

American FENCING

summer 2009



iris strikes gold



REPORTS FROM
• JUNIOR WORLD CUP
• COMO WORLD CUP
• AND MORE

HOW TO VISUALIZE SUCCESS
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
the 1976 olympians

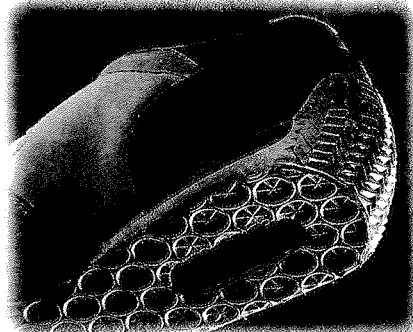
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American FENCING

Summer 2000 · Volume 50, Number 2

FEATURES

- 28 COVER STORY
Oh, Iris, We Can See!
by Bob Largman
- 30 **Postcards from the Edge of the Strip**
by Jeff Bukantz
- 33 **Where Are They Now?**
The 1976 U.S. Olympic Team
by Chris Cuddy

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 President's Letter
4 Letter from the Editor
6 Tournament Highlights
10 Report from **Como World Cup**
14 Report from **Junior/Cadet World Cup**
19 **TECH TALK Gadget Crazy**
20 **IN TRAINING Sprains, Strains, Blisters & Bruises**
24 **IN TRAINING The Visual Image as a Learning Tool**
35 Advertiser's Directory
- 36 **TOUCHE One Day in Bonn**
Cliff Bayer shares his World Cup experience

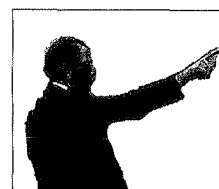
On the cover:

Iris Zimmermann at the moment of victory. Junior/Cadet World Championships, South Bend, Ind. Photo: Chuck Linster.

Cover Inset: Bronze medal winning women's foil team with the cadet team. From left, Iris Zimmermann, Andrea Ament, Erinn Smart, Emily Cross, national coach Buckie Leach, unidentified coach, Jacqueline Leahy, Cassidy Liutjen. Photo: Chuck Linster.



28



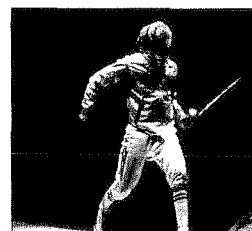
30



33



6



14

The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

The United States Fencing Association is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime, the international federation for fencing. The mission of the United States Fencing Association is to develop fencers to achieve international success and to administer and promote the sport in the United States.

The United States Fencing Association

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American Fencing

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GOING TO SUMMER NATIONALS?

THEN YOU NEED TO ENTER THE SUMMER NATIONALS PHOTO CONTEST!

If you are going to the Summer Nationals in Austin, Texas, June 30 - July 9, 2000, take your camera, some film, and snap away because "Salle Aramis Fencing Photo of the Week" and *American Fencing Magazine* are having a Summer Nationals Photo Contest.

Mail us your prints, negatives, slides, or email digital images with the name of the photographer and how to contact you by July 31, 2000, and the winner will receive an Allstar electric foil, sabre or epee of their choice. The winner may even make the cover of *American Fencing Magazine*.

Entry Deadline:	July 31, 2000
Format:	Prints, Negatives, Slides or digital images with name of photographer and contact information. Enter as many photos as you like.

The winner will be announced on August 5, 2000.

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Please send a self addressed stamped envelop if you wish the print, slide or negative to be returned.

Donald W. Alperstein

President, United States Fencing Association

I have been to South Bend, and there I have seen the future.

And that future looks good indeed. Let's not be unduly modest: Not only did the USFA mount the best organized Junior and Cadet World Championships in history, but the record-breaking performances of our young fencers garnered the attention and respect of the world's fencing powers.

How truly gratifying it is to boast that for the first time ever—but certainly not for the last—fencers from the United States took home more World Championship medals than the storied Italians!

I placed most of those medals around the necks of our athletes. Without hesitation, I can say that doing so was one of the most enjoyable and gratifying duties of my four years as USFA president. As I look toward the end of my tenure in office, I know that I will long cherish those days in South Bend.

I will not here recount the competition day by day or bout by bout, the details of which are to be found elsewhere in this issue. I do, however, want to share one observation: This success resulted from the coordinated efforts of many, many people. Our athletes showed incredible maturity and discipline. Their cohesiveness and mutual support were inspiring. Assisting our fencers was an amazingly attentive, dedicated and tireless cadre of managers, coaches and team leaders. The technical, medical and psychological support offered our competitors were the envy of countries long known for providing outstanding athlete services.

Never before has the United States assembled such a gargantuan delegation, and never before has a team operated so smoothly. Each of the people who contributed to this effort deserves the respect of every fencer and fencing parent in the country. They did a difficult job and did it amazingly well. I hope these good people realize the significance of their accomplishments, bask in glory well-deserved, and take satisfaction from a job well done.

"Home field advantage," some curmudgeons and doubters will dismissively opine. How little they understand. Where was the home field advantage at the Atlanta Olympics? Or at the other world championships—senior, junior and cadet—previously hosted by the United States? In international elite competition, there is no such thing. The best in the world can compete anywhere, and sometimes the distractions and pressures of home actually detract from performance.

The difference this time reflects the efforts of our professional staff, who performed herculean tasks in organizing this incredibly complex event, and with the athletes and cadre who comprised the team.

We often hear that fencers are divisive and combative people, incapable of unselfish, coordinated effort. History teaches that there is more than a kernel of truth in that indictment. But now we can see that such is not our inescapable destiny. The dozens of people who made up our team demonstrated how well American fencers can work together, and what we can accomplish when we do. That is the real vision of the future that I found in South Bend.

In the face of my effusiveness about our showing in South Bend, some USFA members who fence for recreation and fun and who harbor no championship aspirations will doubt whether our accomplishments there have any relevance for them. Some may, in fact, see international success as threatening their place in our organization. I can whole-heartedly assure these people that their concerns are unfounded. Indeed, our broad international success evidences the overall health and depth of the USFA.

In my first column as president, four years ago this summer, I observed that we needed international success because therein lay our best chance of retaining essential United States Olympic Committee (USOC) funding. With each succeeding year, we have weaned the organization from that dependence.

Today, the USFA enjoys greater self-sufficiency than ever, with more and more of our financial support coming from membership sources and tournament revenues. USOC funds make up a diminishing portion of our resources.

Our success in South Bend and in international competition generally evidences the increasing strength of the USFA from top to bottom and from side to side. We have nearly doubled our membership, largely by appealing to new, young fencers and by keeping in the fold those who once tended to drift away. And these members are actively participating in our sport, as the burgeoning entries in open, age group and classification-limited tournaments testify. The numbers of member clubs, school and recreational programs, coaches and active parents continue to grow. Throughout it all, the percentage of the USFA budget devoted to high performance programs, i.e., our international efforts, has remained fixed, and those programs still generate more revenue than they consume.

The point is that all segments of the USFA exist in a symbiotic relationship with one another. If we can build on the cooperative attitude that prevailed among the American team at the Junior and Cadet Championships and translate it to the organization as a whole, there is nothing we can't accomplish. The future I saw in South Bend bespeaks bright horizons for all fencers in this country.

Mike Sullivan
USFA Secretary

June 2, 2000

Dear Readers:

This is the third and final edition of *American Fencing* that I will be editing. You'll note some changes in the layout and design. These are due to the influence of Meg Galipault, our nominee to become the next editor of the magazine. (The editor of *American Fencing* is appointed by the President and approved by vote of Congress at the Summer Nationals.)

Meg, a recreational fencer from Columbus, Ohio, was one of several folks who answered our call for volunteers to fill this difficult role. Meg has extensive experience as an editor, writer, and sports marketer. Currently she is the editor of *Dialogue*, a Midwest visual arts magazine. This background is just what this publication needs to become a magazine we can all be proud of.

The cover and many of the photos included were assembled by Sam Lillard, our new photo editor. Sam is an amateur photographer, and like Meg, a recreational fencer from Columbus. As Sam takes charge of that end of *American Fencing*, we can expect to see more and better photos. Ours is a visually exciting sport, but good photos are hard to come by. Sam will be trying to put together a loose network of regular contributors so that we will have more photographs to choose from in the future.

As interim editor, I did a pretty good imitation of a real editor, but I am well aware of my shortcomings in that regard and welcome the infusion of professionalism that Meg brings to the table. I will continue to be closely involved in the magazine as the USFA officer responsible. My main role will be to continue to encourage people to submit material and help contributors understand the editorial process—which is to say that articles will be edited. I also plan to continue writing about our fencers as they continue to demonstrate to the world that the U.S. is on the rise.

It has been fun and I hope that readers have noticed some improvement. Now, the best thing I can do to help the magazine improve is get out of the way and let someone who really knows what she's doing take charge. Go get 'em, Meg!

passings

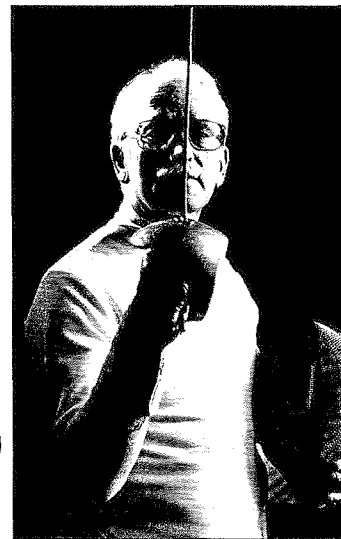
DR. OSCAR A. PARSONS

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

The 1947 winner of the NCAA championship in sabre, Dr. Oscar A. Parsons spent most of his life active in the fencing community. He died on February 9, 2000, in Oklahoma City.

The 80-year-old fencing veteran was a prominent researcher in neuropsychology and the biopsychology of alcoholism. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Temple University in Philadelphia, and a PhD in clinical psychology from Duke University.

Parsons, known to his friends as "Oz," joined the Oklahoma City Fencing Club in 1959, where he taught fencing to hundreds of students. He served as a coach for both the Oklahoma City Fencing Club and the Redland Fencing Club (also in Oklahoma City) until a few months prior to his death.



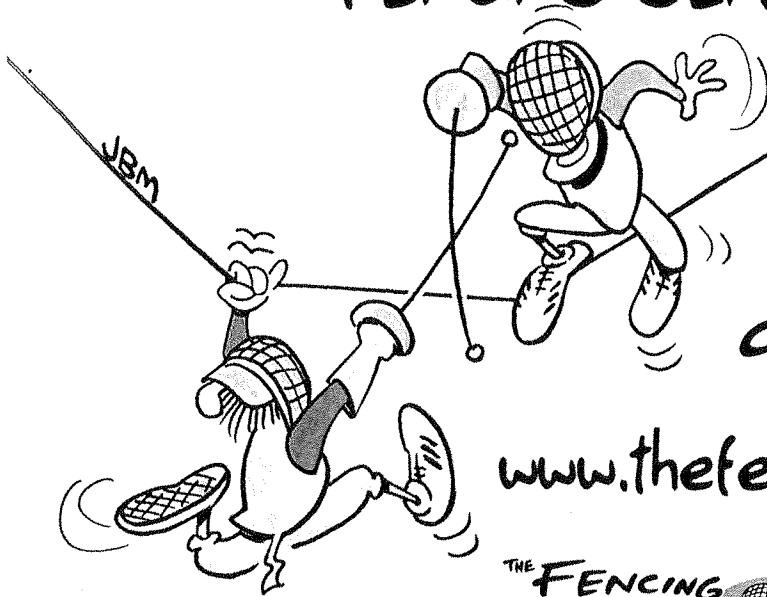
corrections

In "The Future of Fencing Comes to America: 2000 Junior/Cadet World Championships" (Spring 2000 issue of *American Fencing*), Raelyn Jacobson was erroneously identified as being from Sacramento. Jacobson, a cadet women's epee fencer, is actually a member of The Fencing Center in San Jose, Calif. Her home is in Palo Alto, Calif. We regret this error.

In the article "L'Esprime Wines" (Spring 2000), the byline was attributed to Sally D'Asaro. Although no attribution was given for this article when it was submitted, *American Fencing* has since been notified that the article was written by Tom Hill, epee fencer and wine enthusiast from New Mexico.

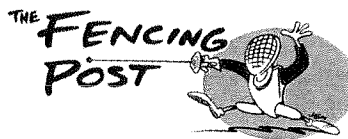
Also in the Spring 2000 issue, photographs were attributed to Sam Lillard. The cover photos of Andrea Ament were actually taken by Lisa Slater. And on page seven, Basil Childers should have been credited for the photo montage. Childers is a freelance photographer living in Portland, Ore. His clients include *Rolling Stone*, *Spin*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and more. We'd like to express our sincere apologies to Lisa and Basil, particularly in light of their generous assistance.

