

# American FENCING

fall 2001

**summer  
nationals  
results**



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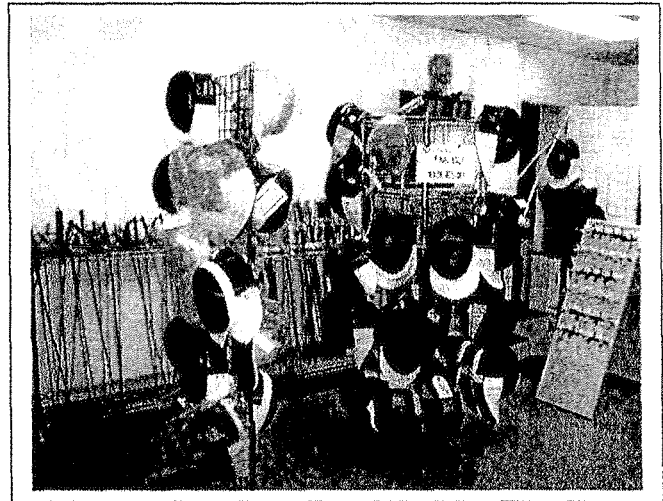
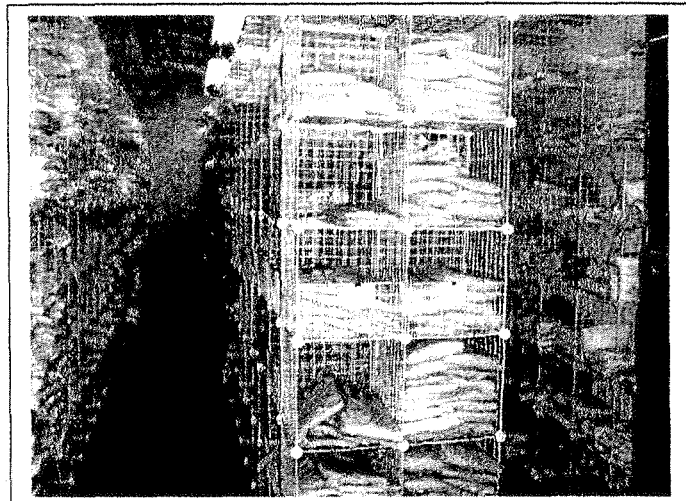
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# American FENCING

Fall 2001 · Volume 51, Number 3

## FEATURES

- 19 usfa special report  
**2001 HALL OF FAME**  
by Phil Reutlinger

- 21 WINNERS  
**FENCING WITH MY EYES CLOSED**  
Sloan Newman reflects on his epee education

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 **President's Letter**  
4 **Letter from the Editor**  
4 **Your Letters**  
5 **News**  
9 **Tournament Highlights** results from Summer Nationals  
15 **Tech Talk** Reels, II  
17 **The Grayblade** A Veteran Yankee in King Alex's Court  
24 **Sport Psychology** The Guardians of the Game  
27 **Rules/Referees** Not Ready for Primetime  
28 **Touche** The Relevance of What We Do

### On the cover:

2001 Summer Nationals Photo Contest Winner  
Frank Wing captures the competitive spirit at Sacramento.



9



19



21

## The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

The United States Fencing Association is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime, the international federation for fencing. The mission of the United States Fencing Association is to develop fencers to achieve international success and to administer and promote the sport in the United States.

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# STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States  
Fencing Association



## This Moment in Time

I was all prepared and had written an article for *American Fencing* magazine and then the United States was attacked in New York City and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001. Everything changed for all of us in those moments. What I was planning to write didn't seem important anymore and the issues I had in mind seemed futile to me. Immediately, Carla-Mae Richards and David Sapery swung into action, developing the concept of a "check-in" system that was posted on the USFA web site for our members in the NYC area and in Washington, D.C. I called in that same day saying I wanted to send a message as well and added the following:

### ***New York/Washington Attack***

*On behalf of all of the USFA Staff and Volunteers, including the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, we send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to those members who might be affected by this terrible tragedy and apparent act of terrorism. Please do let us know that you are safe and also share information about others that you know by utilizing the "check-in" system here. You are held in our constant thoughts.*

- Stacey Johnson, USFA President

As many Americans from throughout the country desired, we felt we needed to **do** something and find out if our fencing family was OK.

Almost as rapidly as our desire to reach out was formed, word started to stream into the USFA National Office and directly to me via emails from presidents of other federations around the world who offered support and condolences. We heard from our close friends in the Pan American Confederation—Anibal Illueca, president of the Pan American Confederation from Panama, and Omar Vergara, vice president of the Argentine Olympic Committee. We heard also from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras to name only a few.

I heard from the European Confederation from Antonio Di Blasi, president of Italian Fencing Federation, from Max W.F. Geuter, vice president of the German Fencing Federation, and from the president of the Uzbekistan Fencing Federation, Ruziev S.S. Of course, one of the very first to send word was Rene Roch, president of the FIE.

In this moment, we do not know exactly how President Bush will respond, but war appears imminent, and by the time this article appears, the first attack may have been launched. What does U.S. Fencing need to do, how must we interpret these world events and how must we respond to these rapid events?

First, the USFA fortunately held a planning retreat Aug. 17-19 in Colorado. This retreat helped us to review the progress we had made to date on our strategic plan and to continue to look down the road to meet our needs. Even in the wake of these new historic events, I am convinced more than ever that the three key priorities, which surfaced at the retreat, are still sound guiding principles that remain germane in the wake of current events.

**Critical priorities** for this next qualifying year for the 2004 Olympic Games and through the final days of 2004:

- 1.) **Focus on supporting and developing our athletes as vigorously as possible.**
- 2.) **Focus on increasing the marketing of fencing.**
- 3.) **Develop and increase financial support and revenues to the USFA.**

Now, with the threat of a sustained war, we must work harder than ever to support our athletes and to work to ensure their security. With this in mind, I sent a letter to Rene Roch, president of the FIE, where I asked him to make a plan of increased security at the impending World Championships to be held in Nîmes, France. As our athletes travel abroad we must keep security and safety as our highest priority in all

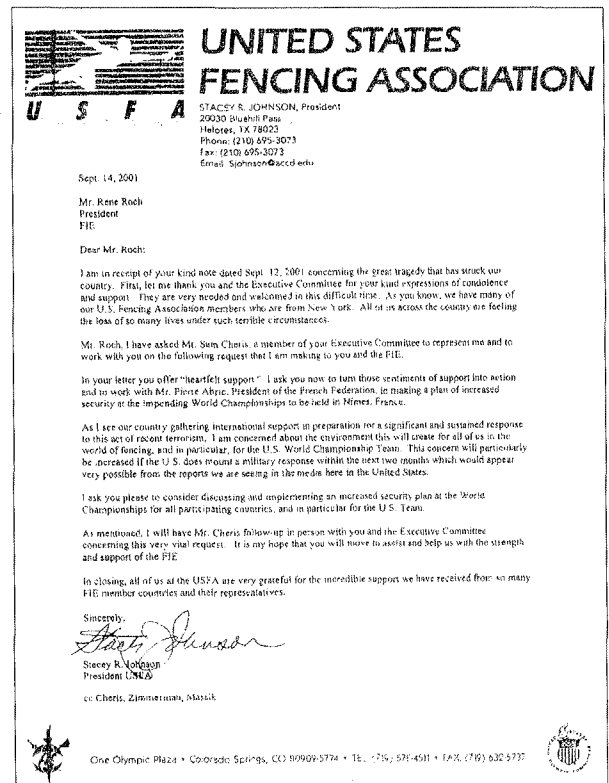
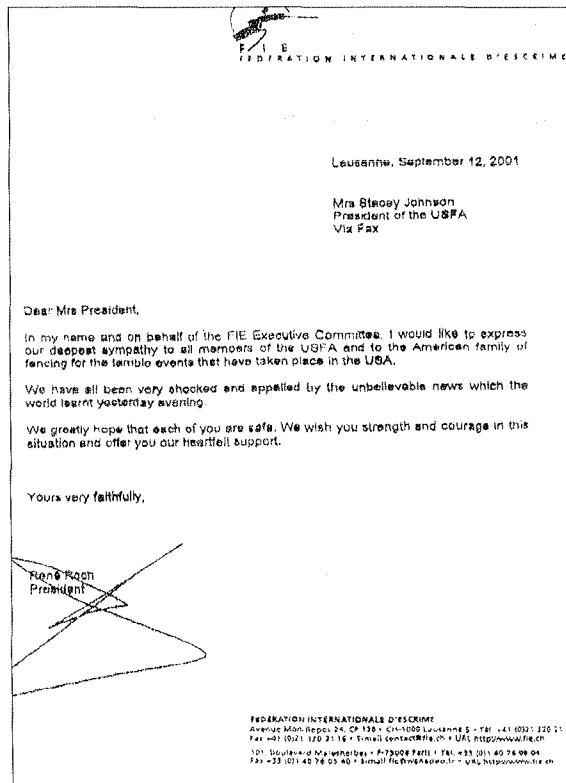
World Cup and World Championship travel.

Secondly, we must work harder than ever to enhance our financial support, increasing revenues and focusing on marketing to secure financial independence from and reliance on U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) dollars. With rapid changes occurring within the Olympic movement and in the world, we are unsure of consistent, secure funding continuing to stream to the USFA. Although we are committed to a strong and healthy relationship with the USOC, we need to work towards more enhanced financial health and fiscal independence. Obviously, the development of marketing and public relations tools will help us in our drive to generate additional dollars for the USFA.

**Conclusion.** As I have spoken to people over this past historic week, so many have suffered such tremendous loss. New York City and Washington, D.C.—two of our most powerful and beloved cities—have been injured and shaken to their core. We must continue to support one another in this time and to hold the vision of better days as we move forward.

I ask everyone for cooperation and support organizationally as we meet the challenges of what this new environment is presenting. I still believe in the positive power that sport can bring into the world, particularly for the youth of the world. I believe in the ideals of the Olympic movement and the USFA's role as a leader in this drive towards a more cooperative and peaceful world. I extend my deep thanks to our many friends from across this country and the world for their encouraging words and support that have been sent to all of us in our time of collective sorrow.

Letters of sympathy and gratitude: left, FIE President Rene Roch's faxed letter; right, USFA President Stacey Johnson's response.





## Meg Galipault

Editor

# Dear Readers:

I had too much to say for a skinny little column this issue, so I've taken up camp on page 28 of this issue. Thank you for indulging me.

## your letters

### Error of fact

On page 5 of your Summer 2001 issue you refer incorrectly to Vincent Bradford as "the only female fencing master in the United States."

Muriel Bower Taitt, the former coach of the team once sponsored by the University of California at Northridge, is also a fencing master and has been for many years.

She is the author of *Foil Fencing* that was first published by William C. Brown in 1966, now in its fifth edition.

Jeffrey R. Tishman  
Official Historian  
U.S. Fencing Coaches Association

### Don't tick off the ref

I just read Jeff Bukantz's article, entitled "Pick Your Spot: When Not To Argue With The Ref" (Summer 2001), and found it to be informative and to the point. Too many times I have seen fencers (and some coaches) argue with the referee at both regional and national tournaments. Being a referee is, indeed, a thankless task and they should be commended for the job they do, which more often than not goes unrewarded.

Jeff does a good job in providing some common sense approaches for the average fencer in dealing with referees in tournaments. It is more than the simple set of do's and don't's of fencer/referee relationship. It is also based on observations and experience of a former competitor and referee.

In this article, Jeff illustrates one major point that eludes most: It does not pay to argue with the referee. Period. It is counter-productive and will not change the call one way or another, barring of course, the odd equipment failure which accompanies tournaments). Moreover, it often leads to heated confrontation that could spell the end for the fencer. So, in other words, don't tick the referee off.

In short, Jeff Bukantz's article is extremely informative and a must-read for all fencers at all levels from novice to veteran.

Name Withheld Upon Request  
San Jose CA

### In praise of realism...

Jim Kelly raises some interesting points in his rebuttal [AF, Summer 2001] to Ron Hendricks' comments [AF, Spring 2001]

about the desirability of the flick in modern sport fencing. This sentence of his sums up his argument: "Fencing used to be about swordsmanship and swords were meant to be weapons not point counters."

Bravo, Mr. Kelly! EXCELLENT POINT! But, why then are we so hypocritical? I fully agree that it's swordsmanship that attracts people to fencing (at least most people; some do have other reasons which are also valid), and that when this is diminished through rules of play then fencing becomes much more of a game like ping-pong or something. How sad then that saber fencing, which is probably the most spectator-friendly of the three weapons, has such stupid rules about right-of-way and cross-overs.

Sure, I know all the justifications for right-of-way: it's designed to encourage good swordsmanship (which it often doesn't: witness many foil fencers in epee), to avoid "the blow of two widows" to use Mr. Kelly's phrase, etc. Back before the invention of the wire mesh mask in 1800 ("Fencing", *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1956), it was essential for fencing masters to teach right-of-way so that their students didn't poke their eyes out in a simultaneous attack. To quote: "Until the introduction of the mask, certain conventions were a definite necessity to avoid accidents. For instance, a fencer after deflecting a blow could not lunge and riposte until the opponent had come back from the lunge to a guard position. Likewise, the initiative of an opponent had to be respected and followed until his blade was turned aside. Attack against attack was ruled as dangerous and unwise. Many conventions, superfluous after the mask was adopted, still were retained in foil and saber fencing..."

In principle, this is OK for the foil, which was never (or seldom) intended as a real dueling weapon anyway. It was basically a practice epee, and today, if someone wants a point-on weapon and likes the *game* of fencing with right-of-way rules, then fine: they'll enjoy foil and I'm happy for them. If someone like myself eschews these conventions and wants to be a little more realistic and still wants to play sword fight, then there's epee. (Yeah, I'm aware that epee's still a game, as indeed it should be today, when guns have replaced swords for serious people-killing.) But if someone wants to play a game that more or less accurately reflects a real sword fight and wants to use a slashing weapon, then there's...what? SCA? Kendo? Nothing very satisfactory in my opinion. The SCA is too caught up in fantasy, kendo is two-handed and has its own stupid rules, which I won't go into now, and aikido is not competitive.

