

American Fencing



Photo by Gradkowski

U. S. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM - HAVANA 1969

Left to right: (sitting) Dan DeChaine, Dan Lyons, Stan Seija; (kneeling) Dr. Valsamis, Delmar Calvert, Ed Lucia, Emily Johnson, Mel North, Lajos Csiszar, Hugo Castello; (standing) Carl Christie, Denise O'Connor, Steve Netburn, Ruth White, Maxine Mitchell, Ed Carfagno, Werner Kirchner, Harriet King, George Masin, Bob Dow, Joe Elliott, Vito Mannino, Bonnie Linkmeyer, Lou Goldberg, Marty Lang, Carl Borack. In the background is the palatial Hotel Nacional de Cuba where all the fencers stayed.

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

AMERICAN FENCING

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Dedicated to the Memory of it's First Editor and
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f manuscripts cannot be returned unless submitted with a stamped self addressed
e. No anonymous articles will be accepted.

EDITOR EDITED

Goldstein, our Editor, has undergone
surgical operation to correct a long
difficulty with his hip. We are happy
rt that Ralph is feeling as well as
e expected under the circumstances
looking forward to returning to work
competitive fencing. Veterans look

MARION LLOYD VINCE

by Peter Tishman

It is with sorrow that we report the passing
of Marion Lloyd Vince on November 2, 1969.
Marion was junior national champion and
twice national champion. She was a member
of the 1928, 1932, and 1936 U. S. Olympic
teams, and Metropolitan champion seven
times. We know that fencers the world over
join in sending deepest sympathy to her hus-
band Joseph Vince.

AMERICAN FENCING

1969 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT; U. S. FENCERS MAKE POOR SHOWING

All Individuals Eliminated by Second Round; Foil, Epee, Women's Foil Teams Lose All Matches

DELEGATION CHIEF'S REPORT

by Daniel Lyons

Getting a team off to the 1969 World
Championships was a complicated job. It took
all the persistence and perseverance we were
capable of and a bit more. The logistical
problems were formidable indeed. First we
had to obtain approval from the State Depart-
ment in Washington to go at all and pass-
ports had to receive special validation for
travel to Cuba. It may be hard to believe
but our passports were only returned to us
by State the day before we left for Mexico
City, our point for departure to Cuba. Then
we had to get visas from the Cuban govern-
ment and the Czechoslovak Embassy, the
caretaker for Cuban interests in Washington,
got the go ahead on that same last day.

Our final administrative difficulty was to
obtain permission from Mexico for the team
to return to that country after the competi-
tion. Failure to obtain such permission prior
to departure could have led us to return via
Madrid! Fortunately through the assistance
of the Mexican Fencing Federation and
George Natanson, CBS foreign correspondent
we got that approval, although it took frantic
telephoning, cabling and visits to get the ap-
proval translated into the necessary docu-
ments in Havana.

The stay in Mexico City of four days gave
ample time for a good part of the team to
become the victim of Montezuma's revenge
and be debilitated for periods up to five days.
Unfortunately we were unable to schedule
any practice sessions because we were con-
stantly kept on the jump by possible de-
parture for Cuba.

Finally we were ready to leave for Havana
on Cuban Airlines. What a surprise to find

that in addition to the Mexican, Canadian
and Chilean teams we had for company the
12 Brazilian revolutionaries who were freed
in exchange for Ambassador Elbrick who had
been kidnapped in Rio de Janeiro only days
before. The arrival of these men brought
Fidel Castro to the airport but we were still
going through immigration and did not see
him. We were not suffering any hardships
since passing through the large "Welcome"
signs we were entertained with daquiris and a
trio of Musicians who spun a continuous
cacaphony of native rhythms.

The headquarters for all fencers and staff
was the once world famous Hotel Nacional
which had been reserved almost exclusively
for participants in the championships. Gener-
ally we had the choice of single or double
rooms, each with private bath, so everyone
was quite satisfied with the quarters. Meals
were served in a pleasant dining room and
while not exactly gourmet style they were
quite good. Certainly knowing of the strict
rationing of food in Cuba we were aware
that special treatment was being given the
fencers.

All the facilities arranged by the Cubans
were first rate. A special training center with
at least fifteen strips and complete electrical
equipment was available. The Sports City in
which the actual competition took place had
a capacity of 13,000 spectators and had
fourteen copper strips. Showers, locker rooms,
first aid facilities as well as complete shops
for use of armorers to repair weapons were
more than ample. A special lounge area was
provided for fencers and officials in which
light lunches and refreshments were served
without cost. Reserved buses which ran every
five or ten minutes to the Sports City or the
training center were a great convenience.

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opening ceremonies were scheduled for the evening of October 1 and an air of apprehension over our entire group. The arena was packed as the parade of nations beneath which we wondered what reception we would receive in Cuba, a country which has been torn in a violent anti-U. S. campaign for twelve years. The moment arrived and Maxine Mitchell, popularly elected, carried the Flag we prepared to march upon into the arena. As Maxine entered the arena we following heard a tremendous cheer and applause. Each of us raised our heads and shoulders more and more as we marched jubilantly forward. The cheering was an emotion packed in each of our lives that we will never forget. At that moment the pride in being American was never stronger and we all knew that our visit to Cuba would be filled with unpleasant incidents.

Happy we would be if we could report that we had been able to capture a medal, or even a few U.S.A.'s in the finals or semi-finals. This was not to be the case. Every member exerted every effort in every bout and with all possible means to win. The members of the delegation gave all they were capable of to help the team. In addition, other fencers not then competing, acted as seconds, helped change bodycords, get water and towels or otherwise sought by the fencer. No Chief member of a United States team could have been more willing, helpful or cooperative.

Record:

Individual Foil. Vito Mannino made the second round with a 1-3 record, but did not win only one in that round. Our members Borak, Elliott and Lang managed a win in the first round while Carfagno lost.