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OVIEDO INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR FENCING WORLD CUP I

Spain, February 25-27

U.S. Results: 3 Medals*

Category A Men's Foil

- 16 Roy Day Jr. (Atlanta GA)
- 25 Mario Rodriguez (Houston)

Category B Men's Foil

- 1 Scott Rogers (Atlanta GA)*
- 15 Gerard Moreno (Los Angeles)

Category A Men's Epee

- 23 Roy Day Jr. (Atlanta GA)
- 24 Pete Collman (Atlanta GA)
- 28 Joey Royal (Athens GA)

Category B Men's Epee

- 3 Scott Rodgers (Atlanta GA)*
- 18 Curtis Lovejoy (Atlanta GA)

Category A Men's Sabre

- 16 Mario Rodriguez (Houston)
- 17 Joey Royal (Athens GA)
- 17 Pete Coleman (Atlanta GA)

Category B Men's Sabre

- 10 Curtis Lovejoy (Atlanta GA)
- 15 Gerard Moreno (Los Angeles)

Category A Women's Foil

- 14 Lisa Lanier (Atlanta GA)
- 18 Susan Gilmore (Oklahoma City OK)

Category B Women's Foil

- 2 Carol Hickey (Atlanta GA)*
- 16 Lois Taurman (Louisville KY)

Category A Women's Epee

- 17 Lisa Lanier (Atlanta GA)
- 19 Susan Gilmore (Oklahoma City OK)

Category B Women's Epee

- 7 Carol Hickey (Atlanta GA)
- 17 Lois Taurman (Louisville KY)



Left: Carol Hickey displays her silver foil cup from the Oviedo World Cup.

Below: Gold medal winner Scott Rogers with coaches.



NORTH AMERICAN CUP RESULTS | Cleveland, April 7-9

EPEE

- Open* 1 Arlene Stevens, MET
- Women* 2 Stephanie Eim, NoOH
- 3 Jessica Burke, CenPA
- 3 Nhi Lan Le, GA

- Open Men* 1 Soren Thompson, SDiego
- 2 Jon Normile, MET
- 3 Ben Atkins, MET
- 3 Eric Hansen, NoCAL

- Wheelchair Men* 1 Scott Rogers, GA
- 2 Peter Collman, NAT
- 3 Joey Royal, GA
- 3 Gerard Moreno, SoCAL

- Wheelchair Women* 1 Carol Hickey, GA
- 2 Susan Gilmore, OK
- 3 Lisa Lanier, GA
- 3 Lois Taurman, NAT

FOIL

- Open Women* 1 Felicia Zimmermann, WNY
- 2 Ann Marsh, WNY
- 3 Andrea Ament, NoOH
- 3 Iris Zimmermann, WNY

- Open Men* 1 Joshua McGuire, CAN
- 2 Sean McClain, CenCAL
- 3 Tim Chang, CenCAL
- 3 Derek Snyder, SoCal

- Wheelchair Men* 1 Scott Rogers, GA
- 2 Roy Day Jr., GA
- 3 Mario Rodriguez, Gulf TX
- 3 Gerard Moreno, SoCAL

- Wheelchair Women* 1 Carol Hickey, GA
- 2 Susan Gilmore, OK
- 3 Lisa Lanier, GA
- 3 Lois Taurman, NAT

SABRE

- Open Women* 1 Sada Jacobson, GA
- 2 Yelena Kalkina, ColOH
- 3 Caroline Purcell, MET
- 3 Julie Smith, UTAH

- Open Men* 1 Colin Parker, GA
- 2 Andrzej Bednarski, IN
- 3 David Douville, GA
- 3 Wyatt Kasserman, NJ

- Wheelchair Men* 1 Scott Rogers, GA
- 2 Gerard Moreno, SoCAL
- 3 Mario Rodriguez, Gulf TX
- 3 Curtis Lovejoy, GA

U.S. WOMEN'S SABRE: ON THE ATTACK | Special Report by Mike Sullivan

In the past ten years, women's sabre has grown from a tangential sideshow at local and national competitions to an accepted and rapidly growing sport of international proportions. When Men's National Coach Vladimir Nazlymov began working with pioneers Kelly Williams and Christine Latham, the message was sent to America's esteemed sabre coaches that it was okay to teach women this traditionally testosterone-fueled sport.

When women's sabre was finally accepted as an Olympic event (starting with Athens 2004), traditional European fencing powers began investing financial and athletic resources in women's sabre, appearing to pass the U.S. by with an influx of youthful talent. There was fear that Williams' 1998 World Championship title might be our last hurrah.

Ed Korfanty of Oregon, the USFA's first National Women's Sabre coach, has lent his quiet and steady brand of leadership to the cause, encouraging his peers to develop new talent. The results of his efforts have dramatically appeared in recent months. Korfanty student Mariel Zagunis, 15, captured a bronze medal at the Cadet World Championships. Our Junior Team, average age 16, defeated Hungary and France on the way to earning a silver medal, losing to the Italians 45-43.

Arkady Burdan has rapidly developed a center of sabre excellence in Atlanta. Student Sada Jacobson, 17, earned a bronze medal at a senior world cup event in Boston and 16-year-old Christina Crane was recently crowned National Champion in Colorado Springs.

Boston World Cup

Once again hosted by the Tanner City Fencing Club and the New England Division, the best sabre fencers in the world converged on Peabody, Mass., to vie for world cup glory and individual selection for the Sydney Olympics. The U.S. managed to achieve nine of the top 32 spots led by Sada Jacobson's bronze medal and NCAA Champion Caroline Purcell's eighth-place finish. For a complete listing of results, check out the USFA's website at <USFencing.org>.

2000 U.S. Women's Sabre National Championships

The final installment of the price for women's sabre's admission to the Olympic pantheon of events is sitting out the Sydney Olympics. That has meant scheduling a separate world championship event for women's sabre to be held in Budapest, Hungary, June 30-July 2. To allow for one final domestic competition before the world championship team is selected, the U.S. National Championship event for women's sabre was scheduled for late April at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. One final competition in a gym empty of all but athletes and officials was symbolic of the struggle of women's sabre to gain recognition.

Christina Crane of Atlanta, a C-rated fencer before the event, earned her A by defeating Julie Smith of Salt Lake City in the gold medal match. Crane's Nellya teammate Sada Jacobson and Christine Becker of Oregon Fencing Alliance won the bronze medals.

In the team event, the crafty leadership of Becker proved to be the difference as the Oregon Fencing Alliance defeated Nellya Fencers Jacobson, Crane, Amelia Gaillard and Rebecca Douville. Supporting Becker for the gold medal match was Jennifer Oldham Cox, Valerie Providenza and Mariel Zagunis.

See top results for Boston World Cup and Women's Sabre National Championships next page.



Women's Cadet Sabre Team at World Cup in South Bend (see page 14 for details): from left, **Amelia Gaillard**, **Sada Jacobson**, **Mariel Zagunis**. Photo: Dr. John Heil.

BOSTON SABRE WORLD CUP I

Boston, March 31-April 2

WOMEN

- 1 Elena Netchaeva, RUS
- 2 Anne-Lise Touya, FRA
- 3 Irina Bazhenova, RUS
- 4 Sada Jacobson, USA
- 5 Sandra Benad, GER
- 6 Daniela Colaiacomo, ITA
- 7 Gioia Marzicca, ITA
- 8 Caroline Purcell, USA
- 9 Alessia Tognolli, ITA
- 10 Cecile Argiolas, FRA
- 11 Eve Pouteil-Noble, FRA
- 12 Magali Carrier, FRA
- 13 Sabine Thieltges, GER
- 14 Mariel Zagunis, USA
- 15 Sybille Klemm, GER
- 16 Julie Smith, USA

MEN

- 1 Sergei Charikov, RUS
- 2 Stanislav Pozdniakov, RUS
- 3 Csaba Kovcs, HUN
- 4 Damien Touya, FRA
- 5 Dom Ferjancsik, HUN
- 6 Mihail Covaliu, ROM
- 7 Tohni Terenzi, ITA
- 8 Norbert Jaskot, POL
- 9 Luigi Tarantino, ITA
- 10 Fernando Medina, SPA
- 11 Julian Pillet, FRA
- 12 Raffaello Caserta, ITA
- 13 Vadim Gutzejt, UKR
- 14 Jozsef Navarette, HUN
- 15 Vladimir Kalujny, UKR
- 16 Dennis Bauer, GER



Boston Sabre World Cup competition. Title bout between Sergei Charikov and Stanislav Pozdniakov of Russia. Photo: Mark Bolton.

DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABRE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS I

Colorado Springs, April 29-30

INDIVIDUAL

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Christina Crane, GA | 9 | Bethany Cox, UT |
| 2 | Julie Smith, UT | 10 | Valerie Providenza, OR |
| 3 | Sada Jacobson, GA | 11 | Christine Latham, OH |
| 4 | Christine Becker, OR | 12 | Deseri Nally, SoTX |
| 5 | Nicole Mustille, NJ | 13 | Vivian Imaizumi, IL |
| 6 | Caroline Purcell, MET | 14 | Ariana Klinkov, NewEng |
| 7 | Mariel Zagunis, OR | 15 | Joy Miller, MET |
| 8 | Amelia Gaillard, GA | 16 | Julie Conn, GA |

TEAM

- 1 Oregon Fencing Alliance
- 2 Nellya Fencers
- 3 Columbus Ohio Composite

NORTH AMERICAN CUP G I Lake Buena Vista, Florida, May 5-7

YOUTH 14

W. Foil

- 1 Jasmine McGlade CO
- 2 Jessica Florendo MET
- 3 Abigail Emerson NE
- 4 Alisa Mendelsohn LI
- 5 Kelley Hurley SoTX
- 6 Alexie Rubin SoCAL
- 7 Alison Rush CO
- 8 Natalie Wan CenCAL

W. Epee

- 1 Jasmine McGlade CO
- 2 Ruth Schnieder WNY
- 3 Erin McGarry SoTX
- 4 Rachael Park KY
- 5 Anne Kericsmar NoOH
- 6 Amy Orlando WNY
- 7 Alexandra Loos SoTX
- 8 Kaela Brendler SoTX

W. Sabre

- 1 Emily Jacobson GA
- 2 Syvenna Siebert KS
- 3 Rachel Liebing UT
- 4 Sarah Parker GA
- 5 Alexandra Carabello PR
- 6 Zuzanna Sitek NJ
- 7 Anne Bartoszewicz NJ
- 8 Leilani Belaval PR

M. Foil

1	Enoch Woodhouse NENG
2	Cameron Perry CO
3	Michael Galligan GulfTX
3	Blake Haberman CO
5	Tommy Hennig VA
6	Meade Anderson SoCAL
7	Andras Horanyi CO
8	Andrew Stauble KY

M. Epee

1	Cameron Perry CO
2	Jared Kline SoTX
3	Ben Bratton MET
3	Jason Henderson NJ
5	Aaron Adjemian BRTX
6	Ben Ungar MET
7	Blake Haberman CO
8	Seth Myers NoOH

M. Sabre

1	Michael Sterns MN
2	Matthew Zich MET
3	John Friend KS
3	Andrew Wilson NC
5	Steve Ahn NoTX
6	Jeff Baum KS
7	Kiel Smith KS
8	Jon Winnerman NJ

YOUTH 12**W. Foil**

1	Allison Glasser NC
2	Allison Rush CO
3	Grace McGlade CO
3	Jocelyn Svengsouk WNY
5	Doris Willette NC
6	Kelley Hurley SoTX
7	Kelsey Finkel MET
8	Samantha Nemecek MI

W. Epee

1	Keri Byerts WNY
2	Orianna Isaacson SoCA
3	Dannielle henderson NJ
3	Leslie Vedder CO
5	Racheal Park KY
6	Grace McGlade CO
7	Allison Rush CO
8	Kelley Hurley SoTX

W. Sabre

1	Sarah Parker GA
2	Zuzanna Sitek NJ
3	Caitlin Thompson OR
3	Dagmara Wozniak NJ
5	Lillian Siebert KS
6	Eva Jellison Neng
7	Anna Wieronski NJ
8	Jackie Jacobson GA

M. Foil

1	Brendan Myers MET
2	Teddy Hodges KS
3	Peter French So TX
3	Andrew Heismath SoTX
5	Josh Leopold Cen CA
6	Nicholas Chinman CO
7	Bagley Wright MET
8	Scott Baldwin IN

M. Epee

1	Nicholas Chinman CO
2	Matthew Ebert PHIL
3	Clayton Kenney CO
3	Daniel Miller GA
5	Evan Napala CAP
6	Brandon Kuwala CnCA
7	Mark Kubik SoTX
8	Cameron Smith SoCAL

M. Sabre

1	Ian Quirk CenCA
2	Jonathan Berkowski NJ
3	Joseph Milliron ORE
3	Marshall Rake KS
5	Max Williams CenCA
6	John Wolff GA
7	Lancelot Dyke SoCAL
8	Joe Liu GA

YOUTH 10**W. Foil**

1	Courtney Hurley SoTX
2	Nicole Ross MET
3	Alice Clark PHIL
4	Rebecca Hirshfeld MET
5	katherine Snider SoTX
6	Sarah Deans GC FL
7	Megan Coates WNY
8	Molly Lukash LI

W. Epee

1	Elena Caven WNY
2	Grace Wu WNY
3	Meagan Cook SoJersey
4	Courtney Hurley SoTX
5	Cleme Barkley TN
6	Alyssa Vongries MN
7	Annapurna Sriram TN
8	Annelisha Brendler STX

W. Sabre

1	Jackie Jacobson GA
2	Elizabeth Sachs H-Berk
3	Molly Bass NoTX
4	Jeri Kohn NE-SD
5	Laura Gelston MET
6	Annie Dingwall NoTX
7	Casey Park KY
8	Signe Conway MET

M. Foil

1	Benjamin Parkins Gulf
2	David Willette NC
3	Nick Adjemian Bdr TX
4	Frede Bentley KY
5	Balazs Horanyi CO
6	Ryan Grubb PHIL
7	Steven Kubik SoTX
8	Grant Hodges KS

M. Epee

1	Christophe Mansfield UT
2	Steven Kubik SoTX
3	Matthew Josephs CAP
4	Stuart Miller GA
5	Sean Planchard CO
6	Remy Olson OR
7	Reginald Cox SoTX
8	Ryan Grubb PHIL

M. Sabre

1	Michael Douville GA
2	Dan Berliner H-Berk
3	Ilya Lerman SoCal
4	Calvin Strahorn-Brown OR
5	Thomas Kolasa NJ
6	Aleksandr Zeltser SoCAL
7	Jonathan Holbrook MD
8	Tommy Dingwall NoTX

DUEL IN THE DESERT

L A S V E G A S

January 5-7, 2001

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ON SELECTION DAY, THE U.S. TEAM SERVED NOTICE

by Bob Largman

Como is a peaceful, sleepy little town nestled in the foothills of the Italian Alps. It's a quaint village built lakeside with cobblestone streets, narrow alleys, cathedrals, open markets, and homes built into the sides of the mountains—a place you would come to relax, breathe the cool, crisp air, and sit outside sipping cappuccino and eating gelato. The lake is a relic of the Ice Age and seems as if it might be a vacation home for the Loch Ness Monster. Who would have expected an American invasion on the last weekend in April? Certainly not the host Italians and definitely not the other countries invited to a friendly competition of swordplay. But that's exactly what happened.