Fencing is a historical martial art that's now useless for warfare. It probably would not have survived economically and as a human endeavor unless it had been transformed into a sport, so I'm glad it has. But still, please, let's keep as much realism in the sport as we can. That's what attracts most of us to this game. In particular, for epee: no changes needed, although increasing the 1/20-1/25 second lock-out time between double touches would encourage "hit without being hit" instead of "hit first." (For that matter, the same would be true in foil and saber, as well.) For foil, no changes needed, as it's not a realistic weapon anyway.

So why not allow flicks? If it's cool, as Ron Hendricks points out, well, why not? Foil has long ago lost its realism. But for saber, please, let's be a little more realistic.

Realistically, people have put too much money into equipment to all of a sudden change the rules, so I propose establishing a new version of saber entirely: increase the time interval required for the double touch, forget right-of-way, forget no forward crossovers (the prohibition of which results from the right-of-way convention making saber monotonous to watch), and limit the slashing cuts to head and neck only, but allow point-on attacks to the torso as well. (Otherwise, with the increased time window, it's too easy to annul your opponent's touch on you by quickly tapping his sword arm.) Electronically, I think this could be accomplished with today's foil jackets but with saber helmets, still with referees (judges), of course. As with current saber, don't stop the action for off-target touches. And as for the realism, well, your best bet in a real saber fight would be to decapitate your opponent or else run him through with the point.

Realistically, I know that there's far too much tradition and investment of time and equipment to suddenly change saber, so I do not suggest this as a replacement for present-day saber but rather as an experimental, alternative, additional style. Probably these suggestions will not catch on anytime soon, if ever. At least not until the USFA realizes it's losing money to the few fencing schools which claim to offer historical swordsmanship. I've never seen such a school of fencing, only read about them online, but I wonder if their presence will change the economics of the sport. If given a chance, I'd bet that a style that encouraged "hit without being hit," lethal cuts and thrusts, and

that still allowed use of electronic scoring would quickly grow in popularity.

Yeah, I know, it's still just a game.

James Cavanaugh  
Salt Lake City UT

### In praise of a reality check

I was concerned with the letter from Mr. Hendricks, which I read when I got back from the Cadet/Junior Worlds. If he was a fencer and not a fan and had a flick punch through his mask, he wouldn't be for it. The slam-dunk doesn't make it possible to drive a blade through a mask. I have been at two competitions where I have checked the masks that a flick has gone through. We were lucky, one was just a scratch and the other caused not injury, except for destroying both masks.

As with all armorers, my first, last and always concern is safety. As Mr. Hendricks said, I am not one of those who say, "This is not what foil fencing was meant to be." My belief for "what is best for the sport" is not to cause injury or death to fencers, so as to appease the fans. I am there for the fencer, not the organizers, not the vendors and not the fans. I want both fencers to be able to walk away and be able to say, what a great touch it was, not for one to say they really didn't mean to kill or injure the other.

I would be very happy to see fencing be more popular, but if a few deaths or injuries are what it takes to be popular, I hope we remain very unpopular. I will continue to work to get rid of anything new that would make the sport unsafe and I will promote anything new to make the sport more popular that will not be a detriment to the fencers.

Donald Hollis Clinton, Jr.  
Certified Armorer, Level I  
Camarillo CA

*American Fencing welcomes letters from readers. Please send your letter to: Attn: American Fencing Editor; United States Fencing Association; One Olympic Plaza; Colorado Springs CO 80909 or email to [magoo@iwaynet.net](mailto:magoo@iwaynet.net). We reserve the right to edit for clarity and/or space. Letters must be signed (except those emailed, of course) and include a phone number and address.*

## NEWS

### **CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS AT NACs**

contributed by Peter Harmer

Following extensive discussions with athletes, officials, and various NAC Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), the USFA has instituted a program to supply a certified athletic trainer (ATC) to each NAC beginning this season. The move was prompted by the difficulty experienced by LOCs of

consistently obtaining qualified sports medicine personnel to volunteer for national events, coupled with the growing need for sport-specific care to be available as the number of participants continues to increase at record pace. While USFA ATCs will be on-duty throughout each NAC to evaluate and treat activity-related injuries, they will be supported by other health-care personnel, such as nurses, massage therapists, and EMTs, provided by the

LOC. This program, another important step in the professional administration of national competitions designed to enhance the competition experience for USFA members, will be administered by Peter Harmer, Ph.D., ATC., currently a member of the FIE Medical Commission.

To ensure the success of this project, it is necessary to have a substantial pool of qualified personnel from which to draw for NAC assignments. If



you are an ATC (or know of one who is interested in fencing) and would like to use your professional expertise to support the growth of American fencing, please contact Peter at (503) 370-6470 or email: [pharmer@willamette.edu](mailto:pharmer@willamette.edu). Those selected to work at an NAC will receive the same remuneration as other officials (airfare, shared accommodation, per diem). Additionally, performance evaluations for NAC ATCs will be used in a tiered selection process for positions on representative USFA teams travelling abroad.

*Please note: As only one ATC will be assigned to each NAC, he/she will be on duty throughout the duration of the competition. Therefore, it will not be possible to be assigned to an event in which you are competing.*

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## **USFCA NATIONAL COACHES CONFERENCE BRINGS COACHES TOGETHER**

contributed by Jeremy Schmid

The U.S. Fencing Coaches Association (USFCA) held the first ever English-speaking National Coaches Conference in New Hope, Pa., this past July, bringing together over 50 coaches to the four-day conference and USFCA Championships, including a four-member delegation from India.

Conference presenters included USFCA Fencing Master Vincent Bradford, co-chair of the USFA Coaching Development Committee; Dr. Donald DeFabio, member of the USFA medical board; and Fencing Masters David Michanik, Mark Masters, Iosif Vitebskiy, Arnold Mercado, and George Kolombatovich.

Master Michanik, head coach at the University of Pennsylvania and a former Olympian, spoke at length about the coach's role in supporting a fencer during competition. The goal of the strip-side coach, according to Micahnik, is to convey "critical information under extreme pressure in a short period of time in a chaotic environment

with the athlete's mind racing and the coach's heart pounding." Micahnik peppered his discussion with humorous tales of his own experiences as a competitor and coach, and suggested that the coach give positive advice that is simple and generic. During a timeout, the coach should tell his fencer what the opponent is doing and finish on what his fencer should do.

Master Bradford gave an interactive demonstration of progressive group drills based on her book *Taking Foil Groups to the Competitive Level*. Such drills, with a little modification, work for both beginners and advanced fencers.

For club owners, Master Mark Masters of the Fencing Academy of Philadelphia talked about managing a fencing club for profit, proffering the belief that, as professionals, fencing coaches should be paid appropriately for their services, and that operating a fencing club requires more than just teaching on the strip.

According to Dr. DeFabio in his presentation on sports medicine, the coach plays many roles for his fencer. "Confidant, therapist, doctor, and mentor." Sports medicine and science can help a coach increase his fencer's performance and reduce injury. For example, an injured fencer unable to fence should not "rest," but should perform some aerobic base training, keeping him mentally and physically active and bringing blood to the injured area to assist in healing.

Beyond the presentations, impromptu discussions about fencing-related topics carried on late into the evenings as participants familiarized themselves with the local pub.

By all accounts, the Bucks County Academy of Fencing, owned by Fencing Master Mark Holbrow, successfully hosted the first annual USFCA National Coaches Conference. The USFCA Championships were held on the first day, followed by USFCA certification examinations on the second day with 15 examinees and 32 exams (many in multiple weapons), one for fencing master, two for prevost, and 12 for moniteur.

The conference concluded with a dinner and the USFCA Annual General Meeting. More details about the conference and the presentations can be found in the fall 2001 issue of *The Swordmaster*.

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## **THE ENVELOPE PLEASE ...**

contributed by Robert Largman

If someone walked up to you and asked which country won the gold medal at the 2000 Olympics for basketball, you'd probably know, right? Or, which film won the Oscar for best picture? Or, maybe even who were the most recent USFA Athletes of the Year? (Answers: USA, *Gladiator*, Cliff Bayer and Andrea Ament.)

But, can you name the coach of that gold medal-winning USA basketball team? Or the Oscar winning best director? Or Cliff and Andrea's coaches? (Answers: Rudy Tomjanovich, Steven Soderbergh, Yefim Litvan, Janusz Gasparin.)

The USFA Coaches Committee has recently announced and launched a campaign that will recognize and promote the USFA's coaches. Promoting coaches is an important goal of the Coaches Committee and this campaign will spread the news about this valuable and often-overlooked talent pool in our organization. The U.S. Olympic Committee began honoring coaches several years ago through a program recognizing elite and developmental coaches from each National Governing Body (NGB). The USFA has been a strong proponent of coaching recognition and fully participated in this program. Unfortunately, the USOC program is experiencing a hiatus.

The Coaches Committee, led by Co-Chairs Vinnie Bradford and Alex Beguinet, determined that coaching recognition is too important to be left to any other organization. Starting in 2002, the committee has recommended to the USFA Executive Committee that the USFA sponsor a coaching recognition program.



Furthering the coaching profession has been an important tenet of the Johnson Administration and championed by Sherry Posthumus, vice-president for coaching. Accordingly, the USFA Executive Committee was eager to help this program move forward. To meet this objective, the USFA will present three awards beginning in 2002, recognizing different levels of coaching—Elite Coach, Developmental Coach, Grass Roots Coach. Guidelines and criteria for these awards are being developed and will be announced on the USFA website and through USFA national publications later in the year. It is expected that our coaches will be honored at the annual awards dinner at the USFA Summer Nationals.

A fencer's success is recognized by their competitive performance—in the form of medals, rankings, National teams, and other honors. Coaching success is much more difficult to gauge. Through these new awards, the USFA will help honor the efforts and often unrecognized results of its coaching community.

### **US FENCING TEAM FOR 2001 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The U.S. Fencing Association has selected the team that will represent

the United States at the 2001 Senior World Championships, October 26 - November 1 in Nîmes, France.

The World Championships, held in all but the year of the Olympic Games, are the final event of the season. Fencers are seeded based upon the end-of-season World Cup rankings, with World Cups held around the world each season in each weapon event.

Four fencers plus one alternate have been selected in each of six weapon events, with four fencers competing in the individual and team events, including women's sabre which is now an official event of the World Championships. A fifth fencer may travel with the team for inclusion in the team event.

The team ranges in age from 14 to 32, with Emily Cross, as women's foil alternate, as the youngest and Elisabeth Spilman, women's épée, the oldest.

The latest event to be added to the program of the Senior World Championships is women's sabre. A demonstration event was held in 1998, with one fencer representing each country and Team USA's Kelly Williams taking the silver medal. In 2000, the U.S. Women's Sabre team won the U.S.'s first ever gold medal in a world championship team event. In 2001, Mariel Zagunis, a member of that team, became the first U.S. fencer ever to hold four World Championship titles: 2000 gold by team, 2001 Under-17,

Under-19, and Junior Team gold medallist.

Six Olympians are among those selected for the 2001 team. The entire women's foil squad that represented the U.S. in Sydney returns: Ann Marsh (Rochester, N.Y., '92, '96, '00); Felicia Zimmermann (Rochester, N.Y., '96, '00) Iris Zimmermann (Rochester, N.Y., '00) and Errin Smart (New York, N.Y., alternate '00); as well as two men's sabre fencers, Akhnaten Spencer-EI (New York, N.Y., '00) and Keeth Smart (New York, N.Y., '00).

Here is the official delegation for the World Championships, including birthdate, hometown, school, and fencing center:

#### **WOMEN'S FOIL**

**Iris Zimmermann**, 1/6/81, Rush, N.Y. (Stanford '03/ Rochester Fencing Centre); **Errin Smart**, 1/12/80, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Barnard/Columbia '01/ Fencers Club); **Ann Marsh**, 6/30/71, Rochester, N.Y., Royal Oak, Mich. (University of Rochester School of Medicine '00/Rochester Fencing Centre); **Felicia Zimmermann**, 8/16/75, Rush, N.Y. (Stanford '01/Rochester Fencing Centre); ALT: **Emily Cross**, 10/15/86, New York, N.Y. (The Brearly School '05/Fencers Club)

#### **WOMEN'S SABRE**

**Mariel Zagunis**, 3/3/85, Portland, Ore. (Valley Catholic High School

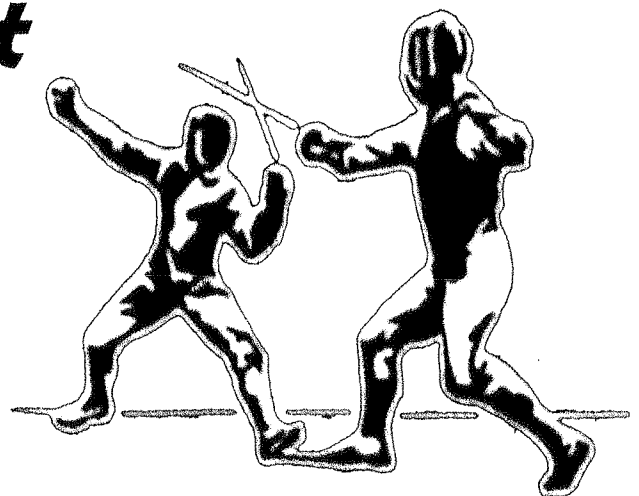
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'03/Oregon Fencing Alliance); **Sada Jacobson**, 2/14/83, Atlanta, Ga. (Yale University '04/Nellya Fencers); **Emily Jacobson**, 12/2/85, Atlanta, Ga. (The Westminster Schools '04/Nellya Fencers); **Nicole Mustilli**, 3/24/78, South Orange, N.J. (Notre Dame University '98/U.S. Air Force/Lilov Fencing Academy); ALT: **Amelia Gaillard**, 1/16/84, Fayetteville, Ga. (Counterpane School '02/Nellya Fencers)

#### WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

**Stephanie Eim**, 6/10/77, Nashville, Tenn. (Pennsylvania State

University '02); **Julia Leszko**, 11/7/69, Portland, Ore. (NorthWest Fencing Center); **Elisabeth Spilman**, 6/19/69, Fullerton, Calif. (Beverly Hills Fencer's Club); **Kamara James**, 11/23/84, Jamaica, N.Y. (The Dwight School '02/NY Athletic Club); ALT: **Felicia Zimmermann**, 8/16/75, Rush, N.Y. (Rochester Fencing Centre)

#### MEN'S ÉPÉE

**Eric Hansen**, 1/9/75, San Bruno, Calif. (Golden Gate Fencing Center); **Rashaan Greenhouse**, 4/7/80, New York, N.Y. (New York University

'03/Fencers Club); **Nathaniel Burke**, 12/01/76, Folsom, Calif. (Lucchetti Fencing Foundation); **Justin Tausig**, 7/28/70, Paris, France (Salle Santelli/Racing Club de France); ALT: **Cody Mattern**, 2/23/81, Portland, Ore. (NorthWest Fencing Center)

#### MEN'S FOIL

**Jedediah Dupree**, 10/07/79, New York, N.Y. (Columbia University '01/Fencers Club); **Jonathan Tiomkin**, 7/12/79, New York, N.Y. (St. John's University '02/Fencers Club); **Dan J Kellner**, 4/16/76, New York, N.Y. (Columbia University '98/Fencers Club); **Timothy Chang**, 2/17/78, Lexington, Mass. (Stanford University '99/Boston Fencing Club); ALT: **Sean McClain**, 9/13/1975, Rochester, N.Y. (Stanford University '01/Rochester Fencing Centre).