Individual. Werner Kirchner and Carl made it to the second round, the latter winning three bouts and the latterly being in a five man pool and able to move up with only one victory. Dow in a six man pool managed a win and was eliminated in the first round. We can only conjecture whether his

results might have improved if he had not been under such a limiting training plan prescribed for him before he joined the team.

The second round results saw Kirchner winless and Borack with only one win. Even if the latter had captured the bout which he carried to 4-4 elimination was unavoidable.

Men's Foil Team. With Carfagno sick the team was automatically set and they went at the West Germans full force. Borack fenced very strongly taking three and Lang supported him with two excellent wins. Both demonstrated real promise as they moved in a truly international style. But we fell short by a 9-7 margin as Elliott and Mannino could only take one each while suffering grievous 5-4 losses in critical bouts.

Fencing next against a stronger Rumanian team we were badly beaten by 12-4. While four of our losses were by 5-4 scores, three of our wins were by the same margin. Only Lang managed two wins and both were achieved against the best, Tiu and Drimba.

Despite our losses it was evident that in this event all our men had reached higher efficiency and were fencing with better time and distance than in the individuals.

Women's Individual Foil. Three of our team, Maxine Mitchell, Ruth White and Denise O'Connor made it up to the second round, the former with two wins each and the latter having only to win one bout since she was in a pool of five. Both Bonnie Linkmeyer and Harriet King had no luck and were unable to gain a victory.

Second round results saw Mitchell and O'Connor win one bout each and White lost all, thus eliminating us from further contention. Unfortunately, none got close to moving up even though each had at least one 4-3 bout.

Epee Individual. We started into this event with hopes of salvaging something from our relatively poor showing to date. Ed Carfagno and Karl Christe gave excellent performances, each winning four bouts in the first round to make it up easily. Steve Netburn in a tough pool, won two, suffered a 5-5 loss and went out with only two victories. George Masin had worse luck since he won three hard



Photo by Gradkowski

The opening ceremonies were easily the most colorful of any world championships to date. After the march-in and the flag ceremony the audience was treated to a spectacular display of modern dance by several hundred youngsters in full fencing costume.

fought battles, lost one 5-4 bout and a 5-5 double loss and failed to get up on touch count. Louis Goldberg managed two wins when three would have put him in position to go up. Unfortunately for him he suffered one double loss and dropped a 5-4 bout.

In the second round both Carfagno and Christe had one win and were eliminated. Although both fenced several very good bouts they could not maintain the consistency needed.

Women's Team. Our team had a very hard time. We lost to Roumania 13-3, Poland 10-6 and Cuba 9-4. Only in the match with the Poles did we hang in close for a while and this was by virtue of a strong performance by Harriet King who won three very well fenced bouts. With Ruth White managing to win two, Mitchell one and O'Connor none, we just didn't have enough help to take the match. Rumania simply romped. Only two of their 13 wins was by a 4-3

margin and only one victory each was posted by O'Connor, Linkmeyer and King while White lost all. In the bout with Cuba we had a very fine three win record compiled by Bonnie Linkmeyer. She went into the match with a rare determination and degree of concentration which she had not previously exhibited. Again unfortunately only Ruth White was able to win one bout while King and Mitchell couldn't get on the win side of the ledger. So the defeat by Cuba was by a wide margin.

Epee Team. Our men put up a tremendous battle before bowing to the Swedes 10-6 and to the Swiss 10-5 in the first round. Against the former, Steve Netburn, Karl Christe and George Masin each won two and lost two. Ed Carfagno, who dropped four, just couldn't put over a decisive touch. Imagine how tough it was to lose two by 5-4 margins and one in a 5-5 bout. But there it was again, no other fencer could make up for the losses.

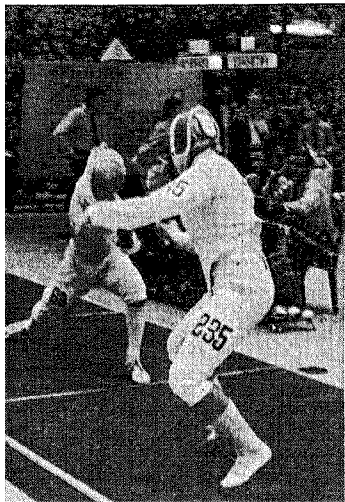


Photo by Gradkowski

White, U.S.A. (left) slugs it out with U.S.S.R. (right) in second round of duals.

ally had a lead of five bouts to four match with the Swiss when the roof and they swept the next six bouts. etburn was the only one to take two hile the other three members could only one each.

We Operated. Your 1969 team was ly well organized. For the first time a full staff, a women's team manily Johnson, a staff doctor, Marius s, an armorer, Dan DeChaine, a press Richard Gradkowski, and six coaches. eja (Princeton) doubled as general ; Hugo Castello (N.Y.U.) was our counselor and interpreter while Ed C.C.N.Y.), Lajos Csiszar (Penn.) our ch, Mel North (U.C.L.A.) and Delmar (L.A.A.C.) concentrated their entire it training the fencers.

diately after arriving at our head- the staff established a full schedule ties for the team. On a conveniently bulletin board we set out training with assigned coaches, dates of com- , team participants, names of seconds

and information about meetings or other ad- ministrative matters. Each fencer soon found it simple to know what he or she was ex- pected to do and when to do it. This simple device saved much time and we were pleased that the fencers valued the board. With the extensive help of Emily Johnson and the end- less effort of Stan Seija my workload was eased considerably. Ailments of every conceivable kind seemed to hit our delegation and Dr. Valsamis had some trying days at- tempting to keep up with the aches, pains and bruises. His help was invaluable. Ail- ments of our weapons were cured by "Dr." Dan DeChaine and I just can't say how hard he worked. Then all of our coaches seemed to be on duty endlessly. They worked at the training headquarters and at the competi- tions giving drills to increase efficiency rather than lessons in the usual manner. No fencer was without a professional warm-up.

