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photo by Tishman
A view of the official notice sent out to all AFLA members, advising them of the coming National Championships to be held in March and April of 1896. The mail wasn't late, we hasten to add, our feature writer simply did a little historical research.

(SEE PAGE 21)

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DEADLINE FOR 1973-74 ISSUES

Issue Date	Closing Date for Copy	Mailing Date
July/August	June 10	July 31
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EDITORIAL

At a recent intercollegiate fencing championship a number of experienced coaches, fencers, and officials were surprised to learn that when the score reached three all in women's foil or four all in men's events, the timer should continue keeping time until the required elapsed time has run out.

At no place in the rules is any other procedure set forth.

The reason for this is intriguing. According to rules 640, 641, and 648 (pages 121 to 123 of the 1974 Rules Book) a bout cannot be won by the application of certain penalties (improper use of the unarmed hand, removal of the mask before the director's decision, and certain offenses against sportsmanship).

Assume the situation described in the first paragraph exists and after a warning for improper use of the unarmed hand a fencer repeats the offense. The director applies the penalty and the score becomes 3 to 2 in women's foil or 4 to 3 in men's events. The timer continues to keep time until the full elapsed time expires and the bout is over. The score is then brought up to 4 to 3 (women) or 5 to 4 (men). The bout was lost on time and not as a result of the penalty.

If time had not continued to be taken, the proper rules could not have been applied.

For example: Assume that the three all or four all situation develops and the time-keeper erroneously stops keeping the time (as is all too often the case). Then, after a warning as above, the offending fencer repeats the offense.

The penalty cannot be applied properly because even though one touch is removed, the penalty is negated to a considerable extent, as the bout must continue until the requisite number of touches for winning by one fencer is made. Think this over carefully.

DANGER

Fencers and spectators are reminded that cigarette smoking pollutes the air for everybody.

PEREDO ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NFCAA

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

Alfred R. Peredo, coach of Bernard M. Baruch College in New York City, was elected President of the National Fencing Coaches Association of America at the annual convention of the NFCAA at the NCAA Championships in Cleveland on March 27. He succeeds Prof. Michael de Cicco, the coach of the University of Notre Dame.

"Al" Peredo, who is in his third year of coaching at Baruch, the business college of the City University of New York system, has been a long-time figure on the collegiate fencing scene. He began his fencing at Brooklyn's Boys High School. After time out for the Army during the Korean War, he attended Brooklyn College briefly until he transferred to New York University in 1954. He won the 1957 Intercollegiate Fencing Association foil championship, and was runner-up in the NCAA Championships the same year. He was a two-time All-American.

Al was part of the official coaching party at the 1971 Under 20 World Championships, and assistant coach of the U.S. team to the 1973 World University Games. For the past four years, he served as the NFCAA Secretary-Treasurer.

Al is very hopeful of expanding the effectiveness of the Association in developing more and better teachers of our sport. He is also very encouraged by the great spirit



AL PEREDO

of cooperation that exists between NFCAA and the AFLA that is manifest in such efforts as our new rulesbook.

The new president is married, to E and has four children. Simultaneously his election to the top NFCAA post, F was also elected President of the reformed U.S. Academy of Arms, which function as the American member of the International Academy of Arms, the school of fencing masters. Membership in the academy is limited to those NFCAA members that have earned Master's Certifi

AMERICAN FENCING WORKSHOP

During the National Championships to be held in New York, the staff of American Fencing will hold a special workshop for all interested persons. On the agenda will be talks on production of the magazine, procedures suitable for contributions to the magazine and general discussions on policy and ideas as to how the magazine can better serve the fencing community. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for the Sunday afternoon of June 23. If you are interested in attending and would like to have some particular topics discussed, please write to us immediately at: American Fencing, Ralph M. Goldstein, 397 Concord Road, Yonkers, N.Y., 10710.

COMING REPORTS

Our next issue will carry full reports on various collegiate (NIWFA, IFA, NCAA) tournaments, as well as the Sectional National Championships. Space limitations have made postponement of these reports necessary, in order to give full coverage.



AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. SOBEL

by Lois Goldthwaite

Bravo, Mr. Sobel!

Your stand on equal rights for women fencers was admirable. You should be commended for your forthright statement, in bold-face type, that **"Discrimination in any form cannot be tolerated in our society or in our sport. There can be no compromise on this principle at any time."**

But then, after making this statement, you buried your head in the sand and pretended not to see the blatant discrimination which runs (one might even say gallops) throughout all AFLA policies regarding women members. You even implied that accusations of injustice are themselves unjust, that disparate treatment of women, if it exists in isolated instances, is due to mere incompetence or indifference. You issued a call for facts, for specific instances of discrimination.

Very well, Mr. Sobel, here are the facts. I do not speak of such things as tournament organization, numbers of officials (competent or otherwise), or physical facilities. I am speaking of a matter which directly concerns every male and female member of the AFLA. I am speaking of money.

It is a fact that women pay the same AFLA dues as the men in their age classification. It is a fact that women pay the same club dues, travel expenses, and entry fees as men. And what do they get for it? Women are restricted to one event, while men are offered three. Furthermore, because of the shorter bouts in women's foil, the equal entry fee results in a good bit less fencing for the same number of bouts.

A fencer entering the Nationals can expect to spend several hundred dollars on the trip alone. A woman spends this money for the sake of one day's competition, or two at the most, but a man can expect a full six days of fencing if he competes in individual and team competitions in all three weapons.

The February Board of Directors meeting considered two petitions with a total of 85 names asking for Divisional, Sectional, and

National Championships in Women's Epee. The signatures included men as well as women, two sectional chairmen and several divisional officers, and members of the Northern Ohio, North Texas, South Texas, Gulf Coast, Modern Pentathlon, Northern California, California Orange Coast, Colorado, Oregon, Indiana, Florida Gold Coast, and Washington, D.C. divisions. More than 60 of these names were collected in one weekend at one tournament. Virtually everyone who was approached with the petition signed it.

A letter and proxy supporting the proposal was mailed in by T. F. Bickley, Southwest Section Chairman. And yet the Board of Directors ("unanimously," as Mr. Bernstein informs me) rejected the proposal, on the grounds that there was no indication of any widespread interest in such an event.

Mr. Bickley's letter quoted Pentathlon coach Gerard Poujardieu as saying a recent women's epee tournament in France drew 80 competitors. He also said petitions had been submitted to have women's epee included in the French Nationals and in the Olympics. Mr. Poujardieu expects these proposals to be approved some time in the future. **Why was this letter not read at the Director's meeting?**

One year ago the Board of Directors authorized competitions in women's epee and sabre below the level of divisional championships. But how much time can one justify to train for an event in which not even a local champion is recognized? An event which is held only once or twice a year, if at all? How much time can one take away from training for a "serious" event (that is, an event in which one has and will have a large investment)? One might as well study broadsword or morningstar, if the purpose is competition.

The board further ensured that women should gain no expertise in these weapons prohibiting mixed bouts. What better way for a woman to gain experience than by entering a so-called "open" competition in epee or sabre, especially since this involves no added strain on the divisional schedule? Also, this would provide adequate compe-

titions for the relatively small number of women fencers to be expected in the early years, forming a nucleus of trained fencers who could attract other participants.

A puny twelve year old boy novice can enter any event, even including the National Championships, without opposition; why should this same right be denied to an experienced, adult fencer who happens to be female (and pays five times the dues)? With adequate protection equipment, the sport is not dangerous to anyone—and if the AFLA considers it so, then it should bar all persons under eighteen from participating.

It should be obvious that permitting women to fence with epee or sabre & to fence in mixed competitions does not force anyone to do so. Just as many men prefer to use only one or two weapons, so many women would probably stick to foil, and there is no objection to this. In small divisions especially, though, I would anticipate many women to diversify, if only for the sake of more competition.

I do not know if the recent token gestures toward equality for women fencers (and since the AFLA does not require any changes from traditional procedure, a single bigoted individual at the local level can block even these meager efforts) were prompted by the consideration that a non-profit organization which discriminates unfairly can lose its tax-exempt status. I would prefer to think they spring from a sense of justice, however inadequate and belated.

