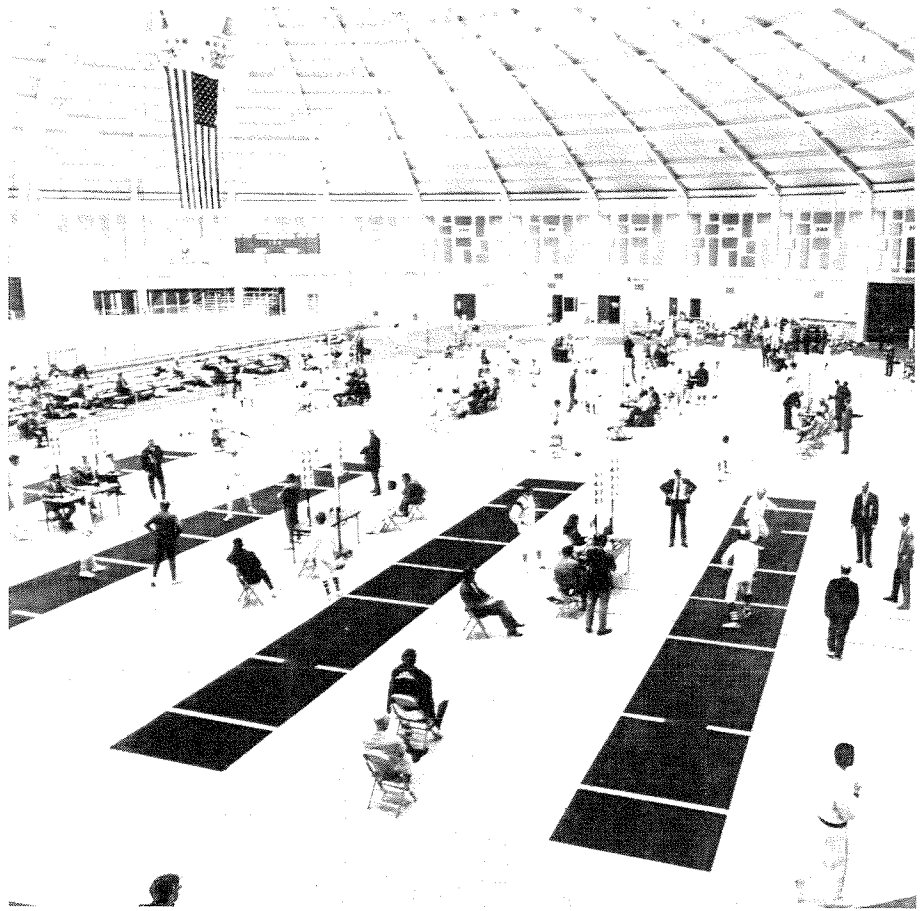


American FENCING

January/February 1979
Volume 30, No. 3



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American FENCING

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DEADLINE FOR 1978-79 ISSUES

| Issue Date | Closing Date | Mailing Date |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| MAY/JUNE | APR 10 | JUNE 1 |
| JULY/AUG | JUNE 10 | JULY 1 |
| SEPT/OCT | AUG 10 | OCT 1 |
| NOV/DEC | OCT 1 | DEC 1 |

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About the Cover

Shown on the cover is the fencer
the Under 20 World Champion
held at Notre Dame Univers
12-16, 1979. Watching top fence
tion can help you in your own g
sure to come to the Champions
support your favorite sport.

Editor's Notes

by Emily Johnson

Since most of the funds received from the S. Olympic Committee are used to prepare our top fencers for the 1980 Olympics (criticism intended) it is up to us to raise our own money to promote our sport for the rest of us. The best way is to increase the Fencing membership.

How do we do this? Send in your typewritten, double-spaced ideas for publication in *American Fencing*.

Here are some suggestions for starters. This country is full of former fencers helplessly failing to find fun in fencing. Go get them. Newspaper and TV publicity, alumni news letters, demonstrations, rowaways help a bit but its the personal contact that pays off. Go after the future fencers of America as well. Try to get fencing started in schools, YMCAs and YWCAs, private clubs . . .

In the next issue of *American Fencing* we hopefully will be publishing the new egalitarianized rules about amateur status which would encourage some of you to do a bit of fencing.

What do you use for persuaders?

For waistline worriers point out that fencing is great exercise for the entire family. You can fence in any weather and at night. Cross with the boss? Ticked off with the teacher? Mad at your mate? Don't go out drinking or beating up on some innocent. Grab your weapons and go down to the salle and fence your heart out. It will do wonders on your disposition. This is a good argument to make to schools, other governmental agencies, and private foundations. Take kids, put them in fancy uniforms, let them flail away at each other under conditions of controlled violence and they will feel less of an urge to get in trouble as an outlet for their pent-up restless energies.

For the awkward and clumsy point out that fencing teaches body control.

For the lonely point out that fencers are friendly charming people. Fencing is a good way to make friends.

For everyone point out that fencers come in all sizes and ages and that now is the time to get started.

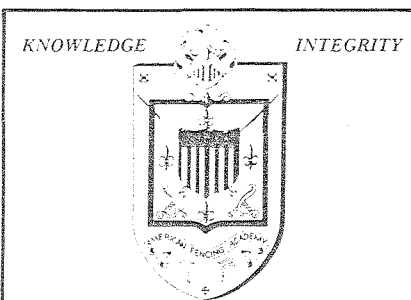
Be sure to read the article about the Under World Championships to be held at Eastime at Notre Dame University. Write to

Mike DeChicco if you want to help. Write me if you have some talent with photography or interviewing for articles for *American Fencing*.

Don't forget to send in the information about your club as outlined in the November-December issue of *American Fencing*.

Contributions to the AFLA are tax deductible. You can specify how your contribution is to be used within reason. . . . If, for example, you want to help youngsters learn to fence or get to competitions say so - The JOY (Junior Olympic Youth) Development Committee is hard at work on these projects and can use the money.

If you are moving please send in your change of address directly to the league secretary, Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis Street, Albany Ca. 94706. It costs all of us twenty-five cents for each return and you are deprived of your opportunity to read this splendid magazine.



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From the President



by Irwin Bernstein

Editors Note: The Olympic Fencing Committee meets at least three or four times a year in New York City, plus other meetings as noted in the article. No funds are provided by the Olympic Fencing Committee for transportation or other expense for attendance at the meetings of any regular members of the committee.

The Olympic Fencing Committee of the AFLA carries a greater responsibility than any other committee of the AFLA and is therefore frequently in the spotlight. It is appropriate to provide our membership with a fuller understanding of the organization and operation of the committee as well as its current members. This column is therefore dedicated to this purpose.

The predecessors to the Olympic Fencing Committee were the Fencing Games Committee and then the Fencing Sports Committee, both directly under the US Olympic Committee. Although the AFLA nominated the majority of the committee, it was not actually an AFLA committee. Since 1976, the US Olympic Committee has turned over to each National Governing Body (such as the AFLA) the direct responsibility of managing their Pan Am and Olympic programs. The AFLA, therefore, designated a new committee to handle all the ongoing international programs and team selections along with the essential Pan Am and Olympic matters. The second major development was the introduction of new funds. The US Olympic Committee, gearing up to support development efforts between Olympic years, started raising unprecedented funds and dispensing them to National Governing Bodies to operate programs to improve the level of competition, increase pools of international competitors, etc. Suddenly, the Olympic Fencing Committee had the resources to go along with the know-how and authority.

The scope of Committee operations can be understood better by quoting from the Minutes of the AFLA Board of Directors meeting on September 17, 1977: "Resolved, that the Olympic Fencing Committee shall have the full authority to make final decisions for the AFLA on all matters pertaining to the International Fencing Program of the AFLA, including but not restricted to the following:

- Selection of competitors and cadre
- Adoption of a selection system
- Supervision of the International Squad.
- Allocation of funds for the international program.
- Training and development program for preparation for international competition.
- Further resolve that the committee report to the Board at all meetings will submit a full financial report at the end of the fiscal year."

The implementation of the Committee mandate from the AFLA Board of Directors requires several meetings each year as well as much work between meetings. Major meetings are held about three times during the season, with the first meeting in the fall, concentrating on budgeting. Like the current and prior seasons, the US Olympic Committee provided over \$100,000 per season for projects submitted by the Olympic Fencing Committee. As generous as these amounts are, they must be allocated to approved subsidies. The Olympic Fencing Committee must constantly juggle to try to achieve the most for the members. Other, smaller meetings, are held at various events such as the National Junior Olympics and the January and April point events. These meetings usually concentrate on essential cadre and fencer selections and other urgent business. Among the topics covered in a typical meeting might be format and organization of tryout events, preparation for overseas competitions, authorization to overseas competitions, appeal for funding, appeal by squad members unable to compete in a point event, breaking a tie in points for selector team, appointments to the National Coaching Staff, progress reports on Regional Fencing Sessions and other projects, and reports from cadre on the operation of teams at recent major events.

In addition to the formal meeting the OFC is the Organizing and Bout Committee for the two series of point events held during the season. These events, limited to In

FROM THE PRESIDENT

tional Squad members, are elite competitions equivalent to the Quarter-finals, Semi-finals, and Finals of the National Championships; they must be carefully run and staffed with top personnel. During the season, there are mailings to the International Squad, frequent meetings of the US Olympic Committee and correspondence with them, application of funds to the various projects, and other operating matters involving one or more OFC members.