Who Won the Honors. The surprise was not that the Russians won top honors, but it was the total domination that shocked us. They took five gold and three silver medals in the total of eight events. But the extent of their victory is not understood until you know that both the Men's Foil and Epee championships were lost by the Russians on fence-offs and the Women's Team lost out to Rumania in an 8-8 final and only by a single touch in the last bout. Furthermore, the Russians had at least 2 or 3 representa- tives in the finals of six in each weapon. A West German captured the Men's Foil and a Pole garnered the epee laurels.

What We Must Contend with to Challenge in the Future.

There is no secret as to what we must do.

First.

International fencing is done from long distance, not close distance. The preparation of the attack is frequently a step lunge then followed by the lunge or continued ad- vancing attack to score. Fencers must learn to work that way, coaches must instruct that way.

Second.

The stop thrust is out. Almost under what- ever conditions it is executed the international directors will not give it. A stop executed im-



Photo by Gradkowski

Equipment trouble during the world championships was unusually widespread, with all of the teams experiencing problems. Above; Harriet King gets a going over from the F.I.E. technicians while (l. to r.) Lajos Csiszar, Maxine Mitchell, and Dan Lyons try to help. By this time, Dan DeChaine, our armorer, was ready to cry.

mediately against an advance lunge with a one-two will not get the touch, Solution: For- get the stop and fence. Directors, cease calling the stop good.

If a substitute is desired then let's do what the European do. They make a time thrust, then retreat so fast that only one light ap- pears.

Third.

Learn some footwork. Our people have to practice moving at high rates of speed **both** forward and backward. Then we must be able to change directions without hesitation. The full lunge from the full retreat is a neat trick, but it can be done and is done by the inter- national fencers.

Fourth.

Develop the quickest possible hand. The hand and arm must move independently of the feet if necessary and they should go like

lightning when a chance for a hit is observed. It only takes effort to achieve these skills.

Fifth.

Let's stop overrating the oddball move- ments we have seen in international fencing. Relatively few touches are scored with them and each of us develops our own as we be- come more experienced.

Conclusion.

Russians or other Europeans are not super- men. They do nothing that we can't do if we have the willingness to get to work. They simply train harder, are in better physical condition and they listen to the signals about what is going on in fencing. The difference is that when they see and hear the signals they do something about it. We can do it too, but it will require greater effort by all of us, fencers, coaches and officials.

(Continued on next page)

of our younger fencers have shown and we need more like them. Hopes are emerging. Yes, we were disappointed by the results at these 1969 World Championships, but we tried as hard as we were proud that we worked, lived and like a team. The United States proud of the excellent representation in Cuba, 1969. It was a privilege to serve as Chief of Mission and I am for the help and support I received a member of our delegation.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS HAVANA 1969

INDIVIDUAL: 1. Wessell, West Germany
2. Stankovich, USSR
3. Parulski, Poland
4. Romanov, USSR
5. Revenu, France
6. Tiu, Romania

INDIVIDUAL: 1. Sidiak, USSR
2. Kalmar, Hungary
3. Bakonyi, Hungary
4. Kovacs, Hungary
5. Rakita, USSR
6. Vinokurov, USSR

INDIVIDUAL: 1. Andrzejewski, Poland
2. Nikanchikov, USSR
3. Von Essen, Sweden
4. Jacobsen, Sweden
5. Paramanov, USSR
6. Ladegallerie, France

FOIL: 1. Novikova, USSR
2. Drimba, Romania
3. Chirkova, USSR
4. Samusenko, USSR
5. Rejto, Hungary
6. Gapais, France

4: 1. USSR
2. Poland
3. Romania
4. France
5. West Germany
6. Hungary

SABER TEAM:

1. USSR
2. Poland
3. Hungary
4. Italy
5. Romania
6. Japan

EPEE TEAM:

1. USSR
2. Hungary
3. Sweden
4. Italy
5. Switzerland
6. France

WOMEN'S TEAM:

1. Romania
2. USSR
3. Hungary
4. Poland
5. West Germany
6. Cuba

TEAM GETS SWEAT SUITS

Through the initiative of Carl Borack, our national foil champion, the U. S. team members in Havana were presented with a beautiful blue sweat suit with a large "USA" across the front. Carl prevailed upon the president of **Helms Bakeries** to donate a complete outfit for all members of the team. This was the first time in AFLA history that a United States World Championship team has been so uniformly (and neatly) dressed, and it looked very chic at the opening ceremonies.

NEW F. I. E. DIRECTORS

Dr. Marius P. Valsamis and Richard Gradkowski have passed the F.I.E. examination for internationally rated President of Jury (Director) given at the World Championships in Havana. Dr. Valsamis passed the examination for Foil and Richard Gradkowski passed for Foil, Epee, and Saber. They are now rated as Class 2 International Presidents of Jury and are deemed qualified to direct up to the quarter finals of the World Championships or Olympics.

The examination was administered by a committee consisting of R. Mercier of France, E. Mangiarotti of Italy, and M. Balthazor of Hungary and consisted of both written and practical parts given over a period of several days.

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FENCING FOR THE 1969 NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL TITLES

by Dan Lyons

Sabre:

Little doubt can exist after seeing this years competition that our sabre fencers reach a higher level of competence than our fencers in other weapons. In general they move much better, tend to have quicker and more precise moves, and have the greater willingness to take the attack. Parries and ripostes are scored from full retreat. The domination of the New York Athletic Club was almost complete as they swept the first four places. This time, Alex Orban took first place with Csaba Gall taking second followed by the 1968 champion and Pan American, Jack Keane taking third. Al Morales, who has been living on the west coast, took fourth, his lowest place in some years. These men are all consistent fencers and their abilities have been commented upon frequently. While several finalists from last years' event did not participate, they had fallen below this top group anyway and they probably would not have caused any significant change in the outcome.

