknowledgment that these bodies are the life-force of our organization; the introduction of space-age technology to fencing's hardware, and more.

Other plans prompt systemic change, perhaps slower to be recognized but initiating a dramatic departure from earlier attitudes. For example, Vice President Michael Marx recently contacted the coaches of our country, many of whom had felt disenfranchised. His intention was twofold: first, to assure the coaches of their important place in our

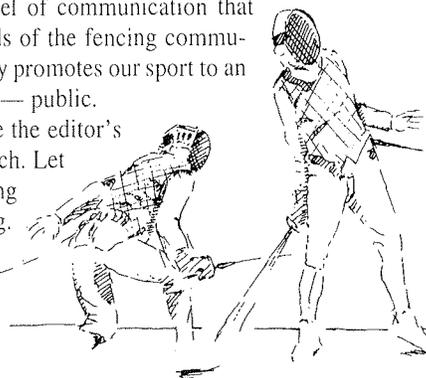
fencing community and, second, to ascertain ways in which the Association could support and enhance their efforts. The response was dramatic: More than 1000 coaches contributed, offering suggestions for innovative programs designed to broaden the fencing base and produce champions.

The coaches represent a frontline force in countering a premature debate on fencing's demise. And so, continuing his outreach program, Marx issued an invitation to all coaches to join him in a new Coaches' Lounge at the Junior Olympic Championships where the dialogue will continue. Future issues of American Fencing will track platforms triggered by the initial survey and subsequent discussions.

Like Marx's approach to the coaches, the most far-reaching changes in our Association will reap their harvest over time. These new programs promise an exciting, dynamic future for fencing, one you won't want to miss.

AMERICAN FENCING intends to be a full partner in this long-range growth and improvement. We want to establish the magazine as a very visible, viable channel of communication that serves the immediate needs of the fencing community while it simultaneously promotes our sport to an uninitiated — but curious — public.

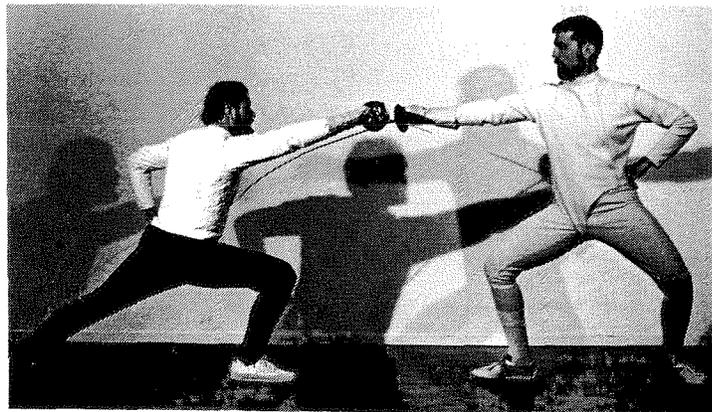
To this end, we reiterate the editor's perennial plea: Stay in touch. Let us know how you're doing and what you're planning. Let us know how we can help. Contribute ... story ideas, articles, suggestions. ♦



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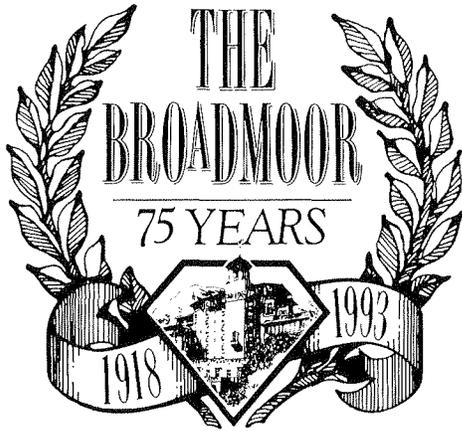
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Dr. William M. Gaugler (left), Director, Military Fencing Masters Program (408) 924-4340.  
Ralph K. Sahm (right), Associate Director, Military Fencing Masters Program

Program description in *Fencing Everyone* by William M. Gaugler, available in SJSU Spartan Bookstore or by order by calling (408) 924-1820.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

# Project Future Fencing

Major changes in competition may become a reality sooner than you think.

BY STEVE SOBEL

**C**an you picture 3000 spectators watching a fencing final while instant slow-motion video replays the action on a large screen in the center of the venue? The fencers wear plexiglass masks which enable the audience to see the facial expressions of the competitors. The uniforms are colorful, and the names of the fencers are written boldly on the backs of the jackets.

The electric machines are wireless, with no long electrical cords trailing after the fencer to the reels at the end of the strip. The rules have been changed so that a halt is called only when a touch is scored: No off-target touches register or stop the action in foil (similar to sabre). Simultaneous action in sabre is scored as a touch against both fencers with no priorities or coin flips (similar to epee). A large, visible clock makes no allowance for a minute warning. Lights attached to fencing strips indicate hits: a valid touch activates the lights on the side of the fencer hit.

Is this a dream? No, this is **Project Future Fencing**, a USFA proposal that would result in fencing events staged with spectator appeal. The purpose is to introduce new "cutting edge competitive technology" in an appropriate demonstration format which would provide a glimpse of the future of fencing in the Olympics and offer athletes competitive experience in this very different environment.

**USFA Goal: To Increase Public Awareness of Fencing and Promote Its Olympic Status.** The USFA rejects the position that only those sports that generate television revenues should be included in the Olympic Games, but understands the need for continuing innovation both in athletic competition and in presentation to audiences. It is our plan to take a world leadership role by introducing technical and competitive innovations in a top level sports environment. We have already submitted proposed rule changes to the FIE and we're exploring options for a demonstration event that will showcase these proposed changes.

**Olympic Alumni Association.** The USOC has just amended its bylaws to provide for the organization of an Olympic Alumni Association. The purpose is to provide a meaningful role in the Olympic movement for Olympic athletes who have so much to offer. They have lived the Olympic experience and are prepared to encourage others to do the same. I expect that fencers will be taking a leadership role in this endeavor, as we have in the USOC.

Since I became a candidate for President, I have been in touch with many Olympic fencers who have offered their help and support. I have spoken on the phone with George Worth, Norman Lewis, Jan Romary and Lee Shelly. Ralph Goldstein and Alby Axelrod participated in the USFA meetings in Colorado Springs in September. Jana Angelakis invited me to the grand opening of her exercise and physical fitness center in New York City in November, and I recently received a letter

See *President's Corner* page 18

## USFA Goals We Can All Support

Ever since I rejoined the U.S.F.A., I have been constantly subjected to complaints about our lack of international results. We haven't had good international results for scores of years, and yet the membership grew, albeit slowly. Richard Gradkowski's ... attitude is wrong. We need to create many more fencers and provide a local environment in which those fencers can excel. From these ranks will come quality international fencers.

Why isn't there an ad campaign in national and special interest magazines promoting the sport? Why don't we have an 800 number for interested people to call for the location of local clubs? Why are there no manuals available on how one starts a club (finds a site, gets equipment, and obtains instruction)? Why don't we have a staff member whose primary job is the creation of new clubs — targeting areas in the country without fencing?

Why don't we have more circuit events — junior and senior? Perhaps each section could host one, with national points proportional to the caliber of the fencing. Why don't we require the elite to share their expertise by competing locally?

There is no real correlation between Olympic gold medals and increased participation in the sport. Gold medals have not turned speed skating, solo synchronized swimming, or Greco-Roman wrestling into hot new sports. We need more fencers — adult, collegiate, high school, and younger. If we refocus our energy and resources (on) the creation of new fencers and increasing the caliber of competitions, rare talent will have more opportunity to both occur and be nurtured.

Growth, enjoyment, and improvement are appropriate goals for the U.S.F.A. — international results are merely the measure of how well you have achieved them.

Christopher Pullo  
Seacoast Fencing Club  
Henniker, NH

*Stacey Johnson, USFA Vice President, responded to Mr. Pullo's letter. The following is excerpted from her letter.*

Thank you for taking the time to write and express your thoughts. In many respects, your observations are squarely on target. As one of the USFA Vice Presidents I am responsible for both the newly created marketing area and the international component of our operation. In addition, I serve on the USFA Strategic Planning Commission which helped define the organization's purpose and goals last year.

One of the USFA's primary goals is "To increase participation in fencing." One of our strategies is to develop and support a national program to promote age group competitions throughout the association that mirror events offered at the Junior Olympics. I believe, along with you, that the more we increase the base, the better our chances are in identifying future talent for World and Olympic level competition.

A second goal is "To increase public awareness of the sport and secure its Olympic future." In response to this directive, the USFA Board of Directors cast an historic vote in support of hiring a fulltime Marketing Director. The director's responsibilities will include enhancing our image, soliciting corporate sponsorship, helping to increase membership and, generally, creating a marketing game plan. In addition, the USFA formed a marketing committee, chaired by Phillip Reilly, former Olympian and current Vice President of Marketing for the Evans Group, to help bolster the efforts of the new director (whom we hope to have on board by Jan. 1). The committee will provide additional marketing expertise and volunteer resources to professionally laid plans.

Never underestimate the "power of the five rings" in helping to market our sport now and in the future. Continuing to be a member of the US Olympic family is key to our survival. US Cycling's ability to raise funds, to market more effectively and to increase membership went hand in hand with victories on the international level. We must nurture our athletes and find more and better ways to help them succeed. This will be the task of the International Committee.

The USFA officers, as a team, are working on these and other fronts simultaneously. With your continued support and good ideas we will see the fruits of our combined labors: increased membership, more clubs, better fencers and an enhanced image of the sport we all love.

## Bring Back the Basics in Fencing

Finally, there is open acknowledgment that fencing is in serious trouble. ... Why? After 28 years I think I've developed some legitimate insights. In my opinion, the crisis may be attributed to a disregard for spectators, the practice of what we call "modern fencing," and the abandonment of a subgroup of our own fencing population.

So called "modern fencing," although exciting and fun for the participants, is virtually invisible to the spectator's eye. Directors have a hard enough time seeing the action; for the uninitiated, it's all but impossible. Foil and sabre fencing is simply far too fast for the eye to follow. The weapons weigh only a fraction of the typical small-sword or sabre and consequently have little inertia to overcome. Orthopedic grip(s) allow ... extremely rapid changes in direction that would disarm one using a small-sword or light rapier with its conventional grip.

Regarding epee the problem is with the scoring machine's double hit time interval and with the method of scoring. Starting with the latter, it simply makes no sense to reward bad fencing. The whole idea (especially from the naive spectator's point of view) is to vanquish your opponent while surviving the encounter yourself. To award a victory to two dead swordsmen simply makes no sense. With respect to the scoring machine's double hit interval ... what the spectator sees is the all too frequent and grindingly dull spectacle of two combatants mutually impaled.

The remaining problem is our disregard for a particular segment of our own membership, fencers who share a common grievance. What these fencers share is what drew them to fencing in the first place. For these people fencing is an art associated with history, duels, swords and life and death struggles between individuals. When they take up fencing they expect to step back, even if just a little, into the past ... they hope to become swordsmen. This is where the "modern" fencer's eyes roll up and expressions of incomprehension, disbelief and condescension are registered, as though the suggestion had been made that these individuals genuinely hope to use white weapons in a duel to the death. Rather than accommodate these fencers and make a place for them in our ranks we view them as the lunatic fringe and dismiss them, complacent with the "modern" view that fencing hasn't really anything to do with swords or dueling and that the guiding philosophy, "to touch without being touched," is a silly, old-fashioned, impractical idea.

What's the answer? First, remember what spectators want to see: a conflict fought with swords that ends with a clear winner and loser, determined not by little glowing lights, but by perceptible blade actions. To make this possible, the action has to be slowed down. Replace the conventional foil with a weapon that looks and moves like one. For the epee, use the same replica small-sword and increase the double-hit interval to a period that reflects how much time would elapse

See *Letters* page 18

# The Reel Story

**Nothing could be worse than an occasional blip on your trusty ohmeter.**

BY JOE BYRNES

I get my ideas for these grab bags of hints from what I encounter at USFA competitions, plus what people describe to me. I'll grant you that this particular topic primarily concerns tournament organizers, but competitors might find the information helpful, too.

Interestingly, I found at least one example of the particular problem I want to discuss today at the last three big competitions I attended.

At the highest levels of competition, the Olympic Games and the World Championships, the FIE insists that the scoring equipment be absolutely brand new, and that there be lots of it. That's the simplest way of avoiding messy problems with old, weary, sloppy defective, etc., reels. It is also the most expensive, of course, but where cost is no object, ain't life wonderful!

Let's lay down one very basic principle: at any competition of any size, the condition of the reels (unless new) deserves careful checking, and more than just careful if they look to be really old. I don't want to be misunderstood: we (the USFA, your division, club, school) do not need to run out and buy new reels every year, but we do need to work on the ones we've got, and regularly. It's the failure to do it often enough that creates most of the problems. "What about these reels?"

"They should be OK. They worked last week (month/season)." Consider: that's what the question — and answer — probably was last week, or month, or season, too.

A well-maintained older reel can be perfectly OK, of course. Some very sad-looking old specimens are electrically and mechanically in really very good shape inside, while some that look spiffing are, yea verily, whited sepulchres. I have discussed some of the following points before, I know, but not for some years, and not the particularly weird situation that got me started on this topic today.

In any checking of reels, a good low-reading ohmeter is necessary. It should be a quick-response model, capable of spotting minor or seemingly momentary interruptions of continuity. This is important for all weapons, especially for foil and sabre. One may test each lead, A, B, C by itself. One should. Connect one lead from your meter at the A floor-cord end and the other at the A fencer end, and see what shows. The actual not-to-be-exceeded resistance in ohms is spelled out in your Rule Book.