The massive work of the Committee is aided considerably by the Athletes Advisory Group. This Group, which consists of one representative (plus one alternate) from each of the four weapon groups on the International Squad, participates in all OFC activities and provides valuable advice and assistance as well as serves as liaison to other squad members. Although the Group has no formal vote on the Committee, its voice is very influential and frequently moves the Committee in its decisions.

The relationship of the OFC to the AFLA Board of Directors should be discussed. Each September the AFLA Board meets to implement its annual budget and appoint committees and approve programs. At that time, the OFC is appointed and its mandate renewed. Although the Board delegates to the OFC the allocation of considerable US Olympic Committee funds, it provides guidance as to priorities and, if necessary, additional AFLA funds. At the subsequent Board meetings, the OFC reports on its activities and the Board has the opportunity to review policies and program emphasis. Thus, although the OFC has considerable latitude in its management of our international operations, it is not in a position to operate arbitrarily.

In the organizing of the 1976-1980 Olympic Fencing Committee, an attempt was made to carry forward the spirit of the predecessor Committees, by appointing members to represent important fencing constituencies who play a role in international fencing or the development of top level competitors. The members of the OFC for the 1978-1979 season are:

1. **Irwin Bernstein, Chairman.** The President of the AFLA has customarily chaired this Committee as well as represented the

AFLA on the Executive Board of the US Olympic Committee and NFCAA. At present, he also represents the AFLA on the Fencing Games Committee of the USCSC (US Collegiate Sports Council), which manages US participation in the World University Games. He carries the day-to-day executive responsibilities for OFC programs, operating within Committee policy. Irwin personally deals with the US Olympic Committee on most AFLA matters. Irwin is Assistant Vice President-Planning and Administration for Maidenform, Inc. and resides in Westfield, NJ. He was a two time Epee All-American for Columbia and later won the New Jersey Epee Championships 4 times between 1959 and 1970. He fenced for the USA in CISM (military games) and World Championships. On the Committee since Sept., 1976.

2. **Steve Sobel, Vice-Chairman.** Steve, as League Counsel, former President of the AFLA, former member and chairman of the Fencing Games and Fencing Sports Committees during 1968-1976, is Irwin's alternate on the USOC Executive Board. He also holds membership on two USOC Committees and the chairmanship of a third. A principal in the Dixo Company, Steve resides in Cedar Grove, NJ. A three time All-American at Columbia, IFA and NCAA Sabre Champion, and many times NJ Sabre Champion. Steve won his way onto the International Squad as recently as 1973 by reaching the quarter-finals of the Nationals. Steve fenced in CISM and World Championships. On the Committee since Sept. 1968.

3. **Carla-Mae Richards, Secretary.** Carla-Mae was Secretary during the last 2 years of the Fencing Sports Committee. She now handles the increasing day-to-day administration of the OFC, which includes squad mailings, correspondence, point standings, inquiries, entries for point events, USOC contact, meeting minutes, and other details. Carla-Mae was the AFLA Liaison for the first National Sports Festival of the USOC in 1978. She has chaired Bout Committees for national level events many times and heads up the AFLA Nationals Steering Committee. Carla-Mae is Business Manager of Academy of Fencing and Treasurer of Creative Sports in Watertown, Mass. On the Committee since March, 1975.

4. **Chaba Pallaghy.** Chaba serves as the AFLA Foreign Secretary. He is responsible for liaison with the FIE and other federations. He processes American entries to international events and provides contacts to our fencers traveling overseas. One of our few "A" class international officials, Chaba brings a wealth of international fencing knowledge to the Committee and represents the AFLA at international conferences. Chaba is a real estate developer-consultant and resides in Pennsylvania. On the Committee since Sept. 1972.

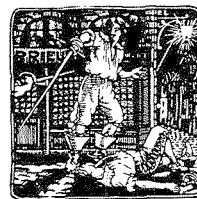
5. **Ralph Goldstein.** The elder statesman of the Committee, Ralph has served on predecessor committees for about 25 years. A former Editor of *AMERICAN FENCING* and Secretary of the AFLA, Ralph was Team Captain for USA Teams in the 1958 World Championships, 1959 Pan Am Games, and 1960 Olympics. As a competitor, Ralph was on the 1948 and 1956 Olympic Teams and was nationally ranked in various of the three weapons in 11 different years from 1942 to 1959. Ralph's entire business career has been spent as a textile executive. He resides in New York state.

6. **Harriet King.** Recently retired competition, Harriet was National Champion 4 times and a medalist 12 times. Former member of our Olympic Team in 1968, 1972. Former Editor of *AMERICAN FENCING*, Harriet resides in San Francisco and is Creative Director of a San Francisco advertising and sales promotion agency on the committee since Sept. 1976.

7. **Stephen Netburn.** National Champion in 1969, 1971 Pan Am and Team Gold Medalist, Steve was a member of the Olympic Team in 1972. Steve originally fenced for the University of Pennsylvania but is currently in West Los Angeles, he is Executive President of Carl Borack Productions on the Committee since Sept. 1976.

8. **Mary Huddleson.** Mary is President of the AFLA and has been a member of the AFLA Junior Olympic Youth Program since she represents on the OFC. She has directed the Junior Olympic Training Camp at Squaw Valley during the past two years and is the organizer of the Hele International. She lives in Oakland, California. On the Committee since Sept.

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From the President

9. **Dave Micahnik.** National Epee Champion in 1960 and a finalist in foil and epee nationals in the 13 years from 1960 to 1973. Dave was a member of the Olympic Team in 1960, 1964 and 1968. He also won gold medals in the World Macabiah Games in 1965 and 1969. Since taking over the coaching reins at the University of Pennsylvania in 1974, Dave's Men's Team has won 37 of 42 dual meets, and Ivy and IFA Championships in each of the last three. In addition, his Women's Team placed second in the NIWFA in 1978. Dave was voted NCAA Coach of the Year in 1978. Experienced in every aspect of fencing, Dave has served as official, member of the Board and several committees, and coach of US Teams in World Championships and World Under 20, and is currently a member of the National Coaching Staff. He resides in Cherry Hill, NJ and represents the IFA ("Eastern Intercollegiate") on the Olympic Fencing Committee. On the Committee since Sept. 1972.

10. **Denise O'Connor.** Denise represents the NIWFA (National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association) on the OFC. An Olympian in 1964 and 1976, Denise was a national finalist 12 times. Formerly coach of the Women's Fencing Team to Brooklyn, Denise was elected NIWFA Coach of the Year in 1975 and 1976. Currently Director of Women's Athletics at Brooklyn, Denise is a member of the National Coaching Staff as well as Captain of the Women's National Squad. Residing in Bayonne, NJ, Denise has been a vital force in the New Jersey Division for many years, holding every division office and winning 11 Division Championships. On the Committee since Sept. 1976.

11. **Mike DeCicco.** Representing the NFCAA (National Fencing Coaches Association), for whom he previously served as President, Mike is Coach of the NCAA Champion Notre Dame as well as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Athletic Academic Counselor. Holder of Notre Dame's foil record as an undergraduate, Mike was named Coach of the Year in 1966, 1975, and 1977. In 1979, Mike and Notre Dame will host the World Under-20 Championships for the second time. On the Committee since Sept. 1968.

12. **Al Peredo.** President of the NFCAA

since 1974, Al is also Chairman of the Fencing Games Committee of the US Collegiate Sports Council. A member of the AFLA Board of Directors and National Executive Committee as NFCAA President, Al represents the USCSC on the Olympic Fencing Committee. While at NYU, Al was IFA Foil Champion and twice All-American. He was the Foil Coach of the USA Team in the 1973 World University Games and the Team Manager in 1977. A former Assistant Coach at NYU, Al is currently a professor of Athletics at Baruch College and resides in Mahopac, New York. On the Committee since Sept. 1977.

13. **Major Miles Hodges.** Major Hodges represents the Interservice Sports Committee of the Department of Defense. He continues the fine relationship that the AFLA has enjoyed with Armed Forces sports representatives over the years. On the Committee since Sept. 1977.

In addition to bringing to the Olympic Fencing Committee a vast wealth of fencing experience and abilities, the members of the OFC have also undertaken their commitment with the clear understanding that none of the Committee members is currently eligible for any Pan Am or Olympic competitive or cadre position selected by the Committee. This is a unique situation in amateur sports and a significant factor in the exercise of the Committee's responsibilities.

The current members of the Athletes Advisory Group are not only elite competitors but have demonstrated the ability to articulate the needs and views of fencers, including those not necessarily their own. They play an essential role in keeping the OFC close to the current crop of competitors. Representatives and alternates are: Foil—Marty Lang and John Nonna, Epee—George Masin and Scott Bozek, Sabre—Phil Reilly and Tom Losonczy, Women—Nikki Franke and Debbie Waples.

Pan American Team Cadre

| POSITION | SELECTION |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Captain | Jack Keane |
| Manager | Marius Valsamis |
| Armorer | Joe Byrnes |
| Coaches(2*) | Csaba Elthes Mike D'Asaro |

*The Olympic Fencing Committee has requested a third coaching position. Final decision may not be known for some months.

WORLD UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP

Notre Dame, Indiana — The University of Notre Dame has been selected as host for the World Junior Fencing championships to be held from April 12-16 in the University's Athletic and Convocation Center. More than 200 athletes from 30 nations will compete for individual titles during the four-day event.

Significantly, this marks only the fourth time in the 30 year history the event has been held in the Western Hemisphere and the second time since 1971 that it has been held at Notre Dame.