#### MEN'S SABRE

**Ivan J Lee**, 3/31/81, Brooklyn, N.Y. (St. John's University '03/Fencers Club); **Herby Raynaud**, 04/17/71, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Fencers Club); **Keeth Smart**, 7/29/78, Brooklyn, N.Y. (St. John's University '01/Fencers Club); **Jason Rogers**, 4/14/83, Los Angeles, Calif. (Ohio State University '04/Salle Gascon); ALT: **Akhnaten Spencer-EI**, 4/13/79, New York, N.Y. (Fencers Club).

Joining the team will be: manager **Robert Largman**; armorer **Matthew Porter**; trainer **Lonnie Sellers**; coaches **Simon Gershon**, **Yury Gelman**, **Michael Petin**, **Paul Soter**, **Michael Marx**; Captain **Vladimir Nazlymov**; Chief of Mission **Carl Borack**; National Training Director **Buckie Leach**; and Staff Liaison **Carla-Mae Richards**.

(Source: *Cindy Bent, USFA Media Contact, email: [usfencingmedia@earthlink.net](mailto:usfencingmedia@earthlink.net).)*



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January 4-5, 2002 [www.duelinthedesert.com](http://www.duelinthedesert.com)

## SUMMER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | Sacramento, CA, July 3 - 11

### DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE

- (60 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
1. Mattern, Cody M (OREGON)
  2. Hansen, Eric J (NORTH CA)
  - 3.T Feldschuh, Michael (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T O'Loughlin, Chris S (METRO NYC)
  5. Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
  6. Greenhouse, Rashaan O (METRO NYC)
  7. Moreau, John A (SO. TEXAS)
  8. Masin, George G (METRO NYC)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

- (47 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
1. Leszko, Julia A (OREGON)
  2. Spilman, Elisabeth (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Gilker, Daisy D (NORTH TEX)
  - 3.T James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
  5. Tar, Marie-Soph (CAPITOL)
  6. Suchorski, Kristin (CAPITOL)
  7. Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
  8. Fortune, Amy M (SO. CALIF.)

### DIVISION I-A MEN'S ÉPÉE

- (78 Competitors)
1. Mattern, Cody M (OREGON)
  2. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
  - 3.T Rubrecht, Ward B (MINNESOTA)
  - 3.T Verigan, William R (NEW JERSEY)
  - 5.T Beski, Johnny J (COLORADO)
  - 5.T Hoffman, Joe (VIRGINIA)
  7. Clark, Timothy J (WESTERN WA)
  8. Adjemian, Aaron E (BORDER TEX)

### DIVISION I-A WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

- (55 Competitors)
1. Tolley, Toby M (LONG ISLND)
  2. Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
  - 3.T Hohensee, Kira L (NORTHEAST)
  - 3.T Hurley, Tracy A (SO. TEXAS)
  5. Gilker, Daisy D (NORTH TEX)
  6. Byerts, Kerí L (WESTERN NY)
  7. Ehmann, Rachel E (WESTERN NY)
  8. Rurarz-Huygens, Livia D (CAPITOL)

### DIVISION II MEN'S ÉPÉE

- (142 Competitors)
1. Hurme, Tommi K (SO. TEXAS)
  2. Sisco, Matthew C (PHILADELPH)
  - 3.T Brooks, Craig L (WESTERN WA)
  - 3.T Lion, Craig W (NEWENGLAND)
  5. Smith, Christophe (CENTRAL CA)
  6. Simmonds, Oba O (NEW JERSEY)
  7. Jones, Gregory A (WESTERN WA)
  8. Topp, Roger M (ALASKA)

### DIVISION II WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

- (104 Competitors)
1. Albers, Franziska (NEW JERSEY)
  2. Sullivan, Sharon L (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Ehmann, Rachel E (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Enyart, Eliza C (OREGON)
  5. Gresham, Carolyn N (OKLAHOMA)
  6. Rose, Alexa D (NEW JERSEY)
  7. Kato, Janice S (HAWAII)
  8. Ferrer, Ivana R (N.CAROLINA)

### DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL

- (49 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
1. McClain, Sean (Mich (CENTRAL CA)
  2. Dupree, Jedediah (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Eriksen, Kevin S (NORTHEAST)
  - 3.T Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLND)
  5. Cohen, Yale E (METRO NYC)
  6. Wood, Alexander (WESTERN NY)
  7. Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
  8. Chang, Timothy (CENTRAL CA)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL

- (38 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
1. Zimmermann, Iris T (WESTERN NY)
  2. Marsh, Ann E (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Smart, Erinn L (METRO NYC)
  5. Bent, Cynthia L (WESTERN PA)
  6. Stinetorf, Chloe L (NORTH CA)
  7. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
  8. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)

### DIVISION I-A MEN'S FOIL

- (65 Competitors)
1. Schibilia, Jesse A (NEW JERSEY)
  2. Perry, Cameron D (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Bras, Alejandro (NEWENGLAND)
  - 3.T Dew, Eric (NORTH CA)
  5. Liggio, Carl D (MARYLAND)
  6. Mosca, Nicholas D (OKLAHOMA)
  7. Jorge, Jeffrey S (NEWENGLAND)
  8. Miner, Parker J (UTAH/S.IDA)

### DIVISION I-A WOMEN'S FOIL

- (51 Competitors)
1. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
  2. Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)
  - 3.T Cox, Bethany A (UTAH/S.IDA)
  - 3.T Sachs, Elif Z (NEWENGLAND)
  5. Emerson, Abigail (NORTHEAST)
  6. Stinetorf, Chloe L (NORTH CA)
  7. Cox, Susan D (GEORGIA)
  8. Kotlian, Dely J (GEORGIA)

### DIVISION II MEN'S FOIL

- (181 Competitors)
1. Caven, Alex P (WESTERN NY)
  2. Mitchell, John-Paul (TENNESSEE)
  - 3.T Balboa, Rolando M (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Burriesci, Matthew S (CENTRAL CA)
  5. Brooks, Ronald B (S. JERSEY)
  6. Itameri-Kinter, Kai E (NEWENGLAND)
  7. Mannino, Raphael T (NEW JERSEY)
  8. Bowden, Eric D (NEW JERSEY)

### DIVISION II WOMEN'S FOIL

- (131 Competitors)
1. Emerson, Abigail (NORTHEAST)
  2. Menaldino, Janeane R (PHILADELPH)
  - 3.T Horton, Laura A (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Mendelsohn, Alisa R (LONG ISLND)
  5. Fagan, Margaret (NORTH CA)
  6. Walker, Lauren C (SO. CALIF.)
  7. Ruiz-Healy, Kristina (SO. TEXAS)
  8. Korb, Erica M (PHILADELPH)

### DIVISION I MEN'S SABER

- (55 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
1. Lee, Ivan J (METRO NYC)
  2. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Raynaud, Herby (METRO NYC)
  5. Spencer-EI, Akhnaten A (METRO NYC)
  6. Zagunis, Marten R (OREGON)
  7. Lasker, Terrence L (COLUMBUSOH)
  8. Durkan, Patrick J (METRO NYC)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER

- (42 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
1. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
  2. Gelman, Julia (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Becker, Christine (OREGON)
  - 3.T Eiremo, Annika M (MT. VALLEY)
  5. Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
  6. Mustilli, Nicole (NATIONAL)
  7. Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
  8. Crane, Christina (GEORGIA)

### DIVISION I-A MEN'S SABER

- (53 Competitors)
1. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
  2. Baker, Brad (NEWENGLAND)
  - 3.T Diacou, Ari M (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Vashro, Layne J (MINNESOTA)
  5. Self, Benjamin J (ST. LOUIS)
  6. Zucker, Sasha E (CENTRAL CA)
  7. Diacou, Alexander (METRO NYC)
  8. Kragh, Sam E (MINNESOTA)

### DIVISION I-A WOMEN'S SABER

- (52 Competitors)
1. Cox, Bethany A (UTAH/S.IDA)
  2. Padula, Veronica M (NEW JERSEY)
  - 3.T Turner, Delia M (PHILADELPH)
  - 3.T Walsh, Sarah B (MARYLAND)
  5. Macarow, Amy K (MT. VALLEY)
  6. Tracy, Leah (COLUMBUSOH)
  7. Feldman, Jill A (CAPITOL)
  8. Wells, Carly E (ILLINOIS)

### DIVISION II MEN'S SABER

- (130 Competitors)
1. Kragh, Sam E (MINNESOTA)
  2. Manning, Joshua W (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Huang, Howard (NEW JERSEY)
  - 3.T Simpson, Jeremy (LONG ISLND)
  5. Angert, Adam T (OREGON)
  6. Kloepper, Benjamin J (KANSAS)
  7. Smith, John M (N.CAROLINA)
  8. Vodjansky, Matthew L (COLORADO)

### DIVISION II WOMEN'S SABER

- (79 Competitors)
1. Cox, Susan D (GEORGIA)
  2. Frey, Cassandra (NEW JERSEY)
  - 3.T Wieronski, Katarzyna (NEW JERSEY)
  - 3.T Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
  5. Wells, Carly E (ILLINOIS)
  6. Dunn, Lauren K (MT. VALLEY)
  7. Vincent, Angela M (OREGON)
  8. Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)

# TOURNAMENT highlights

## DIVISION III MEN'S ÉPÉE

(148 Competitors)

1. Topp, Roger M (ALASKA)
2. Montford, Kevin (COLORADO)
- 3.T Estes, Rick (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Guymon, David R (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Tabacco, Robert J (NORTH CA)
6. Katz, David A (CENTRAL CA)
7. Sale, Logan L (ST. LOUIS)
8. Ault, Christophe (INLAND EMP)

## DIVISION III WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(115 Competitors)

1. Albers, Franziska (NEW JERSEY)
2. Enyart, Eliza C (OREGON)
- 3.T Proctor, Darby P (GATEWAY FL)
- 3.T Scarborough, Evelyn L. (AK-LA-MISS)
5. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
6. Mendel, Gemma L (N.CAROLINA)
7. Cloud, Christy J (MT. VALLEY)
8. Salvatore, Christina (CAPITOL)

## UNDER-19 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(91 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. French, Timothy L. (SO. TEXAS)
2. Rose, Julian M (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Guevara, Joshua (NORTH TEX)
5. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
6. Banks, Michael S (COLORADO)
7. Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
8. Bralow, Robert (PHILADELPH)

## UNDER-19 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(59 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

1. James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
2. Schirtz, Alli M (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
- 3.T Walton, Kerry E (NORTHEAST)
5. Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
6. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
7. Ambort, Chelsea A (CENTRAL CA)
8. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)

## UNDER-16 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(68 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Ferrer, Alex R (N.CAROLINA)
2. Hohensee, Douglas G (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Howard, Greg E (INDIANA)
- 3.T Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
5. Adjemian, Aaron B (BORDER TEX)
6. Henderson, Jason V (NEW JERSEY)
7. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
8. Merriam, Dylan A (NORTHEAST)

## UNDER-16 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(59 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

1. McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
2. Orlando, Amy E (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Brendler, Kaela J (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Kercksmar, Anne B (NORTH OHIO)
5. Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
6. Willock, Lauren W (KENTUCKY)
7. Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)
8. Ambort, Chelsea A (CENTRAL CA)

## DIVISION III MEN'S FOIL

(183 Competitors)

1. Amodemo, Joseph R (LONG ISLAND)
2. Zeitlin, Jeremy G (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Elchert, Nathan T (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Gillispie, James M (NORTHEAST)
5. Payne, Thomas (ST. LOUIS)
6. Jefferson, Charles E (CONNECTICUT)
7. Kuno, Malcolm A (WESTERN WA)
8. Abeyawardene, Niluka P (NEW JERSEY)

## DIVISION III WOMEN'S FOIL

(138 Competitors)

1. Emerson, Abigail (NORTHEAST)
2. Walker, Lauren C (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Becker, Nancy J (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T St. Jacques, Jill M (NEWENGLAND)
5. Albers, Franziska (NEW JERSEY)
6. Wise, Annie (MT. VALLEY)
7. Mendel, Gemma L (N.CAROLINA)
8. Smith, Natalie C (UTAH/S.IDA)

