

*American*  
**Fencing**

Volume 27  
Number 3



New Year's resolution for 1976  
Courtesy of Martin Brandeis — Hobbit Press.

avoid extremes;  
forebear resenting injuries

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1976**

# AMERICAN FENCING

Volume 27

Number 3

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JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969

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## DEADLINE FOR 1976 ISSUES

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## EDITORIAL

At the risk of seeming redundant, we must again stress the vital importance of the safety rules. This time it's the under-arm protector.

At a large and important tournament held recently at a first class university, we were appalled to find that in all four events, women's and men's foil, saber and epee, many of the fencers did not have an under-arm protector.

Incredibly, they seemed surprised to learn that we had to refuse to officiate unless they complied with these most elementary safety rules. While their coaches may be overworked and harried at times, don't they consider the great hazard of fencing without the full legal protection? The probability of serious injury is greatly increased by ignoring such a basic requirement.

The host university had the fencers sign a waiver of responsibility. We are not legally trained, but we seriously doubt the validity of such a waiver.

Fortunately there were no accidents. But what if there had been a fatality? Where would the guilt have been placed if it developed that the officials had permitted the fencers to fence without proper protection according to the fencing rules?

The fencers themselves must learn to know better. No coach should permit his charges to fence in an unsafe and illegal manner. Let us hope this warning is not in vain.

## CHRISTMAS PRESENT

With some close cooperation between Santa Claus and the Stork, Elizabeth Giovanna was delivered to Jean and John Nonna on Christmas Day, 1975. American Fencing extends its sincere felicitations.

## From The President

by Steve Sobel



On June 19, 1975 by Executive Order a Commission on Olympic Sports was established to "conduct a full and complete study and evaluation of the United States Olympic Committee, its activities, and its present and former membership groups on a sport-by-sport basis as they relate to the effectiveness of United States teams in international competitions in the Olympic sports". The Commission was directed among its responsibilities "to study methods to assure adequate financial support for our Olympic teams and other amateur athletic teams participating in international competitions in the Olympic sports". The Commission has already sent detailed questionnaires to each national sports governing body, assigned a research associate to each sport to conduct a detailed study, and has conducted preliminary hearings. More hearings are scheduled later in the year. In accordance with Presidential Order, every effort is being made by the Commission to prepare a comprehensive study of all the problems, and to provide detailed recommendations to the President of the United States based upon this study. Although the time will probably be too short to have any positive results prior to the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, this Commission presents the greatest hope for a complete overhaul of all amateur sports during the next quadrennial in preparation for the 1980 Olympics.

The AFLA, in reply to a question "What are the major problems facing your sport in amateur competition" indicated that the major problem is money, stating "The high cost of travel and training for international competitions results in the loss of many outstanding athletes and our teams are constantly at a competitive disadvantage competing against the 'amateurs' of other countries who are often in full time training under fully paid national coaches". Other problems mentioned included the in-

ability to hire an Executive Director and other paid employees to promote through adequate television coverage, membership drives, and fund raising.

Although it is too early to draw finite conclusions, an analysis of vember hearings is most encouraging. It has raised the hope of many of the national sports governing bodies which are similar to ours. Senator Johnson, one of the eight Congressional members of the Commission, stated "Why show some respect for sports? I mean hockey, speed skating and cycling. The anti-American feelings might be if we got involved in some of the other nations respect".

Every effort is being made by the Commission to provide the Commission with the facts and information about fencing. It is encouraging to realize that our efforts also exist in the other sports which receive substantial income through receipts and media coverage. Clear "outside" help is needed by all sports in the United States if they are to survive and prosper in these difficult times. It is through the Commission that we place our hope to attain outstanding national teams without sacrificing educational advantages of competitive values of amateurism, and the independence in a free society. The enormous burden and an awesome responsibility. Yet for the first time in our history the importance of this concept is recognized, publicized, and treated with the dignity and responsibility it deserves.

For all underdeveloped amateur sports in the United States, an oasis has been created in the middle of a desert. It remains now to be cultivated and made available for all in critical need of the new resources it can provide.

## AFLA RULES COMMISSION DEVELOPS FENCING OFFICIALS

by Richard Gradkowski

The existence of a corps of competent fencing officials is very important to the development of U.S. fencing. Good officiating at all levels bears a profound influence on both the quality and style of fencing actions. Those of us who have had the experience of being subjected to incompetent or indifferent officiating understand only too well how poor directing can disturb one's fencing efforts. Such incompetent officiating can be especially crucial to the novice fencer at the high school or collegiate level. An inconsistent or incorrect interpretation of the rules or of the right of way can permanently mar the learning of sound fencing actions and tactics. One could easily visualize the harm that could be done to a beginner by an incorrect application of the rules pertaining to stop thrust, and the possible ruining of a fencing career by such weak directing.

The U.S. Rules Commission is deeply aware of the importance of correct officiating and has organized a program to develop a corps of trained directors. This program will include procedures for developing directors by means of clinics, seminars, demonstrations, and other suitable training procedures, and also will include the setting of standards and criteria for the accreditation of such officials.

The classification system for U.S. directors consists of four categories, as follows:

### Class 1:

This ranking is conferred by the Executive Committee of the Local AFLA division. It may be conferred before or after passing the Rules Commission examination. Upon receipt of this rank, the Director in Training is obligated to officiate at a number of divisional competitions, preferably over the length of a season. At the end of this training period the candidate will take a divisional practical examination, and if he has not already done so, the written exam.

### Class 1A:

This ranking is conferred by the Executive Committee of the division, upon the candidate's having fulfilled the conditions set forth above, and upon verification by the U.S. Rules Commission. The U.S. Rules Commission will furnish a written exam to the division and will grade the exam when it is taken. Class 1A Directors are accredited to officiate on the divisional level. The examination for this level concentrates on fundamental concepts and procedures and is straightforward and without trick questions. The examination content is steered for insuring that the director has the basic equipment to begin his career as a sound official. The test consists of forty multiple choice questions, a separate exam being given for each weapon.

### Class 2:

This ranking is conferred only by the U.S. Rules Commission after the candidate has passed both written and practical examinations given by the Rules Commission. Ordinarily these will be held at a Sectional Championship. Class 2 Directors are accredited to officiate on the sectional level. The test for this level is thorough and is based upon solid precedent and a complete knowledge of the Rules Book. The Class 2 written examination consists of fifty multiple choice questions, with a separate test for each weapon, foil, epee, and saber.

### Class 3:

The Class 3 ranking is conferred only by the U.S. Rules Commission after the candidate has passed both written and practical examinations held by the Commission. Ordinarily these will be held at the National Championships. Class 3 Directors are the highest rated by the U.S. Commission and are accredited to officiate to the Finals of the National Championships. The test for this level involves some sophisticated interpretations and uses a substantial amount of individual judgment. Directors at this level should be "au courant" with the latest FIE rules interpretations and should be preparing to officiate in the French language.

The written examinations which the Rules Commission administers measure the knowledge of the rules which a candidate possesses. However, it is well known that the fencing official must perform on the strip a task much more complex than could be indicated solely by a written examination. In many fields a PERFORMANCE EVALUATION is utilized to give a better all round idea of a candidate's capability. The Performance Evaluation will be administered by, wherever possible, a minimum of two commission examiners, each acting independently. Each examiner will observe the candidate for the following qualities and rate him according to a scale of 1 through 5 (five being the best). Candidates preparing themselves for examination and officials conducting clinics for such examinations should be apprized of the rating categories and scale so that they may fairly prepare themselves. Candidates should be also reminded that they will be expected to dress appropriately befitting an official status.

The practical exam consists of the following four criteria:

**Mechanics:** Is the candidate's voice audible? Is his speech distinct and clear? (An accent is not to be considered in this evaluation as long as the speech is clear.) Does the candidate follow the action and move with the fencers? Does he keep in position to see the scoring lights and ground markings properly?

**Decisiveness:** Does the candidate reconstruct the action PROMPTLY? Does he immediately identify the right of way? Does he hesitate on a close call?

**Poise:** Does the candidate handle the competitors and coaches with a calm and dignified manner? Does he give courteous consideration to appropriate questions? Is he firm in handling a protest? Does his presence help to conduct things in a business like way, or does he inflame a tense situation (especially when applying penalties)?

### Analysis of Fencing Actions:

Does the candidate recognize and call the right of way correctly? Is he able to discriminate when a fencing action happens

with respect to the commands "halt" and where with relation to t Does he reconstruct accurately, d who made the attack, the parry z or counter riposte, or stop hit? t terpret the difference between an a preparation, a timing action i timing action?

A performance evaluation form developed by the Commission on v of these criteria is rated, with for general comments by the exar

If U.S. fencing is to progress t to which we would like, we must ficient high quality officials. people who are willing to dedic selves to the study and applicat rules, and who are serious in t tion to become really good direct members are urged to consider their knowledge of the rules and themselves as candidates for off ings.

## FIGHTING WOMAN NEWS by Marilyn Masiero

A recently established journal Woman News, is devoted to wome martial arts, self defense and the sports. Fencing and Japanese fenu do, are some of the various sports which are included in this publication.

A subscription rate of five doller teen issues can be sent to the Ms. Valerie Eads, 9 East 48th St York, N.Y. 10017.

Included in a past issue was a of coming events which featured activities in the Metropolitan Div the Women's Olympic Squad Tryoi Francisco. This calendar listing i charge for events of interest to v the martial, defense and combativ So don't be shy, send in notice o ture division or section's womens'

Articles of interest are also soli all manuscripts, photos and graphic quests for information must be a ied by a self addressed stamped

**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
by Anthony J. Keane

The Pan American team began its preparation for Mexico City and its demanding altitude on August 10.

For six months prior to this, Dr. Marius Valsamis and the Captain investigated literature, facilities, methodology and costs to bring the squad onto a high level of physical and technical preparedness.