The Board of Directors should move immediately to authorize women to compete in any non-qualifying event at the divisional level and to establish "separate but equal" tournaments at the sectional and national level. If they wish, the Board could establish minimum levels of participation to be reached before certifying these tournaments as "championships."

Mr. Sobel, I call on you as AFLA President to support these proposals for women's equality. At a time when many sports organizations and athletic conferences are offering increased opportunities to women, the AFLA should not stagnate in the past. These proposals will lead to greater interest and

participation in women's fencing, and decreasing any benefits to men. **I only want their money's worth from AFLA.**

A REPLY TO AN OPEN LETTER by Steve Sobel

I have received an advanced copy open letter" from Lois Goldthwaite, the same time I received an info copy of her letter to "NOW" (Nationalization for Women) requesting the to fight discrimination against women AFLA. I am pleased to have the opportunity to answer the letter in the same is American Fencing, thereby enabling readers to evaluate all the ideas exp at once. While I respect the right fencers to disagree on the merits problem, and to work towards so which are in the best interests of the off fencing, I am disappointed that a of Fencing policy has been inappropriately labeled "discrimination," and I am disappointed that an outside organization without knowledge, interest or expertise in fencing has been requested to become involved. I suggest a very careful study of the cited to justify the charge of discrimination.

WOMENS BOUTS ARE SHORTER THEREFORE THE EQUAL ENTRY FEES RESULTS IN LESS FENCING FOR THE NUMBER OF BOUTS: The AFLA Board of Directors decided that to best prepare international competition ALL competition rules of the international Fencing Federation (FIE) should be adopted by the AFLA. A decision which to my knowledge is followed by all major fencing federations in the world. FIE Rules provide for 4 touch for women and 5 touch bouts for which was therefore adopted by the AFLA. To cite this distinction as a fact just a charge of sex discrimination is incredible.

WOMEN PAY THE SAME AS MEN COME TO THE NATIONALS BUT CAN FENCE IN ONE WEAPON WHEREAS MEN CAN FENCE IN THREE: Technically is correct, but practically more than 90% of the men fence one weapon only, and very few actually achieve significant competitive results in more than one. There is

opportunity to fence by being a finalist in one weapon than by being eliminated in the preliminaries of all three. Furthermore, students of both sexes who pay the lowest dues are eligible for both regular and Under 19 National Events. Does this justify a conclusion that the AFLA discriminates against older fencers?

Has the real purpose of the Nationals been forgotten? A champion who wins a barrage fences more bouts than a fencer who wins without one. Who prefers a barrage in order to get more value for an entry fee? It is the function of divisions to promote competitive opportunities for all classes of fencers. It is the purpose of the Nationals to select the National Champion and determine the relative strength of the outstanding U.S. Fencers for selection to International Teams. There is presently Olympic or World Championship competition only for the following: Under 20, Women's Foil, Foil, Epee, and Sabre. The AFLA conducts National Championships in these categories.

"A SINGLE BIGOTED INDIVIDUAL AT THE LOCAL LEVEL CAN BLOCK EVEN THESE MEAGER EFFORTS" (I assume towards equality): There is simply no merit in this conclusion. AFLA by laws entrust the operation of Divisions to the division Executive Committee (not to a single individual) and all Division Officers are elected by the Division membership. The failure or refusal of a Division to conduct specific events can be because a Division Executive Committee in its discretion finds no need, desire or demand, and not because of one single bigoted individual.

HOW MUCH TIME CAN ONE TAKE AWAY FROM TRAINING FOR A SERIOUS EVENT?? I think this is the best question raised in the letter, and the best answer is none at all. At a time when the U.S. Fencers are still striving to attain their first Olympic Gold Medal, serious fencers must devote their time and best efforts for International competition. American Fencing must remain a part of International fencing and the FIE. We cannot adopt our own separate amateur code and still compete in the Olympics; similarly we cannot adopt our own rules and

special competitions and effectively train for International results. Those who desire to use the sport of fencing solely for recreation and diversification are welcome to participate, but they should not be permitted to change the rules of a sport to the detriment of all.

A train proceeding down the wrong track will never reach its destination. The faster it goes, the further away it becomes. In such a case the only correct solution is to stop, determine the correct route, and reverse the direction. My conclusion would be for fencers to stop-reconsider the goals desired to be attained for the sport of fencing, and then proceed in the proper direction to achieve them.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE FEMALE IN SPORTS

The American Society for Testing and Materials has announced that a symposium on the female in sports will be conducted on Wednesday, June 26th at the Sheraton Park and Shoreham-Americana Hotels, Washington, D.C. It is sponsored by ASTM Committee F-8 on Protective Equipment for Sports and will deal with injury problems and special equipment available for the protection of female athletes.

Steve Sobel represents the AFLA on Committee F-8, but will not be able to attend this symposium, since it conflicts with the National Championships. Anyone interested in attending should contact Steve Sobel at once for details.



"Pray, Sir, put your sword up, if you please."
Scene IV, Act III
Twelfth Night
— culled by Lou Shaff

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METROPOLITAN SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT WEST POINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES NEW BY LAWS

by Marilyn Masiero

The Metropolitan Section Championships were held over the weekend of March 16 and 17 at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Efficiently hosted by Army Coach A. John Geraci, the meet saw over 50 competitors from the Metropolitan, Westchester, and West Point divisions. The first three places in each weapon received the impressive West Point medals.

In the foil, Neal Cohen of the N.Y. Fencers Club edged out George Masin and Al Davis of the NYAC to take top honors.

Having warmed up with the second place medal in foil on Saturday, the versatile George G. Masin came back on Sunday to go undefeated in the Epee event, becoming Sectional Champion.

Averil Genton, with a 7-1 record in the final took first place, with Tanya Adamovich,

Stacey Moriates, Nikki Tomlinson and Ron Debiase following in that order, with 5-3 records.

The sabre competition saw the return of Dr. Barry Pariser, former NCAA sabre champion, who applied his tactical expertise to win the Championship. Written analytical Examinations for Class 2 D were administered by U.S. Fencing Commission Chairman Chaba M. F and Richard Gradkowski.

Next Year the Sectional Championships will be hosted by the Metropolitan D

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mary and Edwina on the birth of Max Churchedder on the birth of Max Churchedder April 14th.

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photo by V. B. Greene

The women finalists at this year's Martini receiving their awards, from l. to r.: 1. Brigitte Dumont, France; 2. Ildiko Bobis, Hungary; 3. Katelin Raczova, Czechoslovakia; 4. Consolata Collino, Italy; 5. Claudia Josland, France; 6. Sheila Armstrong, USA.

THE WOMEN'S MARTINI & ROSSI INTERNATIONAL

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Tishman is a former National Champion and tied for second place in the 1948 London Olympics.)

by Maria Cerra Tishman

The finals of the Women's Foil in the Martini & Rossi Competition this year was an exciting event. With Brigitte Dumont and Claudia Josland of France, Ildiko Bobis of Hungary, Katelin Raczova of Czechoslovakia, Consolata Collino of Italy, and Sheila Armstrong of the United States participating, the final was an example of strong, international, fencing.

All the finalists demonstrated solid technique, both in handwork and footwork; a fine knowledge of distance and timing and a stamina which seemed inexhaustible.

Armstrong was in good company and nicely beat Josland whose septieme, counter septieme and prime parries were beautiful to see. Collino with her long, strong

legs took full advantage of her reach with firm, all out attacks. Raczova fenced lightly and quickly using simple attacks in good time and distance and showed an excellent defense.

But the finest fencing was displayed in the deciding bout for first place between Dumont and Bobis. Bobis quickly led Dumont on the offensive. At that point Dumont changed her game, become patient and cautious, pressing Bobis to attack. Dumont continued in this vein deliberately and cleverly, bringing the score to 3-3. From then on the audience saw the best women's fencing we've seen in the States. Each fencer watched, waited, and urged the other to lose her power of concentration. The action went from one end of the strip to the other and back; again and again. For at least five minutes they fenced for the deciding touch and, in that time, it seemed every action of fencing was used in attacks, and counter attacks, from both sides. Yet

the opponent was constantly "en garde" and ever watchful of her distance. Finally Bobis, at the invitation of Dumont, came out with a full attack and Dumont authoritatively stop-thrust her with opposition. Dumont deserved winning the championship!