## UNDER-19 MEN'S FOIL

(88 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)
2. Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
5. Kirk-Gordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
6. Miller, Chris J (KANSAS)
7. Schlaepfer, Ian F (MT. VALLEY)
8. Habermann, Blake J (COLORADO)

## UNDER-19 WOMEN'S FOIL

(81 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
2. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Leahy, Jacqueline (WESTERN NY)
5. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
6. Stinetorf, Chloe L (NORTH CA)
7. Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
8. Hiss, Sophie C (OKLAHOMA)

## UNDER-16 MEN'S FOIL

(106 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Anderson, Meade H (SO. CALIF.)
2. Kirk-Gordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)
5. Habermann, Blake J (COLORADO)
6. Perry, Cameron D (COLORADO)
7. Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
8. Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)

## UNDER-16 WOMEN'S FOIL

(84 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Leahy, Jacqueline (WESTERN NY)
2. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
5. Delahanty, Amy T (KENTUCKY)
6. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
7. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
8. Mendelsohn, Alisa R (LONG ISLAND)

## DIVISION III MEN'S SABER

(102 Competitors)

1. Burstein, Richard D (NEWENGLAND)
2. Smith, John M (N.CAROLINA)
- 3.T Martinez, Mario D (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Shinozaki, Michael S (METRO NYC)
5. Jacobs, Benjamin P (NEWENGLAND)
6. Prilutsky, Stanley (COLUMBUSOH)
7. Nuriddin, Hamidullah (VIRGINIA)
8. Clark, Timothy J (WESTERN WA)

## DIVISION III WOMEN'S SABER

(93 Competitors)

1. Davis, Anika L (MT. VALLEY)
2. Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
- 3.T Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Smith, Natalie C (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
6. Paige, Stephanie (MT. VALLEY)
7. Mohit-Tabatabai, Helena (N. JERSEY)
8. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)

## UNDER-19 MEN'S SABER

(85 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
2. Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Whitmer, Darrin S (METRO NYC)
5. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
6. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
7. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
8. Douville, David A (GEORGIA)

## UNDER-19 WOMEN'S SABER

(49 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

1. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
2. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
- 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
5. Crane, Christina (GEORGIA)
6. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
7. Eiremo, Annika M (MT. VALLEY)
8. Gelman, Julia (METRO NYC)

## UNDER-16 MEN'S SABER

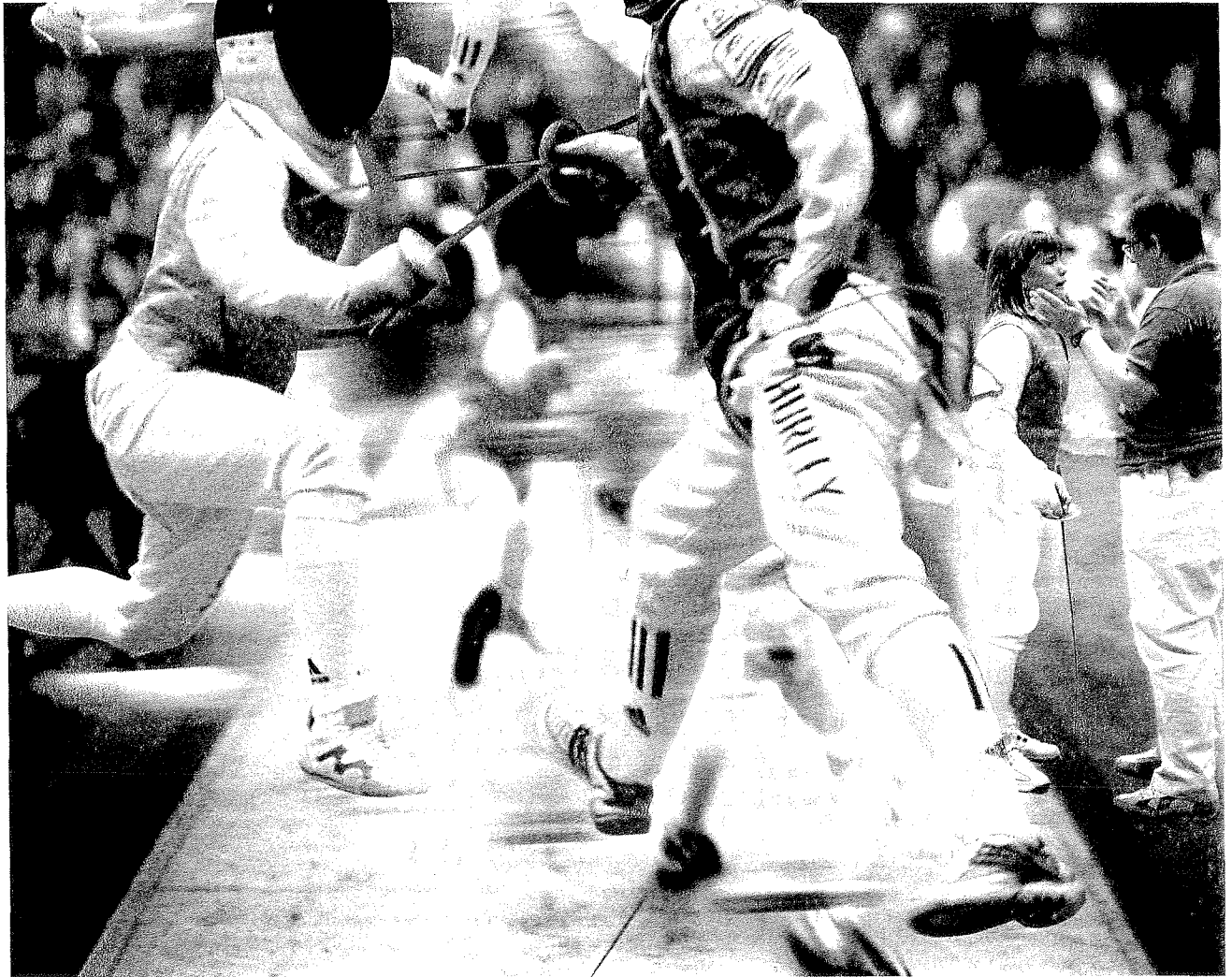
(64 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
2. Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Friend, John F (KANSAS)
- 3.T Kragh, Sam E (MINNESOTA)
5. Stearns, Matthew J (MINNESOTA)
6. Thanhouser, William (OREGON)
7. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
8. Andrus, Curtis A (MT. VALLEY)

## UNDER-16 WOMEN'S SABER

(41 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
2. Eiremo, Annika M (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
5. Vincent, Angela M (OREGON)
6. Liebing, Rachel (UTAH/S.IDA)
7. Siebert, Syvenna B (KANSAS)
8. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)



The 2001 Summer Nationals Photo Contest Winner  
**FRANK WING**

# TOURNAMENT highlights

## YOUTH-14 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(72 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Flack, Joshua B (KENTUCKY)
2. Ferrer, Alex R (N.CAROLINA)
- 3.T Choi, Joshua Jae (COLORADO)
- 3.T Heimsath, Benton (SO. TEXAS)
5. Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
6. Moss, Zachary (NORTHEAST)
7. Baldwin, Scott A (INDIANA)
8. Ebert, Matthew F (PHILADELPH)

## YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(56 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Schirtz, Alli M (WESTERN NY)
2. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Enyart, Eliza C (OREGON)
- 3.T Kantor, Rachel M (NEWENGLAND)
- 5.T Cillo, Anna K (COLORADO)
- 5.T Park, Rachael A (KENTUCKY)
7. Brown, Jessica J (CENTRAL CA)
8. Montoya, Kimberlee (NEVADA)

## YOUTH-12 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(57 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
2. French, Peter R.W. (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
5. Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
6. Kenney, Duncan S (COLORADO)
7. Jones, Tristan K (NORTHEAST)
8. Mansfield, Christophe (UTAH/S.IDA)

## YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(36 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
2. Boehler, Katrina (COLORADO)
- 3.T Finkel, Tess O (METRO NYC)
- 3.T French, Kayley A (NORTH TEX)
5. Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
6. Wu, Grace P (ILLINOIS)
7. Cook, Meagan B (S. JERSEY)
8. Caven, Elaina M (WESTERN NY)

## YOUTH-10 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(26 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
2. Mayorga, Brent A (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T DeLeeuw, Peter M (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Duncan, Christophe (COLORADO)
5. Boutris, Samuel (NORTH TEX)
6. Gable, Colin H (METRO NYC)
7. Ameli, Kian (NEVADA)
8. Picou, Romain O (CAPITOL)

## YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(15 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)
- 3.T Oliva, Andrea L (PHILADELPH)
- 3.T Vongries, Alyssa L (MINNESOTA)
5. Bernstein, Kathryn E (COLORADO)
6. Gilman, Rebecca C (NORTH OHIO)
7. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)
8. Hartman, Grace T (MINNESOTA)

## YOUTH-14 MEN'S FOIL

(120 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
2. Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Stauble, Andrew Co (KENTUCKY)
- 5.T Hennig, Tommy A (VIRGINIA)
- 5.T Lepold, Joshua E (CENTRAL CA)
7. Kubik, Mark W (SO. TEXAS)
8. Horanyi, Andras M (COLORADO)

## YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S FOIL

(92 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
2. Rush, Allison A (COLORADO)
- 3.T Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Sinkin, Ilana B (WESTERN NY)
5. Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
6. Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)
7. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
8. Nemecek, Samantha J (MICHIGAN)

## YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL

(140 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
2. Kim, Isaac J (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Vallo, Alexander (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
6. Getz, Kurt A (WEST-ROCK)
7. Simmons, Alex C (NORTH CA)
8. Adjemian, Nicolas E (BORDER TEX)

## YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

(75 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
2. McGlade, Grace E (COLORADO)
- 3.T Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
5. Ross, Nicole (METRO NYC)
6. Coates, Megan E (WESTERN NY)
7. Henvick, Allison M (NORTH CA)
8. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)

## YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL

(83 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
2. Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Hodges, Grant T (KANSAS)
- 3.T Holbrook, Jonathan L (CAPITOL)
- 5.T Glick, Brandon (NORTH CA)
- 5.T Nesin, Bourcard (NORTHEAST)
7. Jones, Stephen C (WISCONSIN)
8. DeSmet, Ariel A (OREGON)

## YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

(36 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Henvick, Allison M (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Coates, Megan E (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Oliva, Andrea L (PHILADELPH)
5. Getz, Katherine (WEST-ROCK)
6. McDermott, Elizabeth (GULFCST TX)
7. Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)
8. Hirschfeld, Rebecca C (METRO NYC)

## YOUTH-14 MEN'S SABER

(75 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Thanhouser, William (OREGON)
2. Ahn, Steve J (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Baum, Jeff D (KANSAS)
- 3.T Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
5. Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
6. Winnerman, Jonathan P (N. JERSEY)
7. Yeates, Zachary D (MT. VALLEY)
8. Liu, Joe C (GEORGIA)

## YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S SABER

(39 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
2. Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
- 3.T Schneider, Daria H (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)
5. Landau, Kathryn I (MT. VALLEY)
6. Siebert, Lillian (KANSAS)
7. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
8. Schuepp, Tiga K (NEWENGLAND)

## YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER

(68 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
2. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Bielen, Andrew H (PHILADELPH)
- 3.T Zagunis, Merrick H (OREGON)
5. Rudnicki, Alexander (NEW JERSEY)
6. Douville, Michael C (GEORGIA)
7. Strahorn-Brown, Calvin S (OREGON)
8. Lerman, Ilya (SO. CALIF.)

## YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER

(32 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Siebert, Lillian (KANSAS)
2. Keltner, Mera H (OREGON)
- 3.T Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
5. Sachs, Elizabeth (HUDS-BERKS)
6. Murphy, Anna-Paula (MT. VALLEY)
7. Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
8. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)

## YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER

(33 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
2. Ochocki, Aleksander (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Douville, Michael A (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Mahaffey, Harrison H (GULFCST TX)
5. Thompson, Bobby B (OREGON)
6. Kolasa, Thomas M (S. JERSEY)
7. Bak, Adrian (NEW JERSEY)
8. Holbrook, Jonathan L (CAPITOL)

## YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER

(20 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)
2. Vloka, Caroline N (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Aksamit, Monica (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Stone, Elizabeth (ILLINOIS)
5. Usowicz, Ada O (NEW JERSEY)
6. Kadree, Hafsa (GEORGIA)
7. Kohn, Jeri L (NEBR-S.DAK)
8. Pack, Lindsay F (MT. VALLEY)

**VETERAN COMBINED MEN'S ÉPÉE**

(69 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Shalaurov, Alexander (N.CAROLINA)
2. Chidel, Robert (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Gerring, Phillip E (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Hibnes, Marshall A (WESTERN WA)
5. Elliott, Joseph A (SO. CALIF.)
6. Ranes, Evan A (NEVADA)
7. Sexton III, Ray L (SO. TEXAS)
8. Lattin, Kenneth A (OREGON)

**VETERAN COMBINED WOMEN'S ÉPÉE**

(25 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Gresham, Carolyn N (OKLAHOMA)
2. Mansfield, Eugenie D (WESTERN WA)
- 3.T Hurley, Tracy A (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Kallus, Diane H (SO. TEXAS)
5. McMenamin, Dianna S (CONNECTICUT)
6. Duthie, K. Maria (INLAND EMP)
7. Annavedder, Mary E (SO. CALIF.)
8. Berardi, Gladys B (NEW JERSEY)

**DIVISION I TEAM MEN'S ÉPÉE (17 TEAMS)**

1. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division  
(Michael Feldschuh, Michael Lyons, Chris O'Loughlin, Jan Viviani)
2. PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION, Metro NYC Division  
(Benjamin Bratton, Rashaan Bratton, Donovan Holtz, Oba Simmonds)
3. TZCKA, Southern CA Division  
(Alejandro Castillo, Franco Cerutti, Gagik Demerchian, Carl Loeffler)