Tournament director, Michael DeCicco, the Notre Dame varsity fencing coach expects early participation confirmations from such countries in the Western Hemisphere as Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, and the U.S. From Western Europe, such countries as Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. From Eastern Europe, countries such as Hungary, Poland, and Russia, and from the Middle-East countries, Israel and Turkey.

Junior competition is limited to fencers under age 20. Men will vie for individual titles in the foil, epee, and sabre weapons while women will compete only in the foil.

The Under 20 World Championships are recognized by all of the major fencing powers as a key event on the International Fencing calendar. Many of the young champions become senior world class fencers if they are not already. For example, the outstanding Italian fencer, Fabio dalZotto was only third in the 1976 under 20 foil event, but won the Olympic Foil Championship in Montreal the same year. The Australian star, Roland Loserr won the Junior Epee event in 1963 and the Junior Foil in 1964 and 1965. He later became World Senior Champion. The Russian, Krovopuskov, won the Junior Epee title in 1968 and was World Senior Champion for the second time in 1978. Last year's champions, Numa of Italy (foil), Latriille of France (women's foil), Koppang of Norway (epee), and Baianov of Russia (sabre) may all be on the Olympic teams in Moscow in 1980.

The United States has had the same experience. The top junior fencers soon challenge and then replace our senior champions. Our best sabre performance in the World Under 20 events was a sixth place by

tional Sabre Champion in 1977. Ruth White (third) and Ed Ballin made World Under 20 finals in 1971 and 1972. U.S. National Champions, recent success was the third place by Tim Glass in 1975 in epee. A fencers will, or have been member of Senior International teams.

"We are honored that Notre Dame has been again chosen to host this prestigious international event. We felt the 1977 championships were very successful and offered the opportunity to host them with compliments to all the Notre Dame fencers and members who gave so much along with the NCAA coaches. It is a pleasure to run a tournament of this magnitude and we hope we can be as successful this time as we were in 1971".

Therefore, this international tournament presents a unique opportunity for fencers at all levels in the United States to view present and future world class and every effort should be made to make this tournament and be appraise many techniques that are being used by all of the leading world fencers.

DeCicco also announced that members in good standing will be able to buy a tournament ticket good for one year for a special price of \$5.00, if purchased ahead of time by writing to Mr. Michael DeCicco, Room 309, Administrator, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

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THE ART OF OFFICIATING

by Steve Sobel

It was an exciting Fall season for baseball and football fans. Many hours were spent watching ballgames, but how many fencers were observing referees and umpires to see if general rules of good officiating could be utilized by them in fencing to improve their directing? While you can't learn fencing rules or rules of right of way by watching other sports, you can learn to be a better official by applying just a few general rules which may seem simple—but what is simple is not always obvious. By a careful analysis of the slow motion replays of the close calls, you can improve your directing considerably. Here are just a few ways we can learn from professional officials in other sports.

Be in the right position to see the action: The umpire at third base is in a better position to see a checked swing than the umpire behind the plate. The umpire must be in front of a fielder to see if he catches or traps a ball, and similarly in football, a referee must be in front of a pass receiver to see if the pass is incomplete or caught on a

close diving catch. What does this mean in fencing? The director must move with the action. If the fencers are at the meter line, the director cannot be at the center of the strip. The director must also move in order to have the machine visible behind the fencers (especially when there are no extension lights on the machine). Do not permit spectators to walk in front of your line of vision. Do not permit crowds at the score table to distract your attention.

Anticipate Close Calls: The umpires know when there will be a close call at the base and they prepare themselves for the action which starts and ends in a split second. In Fencing there are a number of close calls which can always be anticipated. When there is less than one minute to fence with a tie score, or a one touch lead, the director **MUST** anticipate the possibility that a touch will occur just before or just after the time has elapsed—and this is one time the director cannot abstain. This is an easy decision for the director if the timekeeper has

the proper instructions **in advance**, and the director sees the timekeeper's signal that the bout is over. If the timekeeper's signal is not visible, it will be impossible to call, and this one bad call will cost one fencer the bout. Similarly, be constantly aware of the fencers' foot position with respect to the meter line and off the strip lines on the side and rear.

Concentrate on the action: It may take minutes before an action actually begins, but once it starts it is over in a fraction of a second. You can't talk to spectators while nothing is happening and expect to be ready when the action occurs.

Warm Up: This may sound unusual, but an official, like the athletes, must warm up. If you observe the umpires when a new pitcher is taking warmup pitches, the umpire watches the pitches he will soon have to call thereby enabling his eyes to adjust to the speed of the pitch and the style of the pitcher. Don't walk into a fencing room from outside and assume you could immediately start directing. Your eye must adjust to the difference in lighting, and the fencing. Watch a bout to be sure you are seeing the action, and watch the fencers when they are warming up.

Be Professional: Appearance is extremely important since you must get the respect of the fencers and the crowd to be effective. Directors shouldn't eat, drink or smoke while they are officiating, and their attire should be appropriate for the occasion. Perhaps the best indication of success in being professional is to be unnoticed. The center of attention should be the fencers and the fencing, not the director. This would be no job for Howard Cosell.

Make Your Calls Clearly, Promptly & Concisely: In baseball and football every call is reduced to a simple signal. The same can also be true very often in fencing. Signal who starts the attack by pointing down towards the fencer; signal against whom the touch is scored by pointing up at the fencer. Keep your descriptions simple. Many directors see the action correctly but get in trouble by improperly verbalizing it. In foil, no description is necessary for one light touches, when both lights are off target, or when no lights are on.

Be Alert For the Unexpected—Whatever can Happen Will Happen: First and foremost, don't assume the score is

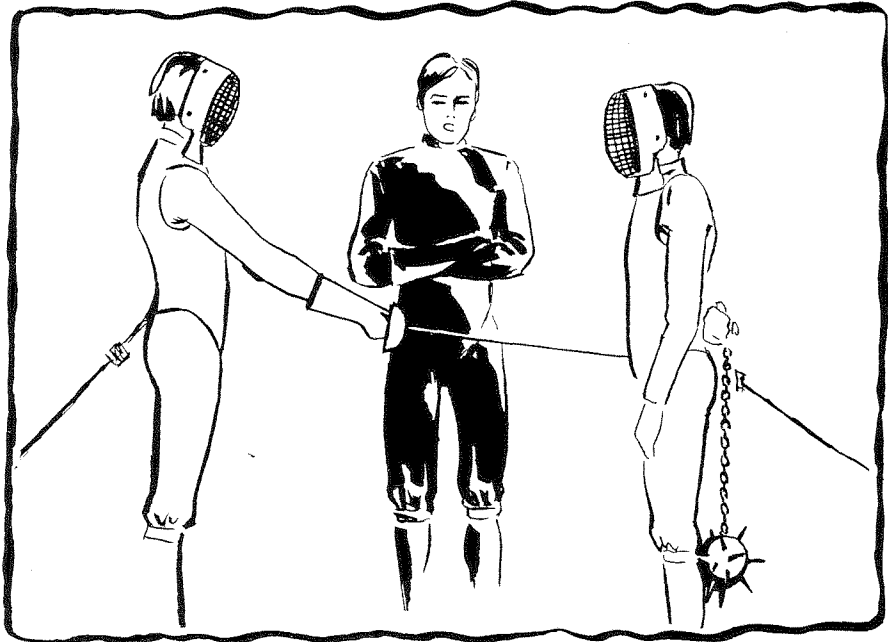
decision will be yours if the score rect and the fencers protest. You check the score sheet after each keep count of touches during the big league umpires have an indicator hand to record the ball and still. Perhaps someday someone will similar convenience gadget for fencers as well. After the last touch, be a crucial weapons test require the fencers until they leave the strip the machine before you say fence the touch from the last action cleared, and check it after you are sure that any light on the machine result of fencing and not testing.

To direct a fencing bout requires thorough knowledge of the rule ability to correctly analyze the action ever, to be a good official requires this. You must gain the fencer's fairness, and his confidence for to control tense situations. Once you have earned the respect of the fencers, you will gain confidence in your ability to do a good job, and your performance as a director will reflect that confidence.

Being a good official, is like being a champion competitor, and is not that comes easily. It requires many years of study, practice, and experience. Good officials win no popularity contests, medals, and earn no money. Not those who are devoted to the sport realize the critical need for good officials willing to make the great effort in their performance as a director.

COACHING POSITION WANTED

Gamil Kalyoubi, an Egyptian, is interested in obtaining a position as a coach in the United States. He has an impressive record in international foil and epee primarily from the world and European championships. He is an international Class B judge in foil and epee. For more information please contact Mr. Kalyoubi, 1788 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. 02146. Tel. (617) 734-6200.



Check your weapons.

VAN MILLIGER

YOU'RE GETTING OLDER SO YOU BETTER SLOW DOWN OR

"You Better Slow Down so you can get old" by Richard Jacobson

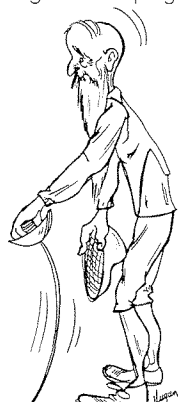
Which title is correct? I suppose it depends upon one's opinion since there is no scientific evidence to support or refute either. A very nice article in the magazine "Runner's World" titled "The Trauma of Turning Forty" describes the problem well. Mike Tymn, the author, was watching his fortieth birthday approach. He had "known" that a person is over the hill at forty and was waiting for his running speed to start decreasing. He tried playing down his birthday and refused any party or other fortieth celebration. On his birthday he went for his daily run and try as hard as he could he was unable to run his usual time. It had happened, he was over the hill! Mike couldn't make it any longer.