The Italian village is the site of the Como World Cup. According to the FIE Olympic selection process, individuals whose country's team did not qualify for the Olympics through the 1999 World Championships could qualify by being one of the top international point-holders from their zone. The U.S. women's foil squad qualified for the Olympics last November by placing seventh at the Seoul World Championships. However, placement at World Cup events is vital to seeding at the Olympics. Those individuals whose team did not qualify were now fighting fiercely for standings at Como.

The tournament promised to be very competitive. Much like the conference championships for the NCAA basketball tournament, this was the final event for the athletes

to impress the selection committee for a spot in the ultimate championships—the really big dance—the Olympic Games.

On the final weekend of the FIE's selection process for the Olympic Games, the U.S. women's foil squad made a straight attack (well, everyone except for Iris Zimmermann) on the world rankings. With three members of the U.S. team reaching the top 16 at the Como World Cup, any athletes who were trying to reach the Olympics through the world rankings were abruptly turned back by the Americans.

Melanie Jones, Erinn Smart, Ann Marsh, Felicia Zimmermann, and Iris Zimmermann comprised our invading force of athletes and represented America in Como. Supporting the team were Buckie Leach and Aladar Kogler, as well as Derek Cotton. Cotton was recently selected by the FIE to be the U.S.'s referee at the Olympic Games in Sydney. Not only is Cotton a respected international referee, he is able to provide advice and insight when needed, augmenting our coaching staff.

Our athletes turned in performances that have prognosticators recalculating odds for Olympic placings. Ninety athletes entered the competition, including most of the top ranked women's foilists. The U.S. team began the event in the first round of pools. Iris Zimmermann finished her pool with a perfect 6-0 record, which would become a harbinger of events yet to unfold. Jones, Smart, Marsh, and

Felicia Zimmermann also performed with enough precision to advance to the elimination round. Marsh and Felicia received byes to the second day of competition. Smart and Jones had to fence an elimination bout after their pool to join their teammates on the second day.

Smart's opponent was Cerny from France. Smart jumped out to an early lead on the Frenchwoman in the first period. However, in the second period, Cerny evened the score. In the third period, Smart fought to regain the lead, but Cerny was able to keep her off balance, winning 15-8.

Jones's bout was against Facioni from Italy. Being on her home turf made Facioni more comfortable, but Jones challenged her confidence. She jumped out to an early 6-3 lead with the Italian before Facioni battled back to take the lead. Down by three points, Jones was able to bring the bout within two at 13-11. As the bout entered the final period, fatigue started to take its toll on Jones, who expended too much energy trying to close the gap. She lost 15-11.

On the second day, the U.S. loaded their weapons and began preparing for the Final Four. Sixty-four fencers, one goal, direct elimination...welcome to the Big Dance! In the first elimination bouts, the U.S. fencers came up against strong countries. Felicia began her assault against Zhang of China. She set the pace for her teammates, beating Zhang 15-8. Next up was Marsh against Lantos of Hungary. Following Felicia's lead,



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Marsh handed Lantos a 15-9 defeat. Completing the trio's barrage, Iris faced Moumas of France. In the most competitive bout of the three, Iris joined sister Felicia and Marsh in the round of 32, defeating Moumas 15-14.

In the next round, another wave of traditional powerhouses faced the U.S. Iris started the round against Knapek of Hungary, dispatching her 15-13. Felicia began her next bout against Gruchala of Poland. Like Iris, Gruchala was coming off of a successful Junior World Championship competition. Unfortunately for Gruchala, her opponent had a familiar last name—Zimmermann. Following her sister's performance in South Bend, Ind., where Iris beat Gruchala to advance to the gold medal bout, Felicia eliminated Gruchala 15-8.

Continuing the march through the tournament, Marsh faced Bau from Germany. Strong, powerful, and exciting movements characterized this long-standing rivalry. The result of the latest encounter was true to historical form as well, with Marsh advancing 15-11.

The U.S. now had three representatives in the Sweet 16. Only Italy could boast a similar feat. The U.S. results thus far resembled the performance of the Atlantic Coast Conference as they sauntered their way through the Big Dance.

Felicia faced the deliberate and calculating Nusueva from Russia. In a tactical game of strategy and will, the lead seesawed between the two competitors. Felicia jumped out to an early four-point lead, only to have Nusueva slowly close the gap with a two-point lead. As the bout wore on, Felicia tied the score several times, but was unable to regain her lead. Nusueva took as much time as she could manage between touches in an attempt to slow the bout and put Felicia on edge. Felicia remained calm and devised a game plan to move ahead of Nusueva; she creatively set-up her opponent and

regained a two-point lead. As the third period wound down, Nusueva managed to tie the score, but not move ahead. The momentum stayed with Felicia as she clung to a slim one-point lead with seconds remaining. One last attempt as time ran out and Nusueva found herself on the short side of a 14-13 match, her apparent stall tactics ultimately undoing her chances for success as Felicia capitalized on Nusueva's mistakes. Felicia advanced to the Elite Eight.

Felicia would have a teammate in the finals as Marsh and Iris battled for the spot. With every victory improving her world ranking, Iris's road to the Final Four began to look like an NAC tournament. In a bout all too familiar to Americans, Iris and Marsh vied as they do most every day in training at the Rochester Fencing Center. Would one surprise the other with an uncharacteristic move? Would their strategies change as each fought for one of the final positions? It seemed as if a classic blow-out was more in order as Marsh raced ahead to a six-point lead on Iris. With her classic powerful attacks to the torso, shoulder, and back, Marsh seemed to score with ease as Iris's defenses went MIA. But this tournament was more of an offensive front for Iris and she dared Marsh to outscore her. Fighting back, Iris was able to win the bout 15-12 and join her sister in the finals.

On the final road to the Final Four, Iris and Felicia faced each other. Matching wit against strength and experience against insight, Iris and Felicia fought to the final seconds. Down by two, Felicia scored with an attack that evaded Iris's defense. With two seconds left, Felicia knew what she had to do, but Iris had a strategy as well. An attack, time expired, and Iris finished it 12-11.

The final bouts moved to a venue more appropriately suited for a Verdi

opera—a theatre located just behind a cathedral; a plain, rectangular building with large Ionic columns along the front. The interior was equally impressive: five floors of box seats; a painted ceiling reminiscent of great masterpieces; a stage with an out-of-place fencing strip and scoring equipment surrounded by flowers; a table adorned with spoils for the finalists; and what seemed to be an original wooden floor that might collapse with one lunge.

Felicia joined Iris backstage as Iris prepared for her bout with Jucheva of Russia. Together and out of sight of the audience and the rest of the team, the sisters acted, well, like sisters—talking and laughing, all the while Felicia preparing Iris. As Buckie took Iris for her warm-up lesson, Felicia was called upon to help find the anthems for China, Russia, Poland, and the U.S. While listening to a cassette tape of the world's anthems, communicating in five languages, and trying to discern among the patriotic tunes, Felicia performed her task with the same precision that Iris would need for her confrontation with Jucheva.

Iris took the strip, with Buckie and Felicia ready to offer "friendly" advice. The U.S. team sat in a block in the audience ready to support Iris through every touch. Though Iris gained an early lead on Jucheva, the Russian fought back and controlled much of the bout, moving ahead by three and four touches. Several times, Iris was able to narrow the lead and tie the score. But she was exhausted. Just one week ago, Iris captured the Junior World Championship and now was in the finals of a senior world cup. Jucheva prevailed 15-13, and then captured the gold medal beating Manakowicz of Poland. Iris left everything on the strip and with the help of all of her teammates, added new glimmer and hope to the Stars and Stripes as it was raised in the medal ceremony.

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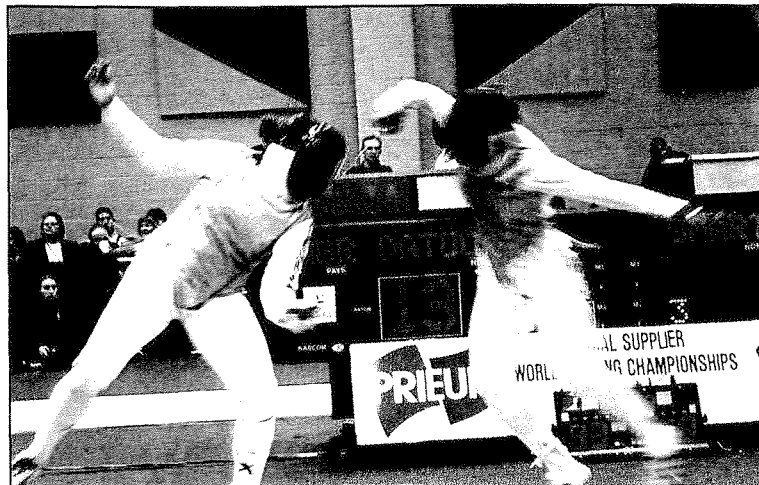
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THE U.S. JUNIOR TEAM MAKES ITS MARK—SIX MEDALS!

by Mike Sullivan



Above: Women's foilist **Erinn Smart** (right) attacks. Photo: Dr. John Heil.

The U.S. Junior Team advanced the cause of American fencing by winning six medals at the 2000 Junior/Cadet World Championships in South Bend, Ind., April 18-25. Led by Iris Zimmermann's third World Championship title performance, the U.S. team took a gold, a silver and four bronze medals en route to our best performance ever. In the Coupe des Nations ranking at the conclusion of the Championships, the U.S. ranked fifth, ahead of perennial powers Russia and Hungary.

Jason Rogers and Mariel Zagunis each won bronze medals in the cadet sabre events. Rogers accomplished this feat despite a slight hamstring injury and, to this observer, not fencing his best. Ivan Lee's unique footwork, length, and exuberance earned him a bronze medal in the junior men's sabre. In the finals, when the crowd briefly quieted, Lee exhorted the audience to cheer and scream.

Two more medals were earned in the team events: The women's foil team of Zimmermann, Erinn Smart, Andrea Ament and Emily

Cross took a bronze medal, and our emerging women's sabre team of Zagunis, Sada Jacobson, Catherine Pack and Amelia Gaillard, who narrowly lost the gold medal match to the powerful Italians, earned a silver medal.

Iris Zimmermann: Junior World Champion

The gloomy weather that often plagues northern Indiana in April seemed to retreat to allow the brilliance of Iris Zimmermann's smile and athletic talent to dominate for one day. Coming off her bronze medal performance at the Senior World Championships in April, Zimmermann stood up to the pressure of being a prohibitive favorite and took her third World Championship title in South Bend.

In the gold medal match, she overcame a 7-11 deficit, caused by an early loss of point control and a number of questionable calls, to defeat Katalin Varga of Hungary 15-14. The standing-room-only crowd was vocal in its disapproval of the bad calls, but Zimmermann never concerned herself with the referee's errors, fighting through the adversity until her opponent succumbed to

her strength and skill. When Varga attempted to defend, Zimmermann was ready to change the distance, the line, or both.

At 14-14 the tension in the fencing arena was palpable. Only Zimmermann seemed unaffected by the moment. In the final action, Varga hesitated, countering into Zimmermann's attack. The crowd preempted the referee's call—some cheering in pure electric release of emotion, others hoping to influence the shaken referee's decision. For Zimmermann, it was one more step to Olympic glory in Sydney. (For more details, see the cover story feature "Oh, Iris, We Can See!" on page 28 by Bob Largman.)