**DIVISION I TEAM MEN'S SABER (13 TEAMS)**

1. PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION, Metro NYC Division  
(Andre Crompton, Ivan Lee, Herby Raynaud, Akhnaten Spencer-El)
2. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division  
(Patrick Durkan, Paolo Roselli, Oleg Stetsiv, Mario Trimble)
3. FENCERS CLUB, INC., Metro NYC Division  
(Tim Hagamen, Tim Morehouse, Steve Mormando, Darrin Whitmer)

**DIVISION I TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL (5 TEAMS)**

1. ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western NY Division  
(Jacqueline Leahy, Hannah Thompson, Metta Thompson, Iris Zimmermann)
2. HALBERSTADT FENCERS CLUB, Northern CA Division  
(Margaret Fagan, Janet Falcon, Karen Ladenheim, Chloe Stinetorf)
3. SALLE GASCON, Southern CA Division  
(Laura Horton, Joy Koblosh, Kelly Koehler)

**OPEN TEAM MEN'S ÉPÉE (40 TEAMS)**

1. TZCKA, Southern CA Division  
(Jeff Arenberg, Alejandro Castillo, Gagik Demerchian, Carl Loeffler)
2. OLDE TOWNE, Virginia Division  
(Wayne Bowman, Joe Hoffman, Jeff Snider)
3. US MODERN PENTATHLON, South TX Division  
(Eli Bremmer, Scott Christie, Mac McCall, Mike Sanders)

**OPEN TEAM MEN'S SABER (15 TEAMS)**

1. NYAC, Metro NYC Division  
(Alexander Diacou, Ari Diacou, Benjamin Igoe, Byron Igoe)
2. FENCING ATHLETIC CLUB OF KC, Kansas Division  
(Luther Clement, Nick Goellner, Kiel Smith)
3. MINNESOTA SWORD CLUB, Minnesota Division  
(Sam Kregg, Matt Stearns, Layne Vashro, Alex Vongries)

**OPEN TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL (17 TEAMS)**

1. RHODE ISLAND FENCING ACADEMY, New England Division  
(Jess Davis-Heim, Leanda Ferland, Jill St. Jacques)

**VETERAN COMBINED MEN'S FOIL**

(79 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Kaihatsu, Edward (ILLINOIS)
2. Loper, James (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Patterson, Jan M (WESTERN WA)
- 3.T Piatkowski-Nazarro, Marek W (SO. CALIF.)
5. Streb, Joseph S (COLUMBUSOH)
6. Lutton, Thomas W (NEWENGLAND)
7. Douraghy, Jamie M (SO. CALIF.)
8. Krauss, John W (NORTHEAST)

**VETERAN COMBINED WOMEN'S FOIL**

(35 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Aliberti, Elaine A (UTAH/S.IDA)
2. Todd Heiner, Barbara C (WESTERN WA)
- 3.T Huey, Sharone A (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Walton, Yvonne R (NORTHEAST)
5. Duthie, K. Maria (INLAND EMP)
6. Groening, Joanne (LONG ISLAND)
7. Dillon, Marci L (NORTH CA)
8. Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)

**DIVISION I TEAM MEN'S FOIL (16 TEAMS)**

1. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division  
(Cliff Bayer, Yale Cohen, Jed Dupree, Kevin Eriksen)
2. ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western NY Division  
(Sean Melein, Gabriel Sinkin, Jeremy Sinkin, Alex Wood)
3. FENCERS CLUB, INC., Metro NYC Division  
(Joe Fisher, Michael Pasinkoff, Andy Redn, Jon Tiomkin)

**DIVISION I TEAM WOMEN'S ÉPÉE (7 TEAMS)**

1. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division  
(Kamara James, Raven Johnson, Alex Mummery, Arlene Stevens)
2. NORTHWEST FENCING CENTER, Oregon Division  
(Keri Byerts, Julia Leszko, Alli Schirtz, Ruth Schneider)
3. D.C. FENCERS CLUB, Capitol Division  
(Celia Courtright, Livia Rurarz-Huygens, Kristin Suchorski, Marie-Sophie Tar)

**DIVISION I TEAM WOMEN'S SABER (6 TEAMS)**

1. NELLYA FENCING CLUB, Georgia Division  
(Christina Crane, Amelia Gaillard, Emily Jacobson, Sada Jacobson)
2. SACRAMENTO FENCING CLUB, Mt. Valley Division  
(Lauren Dunn, Annika Eiremo, Amy Macarow, Chaz Smith)
3. OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE, Oregon Division  
(Chris Becker, Jennifer Oldham-Cox, Valerie Providenza, Mariel Zagunis)

**OPEN TEAM MEN'S FOIL (25 TEAMS)**

1. KANZA FENCING, Kansas Division  
(Merle Hodges, Gia Kvaratskhelia, Eric McConkey, Chris Miller)
2. SALLE AURIOL SEATTLE, Western WA Division  
(Aaron Filner, Ryan Paulhamus, Peet Sasaki, Charles Sheffer)
3. SALLE D'ESCRIME, Utah/S.Idaho Division  
(Brian Lence, Nigel Miner, Parker Miner)

**OPEN TEAM WOMEN'S ÉPÉE (11 TEAMS)**

1. NORTHWEST FENCING CENTER, Oregon Division  
(Chelsea Ambort, Keri Byerts, Ruth Schneider, Sharon Sullivan)
2. SEACOAST FENCING CLUB, Northeast Division  
(Kira Hohensee, Irina Inman, Courtney Krolkoski, Kerry Walton)
3. GOLDEN GATE FENCING CENTER, Northern CA Division  
(Heath Cabot, Carroll Henschel, Janel Obenchain, Michelle Schaffner)

**OPEN TEAM WOMEN'S SABER (8 TEAMS)**

1. SACRAMENTO FENCING CLUB, Mt. Valley Division  
(Lauren Dunn, Amika Einero, Amy Macarow, Chaz Smith)

## TOURNAMENT highlights

2. FENCERS CLUB, INC., Metro NYC Division  
(Christina Kanesheige, Alisa Mendelson, Kathleen Reckling, Eileen Regan)
3. OREGON COMPOSITE  
(Lisa Bell-Greer, Kailla Finlayson, Valarie Grabow, Marti LaRue)

### UNDER-19 TEAM MEN'S ÉPÉE (19 TEAMS)

1. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division  
(Endre Boksay, Julian Rose, Benjamin Ungar, Bill Verigan)
2. US MODERN PENTATHLON, South TX Division  
(Johnny Beski, Tommi Hurme, Michael Sanders)
3. PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION, Metro NYC Division  
(Ben Bratton, Donovan Holtz, Oba Simmonds, Dwight Smith)

### UNDER-19 TEAM MEN'S SABER (15 TEAMS)

1. NELLYA FENCERS CLUB, Georgia Division  
(David Douville, Joseph Greene, Colin Parker)
2. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metro NYC Division  
(Ari Diacou, Michael Etropolski, Ben Igoe, Byron Igoe)
3. OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE, Oregon Division  
(Ian Farr, Patrick Ghattas, Bill Thanouser, Marten Zagunis)

### UNDER-19 TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL (13 TEAMS)

1. ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western NY Division  
(Jacqueline Leahy, Adrienne Nott, Hannah Thompson, Metta Thompson)
2. FENCERS CLUB, INC., Metro NYC Division  
(Emily Cross, Kelsey Finkel, Jessica Florendo, Alyssa Mendelsohn)
3. BEVERLY HILLS FENCERS CLUB, Southern CA Division  
(Alexie Rubin, Christine Shu, Lauren Walker)

2. SALLE D'ESCRIME, Utah/S.Idaho Division  
(Bethany Cox, Rachel Liebing, Julie Smith, Natalie Smith)
3. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FENCING, Virginia Division  
(Jill Feldman, Renée Lyons, Tamara Taylor)

### UNDER-19 TEAM MEN'S FOIL (24 TEAMS)

1. BOSTON FENCING CLUB, New England Division  
(Alejandro Bras, Jeff Jorge, Jesse Platt, Enoch Woodhouse)
2. SALLE MAURO, Gulf Coast TX Division  
(John Cline, Michael Galligan, Steven Gerberman, Richard Spicer)
3. NORTHERN COLORADO FENCERS, Colorado Division  
(Nick Chinman, Blake Haberman, Andras Horanyi, Cameron Perry)

### UNDER-19 TEAM WOMEN'S ÉPÉE (8 TEAMS)

1. NORTHWEST FENCING CENTER, Oregon Division  
(Chelsea Ambort, Keri Byerts, Alli Schirtz, Ruth Schneider)
2. SEACOAST FENCING CLUB, Northeast Division  
(Kira Hohensee, Irina Inman, Courtney Kroliskoski, Kerry Walton)
3. LONG ISLAND COMPOSITE  
(Katie Cook, Christine Marzano, Megan Phair)

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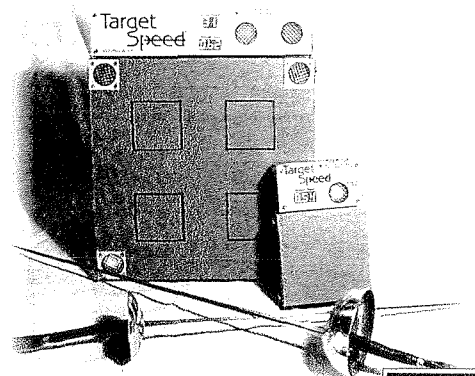
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# STILL REELING PART TWO

by Joe Byrnes

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We're still reeling, I am afraid (all right, that's the last time I'll perpetrate that one). Let's go inside the beast, to the "wire" as everybody calls it, although all right-thinking techies (and even mere semi-techies) know that it is properly a "cable." Now the cable is one of the sore spots for those who have to think about keeping an organization's equipment up and running. Proper cable for reels is not easy to find (and right up front, I'll admit that I have no secret sources or valuable hints on how to save oodles of money—just a bunch of warnings).

To begin with, you want to be sure that the cable is really shot. No electrical continuity is good evidence, provided you are sure that it is the fault of one or more of the wires, not just a poor connection. Of course, an obvious break is the best evidence. Where the break occurs is important, too. A reel needs about 60 feet of cable. A new one probably has a bit more. You could use it when it is down to probably 50, but not for your biggest, most important, competitions. In the course of a long life, a reel will lose from the front end, inches or feet at a time as breaks are repaired by shortening the wires. Eventually replacement will be needed.

One not very common case is worth mentioning. The individual wire(s) show some continuity, but outrageously high resistance, for a reel. Nothing changes it. The reel is, the cable is, the wires are, old. No matter what you do, the actual resistance between one end and the other of a wire is just too high. What has happened? I have seen just enough of

these cases to know that they are real, and I explain them as follows: The wire is almost certainly stranded copper. Over the years the strands have broken up substantially, either all along the length, or only in certain areas. Every just-touching join along the way raises the total resistance to a level at which you can't use the reel any more, even for epee. Q.E.D.

For getting new cable, the first bit of advice is a counsel of perfection: if you can afford it, and want to avoid all sorts of problems, the best replacement for any given reel is what its manufacturer recommends (and presumably has available, at a price). That could be a problem, of course, for an organization that has very ancient equipment, so old that the original manufacturer is out of business or merely (in the charming expression of the business world) no longer "supporting" it. There are many reasons for looking for the original cable. First, the stuff will fit; the reel was designed for it, if not around it. Anything else you install may be stiffer—a common fault. Therefore it may not conform to the curvature of the drum inside; thus it will make a loose wrap and simply jam the reel by an excess of loosely wound coils when trying to take up from about halfway out.

Case in point: the older, upright, Uhlmann reels (we still have some in service in New Jersey) used a gray cloth-wrapped cable, very flexible; it coiled up tightly. The newer "square turtle" Uhlmanns that we have all known for lo these many years use a much stiffer cable, although it has a

smaller diameter, a cable that will not coil down into the old Uhlmann case—it does not fit and *cannot* be used. Similarly, the new Uhlmann cable, though gorgeous stuff for durability, etc., requires too big a circumference of drum (and is a bit stiff) to fit into any models but Herr U's ST's.

Another problem with buying replacement cable is that most of the three-conductor types generally available (through electronic and electrical supply houses) is not manufactured with the needs of fencing in mind. The ability to coil up tight, while withstanding the stretching, slamming around, and general abuse that they are given is not often demanded of ordinary wire and cable, which tends to lie down and stay where you put it. Many three-conductor cables that are ideal for floor cords, for example, could never be considered for use inside a reel. They tend to be too thick and too stiff, however well insulated and robustly jacketed they may be. Furthermore, any fencing reel cable worth its price cannot rely merely upon the three wires themselves and their individual insulating jackets (inside the overall, usually plastic, jacket). They will certainly have sturdy cord or threads, generally of some kind of nylon or Kevlar or similar strengthening material running the whole length of the cable, sometimes straight, sometimes wound along with the twist that is given to the actual conductors. This is for "strain relief," and woe to the reel that doesn't have it.

Case in point: The simple triple-twist cable (usually red, white, yellow) that is used in the French design "fishing spool" type of reel, in its best form

includes a sturdy cord of this type twisted along its length. For a while some years ago, a similar-appearing cable, which not only lacked the reinforcing cord, but was also made of only a few coarse steel wire strands, instead of many fine copper ones, was being imported as a replacement. After all, it looked, superficially, just the same. It didn't quite feel the same when you handled it, but that wasn't enough to raise warning flags, until the stuff began to break down, as the original never did. As the old saying goes, you can't tell a wire by its cover.

Even an original manufacturer's cable can prove a dog, as early purchasers of the Soviet fishing spool reels will remember: the blue-plastic insulated wires that, twisted together,

created the cable in those things did not last long—at least they did not stay twisted together for long. Grotesque disassemblies of the twist were routine. The next version (white-insulated) worked better, though it was still something short of perfection.