In addition to observing the high caliber of fencing, it was fascinating to see how the European fencers and their respective Chiefs of Missions knew the rules, kept their own scores, watched their indicators and meticulously checked the seeding.

During the preliminaries, two of the European fencers had each dropped a bout, so that in seeding for the second round, three of them were placed by indicators on the same quarter-final strip. Once the strips were announced, the bout committee was approached by the heads of two delegations requesting examination of the indicators. Anticipating this, the bout committee had listed the quarter finalists in order of indicators and the Chiefs of Mission checked the list quickly, nodded, and withdrew. At every round each of the six European Fenc-

ers quietly asked to look at her studied it and checked to see her first. Their approach to fencing was serious knowledgeable — a good lesson for all.

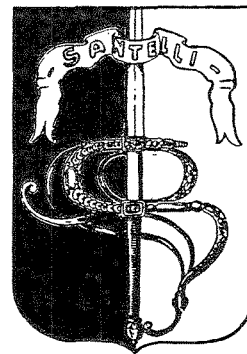
To the United States Olympic Committee, the Martini & Rossi, the New York Athletic Club, the A.F.L.A., and the Women's Committee of the Martini & Rossi; thank you for us such a fine field of women fencers.

CANADIAN ITEMS

Canada will host the Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships in Ottawa from July 1 to July 9. The program will be part of Ottawa's Festival of Sport in the nation's capital. Australia, England, Wales, Scotland, and Jamaica have confirmed their participation.

Vancouver, British Columbia, will host the Pacific International Tournament June 1 and 2.

Labor Day weekend is the time to watch the Montreal, Province of Quebec for the Terre des Hommes Tournament.



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From The President



by Steve Sobel

After the 1972 Olympics, each newly appointed Olympic Sports Committee was instructed by the United States Olympic Committee to prepare a four year development and training program in preparation for the 1975 Pan-American and 1976 Olympic Events. The result was the submission of programs and budgets far in excess of what was originally planned, and most of the requests for money were denied by the Olympic Development Committee due to unavailable funds. Unfortunately, much confusion and misunderstanding has resulted. The denial of funds due to unavailability has been misconstrued by many as rejection of the programs. Some fencers erroneously believed that the lack of funds was due to failure of the AFLA to request and the Olympic Fencing Sports Committee to prepare the supporting documentation, and the fencers themselves with good intentions but completely misguided, submitted an independent petition to the Executive Director of USOC. Therefore, I think it is very important to provide everyone with the facts now, in order to prevent misunderstandings. Everyone should be fully informed and consider the many complex issues. Moves in a chess game cannot be planned without studying an entire board; similarly answers to complex problems cannot be provided until all the facts are known and considered.

The Fencing Program: The Olympic Fencing Sports Committee developed a program employing 3 major concepts. The first is the creation of an Olympic Squad of approximately the top 24 competitors in each weapon for purposes of training and selection, with selection points awarded from the Nationals, from significant results in Class A FIE Competitions, and from two annual squad competitions limited to members of the squad. This phase of the program was fully described in the Olympic Fencing Sports Committee Report published

in the November-December issue of American Fencing. The other two concepts call for exposure to International Competition. The first is by bringing the outstanding International fencers here in such events as the AFLA Martini-Rossi International and other exchange programs to be developed. The second is by sending our outstanding fencers abroad to compete in major FIE events.

The concept was approved by the Olympic Development Committee but the development funds available for the program were considerably less than the amount requested and were completely inadequate. The Fencing Sports Committee then met and decided to proceed with announced programs to the best of its ability with the limited funds available. Priority was given first to conduct the AFLA Martini-Rossi International, and second, to use the remaining funds to provide at least partial travel allowances for the two Olympic Squad Competitions. The unfortunate results are apparent. Some fencers would be required to defray large expenses to compete in the squad competitions and all travel abroad to FIE events could only be done at an individual's own expense.

The Committee had decided that since fencing is an individual competitive sport, as distinguished from sports where performance can be measured against a clock or tape measure, there is no substitute for International competitive experience. Since this is most economically provided by bringing a few outstanding foreign fencers here and exposing them to many Americans, and since the Martini-Rossi International would not have been possible at all without development funds, it was given first priority. A fair objective selection system with regular training events twice annually to supplement the only other truly National event, the AFLA Nationals, was considered as second in priority in terms of fund allo-

cation. Since there were not enough funds to fully support this, there was just nothing available for further development programs.

The problem of International training without adequate funding is easily divided into two main categories: There is first a short range rationing required to meet emergency needs now, and second a long range program to avoid the crisis in the future.

The Short Range Program: Simply stated, we must do the best with what we have available. First, earmarked contributions to the AFLA must be solicited to help International training programs. Divisions and sections whenever possible should assist, and every effort be made at the National level to secure funds to support International training and development. The fencers themselves must continue to train diligently, and take advantage of whatever International Events they possibly can. It is extremely important at this critical time not to surrender in despair or to abandon hope.

The Long Range Program: My discussions with the leaders of the other sports governing bodies, and the discussions at the USOC Board of Directors Meetings clearly indicate that most amateur sports are in need of money for International development. The problem is not isolated to a particular sport but is common to all. Therefore a common approach must be found as a result of the combined efforts of all sports governing bodies to solve this common problem. Nothing is accomplished by saying "it is the responsibility of each sports governing body to fund its International Programs" since most sports governing bodies, if not all of them, simply do not have the necessary resources to do this. This does not solve the problem, it merely escapes from it diplomatically.

My suggestion is that an organization such as the USOC, consisting of representatives of all amateur sports that participate in the Olympic and the Pan-American Games, should undertake a special study, and recommend appropriate solutions. Here, for example, are just two simple ideas as a starting point:

1. Authorize travel by military aircraft, or

in the alternative, special reduced rate for the approved athletes traveling to compete in recognized National or International Events. The greatest expense of the national Competition at present is prohibitive transportation costs. Once this is alleviated, a new door will be opened for more athletes to participate in more international events.

2. Creation of Development Funds: available for use by amateur sports governing bodies who demonstrate meritorious programs and needs.

In order to compete on an equal basis with other federations where athletes receive full time training throughout their lives at no individual cost, and expense-free to compete in international events, the United States must in the long range adopt a more realistic national approach. I do not advocate government support or control in any form. But the availability of some indirect assistance to amateur and amateur sports governing bodies to create the ability and opportunity for individuals and organizations to help themselves. We have always been a proud nation built on developing individual initiative and group resources of small private organizations. This fundamental principle should not be abandoned. However, a favorable environment can and should be established to enable the individual and the small independent amateur sports governing bodies to be able to work out the economic problems necessary to create a first class International Teams and Competitions.



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WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ORGANIZES MARTINI WOMEN'S FOIL FUNDS RAISED TO IMPLEMENT TOP QUALITY EVENT

by Marilyn Masiero

The Martini and Rossi made more than just fencing history this year. For the first time a woman's committee organized and ran the women's event.

In the past there had been much dissatisfaction with the women's event, which was tacked on to the men's competition on an available space and time basis. As the entry fee had always been identical to the men's events, a number of us decided it was time for an effort for equality. To help insure this, we organized a Women's committee, and the AFLA Martini Rossi committee named Denise O'Connor chairwoman. Denise got busy and appointed Mary Annavedder, Helena Dow, Marilyn Masiero, Georgette Pascotto, and Maria Cerra Tishman to coordinate the event.

After some deliberation, we decided to set as high a standard as possible for the competition, with the highest quality European and American women fencers participating. As an integral part of our purpose was to help develop American fencing, our best younger fencers were also to be invited. Therefore, invitations were sent out to those fencers who, by virtue of their performances met any of the following standards:

1. defending Martini Rossi Champion
2. reached the round of 24 in the 1974 Nationals
3. 1972 Olympic team members
4. 1973 University Games members
5. 1973 U.S. U-19 finalists
6. 1973 and 1974 Jr. World team
7. 1973 Sectional Champion
8. NIWFA All American, 1973
9. NIWFA Winter Invitational finalist, 1974
10. Class "A" fencers.