The Olympic Fencing Committee was then apprised of the recommended program and a budget was allotted.

The program had four major goals:

1. Measurement of the athlete's physical status and changes therein.
2. Physical development through, aerobic, anaerobic and special weight training.
3. Elimination of gross technical errors in the individual fencer's technique.
4. Stress on interpersonal relationships as well as cadre-to-competitor communications to foster total team spirit.

Each fencer was given a physical by Dr. Valsamis. His various resting and exercise pulse rates, blood pressure, weight, etc. were established. A card tracking the athlete's progress over the two-month training period was established for each fencer.

In addition, each fencer was offered the chance to be tested at the Institute for Sports Medicine and Athletic Training for Strength, Flexibility, Agility and Endurance.

This program was worked out by Dr. Valsamis and the Captain as a basic step in establishing a benchmark on our fencer's specific and general capabilities so that future programs could take advantage of superiorities and correct deficiencies. About 80% of the squad took the tests, which revealed some surprisingly good areas of performance. We are told, preliminarily, that some performances exceed those of professional football and basketball players.

The actual two-month training program included the following elements at each weekly session. (The squad also worked individually at this on their own.)

1. Special stretching exercises to increase range of motion and decrease injuries.
2. Aerobic distance running after warm-up. The goal was the Cooper level of excellence, one and three-quarter miles in 12 minutes.
3. Anaerobic training through interval sprints. The squad was gradually brought up to a set of 20, 146 yard, 38-second dashes with 30 seconds rest.
4. Special interval training on a special ergometer bike for anaerobic development of muscle sites, etc.
5. Sets of exercises on Universal Gym equipment.
6. A special leg work exercise of "step forward-step back" across an entire gymnasium floor for 20 minutes.

The results of the program first began to show at the Labor Day Pre-Olympic in Montreal where the United States placed three of the six finalists in saber and one finalist in epee along with an admirable general performance by the whole squad. (One statistic of interest: the high exercise pulse rate of the competitors was lowered anywhere between 15 and 30 beats per minute.) The squad thus left for Mexico City with a feeling of great well-being and increased confidence.

There was a generally hostile air at the Pan Am games in all sports. But, the fencing delegation owns the unique distinction of having been razed and booed by a military band during the epee team event.

This feeling of organized animus in Mexico was to have important ramifications as the fencing unfolded.

**FOIL INDIVIDUAL**

Martin Lang finally realized his considerable promise with an undefeated final round performance. Lang, the most assiduous student in the training program, was in excellent control of his emotions and his energies.

The key ingredients in Lang's fencing were simplicity, stamina and the quickness of his preparations and beats on the blade. America's foilists are plagued by languid actions and overcomplicated mo-

tions. Marty relied on simple thrusts and lunges plus an almost magical point in stop-thrusting.

Ed Ballinger, our other nominee, wanting to win very much, found his lack of directness and consistent arm-withdrawal fatal. He placed sixth with a gallant but frustrated effort.

Jons, in second place, once again showed that he is a deservedly ranked foilist in the international picture. His loss to Marty was by 5-4 and does not detract from his effort. The 1971 champion's footwork is excellent and he is a model our fencers would do well to imitate technically.

**SABER INDIVIDUAL**

After Lang's victory, the squad was confident its physical and technical preparation would lead to a string of gold medals. But fencing is still very much a game of emotions and nerves. The harassment of the crowds and the weakness and biased nature of much of the judging began to fray nerves in the second event of the games, the saber individual.

Peter Westbrook and Alex Orban were our nominees. They easily advanced to the final of six.

Westbrook appeared to be on his way to the medal as he ran off victories over Orban, Salazar and Calderon. However, Westbrook then lost to Ortiz in a bumper bout by the jury. His parry-ripostes were quite clear but were neutralized by jury conflict. Westbrook went on to win his final fight against Mendez of Argentina, 5-0.

Ortiz and Salazar each had one fight left at this point. Ortiz, with the Westbrook loot tucked in his pocket, raced into a 4-0 lead against Calderon of Mexico. Then, Calderon, refusing to quit brought the score to four-all.

On three straight actions, thereafter, an obviously biased judge voted against all Calderon actions while the President abstained. Ortiz then closed the bout 5-4.

Immediately thereafter, Salazar defeated a strangely ineffective Orban, 5-1, to join Westbrook, and Ortiz in the final barrage. All this was too much for Peter's nervous

capacity and he literally became on the strip, losing to Salazar Ortiz, 5-2. Ortiz, having defeated became the champion.

Peter placed third and Alex ca with one of his rare sub-par perf

**EPEE INDIVIDUAL**

With the memory of what had happened to Westbrook fresh upon him, Scott I title seemingly in his hands at his composure over a prejudiced committee decision and threw away the Omar Vergara of Argentina, 5-3.

The incident occurred when Br ing fleched and scored a touch the bout 3-1, found his jacket z opened. The President, Guido Mal Italy, helped him fasten it after a perhaps, two minutes. Vergara then his weapon wasn't working when I called "en garde."

Malacarne refused the protest s weapon should have been present suite" and also that it should h tested at that moment under his Urged on by the Cubans, the A protested. The bout committee rule Scott, 3-1, on the following basis had been deprived of the chance his weapon properly tested unde when the President went to help his zipper.

The fact that he did not do thi couple of minutes had elapsed didn't count. Edgard Mercier of t then ruled the decision was not able.

**U.S. ALL TIME  
PAN AMERICAN GAME  
FENCING RESULTS**

	Gold	Silver
1951	3	2
1955	3	5
1959	6	4
1963	6	2
1967	4	4
1971	5	2
1975	2	4

All this took about 15 minutes in a chilly hall. Scott had wanted to pursue the protest as far as we could. He didn't reckon on the temperature. Upon resumption of the bout, he hit Vergara again to restore the count to 3-1. He then drew a warning for corps a corps and then a touch. Shaken, he fenced inconclusively and lost, 5-3. Paul Pesthy, who came on too late in the final, defeated the talented Victor Suarez of Cuba for the bronze medal, 5-3.

#### SABER TEAM

A crisis of concentration in the opening bouts of the match against Cuba put us 13-touches in the hole against Cuba. After an opening victory by Losonczy against Ortiz, 5-4, Westbrook and Paul Apostol absorbed 5-0, 5-1 defeats. The team then rallied behind Orban and the match score stood 2-2. We were always ahead on bouts from this point on until the final bout. But Westbrook's next loss increased our touch deficit for the long haul. A tactical lecture restored his effectiveness while Apostol rallied beautifully to win his next three bouts.



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Fred & Dan Linkmeyer, Dan DeChaine

But the story of the team really was Losonczy's excellent fencing. He was the rock. The stopper. And now he found himself in the last bout needing to get the ninth U.S.A. victory in order to win the match.

A tired jury, which had been fair throughout, could not handle the wild emotion of this last fight between Salazar and Tommy. With Tom clearly dominating things, the calls began to go against him. Credit the howling of the Cuban bench, which, despite protests to the director, was allowed to continue unchecked.

The Cubans actually came to the strip three times and advised Salazar while offering him a towel. Despite protests, the President did nothing, nor did the F.I.E. observers prevent the practice.

Visibly tensing, the President, Matteazo of Argentina made three unfortunate errors in a row on the last three touches as we lost at 8-8 by ten touches.

There is no question in the staff's mind, or in the opinion of the experts in the room, nor even in the Cuban's minds, who really won. But it makes little difference. We must learn not only how to win, but how not to lose. And in four man team, you do that by keeping the touch counts close.

Steve Kaplan, our fifth man, fenced beautifully winning 11 of his 12 fights.

#### FOIL TEAM

Cuba was clearly the team to beat in this event. And, if it were not for a muscle injury suffered by Marty Lang in the semifinal against Mexico, we might have.

With the bout score 4-0 against Lang, Al Davis stepped in and beat Robles 5-4. Davis's heroics led us to an avalanche victory over Mexico, which, till that point, had been fencing tough.

The Cuban team of Jons, Salvat, Mackenzie and Garvey was formidable. And they moved to an 8-4 victory with a superior touch score over Davis, Ballinger, Walter Krause and Brooke Makler. However, the score could easily have been 6-6 at that point had Davis not passed or off-targeted eight times in a 5-4 loss and had Makler not missed a straight lunge on Jons

when he had him solved.

Mexico defeated Canada for the bronze medal.

Our foilists have made substantial progress in developing a more international style, particularly in the straight attack and in footwork. Further training for Montreal should produce substantial benefits.

#### WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL

Nikki Tomlinson Franke and Denise O'Connor were our choices. After shaky starts by both women, they came on strong. Denise in particular helped eliminate the dangerous Marlene Fonst of Cuba, a medalist in the Montreal pre-Olympic, in a semifinal pool.

Denise, another assiduous training session student, has developed a very nice lunge and has a new concept of how distance is to be used tactically.

The final began by Nikki beating Denise 4-1. Nikki's powerful leg-work and strong parry riposte are major assets. However, she lost her next fight weakly to Henneyey of Canada, 4-1. Denise whipped the stylish Chantal of Canada, 4-3. Then both girls followed with victories, Nikki taking Blanca Estrada of Mexico, 4-0, after Denise brilliantly defeated Margarita Rodriguez of Cuba, 4-3. This put Denise in a beautiful position because Rodriguez, who was clearly the most talented fencer in the field, had to scramble. She did, defeating Chantal and Nikki by 4-1 scores.

Now Denise had to win her next fight to assure a barrage. And, for the first time all night, she failed to heed tactical instruction and she fell before Estrada 4-1. The loss plummeted her to fourth place, a position she clearly did not deserve because her fencing "made" the final.

