

AMERICAN FENCING

fall 2002



summer
nationals

American FENCING

Fall 2002 · Volume 52, Number 3

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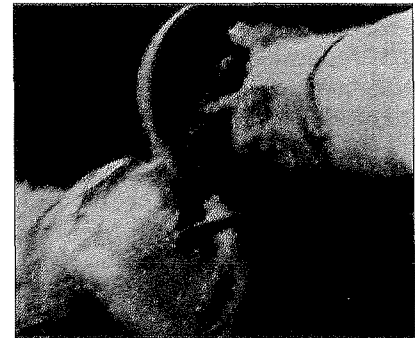
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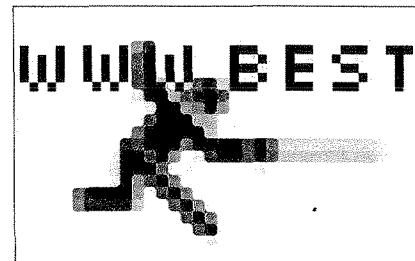
Summer Nationals Action: Hunter K. Patterson (Western Wash.), left, fencing Matt W. Cameron (Illinois). Photo courtesy Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.



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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.

The United States Fencing Association

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American Fencing

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Miguel A. DeCapriles 1906-1981

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STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States Fencing Association



Outcomes of the Lisbon FIE Extraordinary Congress

It is my sincere hope that this will be the last article I will need to write concerning the issue of setting the Olympic Program for 2004 and which weapons will compete and be placed on the program for the 2004 Games. Since December of 2001 the United States has been monitoring and participating in these discussions and decisions that would determine whether women's saber would finally find entry to the Olympic Games Program for 2004.

In July, I drafted the following letter that communicated the U.S. position, was supported by all USFA Representatives, and was sent out to the fencing nations:

July 18, 2001

TO: World Fencing Nations

FR: Stacey Johnson, President, U.S. Fencing Association
U.S. FIE Representatives:
Sam Cheris
George Kolombatovich
Carl Borack
Jeffrey Bukantz
Dr. Peter Harmer
Gerrie Baumgart
Dan DeChaîne
Nancy Anderson

RE: Lisbon Extraordinary Congress

Over the last many months we have communicated with many of you over the issue of whether or not to include women's saber on the Olympic Program for 2004. Although this has been the issue which has prompted holding three FIE Congresses, we believe now that the inclusion of women's saber on the Olympic Program is a symbol of a greater issue we all face collectively in this moment. To us what is clear is the fundamental question of **how we choose to govern ourselves**. It is also clear that we are witnessing a shift in the "world order" of fencing. In the last decade we have seen more countries outside of Europe attaining competitive success in fencing including such countries as China, Cuba, Korea and now, the U.S. Along with competitive success, we also desire a voice in the decision making which impacts the lives of our coaches and athletes. Over the last eight months a handful of European nations have continued to thwart the will of

the majority of nations of the FIE. We believe the majority of the fencing nations care about inclusion, universality, opening the doors of access to women, men, and people of color, providing greater opportunities for fair play which lead ultimately to a broader diversity of nations standing on the medal podiums at World Championships and Olympic Games.

In Havana, the body politic of the FIE decided on mixed teams in order to accommodate the inclusion of women's saber and all fencers creatively within the IOC mandated limitation of 10 medals and 200 participants. After this election, key European countries went to their IOC representatives and complained about the outcomes of this election. It was this action, moving against the will of the body of the FIE and its leadership, that the initial problem was initiated. ***The IOC did not come to this conclusion by itself, but rather through the promptings of those who lost the initial vote.*** In Antalya, Turkey, a new decision was reached, and although we concur that drawing lots was not the best approach to determining the elimination of specific teams, dissent from these same European countries, along with athlete protests, reached IOC members and now has prompted the need for the Lisbon Extraordinary Congress. We are holding a third meeting, one which can be ill afforded by many nations in our FIE family. It has been said publicly that with the specter of fewer countries present in Lisbon, the will of the majority of nations can be better undone. ***The initial goal of these nations desiring a third Congress is to go back to the Sydney Program, but the fundamental action will be to control the outcome of world fencing governance.*** The issue for us all is about whether a few historically powerful countries will prevail and govern the many. Or will we fight for shared governance and a future where consensus governance ultimately prevails.

It is clear now that the FIE President will likely offer a proposal which suggests 6 individual weapons, including women's saber, and four teams—eliminating women's foil and women's saber teams, based on the results of the Consultation vote of June 25, 2002.

We ask you to consider the following:

Not one shred of evidence exists that we will be able to bring the women's saber on the program in 2008 if we do no bring them in now. The U.S. has from the very onset of these discussions fought for equity and the inclusion of women's saber. The proposal that is to be offered certainly does not offer equity for women. Yet, it is still a position we are willing to support because we believe strongly that if we do not bring women's saber in now, National Olympic Committee funding for women's saber in many countries will go away. In addition, if we go back to the Sydney Program, we demonstrate our inability to move fencing forward. Any business, sport, or organization that stands still, is in fact, going backwards in the world today. There is no evidence that women's saber could be added in the future and ***the future is now.***

Secondly, it is abhorrent that the majority political will of the FIE fencing nations is being undermined. Our sports credibility at the IOC level has been jeopardized with continuing political turmoil, and the ongoing need to keep holding Congresses is a financial drain. In addition, these actions hurt athletes and coaches and draw needed energy and attention away from training and preparation for the upcoming Olympic Games.

In conclusion we ask each country to do the following:

1.) ***It is critical that you VOTE*** – either in person or by proxy, but you need to vote. Do not let inactivity determine our future

decisions about the Olympic Games or about how we are to be governed in the future.

2.) ***If you are unable to attend the Congress in Lisbon, please provide your proxy to a country who will vote on the side which your conscience lies.***

3.) ***We ask you to vote to bring on women's saber individual to the Olympic Program because it is critical to the future of fencing.*** Do not settle for the status quo of the Sydney Program. It means a backward step for the future of fencing.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this document.

In Lisbon, the Extraordinary Congress was held and the vote was taken with a result of 59 countries in favor of including women's saber on the program, but eliminating women's saber team and women's foil team to accommodate the inclusion of individual women's saber, and 23 countries against this proposal. The only other choice for the FIE nations would have been a return to the Sydney Program. Although this change and movement forward to include women's saber came at a very high price, and literally on the backs of women in fencing throughout the world, it was a decision made to ensure women's saber could enter the Games now. This decision is more critical than ever with the IOC's new initiative to cut back events in the Olympic Games and the recent announcement that three sports are now slated to be removed from the Olympic Program—baseball, women's softball and modern pentathlon.

I understand for women's foil that it may appear on the surface that the United States abandoned its stance on equity for men and women. However, the FIE provided no choice beyond an "either or decision." It is completely understandable how unhappy women foilists and their coaches must feel. If we would have selected the status quo of the Sydney Program, the likelihood of adding any events are virtually non-existent and the recent announcement to cut three sports programs is proof of the dangers that lie ahead. Further, in a recent IOC report that reviewed the current Olympic Program and made recommendations for the 2008 Program, a warning was issued for further reductions, particularly in the review of any team events being allowed in individual sports. The IOC Commission questioned the place of team events being allowed in individual sports where such sports do not involve competition interaction between individuals within a team. Clearly, fencing's team events could be in jeopardy based on this rationale. The inclusion of women's saber individual event in these circumstances is a priority in terms of the future of women's equity participation in the sport. Fencing nations must now work together to counter this rationale put forward by the IOC to maintain any of fencing's team events, men or women, for future Games.

In closing, we are all very proud of Sada Jacobson's fifth- and Keeth Smart's tenth-place finishes at 2002 Worlds. In addition, Women's Foil Team fifth- and Women's Saber Team ninth-place results are also significant. Now that we believe the Olympic Program issue is settled, we must focus all of our energy on the qualification to the Games and results that will keep our sport moving forward in an uncertain world of Olympic sports.

MEG GALIPAULT
Editor

Dear Readers:

In August, I was hired as the new managing editor of one of the country's finest literary journals, *The Kenyon Review* (a quick plug: visit www.kenyonreview.org). Soon after, I packed up nearly 20 years of my life in Columbus, Ohio, and moved to the bucolic environs of Kenyon College. The college is only an hour away from Columbus, nestled in the hills of Gambier, a town of mostly professors and administrators that during the school year swells to a population of 1,800.

As I have spent several editorials harping on the need to start new clubs in schools and communities, it seemed that starting a club in Gambier would be the honorable thing to do. (OK, it would be disingenuous for me not to admit that I was looking out for myself—I wanted people to fence and a place to practice.)

After several weeks of recruiting club members from the college and local high school, juggling schedules and finding an appropriate practice space, we're finally on our way. The Gambier Fencing Club is officially open.

Starting any new venture can be a little intimidating, especially one that involves placing pointy metal objects in the hands of 15-year-olds. In future issues, I will keep you apprised of my progress in hopes that it might help some budding club owners.

Lastly, please accept my apologies for the delay in getting this issue of *American Fencing* to you. The above mentioned life changes kind of slowed down the wheels of progress. You'll see subsequent issues back on schedule.

your letters

They Watch Golf, Don't They?

In countless letters from readers, I've read of people suggesting changes that could make fencing a more observer-friendly sport. I have read ideas including new technology (such as lights on fencers' masks), new rules (like awarding different point values for different targets), and new formats (including a "huge rectangle" for saber bouts). I honestly believe no drastic change is necessary to "save fencing."

My support is found in my community's high school fencing program. This past season, Voorhees High School (with just over 1,000 students) had over 120 fencers participating in the men's and women's teams, and both teams finished the season with great success. (Men finished 12-3; women finished 13-3.) What's more, neither the turnout nor the records were out of the norm for Voorhees. The success was not due to any variation from tradition; in fact, boys are not even allowed to fence with anything but French grips. The popularity of the sport at Voorhees is the direct result

of word of mouth. Both fencers and coaches advertise to and recruit fencers in classrooms and hallways, and every year, fencing becomes one of the school's most successful teams in participation and wins.

My plea: don't try to make fencing something it's not through adaptations and alterations. Instead, encourage athletes to fence and fencers to enthusiastically spread news of their sport. With more participants will come more interested spectators, and eventually, fans will watch for the sake of the sport. (Hey, people watch golf, right?)

Justin Turkus
Pottersville, NJ

Sponsorship = Coverage

Thank you for encouraging discussion of the promotion of our sport. Jeremy Cooper's letter in the Summer 2002 issue of *American Fencing* is part of this dialogue. I would also like to address Cindy Bent's upbeat article on high school fencing [Summer 2002].

Before I get to the serious issues, much of my letter that was published in the Winter 2002 issue was "tongue-in-cheek." I'm sorry Mr. Cooper didn't catch that.

Now for the crux of the problem: money. Our sport and its participants get the respect we deserve from most Americans (after the jokes about picket fences or white-washing) that I've met. Television time and newspaper coverage is another matter. I'm again going to go out on a limb and state that coverage is related to the amount of advertising sponsorship and money.

For example, major league baseball is a well-financed sport. It is on national TV and is given newspaper coverage. Minor league baseball, which does not generate the same amount of money, is relegated to the back pages of newspapers, if at all.

The fencing community needs to be reminded that the statement: "Fencing is not TV-friendly" is a big lie. Even the statement that "fencing is not spectator-friendly" is not borne out by facts. The Beverly Hills Fencers' Club was recently in need of a place to practice. They found one in a local mall. An article about this move in the August 10th *Los Angeles Times* states: "The flashing blades draw a steady stream of shoppers who stop to peer through the display windows at club members and fencing students spending hours honing their *croise* and *prise de fer* skills.

"The fencers play it to the hilt for their audience.

"We sometimes feel like fish in a bowl, but it doesn't bother us," said Allison Brain, a competitor from Pasadena. "Sometimes there are dozens of people watching us. Not many people have seen fencing, so it's good for them to see what the sport is."

Those people are not put off by the fast pace of action. They don't even have the benefit of an explanation, yet they watch! Other sports have fast action. Try following a 90 mph pitch in baseball that reaches the plate in less than half a second. How about a 140 mph tennis serve? Do

those fast paces deter fans sitting in the upper deck? Can the untrained eye in person or on TV tell the difference between a slider, a fastball, or other such pitches in that short a period of time? Can the untrained eye tell the difference between a figure skater's lutz, salchow, or toe loop in real time? This is what announcers and slow motion instant replay are for.

As for the average TV watcher, you don't have to be able to hit a curve in order to appreciate it. For me, speed and agility are things to admire in sports, including fencing.

Face it folks, Monday Night Fencing is not going to happen. However, fifteen minutes of Olympic coverage every four years is not too much to hope for. Is bobsled racing more spectator-friendly than fencing? Can you imagine standing in freezing weather near a bobsled track to watch a sled zoom by for three to five seconds every few minutes? That's what television is for: to have multiple cameras, slow motion instant replay, and announcers to explain the split second actions that win or lose a medal.

Now, that I've segued into the Olympics issue, what does the Olympic committee respect: sport or MONEY? (Far be it from me to answer that question!—Note, more "tongue-in-cheek.") Does anyone really think that the Olympic committee would give us such grief over limiting the number of events and participants if fencing brought in megabucks of advertising and other revenue?

Here's a hint to the USFA: How about the "Miller Lite Summer Nationals," or some such sponsorship. Go forth and promote. With sponsorship comes pressure to televise. Even just a little bit.

Lastly, my son's experience with trying to start a fencing team last year at his high school was less than stellar. Money, as Cindy Bent's article suggests, is critical, but so is a supportive, or at least open-minded, administration. The vice principal of athletics, who incidentally fenced in college,

was dead set against a club, as was the principal. No "weapons" are allowed on campus, so a demonstration to the administration, faculty and students was not permitted. Faculty members, students, and parents were enthusiastic and we were able to find a faculty member willing to sponsor the club. Since she could not appear at all events, participation in the Southern California High School League was impossible.

A club with permission to only talk about fencing was finally established after six months of trying, and mention was made that perhaps a location could be made available this coming year to actually use our "sports equipment." Please note that harmless "sports equipment" includes baseball bats and lacrosse sticks. The booster club, a good source of money, was also unhelpful, since they are only interested in competitions that are CIF (California Interscholastic Federation)-sanctioned. Well, only one month to go before we tackle the issue again!