This objective system of criteria insured the strength and quality of competitors which the committee felt that a competition of the caliber of the Women's Martini should reflect.

After consulting the records, the group of foreign women to be invited was culled to basically those who had made the semi finals or finals of the past World Championships held in Goteberg (although many of these had other outstanding international results). Among those who could come were Schwarzenberger of Hungary (second in 1973) Raczova of Czechoslovakia (fourth), as well as Bobis of Hungary and Collino of Italy who were semi finalists.

Because of the pressure of having the women fence at the same time as the Epee, the committee decided to adopt the world championship procedure of fencing the preliminary events on one day, and the semi and finals on the following day. This seemed to work out very well, and we were able to utilize a better selection of strips and officials than in the past.

However, in the middle of our plans the committee soon ran into the big problem; the apparent lack of funds, and the cost of air fares and accommodations for the foreign fencers. Although the entry fee for the competition had been raised to fifteen dollars, and funds were reportedly forthcoming from various other sources, we were informed that there was still a shortage of money.

SUPPORT WOMEN'S SPORTS

The attractive button created by the Martini Women's committee and sold as a fund raising device. All 1000 buttons ordered were sold out.

The time had come for the committee to show what it could do. After some brainstorming, we developed several plans to raise funds for our endeavor. One plan was to sell booster buttons. We ordered 1000 "Support Women's Sports" buttons and sold them all at fifty cents each. The committee would especially like to thank the women from Brooklyn College, CCONY, Hunter and Lehman Colleges for their enthusiastic help.

Another fund raising idea was to run a raffle. This project also got great support from many of our friends. The one hundred dollar prize was won by Cynthia King of Convent Station, New Jersey, who fences in Morristown High School. While watching the fencing at the Martini, she borrowed a quarter from her coach, Marie Koch, to purchase the winning ticket. The winning raffle was drawn by two year old Holly Annavedder at the Salle Santelli.

The committee canvassed and sold over \$300.00 dollars worth of advanced tickets to the Martini and an anonymous benefactress made a special donation of \$500.00

for the women's event.

All in all, the women raised \$2000.00 towards their event. This tidy sum, but with better coordination more advance notice, we are sure more could be done. However, aside from the financial success, the entire women's competition proved to be exceptional! run, with top grade fencing and organization.

Hopefully this will act as an example of what women can do if they put their thought and energy together for a common good.

FENCING COACH AVAILABLE

Graduate assistant with four years of competitive experience and assistant fencing coach at Bowling Green State University looking for a position as fencing instructor or coach at the junior college or college level. Please contact: Ms. Randi Sherrill, Women's Building, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43403 (419-372-2772).

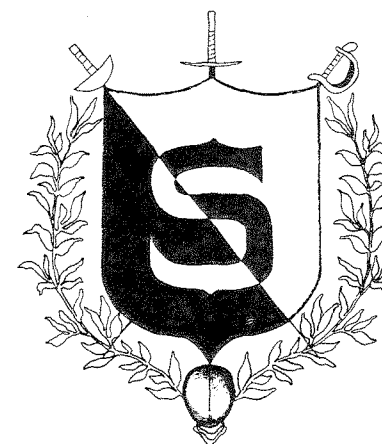
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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY IS SITE OF USA vs. ITALY SABER MATCH

by Denise O'Connor

On Tuesday, March 26, the U.S. and Italian Sabre teams met in a dual meet at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. The contest was for the Leo Nunes Friendship Challenge Trophy, donated by former many times U.S. National champion Leo Nunes. Five top U.S. sabremen faced the Italian 1972 Olympic Champion team, which had arrived to fence in the Martini-Rossi competition on the previous weekend.

The challenge match is an annual event, started three years ago. Last year the event was held in Genova. The Italians have won every time, keeping up their unbroken string, this time by a 13-8 score.

The sponsors of this year's event were Seton Hall University and the Italian Tribune News, the largest Italian-American picture newspaper in the country. Dr. Sam D'Ambola, coach of the Essex Catholic High School fencing team writes a weekly column "A Left Handed View of Fencing" in the Newark based publication. The Tribune also annually presents awards to the leading male and female high school and collegiate fencers in New Jersey and selects an All-State boys and girls high school team. Publisher Ace Alagna, who continues to display a great interest in the sport of fencing accepted the invitation of Chaba M. Pallaghy, Vice President of the AFLA, to co-sponsor the event, along with Harry Bout-sikaris, coach of the Seton Hall squad.

The assembly was welcomed by Seton Hall's Director of Athletics, Richard Reagan. The event was well attended by an enthusiastic crowd of Jerseyites who contributed to the New Jersey Junior Olympic Fund. After the match the two teams repaired to the Vesuvius Restaurant in Newark for dinner and speeches where Ace Alagna presented the team members with trophies.

The first event of the evening was a ten touch foil match between U.S. National Champ Ed Ballinger and Carlo Montano the young Italian who took fifth place in the 1973 World Championships held in Gote-

berg, Sweden. Montano won by a score of 10-7. After this warm up, the sabre teams went into action.

The Jury for the team match was composed of members of the Hungarian national sabre squad.

After a see-saw start the Italians worked up a 5-2 lead. The USA then slowly equalized the score by winning six out of the next eight bouts to bring the score, by the 15th bout, to 8-7 in favor of us. But then the Italians, perhaps worried about being late for the official dinner, rolled up six in a row to finish off the match by 13-8.

Meanwhile, down the basement, the U.S. Epee team beat an Italian foursome by 10-6.



photo by Ace Alagna

Marion Tullio Montano and Peter Westbrook perform a "pas de deux" at the USA vs. Italy sabre team match, held March 26 at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

MATCH RESULTS

SABRE:

ITALY (13)

Montano (4v) d. Apostol 5-3, Dow 5-2, Losoncsy 5-3, Westbrook 5-2;

Michel Maffei (3v) d. Apostol 5-3, Orban 5-2, Westbrook 5-0;

Tomaso Montano (2v) d. Apostol 5-3, Dow 5-1;

Tulio Montano (2v) d. Losoncsy 5-0, Orban 5-3;

Rolando Rigoli (2v) d. Losoncsy 5-1, Orban 5-4.

USA (8)

Westbrook (3v) d. Tulio Montano 5-0, Tomaso Montano 5-2, Rigoli 5-3;

Dow (2v) d. Maffei 5-4, Tulio Montano 5-4;

Apostol (1v) d. Rigoli 5-2;

Losoncsy (1v) d. Tomaso Montano 5-3;

Orban (1v) d. Aldo Montano 5-4.

EPEE:

USA (10)

Pesthy (4v) d. Bertinetti 5-1, Bellon Mochi 5-2, Pezza 5-0;

Masin (3v) d. Bertinetti 5-3, Bellon Pezza 5-4;

Lyons (2v) d. Bertinetti 5-4, Bellone 5- Bozek (1v) d. Pezza 5-3.

ITALY (6)

Mochi (3v) d. Bozek 5-4, Lyons 5-2, 5-4;

Bertinetti (1v) d. Bozek 5-4;

Bellone (1v) d. Bozek 5-4;

Pezza (1v) d. Lyons 5-2.

1975 WORLD CHAMPIONSHI

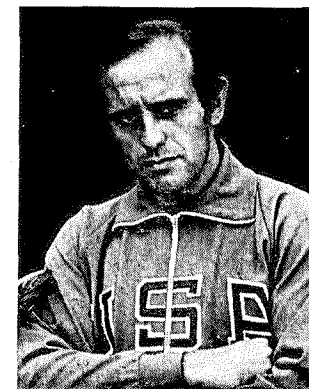
The 1975 World Championships will be held in Budapest, Hungary. Plans are in way to charter a special flight for the USA which will be open to AFLA members



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Wis. 53916
- July 13-July 20:** UNIVERSITY OF CAL.
SAN DIEGO CALIF.
c/o Jim White, P.O. Box 109,
La Jolla, Calif. 92037
- July 25-July 29:** FLORIDA STATE UNIV., FLA.
c/o Jan Delaney, FSU Box 7002,
Tallahassee, Fla. 32306
- Aug. 3-Aug. 10:** R. M. C. KINGSTON,
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photo by Ace A

The victorious Italian sabre team, 1972 Olympic Gold medalists from l. to r.: Tomasso Mor Rolando Rigoli, Signore Fini (team Captain), Mario Aldo Montano, Mario Tullio Montano, Michel N posing before their 13-8 win over the U.S. at Seton Hall University in East Orange, New Jersey.

