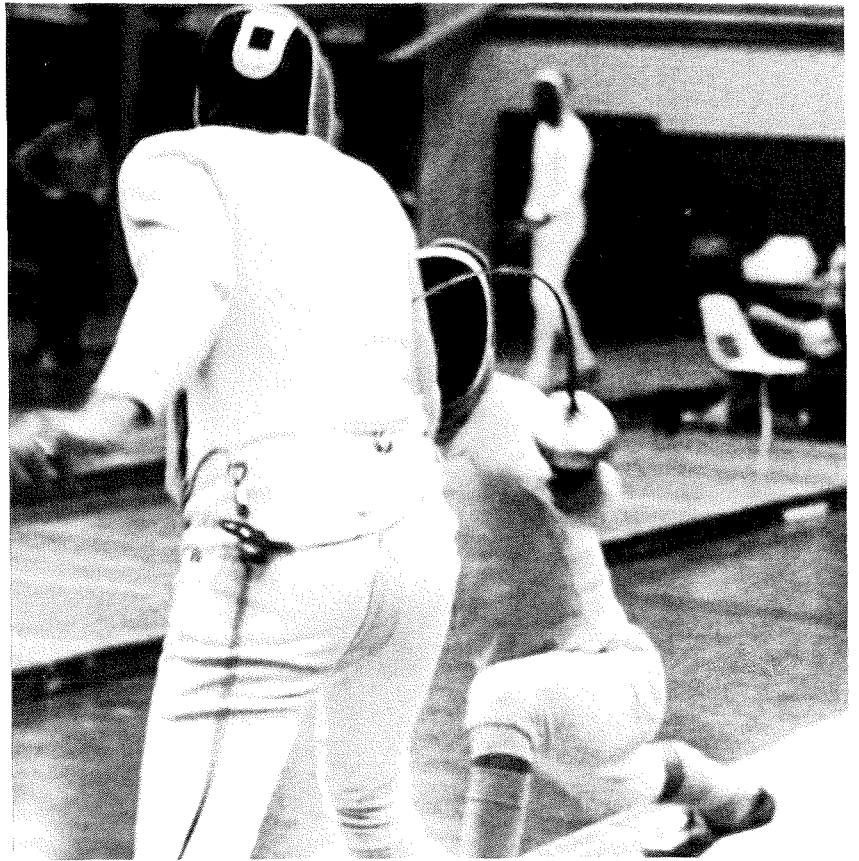


MAY/JUNE 1981
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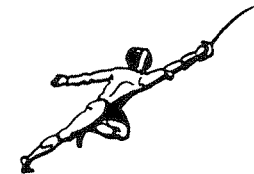
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Issue Date	Closing Date For Copy	Mailing Date
JUL/AUG	JUN 10	AUG 1
SEP/OCT	AUG 10	OCT 1
NOV/DEC	OCT 10	NOV 1

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ON THE COVER

*Peter Schifrin (right) scores at
Glass at the 1981 Pentathlon Op
(Photo by G. Nelson).*

Editorial

The response to our announced photo contest has been surprisingly good. It is particularly heartening to receive entries from all parts of the country. We hope that more readers will be inspired to send in their photos, either classic or comic. Our photo contest jury, whose composition has not yet been completed, will be hard put to decide which entries are the best. Winners will be announced in our next issue.

Within these covers are articles by two of our more thoughtful officials, Irwin Bernstein and William Goering, on what to do about improving our Jr. Olympic competitions. Each has some valuable suggestions, based on long experience in the evolution of our junior programs to date.

It has been your editor's experience, in past dealings with junior programs, that most of the fencing community is more willing to accept changes in junior programs and competitions than it is to change its "senior" conceptions. This is probably due to the conservative element in our "older" (Over-20!) fencers, who hesitate to leap into

strange territory without first experimenting with the junior experience to see what happens.

So be it. Let us then push on with our ground-breaking junior concepts. Regional or sectional emphasis is looming larger and larger, no matter how we may squirm to avoid it. IF we had a more satisfactory method to select our elite Jr. fencers, PLUS more regionally oriented opportunities for competition for our younger fencers, we would build a broader-based, over-all Jr. program. Each of these two elements is of equal importance and should not be ignored. A new program should incorporate both elements.

Should the National U-19s be abandoned (a perennial question) in favor of attaining points for the World U-20s through our regular National Circuit events? What should be our policy in regard to the U-16 and U-14 events? How can our sections be re-aligned, both geographically and numerically, so that they can all be on a more equal footing? This last question touches on some "older" basic concepts, but it is high time we reconsider all of the above together and arrive at better solutions to our present problems than those we are now pursuing.

---MTH

From the President

When there is a finite amount of money it cannot be spread infinitely. You cannot increase the allotment to one program without decreasing the allotment to another. It's as simple as that.

The approximately \$105,000 allocated to us by the USOC sounds like a lot of moolah, doesn't it? But when its parcelled out among the worthwhile projects it becomes totally inadequate. The USOC expects us to use this money primarily to help the top athletes so, of course, we abide by its wishes.

We expect our top athletes to attend at least three out of four circuit events but we can pay only a part of their expenses. We want our best junior and senior fencers to attend their respective World Championships accompanied by our most experienced coaches and best supporting cadre largely at their own expense. We want our juniors to compete in the circuit events. We want to establish fencing centers where the coaches are paid by us to give lessons to the top fencers. We should pay the equipment costs of our best fencers. We should send teams to foreign competitions under carefully restricted circumstances. Our Junior Program should be in high gear. We want I could go on and on indefinitely.

They all take money.

Until and unless we get more money from outside sources we will have to stumble along in our usual penurious fashion. The only way we can beef up one program now is to take money away from another program. All our programs are worthwhile; all are underfunded. So when someone presents the valid and logical arguments as to why a certain program should have a larger allocation I ask that person which of the programs should be axed to provide the funds. This is considered unfriendly and not the least bit creative.

How our dues money is to be spent is decided by the AFLA Board of Directors. After you extract the absolutely necessary costs (printing and mailing the magazine, out of pocket costs of the secretaries office etc.) there isn't much left. The officers, directors and many others donate a perfectly as-

tonishing amount of time and are o
ket a perfectly astonishing amount
to keep this organization going. C
ally I start grumbling to myself a
amount of work that is entailed in t
the League with its multitudinous
verse problems. Then I think about
the precious time and the money th
are giving and feel a great pride th
fencer and am privileged to assoc
such fine people.

We will be publishing a new Ru
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This is a message to members o
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Remember that deadbeats not c
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congratulatory voice "I beat the sys
didn't beat the system, he is just c

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listening.

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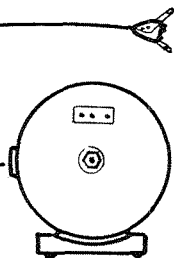
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor;

"A Bit of Fencing History Via American Fencing," (Mar/Apr) leaves a few things unmentioned. It was brought out that Mike, Bill, and Dernel met at the trains each morning, but where? It was Westchester, "The Birthplace of AMERICAN FENCING magazine."

The first issue, dated November 1949, had Mike's picture on the cover. One might check inside for some well known names in fencing. They still sponsor, manage and direct competitions here in Westchester. And notice who is Chairman of the Division - Dernel Every. He attends the Chappaqua Club workouts every Thursday night, and helps teach many youngsters -- and oldsters -- his fine touch. Has he slowed down? Well, after 55 years of fencing, a little. The legs, yes. But not the hand. Still fast with fine point control.

Regards,
Paul Anderson, Westchester Division



Dear Editor;

The Brewery Blades Fencing Club was formed last year in Carson City, Nevada, and its beginning in an area stereotyped with cowboys, rattlesnakes, and prospectors is rather interesting.

It began with a contractors' secretary meeting a client at the local arts and crafts gathering place called the Arts Alliance. One thing led to another and a tour of the building was begun that ended in a large multi-purpose room. The secretary said to the client, "You should give a fencing class in here." The idea stuck.

A few months later the first beginning fencing class was held. Its first students were of various ages and backgrounds. Their reasons for attending were varied also. Some had fenced elsewhere and wanted to continue. Others thought the idea intriguing. I had found, through hypnotic age regression, that in another life I had been trained in the sword and I wanted to see how easily that ability could be brought back.

The class went very well and led to another class with some new faces. A comradeship developed and good friendships grew. We not only had fun learning to fence,

we had fun afterward at the corner bar.