Kenneth Wiener
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Editor's Response: We received several letters about California high schools and their troubles with starting clubs. While the majority of schools have not gone as far as banning fencing altogether, the California schools' policies could be the sign of things to come. We hope to address this issue more fully in the future and hope that coaches, parents and kids will keep us apprised of their experiences.

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@columbus.rr.com. 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

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CALLS FOR SPORT MED SUPPORT

The U.S. Wheelchair Fencing team will host both Zonal and World Cup tournaments this November in Austin, Texas—a greatly anticipated first for the United States. To ensure a successful competition, organizers are asking sports med professionals for support.

In every paralympic sport, athletes are "classified" according to a specific level of function, guaranteeing that athletes of similar physical limitation compete against one another. The classification process involves a series of tests—both functional and sport-specific—

ic—and it is rare for an athlete to change his/her classification as it is based on the athlete's permanent physical condition. Currently there is a rapidly growing need for doctors, physical therapists and athletic trainers to learn and participate in the classification process, both nationally for Austin and for international events. Hence, the Austin organizing committee has planned a classification seminar for the World Cup event, providing an opportunity for professionals to join the competition's sports medicine staff and learn more the classification program.

The wheelchair team also hopes to establish a network of sports medicine

practitioners willing to work and travel with the team to various competitions. Certified athletic trainers, physical therapists and sports-oriented doctors who are interested in becoming internationally rated classifiers for wheelchair fencing, or in traveling with the team as medical support, are urged to contact the team's medical coordinator, Dr. Donald C. DeFabio, at (908) 771-0220 or email him at drdefabio@aol.com.

JULIA JONES PUGLIESE HONORED IN ISRAEL

Julia Jones Pugliese (1908-1993),

co-founder and first individual and team champion of the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA), was honored for her contributions to the Israel Fencing Association. She was among other outstanding athletes whose names are inscribed on the Pillar of Achievement for extraordinary contributions to sport and society.

Jones Pugliese fenced for New York University where she achieved success in 1929 as individual and team champion of the NIWFA. She repeated this achievement as team champion in 1931.

Jones Pugliese coached at NYU and later at Hunter College, taking the teams to the NIWFA championship in 1932 and 1938 (NYU), and 1970 (Hunter).

"Without her there would be no women's collegiate fencing," says fencing historian Jeffrey Tishman.

(Sources: Mac Garrett and Jeffrey R. Tishman)

USFCA HOLDS SECOND COACHES CONFERENCE

This past August the United States Fencing Coaches Association (USFCA) held its Second Annual Coaches Conference, hosted by Fencing Master Bill Shipman and Brandeis

University in Waltham, Mass. Blade Fencing Equipment and SKA Sword-play Books also sponsored this year's conference.

Fencing Masters Vincent Bradford, David Micahnik, Mark Masters, Iosif Vitebskiy, Wendell Kubik, and Salem Abdelmonem were among the presenters. FOC member Jon Moss, who also earned his moniteur certification at the conference, spoke at length about the new FIE rules recently adopted by the USFA and the referee's point of view. "I became a referee," Moss said, "because I like front row seats at the best sporting events."

Other conference topics included how motor learning affects fencing instruction, tactical applications of epee, the new tactics of electric saber, proper use and defense of the flick with young fencers, fun footwork forms, and operating a fencing club for profit.

During the conference, six USFCA certification examinations were given—four for moniteur, one for pre-vost d'armes, and one for fencing master.

The USFCA Annual General Meeting was also held at the conference where new officers of the executive committee and members of the Certification and Accreditation (C&A) board were announced. The new executive committee includes: president, Wen-

dell Kubik; regional vice presidents, David Micahnik, Arnold Mercado, Patrick Peritore, Jerry Benson, Cole Harkness; secretary/treasurer, Robert Grieser; and past president, Robert Scranton. Fencing Masters Richard Oles, Janucz Bednarski, Anthony Gillham, John Helmich, Vinnie Bradford, and Bill Shipman were elected to the C&A board.

More details about the conference and presentations can be found in the fall 2002 issue of *The Swordmaster*.

(Contributed by Jeremy Schmid, editor, The Swordmaster.)

PASSINGS

ANDREW "CORY" STAUBLE

On July 9, 2002, Andrew "Cory" Stauble, a member of the Louisville Fencing Center, was killed in an automobile accident when a pickup truck crossed the median and swerved in front of the car in which he was a passenger. The driver, Stauble's girlfriend, Jamie, was also killed, as was the driver of the truck.

"There are no words to express our sympathy for his parents, family, coaches and friends," said Patrick Kelly, the USFA Kentucky Division's chair.

POSTCARDS from the strip

DEMONSTRATING THE HEART-HEALTHY HISTORY OF FENCING

The Salle De Long Fencing School recently participated in the American Heart Association's annual Walk for the Heart event with a demonstration. The event took place on September 7 at the Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas.

Susan Enger, the school's secretary, said, "As suggested in the USFA Operation Manual, Salle De Long demonstrated 'The History of Fencing.'"

According to Enger, 20 club members performed for an audience of

Salle De Long members make history



around 1,000 event attendees. In keeping with the purpose of the event, the club emphasized the cardiovascular benefits of fencing.

"The endeavor proved to be fun and informative for all," said Enger.

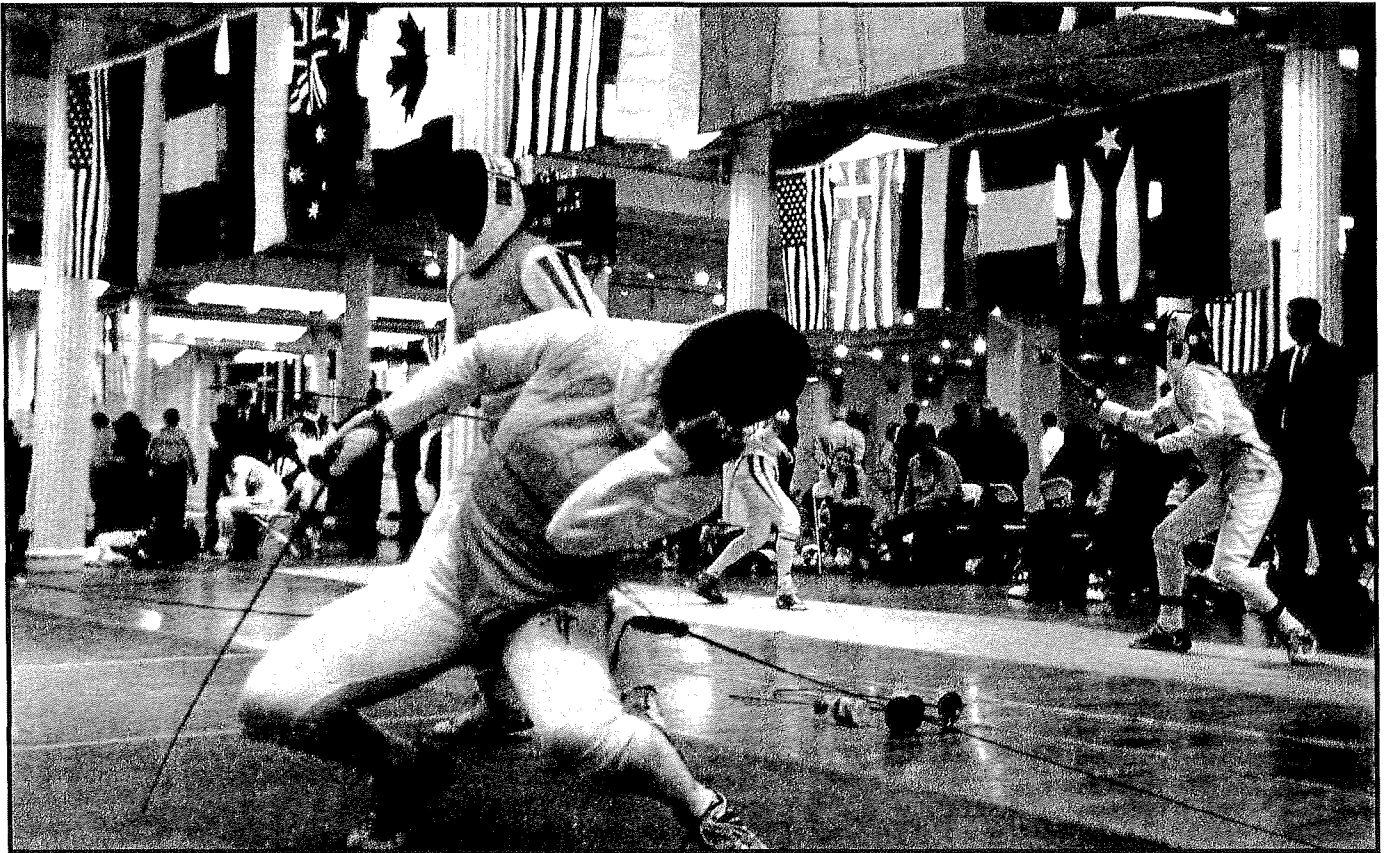
The Salle De Long school is a member of the Border Texas Division of the USFA.



TOURNAMENT highlights

WORLD CUP WOMEN'S FOIL | New York, NY, June 14-16

top 8, plus USA top 64 results



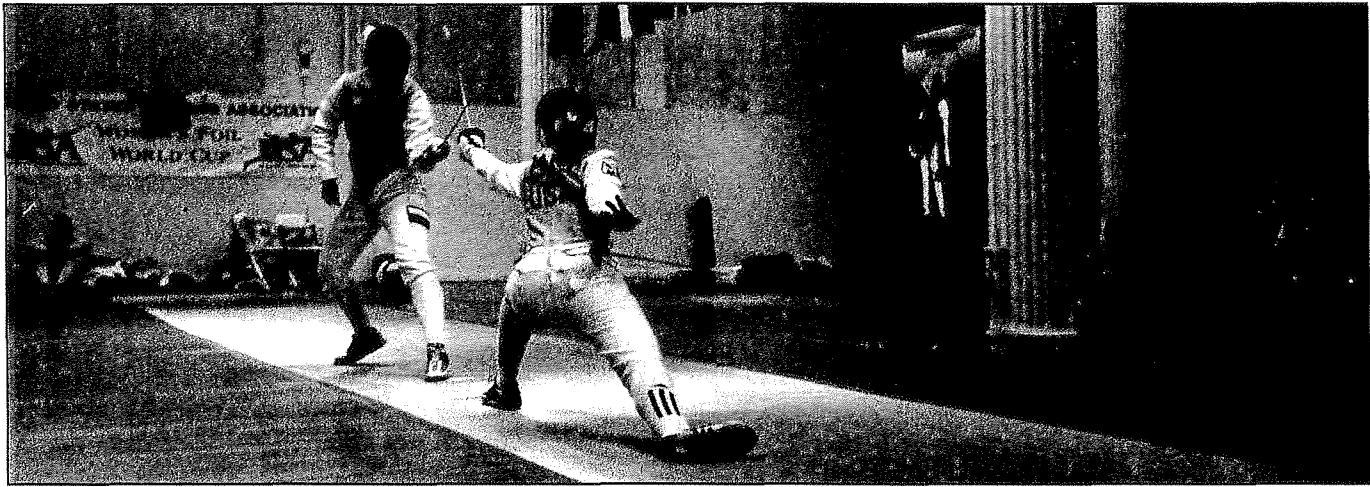
WORLD CUP WOMEN'S FOIL. Photos: Cindy Bent.



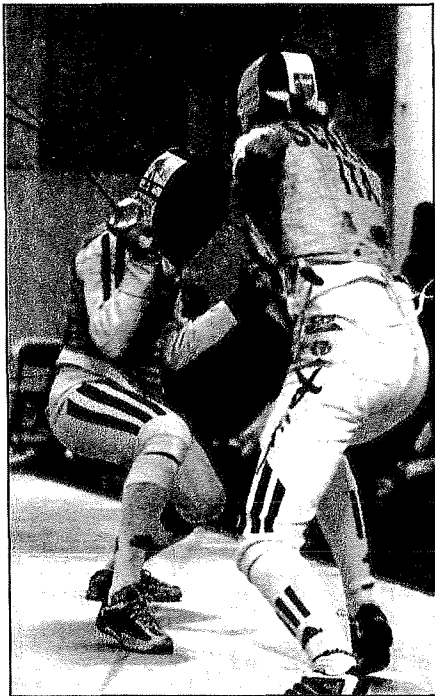
INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S FOIL (122 COMPETITORS)

1. YOUCHEVA, Ekaterina (RUSSIA)
2. VEZZALI, Valentina (ITALY)
3. T LOBYNTSEVA, Olga (RUSSIA)
3. T MAGNAN, Clothilde (FRANCE)
5. BAU, Sabine (GERMANY)
6. TRILLINI, Giovanna (ITALY)
7. MOHAMED, Aida (HUNGARY)
8. GRANBASSI, Margherita (ITALY)

28. CROSS, Emily R (USA)
40. T SMART, Erinn (USA)
40. T THOMPSON, Hannah (USA)
50. JONES, Melanie (USA)
63. FLORENDO, Jessica S. (USA)
64. AMENT, Andrea (USA)

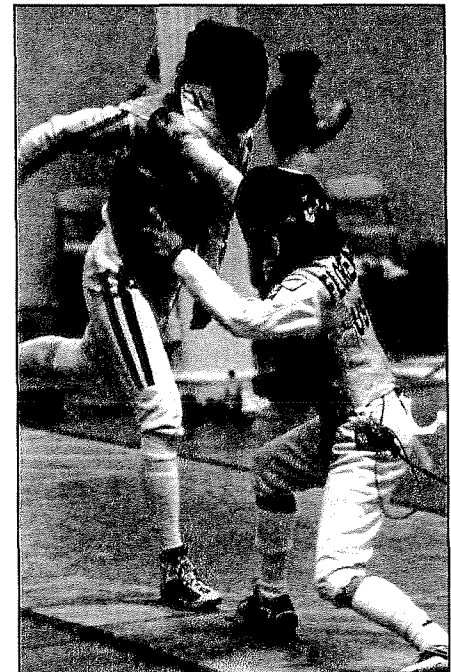


SCENES FROM WORLD CUP WOMEN'S FOIL.
Above: Jacqueline Leahy. Photo: Cindy Bent.



**TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL
(14 TEAMS)**

1. RUSSIA
2. ROMANIA
3. GERMANY
4. ITALY
5. HUNGARY
6. FRANCE
7. POLAND
8. UNITED STATES
9. AUSTRIA
10. GREAT BRITAIN
11. JAPAN
12. CANADA
13. BULGARIA
14. TEAM EXCLUDED



SCENES FROM WORLD CUP WOMEN'S FOIL.
Above, left: Erinn Smart versus Scarpa. Photo: Alan Hirschfeld. Above, right: photo by Cindy Bent. Far right: Florendo versus Bau. Photo: Alan Hirschfeld. Right: Erinn Smart, left. Photo: Cindy Bent.