UPDATE YOUR RULE BOOK!

by Joe Byrnes

I know. I can hear it now. An outcry from all over: "What? Update it? We just got it!" Well now, you should know that a rule book is rather like a telephone directory—it starts out old. However, as you'll see below, there isn't very much involved in this first updating.

By the way, anybody who doesn't have the new book is going to be lost, because the changes have been many, and so have the additions, compared to what appeared in the last edition. This applies even in the older, supposedly more stable parts of the text. Part Five, for example, on the Organization of Competitions, has been extensively changed, including a rearrangement of the order of some of the articles, with attendant renumbering. The AFLA Bylaws and Operations Manual also have a new look and should be checked with care.

But I'll confine my observations to the fencing rules. It may be a comfort, or something, to learn that at the moment we are more up-to-date in English than those who rely on the original FIE pure French text. So far as I have heard, as of this writing, the FIE has not yet issued corrected pages to cover the mistakes that got into their publication (now a year old), much less to add the changes that the May 1973 Congress adopted at Paris. Our 1974 AFLA publication has all of those corrections and changes, except the four minor items given below. These latter were adopted administratively on the recommendation of the Commission SE & M, but it did not become clear that they had actually been adopted until the printed minutes of the 1973 Congress arrived in this country—which wasn't until late January 1974. By that time our book was in page proof, and if you know anything about printing, you know that you don't tear page settings apart for anything that isn't the utmost importance.

So here goes. There are two parts to this update: first, a few typos to fix, and second, the latest additions. The typograph-

ical slips that escape proof-reading, or wormed their way in, gremlin-like, in the course of corrections, are the following:

Page 13, Article 5, line two: read "**rencontre**" instead of "recontre."

Page 59, Article 417/b/3, line three: read **step** forward, rather than stop.

If you'd like to fix the drawing on page 36, add the letter **a**) to the bottom of the dotted line passing through the tip of the foil (that identification was omitted from the FIE diagram, which we copied). And in the bracketed note near the top of page 85, read **page** rather than pages, since we shrank the tables down to fit on one.

I know of three more tiny typos or punctuation slips that I could mention, but won't, since I'll bet that most people will never catch them (and I don't mean missing French accent marks, either!) I will personally send a free foil point spring to the first three persons to find any one of them and report it to me. Of course, if you find one I don't already know about, you'll just make me mad and win nothing.

Actually, I'll be interested to hear from anyone who has found, or who thinks that he or she has found something of this sort.

To more substantive matters; the FIE late additions are as follows:

Article 18: Add the following sentence to the mention of the 1.5 mm test blade (shim): "This blade (shim), supplied by the Organizing Committee, may have a tolerance of ± 0.05 mm (i.e., from 1.495 to 1.505 mm)." Also, add to the mention of the 0.5 mm test blade (shim): "This blade (shim), supplied by the Organizing Committee, may have a tolerance of ± 0.05 mm (i.e., from 0.495 to 0.505 mm)."

Article 217: Add to the end of this article: "However, a system of attachment offering the same guarantee of strength as solder may be permitted after approval by the Commission on Electrical Scoring and Equipment."

Article 791/3: Add at the end: "This 500-gram weight, supplied by the Organizing Committee, may have a tolerance of ± 2 grams (i.e., from 498 to 502 grams)."

Article 732/2: Add at the end: "This 750-gram weight, supplied by the Organizing Committee, may have a tolerance of ± 2.5 grams (i.e., from 747.5 to 752.5 grams)."

And one final note: in article 406, second paragraph, you can remove the square brackets around "minimum" in "minimum thickness," because the FIE finally decided to spell out clearly what they had always meant. It is now part of the official text and no longer just a helpful hint from me. So long for now.

NEW RULES BOOK

Fencers and Officials are reminded that the new 1974 Rules Book is now available from our National Secretary (see order form on page 31). Collegiate fencers and coaches should note that the new rules book contains the official NCAA Fencing Rules as well as the AFLA and FIE regulations.

Fencing Camp

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

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

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

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

For further information write:
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Branimir Zivkovic, Director
182 West Hill Road
Stamford, Conn. 06902

PAN-AM CHANGES

The U.S. Olympic Fencing Sports Committee has just been notified that the for the 1975 Pan American Games been **advanced** to April 26 through 11, 1975.

The selection of the 1975 Pan Am Team will obviously have to be based on points earned prior to the Games. I earned in the 1975 U.S. Championship **not** be counted in selecting the Pan-Am Team, but **will** be counted in selecting the 1976 Olympic Team.

Specifically, the competitions which be considered in selecting the 1975 American Team will consist of the following:

1. The International Squad Competition of April 27 & 28, 1974 and June 1 1974.

2. The 1974 National Championship

3. The two International Squad Competitions held during the 1974/1975 season

4. Class "A" International Competition held prior to the completion of the 1975 International Squad Competition of 1974/1975 season. (Documentation for placement in Class "A" International competitions must be submitted by the 1st of August to the Secretary of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Sports Committee, Peter Tisler promptly following the particular competition, in order for points to be properly credited.)

Since the point standing following the 1974 Nationals will determine the Olympic Squad eligible to compete in the 1975 Squad competition, it must be emphasized that the 1974 National Championships is of critical importance for all American Team candidates.

FENCING COACH AVAILABLE

American Graduate of French Fencing Masters School (I.N.S.) seeks employment Eager to work in university or salle. For contact: Gerard F. Shaw, 76 Remsen Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

CASTELLO STEPS DOWN

by Jim Mones

Hugo Castello wound up his 27-year coaching career with New York University at the three-day National Collegiate Athletic Association fencing championship at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

"Believe me, I never planned to coach for so many years," said Hugo Castello, head fencing coach at NYU. "But then again, who plans 27 years in advance?"

Not many. Nor have many in any sport had as successful a career as Castello's.

Hugo took over the coaching reins at NYU in 1947, replacing his father, Julio. Julio had built the Violets into the proverbial powerhouse of college fencing, winning eight Intercollegiate Fencing Association crowns and one N.C.A.A. title during his 20 years as coach.

Since then, Hugo has created a dynasty, winning nine more N.C.A.A. and 12 F.I.A. championships, both records for a fencing coach. His teams have also compiled 206 dual meet victories and only 35 defeats, nine undefeated seasons, winning streaks of 35 and 37 and back to back N.C.A.A. crowns three times.

Castello, who was born in Argentina in 1914 started fencing at the age of eight when his father gave him his first lesson in the sport.

It didn't take him very long to "pick it up." At George Washington High School in New York City he won the Public School Athletic League's foil title. At NYU he captured the I.F.A. foil crowns in 1935 and 1936 and was runnerup the following year.

"I've found that training is a key to winning," he said. "Fencing is a 12-month-a-year sport. Successful fencers always have to be in training. It's better to have fencers practice three or four times a week for 12 months, than to have them practice seven days a week for just four months as players do in basketball and football.



HUGO CASTELLO

"As a coach, I've always left it up to the individual to train on his own. I don't force them. Once you start stepping in trying to make the fencer follow you, you kill the fun of the sport."

This season Castello has guided the Violets to a 9-0 dual meet record and the I.F.A. championship.

Ending his career on a winning note would be exactly the way he started it. In his first year of coaching he saw the Violets romp to their first N.C.A.A. championship.

"Winning that first title will always be one of my fondest memories," said Castello, who is a member of the Helms Hall of Fame. "It was in Chicago in 1947 and I was assisting my father. It was his last year as head coach. Back then he would send two men in each weapon and we wound up with twice as many points as the No. 2 team."

At various times throughout his career Castello has been a member of the U.S. Olympic Games Committee, president of the National Fencing Coaches Association, coach of the U.S. fencing team at the Pan-Am Games, coach of the U.S. World Team, and coach of the U.S. Under 20 U.S. World Team.