Poor Mike Tymn, forty and only has decreasing ability to look forward too. Fortunately for Mike, he refused to settle for less from himself. He could have said "I'm getting older so I better slow down," but he didn't. He kept running and started asking runners older than himself what happened as they aged. There was a similar answer from all he questioned, they were running faster times than they had previously and looked forward to increasing their speed as they continued running over future years. It took some time for Mike to realize his aging was in his head and not in his muscles—and again is running but at a rate faster than he had ever before. Mike Tymn refused to slow down so as to grow old.

Running or fencing it matters not, a person's ability can continue increasing with age or can decrease. It depends on what the individual undertakes. Running is physical, fencing is both physical and mental. If a fencer stops participating his physical ability will decrease while the mental skills will seem to disappear until they are used again. It takes a little time to recall the mental skills, but they do come back fairly quickly especially compared to physical redevelopment which takes much longer. Most everyone is in good physical shape through their teens and early twenties, but people tend to use their time differently as the years pass. They become involved with their jobs and families

and slow down physically letting themselves get old. This normally happens by the age of twenty-five, not forty, and continues through life with occasional periods of activity. Instead of having a feeling of energy and well being the aging person feels tired and often turns to Saturday afternoon television for his activity. The more he slows down the older he gets.

Age, in its broadest sense, depends upon activity level as well as chronological age. What is normally described as age is two aspects best called fitness and maturity. Similar to fencing skills which do not completely disappear, other experiences throughout life add to form one's maturity. With increasing years there is increasing mental ability which we call maturity. Fitness, which is normally related to aging or getting old is the monster most everyone fears. Decreasing fitness normally accompanies increase in age, but does not have to. The less a person does the less he tends to do and the weaker his muscles and cardiovascular facilities become. For those who feel they have let themselves age physical it is now time to turn the direction of your age. You need to start getting younger. You need to participate in the physical activity you enjoy most, fencing we hope, and do it on a regular basis throughout your life. Regular activity is as important as eating and sleeping, **Your BODY NEEDS IT.**



OBSERVATIONS ON FENCING FOR THE BLIND

by
Julius Paiffy-Alpar

(Editors Note: Maestro Alpar is Supervisor of Physical Education Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley. He asked me to publish his comments on the article published in the last issue "The Blind Can Also Fence.")

The information in these articles is of value for those who are able to see as well. Want to improve your lunge and thrust? Try shutting your eyes before you lunge against a target. Learn to listen and feel as well as using your vision. Practice with a friend—it helps show up flaws.)

After reading the article "The Blind Can Also Fence" in the November-December, 1978 issue of the *American Fencer* I wish to make some observations about teaching and learning limitations in fencing for the blind. In 1973 as a research project I taught classes for both sexes at the Orientation Center for the Blind in Albany, California for the time equivalent of two quarters at the University and two classes of two hours each to twenty students. At the end of the instruc-

tions a documentary instructional taken which was used for th motor-development classes and motor development for the visu icapped in the University of Calif keley. The film was also shown t organizations at conventions for and at the state conference of the and to the State Department of Ec Sacramento, Bureau of the Visu icapped. Here are my observatic

The article gave the impressic possible to teach the blind with ease or difficulty as sighted peopl having specialized knowledge patience and caution has to be during the work.

The article suggests that the cr blind should be taught separatel people who lost their sight at a lz their life. This is not necessary be totally blind person with or withou visual experience has to memori.

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OBSERVATIONS ON FENCING FOR THE BLIND

agine the distances, sizes, and the directions of the movement during the instructions given by the master. In the movie "Fencing for the Blind" the teaching methods and aids clearly indicate how these goals were reached.

A capable sighted instructor can handle a class of 10 or 15 explaining and correcting each position or movement. I had one blind physical education instructor in my class who continued teaching after I left the Orientation Center. She could not handle more than two or four students at a time because she had to check each person by touching them and correcting their hand and foot positions by moving that part of their body the necessary distance and direction. The strip (the fencing territory) does not need to be very long or wide because most of the fencing will be done in the middle distance where the fencers can reach each other with a good extended lunge and defend with weapons and withdrawal of the target to the "on guard" position. Two lines, the on guard lines, should be marked with sandpaper strips across the piste to assure the return to the correct distance when necessary. Advance, retreat, step lunge and jump lunge will close or open up the distance between the fencers causing a corps or the loss of the necessary sense of distance for reaching each other.

Fencing has to be started with the blades engaged where the break of the engagement or pressure will indicate when an action starts. With the blade in absence the fencer has no way to know if the target is open or closed and sense when an action started. Circular attacks are taking a chance or to learn by experience the nature of the defense the opponent favors or what his habitual parries are. The possibilities of a disengagement or a feint and the corresponding movements of the defense cannot be predetermined but are executed after not meeting the opponent's blade at the expected side of the target. The sense of hearing can only be used when the fencers are fencing at one time in silent conditions, otherwise they will be confused and misled by sounds made by other people. **The fleche should not be taught or tried at all** because the possibilities of serious collision especially when both fencers decide to attack at the same time. Blind people are

sensitive about bouncing into objects and their confidence which was built over a long time can be destroyed in a moment with one bad experience.

In conclusion the psychological guidance of the instructor in building self-confidence and confidence in the instructor not only requires the capability of using the proper method, but the necessary knowledge of what blind people can do and should be allowed to do to make fencing safe, enjoyable and beneficial for blind people. The movie "Fencing for the Blind" a 25 minute, 15 mm color film, can be purchased or rented from the MultiMedia Center, School of Optometry, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.



Cutout of a lunge

Use of the beams in taking a position



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THE BIOMECHANICS OF THE LUNGE

Gary Green

This is a biomechanical analysis of the most crucial movement that is made in modern fencing — the lunge. Of all the movements and technique of this sport, the lunge is of paramount importance to fencing success. The purpose of the lunge is to deliver the point of the weapon to the target of the opponent as rapidly as possible within the rules of fencing. This movement, and its component parts, will be analyzed through the use of high-speed photography.

Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the subject in the modern on-guard position. The fencer is in a state of readiness, with the ability to move in either direction with equal ease. He is erect and his center of gravity should fall along a vertical line that intersects the floor almost equidistant from either foot. The forward leg is rotated laterally. His feet should be at right angles to each other, about shoulder-width apart. It can be inferred from this photograph that this subject is primarily offensive in his style — the extension of his center of

foot. He is therefore leaning slightly. In addition, his rear foot is seen not right angles to his leading foot. Both inaccuracies contribute to a more lunge — any advance, balestra, or lunge — any action. However, this fencer is made himself less mobile in rearward movement should correct these faults. Excellency in either direction is **essential**.

The fencer's arms show good form. The weapon is slightly extended toward the opponent, with the weapon completely from his elbow through his wrists. His elbow is slightly flexed to an approximately 120 degrees. The rear arm, a critically neglected part of the lunge, is held properly for balance. The rear arm can be used as a "storehouse" for energy that is used to execute the lunge. By raising, and locking the arm, the fencer creates potential energy.

The subject shows good form about the vertical axis is kept to a minimum. This practice exposes a