Our sabre men should continue to work and seize every opportunity to compete in a wider range of international meets in the next few years. We might have hopes then of getting several into the finals of the Olympics or World Championships.

Foil:

Men's foil was not really very impressive. The comment of winner Carl Borack that he never retreated because nobody would attack him was entirely appropriate. It is surprising that this should have been the case. Whether there would have been much of a difference if the prior year's champion, Okawa, Jeff Checkes, and several other finalists had shown up is only a matter for conjecture. Borack can move and hit and he simply ran over people. He does take chances galore and they cost him many touches. They will cost him dearly in international competitions.

To fulfill his promise Carl must concentrate harder and take risks only when the odds are much more in his favor. Maybe if

the competition had been tougher he would have been forced to fence that way. Time will tell.

The second place of Albie Axelrod deserves comment. Albie has been somewhat hampered by leg troubles and yet his performance is consistently in the top group year after year. He can do more with his hand than most can do with their hands and feet together. On the rare occasions that he went for the touch with a long lunge it was a pleasure to see the balance and deftness of his moves. As with all veteran fencers, the question always arises as to how long they will be anxious to work so hard to stay in shape and can they maintain this drive.

Vito Mannino scored a very popular victory in capturing third. He has worked very hard over the past few years and his progress has been exceptional. Vito acknowledged that he relied heavily on stop thrusts throughout the entire final. Why he had trouble getting the rest of his game together was a question even he couldn't answer. But succeed he did throughout a long final.

Women's Foil:

Ruth White simply outclassed her opponents in gaining her first national crown. She lost only to Denise O'Connor early in the finals and then proceeded to win all her bouts. She has great reflexes and can move quickly. Ruth presses but can still move back if needed and score with the riposte. Who will challenge her if she continues to maintain her interest and zeal for fencing?

If ever there was an exhibition of static fencing, the women's foil has to be the classic example. It is hard to recall any fencer being warned of the meter line. For almost the entire finals bout were fought between the on guard lines or within a few feet of them. Distance was usually very close, the stop thrust was used to excess, lunging looked often like a lost art and exchanges were usually brief. This observer was anxious to see a continued series of actions on occasion, but it was rare.

Second place went to Harriet King who fenced a very conservative game throughout. Her speed was considerably below what she

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in other years and Harriet was to tell me that she didn't seem her game going.

O'Connor started out the finals as the world beater. She won three in a row including one over Ruth. She fenced with elan and confidence. She lost it all and began to fence slowly and slightly off pace. That did not hold off and lost three bouts. If she had been able to retain her form she would have won the gold.

Story of Steve Netburn was well developed. He was better than the others, he lost one really bad bout in the final by 5-0. The final bout with Steve, the 1968 champion, had to be won to get the title and Steve did it in great style, fencing aggressively and without fear. He touched wherever they have to be touched. It's a shot to the toe, arm, head, or chest. He'll go for it. Not only that but he'll go where he believes a touch will win the score. This is the mark of a true internationalist.

Paul Pesthy who had won three straight nationals had to content himself with second place this year. He fenced in his usual conservative style capitalizing on the mistakes of his opponents. As always he seemed to be in excellent condition and showed no slowdown during the finals. He suffered a grievous double loss in a bout with Ron McMahan and there was some speculation as to why he didn't go to the attack instead of letting the last precious seconds of the bout run out. Paul just seems to hold back more than necessary and it would be worthwhile for him to fence more aggressively. It seems essential that he do so to be able to beat the Europeans.

Third place went to Louis Goldberg from Los Angeles who fenced creditably throughout and outlasted several others below him.

Overall it must be concluded that the epee finals did not reflect a very high standard. Actions were brief, distance was often too close. The level of the game must be raised. Surely our men have more vigor than most of them showed and, without question, they must have more courage, daring, and cunning.

MEET MANAGER'S GUIDE

by Irwin F. Bernstein

The first administrative function performed by many fencers is that of Meet Manager in a divisional event. This guide is intended to assist new Meet Managers in understanding their responsibilities and to serve as a check list for experienced Meet Managers. The application of the guidelines will, of course, vary in each division to conform to local conditions such as: physical sites, location and quantity of equipment, and Bout Committee rules on late entries, etc.

The writer acknowledges the use of material appearing in the "COMPETITION MANAGER'S MANUAL" contained in the Fall, 1968 Schedule of the New England Division; the January, 1968 issue of "THE JERSEY FENCER"; the 1965 edition of AFLA FENCING RULES AND MANUALS; and the 1964 New Jersey Division procedure "GENERAL DUTIES OF BOUT COMMITTEE".

I. PRIOR TO DAY OF COMPETITION

These steps are hopefully performed 1 or 2 days before the event but may have to be completed at the competition.

A. Obtain list of entries with information as to current AFLA membership, club affiliation, classification and rankings (if any). In divisions which allow competitors to enter at the meet, this list will be incomplete and an estimate of late entries will have to be made for planning purposes.

B. Plan organization of competition based on number of entrants, physical facilities, number of strips, scoring machines and officials available. Each division should establish formulas for its meets so that Meet Managers have a consistent basis for organizing specific events. The following guide lines are usually followed in New Jersey competitions and exemplify the types of rules to be determined.

1. Individual Events—

- If 11 or fewer, run as round-robin, using 2 strips if more than 7.
- Plan pools with 5,6,7 in each, with 8 only used in minor events with small fields (for example an UN-

CLASSIFIED with only 15 or 16 competitors).

c. Promote 3 or 4 from each pool to work up to a final of 8 or 9 fencers on 2 strips.

d. Pool sizes should normally be uniform after the first round; imbalances should be adjusted through first round byes and/or unequal first round pools whenever possible.

e. In all events of 3 or more rounds, carry semifinal results into final. This means that bouts (regular, not fence-off bouts) between semi-final qualifiers from the same pool are immediately entered on the final round scoresheet. This approach has been tried in various divisions and used consistently in New Jersey with the results that the semi-finals are more strongly contested, and the finals end earlier!