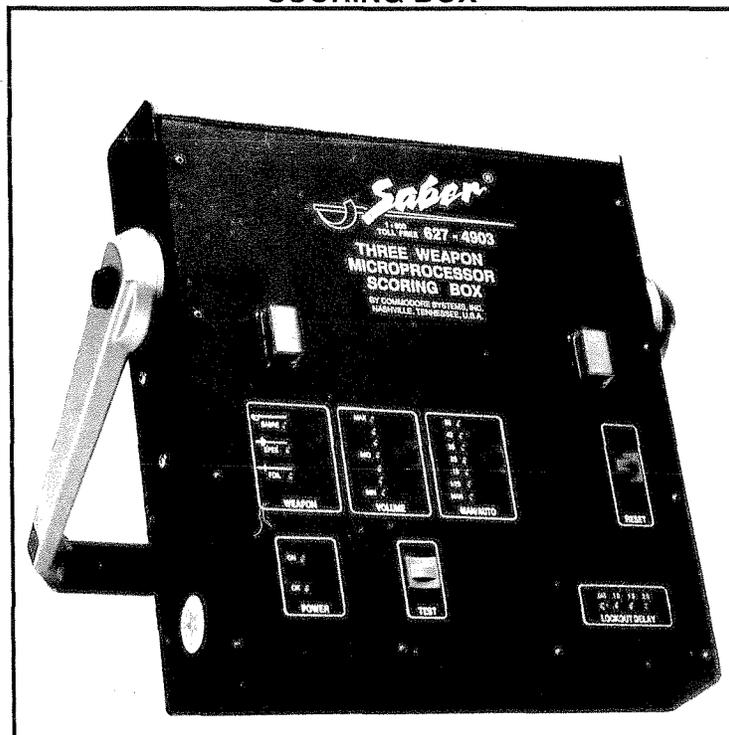
When testing reels, don't be satisfied with a static reading with the thing just sitting there peacefully on the bench. You want to get the reel into rotation, forward and backward, fast and slow, stop and go, with the cable being tugged on and the connections flexed. And, watch your meter readout like a hawk.

One may also test the "loops," i.e., the combinations that the system sees during fencing. In foil, that means chiefly that you take the B and C jacks at the fencer's end of a reel and connect ("short") them together. Put your meter leads into the B and C jacks at the floor-cable end of the reel and read what the resistance is. For such a loop, allow double the resistance tolerated in one line.

See *Technical Talk* page 19

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# Electric Sabre, Human Perception, and the Infamous Remise

In our world of ever more exotic technology, human perception is frighteningly fallible.

BY MAESTRO EDWIN K. HURST &  
DR. MARIUS P. VALSAMIS

Probably the most compelling reason for the FIE to adopt an electric scoring system for sabre was the problem with the human subjectivity involved in determining whether a cut which hit the defender's steel also arrived on target, and if so, whether it arrived as the result of a "whipover" or as the result of an "insufficient parry." The decisions reached by fencing juries on this question were a prime impetus for sabre fencers to comport themselves like enraged wolverines while on the strip, and for lay observers to experience a feeling of utter confusion while watching a sabre bout.

The system now in use mercifully and electronically makes this determination without the need for any human interpretation. However, herein we find a problem. We have observed many instances where presidents (and competitors as well) are hearing a meeting of the blades followed immediately by a light and calling the hit the result of an insufficient parry. **This is, by definition, an incorrect interpretation.** The FIE's SEMI Commission adopted the following specifications: in order to be an insufficient parry the incoming cut must land on the target within 25 milliseconds ( $\pm 5$  ms) of its hitting the opposing blade. If it does not, the system is "cut out" for another 25 milliseconds (again  $\pm 5$  ms) and then reactivates. In short, a cut that hits the target over 50 milliseconds after hitting the blade will register, but it is defined by the specifications as a *remise!*

So far, so good, but now we must delve into the area of human perception. Just how good are we at perceiving very short intervals of time? Fortunately, a large number of PhDs have been earned by people studying this question and their conclusions are summed up by William Uttal on page 508 of his *A Taxonomy of Visual Processes*:

The main point to be made here is that the shortest measurable moments may be much longer in duration than the stimuli that generate them when the stimuli are very brief. This perceptual moment, whatever its nature, exhibits properties that suggest that it has a persistence of something like a tenth of a second and thus defines a psychological instant for which terms like **simultaneity** and **instantaneity** are proper descriptions.

To put this into English, it says that if two events (such as the sound

of metal and the illumination of a scoring light occur within one-tenth of a second of each other, a human observer will perceive them as being simultaneous. Now, one-tenth of a second equals **one hundred milliseconds**, so if a director observes a difference between two occurrences, it can be safely assumed that the events were at least 100 milliseconds apart (temporal displacement, for you psychology majors). Thus, if the director perceives **any** difference between the sound and the light, he is seeing a remise.

Now, it has probably occurred to many of you that the system would allow for a remise to be executed between the 50 ms when the system reactivates and the 100 ms threshold of perception, and thus appear as an insufficiently parried cut. This is theoretically correct, and we are informed that some European sabre fencers have indeed tried to develop this technique. However, a quick reference to a stopwatch will illustrate the problems involved. Obtain a watch that reads in hundreds of a second and try to start and stop it as fast as you can. Depending on the mechanical efficiency of the button on the watch, and even if you have the fastest thumbs in your neighborhood, you're going to be hard-pressed to get a reading of less than 18 or 20, i.e. 180 to 200 milliseconds. Now try making a sabre move faster than you can move your thumb.

It is, we hope, obvious that the director must ensure that the system is working properly before he allows the fencing to commence. When the fencers test he must observe the light simultaneously with the sound

of the hit or he has a problem, since the machine is not going to be able to correctly separate insufficiently parried hits from remises.

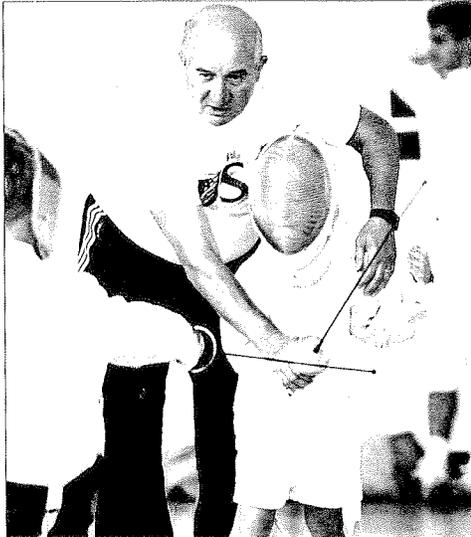
One thing further. A friend of ours (who shall remain nameless) once asked a question that is worth covering just for the sake of completeness. The question was: since the electric signal must travel from the fencers on the strip through the reel cord, reel, floor cord and machine, and then the light reach the director's eye, while the sound travels directly from the blades to the director's ear, wouldn't these two stimuli, although they originated in a simultaneous event, reach him at different times? The answer is, of course, yes: the light will get there sooner. It will take roughly one thousandth of a second for the sound to reach the director's ear; it will take the electronic/light signal about one ten-millionth of a second to hit his eye. We do have to fudge a hundredth of a microsecond here and there to account for the time it takes to energize the filament in the light bulb. As you can see, all of this happens well within our magic number of one hundred milli-

seconds where everything appears simultaneous to a human being, so the physics of the observer/system interaction are really irrelevant.

Dan DeChaine, member of the SEMI Commission, informs us that the FIE is changing the time interval specifications from 25 milliseconds to 5 milliseconds for each category. Thus, one must hit within 5 ms to register an insufficient parry and hit outside of ten milliseconds will be seen as a remise. This change merely adds piquancy to what we have already stated, but, for those of you who were drifting off, we will restate it: a director perceiving **any** interval between contact on the blade and the registration of a hit must declare that hit a remise of the original stroke, and construct the right-of-way accordingly.

If the  
Director  
perceives any  
difference  
between the  
sound and the  
light, he is  
seeing a  
remise.

*Louisville Fencing Center's coach, Leszek Stawicki, demonstrates a proper parry to six-year-old Alix Cundiff during their day-long junior fencing camp.*



## Increase Your Junior Fencing Program

**One savvy club applied the recruitment techniques of soccer and football to fencing ... and discovered gold!**

BY JENNIFER HILTON

The Louisville Fencing Center recently held an introductory one-day, low-cost fencing clinic for elementary and middle school students as a part of our commitment to increase our junior program.

Louisville is fortunate to have in residence Leszek Stawicki, an internationally acclaimed fencing coach whose students have included Olympic and World Championship medalists Vladimir Nazlimov and Witkor Szogyak. Coach Stawicki led a group of highly enthusiastic and energetic youngsters through a day of exercises, tennis ball drills, lessons in basic fencing technique and a mini-tournament. The clinic was a highly successful way to introduce children to fencing. With that in mind, we share our experience with other clubs so that fencing might broaden its base in the United States.

To increase the size of our junior program, we decided to follow the methods that have been successful in other sports programs for children: an inexpensive one-day clinic during which children, ages six to thirteen, could try the sport before their parents committed time and money to an extended program. Like other programs, each child would take home a "prize," a Louisville Fencing t-shirt which would provide added publicity for fencing and the club each time the shirt was worn to school or around town.

We scheduled the clinic for late August, the same time as sign-ups for football and fall soccer, in order to position our program as an alternative to these sports. Most parents are only able to spend time and money on one sport; by going head-to-head with other sports at the beginning of the season we knew we would get our fair share of the student body.

In the weeks leading up to the clinic, we placed public service

announcements in the events calendar of the local newspaper and distributed a brochure about the clinic through local libraries, sporting goods stores, community centers and a local independent bookstore. In the future we will also pass out the brochure through the schools before the summer recess begins.

With local media notified well in advance of the clinic date, we received good press play. Our system for dealing with the media followed a three-step process: an initial phone call, followed by a faxed press release, followed by a phone call. A club member hosted the media during the event, answering questions and providing general assistance and direction.

The Saturday clinic ran from 9 am to 3 pm, with a half-hour scheduled for lunch (participants brought their own). Children were asked to bring a glove — garden, golf or batting glove were suggested — and a water bottle. By 9:10 on the appointed day we looked out over a gym full of energetic, young people.

Coach Stawicki led the group in a warm-up run around the gym and a series of stretches before describing the various weapons and introducing club members Dominic Guarnaschelli, Eric Schmidt and Nelson Grimes who demonstrated foil and sabre techniques. Coach Stawicki taught the kids several games using tennis balls to teach fencing movements like advance, retreat, lunge and extension.

After learning how to hold a foil and practicing simple footwork, the group was ready to fence! Each kid was given a mask and jacket, which prompted the biggest problem of the day: dozens of puzzled-looking kids trying to figure out whether the zipper went in the front or back.

Properly attired, the group practiced touches from short, middle and lunge distance; learned how to defend themselves with a simple parry four; and then engaged in practice bouts under the supervision of junior club members. This not only gave our younger club fencers the experience of "learning through teaching," but they also gained some directing experience.

After a short lunch break, two junior Louisville Fencing members, Drew Hilton and Derek Hibben staged a demonstration bout which was a natural lead-in to our mini-tournament for all participants. Each participant fenced two rounds of pools; then the top eight fenced a final direct elimination round for medals.

The clinic was an outstanding success: Several participants attended our beginners' class the following Monday, and the TV and newspaper coverage gave our sport much-needed visibility.

That exposure netted incredible results: In November, Louisville Fencing Center moved into new quarters at the Ahrens School with the help of Mayor Jerry Abramson and School Superintendent Dr. Donald Ingwerson. The free club space is within walking distance of five elementary and middle schools and will include four permanent strips plus a room for group lessons and an exercise room. Principal David Schalk, a strong supporter of the program, looks forward to his school becoming the center of junior fencing activity in Louisville.

The club has planned additional clinics in the coming year and we encourage any club or division interested in sponsoring their own clinic to send a representative to Louisville for a closer look at ours. In addition, if you'll send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we'll forward copies of our brochure, press and medical releases, and other material you may find helpful. Write to us, Jennifer or Don Hilton, at 142 N. Galt Ave., Louisville, KY 40206, or call us at (502) 897-2881. If we're not home we're probably on the strip at our new club. ♦

*Jennifer Hilton, her husband Don, and their three children are new members of the fencing community in Louisville.*

# We Want You for President of Jury

The FOC is looking for a few good men and women for the betterment of our sport.

BY RUSSELL WILSON  
CHAIRMAN, FENCING OFFICIALS COMMISSION

I can't even count the number of times I've been asked how I became a fencing official, or why I decided to devote so much time to working on my officiating skills. Like most fencing officials, I got my start because no one else was available. When I was 15 years old, I was eliminated early from a Metropolitan Division sabre open. Since the top fencers were still competing, I volunteered to direct. The fencers liked my directing and I worked all the way through the final that day.

Officiating is just like fencing in many ways: Just as good fencers need to practice to keep their skills sharp, officials must do the same. It is simply unrealistic for even a well-known President of Jury to show up once during the season and expect to work. Directing requires practice. When I was just starting out, I was judging Met and Westchester division tournaments every weekend. Working frequently helps officials feel more comfortable on the strip, and being seen frequently by

the fencers makes them more comfortable with your decisions.

At every level of judging, the process is the same: You must practice and you must be seen. I didn't become a top-rated official overnight. I watched people like Chaba Pallaghy and Jack Keane in our country, Thierry Brouquier and Franck Berthier overseas. Every official has his/her own personal style. No one style works for everyone. It is important that you try to emulate the styles of the very best judges until you find a style that works for you. The best advice I ever received on the question of style was from Emik Kaidanov, Coach at Penn State University, who told me never to forget that "you are just one of them (the fencers) ... nothing less, nothing more." If you think about his comment, it makes sense. Small bits of advice like that helped me grow as a director.

If you want respect on the strip, you've got to look the part. Just as fencers wear their sharp Allstar whites when they want to make an impression on the competition, we officials must look professional if we want our efforts to be well-received. That means blue blazer, grey slacks or skirt, and a dark tie.

All of us have seen officials dressed in shorts and t-shirts but their professionalism suffers. Let me remind you that a bad call made by someone properly attired is often better received than a marginal call by someone dressed for the beach. I've been judging internationally since I was a teenager and I've made it a point to be neatly dressed at all times. I believe it increases your credibility and enables you to project a professional, competent image.

When you need medical advice, you don't want to visit a physician who barely passed his or her medical boards. Why the heck should fencers put up with officials who don't know the rules?

See *Official's Lounge* page 20

## SILVERSTAR QUALITY BLADES

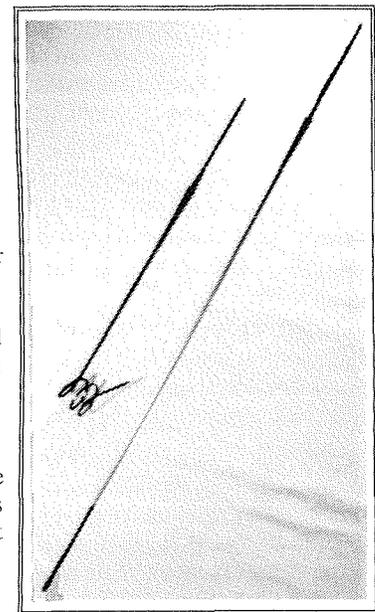
Ever wonder why one blade will last a week and another one of the same brand will last a year? The reason is that blades are hand made, on old 1920 vintage drop forges and even the slightest mistake in hand technique will put a flaw in the steel. In addition to the quality problems associated with hand forging, the inefficiency of the process increases the cost of a blade far past what one would expect to pay for such an item.