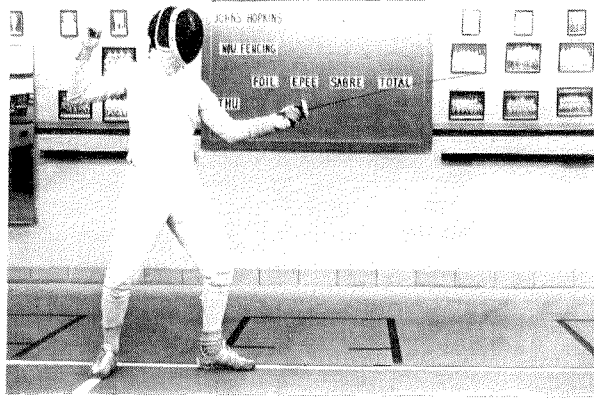


FIGURE 1

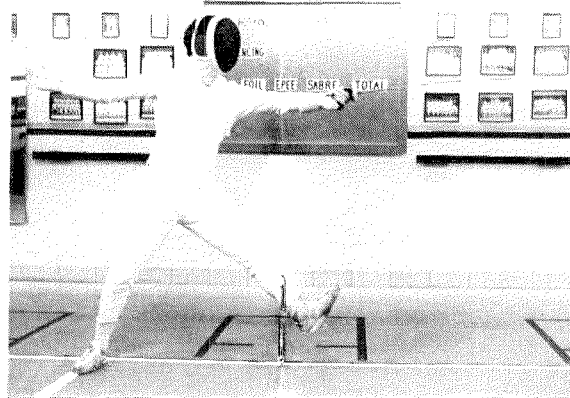


FIGURE 2

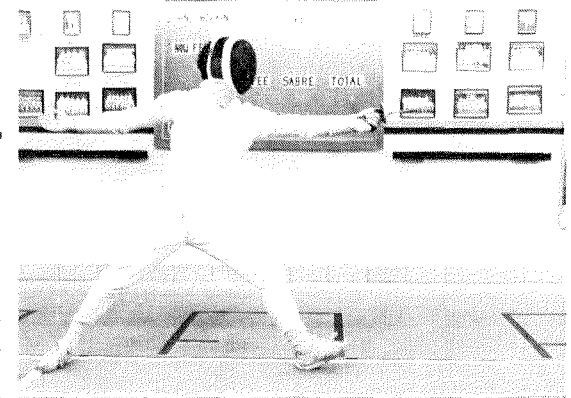


FIGURE 3

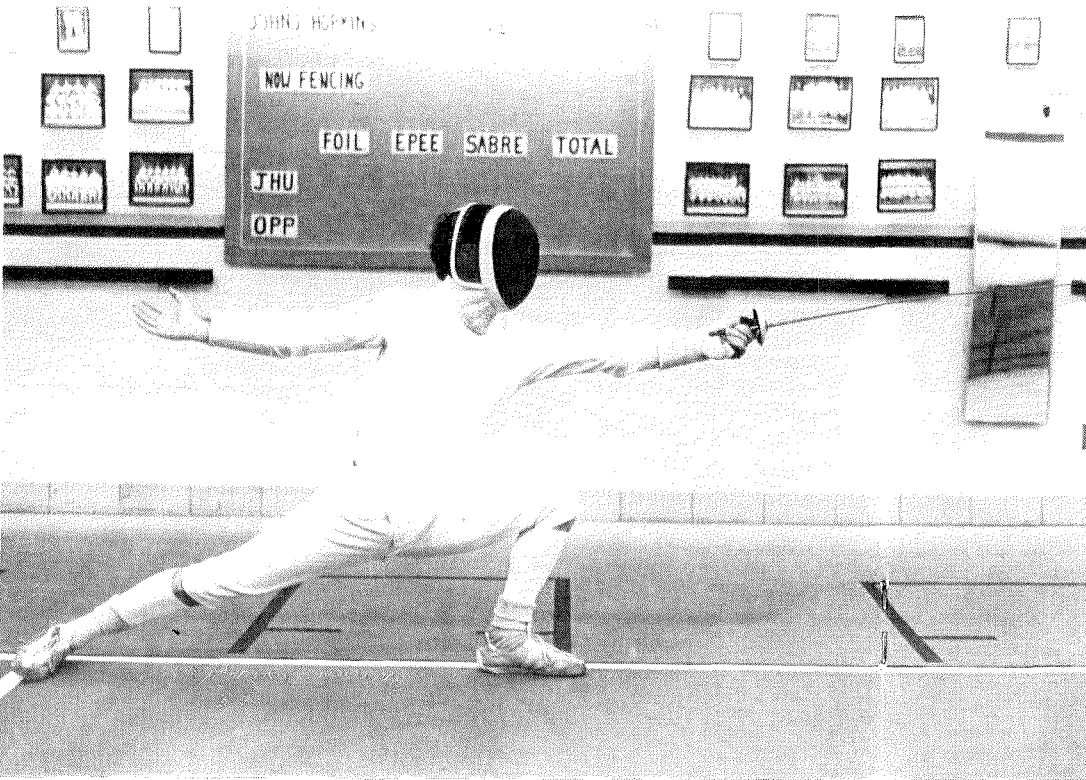


FIGURE 5

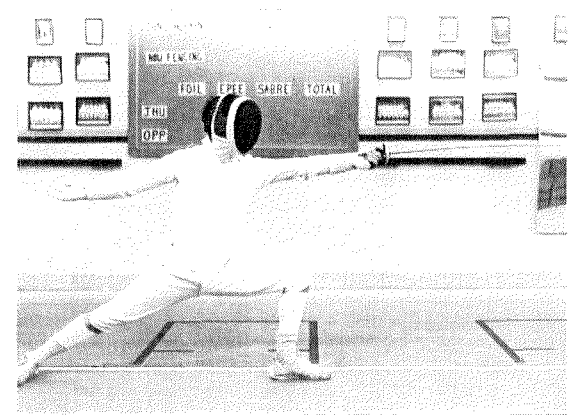


FIGURE 4

THE BIOMECHANICS OF THE LUNGE

PHOTO BY STEFAN BURNS

THE BIOMECHANICS OF THE LUNGE

Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the events that initiate the lunge. The elbow is vigorously extended, thus causing a rapid acceleration of the weapon toward the opponent. Point acceleration and velocity is more rapid at this point in the action than at any other time in the lunge.

The flexion of the hip joint has caused the leading foot to break ground and to begin to follow the weapon toward the opponent. The knee is slightly extended to insure proper placement of the lead foot when it again contacts the ground.

The body has begun to lean and likewise follow the point to the opponent. The center of gravity at this point is passing over the original position of the leading foot in the on-guard configuration.

Lead foot clearance is slightly excessive and indicates that the subject is standing over slightly. This vertical component of the movement, however slight, should be corrected as any vertical movement only serves to increase the time necessary to deliver the point to the target.

The trailing arm has begun its rapid movement downward. The forceful extension of the elbow and the wrist, aided by gravity, have transformed this potential energy into kinetic energy thus beginning a very important transfer of momentum. Newton's Third Law states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The rear arm extension action generates a corresponding impetus to the body mass in the opposite direction — toward the opponent. Although admittedly the mass differential between the rear arm and the remaining body mass tends to obscure the rear arm's contribution to the velocity of the lunge, it nevertheless is a measurable quantity of force that is mathematically shown to be equal to the rear arm's action. The rear arm, then, is important in the proper execution of the lunge and should not be overlooked.

The rear knee is just beginning its forceful extension that will provide great impetus to the body. The rear foot remains flat on the ground.

Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the subject as the in-air portion of his lunge is just ending. The rear knee has been strongly extended by the quadriceps and is almost to the point of

position. The rear foot has remained flat on the ground to provide as broad and as stable a base upon which knee extension can act. This has resulted in comparatively rapid acceleration of the body toward the opponent.

The forward foot is just starting to make contact with the ground. Active hip flexion has stopped — further hip flexion will be only of the weight-bearing type. The quadriceps and the hamstring groups of the leading leg have begun to eccentrically contract to pick up the mass of the body that is beginning to bear upon the front leg.

Both arms are fully extended. The weapon arm has been maintained in this position since the inception of the movement.

Body velocity is most rapid at this point. Body acceleration has gone to 0. Because of the fully extended weapon arm, body velocity and point velocity are approximately equal. Body lean has become more pronounced.

Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the subject as the lunge nears completion. The leading leg is flexing at the knee to absorb the body weight and to arrest the forward motion of the body. The center of gravity is over the hip joint or the superior end of the femur. The quadriceps group is strongly contracting to check the forward momentum and to stabilize the body. The rear foot is still planted and providing a broad, stable base of support for any movement.

The body, and consequently the weapon arm and point, are decelerating. Body lean is definitely pronounced as the subject completes penetration with the point.

Figure 5

Figure 5 has been purposefully included and the movement performed in this manner to illustrate a common fault among fencers of all skill levels. The subject has continued his lunging movement in an effort to secure additional distance. The angle of the fencer's leading knee is now well under 90 degrees and body lean is very pronounced.

Although the fencer has gained as much as 4-6 inches on his lunge, he may very well have done more harm than good. Experience and observation has shown that, more often than not, the initial attack (and lunge) of

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either be parried, be too long, or be too short. For whatever reason, the fencer is now faced with the inevitable counteraction from his opponent. A riposte or stopping action directed at the fencer at this point will be very difficult to handle. The fencer is too close and will have difficulty in defending himself properly.

Likewise, recovery from this position will be difficult. The center of gravity is well forward. The angle of the front knee is less than 90 degrees. The third class lever formed by the quadriceps group, the knee joint, and the insertion of these muscles dictates a very inefficient mechanism for joint movement in any event. To force the muscle group to work at an angle of pull that approaches 100 degrees, or even more in extreme cases, puts an additional strain on the knee extensors and results in a slow recovery to the on-guard position or to any other movement from the lunge. The subject can rectify the problem, in his case, by planting the leading foot slightly further forward, thus decreasing the angle of pull of the quadriceps, and by decreasing slightly his body lean at the termination of his lunge.

velopment of a new style in current fencing. Many young, talented, and athletic fencers have had success on all levels of competition. This is not in any way meant as a criticism, it is merely a description. A much more detailed description of the development of a new style in current fencing is extremely short duration — one touch. This being the case, it may be wise to re-evaluate the present technique. This new light.

An Answer to “Why Doesn't He Ever Parry First?” — Maybe . . .

The subject in these photographs formed a fencing lunge. His action has been analyzed and have been shown to be fairly correct, and in keeping with the accepted technique. His fencing is fine, but **his biomechanical technique is incorrect**. The problem is clearly shown in figure 2.

The purpose of the fencing lunge is to deliver the point of the weapon to the opponent as rapidly and directly as possible. This is the **rules of fencing**. There is no exception. According to the rules of fencing, the

THE BIOMECHANICS OF THE LUNGE

to establish right of way and to give priority to his attack. But according to the laws of biomechanics, he has quite clearly destroyed any chance of developing good point velocity.

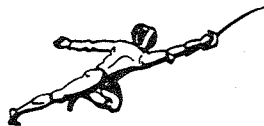
A well-known biomechanical law states that the total effective force generated in any movement will be the sum of all forces if applied in a single direction and in the proper sequence. The proper sequence is the one in which each component force is added to the movement at the point of greatest velocity (and least acceleration) of the preceding component. The anatomy of the human body is such that this usually means that stronger muscle groups begin the movement, and move the greatest mass, and then the smaller muscle groups are

added as the movement nears completion. Does a baseball pitcher go through his throwing motion and then push against the rubber? Does a shot putter extend his arm out from his body and then glide across the circle? It is easily seen that, as with most biomechanical principles, we use this rule every day in our physical activities. Why, then, should we expect our beginners to disregard such a basic premise?