TOURNAMENT highlights

SUMMER NATIONALS | Greenville, SC, June 29 - July 7



2002 SUMMER NATIONALS. Wheelchair epee competition. Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

DIVISION I-A MEN'S ÉPÉE

(89 Competitors)

Group A8 competition

1. Reed, Robert M (SO. TEXAS)
2. Hoffman, Joe (VIRGINIA)
3. T Howard, Greg E (INDIANA)
3. T Lobanenkov, Ilya V (OREGON)
5. Cerutti, Franco (GOLDCAST FL)
6. Rostal, Scott E (MINNESOTA)
7. Cox, Charles A (NORTH CA)
8. Saitoc, Sorin F (METRO NYC)

DIVISION I-A WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(88 Competitors)

Group A4 competition

1. Hohensee, Kira L (NORTHEAST)
2. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
3. T Dyer, Jennifer L (COLORADO)
3. T Nacey, Marla (WESTERN NY)
5. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
6. White, Tiffany M (NEWENGLAND)
7. Kerckmar, Anne B (NORTH OHIO)
8. Goto, Jean M (METRO NYC)

DIVISION I-A MEN'S FOIL

(83 Competitors)

Group A4 competition

1. Findlay, Douglas D (COLUMBUSOH)
2. Cameron, Matt W (ILLINOIS)
3. T Brooks, Ronald B (S. JERSEY)
3. T Patterson, Hunter K (WESTERN WA)
5. Habermann, Blake J (COLORADO)
6. Kubik, Mark W (SO. TEXAS)
7. Bellanca, Wesley J (SAN DIEGO)
8. Smith, Nathaniel (ST. LOUIS)

DIVISION I-A WOMEN'S FOIL

(70 Competitors)

Group A4 competition

1. Thorne, Tracey (METRO NYC)
2. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
3. T Chin, Meredith M (NEWENGLAND)
3. T Jackson, Jodie A (METRO NYC)
5. Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
6. Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
7. Andrews, Bethany A (UTAH/S.IDA)
8. Pillsbury, Dana M (METRO NYC)

DIVISION I-A MEN'S SABER

(69 Competitors)

Group A4 competition

1. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
2. Stearns, Matthew J (MINNESOTA)
3. T Stetsiv, Oleg (METRO NYC)
3. T Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
5. Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
6. Igoe, Benjamin D (METRO NYC)
7. Marcel, Jonathan R (NEWENGLAND)
8. Reyfman, Paul A (METRO NYC)

DIVISION I-A WOMEN'S SABER

(66 Competitors)

Group A4 competition

1. Cox, Susan D (GEORGIA)
2. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
3. T Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
3. T Schneider, Daria H (NEWENGLAND)
5. Liebing, Rachel (UTAH/S.IDA)
6. T Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
6. T Weldon, Marijke L (ILLINOIS)
8. Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)

DIVISION II MEN'S ÉPÉE

(178 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

1. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
2. Kennard, Henry B (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Blumenreich, William D (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Overk, Tyler S (NEW JERSEY)
5. Way, Charngshio (MICHIGAN)
6. Hohmeister, Eric J (MT. VALLEY)
7. Tozzo, Alex (LONG ISLND)
8. Barry, Tyler S (N.CAROLINA)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(129 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

1. Inman, Irena W (NORTHEAST)
2. Cabot, Heath (NORTH CA)
- 3.T McKimmy, Caitlin F (OREGON)
- 3.T Wangner, Lauren M (LONG ISLND)
5. Mendel, Lucy R (N.CAROLINA)
6. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
7. Hausmann, Jennifer C (NORTH CA)
8. Brinlee, Michelle E (NEVADA)

DIVISION III MEN'S ÉPÉE

(241 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

1. Garrett, Brian (NEW JERSEY)
2. Matteson, Tucker H (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Orick, Daniel A (PLAINS TEX)
- 3.T Overk, Tyler S (NEW JERSEY)
5. Wallace, Samuel F (NORTH CA)
6. Sale, Logan L (ST. LOUIS)
7. Moore, Steven P (NORTHEAST)
8. Harvard, Alex (LONG ISLND)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(150 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

1. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
2. McKimmy, Caitlin F (OREGON)

DIVISION II MEN'S FOIL

(203 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

1. Bellanca, Wesley J (SAN DIEGO)
2. Mannino, Raphael T (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Apostol, Dimitri L (LONG ISLND)
- 3.T Jones, James P (METRO NYC)
5. Wunderlich, Samuel R (KENTUCKY)
6. Cervantes II, Victor N (SO. CALIF.)
7. Marchuk, Nick D (PHILADELPH)
8. Hsu, Percy A (CENTRAL CA)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S FOIL

(167 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

1. Jackson, Jodie A (METRO NYC)
2. Pillsbury, Dana M (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Bassik, Judith M (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Pike, Julia R (GULFCST TX)
5. Jew-Lim, Sara E (CENTRAL CA)
6. Offerle, Judith A (ILLINOIS)
7. Remmert, Jenna M (NEW JERSEY)
8. Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)

DIVISION III MEN'S FOIL

(254 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

1. Jones, James P (METRO NYC)
2. Mautone, Steven M (INDIANA)
- 3.T Blake, Adam M (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Pimoutkine, Roustam R (METRO NYC)
5. Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
6. Sprowles, Cameron D (PHILADELPH)
7. Hsieh, Andrew I (CONNECTCUT)
8. Lawrence, Jamie M (METRO NYC)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S FOIL

(180 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

1. Hancock, Katherine (NORTH CA)
2. Losonczy, Magda S (NEW JERSEY)

DIVISION II MEN'S SABER

(116 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

1. Sachs, Daniel S (HUDS-BERKS)
2. Flanders, Chris (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Bernstein, Justin S (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Reyfman, Paul A (METRO NYC)
5. Zagunis, Merrick H (OREGON)
6. Dolata, Philip P (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
8. Wysocki, Joseph J (GULFCST TX)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S SABER

(84 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

1. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
2. Dewey, Aislinn A (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Gray, Caprice L (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Jellison, Eva (NEWENGLAND)
5. Vu, Mai V (METRO NYC)
6. Zouein, Katherine (KANSAS)
7. Berman, Cecelia F (COLORADO)
8. Erlandson, Erika E (MICHIGAN)

DIVISION III MEN'S SABER

(112 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

1. Spear, Jeff (HUDS-BERKS)
2. Cappetta, Emil (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Cornwell, John W (LONG ISLND)
- 3.T Walker, Kenneth A (S.CAROLINA)
5. Herbert, Kenneth F (NEW JERSEY)
6. Kindrachuk, Mark A (PHILADELPH)
7. Caston, Frederick (LONG ISLND)
8. Matsukata, Haj (NORTH CA)

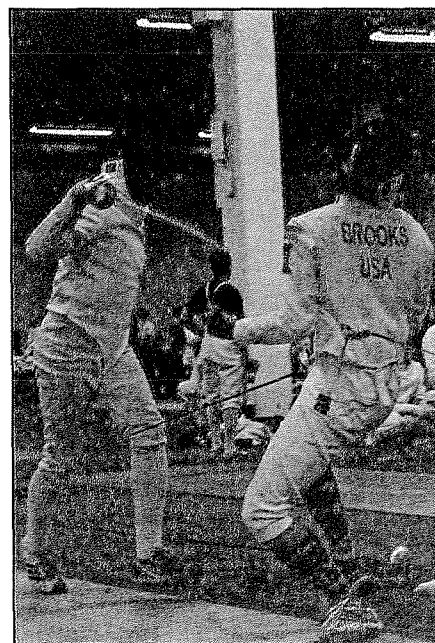
DIVISION III WOMEN'S SABER

(86 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

1. Dewey, Aislinn A (NEWENGLAND)
2. McPhee, Chiara E (NEWENGLAND)

SUMMER NATIONALS. Below: Tim Clark (Western Wash.), left, versus Ronald Brooks (S. Jersey) in Div. 1A Men's Epee. Right: Clark versus Brooks. Photos: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.



TOURNAMENT highlights



SUMMER NATIONALS. Travis Exum (Western Wash.) versus Greg Jones (Western Wash.) in Div. 1A Men's Epee. Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

- 3.T Asher, Valerie (CAPITOL)
- 3.T Kocsardy, Nicolette (NORTH TEX)
- 5. Williams, NaRaye P (NORTH TEX)
- 6. Schindler, Rae L (NORTH CA)
- 7. Leader, Brittany A (INDIANA)
- 8. Harvard, Katherine (LONG ISLND)

UNDER-19 MEN'S ÉPÉE

- (92 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A8 competition
- 1. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
 - 2. Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
 - 3.T Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
 - 3.T Saitoc, Tudor C (LONG ISLND)
 - 5. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
 - 6. Bittner, Dustin L (CENTRAL CA)
 - 7. Sherrill, Teddy R (NEW JERSEY)
 - 8. Wright, Neal P (COLORADO)

UNDER-19 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

- (70 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition
- 1. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
 - 2. Schirtz, Alli M (OREGON)
 - 3.T Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
 - 3.T Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
 - 5. Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
 - 6. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
 - 7. Scarborough, Evelyn L (AK-LA-MISS)
 - 8. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)

- 3.T Liroff, Elena R (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Moss, Rebecca L (ARIZONA)
- 5. Whitehurst, Mercedes A (WESTERN WA)
- 6. Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
- 7. Shu, Christine (SO. CALIF.)
- 8. Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)

UNDER-19 MEN'S FOIL

- (118 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A8 competition
- 1. KirkGordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
 - 2. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
 - 3.T Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)
 - 3.T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
 - 5.T Miller, Chris J (KANSAS)
 - 5.T Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)
 - 7. Chen, Calvin (WESTERN WA)
 - 8. Miner, Parker J (UTAH/S.IDA)

UNDER-19 WOMEN'S FOIL

- (90 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition
- 1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
 - 2. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
 - 3.T Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
 - 3.T Luitjen, Cassidy C (SO. TEXAS)
 - 5. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
 - 6. Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
 - 7. Hiss, Sophie C (OKLAHOMA)
 - 8. Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)

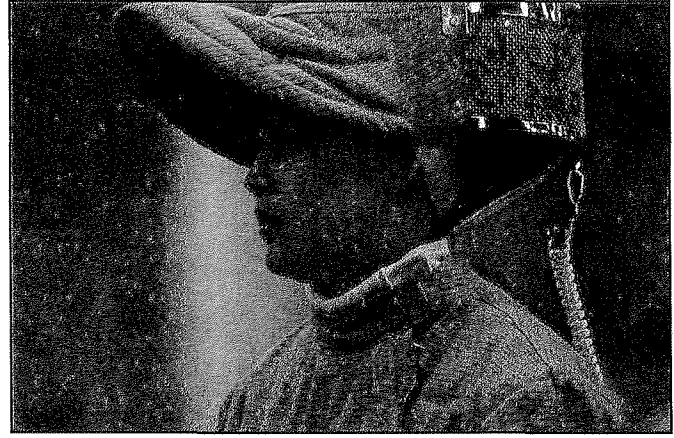
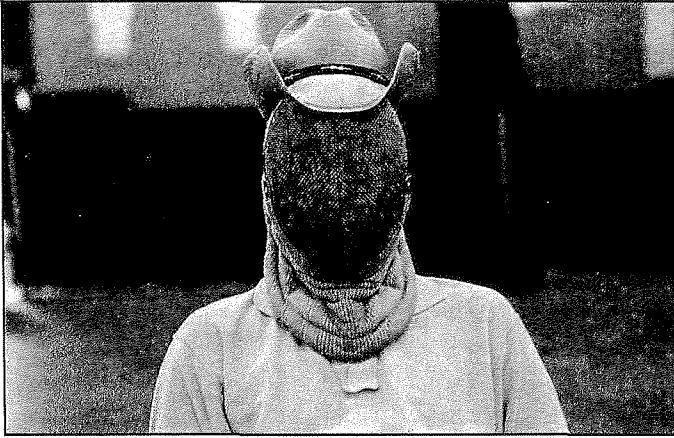
- 3.T Freedman, Meredith I (N.ENGLAND)
- 3.T Strowe, Anna R (NATIONAL)
- 5. Zouein, Louisa M (KANSAS)
- 6. Zgaljic, Ivana (NEW JERSEY)
- 7. Morra, Christina (NEWENGLAND)
- 8. Narayanan, Priya J (METRO NYC)

UNDER-19 MEN'S SABER

- (72 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition
- 1. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
 - 2. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
 - 3.T Jakus, David J (METRO NYC)
 - 3.T Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
 - 5. Hagamen, Timothy H (METRO NYC)
 - 6. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
 - 7. Chernov, Ilan L (SO. CALIF.)
 - 8. Igoe, Benjamin D (METRO NYC)

UNDER-19 WOMEN'S SABER

- (50 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A1 competition
- 1. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
 - 2. Baratta, Emma L (NEW JERSEY)
 - 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
 - 3.T Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
 - 5. Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
 - 6. Davis, Anika L (MT. VALLEY)
 - 7. Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
 - 8. Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)



SUMMER NATIONALS. Left: Oby Morgan, non-fencer, visiting from Asheville, NC. Photo: Alexander Timacheff. Right: Budding photographer and sabrist Alexander Timacheff (Western Wash.). Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

UNDER-16 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(71 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C4 competition

1. Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
2. Smith, Dwight A (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Choi, Joshua Jae (COLORADO)
- 3.T Kelly, Conor M (NORTHEAST)
5. Peck, Max A (LONG ISLAND)
6. Pearce, Michael A (NORTH CA)
7. Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
8. Rohrer, Noah (NEW ENGLAND)

UNDER-16 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(63 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
2. Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
- 3.T Schirtz, Alli M (OREGON)
5. French, Kayley A (NORTH TEX)
6. Kantor, Rachel M (OREGON)
7. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)
8. Montoya, Kimberlee (NEVADA)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(80 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C1 competition

1. Smith, Dwight A (METRO NYC)
2. Kenney, Clayton K (COLORADO)
- 3.T Kelly, Conor M (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
5. Kenney, Duncan S (COLORADO)
6. Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
7. Adjemian, Nicolas E (BORDER TEX)
8. French, Peter R.N. (SO. TEXAS)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(62 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
2. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
- 3.T Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Hatcher, Christina (COLORADO)