Rodriguez, pro that she is, skewered Henneyey, 4-1 to win her second consecutive Pan Am crown. Nikki then enterprisingly defeated Chantal for the silver medal.

#### WOMENS TEAM

The team consisted of Nikki, Denise, Sheila Armstrong, Gay D'Asaro and Ann O'Donnell.

Our opening match with a weak team resulted in a 14-2 score goofy fencing by us. Denise also duced a muscle knot in her back withdrawn for the next match again while the trainer worked on her placed Denise.

We lost to Mexico 9-7, thus seeding. Only Ann O'Donnell fencer (as she had in the first round) the bad luck to off target her on a key fight seven times or we won.

Roldan won the concluding fight Armstrong, 4-2.

We now drew Cuba in direct instead of Canada. Denise replied strong, who was having an emotion.

Cuba defeated us handily, 9-5, came up utterly cold. Having beaten Rodriguez and Fonst before, she mustered a single victory. Nikki took four and Gay took one of three.

But Ann, continuing her sister's fencing, coolly took all three of her bouts.

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We met Mexico for the bronze medal. I stayed with the same team because I wanted to see what it could do against a well prepared, but vulnerable team, to which we had previously lost.

We defeated Mexico, 9-7, as Anne O'Donnell scored four victories, including the clinching bout at 8-7.

Gay Dasaro, unaware of the touch count, won the ninth victory with a 4-3 effort for her third triumph. Nikki chipped in a pair, while Denise was shut-out again, primarily because she relied on an ill-timed stop thrust. Cuba defeated Canada for the gold medal.

It was a pleasure to have Madame Kateriska of Rumania direct both the Cuban and Mexican matches because her calls were so clear, understandable and systematic.

We now have a very clear indication of what the technical errors are that our women fencers make in combat and the coaches will be working directly on them for Montreal.

#### EPEE TEAM

The story of the epee team victory is the story of Paul Pesthy's inborn leadership ability and his incredible will to win. It is also a story of a close and dedicated unit following their leader to victory. Scott Bozek, Bill Reith, Brooke Makler and Ed Ballinger deserve everyone's congratulations. It was a triumph of togetherness.

Ballinger, for instance, did not fence a bout. Yet his spirit helped us win just as much as Pesthy's. In a hall that must have been close to 45 degrees, he constantly checked weapons, brought coffee, and dispensed good humor, good advice and warm blankets over a fifteen hour day.

The team had moved rather casually to the final, with Bozek fencing beautifully. Cuba was having its troubles with Brazil but finally prevailed.

Led by Pesthy and Bozek, the team jumped to a 6-4 lead, with one double loss. Then came the key bout, Pesthy versus Suarez.

At one minute, the score was 2-1 against Pesthy. At 50 seconds, 2-2. At 35 seconds,

3-2 against Paul. At 25 seconds, 3-3. At 12 seconds, 4-2. With three seconds left, Pesthy evened matters at 4-4. Suarez did not want a double loss. Pesthy didn't want any kind of loss.

Now Suarez ran at Paul. Paul stepped back quickly three times and, like a Porsche going from full reverse to full forward, he fleched and hit Suarez in the groin. Paul was parallel to the strip and the blade travelled between Suarez's legs. The stands went nuts. The F.I.E. went nuts, We went nuts. Everybody liked America for a moment.

Reith then closed the match out at 8-4 with a 5-4 victory, since Cuba could only make seven at maximum.

Brazil defeated Chile in the bronze medal.

The major accomplishment of the training program, I feel, is the consistency it produced in our fencing efforts. Ours was the only delegation to place all of its fencers in the finals of the individuals. Cuba lost two, an epeeist and a woman, along the way.

Our teams were right there with the highly touted, and vastly experienced, Cuban squads, who have many individual and team triumphs to their credit in Russia, Rumania and Hungry.

Except for the women's team, we were never worse than second. Individually, only three of our fencers failed to gain a medal.

As a result, I can say I am extremely happy with the result. The Cubans, frankly, would have blown us out of the hall without the training program, an opinion the team shares.

I am especially happy that the idea of a demanding training program which calls for self-sacrifice and ego-submerging is readily acceptable to and even demanded by our fencers.

Finally, I am happy that I was named the Captain of this particular team. I really did not expect the incredible cooperation everyone offered me. There was never any consideration of discipline because this team disciplined itself. And its capacity for hard work with good humor was enormously gratifying.

I was blessed with a great manager who was also a talented and going physician and fencing lover who helped me put the flesh on the bones of the plan I had in mind: Dr. Marius Valsamis.

I was given three coaches who understood every nuance of what I was after and who not only followed the plan but improved it: Chaba Elthes, Lajos Csiszar and Mike Dasaro. Mr. Elthes in particular gave up virtually his whole summer to train the squad till Mr. Csiszar and Mike became available after Labor Day.

And we had a great armorer, Dan DeChaine, my companion in many a war.

I also enjoyed the cooperation of an Olympic Committee that understood the thrust of building a really internationally capable team and who joined in the effort to make it a reality.

And finally, I had the cooperation of the NYAC, whose unrivalled physical plant was thrown open to the entire squad, men and women alike, in an unprecedented move to

help the concept become a re-

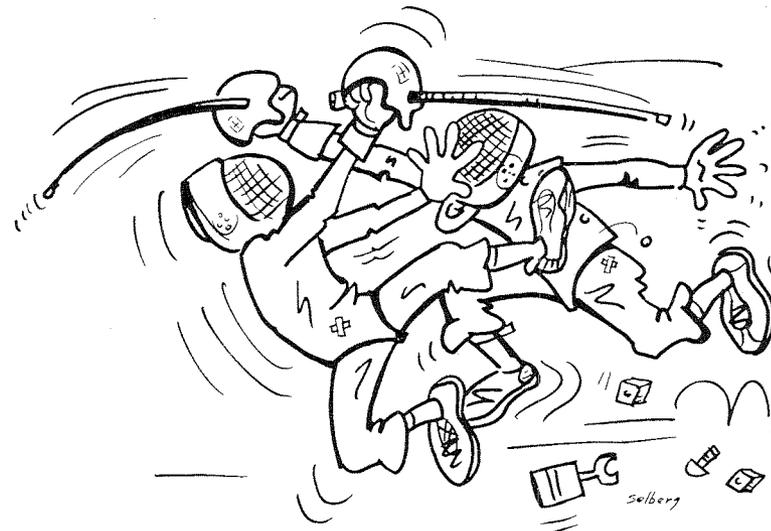
In closing, I would like to League that, in my opinion, the programmed training is the unreaction of fencing if we hope to anything internationally.

Therefore, the Olympic Fenceteer would be well advised to be in terms of four year periods to what we want and to put to rest method of short term assembly and fencers. That was the it won't work any more.

We have a new way. It can work. It will work.

#### QUICKIE QUIZ

May an epee have its blade in the groove holding the wires ward position? (See Article 3C of the 1974 Rules Book.)



**AMERICAN FENCER'S SUPPLY**

2122 Fillmore Street San Francisco, Ca. 94111

## Technical Talks

by  
Joseph Byrnes



It seems about time that we gave the electrical foil jacket some consideration. Frankly, I wish I had more advice to hand out about them than I've got: it would be ideal if I could recommend some magic formula that would keep the things from going bad, whether by turning green with corrosion, or developing holes, or just having the wires break and produce dead spots. Then too, I wish I had a simple cleaner I could recommend, but even that is more than I can promise. In fact, this column is partly an appeal to you. If anyone out there has any workable and safe techniques for cleaning dirty lame, I'd like to hear of them, so I could pass them along in future columns. Write me care of the editor of the magazine.

Some simple common sense practices can help preserve your lame jackets, though, so that they won't get into a condition that requires heroic rescue efforts — or at least so soon. Remember, the lame is metal, very fine metallic threads woven in two directions. No matter how flexible those basic metallic threads start out, you can — you will — break some of them by bending and folding your jacket enough. The logical thing to do, then is not to handle the lame jacket into a soggy bundle after a meet and stuff it into your fencing bag. Don't let it contact the metal of the blades; that will rapidly develop corrosion. Avoid pressing in creases. Let it dry out, if at all possible. Preferably, carry it on a hanger in a ventilated plastic bag or on a hanger without the bag. If you have to pack it away in a fencing bag, try to avoid folding the thing so that you put too much strain on those delicate wire threads. And naturally, you get it out of that bag as soon as you get home and hang it up to dry out.

If you do get holes or tears, repairs with fresh lame patches are possible. The trick is to be sure that the front of the

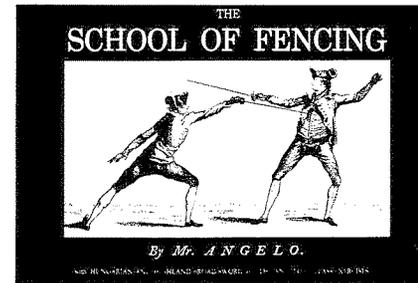
lame patch is turned under to make firm contact with the basic lame of the jacket. That's to insure the necessary electrical continuity. It also means that the stitching must be snug. There are amusing tales told of the early days of electrical foil fencing when some of the less ethical types, the win-at-any-price gang, would have jackets assembled with a strategic panel not actually electrically lapped to its neighbors. That way, if the inspectors didn't catch it, and if the opponent's tests before a bout were all steered to a "working" panel, you could be substantially immune. It was not quite as good as being Achilles, but who wants to be dipped in the River Styx anyway? Needless to say, the inspectors caught on to that little ploy pretty quick, and I haven't heard of anybody trying it for a long time — but then I don't hear everything.

There are various touch-up metallic paints, designed for use in the repair of printed circuit boards in electronic equipment, that have had an off-and-on vogue with some fencers in trying to restore corroded areas, particularly around the collar. My impression is that the copper types did not prove as satisfactory as the silver-based ones, which themselves were not so great. The latter, furthermore, are so much more costly for very small quantities that I seriously question their practicality, except for very small areas. If any substantial section of a jacket decays that thoroughly, a lame patch or replacement probably is called for. However, here is another subject about which I will gladly hear from those of you with positive experience to report. All suggestions cheerfully accepted.