In the search for replacement cable, American technicians have looked widely for possible candidates. Over the years I can recollect two—make that three—successful searches that produced cables (not from original manufacturers) that worked well. Conversely, I can recollect at least three times as many that did not work well—some of them real disasters. There were the ones that lost their outer jackets by abrasion, that did ditto by heat (great for the southwest USA), wires

that could not stand up to the stress of the pulling and bending that goes on continually with a fencing reel. Some simply lacked any pretense at a strain relief. Every one of these happy thoughts was highly touted by its discoverer, of course, until the horrible truth became undeniable any longer.

All this may seem like a pretty grim picture. I prefer to think of it as a realistic appraisal. The one thing you don't want to do is jump in and buy any great quantity of "reel cable" on anybody's say-so, if it isn't a proven style, generally in use, with a track record. Obviously, if you grab something new, it can take the best part of a fencing season to show whether you have a genuine find or just another turkey.

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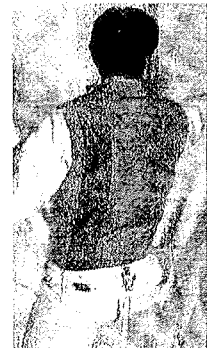
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# A VETERAN YANKEE IN KING ALEX'S COURT

by Robert Block



*Age is an issue of  
mind over matter. If  
you don't mind, it  
doesn't matter.*

—Mark Twain

Some number of issues ago I wrote a column about a stay at the USFA Coaches College and tried to convey a few of those impressions and experiences from a veteran fencer's perspective (see Winter 1998, *American Fencing*). Although relatively new to coaching, I was an older collegian who found myself rooming with two other coaches approximately the ages of my own two sons. The generation gap was an interesting challenge for all, but I'm happy to report that each of us survived that challenge in addition to the other rigors of the College's curriculum. In a perfect world I'd like to think that each of us became a little more tolerant as human beings as well as better coaches, but such a perfect world sometimes seems as elusive as Camelot. I can tell you that this past summer I returned once again to the Coaches College and discovered that my ninth visit produced a curiously new kaleidoscope of experiences for a veteran's eye.

In contrast to my previous generational encounter, this time I found that both of my roommates were older than I was! A mere coincidence, or a scheme concocted by the esteemed

faculty to corral some of the gray-beards together and create a room full of veterans? Maybe I was just deceiving myself about becoming a more tolerant human being and this was the logical outcome.

When I opened the door to my dorm room I noticed that everything, including fencing gear, was neatly stowed away...how different than my first visit. One of my roommates had already arrived and was sound asleep in his bunk enjoying the quiet of the late summer afternoon. The sleeping figure was none other than my friend Alan Kiems, a genuine Connecticut Yankee. Hey, this was something that I could relate to: no personal CDs, laptops or video games, just an older guy taking a nap! Our third roommate hadn't arrived yet and there were still several hours to go before the mandatory orientation meeting took place. So I picked out a lower bunk (no climbing up and down for me, thank you, I had enough of that a lifetime ago after I got my greetings from Uncle Sam) and prepared to take a short nap myself. The afternoon, however, took a surprising and most unexpected course when I accidentally bumped my head while turning to adjust the window next to my bunk. As I lay back down a bit woozy from that painful impact, I fell fast asleep and into a curious dream about a strangely familiar place.

When I came to again (perhaps in a dream, but I can't really say), I found myself sitting on the wooden floor of a massive, high-ceilinged room that was strung with banners decorated with multicolored rings. Around the room

were groups of what appeared to be knights armored in leather and heavily padded garments, their faces hidden by metal masks. These knights, or whoever they might be, were working in pairs and busily engaged in drills with their swords. I observed that they each wielded one of three types of swords and that the different groups exhibited various levels of skill. I approached an individual who was standing apart from the others, thinking he might be a swordmaster or some such person in charge of the drills, and asked, rather hesitatingly, "What is this place, sir?" The tall, gray-haired individual raised one eyebrow as he turned to look at me and said in a scornful voice rising in pitch, "Why Coachelot of course, you're in Coachelot. What's-a-matter, haven't you been paying attention?"

For a moment I was taken aback and wasn't quite sure what to say, but I quickly recovered and asked him whom he might be, adding that I'd bumped my head and wasn't thinking too clearly at the moment. Rising to his full height, the gray-haired one said, "I am Edward, Sir Crankyalo, as if you weren't already aware of that fact, varlet!" I hurried away from his agitated presence, escaping to the side of the great hall where I took a seat and could watch the action with a little distance between us.

"Forsooth, are you having problems with Eddie the Icon?" I heard a voice next to me ask. Looking to my right I saw that a slender man with wispy white hair, wearing a conical wizard's

hat and dressed in a long, dark robe sat next to me. It struck me as somewhat peculiar that his ensemble also included a color-coordinated tie that was neatly buttoned-down at the collar. Gaining back a little of my composure, I asked boldly, "And who might you be?" With an enthusiastic chuckle he responded that he was "Dapper Dan the Armory Man, Merlin of Weaponry." While contemplating his answer and thinking that it seemed like I'd encountered this wizard somewhere before, I decided that I might as well try to get some information out of him. I told him that I understood this place was apparently called Coachelot, but I would appreciate it if he could tell me who all these people were and what were they doing here?

He looked at me a bit quizzically as wizards are wont to do, and finally replied, "Why this is King Alex's Court and these are his knights. They assemble here at Coachelot once every summer to practice the noble art-of-arms and afterwards they return to their own lands to train their squires in the ancient practice of the sword." With that he took a few furtive glances around the great hall and then announced rather gleefully that there were "always weapons to be balanced, sharpened and otherwise repaired," so he would have to leave me now. As the curious wizard scurried away across the hall, the side of his robe fell back in his rush of activity and I noticed that belted around him was an incredible array of small tools and odd instruments. "Hmmm," I thought to myself, "for some reason this doesn't seem like very odd behavior for an armorer."

After awhile I noticed a courtly blonde woman walking towards me carrying a basket filled with an assortment of pens, patches, pins and other paraphernalia, all emblazoned with the USFA logo. "Prithee, good sir," she said to me as she approached, "might thee be interested in outrageously priced garage sale items from Lord Massik's treasure trove?" When I politely declined the offer, she pointed out that all such sales had been approved under official policy established by Lady Carla, Keeper of All

That is Technical and Correct. Even so, I was certain that I didn't have the proper coin of the realm, whatever that might be, and again declined to buy any of the wares.

The lady then introduced herself as Elizabeth I, wife of King Alex and Queen of Coachelot.

"Aha," thought I, "perhaps the Queen can explain what is going on and why I'm here." When I put the question to her, she said that I was undoubtedly a veteran knight who was here for refresher training and had probably become a bit addled from a blow to the helm. She suggested that I rejoin my sword group so as not to fall too far behind in the drills. If my weapon was the dueling sword, then I was either in the intermediate class led by Salem, the Skilled Swordsman to the Pharaohs, or the advanced forum taught by Gerald the Slightly Sarcastic, Baron of Copeland. If the short sword was my weapon, I might be in a higher level group instructed by King Alex himself, the quickest swordsman in the realm and the true embodiment of the *elan* of the art-of-arms. Watching the King dart around the floor with Gallic grace, I realized that he would indeed make a formidable foe. In an aside, the good Queen confided to me that as skilled as King Alex might be, he was by birth a Norman which meant that the Anglo-Saxon knights of his roundtable at Coachelot were sometimes a little slow in understanding the nuances of his verbal commands.

Queen Elizabeth also pointed out that there were a number of accomplished women warriors who had earned seats at King Alex's roundtable. These included Lady Sara, the Sultry Swordstress of San Antone, whose expertise was with cutting-edge weapons. There was Baroness Andrea of the Antipodes, who spoke in the odd tongue of the Newzies, and worked with King Alex teaching the short sword. And, of course, there was Princess Zoila from the far off Land of Colombia who specialized in the dueling weapon and enjoyed carving her trademark "Z" on an opponent's visage. And not to be forgotten were the gracious Ladies of the Lake, Dame Sally and Dame Carol, who could both wield a weapon with considerable authority as well as recommend balms and poultices

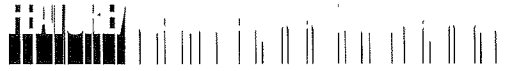
that might save the life of an injured swordsman or swordswomen.

I was also told that for a number of years the historical lore of the weapons had been handed down by the Learned William, Duke of Gaugler, who hails from the West, but at this convening of the roundtable that task was being handled by Sir Brian di Bizozco, a knight and sage from the far Southern Realm. Then, just as the Queen was explaining the operation of the roundtable in greater detail, a ball made of animal bladders that the knights were using in a warm-up game slammed into the side of my head. Coachelot quickly faded into a mist of shadows and then darkness....

When I awoke this time I was again lying on my bunk in my dorm room at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Coachelot was only a blurry remembrance of things long past. Our missing roommate Harold Head, my tall friend from Atlanta, showed up and had to take the upper bunk, bad knee and all. Later, the three of us went to the orientation meeting and met the 2001 staff at the Coaches College.

As I sat there in the audience and looked up at the staff members sitting along a linear table (could that be right?), there seemed to be something hauntingly familiar about their faces. I thought to myself, "No, it couldn't be; it was only a dream." But was it? Perhaps I would find out tomorrow when the active training sessions began in a large gymnasium at the training center, the one that happened to be festooned with Olympic flags. Maybe it was possible after all...Methinks you'll just have to find that place called Coachelot or journey to the Coaches College and determine this for yourself.

*Bob Block, aka The Grayblade, competes in all three weapons in veteran competitions and coaches fencing at the Denver Fencing Center and the Mile High Fencing Club when he isn't at his day job as a project manager for the federal government. He has a PhD in geography from UCLA, where he was also captain of the varsity fencing team as an undergraduate.*



# 2001 HALL of FAME

By Phil Reutlinger

It was a night to honor the greatness of yesterday. On Saturday evening, July 8, after an extraordinary day of fencing at the Summer Nationals, the USFA presented the Second Annual Hall of Fame Dinner at Grapes Restaurant in Sacramento, Calif. The night glittered with the calvary of swordsmen and -women who were on hand to witness the induction of the seven newest members to the Hall, as well as to honor four distinguished USFA members with service awards.

The event opened with USFA President and Master of Ceremonies Stacey Johnson welcoming all of the honorees and guests to a night that what would create sterling moments for all of those in attendance. After enjoying the wonderful cuisine of one of Sacramento's finest restaurants, the crowd settled themselves for evening's magic.

Presented and accepted ceremoniously by Andy Shaw, the first three inductees—the late Charles George Bothner, Isabel Mildred Fish, and Charles Tatham—idealized the greatness of American fencing legends. The cunning, skill and strength of each was firmly depicted; the greatness of the champions of yesterday left all those in attendance wondering who among today's stars could fill their shoes.

Between 1894 and 1905, Bothner, a New York Athletic Club fencer, won 11 individual and two team National Championships, but it was in 1897 that he accomplished his greatest feat by capturing the National Title in foil, sabre, and epee.

Fish, of Philadelphia, was the leader of the first women's foil National Championship Team in 1928. This early pioneer to women's athletics did not end with her heroics on the strip, as she was a leading supporter of women's fencing for many years.

As a five-time National Champion, Tatham is only one of three men to ever win the National Epee title in three consecutive years. The long-time treasurer of the New York Fencers Club also won three-Olympic medals and is one of the five founding fathers of the AFLA/USFA.

The next inductee was Joanna De Tuscan Harding, who was also presented by Shaw. In 1936, Harding was queen of the fencing world—the National Foil Champion who earned a spot on the Olympic Team, and was the World Professional Fencing Champion. Her style, grace, and speed set her apart from the competition, just as her beauty made her a legend in her own time.

Edwin "Buzz" Hurst, who would receive an award later in the night, presented Jean-Jacques Gillet, who was accepted by Al Peters. Gillet headed the program at Cornell University for 12 years, and later founded the USFA Coaches College. He was also the U.S. Olympic



Left to right: Tom Ciccarone, Stacey Johnson, and Neil Lazar.

## tears and laughter were shared in reverence for the legends and heroes of yesterday

senting the United States at the 1972 Montreal Olympics and Pan-American Games. She led the United States to gold in the Team Foil title in those Pan-Am Games.

The evening was concluded with the presentation of four USFA Service Awards. “Buzz” Hurst, a presenter earlier in the night, received an award for “Service to Divisions and Sections.” Dan DeChaine was honored for “Service to the Sport of

Team Coach in 1976.

Following Gillet, Andy Santelli presented Allan S. Kwartler to Alison Baily and Jeffrey Kwartler. Allan Kwartler was a four-time Olympian, never reaching a medal, but placed fourth twice in team sabre. The New York native was a highly respected official in the 1950s through 1970s, and had the honor to officiate the individual final at the 1960 Olympic Games. He continued his career long after his officiating days were over, as he coached at several institutions including West Point, SUNY Purchase, Brooklyn Poly, Salle Santelli, and others.

Tom Ciccarone then introduced Neil J. Lazar. The long-time coach of Salle Santelli, Westchester High Schools (New York), City College of New York, and currently SUNY Binghamton, Lazar introduced many young people to the sword. He guided Uriah Jones to the 1968 Olympic team.

Sharon Everson then presented Donna Stone to the Hall. Stone—one of the most dominating epee fencers of the late '80s, early '90s—placed in the top three of the National Epee Championships eight times between 1987 and 1996. She captured gold three times in 1987, '90, and '94. Further, she finished fifth in the 1989 Denver World Championships, and was a finalist in three World Cup Tournaments. In 1989 and 1990, the USOC tabbed her as its Athlete of the Year.

Finally, the stage was set for Dr. Ruth White, who was presented by Freddie Hooker. White revolutionized fencing by becoming the first African-American champion and, in 1969, the youngest Foil Senior National Champion. Her success continued as she captured the crown again in '71, and then repre-

Below: A smiling Carla Mae Richards as admirers are reflected in the mirror behind her.