One night when the group was together, someone joked about the "Brewery Blades." Everyone laughed but soon after that people started to talk about it. Soon there were several "gentlemen's agreements" concerning the club, everyone interested was invited to an organizational meeting, where a by-laws committee was set up and interim board members were elected. We were soon incorporated and the ball was rolling. The multi-purpose room was made available for a small fee and was our "home" in the early stages.

The club is experiencing a slow, strong growth. With the aid of demonstrations, we hope to promote the Arts Alliance, their fencing classes, our club, and the art of fencing.

Sincerely,

Dan V. Brewster
Sec., Brewery Blades
Carson City, Nevada



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ENGRAVINGS IN STEEL PART IV (FINAL EXCERPT)

SALTO INDIETRO (THE JUMP-BACK)

Mobility - speedy, authoritative footwork is the hallmark of the modern foil fencer. Exchanges can cover the entire length of the strip several times before a touch is actually scored, and except for close quarter combat, you rarely, if ever, will see the static toe-to-toe phrasing of yesteryear. Therefore, the faster one is able to cover distance, either forward or backward, the better.

The Salto Indietro, commonly known as the jump-back, was generally only in the sabre fencer's bag of tricks. The advent of the electrical weapon brought many changes to foil fencing, not the least of which was increased mobility. The foil fencers were quick to seize upon, and incorporate in their footwork, what had once been in the sabreur's private domain: the Salto Indietro.

When a fencer is hard pressed to keep distance against a speedy Balestra or Fleche, a well executed jump-back is far

by *Giorgio Santelli and Edward*
superior to simple retreating. Not on later distance covered in a shorter tin properly performed, the jump-back leave the fencer in correct on guard; in balance, and ready to defend his counter attack. The beauty of the indietro is that even when redoubt fencer will find himself in a perfect pared position IN BALANCE and move again freely and with ease.

Methodology:

Assuming that the fencer is right pass the forward foot to the right six rear foot, and using the ball of your foot to the rear. The rear foot should jump the normal on guard position a fraction second after the right foot has moved we have, as in the Balestra, a syn movement, quite difficult to learn correctly, but well worth the study.

Remember, in fencing, **DIS
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THE STORY OF THE MONTH

By John Bleakly, as told to him by David Green, both of the Oklahoma Division and the Oklahoma City Fencing Club.

This incident took place late one evening in June of 1980. Dave Green, high school band director and amateur fencing coach in Noble, Oklahoma, had just stepped out of the shower in the gym when he heard a disturbance outside. Everyone else had gone home. Only his car, carrying over a thousand dollars worth of drum equipment, remained in the parking lot. Taking no time to dress, Dave threw on his hooded robe (a Darth Vader version he uses as a warmup cover) and rushed towards the door. In his haste, he brushed against the weapons rack and knocked down a new practice foil that had not been tipped. Sweeping up the foil, Dave raged into the night.

A startled thief, drum in hand, wheeled around to find himself face to face with an apparent madman. Approached with a thrust blade, he brought the drum up to protect his chest. The point disengaged to the low line, and the thief responded by shifting the drum. Back to the chest went the drum when the point came back up in line.

Confused, frightened, and staring out through the clear surface of the drum, he saw a naked, caped lunatic extending a weapon towards his face. "Take it easy, man," the would-be robber finally pleaded.

Dave, keeping his point on-target, directed the man to load his drums back into the car. All the while, the thief's accomplice sat cowering at the wheel of their van. Dave memorized their license number as they sped off into the night.

The police were able to trace the culprits. As yet, nothing has been done since nothing was actually stolen. Dave Green is simply glad to still have his instruments. Dave's testimonial: "My appreciation for fencing skills has increased. Fencing saved my drumsCan you beat that?"



NEW DIRECTIONS IN YOUTH PROGRAM

by Irwin Bernstein, Past-Presic

Those of us active in AFLA administration find it easy to renew our enthusiasm for fencing each February. We just have to attend the National Junior Olympic Championships and see the excellence of so many of our young fencers and the dedication of their parents and the numerous AFLA officials and administrators who contribute so much to the tournament.

This weekend is also an appropriate one for sharing ideas on issues related to our Youth Program - particularly with regard to the tournament aspect. Among the ideas that have bounced around in recent years, I suggest the following as worthy of consideration.

1. The J. O. Tournament, like the Nationals, has grown too large to be staged in any but very big facilities in areas where equipment and officials can be assembled in major quantities. Unlike the Nationals, however, a 3 day weekend leaves very little room for schedule manipulation - since 1980 we have even had to hold the February Board of Directors Meeting on Friday night.

My recommendation is that we modify the National Under 16 from the way it is presently constituted. I do not believe that all promising young fencers need the reward or pressure of a national event at 15 years of age. The best of our "mature" young fencers will qualify for the Under 20 event; the others should work up to a national event.

2. In the course of modifying the rules for individual qualification to the adult nationals, a valid concern was expressed about giving the Sections a greater responsibility in the qualifying process. I would do so by having the Sections run Under 16 Events as the major championships for that age group. This would give the Sections a unique responsibility and perhaps lead them to operate more directly in the overall Youth Program - for exam-

ple by holding clinics for coach concentrate on young fence could then bring just the \$ Champions to a National Uni with travel subsidy.

3. For the past few years, as the N. J. O. Championships has grown in stature, there has been questioning of the continuation Under 19 events during the nationals. Typically, the 8 days nationals is very overcrowded even though the Under 19 events are relatively small they do add burden. More importantly, they receive the kind of attention they deserve.

The main reason for retaining Under 19's in recent years is to have the results of 2 event selection of the Under 20 (though the February event is rated much higher). Now that we have the North American Circuit, we again consider eliminating the Under 19 at the Nationals, and some points earned at the (adult) events to supplement the F Under 20. In addition to the change of using results more recent, 10 months prior to the World U (at Easter), it would recognize Under 20 fencers must be able to compete effectively with adult country if they are to perform fully in the World Under 20.

I am very proud of the progress made in our Youth tournaments over the years but I think it would be wrong to stop our laurels. We must always be courageous enough to try those that have the potential for improving our programs in the future.



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	Men's Sabre Team	1:00 pm
Sun., June 7	Men's Foil	9:00 am
	Women's Foil Team	11:00 am
	Men's Sabre	12:00 noon

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ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Named by the U.S. Olympic Committee as Athletes of the Year 1980 in fencing are Peter Westbrook and Nikki Franke. Peter was cited for being two time Olympian, four times national champion, and a medalist in the 1975 and 1979 Pan American Games. Nikki has been a national championships medalist for the past five years (first place in 1980) and a member of the 1976 and 1980 U.S. Olympic Team.

Our congratulations to these two outstanding representatives of our sport!

Our new AFLA - NFCA JOB REFERRAL SERVICE (Mar/Apr issue) has asked that all pertinent information sent to it be contained on **one** sheet of paper only. Once contact has been established, the parties may seek or send further information directly to each other.

THE JUNIOR OLYMPICS A FORMAT ANALYSIS

By William Go

The 1981 Junior Olympics Championships held in Cleveland are now history. Bill Reith and his committees organized well, had enough volunteers and did an especially fine job with the electrical apparatus. These are prerequisites for any large event, and the Northern Ohio Division deserves the credit and congratulations that were often expressed by competitors and spectators. The competitive results have been reported elsewhere, but as Bout Committee Chairman, I observed some of the organizational results that also need reporting to guide the running of future events. The number of entries in each event were:

Number of Competitors in Junior Olympic Events*

	Men's		Women's	
	Foil	Foil	Sabre	Epee
Under 20	92 (8)	85 (2)	62 (7)	69 (4)
Under 16	57 (4)	44 (0)	27 (0)	33 (2)

*Number of alternates in parenthesis

The reason for reporting these numbers is that those for the Under 20 Events are approaching the maximum of 96 for any **one-day event**. The reasoning to reach this number is as follows:

Assuming an 8:00 am start, 12 hours are available to reach the final if it starts at 8:00 pm. For large events, 3 hours must be allowed for each round (more if pools of 7 or 8 are used) so at most, only 4 rounds may be fenced prior to the final. For a pool format, the maximum number of original entries that can be reduced to a final of 6 in 4 rounds is 96; i.e., 96-48-24-12.

For a direct elimination/repechage format (as in the JO's) a round of 32 must be arranged. A reduction from 32 to the final of 8 is equivalent to 2 pools (4-6) hours), so there is only time for two preliminary rounds prior to reaching 32. The rounds just prior to the round of 32 must be 48 (56 or 64 are possible, but require unwieldy pools of 7 and 8), so again, 96 is the maximum original entry.