The suppliers of fencing equipment that I have contacted are agreed that the less you try to do to wash an electrical jacket the better. One says flat out: don't. Just air dry it after use. Another will go so far as to let you wash it in warm water with the very mildest of soaps — but no kneading or wringing or beating, please, just hand dipping and rinsing. Any fencing garment should be drip dried, incidentally: the high heat of gas or electrical driers tend to weaken the fibers of the fabric.

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## PUBLICITY

by Gary McNulty

In a recent Olympic magazine an editorial stated that the recent fencing competitions in Montreal drew very small crowds despite the participation of some of the best teams in the world.

What's to be done about the failure of Canadians and Americans to respond in significant numbers to amateur sport?

Part of the answer surely is for everyone involved in amateur sport to make a signal effort to educate the public.

It's not fair to chastise would-be audiences for being apathetic unless we have first done all we can to encourage their enthusiasm.

In rare cases a great deal has already been done. In most however, scarcely anything has taken shape. All too often the best efforts of journalists are frustrated by the very people who should be breaking their necks to get the amateur sport message across.

If amateur sport is to enjoy the help of the all-important daily press nothing can be spared to assist journalists in doing their jobs.

That includes making amateur athletes readily available for interviews. It is also essential to make available full and detailed lists of participants in amateur events well ahead of time. At competitions, special pains should be taken to ensure that complete and letter-perfect results sheets are available quickly.

On the technical side, amateur sport federations must be prepared to spend whatever time is necessary to explain in detail what their sport involves.

The production of even a simple tabloid like this one is made immeasurably more difficult when people with information and pictures can't find time to co-operate.

We can't complain about poor response to our amateur sport efforts until we are sure we have done everything in our power to create public enthusiasm.

## ANDREI SPITZER MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP

by Maxwell R. Garret

The Andrei Spitzer Memorial Tournament for Boys and Girls, who have not reached the age 18 on date of competition, will be held July 8-28, 1976 in Israel. This fourth annual championship will be held at Wingate Institute, the National Physical Education and Coaching School, located near Tel Aviv.

The purposes of this tournament are:

1. to perpetuate the memory of the late Israeli National Fencing Trainer Andrei Spitzer, who was murdered at the 20th Olympic Games in 1972 in Munich;
2. to promote the development of fencing for youngsters throughout the world; and
3. to promote understanding among young fencers from all over the world.

Only two boys and two girls and two officials (coaches) can comprise the official delegation for the U.S.

Besides having a tournament for the boys and one for the girls, there will be a "couples competition." Preceding these three major tournaments, there will be a general training and conditioning program utilizing all the fencing masters and trainers. Time will be taken from the rigorous schedule of fencing to tour the country, to relax, swim, dance, and meet one another.

The State of Israel will assume all expenses for the official delegation of six during their stay in the country, i.e., meals, lodging, touring, etc. However, each member of the official party must cover their own travel to and from Israel.

All interested fencers and officials (coaches) should submit their applications to:

Mrs. Carla Richards  
Secretary, AFLA International Committee  
41 Central Avenue  
Newtonville, Mass. 02160

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15.

## NIWFA NEWSLETTER

by Gary Green

The National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association, the organization which governs women's collegiate fencing in the U.S., is now publishing a semi-monthly newsletter, Pam Hucker, NIWFA president, announced.

The newsletter describes the activities of the NIWFA and other items of interest to fencers, coaches, and NIWFA alumnae. It also serves to improve communications within the NIWFA and provides a base upon which women's collegiate fencing, women's athletics, and the sport of fencing in general can be publicized and developed.

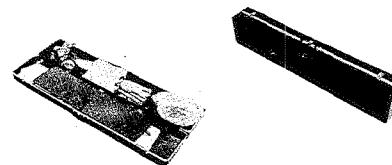
Everyone is cordially invited to submit articles, meet results, features, drawings, etc., to the new newsletter. Please direct all material to Gary Green, Dept. of Physical Education and Athletics, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218.

## THE NICHOLAS CUP

The Covina Fencing Club Proucers in Cooperation with The United Marine Corps, The Nicholas Cup day, May 1, 1976, in Covina, California commemorate the 200 Anniversary United States of America and The States Marine Corps. The tournament consist of Boy's and Girl's Foil groups of Under 20, Under 16, and 14. The Registration Fee is \$5.00 Entry Fee is \$3.00 per event. and Medals for Finalists in each event. A Commemorative Program Certificate of Participation for each Housing for fencers-with local if requested. Shuttle service, by clubbers, from Air, rail and bus terminals. Further information a forms will be sent to all Section Chairpersons after January. Club or Individuals desiring in should write to: Robert F. Moor North Delay Ave., Covina, California

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## SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT

by George Nelson

A tournament celebrating the founding in 1965 of the South Texas Division AFLA was held November 22-23, 1975, at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. There were 61 entries.

An alternative organizational method was experimented with in place of the familiar pool system. Instead of seeding, the contestants drew opponents by lot and then fenced five touch bouts. A participant was eliminated from the competition after having lost three bouts. In other words, the winner of an event was the one who had not lost three bouts. Practically, the meet worked as follows: After registration was completed, the number of fencers was determined for an event and a roster of those in the event was written out. Then a set of small scraps of paper, each with a number (one through the total fencers in the event), was put into a mask and the fencers on the roster drew a lot. The first round consisted of the fencers placed in the order of the lots that they drew with number one fencing number two, number three fencing number four, etc. The defeats were recorded on the roster/scoresheet and lots were drawn again for the second round and the fencing was ordered again according to the lots drawn, one fencing two, and so on. The third round was completed in the same manner. During the early rounds the scoresheet/roster was checked in order that fencers did not fence the same opponent, however as the tourney progressed it became impossible to separate duplicate bouts which were fenced then according to the luck of the draw. In the event of an odd-numbered group, the person drawing the last uneven number received a bye. Of course, after the third and subsequent rounds were completed, those who had lost three times were eliminated, and the winner was the one who survived without three defeats. In some cases it was necessary

that the last two fencers fought several bouts before one was out. One might describe the system as a sort of "king-of-the mountain." It was found that a considerable amount of administrative attention was required during the meet, both to organize the next round, keep the scoresheet accurate and current, and to keep the strips working. Naturally, epee went faster than foil, and sabre was slowed down by the necessity of corner judges who could not fence and judge at the same time, but the overall length of the tournament was similar to the usual time required to fence the more conventional system. Determination of placement beyond the first four or five places was obscured and essentially meaningless since the number eliminated in the later rounds became massive.

In general the tournament provided a variation to the usual process. Despite the element of luck in choosing opponents, the better fencers tended to survive longer. Because of the informality of the method, it is probably better used in a small, friendly type tournament on an occasional basis. The method emphasizes attention to each bout.

For their service to the Division for the past ten years, special awards were presented to Jerry Bennett of San Antonio, Darrell Williams of Austin, and Gerard Pougardieu of San Antonio. The results were:

### Results

**Women's Foil:** 1. Lois Goldthwaite IFCS; 2. Carol Uretsky, San Antonio; 3. Randi Shoham, NT Austin.

**Foil:** 1. Dwayne Blakeley, IFCS; 2. Jerry Bennett, Trinity; 3. Skip Hammond, Texas A & M.

**Epee:** 1. Bob Nieman, Pentathlon; 2. Wayne Johnson, Letterman; 3. Jerry McNeil, Texas A & M.

### DANGER

Smoking pollutes the air for everybody. Do not smoke in the fencing salle or locker room.

## SOUTH TEXAS FOIL

by Gary M. Whaley and Randi Shoham

The University of Texas hosted the first tournament of this season in the South Texas Division on October 18. Entries included fencers from the Trinity Fencing Club in San Antonio, Southwest Texas State University, Texas A & M, Pan American University and Houston Fencing Club, as well as the host school. There were a total of 68 fencers in the competition.

Two of the four tournament categories were decided by a barrage. Curtis Parrish of the University of Texas defeated Al Marsh of Trinity Fencing Club, with a score of 5-2 for the Mens Open title. Curtiss Mathys defeated Chuck Hippard with a score of 5-3 for the Mens Novice title. Both novices are from Southwest Texas State.

The winners in the womens categories were May Sue Cherry of the Trinity Fencing Club, in the Open and Mary Ann Gonzales of the University of Texas, in the Novice.

### Results:

**Foil:** 1. Parrish, N. Texas (4-1); 2. Trinity (4-1); 3. Hammond, Texas (3-2); 4. Walker, U. Texas (2-3); 5. Nett, Trinity (2-3); 6. Kock, U.T. barrage: Parrish defeated Marsch

**Womens Foil:** 1. Cherry, Trinity (Kouterick, Austin (2-2); 3. Gorder A & M (2-2); 4. Vretsky, Trinity (Hite, SWTSU (0-4).

**Mens' Novice:** 1. Mathys, SWTSU (Hippard SWTSU (4-1); 3. Faulkne SU (3-2); 4. Kovacs, Trinity (Muniz, SWTSU (1-4); 6. Williams, (1-4).

barrage: Mathys defeated Hippa

**Women's Novice:** 1. Gonzales, U. Tex 2. Blucher, SWTSU (4-1); 3. He Texas A & M (3-2); 4. Darr, U. Tex 5. Hawk, SWTSU (1-4); 6. Donley, (0-5).



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## MICHEL ALAUX GRAND OPEN

by Marilyn Masiero

The Michel Alaux memorial competition held at Hunter College, on November 29 and 30, saw fencers from all over the country vie for top honors and beautiful trophies. The Fencers Club and Hunter College, where Michel Alaux coached, were co-hosts of this first annual event.