It is incumbent upon the fencing teacher or coach to explain to the athlete the reason for extending the arm first and why he will tend to withhold his arm extension until the final portion of the movement. Only through this type of knowledge can an athlete be expected to fully understand the technique of any sport and therefore be successful.

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COMMON FENCING INJURIES

By Melody E. Toth; Certified Athletic Trainer, B.S., M.S., Indiana University; Trainer, San Jose; Head Trainer, Women's Athletics, University of Hawaii.

Fencing is without a doubt one of the most grueling individual sports that I have ever encountered. Fencers can expect the competition to begin at 7 or 8 a.m. and finish anywhere from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the morning. The entire time is not spent in actual fencing, a great deal of it is in waiting especially if you are good and finish the bouts in your pool early. Fencing is a fatiguing sport both physically and mentally in which the strong survive! It is during the fatigue portions of fencing that the injury potential is greatest, whether it's 11 p.m. at night or after 50 straight *balestra* lunges in practice. Injuries do happen, and this is what this chapter is about.

Before concerning ourselves with specific injuries and treatments that a fencer might encounter during his career, let it be perfectly clear that for all serious injuries a physician should be seen. Sometimes what seems to be a minor injury turns into a major one because the athlete treated it in a light manner. Therefore, if you do not know for sure what is wrong, see a doctor, and let him make the diagnosis so that treatment can begin and recovery time is decreased.

The second most important thing in the treatment of injuries is the initial use of ice as opposed to heat. Ice acts as a vasoconstrictor, which will close the blood vessels broken open because of the injury. Ice will prevent more fluid escaping into the injured area. The fluid is the cause of swelling. The more swelling that is present, the longer the recovery time will be. Heat on the other hand acts as a vasodilator which opens the blood vessels and causes more fluid to flow into the area.

Ice should be applied from the time of injury up to 72 hours thereafter. A good rule of thumb is that ice is usually applied for the first 24 hours for a mild injury up to 48 hours for a moderate, and 72 for a severe injury which results in a lot of swelling. The application method of ice is very simple. I.C.E. is the abbreviation for Ice, Compression, Elevation, or P.I.E. Pressure, Ice, Elevation. Whatever method is used, the three should be

filled with ice cubes, compression wrap or elastic bandage and elevating the injured part above the heart, if possible.

Any elevation is better than letting the extremity hang straight down. If the P.I.E. is used, the elastic bandage should be used to conduct the cold of the ice through the wrap. After the swelling has stopped heat in the form of whirlpool or hot packs should be applied. (NOTE: if swelling is present, discontinue the use of heat and ice). Heat in this case is used to bring the edema (swelling) and to help the area return to its normal size.

Ice should be used first for sprains. Sprains are injuries to ligaments which hold the bones together in the most common areas being an ankle, shoulder, and elbow. Sprains are injuries to muscle tendons or muscle tissue. Sprains are also considered to be pulled muscles. Sprains are not the same as muscle cramps. The areas most affected are the thighs, hips, and the hamstrings.

The best treatment for an injury is rest. A lot of minor injuries that are common to the fencer could be avoided if the fencer would properly condition the body before exercises that are used in rehabilitation. The same ones the athlete would use to strengthen the body.

Before starting the practice session, the athlete must be sure to allow enough time to properly stretch muscles involving the joints. Such injuries as tendonitis of the shoulder, pulled muscles, and sprained ankles can sometimes be avoided by a proper warm-up. In addition it is necessary to stretch the shoulder complex. Holding the arm in extended periods of time especially those long bouts, can place a real strain on the shoulder.

The next part will deal with specific injuries obtained by the fencer and the treatment and rehabilitation should be

TECHNICAL TALKS

by Joe Byrnes



We may even finish up copper strips this time. Having repaired your metal as may have been necessary, and laid out whatever underlay you plan to use, you are ready to roll it out. (We are assuming that you are going to have to tape it onto the floor.) The underlay should come out, preferably, to within an inch of the edges of the strip; it obviously cannot be wider than the metal, or your tape won't hold the strip.

Position the copper roll, and start it on its way a few feet. Tape the end down securely across its width and also with a number of longitudinal strips of tape extending out at least a foot to the rear. From here on down the strip, you have to keep the mesh as flat and smooth as possible — stretched out, in other words. If the strip is old and thin, it may behave limply, and that's helpful for the handling, though such strips are usually weak and likely to rip or tear easily. If it's a really robust heavy new monster, you may find that it will develop incredible slack, even though you thought that you had it stretched to a fare-thee-well. Strips somewhere between the extremes are best, naturally, but you have to work with what you've got.

One method of getting the strip flat is to have one or more "kickers," or better "shufflers," work their way down the strip ahead of the "tapers." There should be at least two people assigned to the taping, and preferably four, two to a side, one to pull out the tape and the other to position it and press it into place. Both sides must be taped at the same time, to get it all even.

Another method, that needs an even larger crew, calls for one piece of equipment not too hard to find: a flat-topped table long enough to reach across the strip. Set the table — don't use your grandmother's Chippendale — upside down and get one or more of the crew to sit on it (rotate that job, it's cushy), and a couple to push it along the strip ahead of the taping teams. If the strip is an old one with many soldered patches, it is not the best candidate for this treatment, unless the patches are nice flat ones, as described in my last column. With this technique of stretching, the bubbly little

igloo type of patch would simply be torn off, and in the process might rip the strip badly.

If a strip is not well-stretched out, its saw-like edges will very shortly cut through the tape, which will have to be replaced. You can go through a lot of tape that way. (Even with a pretty well-stretched strip, there is some tendency for the tape to be sliced up by the edges. Sorry about that.) One method that has been tried to reduce this sort of wear is to cover the edges first with a light tape, like masking tape. Unfortunately, this solution creates a small problem of its own: the strip will be thicker at the edges and thus will "dish" when rolled up. It's better to get the mesh well stretched out. Once you have your strip run all the way out and taped along its length, anchor the far end the same way the first was.

We have not yet considered other possible means of stretching the copper, such as what can be done when you have a wooden platform to work with. Most assemblies of this sort include a tension system at one or both ends. If the copper is wrapped around and riveted to a flat metal bar, steel cables with turnbuckles and hooks can be attached to the bar and anchored over the end of the strip; superb tension can be maintained in this way, and the actually adjustable part need be at one end only. This method can also be used to hold a strip tight on a floor, if the floor happens to have gymnasium keyhole plates let into it at the right spacings. The only thing to watch is that the bar at the end of the strip and the cables are kept low-profile and even covered with matting as may be necessary to keep fencers from tripping over them.

I well recollect the installation for the Olympic Trials at the 1964 World's Fair, where Jim Castello and I found ourselves improvising modifications for the strips, construction of which had been contracted out to non-fencers. Two platforms had been built, of 2 x 4's topped by some sort of flaky chipboard. Unfortunately, there was insufficient longitudinal support for the topping, and we quickly discovered that the strips, built in six-foot hook-together sections, sagged intolerably at the joints. Since the statute

of limitations has long since run out, I think it's safe to confess now: Jim and I commandeered the wrestling ring — or rather its component 2 x 4's, which were stored out back. By the time we were through ramming extra 2 x 4's into the platform installation, you could no longer unhook the sections. I imagine those strips eventually had to be torn apart into little pieces, just to get them out of the way. And I can't help wondering what was said, when they went looking for the wrestling ring. Anyway, the copper that was to go on top of those platforms — which were now in great shape, very firm — was stuff that had gone through the mill (literally: a paper mill) and looked it. Both strips needed extensive solder repairs. When they were fixed, Jim and I taped down one end (there was no provision for anything fancier) and, using an extra piece of 2 x 4 and a set of large carpenter's clamps (also part of the wrestling ring, I'm afraid), put more tension on those strips than I had seen to that time. The really surprising thing was that mere tape was able to hold copper in that state of tension, but it did, and very well. Despite the sad condition of that copper, I don't recollect a single hole or tear in three days of competition.

That latter point is very significant: better the stretching of the copper, less likely it is to be holed, or to undergo any kind of treatment.

Another method of getting tens mesh that I have heard described, have never seen such an installation for six-foot wide sheets of plywood ever — nice clean unwarped or wavy — to be laid out for the full length. One end of your copper tucked under one end of this "sheet" — taped or stapled there. The mesh rolled out along (on top of) the plywood at the far end, is again fastened to the last piece of plywood — with this sheet that sheet is tilted up at an angle or before the mesh is attached to it, the whole combine is then walked across, thus producing the tension desired.

The most recent arrivals on the market don't have stretching problems; the semi-permanent platform strip perforated aluminum sheet topped produced by Ben Zivkovic. Their weight, and the attendant need for storage areas, make them difficult in many situations where a few rolls could, however messy, could be more easily

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commodated. Properly bolted together, however, they make very efficient fencing strips. It's advisable to have a ratchet nut driver or two, of the right size naturally, on hand to keep the segments snugly butted together, since that's essential for the grounding. They have the additional great advantage, of course, of never ripping open or developing holes; no more soldering. If they get dirty they can be quickly burnished up with a steel wool sander (without wax, of course), and can be cleared of accumulated dust, etc., by a vacuuming. A vacuum cleaner can help a regular copper strip, too, after it's in use a couple of days: the metal mesh wears rubber off the fencers' shoes, and the fine dirty particles build up; they can cause slipping.