Now Silverstar blades have arrived. These blades are made entirely robotically with a new roller forge process that is completely computer controlled for consistency and efficiency.

Roller forging provides a consistency in blades that is impossible to achieve with the old drop forging process. Additionally, Silverstar blades use a new compound of steel, and are tempered in a computer controlled process and stress relieved by a process similar to that done for exotic racing engines.

Silverstar blades are unquestionably the finest blades ever made and render all others obsolete.

In spite of the expensive steel compound used, Silverstar blades are very price competitive due to the efficiency of the computer driven robotic machinery. This means that Silverstar is not only the best blade in the world, it is also the best value in blades.



This is a photo of a Silverstar foil blade which was cold bent. It did not break.



Triplette Competition Arms 162 W. Pine St. Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030 (919) 786-5294

Coach Bednarski and Junior Pan Am bronze medalist Kimo Quaintance analyze the opposition between rounds.



## Warm Up Right & Win!

**A balanced routine of mental and physical exercises work to your advantage before and during a tournament.**

BY JANUSZ BEDNARSKI

**B**y the time you're called to the strip for your first bout in a competition you should have completed a series of conditioning and fencing exercises that prepare both your body and mind for the work ahead. The following description details a program of physical and intellectual preparation that will accomplish a lot in a brief period of time.

Begin your warm-up exercises at least 45 minutes before the competition is slated to start. Your warm-up drills should sharpen your skills but not prove so strenuous that you need time to recover before bouts. It's critically important that you don't rush the routine, that you allow your heart rate to gradually increase to about 130 beats per minute as your muscles slowly warm to the rigors of fencing.

After a light exercise to get the blood flowing to the major muscle groups, warm-up with 5 to 10 minutes of slow stretches, gradually increasing the degree of stretch but never straining to discomfort.

Follow with 10 to 15 minutes of gymnastic exercises that warm all parts of your body, but particularly the legs, hips and shoulders. A good routine starts with a light jog and brisk walk twice around the gymnasium. Swing your arms while walking or jogging to loosen those muscles. Increase your work load with three series of slalom jumps, forward and backward, covering about 10 yards distance with each series. Finally, do a couple of 10-yard wind sprints, fast starts and stops that get your heart pumping.

Light foot- and blade-practice gets the body and mind focused on the bouts to come. Take a lesson or drill with a partner so that you can work on distance while executing other actions. A good 5- to 10-minute footwork drill should include some shuttle footwork comprising four advances and four retreats; a series of four advances followed by a lunge with a recovery backward and four retreats; and finally sets of four advances, four retreats, a lunge with recovery forward. Finish with a couple of fleches from an advance.

See *Coaches Column* page 21

## Help for Clubs, Divisions and Sections

**Now there is frontline help for those who breathe life into local fencing communities across the country.**

BY EDWIN (BUZZ) HURST, CHAIR  
COMMITTEE FOR CLUBS, DIVISIONS & SECTIONS

**A**cross the country, local chairs and club presidents share an often thankless task: how to make fencing better for their constituents. Until now, few realized that a USFA-established standing committee could assist them in accomplishing their lonely charter.

Our Mission Statement includes a laundry list of support functions for clubs, divisions and sections aimed at increased participation in our sport and representation of collective interests at the national level.

We hope to establish easy communication with you "out there" in columns to come. For the time being, my telephone number is (818) 888-5838. I'll be happy to work with you as long as you remember that I live in the Pacific Time Zone and I am NOT a morning person.

Now, for a look at just one universal problem. Most divisions have trouble getting people to turn out for competitions. A handful of regulars show up, but the larger contingent of fencers rarely appear. Many are not even members of the USFA. The field in a typical division tournament divides roughly into three categories: those fencers who reasonably expect to do well, 2) those who don't expect to do well but are developing their skills and using the event for experience; and 3) those who've been around for awhile, know they won't do well, but enjoy fencing in competitions.

The average division has a small number of category one fencers, a somewhat larger group of category two fencers, and a much larger number of category three. Unfortunately, most USFA/FIE competition formats basically dump on category threes because the format's sole purpose is to determine who is **best**. It's a tough sell to convince a category three fencer to continue getting up on a Sunday morning (and maybe driving a long distance) when the only fencing he's going to get is four or five bouts in a first round pool before he's eliminated. On the other hand, if a format such as Brazilian is used, the same fencer would fence a minimum of 11 to 13 bouts (including at least two encounters in the Table) and he's, thus, a lot more motivated to roll out of bed.

We must point out here that divisions who are strong in A and B fencers must balance the needs of competitors who are trying to raise their classification with the more populist approach we have suggested. One approach, good for both, is a modified Brazilian which adds repechage to the Table — as well as a couple of extra hours to the tournament day.

Maximize the minimum number of bouts fenced. Each division member pays the freight; you must be equally concerned with the needs of the recreational fencer and the perennial medal winners. ♦

# Below the Belt

## A brief history of sabre taboos

BY CHRISTOPH AMBERGER

**W**hy don't you hit below the waist when you're fencing sabre? Ask anyone at the salle, and they'll lower their voices and knowledgeably explain that the sabre as a cavalry weapon was traditionally aimed only at the upper part of the opponent's body. Below the belt, of course, are only legs and horseflesh, and hitting there just wouldn't make sense, would it. As plausible as this seems to be, the explanation has one weakness: It's a modern myth. Actually, it is two myths rolled into one. Like most myths, if you really think about them, neither makes any sense.

Myth #1: The modern sports sabre was derived from the cavalry weapon. If you have ever held a Napoleonic cavalry sabre in your hands, it will have struck you what a gulf lies between the modern sports sabre ("that silly little toy," as Sir Alfred Hutton called it) and the cavalry

sidearm of yore. Take the British 1796 standard-issue sabre of the Light Cavalry, for example. This weapon can rightfully be called the most characteristic cavalry weapon of the 18th and 19th centuries. Based on German forerunners that go back as far as 1720, this sabre type was used in Europe until the outbreak of World War I — for nearly two centuries — with little varia-

tion. It weighs two pounds; has a massive, curved blade; an iron stirrup guard and a thick, leather-covered handle with no thumb-grove.<sup>1</sup>

The short grip doesn't allow for any of the fancy finger play of the smallsword and modern sports weapon. As illustrations in Henry Angelo's *Hungarian and*

*Highland Broadswords* (1798) prove, troopers used the notorious "battle-axe grip" that drives coaches of modern beginner's classes to distraction. The weapon's main purpose was to cut from above with wrist, shoulder and elbow action, and to oppose the enemy's attack with the sheer weight of the blade. Due to the raised point, the typical cavalry sabre is nearly exclusively a cutting sword, not a cut-and-thrust weapon.<sup>2</sup> It is more closely related to the medieval falchion or the machete than to the light Italian sabre.

The modern fencing sabre is to the military broadsword and heavy sabre what the foil is to the epee. It was never intended as a combat or even dueling weapon but, like the foil, as a somewhat academic training tool. The light Italian sabre originated during a period when swords and sabres were rapidly losing their importance on the battlefield and duels — both sabre and epee — became unfashionable. The use of the heavy military sabre was still widely taught at the end of the 19th century (see Louis Rondelle's *Foil and Sabre of 1892*), but it died out at the beginning of World War I, leaving behind only the practice weapon that had been adopted by recreational fencers.

The second well-preserved sabre myth is that a trooper's legs and horse were off-limits.

In the apocalypse of exploding grenades and musket salvos, do you honestly believe that cavalrymen had a gentleman's agreement only to butcher each other's heads, arms, and torso, not their legs or precious horses?

Faced with opponents armed with pistol and sabre, a horseman's weakest spot was his mount. And military strategists of all ages were experts at pinpointing and exploiting opponents' weaknesses. It is no coincidence that the tactical role of cavalry began its eclipse with the invention of the socket bayonet. As early as 1730, a Spanish general exhorted the effectiveness of poles to stop an attacking horseman. By "pointing at the horses eyes or tapping its head with [a pole], the horse will shy

<sup>1</sup> This is true for most curved cavalry sidearms. Although cuirassiers tended to keep the straight-bladed Panzerstecher (armor piercer) sabres, only the 1908 British cavalry sabre, hailed as the perfect cavalry sidearm, is a notable exception. This weapon, a heavier version of the Italian dueling sabre, was conceived and developed after cavalry as a weapons system had long become obsolete. Its inventors were academic fencers who never wielded a sabre outside the gymnasium and exercise field. It luckily never had a chance to put troopers' lives at risk in actual battle. (See also "Was Patton right?," *American Fencing* vol. 42, no. 2, p.16.)

<sup>2</sup> Henry Angelo's father Malevolto finished his revolutionary tome *School of Fence* (London: S. Hooper, 1763) with comments on the cut-and-thrust sword, which is "very different from the broad sword, because it is much lighter, it carries a straight point, and not a raised one, as the sabres or cutting swords commonly have."

**In the apocalypse of exploding grenades and musket salvos, do you honestly believe that cavalrymen had a gentleman's agreement to only butcher each other's heads, arms and torso, not their legs or precious horses?**

and refuse to advance.... If a horse will not ride down a man armed only with a pole how much less will cavalry prosper against formed battalions, whose bayonets, bullets and din of arms ... are even more capable of scaring the horses."<sup>3</sup>

The horse was an ideal target: large, defenseless, and protected only by the blade and prowess of its master. Hit it, hurt it, frighten it, and chances are it will rear and throw off its rider — who, then, is an under-armed foot soldier at the mercy of his enemies, his "pistols out-classed by muskets and [his] sabre ineffective against a wall of bayonets."<sup>4</sup>

Now let's look at the presumed protected status of the horseman's legs: A fighting horseman had to direct his mount with his legs. A savory cut across the thigh or knee, and control would weaken proportionally to blood loss. Most riders fought while standing up in their stirrups. In shock attack, they could thus transmit the full force of the horse's motion to the target. If a trooper missed with a sweeping cut, he did not have to fear that he might be thrown off balance. But cut at his legs, and he would lose stability and mobility.

It was not only possible, therefore, for sabre-wielding troopers to aim at legs and horse, but absolutely prudent and desirable to do just that. But did it really happen? We don't have to look far to prove that it did. In the sabre part of Henry Angelo's *Hungarian and Highland Broad-swords* (written in the heyday of cavalry battles), we find that troopers had to be able to defend their thighs and

there has never been an implicit or de facto agreement between military fighters not to hit below the waistline. So much for *salle* mythology.

We have to look for the origins of modern sabre conventions in the confusing usages and traditions of civilian cut-and-thrust weapons. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, the art of fence had begun to differentiate between military and civilian weapons and fencing techniques.

From the earliest rapiers to 18th-century small-swords, weapons kept keen edges in addition to the needle-sharp point, and thus could be used for cut and thrust. (Sharp edges kept an opponent from taking the blade with his hands.) Although swords were widely carried for self-defense, the art of fence outside the military exercise fields became mainly a preparation for rapier duels. Gentlemen duelists differed little from common thugs in their fighting style. Survivors of duels had to plead self-defense to avoid murder charges, and, consequently, didn't pay much attention to rules and decorum during a fight. Anything that might have pointed to an organized, planned encounter would have

had the duelists swinging from the gallows at Tyburn for murder, instead of merely languishing in the dungeons of Newgate for manslaughter.

Neither Giacomo di Grassi nor Vincentio Saviolo touch upon valid target areas in their late 16th-century manuals. However, we find a first reference in the writings of John Silver, Saviolo's old-fashioned rival. In *Paradoxes of Defense* (1599), Silver reminisces that "when blowes were used [i.e. before the arrival of the new-fangled Italianate schools], men were so simple in their fight, that they thought him to be a coward, that would make a thrust or strike a blow

beneath the girdle." The Italians obviously had no scruples in this regard.

There are more mundane and practical considerations that contributed to make below-the-waist an off-target area. Fashions of the times probably played a major role. In the 16th and 17th centuries, a fencer

See *Below the Belt* page 21

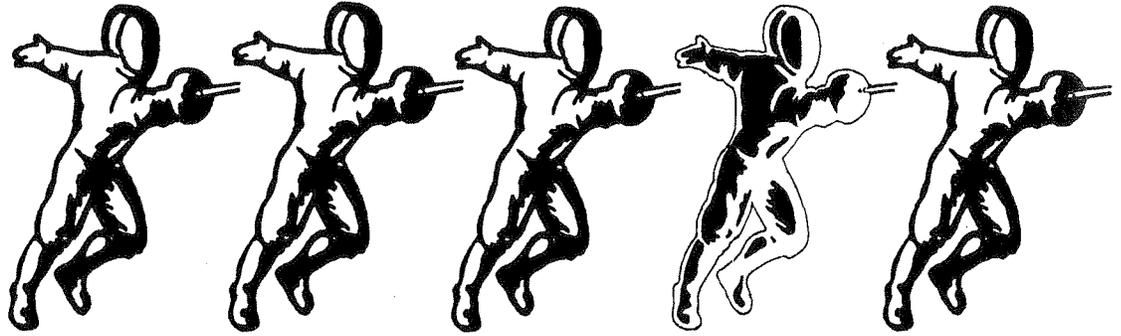


horses against sabre cuts (illus. above). Furthermore, broadswordsmen on foot had to practice a technique called "slipping the leg" to avoid an opponent's thigh cut. Notice that the highlander's grim-looking adversary is attired in the uniform of a hussar — a dismounted cavalry trooper. We therefore can safely assume that

<sup>3</sup> Chandler, David. *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Marlborough*, New York, 1976, p. 82

<sup>4</sup> Jones, Archer. *The Art of War in the Western World*, Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1987; p. 268.

**Anything that might have pointed to an organized encounter would have had the duelists swinging from the gallows at Tyburn for murder, instead of merely languishing in the dungeons of Newgate for manslaughter.**



# Equipment: What's New?

**At last, American and Russian entrepreneurs apply their talents to the fencing market.**

BY TED LI

Usually, the market in fencing equipment is quite stable, but in the last few months, all sorts of new and interesting items have been appearing on the US market. This influx of new equipment seems to be spurred by two forces: the high import tariffs compromising the US fencing community's dependence upon European manufacturers and the breakup of the Soviet Union. Four US manufacturers — two of them new to fencing — have made contributions, and the Russians, having to adapt to a worldwide market economy, are upgrading and improving many of their products.