Women's Foil

At 13-, 15- and 16-years old, respectively, our cadet team of Emily Cross, Jaqueline Leahy and Cassidy Liutjen have many opportunities in front of them.

Cross advanced with a 4-1 record to achieve a respectable 17 seed. Leahy's 3-2 record led to a match in the 64 against Konsekova of Slovakia, which she won 15-9 before losing to Claudia Pigliapoco

of Italy. Liutjen struggled in the early going, but managed to advance to the direct elimination only to draw her teammate Cross who then advanced to the 32. Cross next made it to the top 16, by beating Lee of Korea 15-9, where she encountered the curse of the 17th seed by drawing top seed Kryczalco of Poland. Cross made a fight of it before falling 15-10. Her successful first foray into world championship fencing earned Cross the coveted fourth spot on the junior team and netted her a bronze medal. Though she didn't see a great deal of action in the team event, earning a bronze medal at the age of 13 is a new U.S. record.

In the junior event, potential Olympian Erinn Smart dominated her first round pool, receiving only six touches in six bouts and earning the top seed. Andrea Ament, stepping up from cadet to junior, also fared well with only one defeat to Gruchala, a member of the Polish National Team, and was seeded 20th going into the DE. With Zimmermann seeded fifth, the U.S. team was positioned for an outstanding performance.

Smart seemed to lose momentum in the DE. After defeating Dato of Britain 15-13 in a bout that should not have been so difficult, she fell to Nechermann of Germany, 15-8. Ament advanced to the 32 with a win over Vrecko of Croatia before meeting her match in Torresani of Italy, a loss that was later avenged by Zimmermann, who beat the rangy Italian 15-11 to qualify for the finals.

Zimmermann's other DE victims included a 15-10 win over Schlosser of Austria, a 15-4 drubbing of German Bianca Becker and, in the semi-final match, a hard fought 15-12 victory over Gruchala.

Women's Foil Team

The Olympic qualification and the recent results of our senior women's foil team have doubtless garnered the attention of our European rivals. The performance of our juniors



Above: Cadet foilist **Jacqueline Leahy** takes a break to smile for the camera. Photo: Dr. John Heil.

showed them that the well is far from dry. The U.S. lost to the powerful Poles, 45-39, in the semi-final match after defeating the Netherlands, 45-19, and sixth-seeded Austria, 45-25. In the bronze medal match, the women defeated the top-seeded Germans in a hard fought match, 45-42.

Women's Sabre

In the individual events, the women got plenty of experience as Mariel Zagunis, Sada Jacobson, and Amelia Gaillard fenced in both the cadet and junior events. In the cadet event, Jacobson advanced from the preliminary round as the top seed; Zagunis was fifth, and Gaillard 11th. In the direct elimination, Gaillard never got on track and was eliminated in the round of 32. Jacobson was upset in the 16 by Ekaterina Fedorkina of Russia, 15-14, with the usual variety of bad calls. Zagunis advanced to the final

Emily Cross and **Jacqueline Leahy** present Old Glory at the opening ceremonies. Photo: Chuck Linster.



eight by defeating the German Zerfass, 15-11. In the final eight, a convincing 15-9 victory over Anais Drion of France left the French delegation with little to whine about and propelled the left-hander into the final four.

In her semi-final match, Zagunis appeared unnerved by the bright lights and concentrated attention of the large crowd; she didn't fence her best, falling to eventual champion Margarita Joukova of Russia.

Our trio entered the junior event with high hopes. Yet, Gaillard had the misfortune to draw Shoko Murakami in her first DE bout and fell 15-11. Murakami went on to earn the silver medal and was a crowd favorite in the finals because of the joy she exhibited on the strip. Jacobson also lost early to Sznopek of Hungary, 15-13, after achieving a respectable 14th seed. Zagunis defeated Bond-Williams of Great Britain to advance to the 16, but then fell to Bianco of Italy 15-7.

Women's Sabre Team

In perhaps the most surprising result of the Championships, the U.S. team showed its youthful depth when our team of cadets pushed the Italian team to the hilt, losing the gold medal match by only two points, 45-43. Two of the Italians were team gold medalists in the Senior World Championships in Korea.

Sada Jacobson, who has been fencing for only 18 months, and just received a bronze medal in the Boston World Cup, has become a rising star under the tutelage of coach Arkady Burdan. At 13 touches for the match, she was on fire.

Because our junior team was also our cadet team, there was no fourth fencer available to fill out the roster. As a result, Catherine Pack suited up as an alternate and helped inspire the team to success, getting into the line-up when Gaillard struggled.

There were no pushovers on the path to the gold medal match, as the cadet team defeated Hungary,

45-40, and France, 45-32.

It would seem that the disappointing results in the individual event inspired our women to perform at peak levels in the team event, not to mention the inclusion of a hungry fourth fencer who was squeezed out of the individual competition. It bears repeating: They beat Hungary, they beat France, and they had the vastly more experienced Italians on their heels.

Men's Sabre

As the teachings of America's esteemed corps of Russian, Polish and Romanian sabre coaches have spread across the country in recent years, our hopes of taking a place on the world stage have never been higher. While there is no doubt we have the coaching talent and we are starting to find the athletic talent and depth we need to excel, we are still American. In a sport in which bad calls are routine, it is still difficult to get the respect required from referees. It seems the close ones always go the other way.

In the cadet event, Jason Rogers achieved the first seed, while Marten Zagunis qualified 14th and Mike Momtselidze was 18th. Rogers took advantage of his seed and advanced to the final four by defeating Boudreault of Canada, 15-9, Dominik of Poland, 15-8, and Dranik of the Ukraine, 15-12. He was stopped in the semi-finals by Olejnik of Poland and a referee who seemed to find it difficult to comprehend an American in the final.

Zagunis was similarly eliminated by the score of 15-11 to Cataleta of Italy and a Russian referee who refused to acknowledge Zagunis's attacks into the Italian's preparation. Given free rein, the Italian's attacks became bigger and wilder, making parries difficult to execute.

Momtselidze put forth a brilliant effort defeating Kim of Korea, 15-13, before losing to eventual gold medalist Clement of France, 15-12, in the round of 16. Emotions got the best of him as Momtselidze fought the referee throughout the bout. It



Hungarian and German sabrists battle it out. Photo: Chuck Linster.

was clear early in the bout that close counter time actions would not be allowed and Momtselidze didn't make the adjustment. Even so, he pushed his opponent to the edge and stayed in the bout.

Our results in the junior event were equally impressive. Ivan Lee and Rogers advanced to the DE ranked second and third, while Ahmed Yilla overcame some early jitters to advance with a 3-3 record.

After a 15-5 victory over Ishiyama of Japan, Yilla then dispatched the Russian Sazonov before falling 15-13 to eventual champion Sanson of France who was assisted by the visible and vocal French delegation. Rogers struggled in his bout with Danciulescu, losing 15-12. Lee coasted to the final eight defeating Won of Korea, 15-6, and Aquili of Italy, 15-9.

In the quarter-final match, Lee received a wake up call from Eric Piette of Canada, a regular in North American Cup (NAC) events who has clearly stepped up his game. Piette never stopped fighting and kept the bout within reach, finally bringing the score to 14-14. Lee closed him out with a long attack to advance to the finals.

With long steps that seem to defy gravity, Lee fought Florin

Zalomir of Romania touch for touch in the semi-final match. If the crowd, including his mentor Peter Westbrook, tried to take a breather from its cheering responsibilities, Lee's pumping fists exhorted the partisan American crowd to renew its efforts. Finally, the Romanian figured out the distance and Lee fell short on two attacks, losing 15-13.

Men's Sabre Team:

The impressive results of our fencers in the individual event provided our men with the third seed and an opportunity to match the success of their distaff counterparts. After a convincing win over the surprisingly low-seeded Poles, we lost to the Hungarians, 45-27. After falling behind early, the fight and spirit essential to sabre fencing waned. Our team finished off the competition in sixth place.

Women's Epee

Our cadet team of Raelyn Jacobson, Eleanor Leighton and Catherine Szarwark are new to international fencing and were looking to gain experience if results weren't possible. Our junior team, on the other hand, had high hopes: Jesse Burke, Arlene Stevens and Andrea Ament had the experience and the past results to make for

high expectations.

In the cadet event, Jacobson held her own in the seeding pool, going 4-2. Leighton fought through the jitters in front of her hometown friends and families to advance 3-2, while Szarwark, somewhat wide-eyed, was introduced to international fencing with a 1-4 record, but hung in there to score enough touches to get some DE experience in the round of 64. That experience paid off as she knocked out 11th-seed Magdalena Tereba of Poland to advance with her teammates to the 32, before falling 15-14 to Cramer of Switzerland. After a victory over Chiang of Taipei, Jacobson lost to Cheptalina, 15-11. Leighton met a similar fate in defeating Blauzdyte of Lithuania before falling to Di Franco of Italy.

Our juniors got off to a slow start in the preliminary round, with Burke dropping two bouts, Stevens dropping one, and Ament three.

Ament, who is evolving more towards being a foilist, drew the athletic Sarah Daninthe of France, a pure epee fencer, in the DE, and was eliminated.

Burke advanced to the 16 with wins over the Israeli Tunenez and took over the third seed with a win

Photo: Chuck Linster.



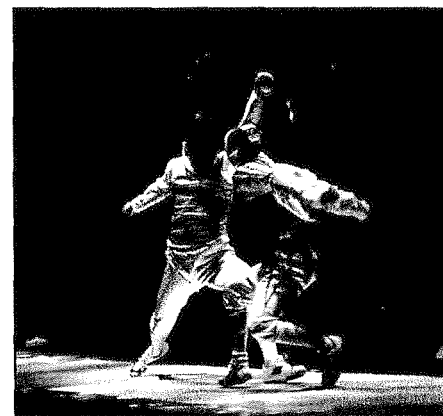
over Alvarez of Venezuela. Burke then fell victim (15-11) to another Israeli—a smallish, never heard of, easy-to-overlook athlete named Anastasia Ferdman. Burke was not alone in underestimating Ferdman, the eventual bronze medalist. Stevens' performance showed that her greatest strength—her patience—can be a weakness when she falls behind. After two wins that went the distance, 10-3 and 10-7 against Diez Gomez of Spain and Sophie Iamon of Switzerland, Stevens fell behind to eventual gold medalist Aleksejeva of Estonia and, unable to muster an offensive game, lost 9-6 as time expired.

Women's Epee Team

Our high hopes in the women's epee were crushed by a battling Hungarian team, taking advantage of an early round warm-up against the Mexican team and defeating our women, 45-38.

Men's Foil

Steve Gerberman, Jeremy Sinkin and Derek Snyder represented the U.S. in the cadet event. Each advanced from the seeding pool, respectively achieving the 19th, 9th and 26th seeds. Gerberman advanced to the round of eight



Attack to the back. Photo: Chuck Linster.

where he had the misfortune of drawing eventual champion Josh McGuire of Canada, and lost a heartbreaker, 15-14. Sinkin built a good lead in his match against Mandes of Poland, but was unable to sustain it when the Pole solved the distance. The 15-12 loss left him in 19th place. In his bout with Maor of Israel, Snyder was eliminated in the round of 64 as he stuck with his flicky style even after he fell behind because his point control deserted him.

In the junior event, Gerberman and Peter Cellini went out in the round of 32 after earning the 34th and 17th seeds, respectively. After a 15-14 win against Higashi of Japan, Gerberman lost to Barrera of Italy. Cellini defeated Allen of Canada before being dispatched 15-13 by the Russian Ignatchov. Kevin Erickson lost 15-13 to Bartolillo of Austria in the 64.

Men's Foil Team

With a bye in the preliminary round, the Americans had the time to prepare for their match against Great Britain in the round of 16. The British, underrated and surprisingly effective, took better advantage of the opportunity to prepare and handled the Americans easily, 45-27.

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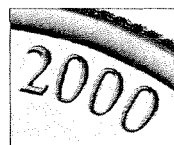


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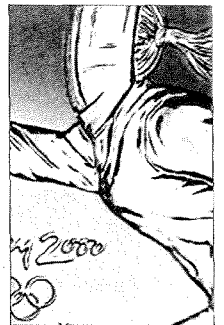
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GADGET CRAZY?

Tech Talk columnist **Joe**

Byrnes reveals his favorite belt tools for fencing fix-its.

A couple of issues ago (*American Fencing*, Fall 1999), I wrote about the fancy multi-tools that I usually carry at fencing competitions. Since I admit to being virtually addicted to the things, I have a sizeable collection, from which I pick a couple for any given expedition. The other things I keep clipped to my belt loops have been pretty much unchanged for years. I didn't say anything about them because they all seemed obvious to me. However, a few recent conversations with fencers have alerted me to what I should have known: What seems obvious to me isn't necessarily so to others—especially beginners. So here's a run-down on my "belt tools" (that's what I call them when making my lists—obsessive me—when packing for a competition.)

Besides the multi-tool(s), and the medium-sized Swiss Army knife that I mentioned in that earlier article, I'll have just as many gadgets, or clusters of gadgets. There will always be an epee/saber dimension gauge ("shims") that I find regularly useful. Naturally, I carry an accurately dimensioned set. (In case you thought that all sets of shims were alike, think again. *Ballpark*, yes, but within the FIE specification for epee gauge dimensions, for example, there is enough tolerance allowed to present certain difficulties. The FIE has been told about this many times, going back many years, but have they ever done anything about it? To ask the question is to answer it.)