UNDER-16 MEN'S FOIL

(119 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group B4/A1 competition

1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
2. Miner, Parker J (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 3.T Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
5. Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
- 6.T Getz, Kurt A (WEST-ROCK)
- 6.T Stauble, Andrew Co (KENTUCKY)
8. Hohensee, Douglas G (NORTHEAST)

UNDER-16 WOMEN'S FOIL

(90 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C4/B1 competition

1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
2. Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
5. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
6. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
7. Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)
8. Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S FOIL

(128 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C4/B1 competition

1. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
2. Louton, Alexander (CENTRAL PA)
- 3.T Kubik, Mark W (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
5. Cho, Kevin (S. JERSEY)
6. Kim, Isaac J (SO. CALIF.)
7. Perkins, Samuel H (NORTH CA)
8. MacClaren, Robert J (WESTERN NY)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S FOIL

(84 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C4/B1 competition

1. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
2. Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Svengsouk, Jocelyn L (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)

UNDER-16 MEN'S SABER

(75 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C4/B1 competition

1. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
2. Diacou, Alexander (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Yeates, Zachary D (MT. VALLEY)
5. Thanhouser, William B (OREGON)
6. Ahn, Steve J (NORTH TEX)
7. Baum, Jeff D (KANSAS)
8. Eiremo, Anders E (MT. VALLEY)

UNDER-16 WOMEN'S SABER

(43 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
2. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
- 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
- 3.T Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
5. Davis, Anika L (MT. VALLEY)
6. Schneider, Daria H (NEW ENGLAND)
7. Keltner, Mera H (OREGON)
8. Bartoszewicz, Ann (NEW JERSEY)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S SABER

(74 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C4/B1 competition

1. Eiremo, Anders E (MT. VALLEY)
2. Liu, Joe C (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Kolasa, Matthew C (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Truszkowski, Peter (ILLINOIS)
5. Wolff, John A (GEORGIA)
6. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Zagunis, Merrick H (OREGON)
8. Stetsiv, Andrey (METRO NYC)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S SABER

(42 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
2. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
- 3.T Schneider, Daria H (NEW ENGLAND)
- 3.T Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)

TOURNAMENT highlights

5. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)
6. Rush, Allison A (COLORADO)
7. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
8. Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(61 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Clarke, Joachim A (GULFCST TX)
2. Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Sumner, Eric T (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Trapani, Daniel K (GULFCST TX)
- 5.T Adjemian, Nicolas E (BORDER TEX)
- 5.T Jones, Tristan K (NORTHEAST)
7. Choi, Joseph Jae (COLORADO)
8. Planchard, Sean S (COLORADO)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(35 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Bassa, Francesca (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Cook, Meagan B (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Wu, Grace P (ILLINOIS)
5. Snider, Katherine (SO. TEXAS)
6. Hamer, Hilary A (NORTHEAST)
7. Vongries, Alyssa L (MINNESOTA)
8. Carroll, Larissa E (N.CAROLINA)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(26 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Kelley, Edward F (SO. TEXAS)
2. Kubik, Nickolas A (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Baum, Hunter D (N.CAROLINA)
- 3.T Picou, Antonin R. (CAPITOL)
5. Ameli, Kian (NEVADA)
6. Yergler, Jonathan A (CENTRAL FL)
7. Guerra, Gannon R (NORTH TEX)
8. Kaull, James T (CAPITOL)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(18 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Bassa, Francesca (GULFCST TX)
2. Donnenberg, Elizabeth (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Hohensee, Dianna E (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Howell, Kimberly Y (SO. TEXAS)
5. Bhinder, Amrit K (HUDS-BERKS)
6. Loomis, Hannah J (UTAH/S.IDA)
7. Getz, Katherine (WEST-ROCK)
8. Stephenson, Anne D (CAPITOL)

VETERAN 40/49 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(44 Competitors - all earn points)
Group A1 competition

1. Schneider, Charles J (MICHIGAN)
2. Gerring, Phillip E (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Ablanedo, Carlos M (CENTRAL FL)
- 3.T Shalaurov, Alexander (N.CAROLINA)
5. Pecherek, George D (ILLINOIS)
6. Holbrook, Douglas J (GEORGIA)
7. Brooks, Michael J (VIRGINIA)
8. Blackburne III, George (INDIANA)

- 5.T Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
- 5.T Nott, Adrienne M (WESTERN NY)
- 7.T Liroff, Elena R (NORTH CA)
- 7.T Sinkin, Ilana B (WESTERN NY)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL

(149 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Parkins, Benjamin B (GULFCST TX)
2. Simmons, Alex C (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Adjemian, Nicolas E (BORDER TEX)
- 3.T Mansfield, Christophe (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
6. Evans, Joseph D (SO. CALIF.)
7. Jones, Tristan K (NORTHEAST)
8. Krudy, Zoltan A (GULFCST TX)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

(80 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group C1 competition

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Ross, Nicole (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Henvick, Allison M (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Sarkisova, Radmila A (MICHIGAN)
5. Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)
6. Zargham, Mina (NORTH CA)
7. Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)
8. McDermott, Catherine (GULFCST TX)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL

(74 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
2. Howell, Ryan L (SW OHIO)
- 3.T Di Cioccio, Gianni L (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Pensler, Alexander (ILLINOIS)
5. Khoshnevisan, Christophe (NORTH CA)
6. Kubik, Nickolas A (SO. TEXAS)
7. Politi, Seth M (NEWENGLAND)
8. Shipp, Royce J (UTAH/S.IDA)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

(50 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Getz, Katherine (WEST-ROCK)
2. Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)
- 3.T Abdikulova, Aida (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Bhinder, Amrit K (HUDS-BERKS)
5. Johnson, Morgan E (GEORGIA)
6. Murphy, Amanda I (KANSAS)
7. Grant, Scout (GEORGIA)
8. Baden, Lucy M (CENTRAL CA)

VETERAN 40/49 MEN'S FOIL

(35 Competitors - all earn points)
Group B1 competition

1. Lutton, Thomas W (NEWENGLAND)
2. Loper, James Chr (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Krauss, John W (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Thomiszer, Frank J (GEORGIA)
5. Piatkowski-Nazarro, Marek W (SO. CALIF.)
- 6.T Hoffman, Joe (VIRGINIA)
- 6.T Howell, Lloyd (SW OHIO)
8. Gibson, Brian (NORTH CA)

5. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
6. Borrmann, Sarah V (OREGON)
7. Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
8. Davis, Anika L (MT. VALLEY)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER

(75 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group C1 competition

1. Murphy, Max D (KANSAS)
2. Worden, Connor R (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Mahaffey, Harrison H (GULFCST TX)
- 5.T Igoe, George S (METRO NYC)
- 5.T Reid, Leonon J (MT. VALLEY)
7. Douville, Michael C (GEORGIA)
8. Shipp, Royce J (UTAH/S.IDA)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER

(29 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
2. Bass, Molly M (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Stone, Anne-Eliza (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Vloka, Caroline N (NEW JERSEY)
5. Wiczorek, Martyna E (NEW JERSEY)
6. Sachs, Elizabeth (NORTH TEX)
7. Murphy, Amanda I (KANSAS)
8. Aksamit, Monica (NEW JERSEY)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER

(33 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Bak, Adrian (NEW JERSEY)
2. Stone, Robert L (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Johnson, Alex T (KANSAS)
- 3.T Stampfer, Michael B (SO. CALIF.)
5. Muccino, Daniel J (KANSAS)
6. Rudzinski, Tommy M (ILLINOIS)
7. Shipp, Royce J (UTAH/S.IDA)
8. Spear, Will (HUDS-BERKS)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER

(14 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
Group E1 competition

1. Rudnicki, Marie H (NEW JERSEY)
2. Kadree, Hafsa (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Cichomski, Joanna (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Ford, Tasia (HUDS-BERKS)
5. Stepien, Marta A (NEW JERSEY)
6. Stone, Gracie (ILLINOIS)
7. Pernice, Erica J (NEWENGLAND)
8. Daukszewicz, Nicole (NEW JERSEY)

VETERAN 40/49 MEN'S SABER

(21 Competitors - all earn points)
Group B1 competition

1. Smith, Ted (MT. VALLEY)
2. Meagher, Roderick (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Harkleroad, David A (KANSAS)
- 3.T King, George F (VIRGINIA)
5. Wharton, Franklin M (VIRGINIA)
6. Loper, James Chr (GEORGIA)
7. Devine Jr, Dwight J (LOUISIANA)
8. Szathmary, Michael J (S.CAROLINA)

VETERAN 40/49 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(25 Competitors - all earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Johnson, Karen (SO. TEXAS)
2. Hurley, Tracy A (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Gresham, Carolyn N (OKLAHOMA)
- 3.T Groening, Joahne (LONG ISLAND)
5. Duthie, K. Maria (INLAND EMP)
6. Simpson, Suzanne (GULFCST TX)
7. Leighton, Louise N (INDIANA)
8. Joyce, Patricia S (NEWENGLAND)

VETERAN 50/59 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(36 Competitors - all earn points)

Group A1 competition

1. Reith, William E (NORTH OHIO)
2. Cochran Jr, Robert A (GOLDCST FL)
- 3.T McKee, Michael (NEVADA)
- 3.T Tyson, Julian F (CONNECTCUT)
5. Harper, Brian S (GATEWAY FL)
6. Heller, Paul D (S. JERSEY)
7. Wood, David D (S.CAROLINA)
8. Spielberg, Joel (S. JERSEY)

VETERAN 50/59 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(12 Competitors - all earn points)

Group E1 competition

1. Kallus, Diane H (SO. TEXAS)
2. Aher, Bonnie (CONNECTCUT)
- 3.T Nowell, Linda C (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Tipton, Sue Davis (NORTHEAST)
5. Kvoles, Kathryn J (GATEWAY FL)
6. Ehlers, Patricia (CENTRAL CA)
7. Whisnant, Lela R (SO. TEXAS)
8. Gruys, Lorraine G (NEW MEXICO)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER MEN'S ÉPÉE

(23 Competitors - all earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Campe, Kazimieras (CAPITOL)

VETERAN 40/49 WOMEN'S FOIL

(31 Competitors - all earn points)

Group C1 competition

1. Vines, Kristin A (TENNESSEE)
2. Becker, Nancy J (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Huey, Sharone A (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Johnson, Karen (SO. TEXAS)
5. Keller, Nina G (METRO NYC)
6. Whitehurst, Mercedes A (WESTERN WA)
7. Gresham, Carolyn N (OKLAHOMA)
8. Berardi, Gladys B (NEW JERSEY)

VETERAN 50/59 MEN'S FOIL

(32 Competitors - all earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Biebel, Joseph E (WISCONSIN)
2. Streb, Joseph S (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Hayes, Harold C (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Patterson, Jan M (WESTERN WA)
5. Mayer, Richard (NEW JERSEY)
6. Hiraldo, Manuel R (GOLDCST FL)
7. Pitt, David E (METRO NYC)
8. Gonzalez, Reinaldo (NEW JERSEY)

VETERAN 50/59 WOMEN'S FOIL

(12 Competitors - all earn points)

Group E1 competition

1. Walton, Yvonne R (NORTHEAST)
2. Gettler, Laura (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Ehlers, Patricia (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Nowell, Linda C (NORTH CA)
5. Offerle, Judith A (ILLINOIS)
6. Schifferle, Kathryn L (NO. COAST)
7. Rosenfeld, Madelon M (METRO NYC)
8. Hurst, Susan E (SAN DIEGO)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER MEN'S FOIL

(18 Competitors - all earn points)

Group C1 competition

1. Elliott, Joseph A (ORANGE CST)

VETERAN 40/49 WOMEN'S SABER

(19 Competitors - all earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Eyre, Jane E (S. JERSEY)
2. Newstrom, Mary K (MINNESOTA)
- 3.T Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)
- 3.T Pestotnik, Sharol A (COLORADO)
5. Strumillo, Jeanette M (MT. VALLEY)
6. Stopak, Deb M (VIRGINIA)
7. Comes, Rita (CENTRAL CA)
8. Michael, Sarah B (NORTH CA)

VETERAN 50/59 MEN'S SABER

(24 Competitors - all earn points)

Group B1 competition

1. Reilly, Philip (OREGON)
2. Sexton III, Ray L (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Kovacs, Alexander (PHILADELPH)
- 3.T Streb, Joseph S (COLUMBUSOH)
5. Baker, Keith L (VIRGINIA)
6. Volkmann, Rudy (GEORGIA)
7. Harper, Brian S (GATEWAY FL)
8. Estes, Rick (NORTHEAST)

VETERAN 50/59 WOMEN'S SABER

(10 Competitors - all earn points)

Group E1 competition

1. Turner, Delia M (PHILADELPH)
2. Cummins, Judith S (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Kvoles, Kathryn J (GATEWAY FL)
- 3.T Nicolau, Doty (ALABAMA)
5. Flunker, Linda K (GATEWAY FL)
6. Warren, Rosemary A (VIRGINIA)
7. Jordan, Marilynn C (SAN BERNAR)
8. Gruys, Lorraine G (NEW MEXICO)

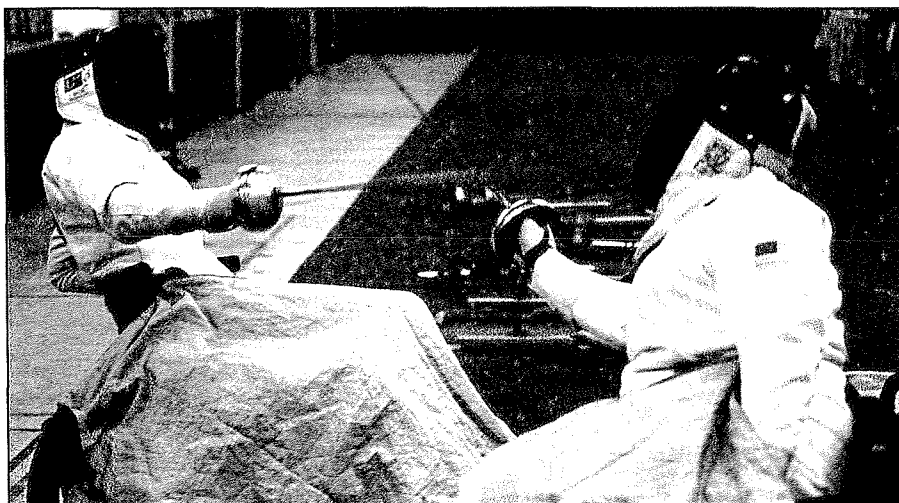
VETERAN 60 AND OVER MEN'S SABER

(13 Competitors - all earn points)

Group E1 competition

1. Goering, William A (COLORADO)

SUMMER NATIONALS. Below: Susan Gilmore (Oklahoma), left, versus Kristine Alexander (Georgia) in Wheelchair Women's Epee. Right: Gilmore prepares. Photos: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.