Fencing”. Jack Keane was awarded for “Service to the USFA.” Carla Mae Richards capped off the evening in dramatic fashion when she received an “Award for Outstanding Service to the USFA Professional Staff.”

All in all, the night was filled with wonderful memories, as tears and laughter were shared in remembrance of and reverence for the legends and heroes of yesterday. The members of the Hall of Fame Committee—Arnold Messing and Steve Khinoy—smiled from ear to ear as they had once again put on a tremendous show.

*Phil Reutlinger served as a summer intern at the United States Fencing Association office and helped coordinate the Hall of Fame dinner.*



# FENCING WITH MY EYES CLOSED

Reflections of a  
College of  
Charleston Fencer

by Sloan Hardin Newman

photos by Katie Bogus

**Manley** lunges toward me, dropping the point of his epee as he attacks my foot. Manley is one of the fencers whom I fence against regularly. He is also one of the top-ranked epeeists in South Carolina. As he attacks, he leaves the upper left side of his body open for a counter attack; I see this and decide that I will make a counter attack to his forearm. In a flash, the match will end and one of us will be victorious.

The world seems to change in flashes. Kennedy was assassinated in a flash, altering the future of America forever. Journalists tell how the Hindenburg was about to complete its maiden voyage when, in a flash, there was nothing left of the blimp and many lost their lives.

For the audience, such a flash passes in mere seconds, but for the people who are actually living it, it moves in what seems to be hours. As I counter Manley's attack, everything freezes and I can sense everything around me. I can smell the sweat hanging from my nose. I sense my leather glove—soiled in sweat—covering my hand, and the cling of my jacket to my body. I realize that I have been fencing for a year, but it feels

like I picked up my first blade yesterday. I learn more about the sport of fencing every day, like a child who attends school for the first time. This is how I feel every time.

I have always wanted to learn to fence, even before I learned that the College of Charleston offered a club program for it. I first learned about fencing from my father, Larry Newman, who fenced when he attended high school. When I was growing up, he would tell me stories of fencers dressed in white, wearing masks, hiding their identities from each other and the rest of the world, moving across the floor like birds across water, so smoothly and quickly that one does not realize they are moving.

When I put on my gear and don my mask, I am able to be myself.

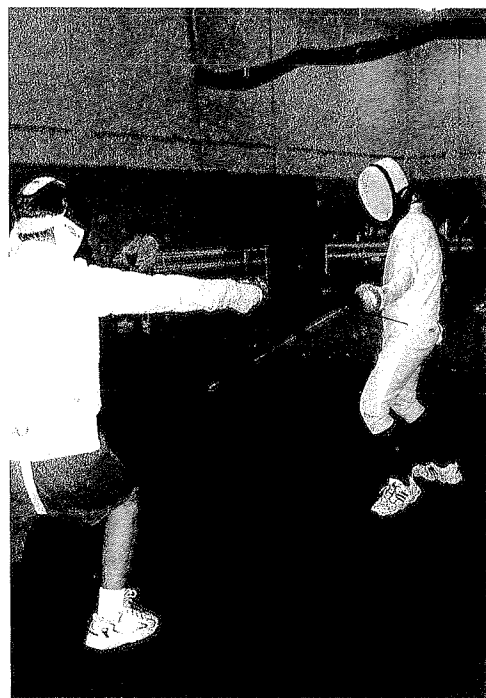
People tend to fear honesty. I used to spend my time putting on a façade, so often that I forgot who I was and what made me happy. I was trying to hide my weaknesses and shortcomings by exaggerating other characteristics about myself. In fencing, however, I am stripped of my physical identity; by looking the same as every one else, I am able to be me. People

*I contemplated how a victory against Manley would change me. Would I become critical of my own fencing—breaking down every movement and analyzing it to its most microscopic detail?*

who are normally silent and reserved often become verbose once they place their mask over their face and become a fencer. In the same way, people who are outgoing become silent and reserved, not uttering a single word from the time they step onto the piste until the end of the match. After the match, when the masks are removed, fencers go back to being people hiding their true identity.

I contemplated how a victory against Manley would change me. Would I become critical of my own fencing—breaking down every movement and analyzing it to its most microscopic detail? Would I become obnoxious and self-centered? Probably a bit of both. I have never met an accomplished fencer who is not critical about his/her own fencing and confident that he/she is the best.

The blades flash. I take control of Manley's blade. As I do, I catch a glimpse of his eye. He knows what I am planning and he knows he cannot prevent me. He can only hope the tip of my blade will miss its target. Fencing is precise when it comes to dealing with targets. Which is the best? How shall I make contact?



“Target” is a broad term; I use it loosely. With epee, the entire body is one target. From the top of the mask to the fingers on the hand, down to the big toe, everything and anything goes. The problem is how to get the tip to come in contact with your opponent without opening yourself up to an attack.

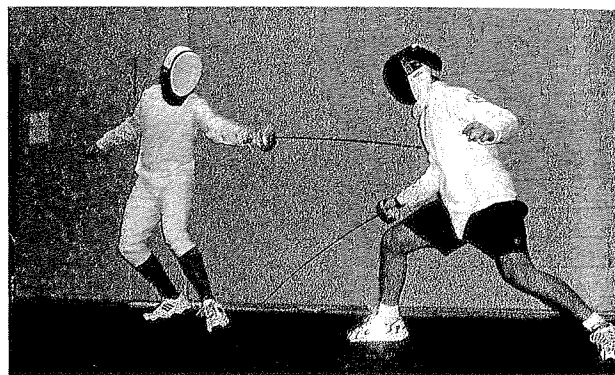
The ideal answer to this problem is to have control over the point.

My coach once told me, “Let the tip of the blade be your eyes.” During training I close my eyes and fence blind,

indeed letting my tip be my eyes. This helps me to place my point anywhere on my opponent I want to. Another training method for point control is use of a tennis ball. Threading the ball on a string, I hang it from the ceiling, then count how many times I can hit the tennis ball with my point without missing the ball. When I finish working on point control, I do footwork for an hour.

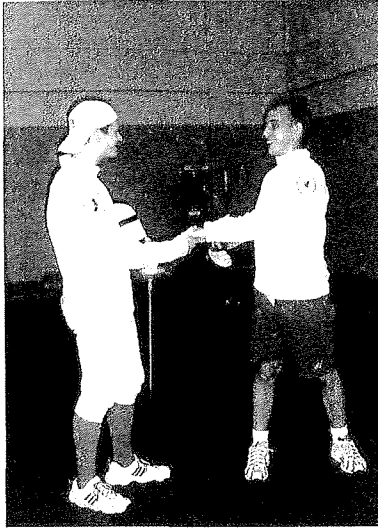
Footwork is the most grueling part of training. (*The New York Times* says, “Fencing is more grueling than football.”) Footwork is often the second thing a fencer is taught; the first is how to stand “on guard.” In Europe, students do footwork drills for a year before they are allowed to pick up a blade. My first three weeks of training involved only footwork drills: advance to the wall, then retreat, with the occasional lunge. After practice, I would hardly be able to walk. I would come back to my apartment and ice down my legs. People who see fencing on TV see only the flash—“an old Errol Flynn movie: two fencing foils,” to quote poet Mark Cox. They never see the hours of training that fencers put forth to accomplish the fluid movement depicted on the screen.

As my blade reaches Manley's forearm, I realize the effort and time I have put into training is paying off. I am about to beat the person who convinced me not to give up on the sport. When I first began to fence, I would get angry because I was not accomplishing what I wanted. There were times when I wanted to quit. Then I saw Manley's face and I knew that if I



Photos: Sloan in knickers, Greg Wooten in shorts.





could beat him, then I could overcome all other obstacles. Watching Manley fence is like watching a caged animal jumping around on the piste. Without warning, he attacks like a coiled snake, leaving his opponent trying to figure out what happened. I knew that to beat Manley would be a challenge, and I have always enjoyed a challenge.

The point of my blade touches Manley on his forearm. I hold my breath and wait to hear the judge call "halt." I have gone deaf. I hear nothing. I see Manley salute me and remove his mask. The salute signals the end of the match. I return the salute and remove my mask, walk to the center of the piste and shake Manley's hand. He says, "You finally beat me...took you long enough." We walk off the strip as equals, today.

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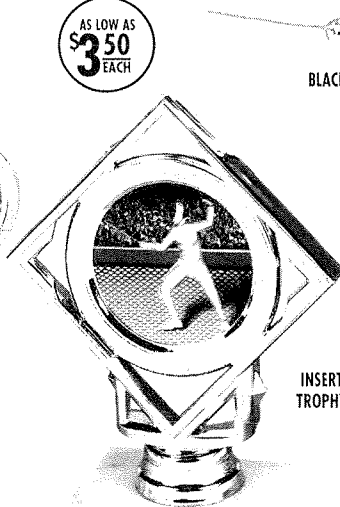
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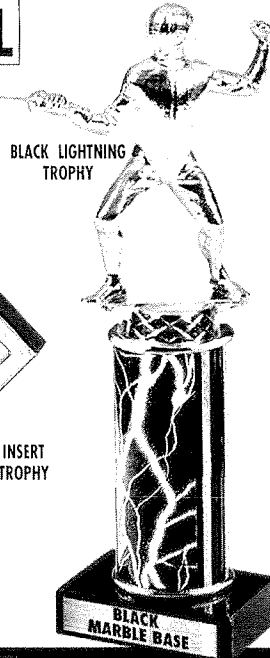
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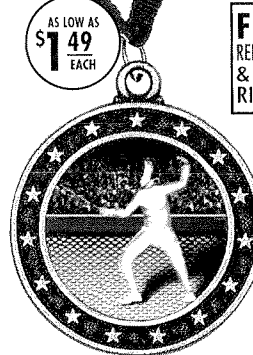
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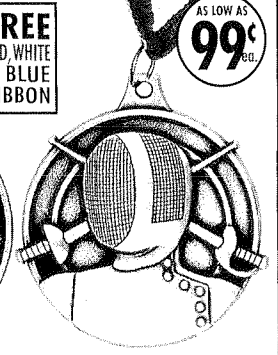
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# THE GUARDIANS OF THE GAME

by John Heil and Brian Buford

On any given day in any given sport, who is charged with watching over the game? Not the coaches or athletes, although the “guardians” are often drawn from their ranks. Here is another hint: When they do their job well, they go unnoticed, but are open to scrutiny and often subjected to public criticism. No, it is not the police. Let’s take a look at their job description: (1) See that the event proceeds within the rules of the game; (2) Interfere as little as possible, never seeking to become the center of attention; (3) Set and maintain an atmosphere for the enjoyment of the contest; (4) Show concern for the athletes. By now you have guessed that they are the officials. If this were all that was expected, the work of officiating would not be as demanding as it is. But there are other unspoken rules that really make this a tough job—namely, that referees are not supposed to make mistakes, and that they are supposed to remain in control of their emotions at all times.

Although the essential tasks of officiating are much the same from sport to sport, the particulars vary considerably. In football and basketball, officials typically work in a crew, so can lend a hand to one another in making calls and provide support to each other as the contest unfolds. In fencing and wrestling, for example, the official often works alone. In wrestling, the referee crawls around on a sweat-streaked mat, while the fencing official, in coat and tie, spends the day in the company of sweat-soaked fencers.

Some sports have rules that bewilder the spectators and beguile the athletes. In soccer, it’s “offsides,” and in fencing, of course, it’s “right of way.” Who among you has not tried to explain “right of way,” only to get dumb looks and end up feeling tongue-tied. I remember watching two international-level coaches (who were both formerly international-level competitors), debate a “right of way” call to an impasse (in a bout without either of their fencers par-

ticipating). It left me wondering if determining “right of way” was, at times, only slightly less complicated than understanding “the meaning of life.” Many times I have heard fencers talk about the touch they were cheated out of, or the bout they lost because of the referee. Yet it follows that for every bout lost by one fencer on a questionable call, there is a bout won by another fencer, on that same call. But only on rare occasions, have I heard anyone (usually a coach) acknowledge this. Such is human nature, for us to see things to our own advantage.

## A Reasonable Standard of Performance

It is also generally accepted that, “To err is human.” What then is an acceptable level of error for a referee? To get a better handle on this, we began by asking some experienced referees to estimate how many decisions they typically make in the course of a busy day, such as at an event like Summer Nationals. George Kolombatovich was kind enough to lay it out in detail as follows:

“I went over some competition records and here is a good example of a tough day for one of our top foil referees at Summer Nationals where she or he would preside in Division I into the finals, plus work two or three other competitions. The first bout would start around 8:30 a.m., and the last would end at about 10:00 p.m. That would total about 65 [bouts], with a little more than a third of them likely being DE bouts.

“Figuring that the average score of a five-touch bout is 5-3, with an average of five other decisions (off-target, off the strip, penalty, etc.), there are approximately 13 decisions in bout. For a 15-touch bout, I figured an average score of 15-8, with approximately 12 other deci-

sions (adding halts for the end of the periods to the off-targets and other calls noted above), for approximately 35 decisions in all. Thus the total number of decisions in a day is about 1,300—not counting inspection of equipment, proper on guard position before each command of ‘fence,’ keeping track of the score, dealing with coaches, tabulating score sheets, watching for the toddler near the strip, et cetera.”

Kolombatovich then offered some additional insight into the work of officiating:

“One thing that is not considered here is that, except for the handling of the pressure, it is much easier to officiate at the finals of the Olympics than it is to referee bouts in Division III or Youth 10. The better the fencers, the clearer are the actions. In lower level fencing, a referee frequently awards a touch to the fencer who made the smaller error, than to the one who was ‘correct.’ Most top referees will, I think, state that it is much more tiring doing lower level bouts. A factor here is that the excitement of refereeing a high level bout does make it seem less tiring; though, in the end, it is probably just as taxing.”

Then for all his efforts in offering feedback, Kolombatovich commented, “What fun! Thanks for the exercise. Now I’m not so sure that we want our top referees to know how much we are asking of them.” Which reminded me of how often officials mention having a sense of humor as a way to cope with the stress of the job.