2. Team Events—

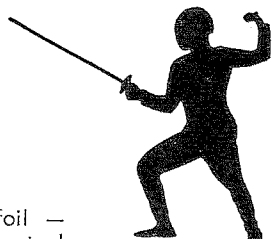
The usual approach is first round pools and then direct elimination and/or pools to a final of 2 to 4 teams. Among the factors to consider, in addition to time, space and equipment, is the number of teams to be ranked for qualification to the Nationals or for some other purpose.

C. If running more than one event at the same site, lay out a time table for each round of each event, noting tentative assignment of pools to specific strips (NOTE: estimated time per bout is —SABRE 4-6 minutes, EPEE 6-7 minutes, FOIL 8-10 minutes). In order to complete two events within a reasonable amount of time, it may be necessary to depart from the "ideal" formulas for one or both of them.

D. Check availability of essential equipment (scoring machines, time clocks, strips) and supplies (scoresheets, pencils, membership forms) as well as division rules and AFLA rules book. If necessary, check that awards and medals are available.

E. If part of Meet Manager's job, arrange for advance publicity, visit by photographers, etc.

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Seed contestants. This is based on national or local ranking, classification, ratings by club or team captains and knowledge of competitors' strength from results of recent events, etc. Seeding should be extended to a number of contestants equal to the planned number of fencers from the first round plus byes.

Unless several late entries are anticipated, set up first round pools and enter scoresheets. The following steps are involved:

1. Distribute fencers evenly per seedings — e.g. 2 pools of 6:

A	B
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	10

Separate club-mates as much as possible (no pool may contain more than one member of a club than any other pool). In doing so, try to shift equals, starting with lower fencers. In the above example, range 9 and 10 or 5 and 6 but not 7.

Sequence within a pool so that club-mates fence each other before meeting other club-mates. In actual practice in all events, this may be compromised if a pool is predominantly from 1 club (e.g. 6 or 5 of 7) so that non-club-mates do not have an excessively long wait followed by overly frequent bouts.

COMPETITION — PRIOR TO START FENCING

The Meet Manager should have assistance in performing some of these tasks so that the event can start promptly.

Collect entry fees and late fees if any. They may be useful to bring along a quantity of change to facilitate this.

Verify AFLA membership or collect dues and have membership forms completed.

Lay out strips or mark floor.

Set up and check scoring machines and time clocks.

If appropriate, conduct weapons check.

F. Conduct safety check:

1. Exclude or correct defective uniforms (holes in jackets, etc.).
2. Be sure legs are covered and underarm protectors worn.
3. Be sure spectators are located at a safe distance from strips.

G. Adjust first round pools and/or organization and time-table in accordance with late entries and/or withdrawals.

H. Assign officials.

I. Announce to all contestants and officials:

1. Organization of events — including rules for breaking ties for qualification and carrying up of semi-final scores, if used.
2. Time limits and strip rules.
3. Classification of events.
4. Awards to be given.
5. First round pools.
6. Any no smoking, no eating, or no littering regulations at the place of competition.

III AT COMPETITION — DURING FENCING

If planning has been done effectively, there should be few problems for the Meet Manager once the competition begins. Indeed, it is frequently the practice in many divisions for the Meet Manager to be one of the competitors as well. Certain important functions must be performed however:

A. Ruling on protests. The Meet Manager serves as the Bout Committee Chairman and as such rules on protests against decision by officials. It is suggested that he first consult with senior officials and division executives but the final responsibility is his. Effective performance of this task requires knowledge of the rules and the ability to render impartial judgments.

B. Review of completed score sheets. The Meet Manager must review all score sheets and verify that qualifiers have been correctly determined and ranked. If touches were counted, he should recount them since he bears the ultimate responsibility for their correctness.

C. Seeding of pools. After the first round, seeding of pools is based strictly on results of prior rounds. Where fencers have equal status in different pools, their

seeding is based on earlier rounds and if necessary, pre-meet ratings. In addition to the two basic principles of equitable distribution of strength and maximum separation of team-mates, you should also try to separate competitors coming from the same pool in the prior round. This however has a lower priority than the other two rules. If 3 fencers qualified to a round with only two pools, obviously 2 will wind up together. In this case, it is advisable to separate qualifiers #1 and #2, putting #3 with either of them.

D. At qualifying events for sectional and national championships, it is usually necessary to arrange for fence offs or pools among eliminated fencers in order to ascertain the ranking of the prescribed number of qualifiers and alternates. Competitors finishing with the same standing in different pools of a round may not be ranked comparatively on bouts won or touch count in the different pools — they must fence off for relative position.

IV AT COMPETITION — AFTER FENCING ENDS

A. Supervision of the packing and storage of equipment and strips is usually part of the Meet Manager's responsibility.

All Competitors should be accustomed to helping with these tasks.

B. The announcement of final results is usually accompanied by awarding of medals or trophies. If the award donor or distinguished guests are present, they should be invited to participate in the presentation.

V AFTER COMPETITION

A. Notify publicity committee or submit results directly to appropriate newspapers, etc.

B. Promptly mail all monies, forms and scoresheets to the proper authority within the division (usually Division Secretary or Bout Committee Chairman or Secretary.)

C. Notify appropriate authority in division (usually Bout Committee Chairman) about:

1. Equipment problems.
2. Protests or other irregularities requiring consideration by the Division Executive Committee (e.g. assigned

officials who failed to appear, fencers for whom disciplinary action is warranted).

A full schedule of well planned and managed competitions is the most important service a division can provide to its members. It is clear that the energetic and efficient efforts of Meet Managers are essential to attaining well run events. For those fencers who have never run a meet; do not be discouraged by the seemingly imposing list of tasks involved — every experienced Meet Manager had to run his first meet at some time. Once you've learned how, you will have found yet another source of enjoyment from fencing — after all, in sports as in most other endeavors, the rewards are usually in proportion to the efforts expended.