A total of 197 fencers competed in this competition which utilized the international format of pools and then ten or eight touch direct elimination rounds with a repechage, arriving at a final pool of six. Many former students of the three time Olympic Coach, and former members of World and Pan American teams, of which Maitre Alaux was also the coach, were present for this event.

The classical fencing and the apparent appreciation of the art of the sport, which was displayed by the competitors, exemplified Michel Alaux's influence on his many pupils and friends. His two daughters Myriam and Patricia were present to award the trophies of beautiful silver bowls.

The Metropolitan Division has scheduled this event next season for the weekend after Thanksgiving, and hopes that many will again attend.

**FOIL (50 entries)** 1. Neal Cohen, F.C.; 2. Jim Bonacorda, N.Y.A.C.; 3. Ed Wright, S.S.; 4. George Masin, N.Y.A.C.; 6: Bert Freeman, U.S.M.C.

**EPEE (67 entries)** 1. Lee Shelley, Prn.; 2. Hans Wieselgren, N.Y.U.; 3. Lars Wieselgren, N.Y.U.; 4. David Lynn, U. of N.C.; 5. Arnold Messing, N.Y.T.V.; 6: Leonid Dervbinsky, F.C.

**SABRE (30 entries)** 1. Peter Westbrook, F.C.; 2. Rick Maxwell, Cz.; 3. Dennis Goldberg; 4. Robert Blum, F.C.; 5. John Ivey, A.F.R.A.; 6. Frank Chew, F.C.

**WOMEN (50 entries)** 1. Barbara Keel, T.C. F.C. 2. Sharon DeBiase, Lib.; 3. Ilona Maskal, W.P.C.; 4. Jennette Starks, B.C.; 5. Sherry Marcy, Yale; 6. Emily Grompone, S.S.

## SAFETY GLASSES

by Steve Sobel

Were you ever tempted to tell an official to go out and get a pair of glasses? As a matter of safety, all officials should wear glasses — not necessarily for the purpose of improving vision, but to protect the eyes.

At the Pan American Games Dr. Marius Valsamis, while judging a sabre bout, was hit in the eye. Fortunately, the injury was not serious, but similar close calls have occurred which would suggest the desirability of protective measures before a serious accident actually happens. (It is too late to lock the barn after the horse is stolen).

When there is a possibility of chemical spillage or flying objects reaching an employee's eyes in business, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) requires the employer to issue and the employee to wear safety glasses. This can be a cheap pair of plastic goggles, a prescription lens, or just a standard pair of glasses made with a protective glass. While there is no safety requirement for fencing officials to wear protective equipment, I would strongly suggest the use of simple eyeglasses with safety lenses, easily available at any optician, at a cost far less than just one doctor bill following a serious accident.

This recommendation is not only limited to officiating in sabre. As a matter of fact, at a foil competition, a fencer approached me to have his weapon tested with the point actually at eye level. Fortunately, I parried with my hand before the point reached my protective glasses.

It is better to be safe, than sorry. An ounce of prevention, is worth a pound of cure.

## AFLA MEMBERS

Are all your fencing club members of the AFLA? If not, encourage them to join, and help support fencing.

## 1975 DALLAS INVITATIONAL

by William G. Towry

The 29th Dallas Open Invitational was held November 8-9 at St. Mark's School Of Texas. Hosted by the Dallas Fencer's Club the mixed classification tournament drew 121 total entries, with finals of eight in all four events.

**Sabre**, 18 entries: 1. Ed Sims, DFC (7-0), 2. Spencer Johnson, DFC (5-2), 3. Chris Trammell, New Orleans FC (4-3), 4. Juan Vadasz, Oklahoma State U. (4-3), 5. Bill Towry, DFC (4-3), 6. Martin Johnson, NOFC (2-5), 7. Kerry Sulkowicz, St. Mark's (2-5), 8. Ted Sarosdy, Southern Methodist U. (0-7).

**Women's Foil**, 19 entries: 1. Mayme Cherry, San Antonio Fencing Society (6-1), 2. Francis Duke, Oklahoma City FC (5-2), 3. Carol Uretsky, SAFS (4-3), 4. April Yelliot, Dad's Club, Houston (4-3), 5. Linda Baker, Oklahoma (3-4), 6. Randi Shoham, U. of Texas (3-4), 7. Wanda Fuhrmann,

OCFC (3-4), 8. Anna Zimmerm (0-7).

**Epee**, 41 entries: 1. Bob Nash, Worth (6-1), 2. J. Moreau, U.S. Pentathlon (5-2), 3. B. Neiman (4-3), 4. Wayne Johnson, SAFS T. McClintock, SAFS (3-4), 6. S. DFC (3-4), 7. Chuck Helms, St (3-4), 8. J. Huffman, USMP (0-7)

**Foil**, 43 entries: 1. Patrice Caux, U. ton (6-1), fence-off with 2. Ed Si (6-1), 3. Robert Baum (Mustang Curtis Parrish, UT (3-4), 5. Bob DC/H (3-4), 6. S. Johnson, DFC Damian Dubos, Louisiana (2-5), 8 asz OSU (2-5).

Ed Sims of the Dallas Fencer's C the Three-Weapon Award based 4 points in placement in the three v with his 1st in Saber, 2nd in Foil.

**Three-Weapon Award:** 1. Ed Sims, S. Johnson, DFC; 3. B. Nash, In Vadasz, OSU; 5. C. Parrish, NT; 6. kowicz, St. M.

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## TWENTY FIFTH NORTH ATLANTIC INTERCOLLEGIATES

The 25th annual NAIC tournament, held in Clark Gym at SUNY-Buffalo, turned out to be one of the most thrilling collegiate events of the 1975 season. The top contenders were expected to be two-time and defending champion Seton Hall, the Nittany Lions of Penn State who were entering the tourney for the first time in several years, and Johns Hopkins' Blue Jays, fresh from their MACFA win a week earlier. Penn State had beaten Hopkins in a dual meet earlier in the season and under new coach MacGarret had become a power to be reckoned with; the Pirates boasted several top New Jersey ex-high school stars on their roster and were always tough and versatile fencers. Hopkins on the other hand, already troubled by the midyear graduation of its top foilman, was stunned when its top sabreman was incapacitated 4 days before the tournament.

Halfway through the day the Nittany Lions had a 10-bout lead, but the Blue Jays later took the lead by 8 bouts on the strength of their showing in epee and sabre.

The SUNY-Binghamton foil team of Gettler and Rudman showed surprising poise and took the foil team trophy for Coach Jacques Piguet from some of the East's best colle-

giate foilmen; the Blue Jays, coached by Dick Oles, took the epee and sabre team trophies to add to the 4-foot-high new 3-weapon trophy specially purchased for the 25th running of the NAIC by SUNY-Buffalo host coach John Marchant. Retiring Buffalo coach Sid Schwartz was honored with a special award for his 25-year stint as organizer and guiding force of the NAIC. Next year's tournament will be hosted by Montclair State.

	FOIL		EPEE		SABRE		TOTAL
	'A'	'B'	'A'	'B'	'A'	'B'	
JOHNS HOPKINS	6	8	9	11	11	10	55
PENN STATE	7	11	8	11	9	8	54
SETON HALL	11	7	3	10	10	8	49
SUNY-BINGHAMTON	9	11	11	5	3	8	47
N.J. TECH (NCE)	4	3	5	7	9	10	38
RUTGERS (NEWARK)	7	7	6	4	8	5	37
WILLIAM PATERSON	10	3	9	2	7	6	37
MONTCLAIR STATE	6	8	8	6	6	3	37
CORNELL "B"	8	7	8	6	4	4	37
SUNY-BUFFALO	5	6	3	8	7	6	35
JERSEY CITY STATE	3	6	2	3	2	8	24
PACE	3	1	6	5	2	2	19
ROCHESTER TECH.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### INDIVIDUAL FINALS

**FOIL** 1. Boutsikaris, SHU (4-1, 1-0); 2. Martino, WPC (4-1, 0-1); 3. Gettler, SUNY-BTN (3-2); 4. Corona, PSU (2-3); 5. Rudman, SUNY-BTN (2-3); 6. LeBlanc, CU.

**EPEE** 1. Butterick, PSU (4-1, 1-0); 2. Rodgers, JHU (4-1, 0-1); 3. Nightingale, PSU (3-2); 4. Hecht, MPC (2-3); 5. Kaplan, SUNY-BTN; 6. Slota, JHU (1-4).

**SABRE** 1. Haase, NJIT (4-1); 2. Emmel, PSU (3-2); 3. Livingston, JHU (3-2); 4. Burton, JHU (2-3); 5. Spiesbach, NJIT (2-3); 6. Collouri, SHU (1-4).

## MID-ATLANTIC SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Gary Green

The 1976 Mid-Atlantic Sectional Fencing Championships of the Amateur Fencers League of America will be held in the Civic Center in Baltimore on May 1 and 2, 1976, Captain Walter G. Green, Mid-Atlantic section chairman, announced today.

The Maryland Division, one of the eight divisions of the Mid-Atlantic section, will host the event.

## MINUTEMAN OPEN

The Minuteman Memorial Open Championships will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on Memorial weekend at Northwestern University's Bouve College. Check-in time for Mens and Womens foil will be 10 to 11 a.m. on May 30, 1976. Check-in time for the Mixed Doubles competition will be 10 to 11 a.m. on May 31, 1976. For further information, contact Barbara E. Keel, Vice Chairman, New England AFLA at 32 Fairfield St., W. Medford, MA 02155.