For the JO's, three events must be run on each of two of the three days, and the entry for the second and third events is limited by the number of strips. If 24 are available (a reasonable number -- see below) and three rounds are the limit an entry of 56 can be tolerated for the second event **if** it starts at

8:00 am (to allow extra time for seven fencer pools). The third event entry must be limited to 48 because it must start after the round and thus, can only have 3 rounds of 6. Note that the Under 20 even men's foil and women's foil are approaching the 96 fencer entry limit and the Under 16 entry is at the maximum for a second event. Unless some action is taken now, the event will be too big to handle in 1982.

The only reasonable action is to limit the entry because the following alternative even more undesirable:

- A four-day tournament with 2 events per day gains little because 96 is the limit for a one-day event and the strips limit the second event to 8 strips.
- A five-day tournament with two per major event means too much away from school and work for competitors (many of whom fence two or three events) and officials.
- Increasing the number of strips to 36 severely restricts the sites available for the JO's and escalate the number of officials. (For a fully utilized 24-strip venue, 32 jury president required. In Cleveland, 31 w/c Saturday, 30 on Sunday, and 22 Monday).
- Separating the Under 16 from the Under 20 Championships will reduce the entry for both, but gains nothing as long as the Under 16 events can be accommodated on 8 strips.

Therefore, to contain the JO's to a schedule on 24 strips, the entry to the Under 20 events must be limited to 96 and the Under 16 events to 48 except the events may accept 56. There are several methods to accomplish this. One is to limit the entry after the limit is reached, but accepting entries by receipt date will require some alternates pre-empting regular officials and may penalize fencers in dividing late qualifying rounds. A better method is to accept all regular entries the closing date, and then fill the remaining slots with alternates first by their ranking, then by entry date or drawing. Note that in Cleveland, alternates were

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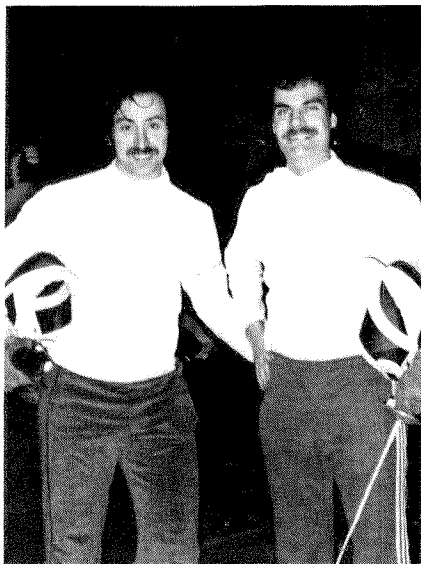
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Birmingham, Alabama 35294
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or Ms. Elaine McDowell
(205) 933-4247

vailable to balance the entry in all Under 20 events, and the only event to exceed the proposed limit was the Under 16 Men's Foil event. This event could have been held to the proposed limit by refusing entry to one alternate. When (or if) regular entries exceed the proposed limits, other means for limiting entry must be found; these may include entry by earned ranking or by date of entry.

Aside from the matter of controlling the tournament, a fixed entry leads directly to a fixed schedule that has many other benefits. The Organizing Committee can standardize (and advertise) the start times, the final start, and the award ceremonies in advance and be certain of meeting the schedule. The finals of the Under 20 events can be scheduled for 8:00 on the first two nights of the tournament and perhaps for 6:00 p.m. on Monday. This scheduling will allow media coverage and get the results in the newspaper, thus overcoming a major criticism of our previous scheduling. This scheduling allows the Bout Committee to schedule and better utilize jury presidents and other officials. Finally, the spectators and the competitors will know when the fencing starts and when they can expect to finish.



John Nonna (left) and Marty Lang at the D'Asaro Foil. (AF staff photo).

THE AFLA INTERNATIONAL SABRE

By Jack Kee

When the flailing was over, Dalla Barba was champion by the score 10-5, annexing his second New York tournament title and his first ever World Cup win.

The 24-year-old medical student's victory broke the Hungarian string of three straight World Cup wins. Gedovari had won previously in Moscow and Pal Gerevich had triumphed in Warsaw and Hamburg. Maffei had to be content with third place, defeating Jean Francois Lamour of France in the consolation bracket. Lamour had eliminated Gedovari in the round of eight in the most exciting fight of the finals. Down 3-0, the broad-shouldered Frenchman refused to fold as he took the fight to the lanky Hungarian. His grit payed off in a 10-7 win.

The full national teams of Canada, Cuba, England, France, Hungary, Italy, Venezuela, and the U.S. started the competition. Ninety-six fencers, of whom thirty-five were foreign, were pared down over three rounds. The Direct Elimination phase began at sixteen fencers.

Reaching the round of sixteen were Phil Reilly and, interestingly, Csaba Gall, returning to the wars after a couple of years of semi-retirement, both going out with double defeats.

In the round of twenty-four, three more American names appeared: the fast rising George Gonzalez-Rivas of the NYAC, Joe Marotta, the improving little righty from the Fencers Club of NY, and the veteran Alex Orban.

Other American threats who departed earlier were Steve Mormando, Mike Sullivan, Stanley Lekach, Joel Glucksman, and Paul Friedberg.

Only one Cuban reached the D.E. phase, Manuel "The Horse" Ortiz. No Canadians, English, or Venezuelans made it.

The talk of the tournament, both in the individual as well as the earlier team event, were the young Frenchmen. Led by Lamour, France placed third in the team event and had all four of its fencers in the last sixteen. Besides Lamour and Gaudet, Herv'e Granger-Veron, who finished thirteenth, and Frank Berthier, fifteenth, had distinguished tournaments. Granger-Vernon nearly dispatched Maffei in the D.E., losing by one

Their third place performance in the team event was likewise powerful. The event was won by Hungary, with four victories. The powerful Magyars, composed of Gedov Gerevich, Rudi Nebald, Gyorgy Nebald, and Zoltan Nagyhazi, won their matches against Cuba, France, England, and the U.S. with identical 12-4 scores. They are undefeated in team this season.

Hungary's fight against Italy never came off because Italy withdrew after scoring two victories, because of injuries.

Cuba, which had lost to Italy, moved to second place with victories over England, Canada, and the U.S. France, with two victories over England and the U.S., took third. The Cuba-France fight which opened the tournament was blood-bath. Guzman Salazar's mask slipped off his head when Berthier parried him and he received a riposte that travelled down his forehead, narrowly missing his eye. The next day, he looked as if he had two heads so pronounced was the swelling.

The United States, fencing with Westbrook, who had suffered a broken thumb in training, salvaged a little dignity with a 10-6 victory over the English squad of Cohen, Jaine, Slade, and Keleman.

When the U.S. fences a team such as England, there appears to be a confidence level present - even without Westbrook - which shows our fencing off well. But when faced with dynamic, pressing squads such as Cuba and France, the parry-riposte ability of Westbrook is sorely missed. We lose a good number of fights 5-4 because of the unrelenting pressure of such opponents. The parry-riposte is the solution, but the counter-attack or an unwise second intention gets us into constant trouble.

Although the U.S. lost both these fights by wide margins, the actual technical content of the matches did not suggest this wide margin. The U.S. team is simply lacking in competitive toughness and the only way to get them to fence as a team, together and often, in the international arena. Even without the presence of the redoubtable Westbrook, the team showed decently. The unit consisted of Stan Lekach, Edgar House, Joel Glucksman, Phil Reilly, and Steve B



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The team event assures the maximum complement of international fencers in the individual event and is a *raison d'être* for federations to send their best on this long journey. Next year, the event will probably be expanded to include Poland, Bulgaria, Roumania, and, if a Cultural Exchange classification can be arranged, Russia.

Much of the popularity of the New York event with foreign entrants can be traced to the "openness and objectivity" in the directing and judging. A team or an individual with something to show or prove has a proper chance and doesn't fall victim to some unexplained set of circumstances. The teams are eager to fence here, therefore, and show at their best.

Concerning the technical level of the tournament, there is no doubt that the running attack is the order of the day. The fencers rarely go to the lunge as routine. They stand on their feet, well balanced, and save the lunge for doubles. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the winning touch by Dalla Barba came off a balestra lunge with battement against Nebald. Prior to this, they had exchanged actions utilizing running footwork only. The lunge movement took Nebald completely by surprise and gave Dalla Barba the coveted title.