One cluster of tools includes two

lengths, about six or seven inches each, of good, flexible test probe wire with banana plugs at each end. These days I prefer the kind of plug that allows another plug to be piggy-backed onto it. Add a similar, or slightly shorter, length of such wire, or a couple of them, terminated with small crocodile clips soldered at each end—preferably covered with rubber or vinyl sheaths, so they won't short out when being clipped to floor cord or body cord pins in close proximity. This cluster also has a 6mm hex tool on a wire coil suspension. I am thinking of gimmicking an 8mm exterior hex tool to join these things.

Last but not least in the cluster is one of my favorite on-the-strip trouble-shooting devices: the "perfect fencer." This consists of two foil/saber sockets—one bayonet, the other two-pin—fastened firmly together and shorted to prevent anything plugged into one or the other from ever giving a white light in foil or saber.

The last of my belt tools is a typical, little rectangular box with an FIE-spaced 3-pin socket and two LED's, red and green, to give readings on weapon and body cord condition. Most of these testers—and there are many commercially available—have tended to use 9-volt batteries. Although I had to use them, unless I wanted to go to the bother of building my own, I also had to recognize that a 9-volt battery will punch through any quantity of gunk in a foil or epee or cord, and therefore does not give a very accurate sense of the real quality of what you're testing. If I tell you that now I

carry a similar device that uses a 12-volt battery, you might think that I have gone off the deep end. This new device is a recent great improvement on the old 2-LED models. It's from the Italian manufacturer Favero, and is a well-crafted, well-designed gadget. There are four LED's, one red, one green, and two yellows, paired with the others. The red and green work in the conventional fashion to show continuity. The yellows, however, will light up and hold for about a second if the device detects a break of as little as one one-thousandth of a second (one millisecond). This works wonderfully well in checking weapons and body cords, and especially floor cords and reels. The reactions of its timer and comparator circuits are sharper than our best meters in smoking out potential trouble. Naturally, since this is a good idea, there are imitations available already, plus reports of super upgrades about to appear. Things just get better and better.

Called upon to trouble-shoot any weapon, in almost any situation on a strip, I can use just these belt tools to find out what's wrong, and usually fix it right there—or at least get the offending parts off the strip. I am not suggesting that every fencer would need all these things, much less want to carry them regularly. The spectacle of a whole lot of people going about a venue with a full set of my favorite gadgets dangling from their waists would suggest a mad sci-fi experiment in cloning gone amok. Take the information for what it may be worth to you. Pick and choose.

SPRAINS, STRAINS, BLISTERS & BRUISES



by Vinnie Bradford

Most fencing coaches and clubs don't have the luxury of full-time access to an athletic trainer or other sports medical staff, so it becomes their responsibility to not only develop training programs that help prevent injury, but also, if an injury does occur, to provide immediate basic care until more qualified medical help can take over. Here's an overview of some common fencing injuries and a brief guide on how to treat them.

sprains

With feet pointing at different angles and continual changes in momentum and direction—from full speed forward to full speed backwards in one step, sprained ankles are common occurrences in fencers. Knee injuries are less common, but they do occur in fencing. First-degree sprains are usually walked off in a few moments. Second-degree sprains will produce swelling and normally require the fencer to stop fencing and seek treatment immediately. Third-degree sprains are traumatic enough to require surgery to repair the ligament damage.

strains

Muscle strains in fencing are very common, with the most susceptible muscle being the hamstring of the leading leg. Other areas of concern are the lower back and shoulder of the fencing arm. As with sprains, there are degrees of muscle strain, from minor over stretch to complete rupture.

blisters

Blisters are the result of unwanted friction between your skin and a foreign object. In fencing, blisters often occur on the ball of a fencer's rear foot, a result of dragging the foot along the strip while lunging. Blisters also frequently appear on the fencing hand, the result of a new handle or an ill-fitting glove. You may choose to drain a blister by lancing it with a sterile scalpel. If you do, be sure to open it at the base of the blister, not the center, and *don't* remove the skin.

bruises

A regular ration of black and blues on the torso, arms and legs are such a normal occurrence to a fencer, most simply shrug them off. Other than wearing proper equipment, not much can be done to avoid this type of injury. Bruised toes and heels, however, occur less frequently. A bruised toe often occurs when the forward momentum of a fencer causes a fencer to repeatedly

jam his big toe of his front foot into his shoe. To avoid this painful injury, wear snug fitting shoes and good socks. If you do suffer from this injury, seek medical help to drain the fluid and be prepared to eventually lose the toenail. Repetitive hard lunging on an unforgiving surface can result in a bruised heel, a painful injury that makes fencing a real chore. At the first sign of pain, preventative measures should be taken, such as using heel cups and avoiding hard surfaces. If a bruised heel becomes severe and chronic, often the only remedy is a lengthy period of rest.

wounds

While this ugly subject was not included in the title of this article, a puncture wound is the nightmare of all fencers. The high standard of protective equipment required by the USFA and the FIE makes the occurrence of puncture wounds extremely unusual. Compared to many other sports, ours is extremely safe, but we have all heard stories of such injuries and we need to be prepared.

Puncture wounds usually occur when fencers are accelerating at a high rate of speed and the jagged edge of a broken blade pierces the protective gear. A puncture wound is usually quite small and can even be difficult to locate as there is usually little or no external bleeding. These wounds are extremely susceptible to infection, so regardless of the amount of pain or bleeding, the fencer should be brought to the nearest medical facility for examination and a tetanus shot. If possible, clean the wound with a good antiseptic; if the blade is in the wound, *don't* remove it—the broken blade might be the only thing preventing bleeding. Call 911 and have medical personnel ascertain the extent of the injury and determine when, where and how the blade should be removed.

Adapted from "Sport Injury and Basic Care for Fencing" by Vinnie Bradford, Olympian and current coach for the San Antonio Sports Foundation.



follow the boy scouts... be prepared

Bruce Milligan of the DC Fencers recently contacted the USFA National Office with the following suggestions for fencing clubs:

- ▷ Purchase a well-equipped first aid kit and keep it handy. Don't forget to include a first aid manual.
- ▷ Mark the lid of the first aid kit with contact information for the nearest treatment center and/or paramedics.

- ▷ A similar first aid kit should be on hand at all divisional tournaments.

Of course, all clubs should be diligent in ensuring that all fencers practice and train with full safety equipment.



HOT RICE:

BASIC CARE for FENCING INJURIES

- ▷ **NEVER MOVE THE INJURED FENCER:
Don't make a bad injury worse.**

HOT:

ASSESS the Injury

History▷

Ask: What happened? Where does it hurt? Severity of pain?
Previous injuries?

Observe▷

Visually inspect for swelling, discoloration, deformity or other visible sign of trauma.

Test▷

Gently feel for tenderness and deformity. Check the non-injured limb first to see what the injured limb should feel like. Start away from the injury and work toward the middle. Stress tests should only be conducted by trained medical personnel.

RICE:

TREAT the Injury

Rest▷

Stop fencing until the pain is gone.

Ice▷

Apply ice or cold pack to reduce swelling.

Compress▷

Wrap tightly with an Ace bandage to control swelling.

Elevate▷

Use gravity to reduce the flow of blood to the injured area.

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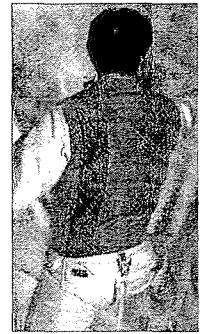
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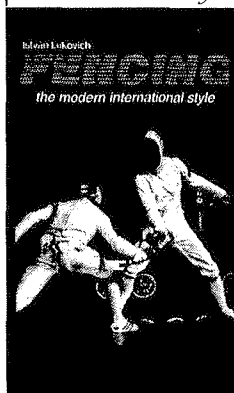
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Lukovich, *Fencing: the modern international style*



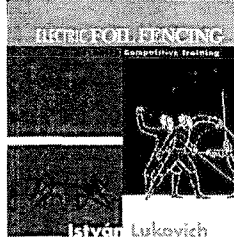
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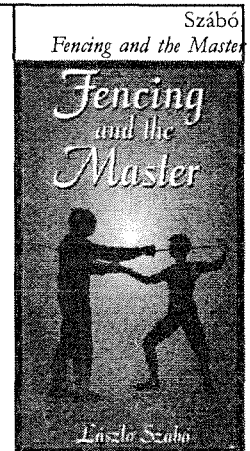
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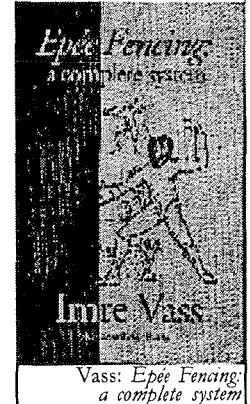
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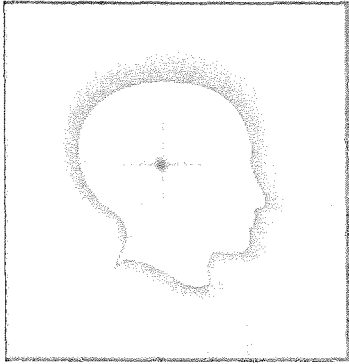
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FROM EYE TO MIND & MIND TO BODY:

The Visual Image as a Learning Tool

by John Heil & Lee Branum-Martin

*“The eye is the path to the mind,
and the mind the guide of the
body.”*

—Zen Teaching

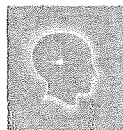
The human mind works in two distinct but complementary ways: picture thinking and word thinking. When it comes to action, the mind thinks in pictures. To illustrate, try to describe in words the perfect lunge and all of its components. Now, imagine having to recite all of that information in order to execute a lunge. In fact, a simple flash of the lunge's image in your mind provides all the information you need. For physical actions, the brain relies on something more akin to pictures than words.

If fencers think in pictures, then it follows that watching “pictures” of fencing can improve fencing. Today's athletes have a wide array of visual technologies available to them to enhance technique and competitive performance. Cameras, as well as editing and playback systems, are increasingly affordable and user-friendly, making it possible to create training videos that can teach tactical thinking, develop technical skills and boost psychological preparation.

The most fundamental way to acquire skills is to watch and imitate. The process of using others' behavior as a guide to one's own actions is known to psychologists as *modeling*. After modeling comes practicing and refining the skill through supervised trial and error. Eventually the athlete tries to repeat his or her

best actions—in a manner of speaking, imitating themselves.

With the convenience and portability of video recording, visual learning is an excellent complement to learning by doing. Fencers can view tapes in the comfort of their own home or on an airplane en route to a competition. It's important to note, too, that the development of visual learning techniques is the top sport science goal of the USFA.



Use it for: Goal Setting

A common practice among athletes is to write down important goals and post them in a key place, such as a locker or a bedroom mirror, as a reminder why he or she trains and competes. This same purpose can be served by a photograph of you or of a role model.

How to use it:

1. Select and post a simple photo of yourself that shows technical expertise or a moment of personal achievement, or a photo that you associate with a positive mindset. *Let this be a reminder of a situation that you would like to repeat again and again.*
2. Select and post a photo of another fencer or athlete who you would like to model yourself after. *Strive in your training to rise to the level of that other fencer.*
3. Choose a photo of an athlete in another sport whose personal qualities are illustrated by the photograph. *Let it guide you in the search for those same qualities.*

Remember that you will do your best by developing your own unique skills; images of others are simply stepping stones.



Use it for: Technical Skills

Watching bouts on video enables you to view actions from a different perspective as a starting point for developing new skills, and to reinforce and refine existing ones. For many spectators—for whom entertainment rather than learning is the primary goal—relatively little is learned from hours of watching; this is a consequence of passive viewing. To be effective, visual learning must be an active process—more work than entertainment. The fencer must study the video with specific objectives in mind.

How to use it:

1. When you view a video, dig into the details. Try to see which actions are working well and which need improvement. Use slow-motion and stop-action features to analyze actions in detail.
2. If an edit feature is available, create a tape of your own and other fencers' best actions. Watch strong actions over and over again at both slow-motion and regular speed as a way of mentally "grooving" the actions.



Use it for: Tactical Training

Fencing's characterization as physical chess is well deserved. Even the most athletically gifted fencer can be undone by a relatively weaker opponent who plays the "chess game" better. Developing tactical skills is probably the most challenging aspect of the sport. Enhancing your tactical skills is the fastest and surest way of training smarter.

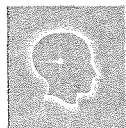
An ideal situation would be to have a videotape library of key opponents. With careful editing, certain actions typical of a fencer can be put together in a way that is well-suited for study. For example, an opponent's typical offensive and defensive actions can be put in sequence, showing how successful actions were implemented, and how these were effectively countered by opponents.

How to use it:

1. Tape your bouts and bouts of potential future opponents. Take care to label them well, including the

fencer's name, date, competition, score, etc.

2. Use the pause button on the remote and take time to discuss what the fencer is doing, and the best way to counter those actions.



Use it for: Mental Training

Reviewing video can help you psychologically prepare for upcoming competitions.