TOURNAMENT highlights

2. Elliott, Joseph A (ORANGE CST)
- 3.T Adams, James H (CAPITOL)
- 3.T Hurley, Robert J (SO. TEXAS)
5. Levy, Paul G (S. JERSEY)
6. Miernik, Marcel (WEST-ROCK)
7. Gibbs, Michael R (VIRGINIA)
8. Bernard, Lawrence (CENTRAL CA)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(5 Competitors - all earn points)

1. Obermiller, Nadine M (WESTERN PA)
2. Bedrosian, Patricia G (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Annavedder, Mary E (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Graham, Bettie J (CAPITOL)
5. Anderson, Ruth (ST. LOUIS)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(7 Competitors)

1. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
2. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
3. Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
4. Collman, Peter D (GEORGIA)
5. Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)
6. Sikorsky, Steven A (KENTUCKY)
7. Garcia, Zen (GEORGIA)

WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(4 Competitors)

1. Hickey, Carol A (GEORGIA)
2. Gilmore, Susan E (OKLAHOMA)
3. Alexander, Kristine A (GEORGIA)
4. Lanier, Lisa D (GEORGIA)

2. Adams, James H (CAPITOL)
- 3.T Bengé, Donald E (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Folgner, Claus-Pete (HARRISBURG)
5. Miernik, Marcel (WEST-ROCK)
6. Shapiro, Earl A (GEORGIA)
7. Picken, Neal A (OKLAHOMA)
8. Chang, Fritz (NEWENGLAND)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER WOMEN'S FOIL

(6 Competitors - all earn points)

Group E1 competition

1. Bedrosian, Patricia G (SO. CALIF.)
2. Abrahams, Terry (CENTRAL FL)
- 3.T Anderson, Ruth (ST. LOUIS)
- 3.T Felty, Louisa (KENTUCKY)
5. Graham, Bettie J (CAPITOL)
6. Obermiller, Nadine M (WESTERN PA)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S FOIL

(4 Competitors)

1. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
2. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
3. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
4. Sikorsky, Steven A (KENTUCKY)
5. Collman, Peter D (GEORGIA)

WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S FOIL

(4 Competitors)

1. Lanier, Lisa D (GEORGIA)
2. Gilmore, Susan E (OKLAHOMA)
3. Alexander, Kristine A (GEORGIA)
4. Alexander, Kristine A (GEORGIA)

2. Lee, David G (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Alexander, Dimitry (D (GOLDCST FL)
- 3.T Hall, William N (NEWENGLAND)
5. Higday, Joe C (KANSAS)
6. Kosow, David P (PHILADELPH)
7. Folgner, Claus-Pete (HARRISBURG)
8. Levy, Paul G (S. JERSEY)



WHEELCHAIR MEN'S SABER

(5 Competitors)

1. Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
2. Sikorsky, Steven A (KENTUCKY)
3. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
4. Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)



SUMMER NATIONALS. Above, right: Carol Hickey (Georgia), wheelchair epeeist, with her coach. Right: Hickey versus Gilmore in Wheelchair Women's Epee. Photos: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

OPEN TEAM MEN'S ÉPÉE

(37 Teams)

1. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metropolitan NYC Division (Jonathan Bartlett, Charles Hamann, Soren Thompson, Jan Vivani)
2. CHEYENNE FENCING, Colorado Division (Johnny Beski, Josti Choi, Clayton Kenny, Colin Sullivan)
3. FENCING ACADEMY OF PHILADELPHIA, Philadelphia Division (Robert Bralow, Jason Stockdale, Andrei Yakamenko)

OPEN TEAM MEN'S FOIL

(31 Teams)

1. SALLE MAURO, Gulf Coast Texas Division (Michael Galligan, Steve Gerberman, Michael Loparco, Richard Spicer)
2. SALLE D'ESCRIME-UT VALLEY SPORT FENCING, Utah-South Idaho Division (Bryan Lence, Mike Maurin, Parker Miner, Kellen Wentzel)
3. METROPOLIS FENCING, Metropolitan NYC Division (Rolando Balboa, Ian Hamilton, Zaddick Longenbach, Tarq Thorton-Close)

OPEN TEAM MEN'S SABER

(21 Teams)

1. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metropolitan NYC Division (Alex Diacou, Niko Diacou, Mike Etropolis, Ben Igoe)
2. BOSTON FENCING CLUB, New England Division (Brendan Doris-Pierce, Chris Flanders, Ben Jacobs, Isaac Liberman)
3. CHARLES RIVER FENCING CLUB, New England Division (Brian Bower, Evangelos Efstathiou, John Fuhro)

OPEN TEAM WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(24 Teams)

1. NORTHWEST FENCING CENTER, Oregon Division (Keri Byerts, Rachel Kantor, Marla Nacey, Amy Orlando)
2. SEACOAST FENCING CLUB, Northeast Division (Kira Hohensee, Irana Inman, Courtney Krolikoski)
3. CHEYENNE FENCING, Colorado Division (Elaine Cheris, Jennifer Dyer, Brianna Ferrara, Lara Hammerick)

OPEN TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL

(14 Teams)

1. FENCERS CLUB, INC, Metropolitan NYC Division (Jody Jackson, Christina Kaneshige, Kathleen Reckling, Tracey Thorns)
2. THREE RIVERS FENCING CENTER, Western PA Division (Cindy Bent, Iana Dakova, Annie Jackson, Erin Kelly)
3. RHODE ISLAND FENCING ACADEMY, New England Division (Jess Davis-Helm, Lea Ferland, Jill St. Jacques)

OPEN TEAM WOMEN'S SABER

(15 Teams)

1. SALLE D'ESCRIME-UT VALLEY SPORT FENCING, Utah-South Idaho Division (Bethany Andrews, Rachel Liebing, Julie Seal, Natalie Smith)
2. LILOV FENCING ACADEMY, New Jersey Division (Ann Bartoshevich, Lauren Riesebeck, Anna Wieronski, Katarzyna Wieronski)
3. PRISE DE FER FENCING CLUB, New England Division (Sophie Eustis, Eva Jellison, Robin Pernice, Daria Schneider)

What's Your Call?

Who ever said that everything important to fencers takes place on the piste? There's another venue that's often as challenging and tough to navigate and it's located right behind three lowercase w's. Fencing websites are places to chat with épéists from Australia, or purchase discount fencing shoes, or download tournament entry forms, or find your name among the rankings, or follow the progress of the upcoming movie about Peter Westbrook. Fencing being the insider—and international—sport that it is, the internet is a critical connection between fencers, equipment vendors, rule-setting organizations, clubs. The quality of the website experience can make the difference between a solid hit and an off-target waste of time.

To direct the battle of the fencing websites, we are convening a group of illustrious and judicious referees—you. Aside from the fact that you get this magazine and are therefore connected to fencing in some way, you are likely someone who uses the web and visits fencing websites fairly regularly (if only to find out that you missed a tournament entry date). We invite you to nominate the organization, equipment, club, apparel, love-o'-the-sport site(s) that deserve coveted 5 BLADE commendation. Use this ballot and fax it to us. We'll need to hear from you by December 1, 2002. Results will be featured in the spring issue of American Fencing magazine.

Human nature being what it is (highly critical), we believe we'll have no problem rounding up fencers with opinions. But we do need you to take off your masks and let us know who you are. No cloaks of secrecy here. Only nominations that include the nominators' names will be considered. This way, we won't award 5 BLADES to sites that are nominated 54 times by their own designers.

The results will likely be as subjective as a right-of-way call. But we encourage you, our judges, to consider richness of content, ease of loading and navigation, aesthetic presentation and overall impact. Nominate sites that you and your fencing friends talk about, sites others might have overlooked. What are the Amazons and Yahoos of the fencing world?

And in the comments section, we invite you to sound off. We're hearing that equipment vendors (whom you'd expect to put a lot of effort into enhancing the web experience), and especially clubs and salles, post fairly uninspiring sites. Information is outdated (who cares about tournament schedules from 1998?), links are broken (ever try to purchase a mask on a site where three-quarters of the photographs are missing?), graphics are unappealing (HUGE buttons, HUGE typography, HUGELY poor photography and don't get us started on the color choices—did someone decide that black and red are the official colors of fencing?). And hey, we're supposed to navigate these sites, not scroll downhill endlessly.

Ready? The nomination process begins. Fence.

Best Fencing Websites of 2003 Voting Ballot

I hereby nominate www _____ for the Best Fencing Website 2003

CATEGORY

- Organization or Club site
- Equipment and/or Merchandise e-commerce site
- General Fencing site

Answer as many of these questions as you like:

What's the main purpose of the site (sell equipment, entertain fencers, list tournament schedules)?

Who's the target audience?

Does this site succeed in reaching its target audience?

Best/coolest feature?

Worst feature?

What could make the site more successful?

How did you first find the site (friend, search engine, etc.)?

Technologies used (flash, java, etc., if you know):

Site designer (if you know):

Nominator Contact Information

Name: _____ *Age _____ *State _____

Email: _____ Weapon: _____

Vote early, vote often. But please include your name with each nomination form.

To submit, fax this ballot to 617 424 8309.

Deadline for entries: **December 1, 2002**

*optional

UNDER-19 TEAM MEN'S ÉPÉE

(23 Teams)

1. PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION, Metropolitan NYC Division (Benjamin Bratton, Donovan Holtz, Oba Simmonds, Dwight Smith)
2. NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, Metropolitan NYC Division (Endre Boksay, Christian Rivera, Benjamin Ungar, Bill Verigan)
3. INDIANA DIVISION COMPOSITE (Neal Baldwin, George Blackburn, Greg Howard)

UNDER-19 TEAM MEN'S FOIL

(20 Teams)

1. SALLE MAURO, Gulf Coast Texas Division (Michael Galligan, Steve Gerberman, Benjamin Parkins, Richard Spicer)
2. BOSTON FENCING CLUB, New England Division (Alejandro Bras, Jeff Jorge, Jesse Platt, Enoch Woodhouse)
3. ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western New York Division (Alex Caren, Shey Godog, Gabe Sinkin, Jeremy Sinkin)

UNDER-19 TEAM MEN'S SABER

(18 Teams)

1. FENCERS CLUB, INC, Metropolitan NYC Division (Tim Hagamen, David Jakus, Paul Reyfman, Matthew Zich)
2. OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE, Oregon Division (Adam Angert, Ian Farr, Patrick Ghattas, Marten Zagunis)
3. FALCON FENCING CLUB, Southern California Division (Adam Boorstin, Ilan Chernov, Alex Krul, Chris Peterson)

UNDER-19 TEAM WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(11 Teams)

1. NORTHWEST FENCING CENTER, Oregon Division (Keri Byerts, Amy Orlando, Alli Schirtz, Ruth Schneider)
2. SEACOAST FENCING CLUB, Northeast Division (Abby Emerson, Kira Hohensee, Irena Inman, Courtney Krolikoski)
3. ESCRIME DU LAC, Indiana Division (Anne Keresmar, Brittany Leader, Eleanor Leighton)

UNDER-19 TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL

(7 Teams)

1. NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION COMPOSITE (Ali Glasser, Kate Hancock, Doris Willette, Mina Zargham)
2. ROCHESTER FENCING CENTER, Western New York Division (Misha Goldfeder, Adi Nott, Ilana Sinkin, Jocelyn Svengsouk)
3. FENCERS CLUB, INC, Metropolitan NYC Division (Kelsey Finkel, Christina Kaneshige, Alisa Mendelsohn, Kathleen Reckling)

UNDER-19 TEAM WOMEN'S SABER

(8 Teams)

1. OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE, Oregon Division (Valerie Providenza, Caitlin Thompson, Rebecca Ward, Mariel Zagunis)
2. LILOV FENCING ACADEMY, New Jersey Division (Cassandra Frey, Lauren Phillips, Ania Wieronski, Kasia Wieronski)
3. METROPOLITAN DIVISION COMPOSITE (Emma Baratta, Holly Buechel, Kathleen Reckling, Katelyn Sherry)

REPORT FROM SUMMER NATIONALS | Hosting the Summer Nationals: It Takes More Planning Than a Barbeque | Special report from the Greenville, SC Local Organizing Committee

"Let's see if we've got this right. You want Greenville, S.C., which has never heard of fencing, to host 2,600 of the nation's best fencers (who have never heard of Greenville) to the 2002 Summer Nationals—one of the most important championships in the sport of fencing. OK, but this is going to require slightly more planning than a neighborhood barbeque."

The USFA and Greenville had a good "first date" two years ago when Greenville hosted a North American Cup (NAC). The newly minted Greenville Fencing Academie and its director, Lahouari ("Wari") Benslimane, locally organized that tournament and it was a well-run, quiet success. Confident in Greenville, last November USFA Executive Director Michael Massik offered the local organizing challenge for the Summer Nationals to Benslimane, along with some sage advice: "Get lots of sponsors and volunteers—this is bigger than a NAC."

Benslimane, an Algeria national champion, knew the importance of the

Summer Nationals. He turned to the godfather of Greenville fencing, Roger Varin, who had fenced as a youngster growing up in Switzerland. Varin advised Wari to enlist Caleb Freeman, who grew up in Greenville and is active in business and civic affairs: "He doesn't fence, but he'll help energize the community behind a good event like this—it's not everyday that Greenville attracts a major international sporting event, over 5,000 visitors, and injects \$3 million into the local economy."

Freeman joined as the third musketeer, and they got advice from USFA officials Massik and Chris Cuddy, bout committee leaders like Nancy Anderson, experienced local organizers like Yvonne Wong of Sacramento. But with only six months to organize, they sought professional help.

Sue Schafer, Schafer Advertising & Marketing, and Kristi Bohm, Mainline Communications, both knew the professional challenges ahead. "You want us to quickly develop sponsor packages, promotional materials, and pub-

licity support for a major sporting event in a town that doesn't understand the sport—and we've got no budget to work with either?" With characteristic optimism, Schafer summed up the resolve of everyone in Greenville: "Well, I love a challenge. Let's make this happen."