A very disturbing element in the competition was the resurfacing of the "bent arm" attack. This was honored by some foreign presidents, even when the action was egregious. The F.I.E. had addressed this problem in a special congress in Budapest in the fall of 1976 and called for severe judgments against the "bent arm" by suggesting to presidents that they should favor the counter action. This has held up since then, but there was clear evidence that slippage was occurring. Only Miklos Meszena of Hungary penalized the "bent arm" with regularity.

This is a serious matter because it is disturbing to fencers who see a tempo, make a counter action, yet find themselves getting a touch against. It throws all the fencing off. The special Congress said the bent arm should not be tolerated because it was harming sabre fencing and, indeed, it has that potential. Let's hope it was just jet-lag or something.



RESULTS:

Name	World C. Pts.	Country
1) Dalla Barba	16	ITA
2) Nebald, R.	14	HUN
3) Maffei	12	ITA
4) Lamour	10	FRA
5) Gedovari	9	HUN
6) Meglio	8	ITA
7) Scalzo	6	ITA
8) Gaudet	6	FRA
9) Rurnario	4	ITA
10) Nagyhazi	4	HUN
11) Gerevich	4	HUN
12) Ortiz, M.	4	CUB
13) Granger-V.	3	FRA
14) Reilly	3	USA
15) Berthier	3	FRA
16) Gall	3	USA
17) Nebald, G.	2	HUN
18) Banos, JM	2	CAN
19) Lavoie	2	CAN
20) Banos, JP	2	CAN
21) Gonzales-Riv.	2	USA
22) Ortiz, J.	2	CUB
23) Orban	2	USA
24) Marotte	2	USA
25) Marmondo	1	USA
26) Cohen	1	GB
27) Lekach	1	USA
28) Glucksman	1	USA
29T Salazar	1	CUB
29T Slade	1	GB
31) Freidberg, P.	1	USA
32) Sullivan	1	USA

GENERAL DYNAMICS ON THE CIRCUIT

By Dan DeChaine

The sixth annual General Dynamics Open, hosted by the Southern California Division of the AFLA, and organized by Salle Borracho of General Dynamics, was held at Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys, California on March 28 and 29.

The two-day meet included four events -- men's individual epee (the Circuit event), men's team epee, and ladies individual epee and foil. The meet drew a total of 93 fencers (69 in the men's epee) and 9 teams.

According to the participants, the meet was an unqualified success, both in the quality of the fencing, and the organization. Salle Borracho, the organizer of the meet, is sponsored by the General Dynamics Corporation, Pomona Division, through the company's recreation association. This industry support of the fencing club has helped the club to grow and organize the annual Epee Open, and this year, to sponsor this major event.

SOVIET AMATEURISM

Editor's note: The following appeared in AMERICAN FENCING, June, 1956 (25 years ago). We think the remarks are still pertinent.

To the Editor of American Fencing:

Thank you for the very interesting article titled, "The Rise of Soviet Fencing" in the February issue ... It has been many years since I have personally met any Russian fencers, and at that time the world picture was of a vastly different character. Recently, however, I have heard and read many rumors about Soviet athletes: these rumors seemed to place Russian athletic contenders quite a long distance outside the pale of amateur sportsmen; indeed considering them as professionals, subsidized by their government.

The article in question appears to accept their fencers as being acceptably within the amateur ranks. I would like to ask what is the attitude of the national and international governing bodies of amateur fencing concerning this question. Your reply will be much appreciated, especially in view of Mr. Brundage's recent dictum about an American distance runner's Olympic eligibility.

Sincerely,
THEODORE JEROME,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Editor's Reply

The question raised by Professor Jerome has been officially answered by the International Olympic Committee, after careful investigation, in the acceptance of Soviet entries for the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games. The Soviet Union and its satellites are also members in good standing of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime. Absent concrete proof to the contrary in individual cases, the presumption is that Soviet fencers and other athletes certified to be amateurs are amateurs.

Fencing in the United States has the most uncompromising amateur code. Yet we love our teachers and respect the avowed professional. We discipline the fencer who violates the code, not because of the money involved, but because he perpetrates a

fraud on those who have agreed to abide the rules. In other countries and in other sports, our standards may seem unduly rigid and unrealistic; certainly we have granted that with us the temptations are and far between, compared with those sports which attract large crowds of spectators. The argument is that distinction in any area of human activity inevitably brings collateral rewards, and even our most "amateur" fencing champions will probably derive some incidental and indirect benefits from their athletic skill.

It is extremely difficult to draft a simple and satisfactory amateur code, and decisions under it will often involve hard splitting. The reason is that our views are likely to be determined by what is familiar to us, and to be colored by the very human tendency to see our neighbor's faults not our own. Thus we hear with distrust of athletes in totalitarian countries trained for long periods at government expense think nothing of the armed forces assign personnel to convenient training centers when the Olympic Games are in the offing. We severely criticize special rewards for athletic "heroes of the fatherland," but grant athletic scholarships, and rewards for athletes which pay more than the present skill of the employee warrants. Perhaps the difference is a matter of degree rather than principle.

At any rate, the Soviets regard as ridiculous the questions raised about amateurism of their athletes. Of course they are paid by the government — everybody in their country works for the government. I see little difference between special promotion programs by their government and those arranged by our local communities, colleges, business enterprises, athletic clubs, etc. They claim that in their sports are avocational, that their athletes have regular non-athletic jobs, and that in their country it is not possible (as it sometimes is in other countries) for an athlete to make a living without other visible employment.

continued page

September 30, 1980. Advance! Advance! Advance! It was not an unusual sound; anyone who had fenced at the Pentathlon Fencing Salle in San Antonio had probably heard it thousands of times. There was nothing unusual about the mix of fencers there that evening: some members of the Olympic Team, Pentathletes of varying degrees of age and experience, one beginner who had fenced for less than two months, one veteran of more than fifteen years, three women Pentathletes competing in epee, two or three foreigners. The scoring machines buzzed and on one piste Maitre Poujardieu walked backwards, giving a lesson. Perhaps the only thing unusual in Building 2065, Ft. Sam Houston, was a bottle of wine -- to celebrate "Pouj's" retirement -- it was his last official evening of supervising fencing training at the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center, after more than 21 years of service. Mr. Poujardieu was one of the founders of the South Texas Division of the AFLA and established the Pentathlon Open Fencing Tournament more than 19 years ago. Through the Pentathlon Salle have passed many of the outstanding epee fencers of this country. The following interview expresses some of "Pouj's" thoughts on American fencing.

- Q.** *I understand that you retired, a few months ago, as a fencing coach at the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center, after almost 22 years of teaching there. What are your present activities?*
- A.** At the age of 65 I still teach at the Hacienda Recreation Center, Fort Sam Houston, twice a week, a program started some ten years ago.
- Last fall I began to teach at Trinity University, where I started to transform an intramural curriculum into an intercollegiate and AFLA participation.
- A few weeks ago took place, in Austin, the 1981 Texas intercollegiate

championships. Only two of the many participants were formed by me, but performed more than honorably: Jim Cherry won the men's foil and was third in epee; Helen Valkavich, still a freshman, won the women's foil.

- Q.** *For how long have you been fencing?*
- A.** More than half a century, mostly devoted to teaching.

I was certified assistant fencing master in 1937; fencing master and P.E. instructor in 1947; superior degree fencing master in 1954.

I taught fencing in Paris and suburbs for two periods of my life; three periods, for a total of ten years, in Morocco; two years and 1/2 in Saigon; in the U.S. since 1958.