In the US, three new manufacturers are now producing three-weapon scoring machines which meet all the standards necessary for use in national competitions. David Berezov, President of Sabre Industries [PO Box 99, Nashville, TN 37202; (800) 627-4903] has been instrumental in the development of an EPROM microprocessor-controlled scoring machine which has been designed to accommodate FIE changes in timing specifications. The few minor problems encountered in the

prototypes, which have been used in the Southeast Section for the past year, have been remedied, and the machine is now in full production. The \$800 sticker price makes this machine an attractive option in the scoring box market.

Another company, Fencing Technologies [PO Box 3154, Iowa City, IA 52244-3154; (319) 337-4128] is an American-French company that has also produced a small EPROM microprocessor controlled scoring machine, the Saint Georges 01. Tested in France at the illustrious National Institute of Sport, this machine has a number of unique features. A lock-out timer is integral to the machine, and a unique remote unit controls the timer, the reset, and the on board touch counters. For a President of Jury, it offers the convenience of a VCR or TV remote control. At \$990, this machine packs a lot of features into a compact package.

The Saint Georges 01 offers an impressive list of included features, but its big brother, the Saint George 21, is loaded with even more. There are four modes for sabre operation which allows fencing according to strict FIE regulations, relaxed FIE regulations without allowing whipover, strict regulations without the use of a sensor, and relaxed regulations without a sensor. In addition, the machine can be set for an instantaneous reset so it is effective during electrical sabre lessons. For

**A hand-held remote control unit allows the President of Jury to restart the clock or reset the box from his side of the strip.**

more information and pricing on this wizard in a box, contact Richard Marciano at Fencing Technologies.

Still another machine, sold by Triplette Competition Arms [162 West Pine St., Mt. Airy, NC 27030; (919) 786-5294] was developed by a high-tech aerospace company after extensive study of the available three weapon EPROM machines. Like some other machines, this as-yet-unnamed-box includes a self-diagnostic feature plus the standard output channels for extension lights and lock-out timers. Like the previously mentioned machines, the box was designed to meet FIE specifications and to be upgradable if (or rather, when) the FIE specifications change.

An interesting sidebar: Walter Triplette is now exporting this machine to both France and Germany. At \$775 for the machine and an additional \$20 for the carrying case, this box is another contender.

Ben Zivkovic of Modern Fencing Equipment [77 Arnold Rd., Wellesley Hills, MA 02191; (619) 235-3324] has been developing a line of body cords, handles, sabre sensors and reel-less metallic strips, all produced in the US. Strong and colorful, the body cords for foil and epee come in a red, white and blue motif and offer a feature which prevents the set screws from loosening. The colorful handle, a sophisticated modification of the standard orthopedic grip, comes in various sizes to accommodate hands from small to extra large. Sabre sensors, available either sealed or unsealed, are the standard ball-and-spring variety with an adjusting screw in the unsealed variety to compensate for a weakening spring. As with the other items, the sensor is made of US parts which are easily available for replacement. For permanent fencing installations, Modern Fencing Equipment Co. manufactures a raised strip incorporating a reel-less hook-up for fencers (the cabling is hidden under the metallic surface).

From Europe come a number of new items. France-Lames offers a new computer-forged series of blades which are available from major US distributors. FechtSport plans a new scoring machine, as yet unseen, however. And, the FIE is experimenting with a scoring machine that eliminates the need for reels.

Moving eastward ... from the sleeping bear, the former Soviet Union, comes a flood of equipment wending its way to the west in search of hard dollars. Responding to market pressures, the Russians have redesigned or greatly modified much of their equipment line in order to meet the prevailing quality standard set by European manufacturers. Blade Fencing Equipment [212 W. 15th St., New York, NY 10011; (212) 649-0114] distributes much of this equipment, including the newly designed, lighter, highly polished 1992 foil and epee blades and the new lighter version of the Russian maraging blade. An aerospace company manufactures new electric points to go with the blades. The epee point, modeled after the Italian FIE point, is machined from steel, then highly polished, and features no external screw slots. Since spare tip parts are still hard to find, it's comforting to know that Uhlmann epee screws can be used in a pinch although the screw

heads will protrude a bit.

New hard aluminum foil, epee and sabre guards with substantial reinforcing plates round out the inventory of personal Russian equipment. The epee guard comes with wire slots cut for either a left- or right-hand mounting. The sabre guard features a steel insert against which the pommel may grind to its heart's content. And, a rolled edge prolongs the life of the guard.

Currently imported Russian equipment comprises reels, two-weapon machines, sabre machines and heavy-weight copper strips. The reels are the contact-less type modeled after the KV/Prieur design. Their heft suggests that they probably won't follow the fencer down the strip. A newly improved sheathed wire on the reel ensures resistance-free fencing.

The Visti EA-01, a two-weapon scoring box, was first produced in 1983 and has been consistently upgraded to meet all anti-blockage specifications. This discrete component machine has such nice features as a dual-tone, dual-volume buzzer; 2-, 4- and 6-second automatic reset time, a diagnostic circuit as well as the standard lock-out timer and hook-up for extension lights. Its companion, a look-alike sabre machine, has many of the same features but lacks the variable reset timing and buzzer.

Two novel sensing devices provide an alternative to the sabre machine. The first, a two-prong white socket designed to be used with the Visti EA-01, adapts the foil/epee machine for sabre fencing. The second is a rectangular black socket which incorporates a sensor in the two-prong guard socket, thus eliminating the need for a separate sensor. Neither socket is legal for competition, but either could prove a boon to fencers who want to keep their competition sensors in mint condition.

Lastly, the Russians are retailing phosphor-bronze strips which weigh between 225 and 250 lbs. in their shipping crates and are regulation length and width.

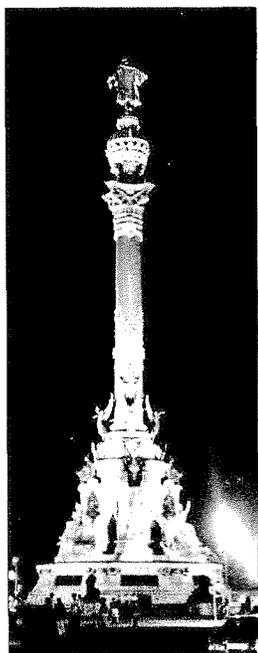
All this manufacturing activity translates to viable options for the informed fencer, club or division contemplating an expensive equipment purchase. And, rumor has it the market will expand even further. The grapevine anticipates the introduction of another US three-weapon box, new Russian foil and epee blades, Russian gloves and FIE sabre masks, and more. Stay tuned ... there's a lot happening in the ever-changing world of fencing equipment. ♦

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*Ted Li will have his fill of new equipment by year's end thanks to his roles as USFA liaison to the World University Games, organizer of a Sabre Circuit, and armorer for the Junior Olympic Championships.*

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**Responding to market pressures, the Russians have redesigned or greatly modified much of their equipment line in order to meet the prevailing quality standard set by European manufacturers.**



# Only Winners Make the Olympic Team

Team Manager and Team Captain reports describe the historic events in Barcelona.

BY SHERRY POSTHUMUS AND CARL BORACK

*Top: Barcelona by night. Below: the women's foil team (Marsh, O'Neill, Monplaisir, Sullivan, Bilodeaux) with pentathlete Michael Gostigian. Opposite page clockwise from the top: Robert Marx against Krisztian Kulcsar, Hungary; two-stepping armourer Dan DeChaine; sabrists Lofton, Cottingham and Westbrook; men's foilist Nick Bravin.*

**A** television viewer, fed up with the negativity exhibited by the sports commentators when the US failed to win a gold medal, penned a letter to the athletes who made up the 1992 USA Olympic Team and reminded them that they had already been certified winners by virtue of attaining a place on the team.

We, too, must celebrate the efforts of our fencers who, while returning without medals, were winners none-the-less. The Olympic Games stand at the end of a long, long road. Years of intense training, athletes trying so hard to be perfect because perfection is demanded. There's no room for error because another athlete stands in the wings waiting to step in should you falter. Years of pain and sacrifice and tears and money, never allowing yourself to forget the commitment, the goal: making the Olympic team.

Finally, the Games arrive. Athletes from all over the world are unified, equal. They march with pride in a parade of nations, accepting the accolades for a spot well earned. As the public watches, it sees only winners because it took winners to advance this far.

Let the Games begin!

On and on the competition in each event continues ... and with each game/event/bout/heat a new victor emerges: gold, silver, bronze. Tears of joy accompany the playing of the national anthem. That joy mingles with regret for those who do not medal. Sometimes only one misstep, one falter is all it takes. For some, there are no more chances. These are their last Olympic Games. For others, the grueling four-year grind toward the winner's stand begins again.

To everyone — from all nations, in all events — who participated in the 1992 Olympics, we are proud YOU were chosen to represent your country. You may never meet us but we were with you through those long days of competition. You kept us on the edge of our seats. We clapped, cried, yelled and celebrated because you were so very, very good.

Everyone wants to emerge from the Games a victor, but unfortunately there are simply too few medals for so many competitors. While this may not have been your moment for reigning glory, your singular abilities and spirit took our breathe away.

You may have lost a medal ... but you won our hearts and earned our respect. Please remember always: only winners make the Olympic team

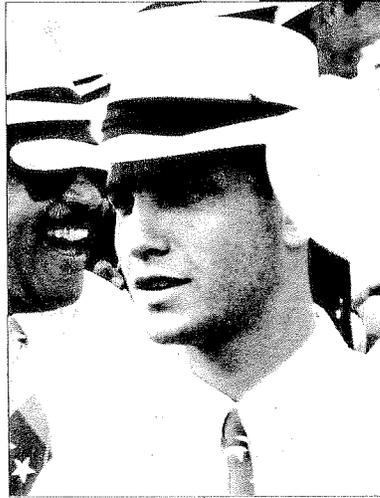
Official USOC team processing took place in Tampa, Florida. Jim Campoli secured the Harbor Athletic Club



for our use as a training facility, with four strips available to us at all times. Local fencers hosted an exquisite send off for the team at the home of Dr. Walter Afield, whose son is a junior sabrist.

Most sports chose to train outside of Barcelona in order to avoid the distractions of a very hot and crowded city and to sharpen the focus of the team on the competition ahead. The organizers of the '92 Mediterranean Games secured a six-strip salle in the Palais de Sport in Montpellier, France, for our European preparation. Montpellier was a cool, quiet, restful location with good food, excellent accommodations, and no interference from well-meaning friends and family. Mandatory practice sessions were held each morning with individual lessons and additional practice available in the afternoon. One evening we chose Jon Normile's birthday to break away for a team dinner.

At the team captains' meeting on July 23, Peter Westbrook was selected from among 16 nominees as alternate flag bearer for the US delegation. In the end, Peter carried our country's standard during the Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games.



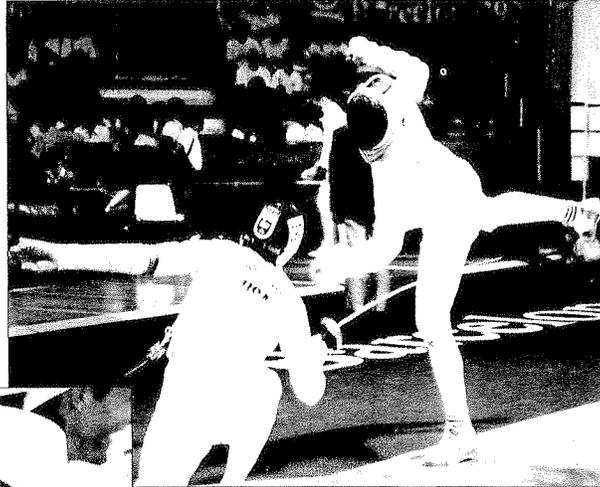
*The foregoing report was contributed by Team Manager Sherry Posthumus. The following excerpts from Team Captain Carl Borack's extensive report (presented to the Board of Directors) describe only some of the fencing action during the Games and offer his recommendation for the next four years.*

Forty-six competitors from eighteen countries comprised the women's foil field. Four pools of seven and three pools of six advanced thirty-six fencers (80%) to the direct elimination — the same format the USFA will use this season. The small field made the beginning pools very concentrated and first round jitters affected a number of top fencers.

Caty Bilodeaux-Banos once again proved to be our top female foilist, fighting hard in the directs. She's one of the best athletes we have and a top competitor.

Fifty-nine fencers from twenty-five countries (the Unified team counted as one team) assembled on the strips for the men's foil competition. World Cup winner Thorsten Weidner of Germany was expected to win this event, with the Germans and Italians dominating the final. Surprise: seven countries fielded fencers in the final with only Cuba having two.

Twenty-one year old Elvis Gregory of Cuba was a crowd pleaser; his exciting style earned him a hard-fought bronze in his bout against Udo Wagner. It was nice to see a Pan American neighbor do so well. Our heartiest congratulations (and only small pangs of envy) to the Cuban Fencing Federation.



Both Nick Bravin and Zaddick Longenbach have enormous potential and could lead a renaissance in US men's foil. Hopefully they'll continue their training and hard work on the road to '96.

Men's Epee was not destined for domination by one or two countries — 30 entered — because the field is strong and diversified. Robert Marx excelled as the crafty veteran. In his first bout of the directs he drew Roman Jecminek of Czechoslovakia and won in two bouts, thus placing him against former world champion Sandro Cuomo of Italy in the round of 32. Once again, Marx prevailed in two bouts, sending shock waves through the Italian delegation and Cuomo into repechage. Once again, Marx proved to be a clever, seasoned epeeist who can give the best a run for their money.

This year's men's sabre competition broke with tradition: the Soviet team did not have a finalist, the Italians had three, and host country Spain one. Bob Cottingham trounced Gary Fletcher of Great Britain in the round of 32, fencing with great power and intensity. In the same round, Michael Lofton drew Vilmos Szabo of Romania, European champion and number two in World Cup points. Lofton fenced superbly and defeated Szabo in two bouts, 5-2, 5-2.

Cottingham lost his next bout but beat Jean Marie Banos in the repechage table. Lofton next fenced Koscielniakowski of Poland, losing in three bouts in a closely contested match. Cottingham gave his next opponent, Alexandre Chirchov of the Unified team, a

*See Olympic Team Report page 28*



# So You Want to Fence in College?



The coach of a successful fencing program submits the following anonymously to avoid the perception that it's a recruitment "ploy."