Mayor Knox White agreed to chair the Advisory Committee for the local organizing effort. City and county council members Diane Smock, Chandra Dillard and Cort Flint joined too. Civic and business leaders Max Heller (former mayor of Greenville), Champ Covington (real estate developer and chairman of the state's Infrastructure Bank), David Brown (CEO of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce) and Owen McFadden (Furman University Athletic Programs) willingly agreed to serve as well. Heller recalled his school days in Germany: "We learned fencing, but were only given broomsticks to use. Of course I'll help introduce fencers to Greenville, and Greenville to fencing."

TOURNAMENT highlights

This committee, with our professionals helping, then set about writing and calling over 500 local and international business leaders to announce the coming of the Summer Nationals, and to urge everyone's support and welcome of the nation's best fencers to Greenville.

Developing the theme and branding the event was next. Epitome Creative designed and contributed a special logo. Schafer Advertising's entire team, especially Candace Rathbone, created appealing, professional promotional materials and ads. Fitzhugh Williams and Piedmont Travel developed first-rate websites and travel packages tailored to fencers. Printers contributed their services at cost, so brochures, programs and other promotional materials were affordably produced.

There's more to promoting a major event than posters. Everyone became an ambassador regardless of level or lack of experience with the sport. For several months, "fencing" was the buzz around town—"the Super Bowl of Fencing" caught the imagination of a community traditionally weaned on college football, NCAA basketball, NASCAR, and minor league baseball.

Media partners were key. Thanks to the *Greenville News*, *Greenville Journal*, *Greenville Magazine*, and Entercom's WSPA Magic 98.9, good 'ole boys and girls were pronouncing and understanding "foil, epee and saber."

A needed ingredient was sponsorship, and thankfully Greenville businesses responded on several levels. Some, like Michelin, contributed to fencing scholarships offered by the nonprofit Greenville Fencing Academy. Others, like Carolina First Bank and Cintas, gave money to help fund the promotional efforts, to pay for the coveted finalist lapel pins, and the logo

t-shirts and hats. Many others gave in-kind support: prizes from Adidas, computers and copiers from Kearns Business Solutions, banners from Budweiser, even pizzas from Papa John's. Bottom line: from the donated flowers in the venue to the "Welcome" billboards and buses on the highways, none of this would have happened if not for the community-wide desire to make these Summer Nationals a memorable success for fencers and Greenvillians.

This spirit carried over into other festivities and events around town that week. Many July 4th parties were planned for fencers, and host restaurants like Ristorante Bergamo specially welcomed fencers. While this degree of hospitality to newcomers is typical of Greenville, fencers were very much the focus of the community's attention. Lots of curious locals came to see fencing firsthand and were fascinated. More than 250 signed up for introduction lessons at the Greenville Fencing Academy. Thanks to the Palmetto Expo Center and the Convention & Visitors Bureau, everyone could afford this chance to enjoy fencing; the parking was free and so was the admission.

The best evidence of local hospitality was found in the many volunteers. A promotional budget of \$75,000 is wasted without a team of enthusiastic supporters. They did everything from repairing strips, to finding lost equipment and good restaurants, to shuttling fencers to the airport and the mountains. Many volunteers had no previous experience with fencing, so their commitment was all the more impressive when you consider they gave up July 4th vacations to work 12-hour days at the Summer Nationals. Why they did it really explains the allure fencing has on us all. Ann Leo

summed up: "I never knew how intense and exhilarating this sport was until I saw it up close and in person. It draws you in; you want to fence, too." (*Note to local fencing club: give free lessons to volunteers in addition to t-shirts.*)

Hosting a Summer Nationals, much like cooking a good barbeque, requires several essential ingredients if you want them to come back for more. Focus on promoting and organizing a successful event, not on fundraising for the local fencing club. Raise the visibility and appreciation for the sport with the help of community leaders, exhibitions, and media partners. Promote the "Super Bowl of Fencing" with your best efforts, and ask everyone to go all out as sponsors, vendors, volunteers and supporters for an event this important. Call in favors for financial and in-kind assistance. Give extra value back to your sponsors in quality ads, posters, promotions and publicity. Get a great sports reporter like Ann Green of the *Greenville News* to cover fencing and all its aspects. Ask too much of your volunteers, and be prepared for them to give you even more help. Let fencers, coaches, and their families know how glad you are that they came to fence in your town. Take time to watch fencing and visit at the venue and around town. Everyone, from sponsors to fencers, will have fun and want more of the same.

The proof is in the sauce: the USFA recently announced that Greenville is host venue for the NAC Junior and NAC Cadet on November 8-11.

"So let me see if I've got this straight: Greenville's got two months and no budget to prepare for over 800 competitors..."

...Don't worry. We'll get ready; you fence.

VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS | Tampa, FL, August 30 - September 1

top 8, plus USA results

VETERAN 50/59 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(29 Competitors)

1. Kuhn, Norbert (GERMANY)
2. Cochrane Jr., Robert A (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T Johnson, Ralph (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3.T Moreau, John A (UNITED STATES)
5. Scharpff, Lars (SWEDEN)
6. Chubarov, Vladimir (GERMANY)
7. Paul, Graham (GREAT BRITAIN)
8. Bjorch-Andressen, Henning (NORWAY)

16. Tyson, Julian F (UNITED STATES)
23. McKee, Michael (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 50/59 MEN'S FOIL

(25 Competitors)

1. Paroli, Giulio (ITALY)
2. Paul, Graham (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3.T Causton, Brian (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3.T De Bartolomeis, Arturo (ITALY)
5. Hamburzumian, Heik (UNITED STATES)
6. Streb, Joseph S (UNITED STATES)
7. Danglot, Regis (FRANCE)
8. Patterson, Jan M (UNITED STATES)

14. Milligan, Bruce C (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 50/59 MEN'S SABER

(24 Competitors)

1. Korfanty, Edward (UNITED STATES)
2. Reilly, Philip (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T Jacobson, David H (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T Yung, Wang Y (UNITED STATES)
5. Paroli, Giulio (ITALY)
6. Cohen, Richard (GREAT BRITAIN)
7. Takeishi, Kazuo (JAPAN)
8. Pfeilsticker, Dr. Dietri (GERMANY)

VETERAN 50/59 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(19 Competitors)

1. Someroja, Marja-Liis (FINLAND)
2. Halsted, Clare (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3.T Kallus, Diane H (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T Tanaka, Yumiko (JAPAN)
5. Martin, Brigitte (FRANCE)
6. Nowell, Linda C (UNITED STATES)
7. Hendricks-Sebesy, Judith (AUSTRIA)
8. Nagele, Brigitte (GERMANY)

15. Whisnant, Lela R (UNITED STATES)
18. Tipton, Sue Davis (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 50/59 WOMEN'S FOIL

(18 Competitors)

1. Someroja, Marja-Liis (FINLAND)
2. Vardi, Monique (FRANCE)
- 3T. Halsted, Clare (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3T. Walton, Yvonne R (UNITED STATES)
5. Philbin, Hilary (GREAT BRITAIN)
6. Szymanski, Christa (GERMANY)
7. Becker, Elise (GERMANY)
8. Hendricks-Sebesy, Judith (AUSTRIA)

10. Offerle, Judith A (UNITED STATES)
11. Nowell, Linda C (UNITED STATES)
14. Ehlers, Patricia (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER MEN'S ÉPÉE

(24 Competitors)

1. Lapouge, Gerard (FRANCE)
2. Schiel, Robert (LUXEMBOURG)
- 3.T Elliot, Joseph A (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T Kilberth, Hans (GERMANY)
5. Fischer, Wolfgang (GERMANY)
6. Grosz, Ladislas (FRANCE)
7. Spofforth, Ian (GREAT BRITAIN)
8. Hartley, Simon (GREAT BRITAIN)

9. Campe, Kazimieras (UNITED STATES)
20. Miernik, Marcel (UNITED STATES)
- 22.T Adams, James H (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER MEN'S FOIL

(22 Competitors)

1. Wulf, Manfred (GERMANY)
2. Link, Jean (LUXEMBOURG)
- 3.T Hartley, Simon (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3.T Martin, Jean-Claud (FRANCE)
5. Fare, Malcolm (GREAT BRITAIN)
6. Hojer, Manfred (GERMANY)
7. Elliot, Joseph A (UNITED STATES)
8. De Silva, Henry (GREAT BRITAIN)
13. Adams, James H (UNITED STATES)
14. Miernik, Marcel (UNITED STATES)
15. Shapiro, Earl A (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER MEN'S SABER

(19 Competitors)

1. Hall, William N (UNITED STATES)
2. Fine, Marvin (CANADA)
- 3.T Goering, William A (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T Nettingsmeyer, Wolf (GERMANY)
5. Raveling, Bette (GERMANY)
6. Oldcorn, Richard (AUSTRALIA)
7. Lee, David G (UNITED STATES)
8. Esser, Charly (GERMANY)

17. Alexander, Dimitry (D (UNITED STATES)

VETERAN 60 AND OVER WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(17 Competitors)

1. Cooksey, Janet (GREAT BRITAIN)
2. Somborn, Gudrun (GERMANY)
- 3.T Brown, Sylvia (GREAT BRITAIN)
- 3.T Hempelmann, Marianne (GERMANY)
5. Dobloug, Lisa (NORWAY)
6. Annavedder, Mary E (UNITED STATES)
7. Kroth, Ellen (GERMANY)
8. Adam, Connie (GREAT BRITAIN)

10. Bedrosian, Patricia G (UNITED STATES)
13. Graham, Bettie J (UNITED STATES)
15. Obermiller, Nadine M (UNITED STATES)

TOURNAMENT highlights

VETERAN 60 AND OVER WOMEN'S FOIL

(14 Competitors)

1. Cooksey, Janet (GREAT BRITAIN)
2. Wurttemberger, Karin (GERMANY)
3. T. Gorius, Barbel (GERMANY)
3. T. Greunke, Brigitte (GERMANY)
5. Bedrosian, Patricia G (UNITED STATES)
6. Schiede MD, Eva C (GERMANY)
7. Brown, Sylvia (GREAT BRITAIN)
8. Haarlem, Christina (SWEDEN)

9. Abrahams, Terry (UNITED STATES)
12. Graham, Bettie J (UNITED STATES)
13. Obermiller, Nadine M (UNITED STATES)

DEMO VETERAN 40 & OVER WOMEN'S SABER

(23 Competitors)

1. Turner, Delia M (UNITED STATES)
2. Strumillo, Jeanette M (UNITED STATES)
3. T. Nicolau, Doty (UNITED STATES)
3. T. Wilson, Fiona (GREAT BRITAIN)
5. Comes, Rita (UNITED STATES)
6. Eyre, Jane E (UNITED STATES)
7. Pestotnik, Sharol A (UNITED STATES)
8. Philbin, Hilary (GREAT BRITAIN)

11. Berardi, Gladys B (UNITED STATES)
12. Jordan, Marilyn (UNITED STATES)
14. Kvoles, Kathryn (UNITED STATES)
15. Minno, Maria (UNITED STATES)
16. Warren, Rosemary (UNITED STATES)
17. Ory, Arlene (UNITED STATES)
18. Brynildsen, Karen (UNITED STATES)
19. Flunker, Linda (UNITED STATES)
20. Gruys, Lorraine G (UNITED STATES)
21. Lawrence, Sarah (Pat) (UNITED STATES)
22. Felty, Louisa (UNITED STATES)
23. Green, Sherry (Ch) (UNITED STATES)

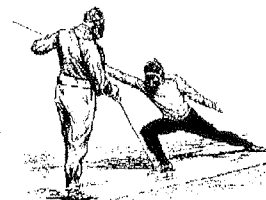


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The (Very) Small Print: Entrants must include the masthead of the newspaper or magazine and date of publication, or time, date and station of the TV or radio piece. Printed results from fencing tournaments count—but only once per tournament (results from two days in a row count as one article). An article about a tournament and results from the same tournament, if on different pages, count as two clips. Clips from different stations/papers concerning the same subject or event count as multiple clips; websites that mirror print clips do not. "Faces in the Crowd" clips from *Sports Illustrated* are excluded from the contest (we get that at the office, too, you know).

OLD PROBLEMS, NEW TECHNOLOGY:

a variety of tech tips from Joe Byrnes

It was bound to happen. With the introduction of the electric saber system that we now mostly use (it requires a direct short circuit right at the socket in the guard), there was initially a problem—or at least a little extra work—in securing the proper grounding at that socket. (I still see saber fencers, mostly from the high-school brigades, who have weapons with sad jury-rigged attempts at getting it right.) An extra wire had to be attached, both to the bayonet sockets and to the two-pin versions; that worked OK, but was admittedly a somewhat clunky fix.

It has taken a few years for the obvious solution to appear. (Could it have been that manufacturers, being aware of the fickleness of the FIE and its gurus, wanted to be sure that the system would actually survive? Could be; it would testify to very good sense on the part of said manufacturers.) Anyway, the obvious solution has been appearing: sockets *intended* for *saber* body cords. (Remember: they *look* remarkably like foil sockets, at a quick glance.)

These new saber sockets have the short built-in: the bayonet-type has simply been produced without the insulating plastic foot; the two-pin has had the insulated sleeve around the thin pin replaced by solid metal. Superficially, you could take them for foil sockets of the same manufacture, perhaps especially if you are near-sighted, or don't really know what to look for. Someday, some ingenious manufacturer may hit on the idea (and maybe one already has, but I haven't seen it) of stamping a big "S"—for, guess what?—on the appropriate brackets. Only a cockeyed optimist, however, would think that such a simple answer would head off all the trouble. I'd take a bet.

What I have been hearing about are some sad stories of people putting together foils with these new, shall I call them saber-qualified, sockets. Naturally

they won't work for foil. And if you have just rewired the blade, and have reason to doubt your armoring skills and suspect that maybe you goofed and grounded the wire in mounting things, you might tear everything apart—unnecessarily, of course. One would hope not more than once.

This sort of problem is simply the result of a brand new piece of gear. So watch out for it.

Recently, I had a report of an old problem that has been showing up again. I recollect that the first time I encountered this one was over 40 years ago. Wires for foils and for epees are naturally insulated, since they are going to be resting all along the metal channel of the blade. They are most often insulated with a wrapping of cloth thread: usually a double wrap. Some are merely insulated, like magnet wire, with a lacquer coating. These latter need to be handled with great care, as merely nicking the lacquer can undo all your work in setting up.