- Q.** *Now that you are retired and feel free to assess, without leniency, fencing in the U.S., what do you think of it?*

- A.** To understand my personal point of view and to compare fencing here with the one of the old country, let me explain a small aspect of that wonderful sport, across the Atlantic:

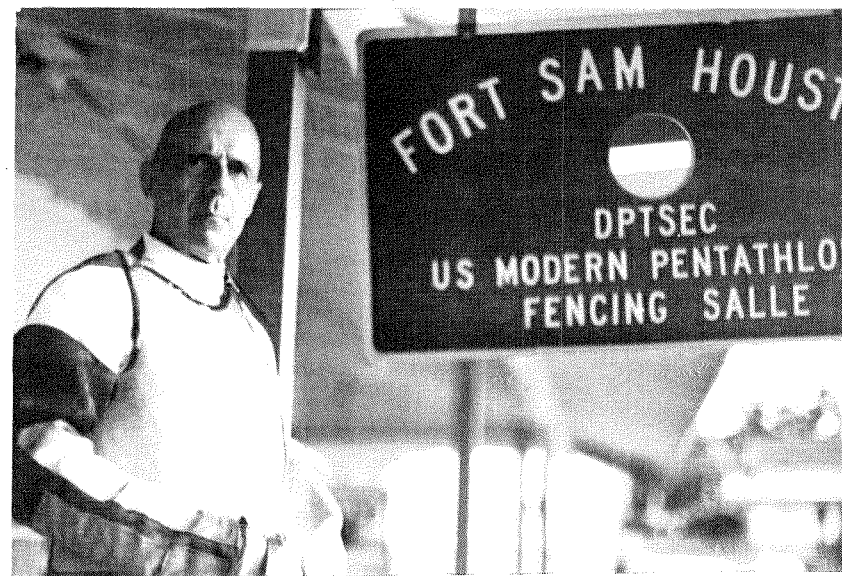
The French don't pretend to be the best and only ones knowing about it.

But since the beginning of modern regulations, about a century ago, and with the organization of Olympic Games and, later, of World Championships, almost every year they bring back home some silver or bronze medal, and, very often, a gold one or two.

Thus, out of about 90 nations, members of the F.I.E., and with some ups and downs, they stay at the top with consistency. They must do something right, somehow!

- Q.** *You credit those steady results to what?*
- A.** National and nationwide organization. Fencing is under the control and supervision of a government department: "Youth and Sports".

Fencing masters are formed, trained and molded at the National Institute of Sports, created in Joinville, a Paris suburb, in 1871, now located in Fontainebleau, South-East of Paris, where, besides fencing, they study general phys-



Gerard J. Poujardieu, Fencing Master, U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center, 1959 - (Photo by G. Nelson).

ical education, and are exposed to track and field, combat sports, teams sports, swimming, etc ... for a period of three years.

Notice that about 300 French fencing masters teach in France, a country slightly smaller than Texas, and around the world.

- Q.** *Is the French method superior to the other ones?*

- A.** No. Nowadays one cannot anymore talk about Hungarian, Italian, etc ... methods. Since WWII all of them have intermingled to the point of making a world wide single one.

Yet, in my humble opinion, I think that the Moscow Olympics mark a turning point in the contemporary history of fencing.

Notice first: - the Russian fencers had the advantage of competing at home, in a familiar atmosphere, in front of a friendly and encouraging crowd;

- the Italians, with their wonderful foilists and excellent sabrers, were absent.

In spite of that, the French, on whose shoulders was resting Latin reputation, won 4 out of 8 possible gold medals,

and other medals in foil and epee. As expected, they did not get any in sabre, a weapon less popular in their country though perfectly taught, but by only a few fencing instructors.

- Q.** *In what way are the French different from their approach to training?*

A. For them fencing is still a game, a game, maybe, but still an enjoyable time. They are happy to win, but they know how to lose with dignity and grace.

They have proven that you don't need an inhuman schedule, with hours and hours of rigid and dull training, to stay among the best.

For them a fencing hall is not a sanctuary where you obey, immedately and without a word, orders shouted by a kind of drill sergeant, armed with a stick, but a place with fun and laughter, jokes and recreation: they will mix work and play.

A solid formation, two or three sessions a week, some tough conditions on week-ends, are enough to turn a gifted prospect into a seasoned former.

Q. How do they select their national teams?

A. Every year, all fencers, no matter their preceding year results, have to climb up, all the way, from local championships, through regional ones, to the Nationals.

The eight best in each weapon are pre-qualified for the World Championships (or Olympic Games) and divided into four "probables" and four "possibles". All these are then specially trained together to their very top shape. As late as possible, according to deadline entries, four of the original eight are finally qualified, on the bases of their actual polish and most recent results.

Q. How are you connected to present French fencing?

A. As the consul of France in San Antonio, since 1962, I receive a lot of information, particularly from the European Community Headquarters in Luxemburg. The ten nations of that confederation, a French invention by the way, which might prove to be the best geopolitical one of the century, are drawing closer every year in all their activities: economy, culture, etc ... including sports and consequently fencing.

Considering France alone I count there many acquaintances, some among the top persons of rank in the fencing area:

- Colonel Bernard LeLevreur (ret.), present secretary of the French Fencing Federation, an expert organizer, judicious, dynamic and efficient, was one of the best European fencers of the late forties. He won then, two years in a row, a French national title, while training with me (he was a captain at that time) in Rabat, Morocco:

- Maitre Thirioux, head professor at the fencing masters' school, was working in the same fencing hall than I when we were both students there, just after WWII. We drilled and bouted a lot together and he was certified the year after I did. He has written one of the best books on fencing and had gained top world reputé as a pedagogue. Oddly enough, for a Frenchman, he is considered one of the best in sabre teaching;

- My cousin, René Lacampagne, is the fencing coach of the French Modern Pentathlon Team.

Moreover: I read regularly the F.I.E. official bulletin, issued in French; I travel to France about every other year; and, finally, my eldest daughter, living in the outskirts of Clermont-Ferrand, where the 1981 Seniors' World Championships are going to take place, sends me often comments and newspapers clippings about fencing.

Q. We are far from our subject: fencing in the U.S.

A. Not at all. What precedes helps to see where we stand here. Unfortunately not too high.

Q. Why?

A. First, lack of a true, official, national organization.

For many years already some experts and interested persons are lobbying in Washington to get a kind of special department that would rule the sports, strictly supervise their national leagues or federations, share out, divide and distribute money according to their needs, membership, etc ... In that case the AFLA would receive, every year, substantial subsidies and would be able to send to world championships the very best fencers of that given year, instead of the ones who can afford it or have some help.

But no luck so far. A majority in Congress has not been convinced yet. All the advantages of a country that had not suffered destruction during WWII are overtaken by the others. Instead of running away we are losing ground.

Second, lack of a national school to form fencing instructors, worthy of that name.

We do have a lot of dedicated fencing coaches and I admire some of them very much for the time, pain and heart they give to our sport: without them fencing would not exist in this country.

They work on only a few drills because they don't know the hundreds belonging to the different chapters.

In many instances they teach the wrong way. Wrong way of advancing, lunging, starting the running, etc ...

They teach, for example in foil, the parry of quarte (fourth) by turning the hand towards pronation, which is actually a quinte (fifth), and without bringing it to the left. Thus the opponent's blade

(Continued on page 25)

RESULTS

MARDI GRAS FENCING TOURNAMENT

Tulane University
February 7 & 8, 1981

Phillip Reilly of the New York Athletic Club came from behind in a clutch situation to defeat teammate Edgar House Saturday in the Mardi Gras Fencing Tournament at Tulane University. Winning his first Olympic point tournament in two years, Reilly rallied from a large deficit to overcome House, who won the last point event in New York. Three-time National champoin Peter Westbrook won third place over Joel Glucksman who was seeded first going into the finals. Former National Champion Stan Lekach led youngsters Paul Freidberg, George Gonzales-Rivas, and Steve Mormando through the rest of the finals.

In the women's foil event, Vincent Bradford defeated Stacy Johnson in a rugged field of 14 fencers. Third and fourth were IFCS teammates Nanci Walters and Lois Goldthwaite. Christine and Isabel Hamori, the two outstanding New Orleans junior fencers, placed fourth and fifth in the round robin event which, like the epee was run from a computer program.

Young David Adams of Houston's Salle Sabastiani overcame teammate Bob Hurley in a fence-off when both fencers finished in a tie at the end of the 18-person round robin in the epee event.

RESULTS

SABRE

1	Phillip Reilly	NYAC
2	Edgar House	NYAC
3	Peter Westbrook	NYFC
4	Joel Glucksman	NYFC
5	Stan Lekach	NYAC
6	Paul Freidberg	U of Penn.
7	George Gonzales-Rivas	NYAC
8	Steve Mormando	NYFC

WOMEN'S FOIL

1	Vincent Bradford	IFCS
2	Stacy Johnson	Unatt.
3	Nanci Walters	IFCS
4	Lois Goldthwaite	IFCS
5	Christine Hamori	NOFC
6	Isabel Hamori	NOFC

EPEE

1	David Adams	
2	Bob Hurley	
3	Frank Lategano	
4	Ted Cotton	
5	John Dubos	
6	Gary Danna	

1981 PENTATHLON OPEN

BY G.