**T**his time of year, one question haunts the minds of high school students across the country: Where should I go to college? The decision is a very important one; it is a very difficult one. The following article is written in the hope that the college-bound fencer might be aided in the arduous process of selecting a college.

The college applicant who is also a fencer becomes an athletic "recruit." A recruit certainly has many advantages over the non-fencer. There are also, however, certain problems that can become bothersome for the recruit. You, the recruit, should know what to expect from a school to which you are applying and what the coach of that school may and may not do.

Good colleges are looking for good students who will contribute to their college. Each year, some straight A students with 1600 SAT's are rejected by colleges (don't worry, they get in someplace) because they have little to offer; they simply regurgitate information ... they have no creative spirit. The fencer is unique. The fencer brings experiences that enrich the college. This is the type of person Admissions Directors like to have represented in their stacks of applications. Being a fencer is a distinct advantage for the college applicant.

You should certainly know how to maximize your chances of getting into the college where you want to go. Rule Number 1 (No other rule even comes close in order of importance!) is to get the best grades possible in high school. If you're a finalist in the World Championships and you do not have the grades, you will not be accepted into a college of high academic standing. Getting good grades gives you the option of deciding WHERE you

want to go rather than where you CAN go.

Finding out about colleges and their fencing programs is actually easier than most people think. Some things you can do are:

- Pick up the phone and call the Athletic Department at any school to find out what sort of fencing program they have. Sometimes, if you just call the Admissions Office or general information number you might be told that the school doesn't even have a team when, in fact, they have a full varsity program. I know of this happening three times this past year when high school fencers told me they decided against certain schools when told that the school did not have fencing.

- When you find out that a school has fencing, get the name of the coach; then give the coach a call. While some coaches may hound you, others believe that the fencer should not be actively recruited until the fencer makes the first move. Let it be known that you are interested in the school's program. (Although it is against the NCAA rules for the coach to initiate contact with student-athletes prior to July 1 after their junior year, a student-athlete, regardless of school year may initiate contact with a coach.) Ask the coach what sort of schedule they fence. Find out if they compete on days when the Junior Olympic Championships or North American Circuits are held. (Yes, some varsity teams actually schedule meets on these dates.) Ask about lessons and team training. Do not assume that you'll "never get to fence" if you go to a top-ranked fencing college. "Walk-ons" — students who entered college without any fencing experience — regularly compete on NCAA championship teams. Find out about the coach's prioritizing of athletics and aca-

demics. Ask about the graduation rate of fencers from that college. Ask yourself if you want to spend four years with this coach.

● Talk to other fencers who are in college. Ask them about their experience as a collegiate fencer. Find out what training is like at their school. Is their fencing improving? Are they enjoying it? What sort of opportunities exist for training with better fencers? Be sure also to ask them about their academic experiences! Can you achieve the level of academic excellence you desire at their school?

● Don't believe everything you read or hear about a school. Frequently, guidebooks on college selection have incorrect information as to what is offered at a school. Sometimes they will indicate that a major is or is not offered when the opposite is true. All too often you will hear that one school is in very dangerous area and another is in a very safe area when the truth is that security at the former is excellent and students at the latter are far more likely to be the victims of crime.

● It pains me to write this part of the article, but some of my colleagues' actions require me to warn you: Don't believe everything a coach tells you. Some will lie to get you to come to their school. When you are told that to get into a school you must apply early decision or tell the coach that you are definitely coming or go to that coach's summer camp, you are probably not getting the truth. If you start to feel that a coach is "boxing you in," that coach may not have your best interests at heart. Remember, you have to select the school that is best for you. If a coach is harassing you, stop dealing with that coach.

● Find out what the college requires for admission. Some applications require SAT's; some demand Achievement Tests. Make sure you fulfill all of the school's requirements. If you're not positive, ask the coach — he or she will be more than happy to help you meet the requirements. Have your standardized test scores sent directly to the colleges to which you are applying.

● Carefully check out the financial aid situation. While only a few colleges offer athletic scholarships, many colleges give grants based on need or other criteria. The question to propose to the coach is not "Do you have fencing scholarships?" but "How can I afford my college education?" Many students at what are thought to be very expensive colleges without "athletic scholarships" are easily able to afford their education.

● When you get your application, fill it out carefully. Do not write it by hand; type it. Make sure you don't do not use too many contractions or sentences such as "I fence good," and that your application makes the best possible impression for you. When it's finished, photocopy every page so you have a copy of what you send in. With thousands and thousands of applications coming into the Admissions Office, some are bound to get lost. You will not want to rewrite an entire application. Follow up with the high school teachers you have asked to write recommendations for you to ensure that they are

submitted on time.

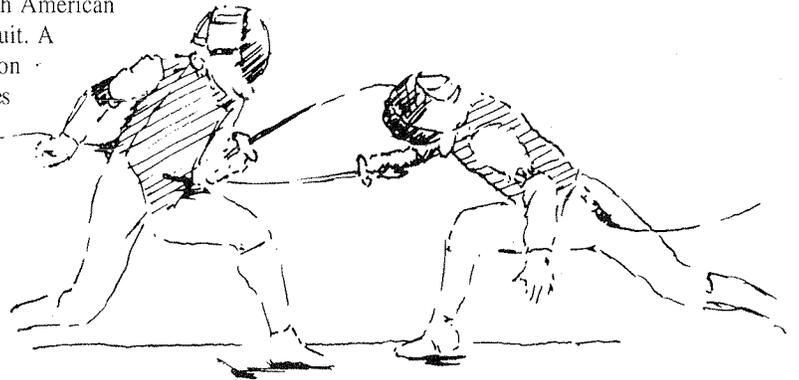
What part does the coach play in the application process? The coach will be a source of information for you, as well as a source of information about you to the Admissions Office. What the coach says about you may greatly influence the school's decision about your acceptance. How the coach deals with you will very likely influence your decision about whether or not you want to be accepted.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has many strict rules on how to treat a recruit. College coaches even have to take an examination administered by the NCAA on these rules. If a coach breaks these rules in dealing with you, you should probably question yourself as to whether or not you want to spend four years with such an unethical person. Here are but a few examples of what, unfortunately, actually goes on:

● You're a high school junior at the Junior Olympic Championships. A person comes up to you and says "You know, you should apply early decision to Just Herculean University; it's the only way I can be sure you'll get in. When I, Doug Omniscient, the wonder coach, tell the Admissions Office that you're definitely coming, they'll be sure to let you in. Otherwise ...."

It is against the rules for someone to be recruited before July 1, **after** the completion of their junior year of high school. It is also a common ploy to tell an unsuspecting recruit that a commitment is the only way that a person can get in — this is almost always used unduly as a means to pressure the recruit.

● You're a high school sophomore at a Cadet/Junior North American Circuit. A person comes up



to you between rounds and says "Hi, I'm Don Magnificent, coach of the University of Perfection, and I think you should come to my university after high school."

Not only is this person too young to recruit but the coach is specifically prohibited from recruiting someone during a competition while still in uniform. Actually, it is also very inconsiderate of a coach to do this — the fencer should be allowed to concentrate on his or her fencing at such a time. A good coach would never interrupt like this.

● You're a high school senior sitting at home. Jamie Kudos of Culmination University calls to say "You really don't want to go to Perfectly Splendid University; you'll never get enough lessons there. And, that city is

*See Fence in College? page 20*

## Letters

cont. from page 4

from the moment a combatant was hit until pain and reflex would incapacitate him. In the case of double hits, score nothing for the fencer hitting first (after all he's been hit) and penalize the fencer whose point arrives last with a negative score.

There would undoubtedly be countless objections to these proposals, but safety is the only legitimate one. Additional protection supplied by the technology of the 21st century provides a reasonable solution.

Remaining objections will be found rooted in a single problem: institutional resistance to change. Those who cannot or will not accept the proposed changes shouldn't have to. Offer slower and historically more realistic fencing as an alternative rather than a replacement. Leave the present regime in place, but give the "new game" a chance to develop, work out the bugs and gain popularity. In this way fencing overall would have something added while losing nothing.

Over the years it has become increasingly clear that fencing is growing moribund. It's final evolutionary step, especially with regard to the quest for yet greater speed, will be for us to simply fall upon our own weapons, and from the look of things I'd say we've just about got that technique mastered.

Frank Lurz  
President, La Salle d'Armes  
Mill Valley, CA

*Mr. Lurz's letter had to be extensively cut because of space considerations. Readers wishing an unabridged copy may write to him at 309 Todd Wy., Mill Valley, CA 94941. William Goering, USFA Vice President, offers the following support and suggestions.*

I assure you that the USFA administration is trying to address these issues. Your premise that disregard for the spectator is one root cause for our failure to attract a larger audience is valid. Our arcane and complex technical and organizational rules have made the sport incomprehensible to non-fencers. We haven't presented the sport well because we believe fencing isn't a spectator sport. I infer that you believe, as I do, that this is a myth, sustained only by our blind belief in it.

I offer some hope in this area. The FIE and the USFA are changing competition formats to make them more spectator- and media-friendly. The FIE may eliminate repechage, a mysterious system that ensures that losers make up one half the fencers in the finals; and separation of countrymen in the direct elimination, a practice that limits finals to a few countries and produces dull bouts there among teammates.

These innovations do not address the issue of speed. I hope we try to capture the artistry of high speed fencing with slow motion video before we adopt your suggestion for slowing down the action with heavier weapons. However, I see nothing wrong with alternative types of fencing. The Society for Creative Anachronism offers an alternative now. Perhaps the USFA can pursue an alliance to benefit both.

I believe that the major issue underlying your comments is the goal conflicts between competition and club fencers, two groups that want very different things from fencing. The person filling the newly established position of Marketing Director can guide us to incorporate members with diverse interests to the benefit of both groups.

Focus on competition led the USFA to neglect another of its important constituencies, the clubs — a major source of fencers. It will be my task to develop and promote USFA programs to support the vital activities of this important segment of our membership. ♦

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Maitre Yves Auriol demonstrates foil lesson with Michael Marx.	
<b>TRAINING WITH MICHAEL MARX</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
Michael Marx's training procedure. Useful for developing fencers.	
<b>FENCING GAMES</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
For clubs and schools. Describes and demonstrates 20 games of various types.	
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Basic footwork demonstrated.	
<b>EPEE FOR TWO</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
Epee drills — offense and defense — from the simple to the compound. For all levels.	
<b>FOIL REPAIR</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
A video prepared with Dan DeChaine to aid foilists in repairing their weapons.	
<b>EPEE REPAIR</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
A video prepared with Dan DeChaine to aid epeeists in repairing their weapons.	
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## The President's Corner

cont. from page 3

from Debbie Waples. In addition to Stacey Johnson and Mike Marx, USFA officers, there are so many Olympic fencers still actively involved in fencing as coaches, officials and committee members, that I hesitate to mention some for fear of inadvertently omitting others.

**A special thank you.** Since there are so many USFA volunteers who donate their time and effort to improve fencing for everyone, I want to end each President's Corner with a special "thank you." My special thanks and appreciation at this time go to Paul Friedberg. After being on the 1987 Pan Am and 1988 Olympic teams, Paul was elected by the athletes as their representative to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council (AAC). Paul continued the fine tradition of leadership established by his predecessors on the council by representing the AAC on the USOC Board of Directors.

Paul always found time to foster the interests of the athletes in the USOC and USFA, often at the expense of his own personal training schedule. I personally saw the outstanding job Paul did preparing comprehensive memos on issues of vital importance to athletes, organizing athlete participation in the USFA, and being available for any fencer who had a problem or needed advice.

Thanks, Paul, for your dedication and hard work. You set a noble example for Peter Westbrook, elected to serve the next four years. ♦

## To the Point

cont. from page 6

For those readers remotely curious, we consulted the books below for this article. The works are arranged in alphabetical order by first author's name not in order of increasing tedium. Bruce's & Green's *Visual Perception* is probably the least stultifying. ♦

Alpern, M., Lawrence, M. & Wolsk, D. *Sensory Processes* Belmont: Brooks/Cole Publishing Co., 1967

Bruce, V. & Green, P. *Visual Perception: Physiology, Psychology and Ecology* London: Laurence Earlbaum Assoc., 1985

Heuer, H. & Sanders, A.F. *Perspectives on Perception and Action* London: Laurence Earlbaum Assoc., 1987

Swets, J.A. (editor) *Signal Detection and Recognition by Human Observers* New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1964

Uttal, W.R. *A Taxonomy of Visual Processes* Hillsdale: Laurence Earlbaum Assoc., 1981

*Maestro Hurst's M.A. in Physical Education is put to good purpose coaching sabre fencers in Los Angeles and San Diego. Dr. Valsamis sits on the prestigious FIE Medical Commission and chairs the USFA Medical Commission.*

## Technical Talk

cont. from page 5

Treat the A and B loop the same way. There's no reason not to do the same for A and C, although this is an artificial connection. For epee, the same procedures will prove the quality of the reel for you. In epee, A and B are the signal path for a valid touch. Check B and C to see how the grounding will behave. For sabre, the circuits work as in foil.

And here is where I experienced the odd problems at those three competitions I mentioned above. With most reels, it is a wonder that this problem doesn't happen more often. Sometimes problems do occur, but with a high level of resistance that does not affthe machine, or sometimes only intermittently so.

So what is this peculiar problem? In a word, leakage. Great, you say, leakage of what? Electrons, if you insist. I recommend that anyone checking a reel do a supplemental test before sending it out to a competition as OK, A-1, no problems. The test: set your meter on a high resistance range, or at least on a middle range, and then put one meter lead into the A jack at the floor cable end and the other meter lead into the B jack at the fencer end. Do this with B and C, too, and then with A and C as well. As always when testing reels, make them rotate, pull on the wire, flex the cable, tug on the connectors.

What you're looking for is absolutely NOTHING on your meter. Any kind of flicker, needle jump, digital blinking, or whatever, is grounds for suspecting some kind of cross-connection — leakage — between lines where nothing should be detectable.

An actual reading in ohms is worse. It will probably be very high. It may even be out of the range to give you trouble, but how long will it stay that way? What is it doing there in the first place? Somehow the lines are getting crossed. Maybe some insulation has worn away, maybe conductive grit is bridging connectors on the commutator, maybe brushes are actually touching — perhaps just occasionally (a very good cause of intermittents, which we really love). ♦

*Away from the strip, Joe Byrnes spins tales of the poets as a professor of Literature at New York University.*

## Skillman & Marx – Athletes of the Year

The USFA recently announced its outstanding male and female athletes for 1992: Laurel Skillman and Michael Marx. Their names have been placed in nomination for the United States Olympic Committee's SportsMan and SportsWoman of the Year, to be announced in January.