There is not much perfect in the world of sport. Baseball has the “perfect game”—no runs, no hits, no walks, and

no errors. But this occurs only rarely (far less than once a year at the pro level) and isn't really perfect. Balls, as well as, strikes are thrown, and most of the bat- ters on the winning team will get outs rather than hits. Since it is unfair and impossible to expect perfection, then what is a reasonable standard of perfor- mance for a fencing official? Let's look at a high, but not perfect standard-like 98% correct. Based on the math in Kolombatovich's example, the best the referee could be expected to do, in get- ting well over 1,000 calls correct, is to make about 25 errors. And somebody will lose out because of these 25 errors, and he/she will be understandably unhappy. It's part of the game.

### Being a Referee

To gain a better understanding of the referee's point of view, a survey was distributed at the 2001 Summer Nation- als asking what motivated athletes and coaches to become referees, and how they dealt with the challenges of offici- ating. Referees are first motivated out of a sense of duty, to provide a service to the sport. Many also saw officiating as way to develop themselves within fenc- ing, whether as a coach, athlete, or as a referee directly. As one official noted, "My first fencing coach stressed refer- eeing as part of our fencing education, he thought if we 'could see it we could do it.' I also feel its importance to 'give back' to the sport."

You may not be surprised to know that the majority of those surveyed have at one time or another considered quit- ting duties as a referee. The leading reasons given were the inherent chal- lenges of the work, but especially the outright negative behavior encountered from athletes, coaches and others at the events. These demands are cap- tured in one referee's comment: "The hostile atmosphere from fencers, coaches, and spectators: the pressure of being 'flawless,' consistent and focused."

When asked why they continued directing in spite of problems and con- troversy, the overwhelming response was for love of the sport. Feelings of duty and service to fencing also figured prominently, as did a sense of achieve- ment as an official, and satisfaction with doing the job well. As one person noted, "I actually like directing."

Keeping things in perspective also helps, as one referee said: "Early in my

referee career I got discouraged when fencers complained—I realized that when I was a competitor, I thought all of the referees were terrible—some were less bad than others. This realization helped me continue as a referee."

When it comes to doing the work of officiating, referees often fall back on their knowledge of the sport, not only for the technical aspects of directing a bout, but also for maintaining concen- tration and composure when things start to get tense. That is, they continue to think and react like athletes, using the same stress management and refocus- ing techniques they learned as competi- tors.

Of course, the psychological demands are different, as reflected in this statement about avoiding getting caught up in negative momentum: "I keep my energy low, move slowly, speak slowly, and breathe slowly. I also try to keep some physical distance from everyone so as not to get taken up in their energy level."

Much care and attention is typically given by the more accomplished offi- cials to assuming the proper role and demeanor, to creating an atmosphere of "firmness and fairness," as reflected in this description of the process of offici- ating: "Crisp roll call and check of equipment; no nonsense allowed; no excess verbiage; pleasant, short com- ments; know what I expect from fencers and determine how to communicate it in advance."

For hard work and dedication to sport there are special intrinsic rewards that blend a feeling of achievement and

self-satisfaction—the experience of being in the "zone." This also comes with officiating, as one referee noted: "When I am 'seeing it all,' it is as if I am fencing with the fencers and am just verbalizing the experience. The fencers know how things will be seen and con- sequently they relax and really take risks, fence hard, and let out their best effort—now that's great fencing. I can challenge them to give me their best stuff and we all see it the same (for the most part—as much as different brains seeing the same event can)."

### A Fresh Perspective

Officials are an essential, valuable and limited resource in the sport. First, fencing needs officials to enforce fair play and maintain safety. Second, an ample supply is critical, since a referee is needed every time two athletes fence. Third, part of international success for U.S. fencing is dependent upon having our officials at World Cups and World Championships, so that they remain up to date with the latest developments, and can relay these to coaches and ath- letes. Fourth, by and large, fencing is a family—virtually everyone at a competi- tion shares a personal investment in the sport, as an athlete, coach, parent etc.—that is, we are all in this together.

*Dr. John Heil and Dr. Brian Buford represent Lewis-Gale Clinic in Roanoke, VA. Dr Heil serves as Chair of Sports Medicine and Science for the USFA. He can be reached at 540-265-1659 or at jheil@rev.net*

### How to make fencing better for everyone:

- \* Exercise your right to have a clear understanding of how the referee sees the action. Ask questions for the purpose of clarification and not accusation.
- \* Fence strongly and decisively, so that you can avoid, if at all possible, being in the position where the outcome of your bout comes down to a judgment call.
- \* Be aware that a verbal assault on a referee may be disruptive to the point that it compromises his or her ability to make calls accurately and consistently.
- \* Consider complimenting an official who shows tact and fairness in a particularly tough bout. (You might want to start with a bout that you watched as a spectator.)
- \* Consider discussing bouts with the referees after the fact, to get a better understanding of how they see things.
- \* Give yourself a chance to see it from the other side, by trying your hand at officiating. This may help in a variety of ways.
- \* Remember that some of the time you will benefit from a questionable call.

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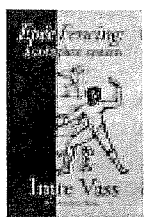
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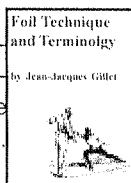


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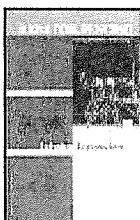
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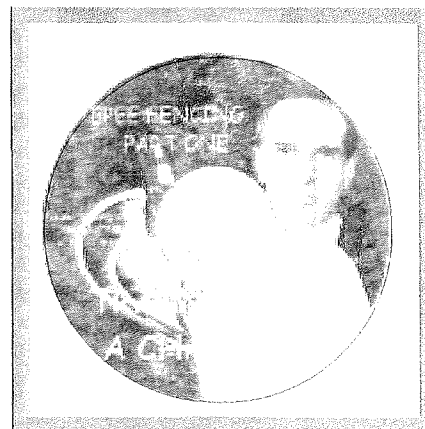


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# NOT QUITE READY FOR PRIME TIME?

referee Jeff Bukantz on his first FIE rules commission meeting

When I was nominated by the USFA for the FIE Rules Commission, it was a great honor. When I got elected last December at the Congress in Paris, it was a thrill, and somewhat of a surprise.

While I was elated to get a foot in the door at the FIE level, I was expecting my tenure on the Rules Commission to be largely an exercise in crossing t's and dotting i's, and basically dealing with housekeeping minutiae. Boy, was I in for a rude, yet welcome, awakening!

This past June, the FIE held its meetings for the various commissions in Lausanne. The tone was set at a cocktail party held at the FIE office the night prior to the weekend meetings in honor of outgoing IOC President Samaranch. FIE President Roch presented Samaranch with a gift, and then proceeded to say all the right things in a heartfelt speech. Samaranch responded by saying thanks, but that unless fencing figures out a way to become more TV-friendly, it was at risk of being eliminated from the Olympic Games.

While the proposals for changes in the rules had been submitted long before Samaranch's pointed comments, there is no question that his threat of extinction was omnipresent in nearly everything discussed over the two-day meeting.

Within 45 minutes of my first FIE Rules Commission meeting, I was put in the position of voting on whether the "off-target" lights would be eliminated in foil. (Keep in mind that whatever was voted on at the meetings would mean absolutely zero unless passed at the annual Congress this December in Havana.) So much for dotting i's and crossing t's!

Also discussed was the need to substantially shorten the timeframe between hits in foil, similar to epee.

The sole purpose for these radical proposals was to make foil easier to understand, especially for a Olympic

television audience. Certainly, the two aforementioned changes would increase exponentially the amount of one-light actions, which was purported to be the key to fencing's survival in the Olympics.

While the meeting was held primarily in French, I made sure to ask the following question in English: If it appears we are trying to make foil into an epee clone, aren't we going on the assumption that epee, as currently constituted, is ideal for the television audience? If that is the case, why isn't epee already considered TV-friendly?

There was a brief moment of silence, as nearly all the members realized that these radical changes would not only ruin the sanctity of the individual weapons, but likely not accomplish the ultimate goal of making fencing TV-friendly enough to warrant a change of thinking at the IOC level.

However, the political winds are powerful, and it's possible that by the time this issue is printed, the FIE Congress will approve some of the proposals.

Most people detest change. The status quo provides a comfort level, a safe haven of sorts. In fact, there are still fencers in the United States lamenting that the former Amateur Fencers League of America (AFLA) became the United States Fencing Association (USFA). Change for the sake of change doesn't make sense. The question for fencing is whether the proposed radical changes in foil will make one iota of difference. Will fencing become more understandable to the general public because only one light goes on...sometimes? Come on, that's a joke. Without slow motion replay—even in epee—fencing is hard to comprehend for the layman. In fact, many in our own sport can't make heads or tails of a percentage of the close actions.

In order for fencing to thrive, let alone survive, we have to appeal to the audience's emotions. If we focus on

the natural rivalries between nations and athletes, utilize the relay team matches, which provide the most excitement, and let the fencers' personalities come out, fencing has a chance. All of the slow-motion replays and state-of-the-art post production won't matter unless fencing makes use of the tremendous spirit of the teams and athletes, instead of constantly stifling it.

Lots of people play tennis or golf, which are also easy-to-understand sports for television. Why is it that the ratings explode when Tiger Woods and Andre Agassi are playing, and then plummet when they're not? Do you think that some rule-changes would entice more people to watch when Tiger and Andre are not in the running on Sunday afternoon?

Why is women's tennis so "hot" right now? The sex appeal is undeniable, and that's reality, and the rivalries among the Williams sisters, Hingis, Capriati and Davenport are intriguing.

While I'm not suggesting that we turn our esteemed and history-rich sport into a circus, we've got to lighten up! Let the teams celebrate wildly before the handshake. Let the fencers emote, and fling off the mask after the last touch in celebration. Let the fencers show some angst with the referee, within reason.

Reinventing fencing through ineffective tinkering will not be the magic cure for staying in the Olympics, and will irreparably harm our sport for the future.

I, for one, am not in favor of falling on my sword for political convenience. The sanctity of the weapons must remain intact, and fencing must figure out a sensible way to appeal to the television viewers.

*Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC and its Rules Subcommittee, and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission.*

# THE RELEVANCE OF WHAT WE DO

by Meg Galipault

It wasn't supposed to be like this. I'm not sure exactly how it was supposed to be—but I know it wasn't supposed to happen here, on our land, in our cities, to our innocent people. As I've watched the news over the past two weeks, the day of September 11—surreally nicknamed “911”—becomes more abstract, dense, impenetrable. That is, until I get an email from a friend who finally has found the words she needed to describe the experience. She says she is lucky and alive; “but I am not unharmed...I am shocked and disturbed.” She writes with stunning eloquence about what it is like to see the wreckage—how she reached to pick up a piece of paper, as it floated in the air, “charred on all four sides.” It was a page from a legal textbook about employees' rights. She found comfort in the cheers for the firemen as they passed through the barricades at Canal Street. She even got to shake the hand of one of them as he returned from Ground Zero. She writes, “There are many moments from this night that are poetic for me.”

In our darkest moments, we manage to find greatness. Yin and yang.

And I get another email from a friend in Cleveland who, heartbroken, wishes out loud that she never had children, wishes this world offered hope for them but fears it does not.

Reading these emails, September 11th comes back to me in all its palpable rawness, its aching and naked vul-

nerability, and I find myself with this urgent need to be with those I love.

But as I write this, I am in Saint Paul, Minn., attending an arts conference with hundreds of strangers. I flew here less than nine days after the tragedy, unafraid of flying—more afraid of chaos on the ground, the heightened anxiety in the airports, than of letting go of the earth beneath me. At the conference, we get down to business. Aware that it is not business as usual, we get on with it anyway. And all the while, we ask ourselves, quietly, if what we do matters anymore.

I think it is easy—unless you happen to be a firefighter or police officer, Red Cross worker or doctor—to question the significance of your job. What heroic gesture do we contribute as lawyers, students, bankers, software designers, manufacturers of widgets? I'm the editor of an arts magazine and the volunteer editor of a fencing magazine. Big deal, I find myself thinking.

But this is the thing: everything we do in life—whether it's painting houses or raising families, going to school or learning to fence—everything is relevant. Everything we do in life affords us an opportunity to be bigger people: to be brave for those we love, to offer a kind word, to listen with compassion, to protect our fellow citizens from prejudice and hatred, to learn about human frailty and allow ourselves empathy, to teach dignity and honor and wisdom, to understand the pre-

vious freedoms that are earned only by taking responsibility for ourselves and participating in the process that defines our rights.

At the risk of stretching a metaphor, the fencing bout is a microcosm of these heroic elements: The salute that recognizes dignity among competitors; the grace of each lunge and parry that illustrates wisdom at times, and at other times, vulnerability; the studied judgement of referees who are there to guarantee our rights.

The idea of sport, particularly international competition, is a grand gesture of “the better angels of our nature”...we work things out on the mat, in the swimming pool, on the track, on the strip. Our athletes have a responsibility far greater, perhaps, than even they have imagined. Our international fencers are our diplomats, traveling the world, demonstrating civility and respect. It is not the best athlete who necessarily wins the bout for us back home—it is the athlete who shows compassion and honor. As the nation slowly comes to terms with the terrorist acts of September 11th, we will find ourselves wanting for a way to demonstrate our unity—not only among ourselves, but among other nations.

Our fencers, our precious young athletes and our wise veterans who represent us across the earth, are poised to demonstrate global kinship. Wish them well.

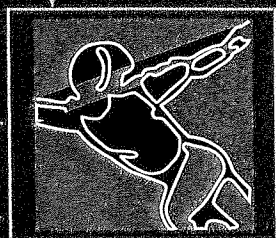
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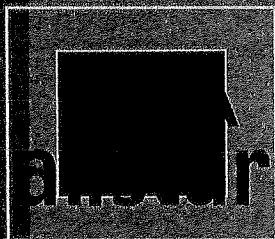
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