## THE 1975 PENN STATE COLLEGIATE OPEN TOURNAMENT

by Mac Garret

The Penn State Collegiate Open Tournament (SOCIT) — a joint venture of Beth Alphin Cramer (PSU Women's Varsity Coach) and Mac Garret (PSU Men's Varsity Coach) — began in 1972 and has been held annually since then. This year the women's foil and epee were held on Friday while the men's foil and sabre were held on Saturday. For the first time this permitted competitors to fence in one weapon on Friday and another on Saturday.

On November 21 and 22, 1975 the annual Penn State Collegiate Open Tournament brought 169 competitors together representing twenty-two universities. In women's foil forty-eight fencers competed. The final round results were:

1. Ann Marie Williams (Brooklyn) 4-1; 2. Natalie Blagovdov (Cornell) 3-2; 3. Ofra Davis (Brooklyn) 3-2; 4. Jeanette Starks

(Brooklyn) 2-3; 5. Naomi Bolvary ((2-3; 6. Susan Kruse (Cornell) 1-4.

In sabre, thirty-eight fencers con The final round results were:

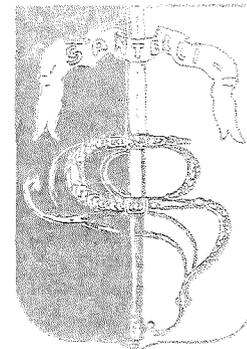
1. Uri Rabinovich (Wayne) 5-0; 2. ( Donges (NYU) 3-2; 3. Ted Kline (Penn) 4. Martin Karpeh (Penn) 2-3; 5. Bill (Penn State) 1-4; 6. Peter Moore (Penn State) 1-4.

In foil, forty-two fencers compete final results were:

1. Greg Benko (Wayne) 4-1; 2. Bol son (Penn) 4-1; 3. Richard Petretti (ton) 3-2; 4. Joe Rudmann (Binghamton) 5. Jim Powers (NYU) 1-4; 6. Ken (Maryland) 1-4.

In epee, forty-one fencers compete final results were:

1. Greg Benko (Wayne) 5-0; 2. Eggleton (Penn) 3-2; 3. Lee Shelly (ton) 3-2; 4. Joe Znoy (Wayne) 2-3; 5 Knight (N. Carolina) 1-4; 6. Walter anetti (Penn) 1-4.



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## N.I.W.F.A. CHRISTMAS INVITATIONAL

by Patricia Flynn

Anne Marie Williams defeated Brooklyn College teammate, Jean Douglas in a fence-off to win the 43rd Annual Christmas Invitation Fencing Competition sponsored by the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association at William Paterson College in Wayne, New Jersey on December 13th. Ninety-nine women representing twenty-seven member colleges participated in the event.

Williams and Douglas were tied with four wins and one loss at the end of the final round. Ms. Williams suffered her loss to teammate Jennette Starks and Ms. Douglas to the number one seed, Williams. Jill Tremaine of Ohio State placed third followed by Jennette Starks, Noemi Bolvary of Cornell and Vicki McLeisch of Ohio State.

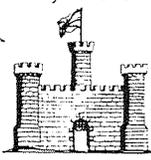
Eliminated in the semi-final of twelve were: Janice Kovatch, Montclair State; Rosemary Filk, Buffalo State; Cindy Garabedian, William Paterson; Loree Keleher, Johns Hopkins; Pam Hucker, Trenton State and Katherine Brown, City College of New York.

The six round event creates a great demand for competent officials with a great deal of stamina. The N.I.W.F.A. is grateful to those alumni and friends of the association who donated their help.

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## THE TENTH MACCABIAH GAMES JULY 10-22, 1977

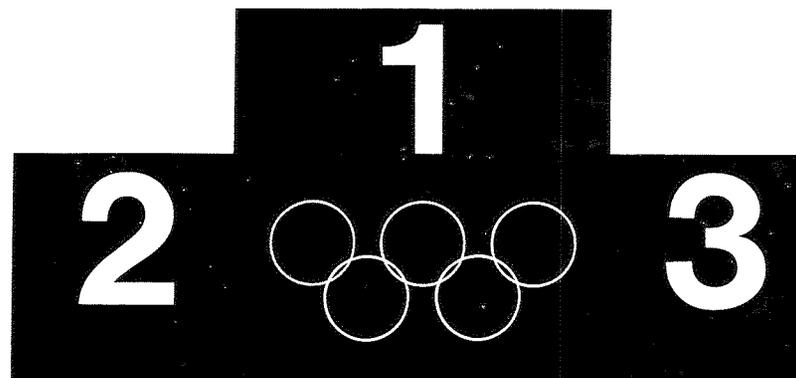
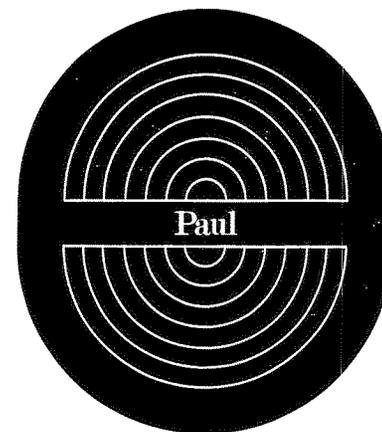
by Mac Garret

Professor Maxwell R. Garret of Penn State University has been selected to head the Fencing Committee. Serving on the fencing committee are the following former Maccabiah medalists and participants: Carol Abby Benjamin (Bowie, Maryland), Carl Borack (Beverly Hills, California), Dr. Daniel Bukantz (Forest Hills, N.Y.) Herbert Cohen (N.Y.C.), Ralph Goldstein (Yonkers, N.Y.), David Micahnik (Philadelphia, Penn.), and Jay Miller (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). In addition the committee includes Dr. Murray Dembo (Jamaica, N.Y.), Walter Farber (N.Y. C.), Barbi Lare (Grand Island, N.Y.), Stephen Sobel (Cedar Grove, N.J.), Vivienne Sokol (N.Y.C.), and James Strauch (Tenafly, N.J.). The Maccabiah Games are usually held the year immediately following the Olympics. These Games provide an unique opportunity for those American men and women who qualify to participate against other athletes in this sports competition which is patterned after the Olympics and sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee. It is anticipated that representatives from 30 nations will convene in Israel in 1977. The Committee is seeking the best qualified American candidates to comprise the U.S. team in 1977. Those fencers who wish to be considered for the team are asked to contact:

Maxwell R. Garret  
Fencing Coach  
Pennsylvania State University  
267 Recreation Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.

### GROUND RULES

The official FIE and AFLA strip for both Epee and Sabre is now 18 meters long. Thus, if a fencer backs off the end of the strip with both feet, he is now brought back to the 2 meter warning line and if he backs off again, a penalty hit is awarded. This rule has been adopted by the AFLA National Board effective Jan. 1, 1976.



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## AFLA INTERNATIONAL SELECTION AFTER THE 1976 OLYMPICS

by Steve Sobel

A new AFLA Administration will take office on August 1, 1976. One of the first jobs will be the adoption and announcement of selection procedures for international teams. The exact system cannot be predicted with certainty now, but one reasonable conclusion can be made; **the starting point of any system in the Fall of 1976 must be the results of the 1976 AFLA National Championships.**

Since the system must use results of a competition occurring prior to the announcement, it is important for all fencers with plans to be candidates for international selection to realize now the importance of the National Championships. Make your plans now to anticipate and avoid the usual hardships and inequities resulting from announcements "ex poste facto".

Any suggestions concerning an international selection system should be prepared now in writing for submission to the new administration at the Nationals.

### U.S.O.C. ISSUES GUIDEBOOK FOR 1976 OLYMPICS

The United States Olympic Committee has, in cooperation with General John V. Grombach USA (Ret.), issued a comprehensive hard cover book, the "1975 Olympic Guide". Gen. Grombach, a fencer and former U.S. Olympic team member, has written several books on sports and is well qualified both as an author and athlete. The book is published by the Rand McNally Co. and is available from the U.S. Olympic Committee, P.O. Box 1976, Highland Park, Illinois 60035, for a tax deductible donation of \$5.00. The 366 page Olympic Guide makes an ideal personal or business gift, as well as helping to send U.S. athletes to the XXI Olympic Games.

## OLYMPIC SQUAD TRIALS: APRIL, 1976

by Carla Mae Richards

The second trials of this season will be held April 10th and 11th at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey. The schedule of events is: Saturday, April 10th, 9 A.M.-Epee; 10:30 A.M.-Women's Foil; Sunday, April 11th, 9 A.M.-Foil; 10:30-Sabre. These events are open only to the top 24 point holders of the olympic squad. Entry forms will be sent to all eligible competitors. The Olympic Fencing Committee would appreciate any assistance in the running of these events that is possible, i.e., scorekeepers, timers, and general helpers. The more help from others the less imposed upon those fencing vying for possible berths on the Olympic team.

### CORNELL OPEN

The Annual Cornell Open drew its largest entries to date with over 300 participants fencing in the four categories: women's foil, foil, epee and sabre.

The tournament used a modified version of the new F.I.E. rules: there were three elimination rounds in pools, leading up to a one-eighth final round of 16. From there it was direct elimination in 10 touches for men and eight for women, all the way to the end.

The first eight in each weapon received beautiful silver cups. The spectator appeal of this form of tournament was outstanding and all the fencers interviewed at the completion of the tourney voiced their approbation of the system. The level of this competition was very high and some A's and B's never even reached the direct elimination round.

### RESULTS

**Foil:** 1. Massialas, Cornell; 2. Bonacorda, NYAC; 3. Wright, SS.  
**Epee:** 1. Marchand, Canada; 2. Scott, Cleveland; 3. Tatrallyay, Canada.  
**Sabre:** 1. Otero, Cornell; 2. Tishman, NYFC; 3. Nagorney, Kadar.  
**Women:** 1. Payer, Canada; 2. Szoka, Canada, 3. Campeau, Canada.