Although he is leaving his NYU coaching position after 27 years, Castello is the first to point out that he is not cutting his ties with fencing.

"Fencing has always been part of my life," said Castello. "I'll continue to remain close to the sport."

MAIL NOTICES

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

Ralph D. Mitchner, a Canadian philatelist, located the 1894 postcard shown above in a dealer's stockbook recently, and forwarded it to American Fencing Magazine. Further search unearthed another card with a similar message—dated two years later (shown below). Both of the cards are addressed to an AFLA member who apparently worked in Ottawa, Canada; one L. N. Richard. While nothing is known of this gentleman; the sender of the note — W. Scott O'Connor — was the first AFLA Secretary and held the position longer than anyone else (from 1891 to 1925). It is in his memory that the National Epee Championship Trophy is presented.

The site of the meeting, the Fencers Club, is still in operation—but on 38th Street. The 22nd Street location was the Club's second, having been founded in 1883 on 24th Street.

As almost any AFLA official can testify, the League's method of communicating has changed little in the intervening eighty years—for much of the correspondence is still carried on by postcard. The big difference is that the 1894 message was carried for only a penny and those of today go for eight cents!

The Nationals postcard announcement (shown front and back) was sent to the AFLA's hundred odd members by Charles Tatham, Bout Committeeman for the 1896 Nationals. The message carried to one "L. N. Ricard, Ottawa, Canada. The card was located by a Canadian collector, who passed it along to a friend at AMERICAN FENCING.

Those who think that this year's entries are a little steep should consider that the \$2.00 charge per event in 1896 frequently bought a week's groceries for a whole family of the day.

Amateur Fencers League of America.

The Annual Meeting of the A. F. L. A. will be held at the Fencers Club, 37 West 22d Street, on Wednesday, May 13th, at 8:30 P. M.

Please attend.

W. SCOTT O'CONNOR,
SECRETARY

New York, May 1st, 1896.

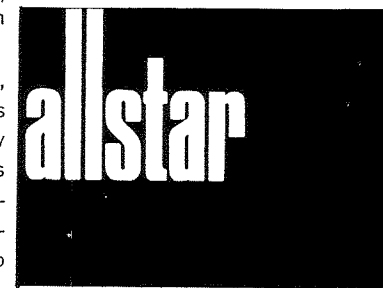
+ AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA. +

October 20th, 1894.

The postponed meeting of the League, will be held at Fencers Club, 37 West 22d Street, on Monday evening, October 29th, at 8 o'clock, to hear report of Committee on revised rule and to discuss and adopt rules for coming year.

You are earnestly requested to attend, or send your idea and proxy.

W. SCOTT O'CONNOR,
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SIZE OF OLYMPIC TEAM CHANGED

The F.I.E. has announced a change in the maximum size of the fencing teams which will be permitted in the 1976 Olympic Games. Teams will be limited to 5 women and 13 men, rather than 5 women and 15 men which had been the limit before this change. However, the number of permitted individual entrants per weapon remains at 3 and the size of the teams in the team events remains at 4.

The U.S. Olympic Fencing Sports Committee has reviewed its announced selection procedure, in view of this unforeseen development, and has adopted the following modifications:

1. In each of the men's weapons, the first four places will be selected strictly in accordance with the selection system as previously announced.
2. Following the final selection of the four members of each weapon team, the Committee will determine in which weapon a fifth fencer will be named. The Committee will name to the Team the next-ranking candidate in that weapon.
3. The fifth position on each of the remaining 4-man teams will be filled from among the members of the other weapon teams. If more than one team member is qualified for such a position the committee will select the highest ranking fencer in the particular weapon needed.

The Committee has adopted the following policy with regard to candidates who try out in more than one weapon:

If a fencer earns an Olympic Team position among the first four in more than one weapon, and if he wishes to fence in more than one weapon, he will be permitted to do so. This will open up an additional position on the Team. The Committee will then determine in which weapon the additional position will be used and will name the next-ranking fencer in that weapon to the Team.

If a fencer earns a position among the first four in more than one weapon but

chooses to fence only one weapon in the Games, he may choose the weapon in which he will compete. This will leave a vacant position in the weapon not chosen, and the Committee will name the next ranking candidate in that weapon to the Team.

INTERNATIONAL SQUAD COMPETITIONS FOR 1974/75

Tentative dates have been set for the International Squad Competitions during the 1974/1975 season. The dates are January 11 & 12, 1975 and March 1 & 2, 1975. Sites are not yet determined. Organizations or institutions interested in hosting these competitions are asked to notify Peter Tishman in writing as soon as possible, and in any case not later than August 15, 1974. Every effort should be made by colleges, high schools, and AFLA Divisions to avoid schedule conflicts with these dates.

AFLA GIVES PRIORITY TO PAN AMERICAN GAMES IN 1975

The general position of the AFLA has always been one of support and cooperation with the United States Olympic Committee, of which the AFLA is a member. Accordingly, every effort must be made to send the strongest possible fencing team to the Pan-American Games. As an affirmative AFLA action implementing this principle, the AFLA International Selection Committee has adopted the following policy:

"Any fencer who is selected for the 1975 Pan American Team and declines to compete as a member of that team will not be selected to represent the United States on international teams during the remainder of the calendar year 1975. This exclusion affects the 1975 World Championships, as well as any other teams which the AFLA International Selections Committee selects".

NEW RULES BOOK

The new 1974 Rules Book, containing both the AFLA translation of the international rules and the NCAA rules for collegiate fencing is now available from our National Secretary.

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph,

The latest issue of American Fencing (Vol. 25, No. 3) reported the results of the Cornell Open, which report included a misrepresentation.

The Canadians participating in the Cornell Open were not representing the Canadian Olympic Squad in any way. They were members of Mission '76, an Olympic development program of the Province of Quebec, in no way to be construed as a national program.

For good reasons it is important to preserve this distinction, and therefore we would appreciate your printing a correction of this misrepresentation in your next issue.

Sincerely yours

John Andru

Technical Director

Canadian Fencing Association

(Ed. Note: American Fencing regrets the error and hopes that no undue problems arise because of it. Contributors to our magazine are reminded that we must rely on their accuracy and integrity in submitting material to us.)

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph,

It was more than a pleasant surprise to open the magazine, American Fencing, after an absence of 25 years or more from the fencing scene, to discover names and faces that I remembered from the halcyon days. I was struck with nostalgia, and couldn't suppress jotting a line to you.

I believe I saw you last at an AFLA competition in New York, I'm guessing it was the early 40's. At that time I fenced for Brooklyn College (Joe Smith). My name then; Charlotte Anker. I suppose it's folly and presumptuous to think it rings a bell. While I gradually gave up fencing, I've never forgotten how captivated I was by it, and the major role it played in my college life.

In 1970 I moved to Athens, of all places. I least expected to use the foil (quite scratched and rusty) that I carted along with me from Manhattan. Rather recently I was told of a fencing club at the university. It is modest, with few members, but alive and well. So I'm fencing once more, and once more fascinated with it.

I've always thought fencers were a special durable breed. And so they are.

All my best wishes to you in your continuing achievements.

Charlotte Anker von Glaserfeld
Athens, Georgia

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph:

Your editorial is very nice about Miguel de Capriles. It sounds like the file of the AFLA or NYU, but for heavens sake! Mike de Capriles is one of the finest men I have ever met! And I'll bet that there are several fencers who will agree, in spades, and that includes you!

We both know that Mike came from a family who had bad luck. He worked his way through NYU as well as law school and then he turned around and saw his brother through too! This was no mean feat in his day and it meant long hard hours of work and study. In spite of this, he made high grades and became an outstanding fencer. There are very few who would do as well with such a burden today. And in spite of all this worry, work, and duties, he has turned out to be a gentleman's gentleman! The gentle, persuasive, mien of this man has soothed many a fencer, organization and, if you please, nation. We have had hints of what he accomplished in World War II for this nation and we know what he has done since.

Yes, his record in business and in fencing is great, but as a man's man he has been supreme!

I shall miss this man around New York and the fencing world I knew. As I wrote once of his brother, "vaya con dios."