A final note: if the adhesive from a taping leaves some residue on the floor, try various solvents and elbow grease. A safe one that works is plain lighter fluid.

SAN ANTONIO MEANS EPEE

by Lewis J. Smith

During the past twenty years, Maitre Gerard Poujardieu has steadily increased the fencing skill and prestige of epee fencing in the San Antonio area. His technical training has created hundreds of epee fencers from athletes who arrived at the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center on Fort Sam Houston without any fencing experience. Fencers, such as Army Major Bill Matheson, John Fitzgerald and Greg Losey began their fencing career at the Modern Pentathlon salle under Maitre Poujardieu.

Most recently, the Training Center has hired Mr. Kai Czarniecki to work with Maitre Poujardieu in training the pentathletes, and he also coaches the U.S. epee intersquad team in San Antonio. Mr. Czarniecki had been one of the coaches for the Swedish National epee team from 1974 to 1977, where his pupil, Johan Harmenberg, won the 1977 epee world championship in Buenos Aires.

San Antonio continues to attract many of the finest epee fencers in the United States. The US epee intersquad group currently in training includes Paul Pesthy, Mark McCaslin, Greg Losey, John Moreau, Rod Marin, Orb Greenwald, John Fitzgerald and others. Arrangements to train in San Antonio can be made by contacting Mr. Kai Czarniecki at the training center, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78285.

Columbia Seeks Fencing Coach

Columbia University Head Coach Lou Bankuti has announced that he will retire at the end of the current fencing season. Columbia has a long tradition of excellence in collegiate fencing, especially during the period since 1949 under Coach Bankuti and his predecessors Irv DeKoff and Joe Velarde. Director of Athletics Al Paul has initiated a search for a replacement for this full time position which includes physical education class duties as well as coaching. Applicants should submit their qualifications to Mr. Al Paul at Room 436, Dodge Physical Fitness Center, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. The starting date for this position will be July 1, 1979 at the earliest, and September 1, 1979 at the latest.

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| Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00 |
| Class "A" | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00 |
| | or more | |
| 4. COLLEGIATE (18 thru 22 yrs.) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 8.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 |
| 5. STUDENT (Under 18 yrs.) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 4.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 |
| 1. LIFE | <input type="checkbox"/> \$225.00 | |
| CONTRIBUTION | | |
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| TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ | | |

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OPERETTA FENCING

The Michigan Opera Theatre production of Sigmund Romberg's boisterous operetta, "The Student Prince," had a few surprises tucked between the baritones and basses.

The second act includes a swashbuckling fight by two young fencers. It looked realistic because the young men knew how to wield their foils.

"We decided it would be a lot more authentic and quicker to have actual fencers, rather than to try to teach performers how to fence," explained Michigan Opera publicist Virginia Lark. "We made contact with the Michigan Division of the A.F.L.A., and that led us to Mark Wood and Jay Rees, who furnished the fancy swordplay."

"I've been into fencing since I was 6 years old," said Wood. He is a member of the South Macomb YMCA Fencing club which is coached by his father, Francis Wood. The elder Wood studied fencing at the University of Heidelberg for two years while stationed in Germany. By coincidence, the locale of the operetta was identified as that same university.

Rees is a junior at Royal Oak's Kimball High School. "I've been fencing for five years," he said. "I've taken lessons from

Dick Berry, a former national champion, at the South Oakland YMCA in Royal Oak."

Rees was ranked fourth in the Midwest Junior Epee in 1976 and placed 14th in the National Championships in Junior Epee the same year.

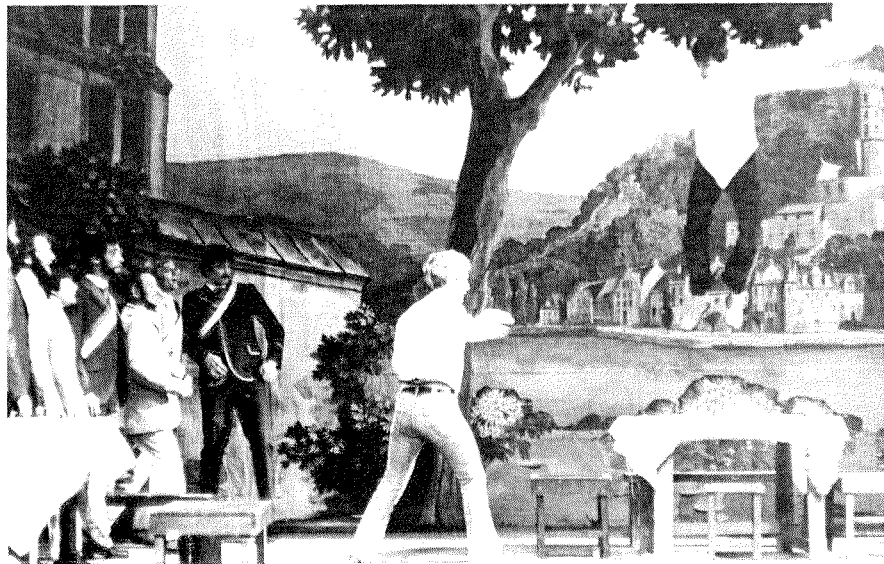
The young men choreographed their own scene for the operetta, which had the fencers jumping on and off tables.

"Most of what we did was Errol Flynn-type swashbuckling," explained Wood. "The swordfighting was there, like it was in the old movies, to impress the audience."

While waiting for their scene, the fencers practiced in the Music Hall lobby. For Rees, the show was a family production. His 17-year-old sister, Margaret, a former Junior Olympic fencer, was singing in the chorus.

The Michigan Opera Theatre presented seven performances of The Student Prince for a total audience of 14,000 people. Newspapers and television found the idea of trained fencers in an operetta novel and exciting and featured the fencers in stories and interviews. Even the critics commented favorably on the dashing swordplay.

Perhaps the most telling comment on the participation of the fencers was the fact that the director of the production arranged to have the fencers take a curtain call with the principal singers.



Mark Wood and Jay Rees

COMING ATTRACTIONS

1979 Mardi Gras Tournament

The 1979 Mardi Gras Tournament will be held February 23-25 at New Orleans with epee, women's foil and epee team as the featured events. Among the celebrity participants will be Brooke Makler, 1978 National Epee Champion, Paul Pesthy, former national champion, the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Epee Team, and Maestro Kaj Czarniecki, of the Modern Pentathlon Training Center.

Friday night before the competition there will be the traditional champagne reception with challenge bouts between leading fencers. A clinic on epee fencing will be held Sunday right before the team epee event.

As it is difficult to make flight reservations into New Orleans on the Mardi Gras weekend, and housing is also crowded, plan ahead. Contact Mr. Chris Trammell, 504-837-7314 (h) 488-1341 (w) for more information. The event in epee team is expected to feature various university fencing teams as well as club teams. The competition is sponsored by the New Orleans Fencers Club and the Tulane University Fencing Club.

1979 Tucson Grand International Pro-Am Fencing Championships

The Grand International in Tucson will be held from April 27 to April 29, 1979 in Tucson at the University of Arizona Women's Gym. Pre-Tourney check-in will be on April 26. Men's and Women's Foil and a Mexican dinner will take place on April 27. The desert breakfast, Men's and Women's Espada (1 touch Epee), Epee, Mixed Foil and Gala Night will be held on April 28. Women's Sabre and Epee and Men's Sabre on April 29. For entry write Grand International, P.O. Box 12771, Tucson, Ariz 85732. (602) 326-8984. Limit: 60 Fencers Each Event.



The Spartan Open at U

The First Annual Spartan Open will be held on 24 March 1979 at the Gymnasium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC.

The North Carolina Division of Fencing and the UNC-G Fencing Club will host this open competition in Men's and Women's Foil and Sabre.

Registration and weapon's check-in will begin at 8:00 a.m. Men's and Women's competition will begin at the conclusion of the awards presentation.

For further information, please contact Gary H Ray, Antonio S. 1655 Patton Avenue, Asheville, NC 28806.

The Andre Spitz Junior International Fencing Championships

This Junior International Championship is listed on the FIE calendar and sanctioned by the AFLA. It will be held in Tel Aviv, Israel, on the above dates. It is open to boys and girls, who have not yet reached the age of 18 before January 1, 1979. The religious requirement. The 10 day event includes international competitions, doubles tournament, excursions, and social activities. All expenses for transportation, board, lodging, etc. will be taken care of by the Israeli Fencing Federation. Fencers must only bring flight tickets in and out of Israel.

The U.S. has been invited to send a delegation of 8 fencers, one coach, and one official to the 1979 meet. Preference will be given to national junior point fencers. Last year Chris Bosco, Triton, and Richard Vidor went to the meet and, from all accounts, had a good time. If you are qualified and interested in going to Israel next summer for the championship, either as a fencer or a coach, contact Natalie Goodhart, Physical Education, State University of New York at Brockport, N.Y. 14420.



1979 Delegation: Richard Vidor, Chris Bosco, Tracey Burton, Sandy Vanderstacys, Natalie Goodhartz.

1979 WORLD UNIVERSIADE GAMES

The 1979 World Universiade Summer Games will be held in Mexico City from September 2nd to 13th. The present plans call for eighteen (18) sports teams from the United States to compete in Mexico City. Mexico expects 80 to 90 countries to be represented in the Games. The World Universiade is second only to the Olympics in matters of scope and diversity.