Studying successful bouts can draw attention to feelings of confidence and success. Much mention is made of the "zone" by athletes in a variety of sports, reflecting a growing awareness of the role of the mental game in competitive success. The right state of mind for competition can be cultivated through systematic training in mental skills. For each fencer, key elements of the "zone" can be identified and systematically trained and implemented.

You can gain insight by observing how fencers act when they are feeling confident. Video recording captures not only actions and words, but also subtle elements of body language and demeanor reflecting the fencer's psychological state.

How to use it:

1. Build confidence by watching bouts in which you have performed well a day or two before important competitions.
2. After a good performance, record your thoughts and feelings at critical moments during the competition to capture the experience of being in the "zone" while it is still fresh in your mind.
3. Review this video recording before important competitions.

Final thoughts

Many top fencers have equal levels of physical skill. Fatigue, discouragement, and distractions can be serious problems for any fencer's mental game. Videotaped bouts are also useful for identifying problematic mental states, such as getting too comfortable when leading, getting frustrated or discouraged when losing, and getting angry at the opponent or referee. As you review the video, identify behaviors that lead to success and behaviors that threaten success. Develop strategies to create a successful mental state and avoid performance-threatening situations.

While visual learning can be quite exciting and the technology is attractive, it is not without danger. Preparing and reviewing video can be time consuming,

so make sure you are gaining something from it, rather than becoming mired in it. Use visual learning as a way to train smarter. Working from eye to mind, and mind to body will expand your training repertoire and build your skills as a fencer.

Here are some more tips:

1. Collect photographs, videos, or any other images containing your best performances and review with an established plan.
2. Remember the physical, mental, and emotional qualities of those moments and strive to re-create them in every bout.
3. Collect strategies for keeping your technique, tactics, thoughts, and feelings focused on winning

each touch.

4. Set reasonable short term goals for progress in managing techniques, tactics, thoughts, and feelings.

Dr. John Heil is a sport psychologist with Lewis-Gale Clinic, and chair of the USFA Sport Science, Safety & Technology Committee. He can be reached at: Lewis-Gale Clinic, 4910 Valley View Blvd., Roanoke, VA 24012; 540-265-1605; JHeil@REV.NET.

Lee Branum-Martin is a doctoral student in sport psychology at the University of Houston, and is part of a research team completing a USOC-funded research study on women's foil. (The results of this study will be reported in a forthcoming issue of American Fencing.)

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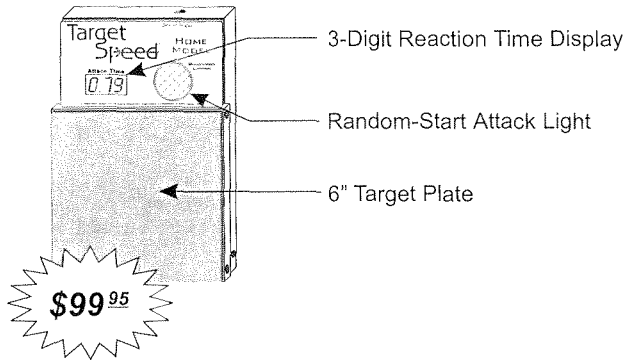


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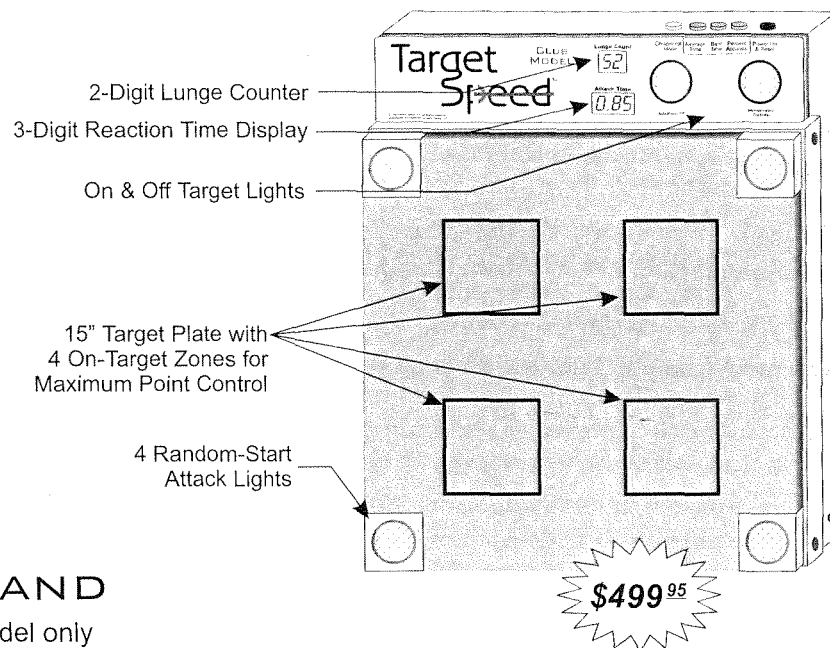
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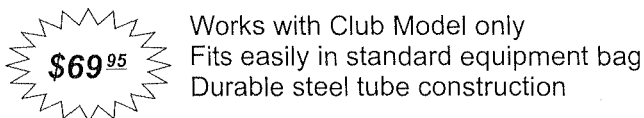
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Oh, Iris, We Can See!



by Bob Largman

The bombs were bursting in South Bend, Ind., as Iris Zimmermann led Team USA in another World Championship medal barrage. The U.S. had already tallied two bronze medals in the Cadet Championships with Jason Roger in men's sabre and Mariel Zagunis in women's sabre, when Zimmermann, a two-time world champion, won her third World Championship gold medal as she fought from behind to beat Katalin Varga of Hungary 15-14. For the first time in the history of American fencing, "The Star-Spangled Banner" played on U.S. soil, heralding that U.S. fencing is here to stay.

With the pressures from her success at the Senior World Championships (Zimmermann earned a bronze medal at the World Championships in Seoul, South Korea, in November 1999 and helped her team qualify for the Olympic Games), she entered the competition as a favorite for the title. In a vernacular that will be common when she spends the fall months in Australia, Zimmermann's motto was a simple "No worries, mate."

The American team, over 50 strong, sat together in a block with family, friends, supporters, and even neighboring countries in anticipation of a magical night. With the introduction of the athletes in the final eight, the American team sounded Zimmermann's triumphant return to the finals with pseudo-drums made from empty water cooler bottles, noise makers, and good ol' American cheering.

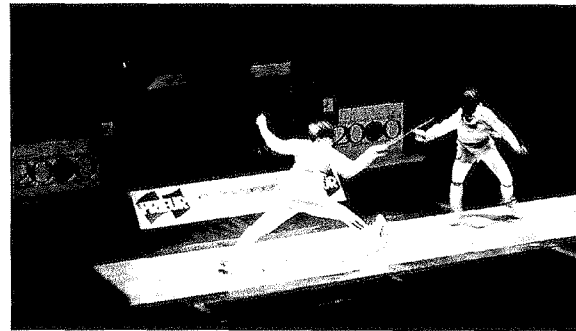
Kevin Ericksen, one of the Junior Men's foilists, jumped onto the final strip and led the U.S. delegation in the traditional "U-S-A" cheer. The stage was set for Zimmermann's history-making performance.

The women's foil gold medal bout took place after the U.S. team earned another bronze medal from Ivan Lee in the Junior Men's sabre event. Lee exhorted the U.S. team and the entire crowd with athletic moves and death-defying touches, saying to the world, "You don't mess with us in our house!" Lee's success set the stage for Zimmermann.

Zimmermann finished her pool undefeated and was seeded fourth in the direct elimination round. In the Final Four, Zimmermann first faced Sylwia Gruchala from Poland. Controlling the entire bout, she dispatched Gruchala 15-7, taking her rightful place in the final bout. Next up was the one person who could still spoil an entire country's hopes: Katalin Varga. After trading touches, the Hungarian Varga jumped out to a three-touch lead. Varga kept the lead through 10-7, when Zimmermann made her move.

Constantly changing her game to keep her opponent off-balance, Zimmermann began altering targets, changing tempo, and setting up actions. First, an indirect attack to her opponent's chest with a strong hit under her weapon arm. Next, a defensive action with a strong riposte to the shoulder. Finally, a false counter-attack and riposte to tie the score. During the next few touches, the Hungarian would score and Zimmermann would counter with her own hits.

At 13-13, Zimmermann unleashed a ferocious attack and scored a touch, bringing the



Opposite: Zimmermann after the medals ceremony.

This page, clockwise from left: Zimmermann in quiet contemplation; talking with sister Felicia and USFA Executive Director Michael Massik; moving to victory in first match of medal round.

Photos: Dr. John Heil.

bout to 14-13. The crowd, tense with anticipation and without an outlet, rocked South Bend with a crescendo of cheers typically reserved for the local football stadium.

Given the unprecedented meaning of this bout, the crowd would have much preferred a simple 15-0 rout from Zimmermann. However, for drama and involvement, nothing short of a Pulitzer Prize-winning suspense novel would be appropriate. The bout went to the limit: 14-14. It did not matter who Zimmermann was facing this last touch—it could have been the entire Italian team that she sliced through at the World Championships in Seoul, it could have been Michael Jordan, it could have been Zorro, it could have been a 10-year old who just began fencing yesterday. The excitement at that moment made everyone's hair stand on end, made everyone lean forward just a little further, hold their breath a little longer, and stopped the world from rotating, seemingly suspending time.

The bout resumed. Some give and take. A beat of the blade, a feint-deceive. A move forward, a pull back. And, without hesitation, a green light that ignited the time bomb called an audience and our American team rushed the stage to smother their new World Champion.

Perhaps the enormity of the situation had not yet sunk in. Another medal, but still a novelty. Another gold at a World Championships, but a rarity for the U.S. To see the Stars and Stripes raised to the inspiring sounds of "The Star-Spangled Banner"...priceless. It started slowly, but you could make out the whispers in the crowd as they sang the words to this anthem that meant so much more than signifying the start of a baseball game. The song went on and the singing became louder... "land of the free, and the home of the brave." By the time those words crossed the

lips of everyone's mouth, their cheeks were streaked with tears of joy. Zimmermann had won and she shared this moment with everyone as she drew her strength from each of her teammates and every American fencing enthusiast who wished her well, who wanted to be her, as she led us into a new era of American fencing.

As the flag reached its pinnacle on the medal stand, Zimmermann pointed to the heavens and thrust the American flag she was holding toward the sky. She pointed to her teammates saying that it could not have been possible without them. Of course, without the unwavering help of four incredible people Zimmermann's unprecedented feat would not have been possible: her parents, who were in the stands sweating every bead of sweat with Zimmermann; Buckie Leach, the master artist who guided Zimmermann to a point where she could weave this dream for all of us; and sister Felicia Zimmermann, who began this trek for the country over 10 years ago, was pushing, prodding, urging, yelling, advising, challenging, and just always there for Iris.

The cheers from the theater continued as Zimmermann left the podium. She had one last task to do. Turning to Michael Massik, USFA executive director, she asked for his cell phone. She dialed the number and spoke into the mouthpiece, "Clifford? I won!" And with that, Iris Zimmermann challenged another great American champion to try and match her result. With the hopes of every American who has fenced, dreamed of swashbuckling heroics, or traveled the galaxies with light sabre in hand, we dare to look forward to Sydney...oh, say, can you see?



Postcards from the Edge of the Strip

By Jeff Bukantz

Jeff Bukantz is one of the USFA's most experienced and dedicated referees. He started refereeing at his father Dan's suggestion as long-term planning for when Jeff's competitive career was finished. As Jeff puts it, "It was a way to pass the time after being eliminated in the first round of Met Division foil events." He has refereed all levels of competitive fencing—from high school to the Olympic finals in Atlanta.

Having seen it all, he was caught by surprise when a non-partisan crowd at the Junior/Cadet World Championships in South Bend, Ind., turned on him. Fencers and referees alike will benefit from Jeff's description of the harrowing emotional roller coaster ride he endured.

In 1996 at the men's foil finals of the Atlanta Olympic Games, I refereed in front of 4,000 rabid fans, as well as a television audience in Europe that watched the live broadcast on Eurosport. It was the single most exciting, exhilarating and gratifying moment of my career. If having to speak a foreign language to a global audience wasn't enough pressure, imagine having to pause after every touch in order to allow for the action to be shown in super slow-motion on gigantic replay screens to a crowd of knowledgeable fencing fanatics who would surely let their displeasure at a bad call be known. I was prepared for this moment, and as inwardly calm as humanly possible under the circumstances—but I'd be lying if I didn't say that there were times when I thought I'd need another pair of underwear. The semi-final match between Italy's Puccini, the eventual Olympic champion, and France's Baudin ended without incident. It was a storybook ending and a dream come true.

Unfortunately, my trip to men's foil finals at the 2000 Junior Championships nearly lapsed into a full-fledged Depends moment.

The finals in South Bend were held in an intimate, horseshoe-shaped auditorium in front of about 800 fans and fencers. I had attended all the previous finals and would describe the crowd as loud and supportive of the athletes, but more than occasionally derisive toward the

referees. The close quarters and noisy enthusiasm of the youthful crowd encouraged supporters to provide referees with instant negative feedback, which of course fueled the theatrical fires of coaches and fencers to play to the crowd attempting to influence the referee. It was a great show from the cheap seats; but from the referee's perspective, the honor of calling a bout in the finals was tinged with a fear of failure. Being booed and yelled at for trying your best is a difficult proposition.