**Michael Marx** earned the title "comeback kid" during the year just concluded. Sidelined by a shoulder injury that kept him from the '91 Nationals and Pan Am Games, the record-holding seven-time National Champion returned to the competitive arena with only fair results (13th) in the first two Olympic trials. Marx then turned on the heat, garnering the gold at the third Olympic trial in Detroit and taking the silver at the '92 National Championships.

Marx's results earned him a place at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, becoming only the 16th fencer in history to fence on four or more Olympic Teams. Marx's other achievements include membership on eight World Championship teams, a silver medal at the 1985 World University Games (the highest US finish to date) and a bronze medal at the 1987 Pan American Games. In addition, Marx has been honored on four previous occasions as USFA Athlete of the Year.

Recently elected Vice President of the USFA, Marx and his wife, Leslie (a member of the '92 Women's Epee World Championship team) train future fencers in South Bend, Indiana.

**Laurel Skillman**, Palo Alto, California, made US fencing history this past season, becoming the first American woman to win an "A" World Cup Tournament, the most rigorous level of world



cup competition. In April, she defeated Italy's Corinne Panzeri for the gold medal in Havana.

Only seven months prior to that heroic victory, Skillman out-fenced Cuban Yamila Figueroa in the final bout of the gold medal team match, bringing the US a gold medal in the 1991 Pan American Games.

More recently, Skillman won the '92 North American Circuit #3, and took a bronze at the '92 National Championships, securing her berth on the 1992 Women's Epee World Championship team that finished seventh in Havana last July, the best US result since the introduction of women's epee to the World Championships in 1989.

Off the strip, Skillman uses her BA in Communications in her position as Marketing Manager for MacUser Magazine. She and her epeeist husband, Peter, train at Halberstadt Fencing Academy in San Francisco's historic south-of-Market district. ♦



## Official's Lounge

cont. from page 8

Study the rules. Bring your rule book with you to each and every competition. Learn how to articulate your impression of what occurred on the strip according to the rules. Every official will have to deal with a protest at some point, but I can honestly say I have never lost a protest because I know exactly what to say — nothing more, nothing less.

One of the most important aspects of being a good fencing official is to respect your limitations. I remember, years ago, I was directing over my head in the third round of Women's Foil at the National Championships. I was removed. Every director has a bad day every now and then and there is nothing wrong with removing yourself if you just can't see the touches.

Officiating has been a great experience for me. I've traveled all over the world and I've made fast friends in foreign countries and across our own nation. My experiences as a director in fencing have helped me develop skills useful in my professional life.

As FOC Chairman, I want to encourage you to join me in this exciting, noble experience. I'll help you develop and refine your skills in any way possible. To that end I'll be a regular contributor to American Fencing with a column on the rules and the way to call them. If you have questions on officiating you'd like to see answered in upcoming "Official's Lounge" columns, please write to me in care of our National Office, 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909. ♦

*Russell Wilson, newly elected chairman of the FOC, is a holy terror on the international directing circuit.*

## Fence in College?

cont. from page 17

really unsafe." "Negative recruiting" is truly dishonorable.

● You're a high school senior between rounds at a North American Open Circuit. Eddie Kingpin, coach at Nos Somos State, tells you 1) you'll definitely start if you come to Nos Somos State, 2) he'll make you a champion, and 3) you'll never become any good anywhere else.

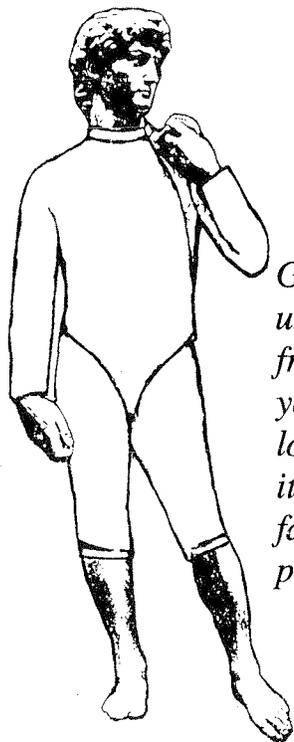
Ask yourself questions about this team and this coach. If you're told that you will definitely start, how many other fencers are told the same thing ... or is this really a weak team. If the coach is so egocentric that he believes only he can make you a champion, maybe this coach doesn't realize that it will be you who gets on the strip to fence and not he.

Most coaches do not break the rules, but all too many do. Be aware. The rules are such that a coach must, during certain times of the year (called "black out" or "dead" periods), not even speak with you if you call or stop by for a visit. The rules prohibit the coach from giving you a pencil with the school's name on it, much less a team t-shirt. Most rules were written to protect you, the recruit, from inordinate and improper recruiting.

After all the letters of acceptance have been received, when you have finally made your decision, write a note to all of the coaches you contacted, letting them know where you will be going and letting them know you appreciate their efforts. ♦

*While submitted anonymously, the above article is fully credentialed, having been reviewed by a NCAA compliance officer and by Sherry Posthumus, chairperson of the NCAA's Committee on Fencing.*

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(\* Just kidding, Michael, no need to get your lawyers involved.)



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## Below the Belt

cont. from page 11

would run the risk of his blade getting caught in flowing trousers or coat-tails. Later on, cummerbunds and high-reaching trousers would protect the opponents stomach from light cuts below the rib-cage. Both the lightweight blades of civilian cut-and-thrust weapons and the limited momentum of finger- and wrist-generated cuts made for only superficial wounds — if they penetrated clothing at all.

The most convincing argument, however, is that hitting below the belt had more disadvantages to fighters than advantages. The most effective target for cut-and-thrust fencers are head, neck, arm and chest. A thrust to the heart or solarplexus, a cut to the neck, or a hit in eye or mouth resulted in a quick kill. Disabling time cuts against the opponent's sword arm, or a bleeding scalp wound whose bloodflow obscured a fighter's vision would have sufficed for an interruption, maybe even termination of the duel. It was therefore prudent to concentrate on these targets during duel preparation and training. A fencer who cuts at an opponent's legs opens his torso and head to an attack and endangers his own life. He also runs the risk of his blade getting caught in the advancing opponent's legs, virtually disarming himself.

These considerations determined the fencing style during training and the actual duel. Toward the last third of the 19th century, duels were strictly regulated by codices of honor, with rules enforced by seconds, umpires and the nemesis of spectators. The preparation for this ritualized form of combat laid the groundwork for the rules of modern fencing. It was these dictates of prudence and caution, rather than consideration for horseflesh, that translated into fixed rules and target definitions as fencing developed from a practical martial art into a competitive sport. ♦

*Christoph Amberger avoids hitting below the belt at Salle Palasz in Baltimore, Maryland.*

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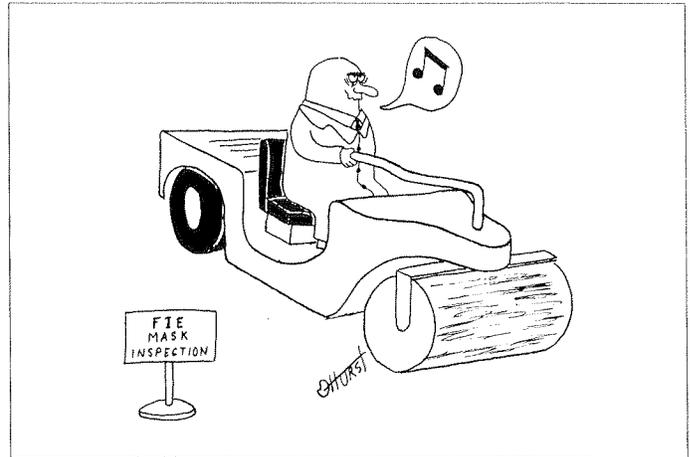
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## Coach's Column

cont. from page 9

Add bladework to the footwork drill to loosen up the hand and shoulder. If there is time, finish the warm-up with a brief two- or three-touch bout. Remember, however, warm-up bouts are not part of the tournament: don't waste your energy for a couple of spectacular hits that don't earn you a touch.

Ideally you'll finish your warm-up about 15 to 20 minutes before bouts actually begins. During the remaining time, check your equipment one more time, locate your strip and find a place where you'll stay during the pool. Put on a lightweight jacket and pants to maintain the body temperature you established in your warm-up.

Repeat an abbreviated version of your warm-up right before your pool begins to fence. This time, you should only need a couple of minutes to raise your heartbeat, exercise your legs and arms with foot-and hand-drills, and loosen up. Now is the time to focus on shaping your mood. If you're anxious or fearful, try to increase your emotional response through anger, excitement or some other "hot" response. Emotional situations trigger the secretion of catecholamines, neurotransmitters, like dopamin, epinephrine and neuroepinephrine, which carry messages between nerve endings. These substances quicken your response time.

Before each bout, develop a plan of attack based on information about your opponent developed from previous encounters — either noted in earlier tournaments or observed with other fencers that day. If you have absolutely no knowledge of his or her fencing style, spend a moment or two at the beginning of the bout testing the waters. With each action, try to analyze your opponent's actions along three aspects: bladework, distance and timing. From the analysis, adjust your actions.

Check, too, how your emotional state has influenced your opponent's mood and ability to react. And don't overlook assessing how your mood affects the judge's decision. After each bout check your position regarding promotion to the next round. Check to ensure that your score (and your opponent's) was recorded correctly, too!

Between rounds, check your equipment and repair if necessary. Eat and drink small quantities to stave off an attack of hunger. And, work on recovery of strength and stamina by inhaling fresh air. Prepare for the next round with another mini-warm-up. ♦

*Cheyenne Fencing Society coach, Janusz Bednarski, most recently worked his warm-up routine with the Junior Pan Am team in Merida, Venezuela.*

# RESULTS

## JUNIOR PAN AM GAMES MERIDA, VENEZUELA OCTOBER 5 - 11, 1992

### Women's Foil - 24 Entries

1. Idores Diaz, Cuba
2. Odalis Gorvet, Cuba
3. Marie Hervieu, Canada
- Mitsey Dussu, Cuba
8. Sarah Cathey, USA

### Men's Foil - 22 Entries

1. Maxim Soucy, Canada
2. Alberto Gonzales, Argentina
3. Rafael Suarez, Venezuela
- Cameron Smith, Canada
13. Rob Conway, USA
15. Brian Moroney, USA

### Women's Epee - 22 Entries

1. Milagros Palma, Cuba
2. Marnie Arteaga, Venezuela
3. Mariela Gonzales, Cuba
- Melissa Serano, Puerto Rico
14. Kristen Grisham, USA

### Sabre - 15 Entries

1. Carlos Bravo, Venezuela
2. Diego Draier, Argentina
3. Candido Maya, Cuba
- Phillippe Buist, Canada
6. Jason Levin, USA
9. Dominik Kulakowski, USA

### Men's Epee - 26 Entries

1. Leandro Rosa, Brazil
2. Osmel Gonzales, Venezuela
3. Kimo Quaintance, USA
- Yunier Perez, Cuba
23. Chris Swope, USA

## YOUTH NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT PORTLAND, OREGON OCTOBER 3 - 4, 1992

### U15 Girls Foil - 16 Entries

1. Elspeth Wilson, Colorado
2. Melinda Rostal, Minnesota
3. Esperance Schaefer, Metro NY

### U15 Girls Epee - 8 Entries

1. Lauren O'Brien, Colorado
2. Elspeth Wilson, Colorado
3. Whitney Anderson, Colorado

### U15 Boys Sabre - 10 Entries

1. Christopher Akeman, Georgia
2. Michael Stahlhut, Georgia
3. Arthur Lam, Western NY

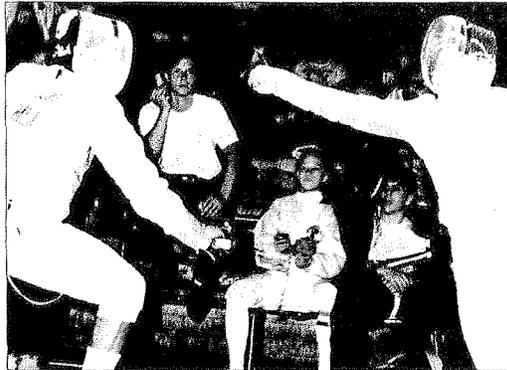
### U15 Boys Foil - 32 Entries

1. Eric Tribbett, Colorado
2. Raphael Bruckner, New England
3. Jedediah Dupree, Western NY

### U15 Boys Epee - 14 Entries

1. Eric Tribbett, Colorado
2. Scott Rostal, Minnesota
3. Neil Lukas, Western NY

Jason Levin  
(R) attacks  
Trejo of  
Mexico in  
preparation  
during the  
team match at  
Junior Pan  
Ams in  
Venezuela.