There are some wires, furthermore, that are covered with both a lacquer coat and thread wrap on top. People who burn off the insulation before attaching their wires may get rid of both lacquer and thread, although one needs to be careful: burning can damage the temper of the wire. Some of this wire is delicate stuff and reacts badly to the flame treatment.

What you must be careful about is not to leave a layer of insulation—whether thread or lacquer—on the wire when you attach it under the screw head. Of course, if you crank down hard enough you would doubtless cut down to the wire and, if you didn't succeed in breaking it, things would work. But I have seen, often enough over the years, cases where the seemingly bare wire was still sufficiently insulated that the nice, newly assembled weapon wouldn't (couldn't!) work. This can happen with epee wires, too, of course. My preferred method of removing the insulation, of

any type, is to use a bit of emery cloth to abrade it off: thread and/or lacquer will go, leaving shiny, bare metal.

Here's another recurrence of ancient history: We all know that a couple of years ago the scoring lights were changed over to appear on the same side as the fencer scoring the touch. And we quickly caught on to the fact that all you had to do to make this miracle happen was plug in the floor cords on the opposite ends of the machine from where they originated. Over 40 years ago, my division still used an even-then elderly (pre-WWII vintage) epee scoring machine that had to be set up this way, to work the way we wanted back then (which happened to be the reverse of what you might think—ask a real old-timer). Incidentally, the inputs for the floor cords on that machine were round three-pin Amphenol microphone connectors, as regularly used on U.S.-made equipment back in those days.

What brings this to my attention now is that I have heard a sad story of a machine recently being unplugged from its reels during testing, in a saber bout, at a critical juncture, and being plugged back together in the wrong way, thus reversing the results for the next few touches until the problem was caught. Given that machines are just beginning to appear with the inputs set for what we want now, or even "set-able" by computer program, and that these machines are going to be mixed in with the "old" versions for a long time to come, it behooves everybody setting up a competition to be sure where the lights are going to come on, doesn't it? And since the set-up required might be different for two adjoining strips, a certain amount of caution is called for.

NAC MEDICAL SUPPORT, KNEE PAIN

what you need to know **by Dr. Peter Harmer**

Q. What's happening with the medical support program that was mentioned last year for NACs?

A. The successful completion of the Summer Nationals in Greenville marked the first full season of the USFA program to provide certified athletic trainers (ATCs) or other appropriately qualified sports medicine professionals to all of the NACs. Overall, the feedback on the work of the following participants who have volunteered their time and expertise has been very positive: Maria Duthie (Spokane, WA), Nick Tobianski (Mt. Pleasant, MI), Don DeFabio, DC (Clifton, NJ), John Carollo (Bahrain), Marci Miner (UT), Doug Rank and Jen Nielson (Seattle, WA), Jim Gossett, Beth Medina and Alison Funck (NY, NY) and Peter Harmer (Salem, OR). Any suggestions or comments on either the program or the performance of the healthcare providers at the NAC are encouraged (feel free to contact me at the email below).

In addition, some competitors will have noticed certified massage therapists at several NACs. We are currently developing a similar program to ensure that a qualified massage therapist is present at all NACs in the coming season. As the massage therapists are self-funded, they will charge a standard rate of \$1/minute for their services. I would particularly like to thank Elizabeth Santos (Chicago, IL) for her efforts in getting this program off the ground, and Marci Miner (UT) and April Alexander (Atlanta, GA) for their work at various NACs.

Both the sports medicine and the massage therapy support programs are looking for qualified individuals to ensure the growth of these services to USFA members. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

Q. My 12-year-old daughter has been training more regularly recently and has been having significant knee pain, particularly in her front leg. It

doesn't seem to get better at all, even if she takes time off. Her coach thinks it's tendinitis and that she should ice her knee and not train so much until it gets better. Is this a good idea?

A. Ice and rest are good "rules of thumb" to use in just about any injury situation. However, there are several other issues that need to be considered here. First, of course, is to get an accurate evaluation of the problem so that the most effective treatment can be given with the least time off for your daughter. Second, is for the healthcare professional who evaluates your daughter to be mindful of her age. The reason this is important is that there are a number of age-related musculoskeletal problems that can mimic athletic injuries and/or which can interact with the stress of activity to complicate treatment and recovery (especially if the athlete wants to remain active during treatment).

Injuries of any kind are the result of the body being unable to adapt to some type of stress placed upon it—for example, a blister from friction in a shoe or a sprain from twisting a joint. Sometimes the body is unable to adapt because the magnitude of the stress is too great or it is applied too quickly. Most of these stresses come from outside the body, but in children and adolescents experiencing growth spurts, they can come from within the body itself. For example, bone grows faster than muscle and tendon, so young athletes may have pain from muscles pulling on where they are attached to bones as bones grow rapidly. If the child is training, the problem may (not unreasonably) be thought to be activity-related.

In the case of your daughter's knee pain, it is quite possible that she is experiencing patellar tendinitis ("jumper's knee") if she is doing a lot of lunging. However, her problem could also be a growth condition like Osgood-Schlatter's disease or Sinding-Larsen-Johannson

disease, both of which occur between the ages of 10-15 (although they tend to be more common in boys than girls). Both can be very painful but they are benign and self-limiting (that is, they will eventually "cure" themselves without complications). This is not usually the case with patellar tendinitis. Because the anatomy and mechanics involved in all three—the patella (knee-cap), the quadriceps tendon, and the tibial tuberosity (the bony piece of the leg we kneel on)—of these conditions are the same, it can be tricky identifying the exact problem. But it is important to do so as Osgood-Schlatter's disease and Sinding-Larsen-Johannson disease are usually treated symptomatically, whereas patellar tendinitis must be treated on several levels (symptomatically, mechanically, prophylactically).

The problem may also be an interaction between activity and growth. A study from Finland found the incidence of what they term "Osgood-Schlatter's-like symptoms" was 21 percent in those active in sports at age 13, compared to 4.5 percent in inactive individuals. Similarly, Sever's disease (calcaneal apophysitis), a painful condition of the heel showing up between the ages of 7-10 (again more often in boys), may be confused with a heel bruise or Achilles tendinitis and can be aggravated by activity, making a clear evaluation difficult.

Ice and rest are certainly reasonable initial responses to the pains of training in children and adolescents. However, if noticeable changes in significant symptoms are not evident within 2-3 weeks, evaluation by a qualified sports medicine professional to rule out a growth-related problem or to develop a more effective treatment program is probably prudent.

If you have a sports medicine question you would like answered, please direct it to Dr. Peter Harmer, associate chair of Sports Medicine & Science, at pharmer@willamette.edu.

FENCING WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

by K. Maria Duthie, ATC, CSCS

For athletes living with chronic health conditions, participation in sport presents several challenges that healthy individuals would not perceive. As a competitive fencer and an athletic trainer, I am in a fortunate position of having a career in health care that specializes in sport participation and management of injury and illness. I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis two years ago. It soon became apparent that the modifications and techniques I inherently utilized were concepts that can apply to any athlete with compromised health—from ankle sprains or tendinitis, to arthritis and chronic illness.

I will specifically address the difficulties encountered with MS, but these techniques apply any injury or illness that compromises participation.

Multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease that causes the insulation on the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord to deteriorate. Symptomatically, it can be present as muscle weakness, fatigue, impaired coordination, and vision problems. It is not a disease of the muscle and not everyone is in a wheelchair. The primary difficulty is that symptoms may appear and disappear without any correlation to activity. Still, there are modifications that can be used to counteract specific symptoms:

INCREASED BODY TEMPERATURE.

Increased body temperature can initiate transient symptoms such as blurred vision and fatigue. Sensitivity to core body temperature increases can be managed somewhat. Opening the jacket collar between activities or bouts allows heat to dissipate. Having very cold fluids to drink, ice packs, hydrated neck wraps or even a damp towel around the neck can also help. Women may have a greater body temp increase because using a full chest plate com-

promises heat exchange and a smaller body surface area dissipates heat slower. Avoid prolonged exposure to hot environments prior to competition, including the previous day.

APPROPRIATE REST. Many athletes who travel to competitions arrive late on the day prior to competition. If you are flying in, dehydration and time zone changes contribute to your fatigability during competition. Travel is stressful on the body; ideally you should arrive no less than 36 hours prior to your start time for domestic events. This may necessitate an additional night in a hotel and more time off work, but it allows your body to have its best opportunity to perform. I view it as better utilization of my funds. Why train for months and travel across the country only to compromise your performance with a late arrival? Resting (get off your feet) between DE rounds is important for recovery and temperature control as well. Spasticity and clonus (muscle twitching) can be related to cumulative stress throughout the day, general fatigue, dehydration or a simple activation of the nervous system. It can range from a mild irritation to debilitating spasm. Because each athlete is unique it is difficult to suggest a generalized management strategy.

PACING AND SELECTIVE PRACTICE. Pacing means planning rest periods during activity. This is where knowing your body and having increased awareness of subtle changes in function helps. Resting before a problem arises is easier than trying to recover from fatigue.

Selective practice means choosing which drills to participate in and controlling the duration of bouts. For example: If you have been on your feet all day at work, it would be logical to decrease the foot work activity by number of repeti-

tions or speed and increase your blade work activity. If hand, elbow or shoulder problems exist, focus on footwork and fence with limited blade contact. These modifications do two things: first, they allow the involved body part to have relative rest while still participating; and second, they develop your repertoire of skills. If at some time during competition you become injured, you will know how to work around a minor injury and continue to compete. It is better to modify the workout than risk an injury. Trying to push through these problems can result in joint injuries. When taking a lesson, let your instructor know if you need to modify anything to avoid fatigue, spasm and potential injury.

VISUALIZATION. This skill cannot be stressed enough. When unable to practice or compete, mental imagery of a skill or movement can prove to be just as beneficial as actually doing the skill. You can hone this technique to educate the body on how to move efficiently and safely. There are many books that address visualization and professionals who teach it.

Much of living with a chronic health problem is trial and error. What works for one person may not for another person with the same affliction. Learn to listen to your body and respect the fact that modification of training or skills may be needed to allow for participation.

Maria Duthie is a member of the USFA Sports Medicine & Science committee and a certified athletic trainer and strength coach at the YMCA in Spokane, Wash. She fences all three weapons in veterans events as well as Div. I epee for Salle Auriol Seattle. She can be contacted at kmduthie@ieway.com.

SOME THOUGHTS ON FENCING OUTSIDE THE BOX by Bob Block

Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age.

—Sherlock Holmes in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *His Last Bow*

I think it's fair to say that most veteran foil fencers learned their sport in the old school, the one that taught us a more or less classical fencing style. Point and thrust. Attack by extending the arm and executing a lunge or fleche to deliver the touch. Of course, as the rule book states, all of this must be done "while continuously threatening the opponent's target." Defend yourself by using the same basic parries that have been taught for some 400 years as the proper technique to cover the traditional lines of target, high and low, inside and outside, all within the box. You know the rest of the mantra.

Not long ago our cocoon of classical fencing was shattered with the appearance of the first of the flickmeisters in veteran competitions. Usually in their early 40s and recently arrived from the modern world of senior fencing, these young upstarts seemed to violate the basic tenants of the sport! They flicked instead of thrust, drew back their arms instead of extending them, provoked endless simultaneous attacks, and just didn't seem to have much respect for the traditional game of fencing. To make matters worse, they were aided and abetted by referees who brought with them a "liberal" interpretation of right-of-way from their association with junior and senior tournaments.

The success of the flickmeisters cannot be denied. Although they don't dominate (yet?), there is no doubt they have made their mark (and some would say bruises) upon veteran com-

petitions. The debate that rages today throughout the fencing world over the legitimacy of the flick is reflected in the frustration of defeated classicists who often trudge away from the veteran strip, muttering things about "never having right-of-way," "not being real fencing," and "ruining the sport."

Well, c'est la vie. Everything evolves, including the game of fencing, and this is where we are at right now. There is talk of eliminating the flick by changing the mechanical operation of the foil tip, restricting prime target area on the shoulder and back or even enforcing the letter and law of right-of-way as defined in the rule book (what a radical idea!). But for now, the flick lives and we might as well get used to it.

I've faced a few flickmeisters in veteran competitions and invariably lost. I was confused by the seemingly unorthodox style and unable to figure it out. So, it was with mixed emotions that I enrolled in a course this past summer at the USFA Coaches College taught by Michael Marx that focused on the "modern, international style of fencing." I can't say that I learned to love the flick, but in a week's time I did get an incredible indoctrination into the genre as well as a plethora of priceless Marxian insights on fencing in general.

You have to know your enemy in order to defeat him. I've always liked that sort of reasoning. "*Knowledge by itself is power*"...*Sir Francis Bacon* (Thank you, Michael). Such is my rationale for accepting the flick as a tour de force in contemporary fencing, and attempting to understand it. Even if you don't want to give up the classical foil game, as I don't, it behooves each of us to learn as much as we can about the technique, tactics and strategy of the modern, international style characterized by finishing an attack with a flick.

I really don't think I've sold out to the forces of the dark side that allegedly want to destroy the ancient and venerable art of the sword. But now as a coach I'm committed to teaching my students as much as I can about both the conventional, classical style and the modern, international style of fencing. I'll show them how and when to finish with a flick. Even if they don't want to become flickmeisters, they will still be able to execute a variety of searching, sweeping, extended and early parries to defend themselves against the flick. I'll show them how to cope with simultaneous attacks and infighting situations, and how to use distance and footwork to disrupt flick attacks. And most of what I learned from Michael—in respect to problem solving, zoning, footwork, distance, counterattacking, drawing the counter attack, points in line and infighting—is applicable to all styles of fencing.

As for my own long and circuitous journey through the always-fascinating world of fencing, maybe it is possible to teach an old dog some new tricks. Now I've got some new techniques that are outside of the traditional box to try out both offensively and defensively on the veteran circuit. But honestly, although knowledge is fine, in the long run it's probably going to come down once again to elementary execution, the old bugaboo of aging, that really makes any difference in performance by a veteran fencer... Naturally, as we all know, this was what "Sherlock the coach" deduced when he uttered the memorable line, "Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary."

Bob Block, aka The Grayblade, fences, coaches fencing, and writes about fencing out of his home near Denver, Colo.

Editor's Note:

Based on the number of letters we've received over the past year regarding fencing's future and the debate over its "TV-friendliness," it seemed appropriate to begin a wider dialogue on the topic in these pages. While the following essay contains some viewpoints not necessarily shared by all fencing organizers and athletes, there is little debate that the sport needs to increase its visibility if it is to thrive in the United States. We felt it was important to bring the issue to the foreground—to encourage debate, generate new ideas, and perhaps even pave a path for the future.