The members constituting the Fencing Games Committee of the United States Collegiate Sports Council include:

Professor Al Peredo, Chairman, Baruch College (CUNY), 17 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Professor Maxwell R. Garret, Secretary, The Pennsylvania State University, 267 Recreation Building, University Park, PA 16802

Mr. Irwin Bernstein, President, A.F.L.A., 249 Eton Place, Westfield, NJ 07090

Professor Michael DeCicco, University of Notre Dame, Administration Building, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Professor Charles Simonian, Ohio State University, Department of Physical Education and Athletics, Columbus Ohio 43210

During the committee's deliberations, the following eligibility requirements and procedure for selecting the United States' team were established.

USCSC Eligibility Rules for Athletes Participation in World University Games

The following may represent the USCSC in International University Sports Federation (FISU) sponsored events:

A. Undergraduate and Graduate Students:

1. Enrolled as a bona fide student at an institution and currently enrolled as a full time student, and must have participated in the last official examinations of that institution; or,

2. a "new" freshman student accepted for matriculation in the fall semester/quarter in the year of said FISU event; or

3. A former student who has graduated from an institution in the immediate one (calendar) year preceding the FISU event. For example, a student athlete who graduated in June, and who is not enrolled as a student in any two or four year college, or in graduate school, is eligible to represent the USCSC in FISU events through the following calendar year, i.e., a June 18, 1978 college graduate would be eligible through June 17, 1979; and

4. a citizen of the United States of America; and

5. at least 17 and less than 28 years of age on January 1 in the year of said FISU event; and

6. amateurs as intended by IOC and the appropriate National Sports Governing Body.

B. Undergraduate Students
1. All student-athletes must be under the Rules and regulations prescribed by the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or any other organization in which the student-athlete holds membership (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, or any other).

2. Special consideration will be given by the USCSC Board of Directors, up to those Student-Athletes at institutions that do not hold membership either the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA,

II. The procedure for selecting States fencing athletes for the World University Games for 1979 will be drawn by the USCSC expanded International Fencing Commission following the 1979 U.S.-AFLA National Championships. This expanded squad will be comprised by eligible point system, their point standing followed by the six (6) eligible fencers from the NIWFA Championships.

This selection process will be finalized based upon the following:

a. The point standing of a fencers;

b. Availability to participate in the

c. Physical condition of the athlete

d. Meeting eligibility requirements above stated USCSC Eligibility Rules for Athletes in World University Games

Those who meet these requirements wish to be considered, please complete application form from the Secretariat, Games Committee, Professor N. Garret.

RESULTS

Foreign Fencers Spice Southeast Texas Tournament

by Lewis J. Smith

Southwest Texas State University hosted an international field of fencers during its third meet of the new season on October 7-8, 1978. Entries included 56 individuals representing five countries and seven teams.

The epee' competition was brilliant with fencers from Great Britain, Puerto Rico, Sweden and Australia duelling for honors with American entries. The United States was represented by members of the US epee' intersquad, US Modern Pentathlon, Rio, EC, Trinity U., San Antonio, ES, Salle

Sebastiani of Houston, Itinerant Fencing Club of Dallas-Fort Worth, SWTSU.

Dr. Bob Hurley, Salle Sebastiani swept the Group I event by emerging victorious in a tough finale.

The Southwest Texas State Fencers swept the top six places in the men's sabre and women's sabre. Steph and Wendy McClain led the finishers.

FINAL RESULTS:

EPEE (38)

1. Dr. Bob Hurley, 5-0, Salle Sebastiani
2. John Morgan, 4-1, SWTSU

TEXAS TOURNAMENT

3. Tim Glass, 3-2, Salle Sebastiani

MEN'S SABRE

1. Stephen Hardin, 4-1, SWTSU
2. Howard Williams, 4-1, SWTSU
3. Jeff Hammond, 2-3, SWTSU

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. Wendy McClain, 4-1, SWTSU
2. Kathi Mitchell, 3-2, SWTSU
3. Mary Land, 3-2, SWTSU

2nd Annual Ohio College Individual Fencing Championships

Men's Foil:

- 1) Fred Hill, Ohio State
- 2) Perry Newman, Oberlin College
- 3) Tom Nagy, Cleveland State

Women's Foil:

- 1) Elizabeth Dienes, Case Western Reserve
- 2) Wilma Friedman, OC
- 3) Sonia Mawby, OC

Sabre:

- 1) Joe Fazekas, CSU
- 2) Bill Coleman, OSU
- 3) Tom Deeter, OSU

Epee:

- 1) Pat Van De Motter, CSU
- 2) Carlo Songini, CSU
- 3) Jeff Spellerberg, OSU

Canadian Heros Fencing Tournament • London/Ontario

Total Entries: 205

FINALISTS

MEN'S FOIL:

1st BENKO Greg, FAM - 2nd SIMON Ernie, FAM - 3rd GERARD Pat, N.O. - 4th BIEBEL Joe, U of W - 5th POYD Kenneth, U of M. - 6th FEDEL Abba, Alcazar

LADIES FOIL:

1st McAVOY Donna, Harm. - 2nd BALZ Pati, Harm. - 3rd BERGENSTEIN Karen, R.A. - 4th COGIATI Paulette, R.A. - 5th SAURER Estelita, S.D. - 6th CARTER Cynthia, Washington

EPEE:

1st SONGINI Carlos, C.S.U. - 2nd PEZZA Gil, FAM - 3rd LANDERS Bill, DCFC - 4th REITH Bill, Alcazar - 5th FEDEL Abbas, Alcazar - 6th ZNOY Joe, L & S

SABRE:

1st DANOSI Steve, Fam - 2nd SUKUNDA Eli, WM - 3rd FAZEKAS Joe, Clev. - 4th NAGORNY Frank, SK - 5th NADASZY Frank, R.A. - 6th LONGSTREET Ed, IFL

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Csizar Invitational Tournament

By Connie Latzko

Maestro Lajos Csizar watched the eighth running of the tournament in his honor on December 2 & 3, 1978 at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

He saw 41 women fence two rounds of pools, a direct elimination and a final of 6. He was pleased to see Jana Angelakis, a high school student from Peabody, Mass. win undefeated in the final on Saturday.

On Sunday 47 epee fencers met in a series of pools and direct elimination to a final round of 6. Lee Shelley, a previous winner, defeated Hurme Risto, a previous winner, in a fence off.

An experienced crew of Csizar Tournament cadre, headed by Dave Micahnik, coach at U. of Pa., bout committed by Bill Latzko, and directed by Marie Koch, Peter Bergmann and Marius Valsamis, as well as many volunteers, contributed to the pleasure of Maestro Lajos at his tournament.

Results:

Women (41 entries)

1. Jana Angelakis, Tanner City FC
2. Jeannette Faulkner, Csizar
3. Shiela Armstrong, Salle Santelli
4. Sherry Marcy, N.Y.F.C.
5. Emily Grompone, N.Y.F.C.
6. Sally Emery, Salle Csizar

Epee (47 entries)

1. Lee Shelley, Salle Orsi
2. Risto Hurme, NYU Club
3. John Fitzgerald, U.S. Mod. Pent.
4. Robert Yarrison, Richards
5. Tim Glass, Salle Sebastiani
6. Greg Losey, U.S. Mod. Pent.

Tournament Results So. Calif. Division

Epee-Men

1. Koch - 49ers
2. Mutschenbacher - Un.
3. Fitzharris - 49ers

Epee - Women

1. Chapman - Mori
2. Guzenske - LAAC
3. Pukerton - Un.

Sabre - Men

1. Randolph - Un
2. Johnson - Un.
3. Carter - Un.

Foil - Women

1. Badders - LAAC
2. Miller - Un.
3. Christmas - LAAC

Foil - Men

1. Halstead - San Diego
2. Gelnaw - Gascon
3. Van Hausen - Mori

MARATHON EPE

BY G. Nelson

Johan Harmenberg, 1977 EJC Championship and World Cup v Sweden, led the two-day open nament sponsored by the U.S. Matlhlon Training Center and the S Epee Squad at the Roadrunner Center, Ft. Sam Houston. I (November 24 and 25) of the ev tuted a separate competition, fror overall ranking was determined system. The preliminary rounds w in pools of six, followed by a ten t elimination table of 32 with repec used in international competition, final pool of six completing each sixty entries. Fencers from Austria Great Britain, Sweden, West Ge well as a strong contingent from Coast got their money's worth fr centrated competition. The two weapon event proved to be a wor session for the epee fencers, allc to put into practice immediately may have learned the previous two-day schedule also provided r in actual competition per travel d per fencer, and provided muc international-style experience.

Salle Sebastiani in Houston ranked in the final listing, with Joe Al Peters fourth, and Robert H Peter Schifrin was the only other sides Harmenberg to make the finc days, giving him second place. special award was presented to F der for his generous support of fen San Antonio area.

The Pentathlon Open has been scheduled for March 17-18, 1978 Antonio, with special guests to ir 1978 Polish World Champions tathlon team. For further informati contact: U.S. Modern Pentathlon Center, Ft. Sam Houston, San Texas 78234.

RESULTS

First Day

1. Johan Harmenberg, Sweden (
2. Peter Schifrin, San Jose (3-2)
3. Greg Losey, Pentathlon (3-2)

Second Day

1. Johan Harmenberg, Sweden (
2. Paul Pesthy, San Antonio (3-2)