Bill Osborn
Pleasantville, N.Y.

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Editor,

Did you know that according to the Library of Congress fencing is more akin to military strategy, combat tactics, and ancient armor that it is to a sport of any kind? I accidentally discovered this in a recent trip to my university library, which adheres strictly to the LOC classification system.

This implies that: 1. Fencing is acknowledged for it's antiquity not it's modernness, 2. Military overtones (repugnant to me personally) far outweigh it's sports application and 3. the physical education establishment is further justified in viewing fencing as an anachronism like battleships and armor. This classification is a deep embarrassment and a hinderence to progress.

If fencing is ever to become accepted as a serious competitive sport by the athletic community these are very real hurdles we must clear. Our sport needs real athletes romance of a slice of the antiquated past. But our athletes find only library research sources on football, track or basketball when they consult the "sports" (GV) section of the library.

If this galls you as it does me then write! The catalog Librarian at the San Diego State University has done so for me. What about not average individuals turned on by the your local libraries? Your fencing club? Write: Library of Congress, Subject Cataloging Division, Washington, D.C. 20541.

Sincerely

Dan Greenblat

San Diego, California

(Editor's Note: This nineteenth-century classification of fencing in the Library of Congress system is an unfortunate fact. It probably made sense then, but for the twentieth century is decidedly out of keeping with the spirit of our present-day handbooks, manuals, and training materials—not to mention the sport itself. Probably very few books written about fencing (apart from histories of duelling) since around 1900 deserve the LOC's "U" label as concerned with

combat tactics, etc. Maybe what the LOC needs a two-track system of classification: book historical fencing under "U" books on the modern sport, even if they mention a bit of history, and "GV." The AFLA Executive Committee undoubtedly should look into this matter, and officially for the League, but in the mean letters from fencers, as suggested by Mr. Greenblat, may help the good cause.)

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph,

At the Director's Clinic held during Martini-Rossi, one new rule was explained concerning point in line, which under certain conditions allows the defender to slip into the attack without losing right of way. When the clinic was over, I got involved in a discussion with several fencers, with differing opinions on how this new rule to be applied.

Following is what I believe to be correct interpretation. Is it?

For the point to be "in line", the must be extended towards the opponent point of the weapon threatening the target. It is not necessary for the elbow be locked, but the arm must clearly be extended.

When the attack is made into a "point in line" without first deflecting the blade, the defender now may move forward into attack without forfeiting his right of way. However, the arm may not change its general position.

If the arm was not originally fully extended, and the defender extends the further into the attack, he now does his right of way.

Manny Forrest
Miami, Florida

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The Editor
American Fencing
Dead Ralph,

I wish to compliment the Board on their action allowing mixed fencing between men and women on a division level. In small (but growing) divisions like the Louisiana Division, the total number of women competitors at any particular meet may be so small as to offer hardly any real competition to our better women fencers. The only way to remedy the situation is to allow the women to fence with the men and thereby improve their skills and accrue experience. It is also my personal opinion that in a sport like fencing, where strength and size are not necessarily prerequisites for winning, women are not inherently inferior to men. This is not to say that they may not be at a physical disadvantage in some cases opposing some men, but the same is true of some men opposing other more physically developed men. The truth of the matter is that the faster, more skillful, and better conditioned athlete will usually win, be they man or woman. I offer as evidence a case which happened recently at a small tournament held in Baton Rouge in which there was supposed to be both sabre and women's foil competition. Unfortunately, the only woman to show up was Cathy Davis, our division women's foil champion. In order that the trip would not be a complete bust, she was allowed to enter the sabre event along with the men. Although some fairly experienced fencers were entered, Cathy proceeded to win the event, being undefeated during the entire contest, to the acute embarrassment of some of the men. I might add that she did so without resorting to the charge-and-chop technique once. Skill at parrying and reposting did the trick. I think that I have made my point sufficiently.

Keep up the good work Ralph, your magazine improves with every issue.

Rene A. Navarre
Secretary,
La. Division, AFLA

(Ed. Note: The men should not be embarrassed. Aside from the fact that some women are better fencers, I for one could not fence as strongly against a woman as I would against a man in competition.)

Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



Every Spring there comes Martini-Rossi time in New York. (It takes a fencer to understand that remark, since we don't mean that the vermouth bottles are opened only once a year, were that the case, there'd be no sponsorship for the Martini-Rossi in New York.)

Anyway, at the M-R, besides all the fencing, we get a chance to see what the international competitors from Europe are carrying in the way of fascinating new equipment, etc. It is rather amusing (except maybe for the technicians) to see that standards of maintenance overseas aren't necessarily any better than the garden variety we find here. Some international competitors, from different countries, and in all four weapons, prove woefully ignorant about their own equipment. You'd think that someone with about ten years of international competitive experience would have the common sense to bring along some spare parts, like foil or epee springs and point screws, when visiting a foreign country, and doubly so when using a newly introduced design. You'd think that long-time internationalist might realize that a handle can't be tightened when the tang of the new blade is too long, and in any case not try to fence with the thing in that state. You'd think that . . . , oh well, you get the idea. As I say, it's refreshing to see that there's a fair share of problem types overseas too.

Observations at this last M-R lead me to toss off a few bits of advice to current competitors. This advice is for all levels, not just Olympic Squad contenders. First, have sufficient spare weapons. Have them all checked regularly; if you can do it yourself, all the better. Carry a few of the most necessary spare parts (point screws, springs), and be sure that they are the right

sort for your weapons. Have a roll of adhesive tape, you foil fencers, for replacing the hacked-up stuff on your blade. Have a little jeweler's screwdriver; keep the tip magnetized (rubbing it on a bar magnet now and again will do the trick). If your weapon assemblies with a locking nut, have on hand the large screwdriver or Allen-type wrench needed to keep it tight. Of course, you can usually borrow one, but some day you might find yourself at a competition where everybody expected to borrow one.

When was the time you last checked the condition of your point screws? Epee men, are they just about to fall out? The smart epee man uses that little screwdriver every few bouts to be sure that they're not. Foil screws can't fall out through the tape, but they can loosen up under it. Both foil and epee screws can be seriously hacked about in competition, by beats, etc., and once the tiny slot for the screwdriver is badly damaged, you may no longer be able to remove the screw. All you need is one screw that won't come out, on a foil or epee that no longer passes weight or shim tests, and you have just acquired a very expensive practice blade. Keep an eye on those little screws; replace them when they show wear.

Just a little aside on the new, smaller foil points that most manufacturers are now producing: the springs are smaller too, and do not appear to be as strong as once they were, it seems to me; the screws are definitely smaller and even harder to handle and easier to lose. Magnetize that driver; have spares on hand.

In the epee world, that new Hungarian point I mentioned in passing a couple of issues back has made its appearance. Some of the Europeans at the M-R brought a couple along. The easy way to spot them is by the little set-screw built right into the top of the point. This appears to adjust spring pressure. The travel is supposedly set once for all by grinding down a solid brass post inside. Unfortunately, two of the three epees brought to us at the M-R were never properly ground down to begin with, or there's a bug in the system some-

where. To make it worse, on both, or more of the three screws involved would budge (see above). I'll have some about this new whiz-bang, I'm sure, or get a chance to examine thoroughly a 'ing example. Incidentally, from a passing in the FIE minutes of the 1973 Congress it is at least certain that this point is authorized for use; what is not clear whether, as seems implied, the plan make it mandatory for the FIE competitions (Olympics, World and Under-20 World Championships), starting perhaps in 1976.



QUICKIE QUIZ

What are the seven official duties of the Director? (See Para. 53, page 29 of 1974 AFLA Rules Book.)

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UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF ARMS

by A. John Geraci

A very important step forward in the professional field has been taken by the fencing masters of the USA.

The FENCING MASTERS, there are some 75 of them in the USA, all of whom are members of the parent organization, the NATIONAL FENCING COACHES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA have established the UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF ARMS at the recent annual meeting of the NFAA on March 27, 1974 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF ARMS is an integral part of the NFAA and with its highly professional body of fencing experts, will spearhead the activities and endeavors of the group. Only NFAA members who have the FENCING MASTER'S DIPLOMA may join its ranks. There are three kinds of membership: Fencing master, Associate fencing master, honorary fencing master.