The 19th annual Pentathlon Open Tournament was held on February 7-8 at Ft. Sam Houston. The presence of American and Swedish fencers stiffened the competition for the many American members who attended. The competition results were counted in the North American Circuit chrome-plated, engraved honor presented to Maitre Gerard tournament founder, who recently fencing coach at the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center.

(S)

Results

Saturday	Sunday	Overall
1. Peter Schifrin	1. George Masin	1.
2. Tim Glass	2. Holt Farley	2.
3. George Masin	3. Greg Losey	3.
4. Paul Pesthy	4. St. Rutkiewicz	

CIRCUIT #2

PENTATHLON OPEN EP (SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 7-8) 66 ENTRIES

1.	P. Schifrin	100	13.	H. Cair
2.	T. Glass	92	14.	D. Weil
3.	G. Masin	88	15.	J. Carc
4.	P. Pesthy	84	16.	J.E. Da
5.	G. Losey	80		
6.	R. Frenson	76	17.	H. Farl
7.	R. Nieman	72	18.	L. Sieg
8.	S. Vandenberg	68	19.	R. Hurl
			20.	D. Wig
9.	R. Hurme	60	21.	A. Pete
10.	R. Marx	56	22.	A. Dan
11.	M. Ytterberg	52	23.	V. McC
12.	J. Melcher	48	24.	M. Burl



CIRCUIT #3 EVENTS SPRING 1981

HELENE MAYER WOMEN'S:

66 Entries
(March 22, Oakland, CA.)

1. Jana Angelakis	100 pts.
2. Louise LeBlanc, Can.	92
3. Joy Ellingson	88
4. Patricia Balz, Can.	84
5. Margo Miller	80
6. Chantal Payer, Can.	76
7. Vincent Bradford	72
8. Christine Massiala	68
9. Jacqueline Poirer, Can.	60
10. Neida Latham	56
11. Susan Badders	52
12. Elaine Cheris	48
13. Debra Waples	40
14. Hube Konecny	38
15. Megumi Kuroki, Japan	36
16. Edit Kolos	34
17. Ruth Botengan	30
18. Stacey Murales	28
19. Sue Husornan	26
20. Sharon Everson	24
21. Madonna Haney	22
22. Isabelle Ducharme, Can.	20
23. Tracy Yelton	--
24. Sherry Puffinus	--

GENERAL DYNAMICS EPEE:

42 Entries
(March 28, Los Angeles, CA.)

1. Lee Shelley	100 pts.
2. George Masin	92
3. Holt Farley	88
4. Robert Hurley	84
5. Paul Pesthy	80
6. Tim Glass	76
7. Robert Nieman	72
8. Robert Marx	68
9. John Moreau	60
10. Bruce Jugan	56
11. Marc McCaslin	52
12. Joe Elliott	48
13. Peter Schifrin	40
14. Wally Oliver	38
15. Ivan Maradi	36
16. George Nonomura	34
17. Joe Metcalfe	30
18. Robert Frenson	28
19. Jerry LeBlanc	26
20. Greg Losey	24
21. T. Wayne Behrens	21
22. Bill Geinaw	21
23. Walter Dragonetti	--
24. Dwight Chew	--

MARDI GRAS SABRE:

42 Entries
(February 7, New Orleans, LA)

1. Philip Reilly	100 pts.
2. Edgar House	92
3. Peter Westbrook	88
4. Josef Glucksman	84
5. Stanley Lekach	80
6. Paul Friedberg	76
7. George Gonzales-R.	72
8. Steve Mormando	68
9. William Goering	60
10. T. Michael Sullivan	54
10. T. Steven Blum	54
12. Frank Nagorney	48
13. Pat Potopowicz	40
14. Frank Chew	38
15. Martin Johnson	--
16. Charles Thompson	--
17. Bill Essig	--
18. Chris Trammell	--
19. Joe Fazekas	--
20. Rudy Volkman	--
21. Joe Marotta	--
22. Irv Schwary	--
23. Rod McDonald	--
24. Paul Anderson	--

PORTLAND OPEN MEN'S FOIL: 58 Entries (March 14, Portland, OR)

1. Mike Marx	100 pts.	13. Pierre Des Georges	40
2. Greg Massialas	92	14. Philippe Bennett	38
3. Heik Hambarzumian	88	15. Frank Fox	36
4. Peter Burchard	84	16. Bruce Jugan	34
5. Don Blayney	80		
6. Mark Smith	76	17. Joe Shamash	30
7. Alexander Flom	72	18. John Funk	28
8. Jeff Bukantz	68	19. Bradley Thomas	26
		20. Ted Clark	--
9. Marlow Hood	60	21. Richard Petretti	--
10. Dennis Crable	56	22. Pepper Zylys	--
11. Ed McNamara	52	23. Doug Nichols	--
12. Dan Miller	48	24. Mike Byrnes	--

PORTLAND OPEN MEN'S FOIL

by Colleen Olney

March 14, 1981

Lewis and Clark College is situated in the hills overlooking the city of Portland with a spectacular view of Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens, our famous volcano. The fifty-eight elite men foilists competing in the gym were not interested in the scenic view, sunshine or an exploding volcano. They were concentrating on the explosiveness of their attacks

and gaining points in the third mens foil event of the North American Circuit.

The competition was "tough". Robert Marx, George Nonomura and Pat Gerard failed to promote from the second round. Joe Shamash went out in the third round.

In the final round Jeff Bukantz withdrew due to injury (cramps) which gave Mike Marx an easy victory. Greg Massialas was the victor over Alex Flom 10/5; Heik Hambarzumian defeated Don Blayney 10/6; the bout between Peter Burchard and Mark Smith was exciting with Peter winning 11/9. Peter then drew Greg Massialas while Heik and Mike crossed foils. Portlanders gathered around the strip to watch their champion in action. Heik took the lead, silence filled the huge gym when the scorekeeper called Marx 5/1, but Mike came back and, after an eternity which lasted eleven minutes-fifty seconds, Marx won 11/9. The home town crowd was elated, but then the final against Greg, who had defeated Peter 10/6, was yet to come. Mike went on to win 10/8.

Those who placed 5 thru 16 received a bottle of champagne while the top four received the famous sportsman Gerber blades

CIRCUIT #4 EVENTS

Csiszar Women's Foil 61 entries
(April 12, Philadelphia, PA)

1. E. Cheris, Cheyenne	100 pts.
2. D. Waples, Auriol	92
3. J. Angelakis, TCFC	88
4. H. Konecny, Unatt.	84
5. J. Ellingson, D'Asaro	80
6. S. Moriates, Cheyenne	76
7. S. Everson, Csiszar	72
8. S. Monplaisir	68
9. M. Miller, Mori	60
10. C. McClellan, TCFC	56
11. A. Metckus, LAAC	52
12. T. Hurley, Sebastiani	48
13. P. Walbridge	40
14. J. Faulkner	38
15. M. Fabian	36
16. C. Carter D'Armes	34
17. L. Piazza, NYFC	30
18. J. Smith, Penn St.	28
19. C. Massiala, FAM	26
20. C. Bosco, Un. Penn	24

SANTELLI SABRE: 50 entries
(April 26, N.J.)

1. J.P. Banos, Canada	100 pts.
2. S. Lekach, NYAC	92
3. M. Lavoie, Canada	88
4. P. Reilly, NYAC	84
5. S. Blum, NYFC	80
6. J. Glucksman, NYFC	76
7. G. Bartos, NYAC	72
8. A. Orban, NYAC	68
9. D. Goldberg, Csiszar	60
10. E. House, NYAC	56
11. M. Sullivan, NYAC	52
12. J. Fazekas, Cleveland	48
13. G. Gonzales-Rivas, NYAC	40
14. W. Yung, NYFC	38
15. S. Mormando, NYFC	36
16. F. Nagorney, Kadar	34
17. J. Marotta, NYFC	30

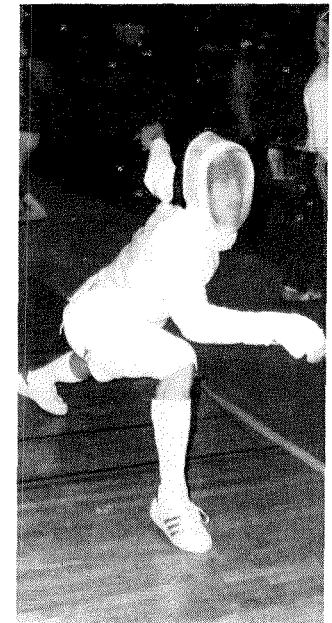
CHERRY BLOSSOM MEN'S FOIL: 100 entries
(April 25, Fairfax, VA)