## GILMAN INVITATIONAL

by Laura Veneskey

**Men:** 1. Greg Benko; 2. Dan Cantillon; 3. Duika; 4. Masters; 5. B. Boucher; 6. Scott.  
**Women:** 1. A. Susel, CMAC; 2. M. Fox; 3. J. Sapulski, L & S; 4. E. Kolos, CMAC; 5. M. Duika, WSU; 6. L. Veneskey.

## NORTHERN INDIANA OPEN

by Theron Lansford

The Sixth Annual Northern Indiana Open was held at Hershey Hall, Tri-State University on November 9th. Spirited competition was the hallmark of this important Indiana Division meet.

### Results:

**Women's Foil:** 1. Boelter (3-1); 2. Silver (2-2); 3. Lansford (1-3).  
**Foil:** 1. McCahey (5-0); 2. Peterson (4-1); 3. Duffy (3-2).  
**Epee:** 1. Krall (5-1); 2. Duffy (4-2); 3. Turgeon (3-2).  
**Sabre:** 1. Difigilo (6-0); 2. Mulligan (5-1); 3. Moake 4-2).



photo by Way

Leading principals in Wayne State University's march to the 1975 NCAA Fencing Championship included (left to right) senior captain Masters, second in individual epee; juniors time All-American Greg Benko who rep foil champion; senior Steve Danosi, 1 sabre champion and three-time All-American who was injured and could not defend his freshman Yuri Rabinovich, 1975 individual champion, WSU bracketed the highest individual places in completing its climb to the top after a runnerup finish in 1974 and place ranking in 1973.

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## THE GREATEST NAMES IN OLYMPIC FENCING

Aladar Gerevich and Edoardo Mangiarotti  
by Miguel de Capriles

My friend Curtis Ettinger a few months ago presented me with one of the best gifts I have received in years: A copy of Erich Kamper's "Lexion der 12,000 Olympioniken" — subtitled "Who's Who at the Olympics" — which contains the names and brief biographical data of some 12,000 Olympic medalists (team as well as individual) from the revival of the Games in 1896 to the Munich Olympics of 1972, with an occasional backward look at the records before the Christian era. Although the dominant language is German, the English and French texts make it possible for a person familiar with one of those languages to use the book effectively. It is published by Leykam-Verlag, Stempfergasse 3, A-8010 Graz, Austria, at a price of 720 schillings, post-paid.

There are, of course, other sources of information about Olympic fencing: The statute book of the F.I.E. reports the names of the individual medal winners and of the countries placing in the team events (but not the names of the team members) in the world and Olympic championships. The Guinness book of Olympic records includes the names of the individuals composing the medal-winning teams, but does not collate this information and other data about them, as does the Kamper book, which in this respect is unique.

To begin with, Mr. Kamper provides a roster of athletes who have won 4 or more gold medals in the Olympic Games. Heading the list is the Greek Leonidas, who in the eight years 160-152 B.C. won 12 events in athletics (track and field). In modern times, the leader is Ralph C. Ewry of the United States, who won 10 events, also in track and field, in four Olympic Games: 1900-1904-1906-1908. (Yes, there were Olympics in 1906, although the four-year cycle was reestablished after 1908.)

The top medal winners in Olympic fencing history are Aladar Gerevich of Hungary and Edoardo Mangiarotti of Italy. Gerevich

is listed first in the Kamper book because he won 7 gold medals in six Olympics (1932-36-48-52-56-60), whereas Mangiarotti won 6 gold medals in five Olympics (1936-48-52-56-60). But Mangiarotti won a total of 13 (with 5 silver and 2 bronze) while Gerevich won 10 (1 silver, 2 bronze). These two must rank as the greatest names in Olympic fencing, even though the rest of the list includes such all-time stars as Pal Kovacs of Hungary (6 gold, 1 bronze); Nedo Nadi of Italy and Rudolf Karpati of Hungary (6 gold each); Christian d'Oriola of France, Lucien Gaudin of France, and Giuseppe Delfino of Italy (4 gold and 2 silver each); Ramon Fonst of Cuba (4 gold, 1 silver); Gyozo Kulcsar of Hungary — the youngest of the lot, only 35 years old at this writing (4 gold, 1 bronze); and Dr. Jenő Fuchs of Hungary and Carlo Pavesi of Italy (4 gold each).

Aladar Gerevich won 6 gold medals as a member of the great Hungarian sabre teams that went undefeated through the Olympic Games from 1932 to 1960. He was the individual Olympic sabre champion in 1948, second in 1952 and third in 1936. He also won a foil-team bronze medal in 1952 — a fact that may surprise some. Edoardo Mangiarotti won 4 gold medals as a member of the Italian Olympic epee championship teams of 1936, 1952, 1956 and 1960, taking a silver medal in this event in 1948. He was the individual Olympic epee champion in 1952, with bronze individual medals in both 1948 and 1956. In addition, he won a gold medal as a member of the Italian Olympic foil championship team in 1956, with silver medals in that event in 1948 and 1960. And he won the individual silver medal in foil in 1952 behind the French genius, Christian d'Oriola.

Which of the two should be ranked at the top? This is a matter of personal judgment, and you are likely to be prejudiced by your preference for one weapon or another. I had the good fortune to be present at the Olympic debut of both of these great champions and to witness some of their best performances. Perhaps I can add some details to help you make up your own mind.

Gerevich has to be rated as the most durable Olympic fencing competitor at the highest level of accomplishment, keeping in mind the war-time gap in the Games between 1936 and 1948. At Los Angeles in 1932, Gerevich was the baby (age 22) of one of the most powerful sabre teams ever assembled — a team which crushed all opposition, defeating the United States 13-3, Poland 9-1 and Italy 9-2 in the four-team final. He did not fence in the individual (he was too young by the standards of the time), yet he captured the fancy of knowledgeable spectators by the brilliance of his team performance. His finest personal effort was probably in London 1948, but even in his last Olympics, Rome 1960, he was a formidable opponent and a remarkable athlete, carrying his share of the team effort to the championship. He was always a great favorite of American sabremen of my generation, partly because of his technical excellence and partly because of his ebullient personality. And there are interesting sidelights to his personal life: He married Erna Bogen, daughter of Albert Bogen (a member of Austria's second-place sabre team in the 1912 Olympics) and herself a bronze medalist in the women's Olympic individual foil in Los Angeles 1932; their son, Pal Gerevich, won a bronze medal in Munich 1972 as a member of the Hungarian sabre team. Mr. Kamper's book carries a page of photographs of this talented foursome.

Mangiarotti was only 17 when he made the Italian Olympic epee team for Berlin 1936, the first Olympics at which the electrical weapon was used. And a good thing it was for Mangiarotti, because human judges might never have believed their eyes. As I recall (and my memory may play me tricks), Mangiarotti routed the entire French team (defending champions) in the finals by 3-0 scores, using a simple action: a perfectly executed prise-de-fer-fleche.

Like Gerevich in the preceding Games, he was too young to compete in the individuals (which in those days always followed the team events), but his three team-mates, who did compete, finished 1-2-3. In my opinion, Mangiarotti's finest performance was in

Helsinki 1952, when he won two gold in epee and two silver medals in foil a period of eight successive days of competition — a truly remarkable exhibition of technical skill and athletic stamina.

Most people know that Mangiarotti from a famous fencing family. His was one of the world's great fencing families, whose mastery of the modern game has become legendary. His brother Dario was runner-up to Edoardo in the 1952 individual epee, and a member of the second-place team of 1948 at the Olympic championship team of 1952. His beautiful daughter fenced on the team in the World Student Games in Moscow 1973 (and was crowned "queen" of the Games). Since his retirement from competition, Edoardo has remained active in the promotion of fencing (he is the author of an excellent treatise, "La Vera Scuola" taking part in the management of Italian and international fencing affairs. In 1952, at the Congress of the F.I.E. awarded him one of its most prized trophies, the C. Feyerick challenge, with a citation which read: "Exceptional fencer who, in the course of an already lengthy career, has won the finest of titles, has never ceased to give an example of magnificent mental and physical qualities, uniting harmoniously the efficiency of a pure classical style with the elegance of an always sportsmanlike behavior."

Some years later, however, when Italian authorities paid Mangiarotti a tribute as Italy's outstanding Olympian of all time, there was loud and feeble dissenting voice from this side of the Atlantic. The irrepressible Aldo Nadi argued that honor belonged to his brother Nedo. He challenged Mangiarotti to a duel to decide his views. Nothing came of it, thanks in part to the good offices of the F.I.E.; but the gist of Aldo's argument was this: Mangiarotti's Olympic silver and bronze medals were **tokens of defeat**, showing he was not as great a champion as Nadi, who had an unblemished record of Olympic victories — six medals, all of which shows that there is more than one way to read even the Olympic record.

## TOURNAMENT CIRCUITS

by

Arthur W. Lane

**WANTED:** Regional and national circuits of tournaments of high level that can upgrade American fencing in much the same manner as the numerous international tournaments in Europe serve the Europeans.

Every four years we go through a sort of "Strum and Drang" just to select and send a few, a very few, to seek an elusive gold medal. I have nothing against this effort or goal. Who does? It's just that the many programs we have tried for building a consistently strong international squad have almost always focused only on the squad and fallen short of expectations. I believe this is through lack of what might be called an infrastructure to lift and sustain the squad at a constant high level. We glue our eyes on Europe with its many international tournaments, and bemoan our lack of funds to send our younger fencers there to train and compete.

Our people usually go for only one, the biggest, tournament. We all know that a far more valuable development program would send large groups abroad for six months or more, basing them as paid guests at cooperative salles d'armes, and entering them in whole series of events. The experiences gained would then be cumulative and lasting, not one-time and forget-it-until-qualify-next-time, if-I-qualify. There are, of course, very solid obstacles to such a program, and there is no need to go into them.