There are several important reasons for the formation of the USAA. First, the USAA can now become an integral part of the INTERNATIONALE ACADEMIE d'ARMES and gain world prestige by this association with a full vote in the international affairs of fencing masters and their world-wide activities. It will send representatives to the FENCING MASTERS WORLD CONGRESS in August, 1974 in Karlsruhe, Germany. It will also send a FENCING MASTERS TEAM to the INTERNATIONAL FENCING MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP to be held at same time and same place. (In 1970 at the Crystal Palace, London, the USA team composed of Fencing Masters Dasaro, Geraci, Sudre, Oles, Selberg and Richards won the World Title by winning the Foil individual, foil team, saber team and 4th in epee.) In addition, the USAA and its committees, will be responsible for the technical guidance in the teaching of fencing at all levels of the sport. It will define and establish the criteria of fencing education in the colleges. It will supervise the standards of teaching in the special schools of fencing training, clinics and camps. It will oversee all fencing masters' clinics and competitions and act as an

advisory body to the amateur groups and associations. It will recognize thru its seal of approval work performed towards the betterment of fencing and progressive accomplishments by groups or individuals. It will promote public relations and disseminate publicity thru the modern tools of visual and written expression, Videotape and television, and will establish a NEWSLETTER with a FENCING MASTERS VIEWPOINT, will support the National publications of fencing, the Swordmaster and the American Fencing Magazine to increase their usefulness and effectiveness.

In essence, the UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF ARMS, representing the body of the most competent experts in fencing, resolves and takes it upon itself to improve, promote, and foster the highest quality of fencing and the highest ideals of sportsmanship in the Sport of Fencing.

At the meeting in Cleveland, the member coaches and fencing masters elected a new slate of officers to govern the NFAA and the newly formed USAA for the next two years for the NFAA:

President: Alfred R. Peredo, Baruch College
Exec. Secretary-Treasurer: A. John Geraci, West Point

East V.P.: Henry Haratunian, Yale University
Mid-West V.P.: Mary Heinecke, Lawrence University

West VP: Leslie Bleamaster, California St. U. at Fullerton

South VP: Ron Miller, North Carolina, Chappel Hill

For the
UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF ARMS

President: Alfred R. Peredo, Baruch
Exec. Sec.-Treasurer: A. John Geraci, West Point

Vice-Pres.: Raoul Sudre, Cornell

These three fencing masters make up the executive committee of the USAA and will execute its general policies and activities. An ADVISORY BOARD was named by the USAA members to formulate its general policies and activities. The men named to this BOARD are: Alfred R. Peredo, Baruch; A. John Geraci, West Point; Raoul Sudre, Cornell; Istvan Danosi, Wayne State; Max Garret, Penn St.; Menyherth Kadar, Case-

Western Reserve; Hugo Castello; Ed Richards; Mike DeCicco, Notre Dame; Stan Sieja, Princeton; Nick Toth, Air Force.

Inasmuch as one of the most important functions of the USAA will be to set the standards of teaching accreditation for its fencing masters, the ADVISORY BOARD elected and named a 5-man ACCREDITATION EXAMINING BOARD with a chairman-coordinator of the group: The accreditation board members are: Stan Sieja, Coordinator-Chairman, Mike DeCicco, Raoul Sudre, Istvan Danosi, Mike Dasaro.

This EXAMINING BOARD will set the standards of the examinations, specify the criteria and body of knowledge, administer the examinations in various parts of the USA at different convenient times. They will appoint a qualified list of EXAMINERS to aid in the examinations.

With the establishment of the division of the UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF ARMS under the NFAA, a general structural reorganization of the NFAA has been proposed by A. John Geraci:

We are eager to have the cooperative support of every professional and professional teacher in the sport of fencing. Let us band together and explore to for the most effective and strongest cooperation to achieve the goals we have in fencing. Only thru combined efforts of highly qualified professional and the motivated amateur will fencing grow a wonderful source of enjoyment and emotional and physical pleasure, and its rightful place among the sports of USA and the World and achieve the nation in the USA as it has in the European countries.

If you are a teacher or coach or fencing master and have not had any association with us, please send us your name and address.

If you are interested in what we are doing, please contact:

A. John Geraci; NFAA-USAA; 279 E. Livingston Rd., Livingston, N. J. 07039.

UNDER THE NFAA LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

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	2. Associate Fencing Masters	\$ 5.00	\$
	3. Honorary Fencing Master		
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RULES & OFFICIATING

by
Chaba
Pallaghy



Mr. Jones states in his comments based on his observance at the Junior World Championships in Buenos Aires that he read in the pages of American Fencing how European Directors invariably give preference to an attack over the stop; then he states that he did not find this to be true and describes the way in what event the "stop" is called ahead of the attack. Mr. Jones states that he suspects that the problem in the U.S. is more a problem of confusion as to who the attacker is. This indeed is the problem. American Fencing often dealt with this subject. Many top U.S. Directors, myself included, could not emphasize enough the difference between a stop hit and an overtaken attack (the case in which the original attacker loses the right of way by discontinuing the threat on the opponent).

Any offensive action initiated by the attacked fencer during a break of the threat will give the right of way to the other fencer, thereby not requiring time difference (the rules have become reversed, the attacker becomes the defender, the defender the attacker). A stop hit in contrast is a defensive action, which requires that it should land on the attacker a full fencing time ahead, before the attack lands. Therefore, American Fencing was not inconsistent in reporting that European Directors favor attacks over stop actions. This is a fact.

The case of course is different in the situation described above. It takes an experienced Director, however, to be able to recognize and correctly identify the actions.

Recently I was asked to clarify a situation in connection with the new Sabre rules. One fencer executes a running (fleche) attack, he does not hit immediately the attacked fencer does not do anything. The original attacker resumes, the attacked fencer counter attacks. Touch is against the attacker based on the following: If the fleche is followed by a run toward an opponent who has retreated to avoid being touched, this action may not be considered either as a redoublement (See Art. 13 b) or as a remise. This interpretation is wrong. The modification of sabre rules does not alter basic fencing principles, such as right of way rules. An attacked fencer must defend in order to gain the right of way (parry, stop cut). If the attack does not succeed the defender is entitled to a riposte. If he does not avail himself of the opportunity the right of way will go to the fencer who will start a new threat again. The other fencer will have to defend in accordance with the fencing rules. It is logical therefore that in the absence of a proper defense action, if the original attacker is the one who initiates the new threat, the right of way will be his. (Art. 4, as modified "It may be followed by a reprise of the attack, but only after a pause"). One thing to remember in judging the attack is: it has to maintain a continuous threat on the opponent's valid target area to stay valid. Directors of course have to watch carefully in order to be able to recognize and analyze the actions properly.

MISTAKES

A number of our readers have graciously pointed out some mistakes that have appeared in our magazine. We would like to thank them and wish to point out that these mistakes were put in for a purpose. We try to offer something for everyone, and as some people are always looking for mistakes, we sprinkle a few into each issue.

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GRENOBLE TO HOST 1974 WORLD

by Richard J. Gradkowski

The 1974 World Championships will be held from July 17 to 27 in the picturesque Alpine mountain city of Grenoble, France. Situated in the Val d'Isere in the French Alps at the confluence of the rivers Isere and Drac, the city is noted as having a mountain at the end of every major street. Having hosted the 1968 Winter Olympics and innumerable skiers and tourists, Grenoble has well developed hotel and restaurant facilities.

The city is also famous also for its nuclear energy and hydroelectric power research centres as well as the Chartreuse liquor manufactured nearby.

The fencing teams will be lodged at the Domaine Universitaire, a huge "university city", at a special rate. (The University has over 25,000 students.) The fencing competition will take place at the Palais des Sports, a multiple sports complex, located towards the center of town.

Connections to Grenoble are convenient, since it is fully serviced by air, rail, motor transport. The city is located about 350 miles South of Paris and about 100 miles West of Geneva.

FENCING MASTER

Allan S. Kwartler of Yonkers, New York, coach of Brooklyn Polytech, has been awarded the National Fencing Coaches Association of America's Diploma of "Fencing Master".

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