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Total	5,500	5,500

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/s/ WILLIAM J. LATZKO
Business Manager

NEW FILM LOOPS AVAILABLE

New fencing film loops in 8 mm. size color are available from the **Athletic Merchandise Mart, Chicago, 805 Merchandise Mart, Chicago, 50654**. The two film loop series covering foil and saber fencing and consists of film which demonstrate separate attacks in each of the weapons. The foil series consists of 19 loops and Michel Alaux, U. S. Olympic coach, and Gaylor of N.Y.U. with Ann Seppala of College. The saber fencing series of 21 loops and features Csaba J. S. Olympic coach, and Jack Keane of N.Y.A.C. These loops are excellent for instructional purposes and demonstrate techniques in freeze frame and in slow motion. They are easy to show and are aided by a guide. The foil loop set for \$269.00, the saber set retails for \$269.00 and individual loops cost \$15.00.

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On Guard, Advance, Retreat
Thrust, Lunge
Balestra, Balestra Lunge
Recovery Backward, Recovery Forward
Lateral Parry and Riposte (Six - Four)
Circular Parry and Riposte (Six - Four)
Semi circular Parries and Ripostes (Seven - Eight)
Disengage and Disengage - lunge
Coupe and Coupe-lunge
Beat and Change-beat
Beat-disengage and Change-beat disengage
Pressure and Pressure-disengage
Straight feint, feint to Low line, feint to High line
Compound Attacks Employing Disengage Feints
Parry - Straight Riposte
Parry - Disengage Riposte
Parry - Compound Riposte (One-Two, Double)
The individual lesson

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Cheek cut
Arm cut
Flank cut
Chest cut
Belly cut
Point thrust
Single feint attacks
Beat-belly cut

HS-12. Beat-Arm cut
HS-13. Beat-head cut
HS-14. Fleche (running) attack
HS-15. Fifth Parry
HS-16. Third Parry
HS-17. Fourth Parry
HS-18. Compound riposte
HS-19. Action in second intention
HS-20. Time cuts and thrusts
HS-21. Free lesson

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

by George Worth

Any United States fencer who wishes to fence in an international competition must be a paid up member of the AFLA and hold an International License (obtainable from Bill Latzko). Please contact me for the address of whom to write for entry at **10 Columbus Circle, suite 2150, New York 10019**.

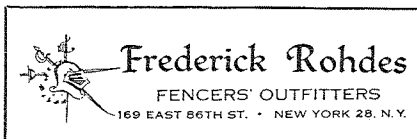
December 13-14—Ladies and Men's Foil, Monaco
January 17-18—Under 20 Foil, Germany
January 17-18—Foil Individual, Marseilles
January 18—Martini Saber, Brussels
January 24-25—Epee Individual, Milan
January 24-25—Martini Foil, Paris
February 7-8—Under 20 Women's, Weinheim
February 12-15—Four weapons Ind., Poland
February 14-15—Foil Individual, Paris
February 15—Foil Individual, Austria
February 21-22—Under 20 Saber, Germany
February 21-22—Epee Individual, Paris

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

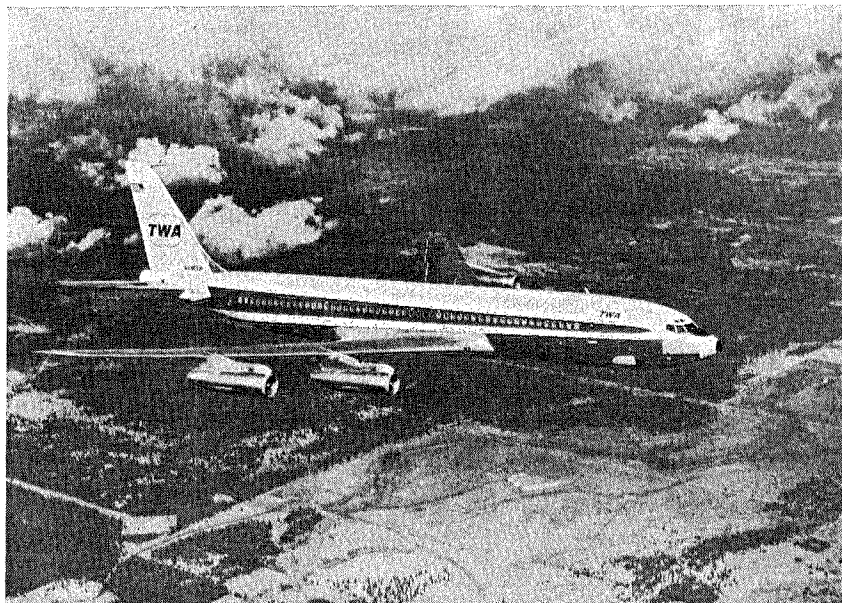
by Archie Simonson

The selection of representatives for the World University Games (Torino, August 1970) will proceed according to the outline published in the May 1969 issue of **American Fencing** (page 19). If a student graduates in June of 1970, he will be considered eligible as will all full time and graduate students between the ages of 17 to 28. However, if he has been inducted into the armed forces, he cannot be considered eligible.

It is the responsibility of each university to conduct appropriate qualifying competitions for all its students, both undergraduate and graduate, to determine who shall represent that university.



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Coaches Corner

AN ANALYSIS OF THE FENCING LUNGE

by Charles Simonian

Charles Simonian is head fencing coach and is professor of physical education at The State University and holds a doctorate degree in physical education.)

The lunge is the most important single element in fencing and needs to be thoroughly studied and understood. Yet, very little research has been done, and most of the literature is remarkably consistent in describing the execution of the lunge. The purpose of this paper is to analyze some of the facts and myths about what makes an effective lunge possible without necessarily following a particular style of lunge.

Several mechanical principles can be emphasized in analyzing the lunge and in pointing out styles in which the lunge might be improved.