1. G. Massialas, D'Asaro	100 pts.
2. M. Marx, Auriol	92
3. M. Smith, Atlanta FC	88
4. P. Des Georges, Auriol	84
5. J. Bukantz, NYFC	80
6. M. McCahey, NYFC	76
7. J. Nonna, NYFC	72
8. A. Flom, d'Armes	68
9. H. Hambarzumian, Ltrm.	60
10. G. Nonomura, LFC	56
11. J. Tichacek, NYFC	52
12. P. Bennett, Santelli	48
13. E. McNamara, NYAC	40
14. D. Rainford, NYFC	38
15. P. Burchard, D'Asaro	36
16. B. Jugan, Unatt.	34
17. P. Gerard, Auriol	30
18. L. Siegel, NYFC	28
19. J. Shamash, Unatt.	26

20. D. Crable, S. Mori
21. D. Miller, Auriol
22. J. Powers, NYAC
23. P. Martino, NYAC
24. N. Mattox, Csiszar

CHERRY BLOSSOM EPEE: 96 entries
(April 26, Fairfax, VA)

1. W. Dragonetti, Csiszar
2. J. Moreau, USMP
3. G. Masin, NYAC
4. P. Pesthy, NYAC
5. H. Farley, S. Richards
6. L. Shelley, Orsi
7. T. Glass, Sebastiani
8. G. Losey, USMP
9. G. Massialas, D'Asaro
10. R. Hurme, USMP
11. R. Frenson, NYAC
12. R. Marx, Auriol
13. R. Bargar, Harvard
14. J. Melcher, NYFC
15. I. Varadi, Mori
16. G. Thoreson, Sebastiani
17. S. Bozek, TCFC
18. V. McGovern
19. L. Newman
20. R. Nieman, USMP
21. P. Schifrin, D'Asaro
22. B. Jugan, Unatt.
23. G. Kogler, FAM
24. C. Schneider, FAM



Michael Marx at the D'Asaro Fo photo).

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May 1, 1981**

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23TM. Fabian	54
25. C. Carter	52

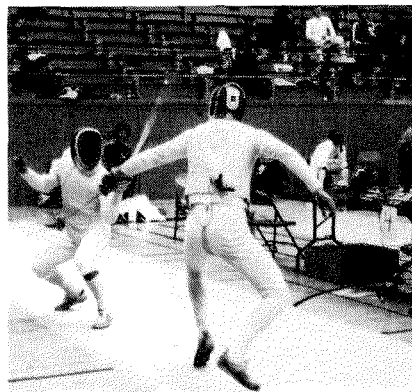
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21. B. Jugan	76
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George Nonomura (left) vs. Greg Massialas at the D'Asaro Foil. (AF staff photo).

FROM THE OFFICIALS COMMISSIC

By William Goerin

This article addresses the starting and stopping of a fencing bout and the problems that can arise with the judgments that must be made in these apparently simple situations. In some situations, the procedures become quite complex and may even lead to controversy. If the suggestions in this article are followed, much of this controversy can be avoided.

The basic rules for both stopping and starting the bout are found in Article 32 in the Rulesbook. The first paragraph there refers to starting the bout and states:

"As soon as the command 'Fence' has been given, the competitors may begin offensive action. No action begun or completed before the command is counted."

This is straightforward and most Presidents experience little difficulty here; however, Presidents must be alert for premature starts which can be avoided if the rules of Article 31 are applied. The pertinent section states:

"The guard position is assumed by the fencers on the Director's command 'On Guard', after which, the Director asks 'Are you ready?'. Upon an affirmative reply, or in the absence of a negative reply, he gives the command to begin: 'Fence'. (The words "Play" or "Allez" may also be used). The fencers must place themselves on guard correctly and must maintain complete immobility until the Director's command 'Fence'."

The question of a "correct" guard position is open to interpretation. Jury Presidents are advised to allow reasonable positions and to avoid making an issue of them. Only positions that are clearly abnormal should be disciplined, and then in a manner that will not break concentration at critical moments. The key to the proper starting of the bout is to make sure that the fencers are immobile. While a fencer may argue with a Jury President on what a correct guard position is (although it is certainly foolish to do so), there can be no argument about remaining immobile before the command "Fence" is given.

The stopping of the bout is much more complex than the starting of it, and therefore, more questions can arise if it is not properly handled. Paragraph 2 of Article 32 states in part:

"... As soon as the command has been given, a fencer may not stop an action; only an action already in progress remains valid".

To properly interpret this instruction, the President must understand what constitutes an action, and that the halt occurs when the word "Halt" is actually spoken. Thus, although an action may be "underway" when the word "Halt" is spoken, the President may have decided before it began. If so, this action is not allowed. If, however, the action is an attack and the President has already spoken "with the Halt", he must allow a touch scored by it or by a direct counter attack in response to it. A fencer making the riposte or counter attack has retreated off the end of the strip before being warned. However, if a fencer makes a direct riposte or counter attack after being warned, his action cannot be scored (Article 42). Thus, in all cases the President must decide whether the action occurred with or after the halt, and announce the decision quickly. It cannot be appealed, and the fencer attempts to justify it by superfluous argument.

The stopping of the bout will leave either the end of the strip or a situation that provides a controversy, because the President's decision is split between the action and the position of the fencers on the strip. Since the President's duty is to the action, it is not so simple for Presidents to allow latitude in their decisions. A President can stand in a position to sight along the rear limit of the strip to determine the instant a fencer's feet cross the line, and must avoid even trying to do so. Instead, a judgment must be made on whether the fencers were on or off the strip when the action occurred. Presidents are advised to make this decision without attempting to describe the exact position, attitude, or movements of the fencers.

This advice is not always ex-

because difficult situations arise with actions occurring during leaving of the strip. For example, one often hears heated arguments about the details of the strip position when a fencer near the edge of the strip jumps into the air during an action. Again, the President must judge whether one (or both) of the fencers were on or off the strip and avoid describing the precise position of the fencer at any specific time. If a touch is scored, this decision may affect the awarding or annullment of a touch. If no touch is scored, the decision will affect where the fencers are replaced on guard. The President and the fencers must recognize in this situation that it is the President's judgment that carries and that arguments about whether the fencer was over the strip while in the air during the action are completely superfluous. In these situations, Jury Presidents are advised to be strict with the fencers who tend to fence near the side of the strip, and to discourage such tactics by annulling touches that are scored when the fencer is off the strip and penalizing the fencer who leaves the strip whether a touch is scored or not.

The judgment of when to stop a bout is an important factor in the tempo of fencing. A

President must make sure to allow the fencers to continue fencing when the actions can be analyzed, especially when in-fighting occurs. On the other hand, the President must be prepared to call an immediate halt when the fencing becomes too confused to analyze, a fencer leaves the strip, or there is possibility of injury. In both foil and epee, these decisions can be critical to the contestants. It is especially important to call halts when corps-a-corps or near corps-a-corps situations exist, especially in epee where a fencer may register a touch by hitting himself. In addition, the Jury Presidents must learn to be consistent in the timing of halts, so that the fencers do not stop prematurely (and perhaps receive a touch as a result) expecting a halt that does not occur. This feeling for the best time to call halt is developed through experience and by thoughtful observation of experienced officials.

In all of the situations outlined above, the President must depend upon his judgment and not allow himself to be drawn into a discussion of descriptive character. Competitors, spectators, other judges, etc. may not agree with a President's decision on strip

position or the timing of the call of halt but as long as the President refrains from describing positions, foot placements, etc. or why the fencer was off or on the strip at a particular time, his judgment of the situation must prevail, and cannot be appealed nor, in most cases, rescinded. Fencers are advised to accept these judgments because they are secondary in most cases to the analysis of the action which must be the President's first priority.

POUJARDIEU INTERVIEW

continued from page 18

is not properly deflected and the right of way not achieved.

The way they drill the counter-ripostes, when they do it, is purely artificial instead of brought up to.

I was conducting a sabre clinic, about a year ago, to confirmed fencers, some of them of national level, and I was sadly surprised to notice that none of them had ever seen the parry of tierce, by a kind of reverse cut-over, on a straight riposte (to the face, for example) coming from the opponent's quarte.

Third, the wrong approach to fencing. Our coaches do know a lot about muscular and psychological training, but they, too often, forget about the nervous and sensorial parts. They emphasize strength to the detriment of speed, lightness, the sharpening of reflexes and that kind of spark that makes the difference between a scoring and a failing attempt.