### U13 Girls Foil - 13 Entries

1. Melinda Rostal, Minnesota
2. Kate Rudkin, Colorado
3. Estee Marche, Colorado

### U13 Girls Epee - 2 Entries

1. Kate Rudkin, Colorado
2. Estee Marche, Colorado

### U13 Boys Foil - 20 Entries

1. Michael Mosca, Oklahoma
2. Henry Pruitt, Oregon
3. Peter Cellini, Louisiana

### U13 Boys Epee - 4 Entries

1. Kraig Peterson, Western NY
2. Neil Lukas, Western NY
3. Greer Rabiega, Oregon

### U11 Girls Foil - 4 Entries

1. Melanie Takagi, Georgia
2. Skye Burchfield, West. Washington
3. Veronica Gilbert, Oregon

### U11 Boys Foil - 13 Entries

1. Andrew Poon, Oregon
2. Sean Kane, Oregon
3. Mitchell Freed, Oregon

## CADET/JUNIOR #1 NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT STANFORD, CALIFORNIA OCTOBER 23 - 25, 1992

### U17 Men's Foil - 62 Entries

1. Cliff Bayer, Metro NY
2. Reinhold Longenbach, Met NY
3. Peter Devine, Metro NY
4. Alex Wood, Western NY
5. Graham, Kelly, Louisiana
6. Seth Talbot, W. Washington
7. Darren Raphael, Cen. California
8. Jonathan Charles, N. California

### U17 Men's Epee - 32 Entries

1. Tom Peng, San Bernardino
2. Noah Zucker, S. Texas
3. David Madero, Border TX
4. Alden Clarke, Colorado
5. John Gringeri, New Jersey
6. James Neal, W. Washington
7. Andrew Cherry, Oregon
8. Nathaniel Strauss, New England

### U17 Men's Sabre - 24 Entries

1. Elliott Clinton, Western NY
2. Paul Palestis, New Jersey
3. Jeremy Summers, Kansas
4. Graham Brooks, Western NY
5. Andrew Choi, New Jersey
6. Terrence Lasker, Kansas
7. Albert Sunwoo, New Jersey
8. Robert Crane, Georgia

### U17 Women's Foil - 36 Entries

1. Monique DeBruin, Oregon
2. Sara Walsh, Indiana
3. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
4. Alison Calabria, Capitol
5. Jennifer Reiter, N. Ohio
6. Myriah Brown, Indiana
7. Jill Katz, New Jersey
8. Iris Zimmermann, Western NY

### U17 Women's Epee - 14 Entries

1. Lauren O'Brien, Colorado
2. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
3. Nicole Dygert, Western NY
4. Bettina Burleigh, Western NY
5. Anastasia Gunzburg, Capitol
6. Wendy Hall, Colorado
7. Merideth Rising, Colorado
8. Tamara Hancock, Oregon

### U20 Men's Foil - 82 Entries

1. Rob Conway, Michigan
2. Colin Clinton, Western NY
3. Cliff Bayer, Metro NY
4. Jeremy Siek, Oregon
5. Sean McClain, Western NY
6. Brian Moroney, New Jersey
7. Peter Devine, Metro NY
8. Jeffrey Feinblatt, S. California

### U20 Men's Epee - 73 Entries

1. Jeffery Feinblatt, S. California
2. Garret Povar, Colorado
3. Gregory Gregor, Western NY
4. Eric Hansen, N. California
5. Kimo Quaintance, Colorado
6. David Ensign, Indiana
7. Jawdat Bitar, New Jersey
8. Gerald Cheng, Mt. Valley

### U20 Men's Sabre - 56 Entries

1. Jason Levin, San Diego
2. Anthony Crupi, New Jersey
3. George Kalmar, Louisiana
4. Jerome Cordero, Long Island
5. Ian Keller, New Jersey
6. Elliott Clinton, Western NY
7. Michael McCune, Michigan
8. John Warren, New Jersey

### U20 Women's Foil - 63 Entries

1. Monique DeBruin, Oregon
2. Julianna Sikes, Western NY
3. Sara Walsh, Indiana
4. Carin Wolf, Illinois
5. Tasha Martin, Oregon
6. Claudette DeBruin, Oregon
7. Morgan Hoch, N. California
8. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado

### U20 Women's Epee - 28 Entries

1. Bettina Burleigh, Western NY
2. Morgan Hoch, N. California
3. Nicole Dygert, Western NY
4. Kristen Grisham, Colorado
5. Lisa Picken, Oklahoma
6. Brooke Schneider, Michigan
7. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
8. Claudette DeBruin, Oregon

## CADET/JUNIOR #2 NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT KANSAS CITY, KANSAS NOVEMBER 21 - 22, 1992

### U17 Men's Foil - 54 Entries

1. Graham, Kelly, Louisiana
2. Dan Kellner, New Jersey
3. Cliff Bayer, Metro NY
4. Peter Devine, Metro NY
5. Colin Clinton, Western NY
6. Donald McGill, S. California
7. Joshua Stauffer, Cen. California
8. Max Tyomkin, Cen. California

### U17 Men's Epee - 30 Entries

1. Monty Tuominen, Oregon
2. David Madero, Border TX
3. Tom Peng, San Bernardino
4. Darnell Shaahid, Western PA
5. Jesse Orman, Minnesota
6. Aiden Clarke, Colorado
7. John Gringeri, New Jersey
8. Andrew Cherry, Oregon

### U17 Men's Sabre - 32 Entries

1. Daniel Valter, St. Louis
2. Paul Palestis, New Jersey
3. Terrence Lasker, Kansas
4. Elliott Clinton, Western NY
5. Jeremy Summers, Kansas
6. Michael Stahlhut, Georgia
7. Eric Chang, New Jersey
8. Reza Yazdani, Kansas

**U17 Women's Foil – 42 Entries**

1. Sara Walsh, Indiana
2. Monique DeBruin, Oregon
3. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
4. Iris Zimmermann, Western NY
5. Alison Calapia, Capitol
6. Soledad Simont, Mexico
7. Katherine Lane, Metro NY
8. Myriah Brown, Indiana

**U17 Women's Epee – 20 Entries**

1. Lauren O'Brien, Colorado
2. Nicole Dygert, Western NY
3. Soledad Simont, Mexico
4. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
5. Tamara Hancock, Oregon
6. Abigail Rosen, Metro NY
7. Whitney Anderson, Colorado
8. Caitlin Rich, New Jersey

**U20 Men's Foil – 88 Entries**

1. Sean McClain, Western NY
2. Rob Conway, Michigan
3. Peter Devine, Metro NY
4. Cliff Bayer, Metro NY
5. Jeremy Siek, Oregon
6. Andy Gearhart, Western NY
7. Jeffrey Feinblatt, S. California
8. Brian Moroney, New Jersey

**U20 Men's Epee – 67 Entries**

1. Sean McClain, Western NY
2. Nathan Anderson, Colorado
3. Kimo Quaintance, Colorado
4. James Dewitt, N. Texas
5. Jeremy Kahn, New Jersey
6. Jeffery Feinblatt, S. California
7. Christopher Klaus, New Jersey
8. Ben Maitre, Colorado

**U20 Men's Sabre – 55 Entries**

1. Serge Lilov, New Jersey
2. George Kalmar, Louisiana
3. Ryan McKim, Indiana
4. Terrence Lasker, Kansas
5. Anthony Crupi, New Jersey
6. Paul Palestis, New Jersey
7. Daniel Valter, St. Louis
8. Tripp Stewart, Westchester

**U20 Women's Foil – 66 Entries**

1. Felicia Zimmermann, Western NY
2. Julianna Sikes, Western NY
3. Margaret Super, Cen. PA
4. Tasha Martin, Oregon
5. Carin Wolf, Illinois
6. Sara Walsh, Indiana
7. Sarah Cathey, Minnesota
8. Myriah Brown, Indiana

**U20 Women's Epee – 35 Entries**

1. Lauren O'Brien, Colorado
2. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
3. Bettina Burleigh, Western NY
4. Nicole Dygert, Western NY
5. Soledad Simont, Mexico
6. Claudette DeBruin, Oregon
7. Morgan Hoch, N. California
8. Anastasia Gunzburg, Capitol

**5TH ANNUAL BOB  
SIMONDS OPEN  
ARIZONA STATE UNIV.  
TEMPE, ARIZONA  
SEPTEMBER 5 - 6, 1992**
**Mens's Foil – 46 Entries**

1. Nick Bravin, S. California
2. Derek Cotton, N. California
3. Graham Kelley, Louisiana
4. Thorin Nielsen, New Mexico
5. Wes Waldron, S. California
6. Bill Oliver, Colorado
7. Jeff Feinblatt, S. California
8. Chris Warlick, Cen. California

**Men's Epee – 31 Entries**

1. Rob Stull, South Texas
2. Karl Niemann, Colorado
3. Michael Menhall, S. California
4. Eric Speicher, S. California
5. Mark Erickson, S. California
6. Mike Mann, New Mexico
7. Ed Sarphie, S. California
8. Bill Oliver, Colorado

**BLADERUNNER  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
AT SAN DIEGO  
OCTOBER 18, 1992**
**Men's Epee – 28 Entries**

1. Mark Erickson, Mori
2. Michael Mehal, Salle Gascon
3. Doug Thistlethwaite, Saufen

**Men's Foil – 42 Entries**

1. Monseri, Unatt.
2. Douraghy, Unatt.
3. Brown, Halberstadt

**Women's Foil – 17 Entries**

1. Linda Beyer, Couturier
2. Scarvie, San Diego FC
3. Horton, College of the Desert

**Men's Sabre – 43 Entries**

1. Chris Warlick, The Fencing Center
2. Ferenc Lukacs, Couturier
3. Attilo Tass, Tucson



*Margo Miller, far right, found the gold on the strip at the Duel in the Desert's women's epee open in Las Vegas. Elizabeth Spilman, center, took the silver and Sarah Healy, left, the bronze.*

**8TH ANNUAL  
NEW MEXICO OPEN  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO  
OCTOBER 31, 1992**
**Men's Foil – 43 Entries**

1. Frank Fox, S. California
2. Mark Niemiec, Colorado
3. Tom Lutton, Colorado

**Men's Epee – 36 Entries**

1. Mark Segal, New Mexico
2. Roger Bishop, Plains Texas
3. Mark Niemiec, Colorado

**Women's Foil – 18 Entries**

1. Sherry Woodruff, Colorado
2. Vicki Walsh, Colorado
3. Heidi Gibson, Colorado

**Women's Epee – 13 Entries**

1. Susan Borgos, Colorado
2. Jordana Pilmanis, Colorado
3. Robbi Hernandez, North Texas

**Mixed Sabre – 21 Entries**

1. Don Anthony, SW Ohio
2. Rob Madril, New Mexico
3. Kevin Moffatt, Colorado

**DUEL IN THE DESERT  
GREEN VALLEY AC  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
NOVEMBER 7, 1992**
**Men's Epee – 36 Entries**

1. Robert Marx, Oregon
2. Paul Soter, N. California
3. Bill Gelnaw, S. California
4. Evan Ranes, Nevada
5. Mike Higgs, Georgia
6. Michael Mehall, S. California
7. Mage White, S. California
8. Karl Neimann, Colorado

**Women's Epee – 16 Entries**

1. Margo Miller, S. California
2. Elizabeth Spillman, S. California
3. Sarah Healy, S. California
4. Suzanne Marx, Oregon
5. Jennifer Dyer, Colorado
6. Cindy Runyon, San Bernardino
7. Carla Aldrete, Border Texas
8. Kathy Thistlethwaite, San Bernardino

**DANCES WITH SWORDS  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1992**
**Mixed Epee – 13 Entries**

1. Jesse Orman, Twin Cities FC
2. Robert Blat, Twin Cities FC
3. Bruce Chandler, Univ. So. Dakota

**Mixed Foil – 21 Entries**

1. Gary Hayenga, Twin Cities FC
2. Damon Scaggs, Lincoln FC
3. Charles Higgs-Coulthard, Escrime du Lac

**FALL FENCING FROLIC  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
OCTOBER 31, 1992**
**Sabre – 7 Entries**

1. Kurt Hausman, Spokane FU
2. Jon Lorenz, Whitman FC
3. Kinley Deller, Whitman FC

**Epee – 7 Entries**

1. Craig Evarts, Spokane FU
2. Noble Keyes, Spokane FU
3. Kurt Hausman, Spokane Fencers

**Foil – 15 Entries**

1. Craig Evarts, Spokane FU
2. Kurt Hausman, Spokane FU
3. Kinley Deller, Whitman FC

## The Fencer's Stenciller

Robert Marx returned from the Olympic Games in Barcelona with a mission, propelled by a reporter's off-hand comment. In describing what he had observed of fencing, the reporter said he watched men, dressed in white, move toward each other; lights flashed; both men looked at a man who seemed to be in charge; hands waved; and then the men in white started all over again. Marx knew he had to do something to redeem the anonymity of our men in white.

At the Games, each competitor's name and country were stencilled on the back of jackets and lames. This simple personalization changed the dynamics of the bout: Now spectators recognized their countrymen, they knew who to cheer for!

Thus began Marx Enterprises, comprised of Robert, his fencing wife, Suzanne Brown Marx, brother Bill Marx and Dan Krause. The group began personalizing fencing apparel and equipment at the October Junior Cadet Circuit held at Stanford University. The process conforms to FIE specifications and does not impair the conductivity of the lame.

Marx Enterprises will be at national senior and junior tournaments through the season. For more information write to them at 7825 SW 11th, Portland, OR 97219; or call (503) 245-9271.

## Junior Fencing Exchange Program

Last summer a group of Scottish junior fencers visited the US, staying with fencing families in Shreveport, LA; Little Rock, AK and Phoenix, AZ. Organizers of that trip have now reciprocated with an

invitation to our junior fencers, ages 14 to 20, to travel to Scotland in July, 1993. Housing for juniors will be provided by local families; accompanying adults may stay in bed-and-breakfasts for approximately \$30 per night. Interested fencers and/or chaperones should contact Shelia Higgs-Coulthard, 10397 E. Desert Cove Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

## USFCA Masters & Prevosts Tourney

The 1993 USFCA Championships for member Masters and Prevosts d'Armes will be held on Saturday, June 12 at the site of the US National Championships in Ft. Myers, Florida. Scheduled competitions include foil, epee and sabre (electrical), all fenced round-robin.

For further information please contact Richard Gradkowski, USFCA Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 274, New York, NY 10159; phone: (212) 532-2557.

## Russell Karl Wieder, 1907 - 1992

Lifelong educator, athlete and coach, Russell Wieder died in Waco, Texas, recently. His coaching days spanned 30 years — 15 at Texas A & M — and produced eight national champions who went on to compete in the Olympic Games. Wieder was a charter member of the United States Fencing Coaches Association. His widow asks that memorial contributions be made to the Texas A & M Fencing Club, 159 Read Building, College Station, TX 77840.

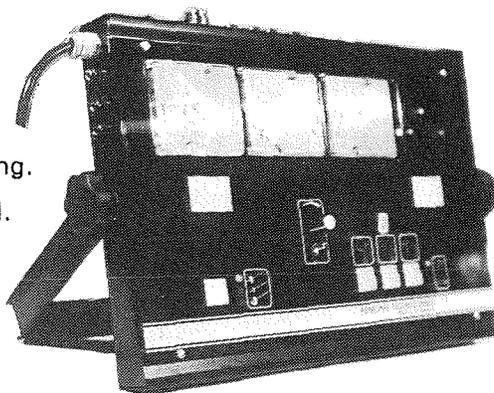
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- **Contact:** Richard J. Marciano ▪ **Address:** P.O. Box 3154, Iowa City, Iowa, 52244-3154 ▪
- **Phone:** (319) 337-4128 ▪ **E-Mail Address:** richard-marciano@uiowa.edu ▪ **FAX:** (319) 337-4128 ▪

## FIE Rule Changes

Please note the following changes in your rule book: In Article 762b, Paragraph 7, add new text "If contact between the blade and the opponent's target occurs 'through the blade,' the touch

- must be registered between 1 and 5 ms ( $\pm 1$  ms)
- must not be registered between 5 and 10 ms ( $\pm 1$  ms)
- must always be registered from 10 ms to 210 ms."