However, the Europeans have a couple of good tournaments that we should look

of other advantages other other than a lot at, because we have them too. Both derive from proximity. They live close to many of the tournaments they enter; and that means a time advantage. They need only take a long weekend rather than a week or more away from their employment in order to compete in something other than a local event. The other advantage is money. Granted, they often receive more financial support than our fencers! but that isn't the whole story. The thing I point at is that many of them, as a rule, simply don't have to spend huge sums for extensive travel. It is often possible for them to coordinate their fencing travel with other private or business journeys. Their money goes much further there than ours from here. Within our own large country we enjoy the very same advantages — and we should use them!

How did these numerous tournaments-of-stature in Europe come into existence? I don't pretend to know; but the chances are slim that more than a handful are the result of deliberate planning to build coherent circuits of tournaments. It is more likely that they simply evolved out of small beginnings and grew by force of demand and the chance travel schedules of participants into what they are now. Some must have fallen into disuse while others thrived. There are many types of them: open challenges, bi- and tri-lateral meets between salles and countries, invitationals and limited and unlimited entries, special trophy events, etc.

We have much the same things here already, only fewer and weaker. Here in the West some past and present ones are the Halberstadt Saber in San Francisco, the Pacific Northwest International in Seattle/Vancouver, and the Tucson International.

Given time and the continuing growth of fencing in the United States, groups of tournaments like these will evolve of themselves into annual circuits, helping to build top-flight people. Even in the early 50's the Halberstadt Sabre drew entries from New York and Chicago as well as Los Angeles. Our evolution in a manner parallel to that of Europe is actually already in progress.

My point is: Why not hurry this evolution along by deliberate planning and encouragement? It need not cost nearly as much as our international efforts. It will benefit both grass-roots and national levels simultaneously. It can avoid the eternal frictions and gripes of nationally-administered team-selection processes. Furthermore it can supplement, even help, our international development ambitions.

There are probably many ways by which this evolution can be encouraged. One of these is for more events to be scheduled throughout the year at the sectional level. At the present time few sections do more than hold their annual sectional championships, limited to divisional qualifiers. Additional, non-championship events could be held, open to fencers from other sections. These could be announced in a "National Development Schedule" published periodically. Each division might be called upon to nominate two or three of its non-championship events, such as the Halberstadt Saber, for the schedule.

Records of all such events should be sent to a "National Development Committee" so that the proportion of entries from other divisions and sections could be evaluated. Events could then be continued on the National Development Schedule, new nominations added, and those unused by sufficient outside entries dropped as patterns were seen to develop. (Patterns of entries cannot be imposed by such a schedule. They can only evolve in accordance with people's interest, time, and travel capabilities. The schedule must respond to and reinforce developing patterns.) The

performance of our candidates for national squads could be partially enhanced by their records in "National Development Events." Given such treatment, which really costs very little and competes with other development programs, the evolution could be quite rapid in this large area both in number, and above all, in quality. In five years, as a result, more championships would look like the national ones; and in ten years we would be able to match much of what Europe has to offer. Simply publishing a schedule has been known to set things humming



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photo by McClintock

Csiszar Invitational Finalists: (from l to r.) L. Csiszar; 1. Melcher; 2. W. Matheson; 3. B. Makler; 4. G. Masin; 5. J. Fitzgerald; 6. P. Pesthy.

### NEWSLETTERS

Does your division have a newsletter? Each division should consider publishing its own newsletter including local news, competition schedules, results, and other items of interest to members of the division. An annual directory of officers and financial report would also be appropriate.

### OFFICIALS PINS

Have you ordered your AFLA officials pin yet? All rated directors are eligible for this attractive blue and gold pin.

### CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

Articles, results of competitions, letters to the editor, photos, and cartoons are cordially solicited. All manuscripts must be typewritten double spaced, on one side of the paper only, with wide margins. Photos should be glossy finished with a complete caption. Anonymous articles cannot be accepted.

### AFLA DIRECTORY CHANGES

#### Chairmen:

- 14 Gold Coast: Robert Santillana, 822 NE 146 St., North Miami, FL 33161  
 39 Philadelphia: Todd Makler, 960 Meetinghouse Rd., Hydal, PA. 19046

#### Secretaries:

- 12 Central Florida: Diane Williams, 3036 Hyde Park, Sarasota, FL. 33580  
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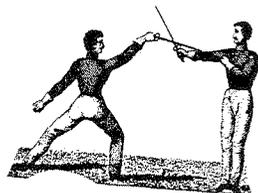
### RULES BOOKS

Do you know the seven duties of a director? How about the definitions of fencing terms?

All this and a lot more can be found in the AFLA Rules Book, available from Irwin Bernstein, AFLA National Secretary, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

### OLYMPIC FENCING

The 1976 Olympic Fencing Championships will be held at the Winter Stadium of the University of Montreal, where the 1967 World Championships were held.



"Put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me."

Romeo and Julie  
 Act I, Scene I

— culled by Rachel Garber

## 1976 TUCSON GRAND INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Place: (Main Events): University of Arizona Women's Gym

April 23: 9 AM Men's Foil; 2 PM Ladies Foil;

8 PM Desert Party (Place: TBA)

April 24: 6 AM Desert Breakfast (San Xavier Mission)

7 AM Men's & Ladies' Espada (San Xavier Mission): (1-Touch Epee; Ladies Use Foil/Epee Rules)

10:30 AM Men's Epee; 1 PM Men's Handicap Foil;

1:30 PM Ladies' Foil Concludes;

8:30 PM Gala Night (Rancho Corona)

April 25: 10 AM Men's Sabre; 11 AM Ladies' Handicap Foil;

7 PM Buffet Dinner (Place TBA)

(Roll Call ½ Hr. Prior To Starting Times).

Weapons Check 1-2 Hrs. Prior To Starting Times.

THURSDAY CHECK-IN (April 22 To 10 PM: Tucson Inn (127 W. Dr. Box 5666, (602) 624-8531, Tucson, 85703.

Contact Tucson Inn directly for tions; identify yourself as a fencer tournament: Rates (Per Room; P1 1 dble bed (1-2 people) \$10; 1 tv \$12; 2 dble (2-4) \$14.

Reservations may also be made International (Within Walking Dist UA) 1900 E. Speedway, Tucson, Az (602) 327-7341: Single \$19; 1 d' \$21; Twin (1-2) \$24; Identify your: fencer for this tournament.



### ENTRY FORM

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City ..... State ..... Zip .....

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Men's Sabre ..... Class .....; Men's Handicap Foil ..... Class .....

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SIGNATURE .....

**15TH ANNUAL  
N.J. INTERSCHOLASTIC  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
by Irwin Bernstein

This year's holding of this traditional event included some differences: the site was Stevens Institute instead of Essex Catholic HS, the first session was held on a Sunday instead of on Saturday, and the Foil and Epee events were fenced from start to finish on the same day. Among the similarities to past years however were the enormous fields of enthusiastic young fencers, the closeness of competition, and the long, long, hours of devoted effort put forth by several stalwarts. Number 1 was Tom DiCerbo who directed in every round of the foil and sabre events. Others who must be mentioned were, Bill Peterman, Charles Boutsikaris, and Steve Dickman, who directed countless bouts all through the hectic Foil/Epee session along with our Superman Armorer Joe Byrnes and his young Ramapo assistant, Chris Larson and Myles Astor who worked the entire sabre event. A special thanks to our host, Stevens Institute, and its Fencing Coaches Cliff Kirmss and Linda Volkammer.

**FOIL (77 competitors).** 1. Richard Sid-erits of Manchester won his school's first title in a 5-3 fenceoff with defending Champion Ian Roberts of Thomas Jefferson HS after both compiled 6-2 records in the final round. Third went to Don Hedges, North Hunterdon with 5-3 and 33/27 touches while fourth was Nick Frannicola of Essex Catholic with 5-3 and 36/30. Frannicola

had the distinction of registering wins over both the fenceoff participants. Other final-ists, in order, were: 5. Larry, Seidenberg, Morris Hills; 6. Roland Gonzales, East Side; 7. Joe Papik, Pingry; 8. Mike Mellilo, Bar-ringer; and 9. Fred Hill, Ramapo. It was noteworthy that the finalists represented nine different schools.

**EPEE (61).** The epee final provided a typical bunched up result as all nine final-ists finished between 5-3 and 3-5 records. There was a 3 way fenceoff that ended tied and had to be settled by touches. 1. Pete MacDonald, Wayne Hills came back from a 5-1 initial loss to teammate George Podgorski in the fenceoff, to take the title with a record of 5-3, 1-1, 43/37. 2. Pod-gorski ended up with 5-3, 1-1, 40/35 and 3. Ralph Kohlman, Ramapo with 5-3, 1-1, 43/40. Other finalists were: 4. Steve Cook, Ramapo; 5. Rolf Schudel, Ramapo; 6. Denis Maksymowicz, Pingry; 7. Chris Trimmer, North Hunterdon; 9. Jim Cavanaugh, Ram-apo; and 9. Mark Fucello, Essex Catholic.

**SABRE (58).** 1. Steve Renshaw of Wayne Hills defeated Todd Spohn of Manchester by 5-4 in a climatic final bout to capture the tile with a 7-1 final round record. Ren-shaw compiled an overall mark of 19-1, lcsing only to Dan Jarashaw of Fairlawn, while #2 Sophn had a 18-2 record as a re-sult of an earlier loss to Bruce Pfister of Ramapo. 3. Bruce Pfister, Ramapo; 4. Scott Dichman, Morris Hills; 5. Don Lear, Ram-apo\* 6. Dan Jarashaw, Fairlawn; 7. Stan Schulman, Fairlawn; 8. Dave Nocenti, Ram-apo; 9. Joe Weber, North Hunterdon.

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