Referees, just like athletes, want to participate in the finals. Selection for the finals is based on a number of factors—one being national affiliation, another being performance. FIE arbitrage officials circulate throughout the day, looking for difficult bouts, evaluating the referees. After the round of eight, I was approached by Serge Plasterie, the FIE assignor, and told I'd be working later that evening in the finals. Serge went on to say, "Jeffrey, you've got the match between the two Polish fencers, so there shouldn't be too much pressure."

Famous last words.

A referee should expect catcalls at any time, especially when fencers from different countries are competing; but when derisive chants arise in a match between teammates, it is fair to say the impartial audience really smells trouble.

With the score 2-1, I called riposte from the left, but the boos and whistles from a portion of the crowd indicated they felt it was

an insufficient parry. Consecutive calls after the score was 4-3 brought more boos and whistles. Uh-oh. By now, it was abundantly clear the crowd had lost confidence in me. Although I was getting a little queasy about the situation, I believed the calls were correct, so I talked myself into staying calm and cool.

The boos and whistles got even louder on a subsequent simultaneous call, and another close attack/counter-attack call. The catcalls peaked on a close call in which I gave an attack into preparation, even though the preparing fencer deftly continued doing whatever he was intending to do in the first place. This was the flash point that provoked the most disagreement from the now belligerent crowd. Although I was confident in

my decisions, little beads of sweat were starting to form on my brow. Now, I was just hoping to get off the stage without further problems.

No such luck! Near the end of the match, the fans hammered me for a *corps-a-corps* warning I gave out. The next to last call of the match, a clear (to me, anyway) riposte, elicited the final round of boos and whistles.

Finally, the debacle ended. I literally staggered off the stage and proceeded straight through the adjacent exit portal. Sam Cheris, the U.S.'s FIE representative, was standing at the entrance of the portal; he didn't make eye contact with me as I passed, let alone offer the usual congratulations. As head of protocol, he probably had many other things on his mind, but, needless to say, there was only one thing on my mind: Did I completely blow it?

In a trance-like state, I walked directly out of the venue onto the street in search of a taxi back to the hotel. I was distraught, depressed, and outright devastated that I might have performed badly at the worst possible time.

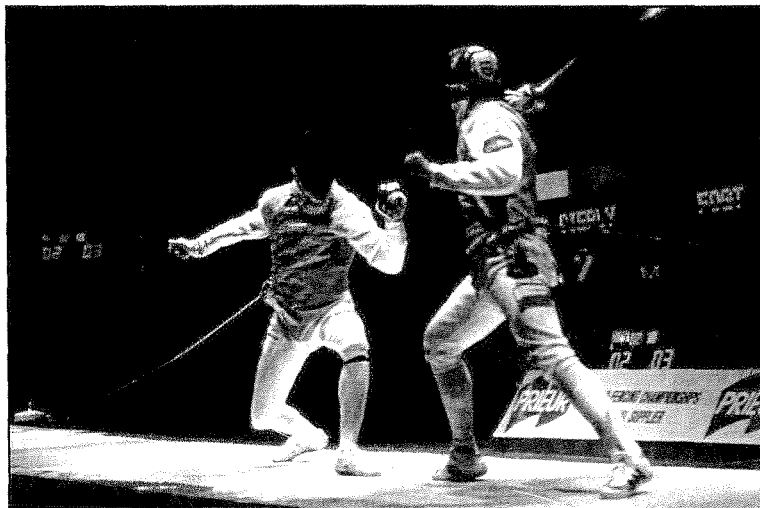
While the crowd was convinced that my calls were wrong, what really bothered me was that I felt comfortable with all except one. If they were right, maybe it was time for me to find a new way to make friends and influence people.

When I returned to the hotel, I ran into two European referees who said I made four or more mistakes. I didn't come close to falling asleep that night. I tossed and turned like a rotisserie chicken the entire night—

which was ironic considering that my international refereeing career was, in my mind, cooked.

The following morning, the referees assembled for the daily 7:15 AM meeting, and there was no question that we would be shown the video of the previous night's bouts. By this point, I was having an out-of-body experience. Talk about beating a dead horse.

The time had come for me to find out if I was a chump or a champ the previous night. I asked to watch my bout from start to finish and invited criticism. At regular speed, 100 percent of the referees disagreed with the riposte call at 2-1 that started my downward spiral of crowd disapproval. When the action was shown in slow motion, most of the referees reversed themselves and



The Call that Sent Boos around the Arena: Attack into preparation as called by Bukantz and criticized by spectators.

agreed with me.

We meticulously went through every action and subsequent call in the bout. It became clear that the feeling of despair and the sleepless night were unwarranted. Even the cocksure European referees who previously labeled my performance a disaster reluctantly agreed that most of the controversial calls were, in fact, correct. Remember the attack into preparation call that provoked the most boos and whistles? This was the call that the everyone unanimously agreed I blew. After slowing down the video, only a handful changed their minds. When the tape went super slow-mo, the majority begrudgingly agreed with the call. Finally, the video was freeze-framed at the moment when the touch was scored. Incredibly, that picture showed the fencer on the right in a lunge with his blade bent on the opponent's chest, the light already on the machine, and the alleged "attacking" fencer with his weapon arm *behind* his head! Ironically, that was the one call I was unsure of as I walked off the finals stage

I tossed and turned like a rotisserie chicken the entire night—which was ironic, considering that my international refereeing career was, in my mind, cooked.

the previous night—which, coincidentally, leads me to the moral of this story.

A referee, at any level, must have confidence in his/her calls, knowing well that many will be unpopular, even among fellow referees. Throughout this emotional firestorm, and in spite of the overwhelming negative public outcry that led to my self-doubt, I always felt comfortable with the calls in question.

The key to surviving the near-disaster was staying disciplined and maintaining focus on the next touch. While I was acutely aware of the crowd reaction, and at times wished for the experience to fast-forward, I consciously forced myself to concentrate only on the next action. Had I dwelled on what happened previously, whether I believed the calls were right or not, the wheels could have fallen off at any time.

In order to maximize your performance as a referee or a fencer, it is absolutely crucial to keep your composure by disregarding extraneous stimuli that could negatively affect your performance.

Never lose confidence in your ability.

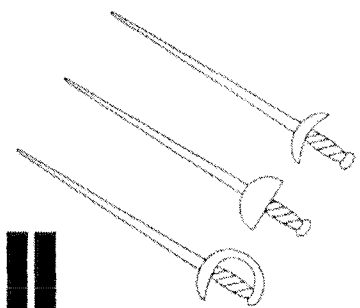
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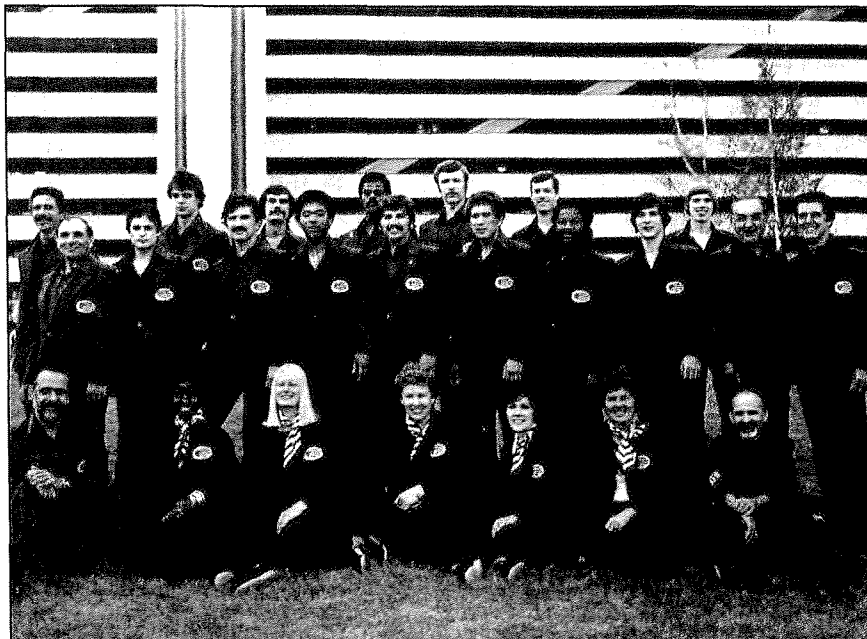
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

USFA Membership Director Chris Cuddy goes in search of the 1976 U.S. Olympic Team.



The 1976 Olympic Team: (top row, standing, l. to r.) Michael D'Asaro, Tom Losconcozy, Martin Lang, Ed Ballinger, George Masin, Ed Donofrio, Scott Bozek; (2nd row, standing, l. to r.) Jean-Jacques Gillet, Steve Kaplan, Paul Pesthy, Peter Westbrook Paul Apostol, Alex Orban, Ed Wright, Brooke Makler, Csaba Elthes, Jack Keane; (sitting, l. to r.) Marius Valsamis, Nikki Franke, Gay D'Asaro, Sheila Armstrong, Ann O'Donnell, Denise O'Connor, Dan Dechane

From the cover of *American Fencing*, November/December 1976, Volume 28, No. 2.

As *American Fencing* magazine celebrates 50 years of publication and the United States Fencing Association (USFA) prepares for the upcoming 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, we take a look back on a past Olympic team that graced the cover of *American Fencing*. Many of the members remain active in fencing today.

WOMEN'S FOIL

Sheilah Armstrong currently resides in Southern California where she is a management analyst. She retired from fencing in 1980, but still directs at local tournaments and the California Games.

Nikki Franke is an associate professor of health education, and fencing coach at Temple University. She began the varsity fencing program at Temple 28 years ago and has been named the Women's Collegiate Fencing Coach of the Year four times. Franke was also a member of the 1980 Olympic team, and the 1979 bronze-medal Pan American Games team, where she also won the individual bronze medal. A member of the Brooklyn College, Temple University, and

USFA Hall of Fames, Franke also serves as an executive board member to the Black Women in Sport Foundation and operates several after-school fencing programs in Philadelphia. Franke and her husband, Norman, have two children, Aisha and Hasani.

Gay Jacobsen, who was interviewed in the last issue of *American Fencing*, remains active in fencing today as a referee and fencing instructor at the Rogue Valley Fencing Club in Oregon. Jacobsen was also a member of the 1980 Olympic team, and the 1979 bronze-medal Pan American Games team. She currently serves as secretary of the Fencing Officials Commission (FOC). Jacobsen's other interests include flying, motorcycling and running.

Denise O'Connor retired from competitive fencing in 1976, but continued as a coach until 1990. She is currently the secretary and treasurer for the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA). O'Connor was a professor in Brooklyn College's department of physical education in Brooklyn, NY, until her retirement in January of this year. The New Jersey Division has named its high school championship "The Denise O'Connor High School Championship" in her honor.

Ann O'Donnell Russell is a special education teacher at the Edgartown School on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. She remains active in fencing as a coach and member of the Martha's Vineyard Fencing Club. Russell also was a member of the 1979 bronze-medal Pan American team. Sailing and gardening are Russell's other interests. She is a member of the New Jersey City University, the Hudson County, NJ, and Bayonne, NJ, Athletics Hall of Fames. Russell is the widow of 1965 U.S. national men's foil individual champion Robert Russell.

MEN'S FOIL

Edward Ballinger currently works for the Learning Company as a salesman. Ballinger retired from fencing in 1985. He currently lives in Buzzards Bay, Mass., with his wife, 1968 Olympian (women's foil) Sally Pechinsky Ballinger.

Ed Donofrio is president of the Airflow Company, a \$100 million per year manufacturer with 300 employees. He currently resides in Virginia with his wife Rebecca and their six children. Donofrio's current fencing involvement is limited to exhibitions only. He retired from coaching the U.S. Naval Academy, where he is a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame, Varsity Fencing Team after the 1991/1992 season. Donofrio lists his current hobbies as golf,

coaching and time with his wife.

Marty Lang retired from fencing in 1984. He now spends his time coaching sons Joey's and Danny's ice and roller hockey teams in Florida. Lang also plays golf whenever possible. He is currently a financial advisor for Paine Webber.

MEN'S EPEE

Scott Bozek retired from competitive fencing in 1980. Bozek and his wife Judy have three sons—Andrew, Jeff and Philip. As an economist and diplomat for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bozek has had some unique fencing experiences. During his time in Romania (1981-1985), he trained with the Romanian Olympic team. While in Istanbul, Turkey, (1987-1991), he was a player-coach for a club that won the 1989 Turkish national championship in men's epee team. He then went on to Oslo, Norway, (1991-1996), where he had the opportunity to work with former Soviet Olympic coach Klavdi Jadlovski, concentrating on the development of juniors, including his sons. He currently resides in Washington, DC area, but will be off to Budapest, Hungary, this summer for a four-year assignment.

George Masin remains very active in fencing. In addition to still competing, Masin is a member of the USFA Board of Directors, Congress, FOC, Tournament Committee, Election Committee, Bout Committee, Met NY Division Board and a referee. Among his many accomplishments, Masin has made the finals of the USFA National Championships in four different decades (1960s-1990s), and is a member of the New York University Sports Hall of Fame. Masin lives in New York where he is a systems analyst for the DMR Consulting Group. His other interests include philately (stamp collecting) and chess.