To Article 555c/4 add "However, in an incomplete table, a fencer who earns a bye due to his ranking may not be moved into a position where he would have to fence an opponent."

To Article 15, last line, add "Change 0.3 m to 0.5 m (maximum allowable height of raised strip)."

Once again the FIE has announced that the new epee points are required for competition in World Cup events effective September 1, 1992. The new points are **not** required for USFA competitions. The FIE and the USFA adopted a second weapons check prior to finals.

## Coaching for Coaches

San Francisco's Halberstadt Fencing Academy plans its fourth series of fencing instructor training courses for summer '93. Three courses will be offered: The German Lesson System, an introduction to the relatively simple, theoretically sound, internally consistent system that has proven results; International-Level Coaching, a special seminar in current techniques led by Walter Steegmueller, head epee coach at the German National Training Center in Heidenheim; and a five-day course in Physical Education Teacher Training providing basic fencing skills, teaching strategies, organization and methodology of beginning and intermediate classes, and an overview of competition.

Course schedule and additional information available from Halberstadt Fencing Academy, 621 S. Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110; or call Kathy Krusen at (415) 863-3838.

## Applications for 1993 Coaches College Will Be Mailed in March

The 1993 USFA Coaches College will offer Basic Foil; Level One Foil, Epee and Sabre; and Level Two Foil, Epee and Sabre. In addition, special courses of the American Coaching Effectiveness Program (ACEP), Motor Learning and Small Business Management will be scheduled. Certification is available for any participant wishing to take the examination. College credit, available through the University of North Carolina, is available for an additional fee.

The following criteria apply in accepting candidates: For Basic Foil, the applicant must be actively teaching; priority is given to club or school coaches over teachers in community education or recreation classes. Physical Education teachers (non-fencers) receive special consideration, likewise coaches working with juniors. Geographic distribution is considered for nationwide representation. For Level

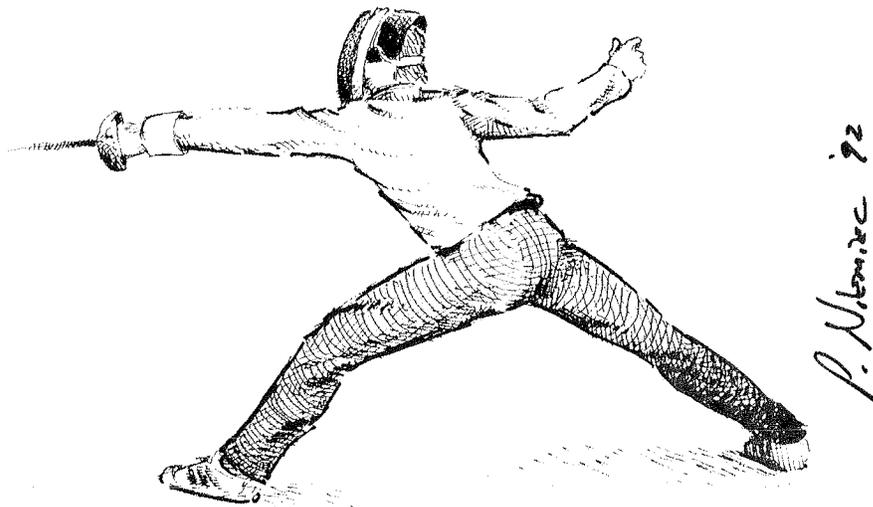
One, the applicant must have completed Basic Foil at the Coaches College or a Regional Camp. For Level Two, the applicant must have completed Level One in the same weapon.

Applications will be sent out by the National Office during March, 1993; the application deadline is May 1, 1993. For additional information, please contact Coaches College Project Managers, Alex Beguinot at (919) 967-1205 or Vinnie Bradford at (512) 453-1055.

## Save the Date

The United States Air Force Academy and the Colorado Division host the annual Nick Toth Memorial Open on Feb 6 and 7 at the Academy in Colorado Springs. For additional information, contact Capt. George Chandler at (719) 472-3429.

The Toth celebrates the USAF Falcon fencing team coach who compiled a record of 194 to 30 and developed 10 All-American fencers during his 21 years at the Academy.

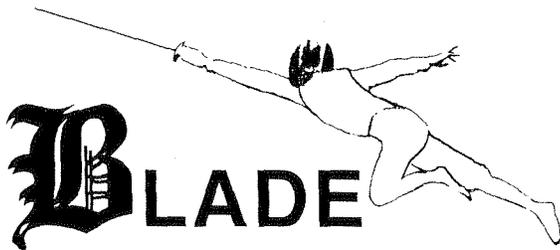


## USFA Board of Directors Awards '94 Nationals to Salt Lake City

At the annual meeting of the USFA Board of Directors, held September 26 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, the governing body of the organization decided a number of major items, including a return to the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City for the 1994 National Championships, June 4 through 12. The 1995 Junior Olympic Championships were awarded to San Jose, California.

The Board voted to increase the entry fee for NAC Open events from \$35 to \$50, with \$3 of the increase being added to the processing fee retained by the National Office, and an additional \$12 going to the organizer. Plus, the Board adopted a Tournament Committee proposal to restructure national events as a one-year experiment for the 1993-94 season. It is hoped that the restructuring will alleviate some of the financial burden currently borne by tournament organizers while still ensuring the highest quality officiating and technical support for fencers.

*Continued on following page*  
25



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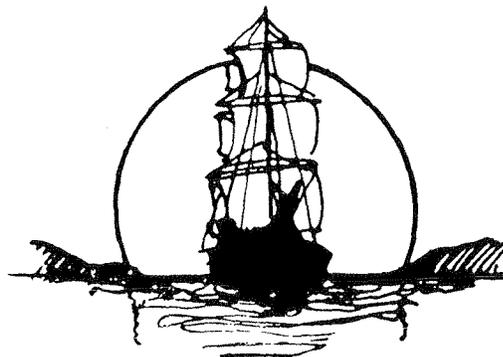
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Sabre	\$128	\$105
Epee	\$120	\$105

\*Underarm Protector (Plastron) — not included — mandatory for USFA competition and strongly recommended for all bouts.

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 weapon, all required connectors  
 and electric gear

	Regular Price	Blade Special Price
Foil <sup>1</sup>	\$99.50	\$90.00
Sabre <sup>2</sup>	\$287.50	\$260.00
Epee <sup>3</sup>	\$51.50	\$45.00

<sup>1</sup> Foil: body cord, front-zip lame

<sup>2</sup> Sabre: body cord, connector, lame, mask

<sup>3</sup> Epee: body cord

In other business, the Board: elected a new editor for American Fencing; merged Club Awards and Club Incentive programs; voted to support hosting the 1993 Junior and Cadet World Championships, April 7 - 12, in Denver; approved including a Women's Sabre Team event at the 1993 National Championships (provided that there are at least six teams entered that have qualified through normal procedures); and authorized the establishment of a marketing program and budget.

The next meeting of the USFA Board of Directors is scheduled for February 13, 1993 at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs during the '93 Junior Olympic Championships.

## Neil Diamond Kicks Off Fundraising for Atlanta Fencing Project

Popular entertainer, and former fencer, Neil Diamond presented a \$2500 check recently to Elaine Cheris, co-chairperson of the Atlanta Fencing Project (AFP), in support of the project's intention to increase the visibility of fencing and promote the inclusion of women's epee in the '96 Games.

The dream of adding women's epee to the roster of Olympic events moves closer to reality. Rene Roch, president of the Federation Internationale d'Esclime (FIE), recently confirmed his support for the weapon and described proposals to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that make inclusion possible.

"These modifications would permit us to hold two weapons each day and, as a consequence, the championships would be held in six instead



Sam and Elaine Cheris accept Neil Diamond's Atlanta Fencing Project donation targeted for promotion of women's epee.

of eleven days," said Roch. "Mr. Gilbert Felli, director of sports, has indicated to me that women's epee could, therefore, be included in the Atlanta Games."

You can help the goals of Atlanta Fencing Project: Contribute \$10 to Atlanta Fencing Project and receive a t-shirt with the AFP logo. Donate \$25 for an associate membership in the USFA and a t-shirt. To participate, send your name, address, club affiliation and shirt size (S, M, L, XL) to the USFA, 1750 E. Boulder, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Consider giving contributions as gifts.

Develop a working relationship with your local media. Tell at least one new person each day about fencing. Conduct fencing demonstrations at public schools, service clubs. And, promote new and renewing memberships. It all helps.

## Felicia Zimmermann Ranked 11th on Junior World Point List

Two top-12 finishes at Junior World Cup tournaments tied Rochester Fencing Center's Felicia Zimmermann for 11th place in the Junior World Cup standings announced the Federation Internationale d'Esclime (FIE), fencing's governing body.

Zimmermann finished 12th at this season's opening tournament in Waldkirch, Germany. Two weeks later she finished in 11th place in Pistoia, Italy. "Last year Felicia finished 14th at the January '92 World Cup in Budapest, then took the bronze at the World Cadet Championships in Bonn. Her fast, strong start this season places her solidly among the top competitors in the international community," said her coach, Buckie Leach.

Her domestic results are equally impressive: The youngest women's foil finalist at '92 Nationals, Zimmermann defeated defending champ Mary Jane O'Neill and went on to finish fourth, earning her the first alternate position on the 1992 Olympic Team.

Zimmermann ranks as an achiever off the strip, too. In her last year at Monroe School of the Arts, she's maintained a 3.89 academic average in spite of missing 49 days of school last year because of fencing-related travel. Plus, she's an accomplished pianist and an award-winning artist. While undeniably multi-talented, her accomplishments in all venues — fencing, scholastic, artistic — come from hard work and a commitment to excellence.

## 25th Last Annual Silverton Tourney

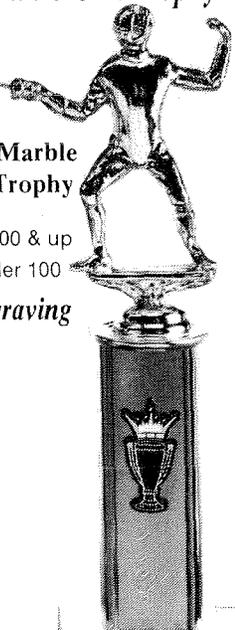
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# Report from the Olympic Games

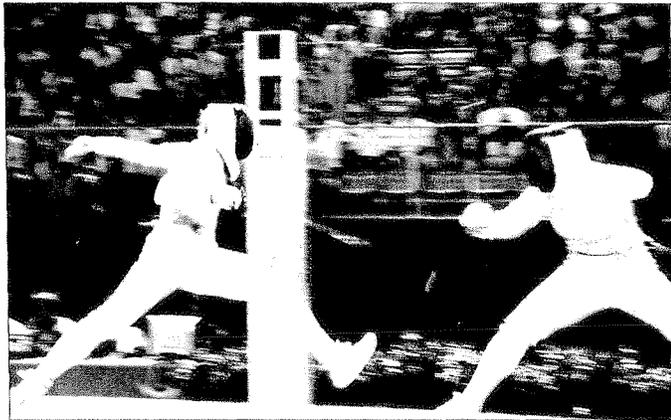
cont. from page 15

run for his money but lost in three encounters.

Team events for the 1992 Olympics were limited to twelve entries; the US qualified teams only in sabre but were allowed to field a women's foil team when Spain withdrew. The format for each event had four pools of three teams qualifying two teams to the final of eight. Seeded in twelfth place, the women's foil team drew France and China. In sabre, the US team drew Romania and France for the first-round pool. Both teams finished in ninth place.

Our gratitude goes out to Dan DeChaine, team armorer, who once again provided assistance of the highest caliber; team coaches Aladar Kogler, Yves Auriol and Wes Glon; Francisco Martin for his invaluable planning assistance; and Edgar House, a tireless behind-the-scenes advocate for our sport. House brought numerous USOC officials — including Harvey Schiller, USOC Executive Director, and USOC Vice Presidents George Steinbrenner and Michael Lenard — to the venue to watch fencing and cheer our team.

We need to acknowledge that our fencers face competitors who are products of systems better funded, organized, focused and more profes-



sional in their approach than our US efforts. In order for our athletes to achieve outstanding results in this environment, they must perform extraordinarily, enjoy breaks in the draw, experience unbiased officiating and exhibit a tremendous amount of passion.

We need to surround our athletes with the kind of support that



prepares them for this kind of performance. We need to instill passion, a key ingredient which will propel our fencers over the enormous hurdles they face.

Several steps can be taken which will contribute to a positive environment leading up to Atlanta. These steps might include ensuring that our coaches travel to World Cup events in order to see the level and style of fencing their students must face; setting a fair, objective team selection process that keys funding on

the achievement of training and performance criteria; establishing two or three mandatory training camps per year — perhaps one with Canadians or Cubans; re-instituting junior camps to train our future; and adding video studies and sessions on tactics to the training mix. Factor it all into a four-year plan that sets realistic goals for Atlanta. But, we need to start now. No amount of dedication or money can make up for lost opportunities. ♦

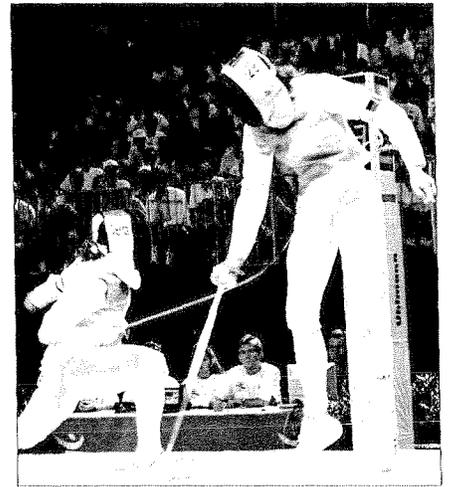


Photo captions clockwise from the top: Peter Westbrook; Giovanna Trillini (Italy), left, defends Sabine Bau's (Germany) attack in the women's foil quarter finals; the US Olympic team led by Michael Lofton; women's foilist Hui Feng Wang (China), right, prepares to parry Laurence Modaine's (France) attack; victor Phillippe Omnes (France), left, following the gold medal foil bout with Serguei Goloubitski (Unified Team).



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JANUARY 1992

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SPECIFY RIGHT OR LEFT HAND AND CHEST SIZE FOR ALL JACKETS

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SPECIFY WAIST SIZE FOR ALL KNICKERS

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1013	Electric foil guard socket - (2) prong.....	3.95
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