They ignore the building up of a good automatism ...

- Q.** *What do you mean by that?*
A. Through the repetition of actions thousands of times, with the right economy of the gesture, the muscles seem to memorize them and, in the long run, execute them without thinking. Then, and only then, the fencer, sure of his hand and legs, can concentrate on tactics.

Our coaches recommend also too often, the use of pistol or orthopedic grips in foil and epee. I could talk lengthily on this subject, but let me underline one point: we don't have and cannot have statistics about it, but I am convinced that the exclusive or premature use of these devices has destroyed the future

of thousands of beginner when the regular grip (kr French grip) is used, it is of together with the rest of crooked, ill-balanced and handling wrong.

- Q.** *So, in your mind, those poc are, in the long run, hurting helping our fencers?*

A. Unfortunately, and the w some of them are in high fa in my opinion, on account (uation.

- Q.** *What prevents significant*

A. Many reasons: routine, lac to do something about it, tion of problems: bad ki worse than ignorance and supposes determinated ta ors pretend to set it at mediocre ones pick out we cessible to mediocrity.

- Q.** *Why then are we not using, fencing masters?*

A. During the sixties about French fencing masters n U.S. hoping to impose th and get American fencin- ruddy road.

Here is what happened - two moved back to Fra few years, weary of being a wilderness;

- some others switched I warding, at least morally, s is teaching dumb show at fencing in a college; ar though teaching some hot school, has made a small fe estate; another one, sick o a rat race, opened a resta - most of the rest live r scantily, misunderstood, tl disregarded and even scorn.

- Q.** *What is the future of Americ*

A. Gloomy, barring an unfores

Our fencers will keep c Olympic Games and Ser championships, the only tw competitions, and often fall second round, their defeats the sound and wide use of language, an illusion of pow- ity and preeminence.

They will stagnate in a kir poorness, challenged and c

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by Cuba, our backyard tiny neighbor, overtaken, yesterday by Russia, Poland, Rumania, etc ... and to-morrow by China.

So, you see, I don't harbor any delusion. Is the time going to come when the majority of U.S. fencers are going to get rid of fakes and frauds, the ones who talk a lot, think very little and act even less, to finally listen to the truly good ones?

- Q.** Any optimistic views, at least?
A. Yes. Many American athletes, including our fencers, are rightly concerned about the future of the Olympic Games.

The European Assembly, meeting regularly in Strasbourg, has discussed recently a bill, introduced by a French representative, for the permanent organization of future Summer Olympic Games in Greece, mother of the ancient ones.

Greece has offered, free of charge, a piece of land, close to the antique spot of Olympia, already baptized: Nea-Olympia.

Many countries are, so far, in favor of that project, susceptible of being ready for the 1988 Games: the present ten nations of the European Community, of

which Greece is a member; probable near future members, such as Spain, Portugal, Turkey, etc; and the 60 ACP nations, associated to the European Community by the Lome (Togo) convention, their number growing annually.

SOVIET AMATEURISM

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We may answer that this is no more than another of the logical self-delusions for which the Soviets are famous, for the device of a nominal job to cloak subsidy to an athlete is not wholly strange to us. The difficulties of policing an amateur code are probably as great in the Soviet Union as they are here; as I understand it, we have no solid grounds for doubting the good faith of those who have undertaken to enforce the Olympic ideal there. In any event, one is reminded of the story in John, 8-7, about the woman who was taken in adultery, who under the law of Moses should be stoned, and the judgment of Jesus: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

—M. de Capriles

Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes

We looked at one end of the blade recently, the tang. At least that was a change from the usual worry about points. However, the point is what people worry most about (in foil and epee, I mean), so here it is again, for a few words about some questions that have been tossed at me recently.

Tucked away in the rule book is a statement to the effect that the maximum gap in a foil (i.e., the space between the end of the "button" or cylinder and the bottom of the moveable "point top") shall not be more than 1 mm. There even used to be a standard test, with a 1 mm shim, that was tried on all foil points at formal inspections—quite some years ago. Now that's not to say that this rule doesn't still exist, or that the test couldn't still be made; the provision has not been removed from the Rule Book (Art. 719/4). But a hint as to what has happened can be gleaned from the fact that in recent years some of the most important European manufacturers of test equipment haven't bothered to include the 1 mm shim as part of their sets, thus acknowledging how that particular test has fallen by the wayside.

What happened was that all the manufacturers of foil point assemblies began to keep a much closer eye on the tolerances of their assemblies. The result was that now you never find a foil that's too big in the gap, unless some fencer has perhaps ignorantly mixed brands of equipment. Thus the test became a waste of time.

Since the foil gap, or (to put it another way) the recession of the tip under pressure of a touch, can be "infinitely small" (that rule again), there is obviously no objection to making that gap very small. Some years ago, at least one prominent European manufacturer had his gaps machined so small that the kind of fencer who is inclined to paranoia (or something) would refuse to use his points because they couldn't see any movement, and were sure that such a point wasn't working or wouldn't work consistently, or whatever. Said manufacturer quickly learned his lesson and stopped making them that way; he hasn't made a point that good in years.

I am asked now and again happens if the insulation sleeve and falls away up in the gap member that the whole principle foil is to separate the point top rest of the blade to score a touch aration comes when the retain the point, or what they are he collar), are separated from the rear of the point, which is electric with tip. The screws move; the tip does. That action "open switch" condition.

If you had no tape on the end and hit your opponent with the blade against his lame jacket probably bridge around the circuiting it, and creating a "closed" condition: no touch. That's the tape at the end of the blade.

If the insulation were somehow lacking in the foil tip, the same happen permanently; you would absolute short circuit and no any touch. That could really with a disastrous factory error breakdown. I don't recollect seen anything like that. If all of at the very top (i.e., under the tip) breaks away, the possible touches might be grounded or slow-acting machine; but wouldn't happen all the time, it would be more likely to happen sort of break usually occurs which the insulation forms the part that slides in the cylinder possible jam or sticking of the touches. Better replace such a

An allied trouble can happen points on which the screws the on the rear flange of the point. The point is thus just beyond the screw. Drive the screw(s), one far and you can set up a per circuit: no touches. It there is play in the point, one of the screws almost touching the core at the no trouble on a direct straight-

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could touch the core and short-circuit the point on an angulated touch. This sort of thing can most easily happen when screws longer than those supplied by the regular manufacturer are used. This same sort of trouble can occur on a collar-on-the-flange model of point, if the collar has been deformed (out of round or warped).

Where	When	Contact for information
Brooklyn, PA Summer Camp	July 26 - Aug. 22	Orsi Fencing Village 395 Union Ave. Rutherford, N.J. 07070
San Jose, CA Fencing Workshop	July 31 - Aug. 9	San Jose State University Office of Cont. Education Washington Square San Jose, CA 95192
Ft. Worth, TX Coaches' Seminar	June 19	Leslie Bleamaster, AFLA 9814 Gemini Drive San Antonio, TX 78217

(Continued from Jan./Feb. 1981 issue)

"Teach many juniors (8-12 yrs old) so as they grow they will want fencing in their junior and high Schools. Teach many recreational classes so parents (family) will understand and want to see their family juniors get into this individual sport. Make American Fencing magazine a more readable magazine perhaps with stories or reviews of "swashbuckle" oldies.

"Send representatives to seminars of PE teachers and recreational groups."

"Make the fencing image more fun, less 'Oh, God, we have to beat so and so, which isolates the recreational fencers in a club since the competitive fencers ignore them usually with great hauteur. Jazz-up the warm-up exercises. Brighten up the coaches .. make things up beat instead of dripping with moss and cut crystal. Very modern or a step into the past."

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sports organization with access to local schools and their facilities."

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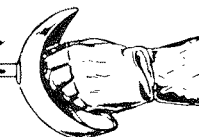
"Fencing must be made understandable to everyone. It has been elitist too long. Tradition is fine but too few have too much power. Get some new and young people in the AFLA decision-making ranks."

"School aren't our only problem. We don't have enough coaches for our clubs. In addition you can't pay enough to them to make it worth their effort to teach a couple of hours two or three times a week."

"We don't need more coaches now. Fencing needs exposure to interest parents so that children will become interested, then when fencing is offered students will know what it is and will give it a try. EXPOSURE on a national level is a must."

"The AFLA has to be sensitive to the needs of its members and to fencing in this country. The limited scope of that organization's leadership is responsible for the small

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