Paul Pesthy is the executive

director for the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Association (USMPA). A native of Budapest, Hungary, Pesthy now resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife Carolyn. He and Carolyn have two children, Christina and Sabra. Pesthy has been a member of several Olympic Teams for both fencing ('64, '68, '76, '80) and modern pentathlon ('64, '68), winning a silver medal with the modern pentathlon team (1964). Pesthy is a member of the Rutgers University and USFA Hall of Fames. He currently remains active in fencing as a coach.

MEN'S SABRE

Tom Losonczy works in sales and marketing for Bass Hotels & Resorts. Losonczy and his wife Audrey have two children, Magda and Zoltan. His current involvement in fencing revolves around teaching his daughter Magda at the En Garde Fencing Club in West Orange, NJ. Losonczy was also a member of the 1980 Olympic team.

Peter Westbrook has been a member of every Olympic team since 1976, and won the Olympic bronze medal in 1984. He remains active today as the president of the Peter Westbrook Foundation in New York. Westbrook also serves as the USFA representative to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Athlete Advisory Council (AAC), USOC Board of Directors, and is a USFA International Committee member. He was the first athlete to receive the USOC F. Don Miller Award in 1996.

Westbrook has also received the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Award (1997), NYU's Distinguished Alumnus Award (1998), and the Japanese American of the Biennium Award (1998). Westbrook is married to Susan and enjoys weightlifting and karate in addition to his fencing activities.

STAFF

Daniel Dechaine has spent more than 40 years as armorer and technician at all levels of fencing, nationally and internationally. Dechaine is a member of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime's (FIE) S.E.M.I. Commission, the group that makes the rules concerning all fencing equipment and technical matters for all fencing competitions in the world. Dechaine is retired and

resides in California. His family includes wife Myra and two children, Daniel and Laura.

Marius Valsamis M.D. is a physician and neuropathologist for New York Medical College. Valsamis is a current member of the FIE's Medical Commission and honorary chairman of the USFA's Medical Commission. He and his wife, Nancy, have three children, Helen Anna, Demetrios Peter and Arianne Irene. Valsamis is also

interested in Northwest Coast Indian art as a hobby.

Other members of the 1976 Olympic Fencing team include: **Brooke Makler** (Men's Epee); **Ed Wright** (Men's Foil); **Paul Apostol**, **Stephen Kaplan**, **Alex Orban** (Men's Saber); **Michael D'Asaro**, **Csaba Elthes**, **Jean-Jacques Gillet** and **Jack Keane** (Staff).

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One day in Bonn

the diary of a world cup winner

By Cliff Bayer

On April 9, 2000, the U.S. national men's foil team competed in the Lowe Von Bonn World Cup held in Bonn, Germany, regarded by many as the strongest of the 18 world cups that are held every year. There were over 150 international competitors, but the U.S. soared to the top as Cliff Bayer won a world cup gold medal for the second time this season. Cliff wrote a diary of his experience for American Fencing.

My coach, Yefim Litvan, and I were training with a great deal of intensity before the Lowe Von Bonn World Cup, so I would be in top shape going into it. Litvan, an NYAC coach since 1995, came to the U.S. in the late 1980s from the Ukraine where he coached many members of the Ukrainian national team. We traveled to Bonn a week early to acclimate to the time change and to train with the top-level fencers in Germany.

On a cold Sunday morning on April 9th, Yefim and I were walking to the competition site, discussing my first opponent, Alexi Bryzagalov of the Ukraine. The bout against Bryzagalov was particularly important to me because he was the one who knocked me out of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and I wanted revenge.

The bout against Bryzagalov at the Lowe Von Bonn World Cup was intense from the very beginning, with no more than two touches separating us. Within minutes, the bout was tied at 10-all. At that moment I remembered my recent poor performance in China and I motivated myself to win the next five points in a row to finish the bout at 15-10. Towards the end, I felt a surge of power and I knew it was my day.

My next opponent was Italy's Alessandro Puccini—the defending Olympic champion. Never having fenced Puccini before in a competition, I was unsure what to do. From watching tapes of him fence, I knew that his greatest assets were his speed and timing. I was cautious from the beginning, carefully preparing my attacks. As I gained a sense of Puccini's rhythm, I constantly changed from defense to

offense, keeping Puccini off balance. Despite some questionable calls in Puccini's favor, I won the bout 15-11.

I was now in the top sixteen and my next bout was for the final eight. After beating Puccini, I knew that I could beat anyone else out there. I was ready to take on my next opponent, Cuba's Rolando Tucker. Tucker is known as an aggressive fencer who has a very powerful attack and a long reach. I knew that the pace of the bout would be a lot faster than my previous one and that I would have to give everything I had.

From the first point, I was moving as much as I could. I kept mixing up the actions—defending one point and attacking on the next. I got an early lead, as Tucker was failing to hit me on his attacks. Fencing furiously, I took a 10-3 lead within the first minute. But I could feel my legs getting tired and Tucker started to come back and I kept thinking, "Five more points, five more points." The early lead proved insurmountable as I forced myself to keep moving and finished up the match 15-11.

As the only non-European in the top eight, I was intent on showing the fencing world that the United States has the same right to be a dominant fencing force as any other top European country. My first bout in the final eight was against Jean-Marco Amore from Italy. Amore wanted to take revenge for his countryman Puccini, but in the final I felt like I was at the top of my game and defeated Amore 15-6. The head Italian coach was furious at the defeat and gave advice to my next opponent, Daneila Crosta, also from Italy.

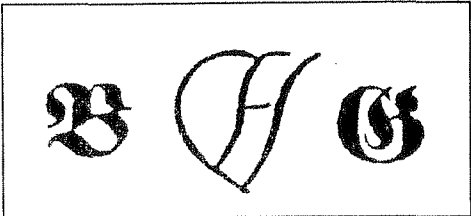
From the beginning, Crosta attacked me relentlessly—but predictably. Knowing what was coming, I was able to defend myself. When the bout was over and I was victorious, I had the personal satisfaction of witnessing the despair of Crosta and the Italian coach.

I was starting to feel fatigue in my legs, but I kept telling myself that I had one more bout left. There would be plenty of time to get tired later but now was not the time. It was showtime!

The gold medal match was against Ralf Bissdorf of Germany. When the announcer called the bout, the German crowd was cheering with all their might. I could see from Bissdorf's body language that he wanted to win as much as I did. He had the home-court advantage and wanted to walk away with the gold. I kept thinking about staying focused and not letting the crowd intimidate me.

I fenced Bissdorf the way I fenced my previous bouts: intense, while moving quickly back and forth. Bissdorf is one of the tallest fencers on the tour and I knew that he would try to use his long reach to his advantage. I made sure that when I attacked, I finished strong to avoid his counter-attack. This strategy proved successful and after three minutes I won the bout, becoming the first American to ever win the Lowe Von Bonn.

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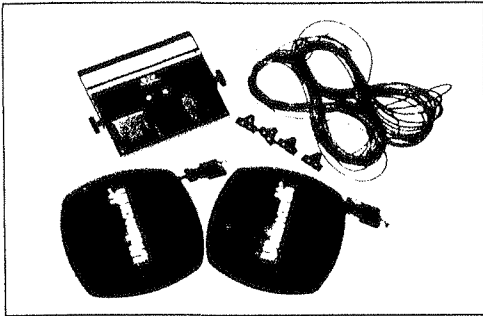
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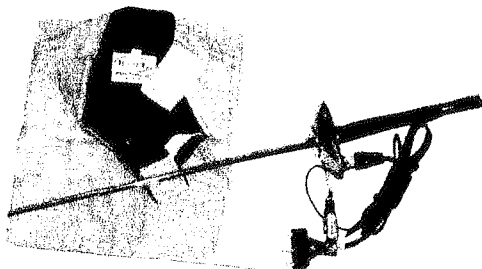
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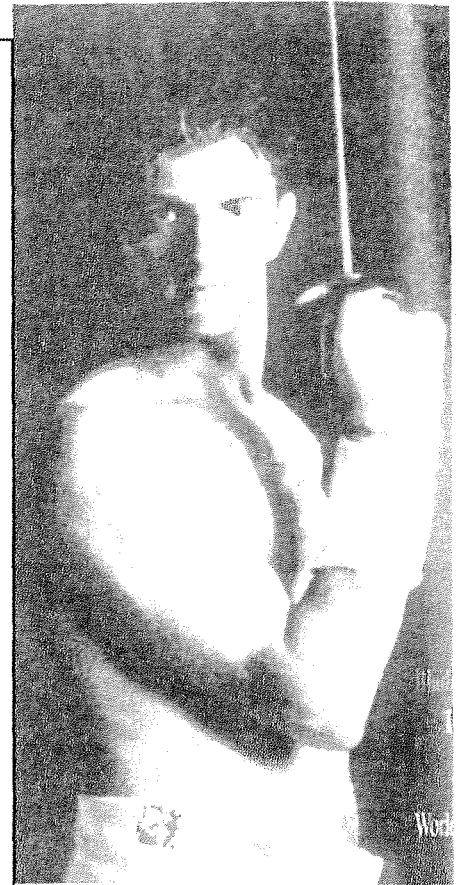


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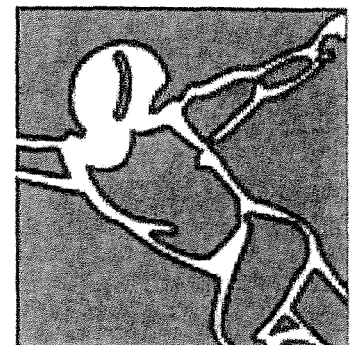
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Alabama	Connecticut	Michigan	North Carolina	Tennessee
Alaska	Florida	Minnesota	Northeast ¹⁵	Texas
Ark-La-Miss ¹	Central FL ⁹	National ¹³	Ohio	Border Texas ²⁰
Arizona	Gateway FL ¹⁰	Nebraska - S. Dakota	Columbus	Gulf Coast TX ²¹
California	Gold Coast FL ¹¹	Nevada	Northern ¹⁶	Plains TX ²²
Central CA ²	Georgia	New England ¹⁴	Southwest ¹⁷	North TX ²³
Mountain Valley ³	Hawaii	New Jersey	Oklahoma	South TX ²⁴
Northern ⁴	Illinois	South Jersey	Oregon	Utah- Southern Idaho
Orange Coast ⁵	Indiana	New Mexico	Pennsylvania	Virginia
San Diego	Inland Empire ¹²	New York	Central PA ¹⁸	Western WA
San Bernardino	Iowa	Hudson-Berkshire NY	Harrisburg	Wisconsin
North Coast ⁶	Kansas	Long Island NY	Philadelphia	Wyoming
Southern ⁷	Kentucky	Metropolitan NYC	Western PA ¹⁹	
Capitol ⁸	Louisiana (Southern)	Westchester-Rockland	South Carolina	
Colorado	Maryland	Western NY	St. Louis, Missouri	

1. Arkansas, Mississippi, N. Louisiana

2. San Jose, Fresno & San Luis Obispo

3. Sacramento Area

4. San Francisco & Oakland

5. Orange County & Long Beach

6. Northernmost California

7. Los Angeles & Bakersfield

8. DC, Montgomery & Prince Georges Counties

9. Orlando & Tampa

10. Northern Florida

11. Southern Florida

12. N. Idaho, Montana, E. Washington

13. Those located outside the boundaries of the U.S. or any Division

14. Eastern Massachusetts & Rhode Island

15. Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont

16. Cleveland area

17. Cincinnati - Dayton

18. State College

19. Pittsburgh area

20. El Paso & S. New Mexico

21. Houston area

22. Lubbock & Amarillo

23. Dallas & Ft. Worth

24. San Antonio & Austin

Special Membership Categories

Fence For Fun: Valid for local competition only. Not eligible for Section or National level tournaments or qualifying events thereto. May upgrade to Competitive Member for \$10; USFA classification is not applicable to membership type.

Family: Up to four individual memberships of which a maximum of two can be competitive members and others are associate (non competitive) members. Memberships are non-transferable among competitive and non competitive family members.

Junior: Must be under 20 as of January 1 of the membership year(s) being paid; e.g. for membership year ending July 31, 2001, a junior must be born 1981 or later.

Veteran: Fencer who is 40 or older as of January 1, 2001 or later (birth year is 1960 or earlier).

Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to American Fencing Magazine - USFA Quarterly Publication
The magazine provides news, tournament results, profiles of fencers, and tips on training and equipment maintenance.
- Subscription to the USFA National Newsletter - USFA Quarterly Publication
The newsletter contains information on competitions, national programs, and entry forms for National Tournaments.
- Accident and Liability Insurance: Covers USFA sanctioned activities (contact USFA National Office for policy specifics.)
- Voting Privileges: Members 18 and over, as of February 1st of the membership year, have the right to vote in USFA elections.
- Discounts on Travel and Fencing Equipment
Special rates with UNITED Airlines on all travel and discount coupons from major fencing equipment dealers.
- USFA Membership card: Recognition as a member of U.S. Fencing and passport to worldwide fencing.

How to Contact the USFA

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