The fencer desires speed and distance in the lunge as well as stability and recoverability. He can achieve these through adherence to a good instructor's teaching, or application of the laws of mechanics. As the coach, he can teach as he was taught or he can question his techniques to determine if they can be improved.

The impetus given to the lunging fencer is dependent first of the muscular strength of the leg and his extensors and, secondly, the distance over which the force is applied. Thus, the stronger the involved muscles, the more powerful the lunge, and the greater the knee bend, the greater will be the impulse potential.

There are definite limitations on the degree of knee bend in the on-guard position which can be effectively utilized. Too deep a stance will result in increased torque because the center of gravity is further from the line of gravity. At the knee is least when one is

standing erect. As the knees are held isometrically flexed to keep the body in an on-guard position, fatigue develops and it increases as the knee flexion increases. Stronger legs can take this torque better than can weaker legs.

Some flexion is necessary, of course, since it stretches the extensor muscles putting them in a position favoring forceful contraction. There has to be a compromise in depth of crouch while on-guard. It must be deep enough to (a) provide stability, (b) stretch the leg and hip extensor muscles, (c) keep torque and fatigue at a reasonable level, and (d) allow for mobility which is in part a function of a relatively high center of gravity.

As the lunge begins, the rear foot must be well placed because the reaction to the violent rear leg drive would otherwise cause the foot to slip backward. The law of reaction demands the best possible traction between the piste and the shoe if an optimal lunge is to be performed.

The rear leg extension at the knee and the hip provides the major force for the lunge, but it is the horizontal component of this vector quantity which needs to be explored. A powerful leg does not insure that its force will be usefully directed. If the measured angle of leg drive is forty degrees from the horizontal, for example, and the measured force of the leg extension is one hundred pounds, the horizontal component of force in the direction of the opponent is only 76.6 pounds. This same extension force at thirty degrees would give 86.6 pounds horizontally while at fifty degrees the force would be 64.3 pounds. This is an oversimplification because the driving angle changes throughout the extension, but it serves to make the point.

The implication here is that the initial angle of leg extension should be as small as possible so that the horizontally directed force is closer to the full force developed by the rear leg. There are only two ways to do this:

- (1) get the center of gravity low and spread the feet or assume a guard stance in which the center of gravity is low and far forward. These are undesirable because the former decreases mobility and the latter places most of the weight on the forward foot which also reduces mobility.
- (2) Allow the center of gravity to rotate downward as the lunge begins and apply a delayed rear leg force as the weight center moves into a favorable position. This can be accomplished by destroying the equilibrium by means of a forward kick with the leading foot which, because the forward base of support has been removed, causes the center of gravity to rotate downward. If the rear leg extension is properly timed, the delay between initial body movement and force application is very small. Indeed the movement can be done in the time it takes to extend the weapon arm. The resulting lunge could be slightly faster than one made with no leading foot involvement and should also be longer as well because the foot tends to reach out for a distant point more so than does a passive leading foot. When kicking out, the leading foot develops a momentum which is transferred to the body, and by putting the body in motion and overcoming inertia, the rear leg's force is more effectively utilized.

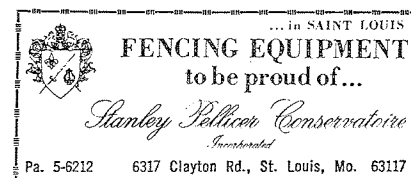
Several other aspects of the traditional lunging style lend themselves to analysis. The rear foot - need it remain flat and in place throughout a lunge? Once the quadriceps muscles of the thigh have contracted strongly and begun the knee straightening, the final several inches of straightening are probably of a ballistic nature, that is, force is no longer being applied during that time and kinetic energy has reached its maximum value. The effects of action-reaction have been already realized as well. Therefore, it cannot matter with regard to lunging velocity whether the foot remains flat,

rolls, or slides.

One could argue that the gastrocnemius and soleus muscles can add tremendous force to the lunge if allowed to contract. This can only be done by pushing from the toes and raising the heel. That there is much potential force in the calf muscles can be simply demonstrated by performing first a normal vertical jump and comparing it to one in which the jump is made flat-footed.

The rear arm held up in foil and epee has the important function of keeping the rear shoulder back to reduce the target profile. During the lunge it swings down in a rearward arc to permit the shoulders to remain relatively level. In no way does action-reaction or any other mechanical or physiological principle support the often-heard notion that swinging the rear arm adds speed to the lunge. There may be some basis to think that a rapid movement of the left arm promotes a faster lunge because it is difficult to simultaneously move two body parts at different speeds. But this implies that the rear leg isn't really trying and the swinging arm nags it into rapid movement.

Each fencer must choose a stance and lunge technique best suited to himself. All too often the fencer has not experimented with enough stances and techniques and is unfamiliar with some of the scientific principles that apply to fencing. No fencer or coach should assume that the ultimate lunge has already been developed.



"Fencing is similar to banking in the fact that you get out of it exactly what you put into it plus a very small interest."

— JOSEPH WAFFA, Fencing Master

FISH FENCING MAGAZINE

Fencing Master, journal of the British Federation of Fencing is now available to U.S.

The official journal of the professional fencing masters of Great Britain, the magazine is well edited and a valuable source resting articles on various fencing. The editor, Roy Goodall, is a full time master and publishes the magazine six times per year. The latest issue contains articles on teaching and a complete international arrangement of competitions for 1969-70. American readers can receive their subscriptions and save money by sending their personal checks to:

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Charge for an annual subscription to Fencing Master is \$2.72 U. S. for sea mail and \$5.50 U.S. for air mail. Air mail takes about five days and sea mail approximately five weeks. The magazine is circulated throughout the entire fencing world and tries to be interesting in outlook. It often reprints articles

from other fencing magazines on topics of interest.

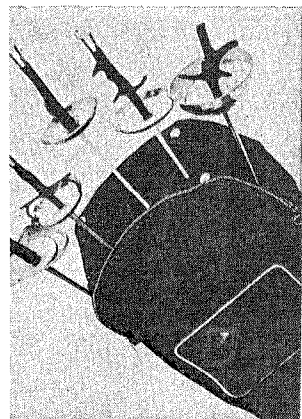
FENCING BY EAR (With apologies to Csaba Ethes) by Nat Lubell

There was a young fellow named Mitch who had perfect sonic pitch and could tell with a glance by the length of the stance just who it was fencing with which

With his back turned to the bout He could listen—and say with a shout "It's a Hungarian man fencing some sort of ham there's no doubt how the bout will come out."

One day, much to his chagrin as a bout was about to begin They discovered a flaw in the scorekeeper's score and switched bouts from what was to have been

Said Mitch with a cry, triumphant and high, "Tis a Swede versus the German Von Night!" which was clearly absurd but he had the last word: and the scoreboard was telling a lie.



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AMERICAN FENCING



SANTELLI MEDALS by Denise O'Connor

Pictured above is the Giorgio Santelli "Maker of Champions" medallion, replicas of which are to be presented annually to the National champion in each weapon. A committee of students and friends had commissioned this magnificent medallion, sculptured by Karen Worth, for presentation to the Maestro at the testimonial dinner held earlier this year. Reproductions of this award were presented for the first time to our individual champions in Los Angeles.

A fitting memento to champions by the "Maker of Champions".

NEW BOOKS ON FENCING by W. J. Latzko

Fencing, prepared by Nancy L. Curry of Southwest Missouri State College, is a paperback book of 80 pages issued by the Good-year Publishing Co. of 15115 Sunset Boulevard, Pacific Palisades, California, as part of a series on athletics. The editors state that the book is intended as supplementary material for the instructor and to aid the student in the understanding of the sport. The book is a well illustrated but very basic treatise on elementary foil fencing. An interesting use is made of a series of evaluation questions found at the end of most chapters. Unfortunately, references to the fencing rules are outdated.

AMERICAN FENCING

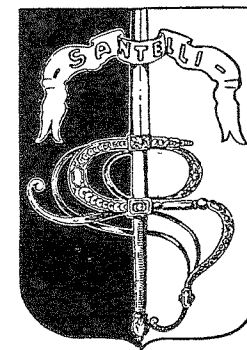
Fencing, by Charles L. De Beaumont, O.B.E. is an excellent 128 page hard cover book which is part of the English Universities Press, Ltd., teach-yourself-series distributed by Dover Publications, 180 Varick Street, New York, N. Y., 10014.

Mr. DeBeaumont admirably explains his book in the short preface which states "Fencing is a complex sport which cannot be learned from a book. It is hoped, however, that this book will enable aspiring fencers to teach themselves the reasons for the various fencing movements, how they should be applied and co-ordinated, and that it will also increase their enjoyment of this fascinating sport."

For those interested in a free list of other books on fencing, write to the Secretary, A.F.L.A., 33-62 St., West New York, New Jersey, 07093.

"The peace of heaven is theirs that lift their swords."

— King John, Act II, Scene 1
CULLED BY LOU SHAFF



CHAMPIONSHIP EQUIPMENT

by the

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Page Twenty One

WESTERN WASHINGTON

by Faye James

ATTLE SEAFAIR TOURNAMENT:

Open Event: 1. Salle Auriol (Marilyn de Hernandez, Leslie Wright, Bud James, Ron Notestine, John Krajcir); 2. Columbia Fencers Club; 3. Portland Fencing Club.

Men: 1. Fencibles, Portland, Ore. (Wayland, Tripp, Longworth); 2. Portland Fencing Club; 3. Salle Auriol, Seattle.

MALL TOURNAMENT:

Foil: 1. Tara Fichtel, Portland Metro.; 2. Janet Franklin, Salle Auriol. 3. Leslie Wright, Salle Auriol.

1. Wayland, Fencibles; 2. Hassan Khatib, Salle Auriol; 3. Simon de Hernandez, Salle Auriol.
1. Tim Taylor, Portland Metro; 2. Ray Beach, Portland Metro.; 3. Ron Notestine, Salle Auriol.

GULF COAST

by Alfred Snyder

DER-19: 1. J. Flores; 2. E. Lopez; 3. J. Collins.

5 FOIL UNDER-19 1. L. Williamson; 2. B. Furst; 3. M. Jones.

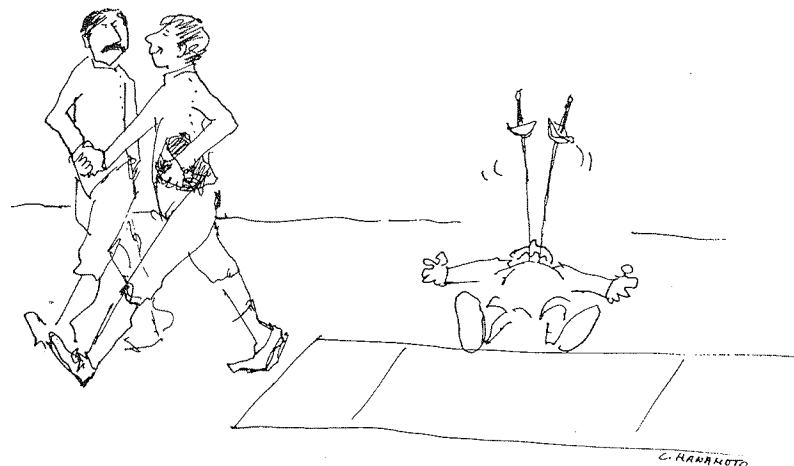
IAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1. S. Farid; 2. A. Snyder; 3. J. Kalmin.

Foil: 2. N. Abbot; 2. L. Willamson; 3. T. Waddell.

1. R. Shelby; 2. J. Witherpoon; 3. S. Farid.

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