CROUCHING TIGER OR HIDDEN DRAGON

FENCING ON TELEVISION PART ONE

BY JOSEPH S. STREB

This is Part One of a two-part article on the subject of fencing on television.

Part One deals with the nature of the problem and the FIE and USFA responses.

Part Two will analyze what should be done to produce high-quality television programming for fencing and help sell the sport to sponsors, advertisers, and sports fans—without breaking the bank.

Throughout the world of fencing, coaches, administrators, and athletes are wringing their hands, gnashing their teeth, and even laying down their weapons over the FIE's plans to eliminate certain events from the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. The issue was brought forward when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) refused to make more Olympic medals available to fencing. According to FIE representative Jeff Bukantz, "The FIE requested the IOC to include both women's saber individual and team events for the Athens Games, and the IOC agreed, but with the proviso that we would not get the additional two medals—and it was up to the FIE to figure out what to eliminate."

The IOC's refusal came as no surprise to some observers. Apparently, fencing is just not seen as part of the modern Olympic movement. When asked why the IOC would not approve more medals for fencing, Kit McConnell, the IOC's manager of sports operations, said, "In response to the rapid growth of the Olympic Games

and the resulting challenges and costs for the organizing committees, the IOC has sought to limit further growth in the Olympic Program. In this regard, we were unfortunately not able to support requests for additional events or increased athlete quotas in a number of sports." The IOC declined to identify who made the decision on fencing or to comment on the notion that female fencers are being discriminated against by the refusal to make more medals available to fencing.

While to some people, fencing is a dragon sport, old, obsolete, and hidden from view, perhaps fencing is a crouching tiger waiting to spring with renewed vigor upon the modern Olympic sports scene. To make the jump to the new scene, though, the landing pad must be understood.

Some Olympic sports were thrust into the spotlight after the marriage of the modern Games to television in 1936 when the Olympics were first televised in Germany, and these sports drew more of the spotlight in 1992 when the IOC broke with 96 years of tradition and allowed professional athletes to openly compete for the first time at the Barcelona Games. Of course, some observers believe professional athletes had been in the Olympic Games since 1956 when the former Soviet Union decided to compete with the West with its specially trained, full-time amateur athletes. In any case, once the advertising poster boys and girls were officially in the Olympics, the coffers were opened. The marriage of Olympic sports to television, nationalism, and corporate commercialism was occurring at the same time as the marriages of professional football, baseball, basketball, and soccer to television.

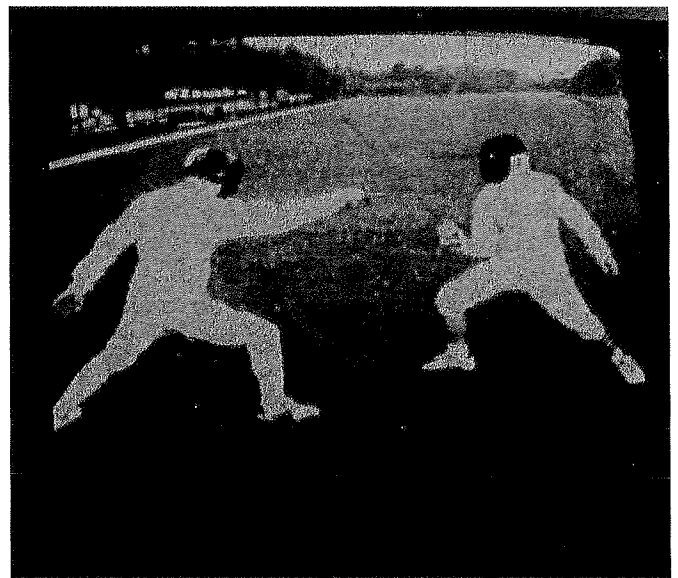
Yet, the once proud sport of ladies and gentlemen—fencing—has been left to go the way of dragons in a sporting world devoted to the televised mass marketing of consumer products. Nobody believes in dragons, and nobody believes such an aristocratic sport is able to sell beer, deodorant, or automobiles. Advertisers do not believe ladies and gentlemen drink beer, sweat, or drive their own cars. "Those of us in the business never think about fencing, unless we are doing crossword puzzles," said R.P. Hutchison, head of Hutchison Media Consultants, a Midwest advertising firm.

The adverse financial consequences of these beliefs are being felt. It could get much worse.

It is no secret that national fencing administrations, such as the USFA, receive substantial portions of their funding from national Olympic Committees, which in turn receive large portions of their funding from the IOC. According to USFA Executive Director Michael Massik, the USFA receives about 20 percent of its annual budget from the USOC. According to its 2001 tax filing, the USOC gave financial assistance to athletes, international competitions, Olympic training centers, and coaches' development programs to the tune of nearly \$50 million. The organization makes grants in about 15 different categories, such as basic funding, athlete support, international competition, science, and more. The total given to weightlifting in 2001 was \$519,909; for box-

ing, it was \$658,641; basketball received more than \$800,000. The total given to fencing: \$419,993. According to the USOC's 2000 annual report, it earned nearly \$80 million in television royalties, and \$21.7 million in corporate sponsorship. Some of the largest corporate donors to the USOC were Coca-Cola at nearly \$4.5 million; John Hancock at \$2.4 million; Eastman Kodak at \$3.1 million; Matsushita at \$3.4 million; and Visa and McDonald's at \$2.7 million a piece.

With fencing thus far unsuccessful in attracting big corporate sponsors, the big fear, of course, is that fencing will ultimately be eliminated from the Olympic Games because fencing cannot fill seats and sell beer. Carl Borack, U.S. representative to the FIE Publicity & Promotion Commission, said, "I am worried that fencing could be squeezed by the IOC into being only an individual event when team events are often the most exciting." Stateside, the sport would lose its funding from the USOC. Although it is a worst-case scenario, losing USOC



support would probably be fatal to the sport. Some fencers shudder at the thought of the USFA losing a big chunk of its annual funding: Goodbye, North American Circuit Cup (NAC) events. Hello, championship of recreational user municipal center (CRUME) events. Hence, concerned fencers are offering solutions about how to make fencing more "TV-friendly" and keep fencing on the dole—or maybe even make fencing financially self-supporting.

There are interesting ideas floating about for making fencing into a sport appreciated by the beer drinking masses, including, without limitation: eliminating the confines of the fencing strip, eliminating the wires attaching fencers to the scoring apparatus, making fencers light up when touched, making fencing blades or tips light up when used, making bout scores light up on the scoring machines or somewhere else, making more ratings, making ratings light up on fencers' arms, eliminating team fencing, making team fencing co-ed, elimi-

nating the fleche in foil, restoring the fleche in saber, eliminating saber, eliminating the off-target light in foil, eliminating the flick in foil by eliminating the back as target or changing the timing of the scoring apparatus, making upper arms a target in foil, making foil into epee, making saber into epee, making epee into sausage. As referee Bukantz pointed out in his column [see *American Fencing*, Fall 2001], there seems to be a prevailing notion among representatives to the FIE that changing rules in foil—such as the once-proposed elimination of “off-target” lights that would simply make the weapon an “epee clone”—will somehow make it more TV-friendly. His point: if no one thinks epee is ready for primetime, why would making changes to foil be any different? The focus should not be on “ineffective tinkering.”

According to Borack, “There are lots of reasons why more has not been done to make the sport more TV-friendly—politics, finances, issues not handled properly.” When asked what has been done, Borack pointed out that transparent masks designed to show the fencer’s emotions were developed, but fencers don’t like the masks. He added, “And FIE is working to transistorize equipment to eliminate wires.”

While fencing competitions in other countries receive broadcast coverage, no national networks or cable stations (not even the ever-accessible ESPNs) devote airtime to fencing in the United States. Some believe that fencing organizations have not done enough to prove to corporations, advertising firms, television networks, or even fencers that the sport of fencing is “TV-friendly” or capable of selling anything.

While many nonprofit businesses devote about 10 percent of their annual budgets to marketing, businesses that derive income from sales of tickets (football, basketball, and hockey,

never heard of it or seen it?” said Fred Hunker of the Columbus, Ohio Division. At the least, copies of this video should be provided to all local divisions to use in fundraising efforts, along with written talking points for those making such efforts. Perhaps such promotional efforts would help put the sport on the right track.

Borack admitted, “The sport needs to do better in the area of broadcast, and FIE needs to hire a professional public relations firm.”

For now, though, the focus is on fence-mending. “Right now, unity is important—all of the boycotts and divisiveness are hurting us with the IOC,” Borack said. The IOC was not happy with the FIE’s efforts to balance adding women’s saber without adding more medals. According to the FIE, the IOC has reserved the right to make the final determination regarding the format for fencing at the next Olympics. In other words, the IOC has told the FIE to get its act together or the IOC will make the decisions about fencing. [For more about recent developments on this situation, see USFA President Stacey Johnson’s column on page 2.]

The subject of rule changes to make fencing more popular will likely be revisited—one could surmise that the FIE’s attention to the matter has been too slow-paced for the IOC. The FIE and the IOC must bear in mind that simply changing rules may be a backward approach, however. No rule changes will be effective without first knowing what the finished audio-visual fencing product must look like in order to sell fencing to a target audience. Shooting in the dark with rule changes that may or may not help is risky. A far more logical approach is for the FIE and national affiliates like the USFA to identify an audience

so, what does the usoc give to olympic sports?

weightlifting \$520,000 • boxing \$658,000 • basketball \$800,000+
fencing? \$419,993

for example) spend a much higher percentage of their budgets on marketing and promotional activities. Fencing organizers need to invest more money in marketing in order to catch up to standards set by other sports. The typical fencing video has weak production value and does nothing to dispel the notion that fencing is not TV-friendly.

Is there something that can be done to show fencing can draw crowds and sell products, or must those involved in fencing continue to wring hands, gnash teeth, and lay down weapons in vain? Of course there are things that can be done. The USFA, in partnership with CMD, a Portland-based marketing and communications firm, recently produced a three and one-half minute promotional CD of excellent quality. The purpose of the CD is to help obtain corporate sponsorship. The cost: \$30,000. However, many USFA members are unaware of its existence. “What, I’ve been a USFA member for 12 years, and treasurer of a local division for almost as long, and I’ve

and an audio-visual product, then produce fencing programs for television that the audience likes, and spend money to have those programs broadcast or cablecast. Borack seemed to agree, “I believe rule changes should be tried out for at least four years prior to any Olympics.”

In the end, if existing fencing organizations do not invent a popular version of fencing for television, obtain control over it, and pay to have it cablecast, the crouching tiger may become as extinct as the hidden dragon.

Copyright 2002, Joseph S. Streb. Joseph S. Streb is an alumnus of the Ohio State University Dept. of Photography & Cinematography and former adjunct professor of Art & Entertainment Law at Ohio State. He practices law in Columbus, Ohio. He was a gold medallist in veteran’s foil at the summer nationals in 1999, and was a member of the 2002 veteran’s world championship foil team (he placed 6th) and an alternate in saber.

GOING VARSITY

**IN THE SECOND INSTALLATION
OF THIS SERIES ON HIGH SCHOOL FENCING,
THOSE WHO HAVE DONE IT TELL YOU HOW**

BY CINDY BENT

You have a high school fencing club going—you've convinced the school that fencing is a safe, worthy activity for kids, you've been working out in the cafeteria or a hallway somewhere for two years, you have a decent budget and great support from your parents—but what your kids really want are those letter jackets. What can you do?

First, know that each school has its own rules about what constitutes a varsity sport and what does not. Some may require that the sport be governed by that state's interscholastic athletic association. All states have interscholastic athletic leagues that, somewhat like the U.S. Olympic Committee, govern the different statewide high school sport programs.

Each state's athletic association has rules governing the addition of new sports to its membership; the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), for instance, asks that 150 schools participate in the sport, while the bylaws of the California Interscholastic Federation states only that the Federation's council must approve new sports. A link to a listing of national high school sport governing bodies can be found at www.nhsca.com.

But every school can designate a sport as varsity on their own terms. In the Upper Arlington, Ohio, school district, for

instance, there are already 36 varsity sports, though only 22 fall under the auspices of the OHSAA. This leads to the next hurdle to varsity status: funding from already thinly stretched athletic dollars.

"Athletic directors simply don't want to grow their programs too large," says Jon Moss, a veteran high school fencer himself who not only has helped high school programs in New Jersey and New Hampshire but also sees things from the administrative perspective, as a teacher and former high school principal at Spalding High School in New Hampshire.

Moss says that schools seem most reluctant to convert clubs to varsity teams because they are almost always required to directly fund that program with budgets they simply don't have.

The first step, say those who have taken clubs to varsity level, is to continue to push the message that you have a strong, continuous program at your school.

FEATURE winners

The Ward Melville High School fencing club on Long Island in New York went varsity after four years of establishing their club. Jeff Salmon, co-founder of the club, says that first establishing fencing as a solid sports programs is a must. You might be afraid that if you make practice too hard for the kids they will leave—but in the long run, say coaches, the opposite is true. Plus, if fencing is not treated as the real athletic endeavor that it is, it won't deserve varsity status in anyone's eyes.

"Understand that it is recreational, but incorporate athletics into it that kids are used to doing in other sports; you want both the kids, and other people walking past practice, to respect it," says Salmon. "Make it difficult, and make them proud. They love to hate it."

Salmon also suggests winding up your season if at all possible with a USFA national junior, cadet or Division II/III competition as an incentive for the end of the year's work.

"Once they go to something national," says Salmon, "they're hooked. They're coming back."

"While I have them, I have them for 200 percent," agrees Morris Hills, N.J., coach Barbara Lynch. Lynch, also a member of the N.J. State Interscholastic Athletic Association's committee on fencing, and a veteran high school fencing coach for more than a decade. "Be flexible—if you tell them that they can't be in jazz band and fencing, they will leave. But when they're in my gym, I work their butts off, or they don't take it seriously."

Building strong practices builds loyalty from kids and parents. Make sure, say coaches, that parents are involved so they can see first-hand the benefits their kids get from the sport. From there, persistence with the school board is the key.

"You've got to have parental involvement—a coach can't knock on the door and do this work," says Salmon. "You have to get the parents to go to the school board and say, again and again, 'What about a team?' They can be especially vigilant about getting benefits for their kids."

Don't be discouraged if the school says no the first time... or the second, or third, or fourth. More and more education will almost always be necessary. Invite administrators to local tournaments repeatedly.

Push the fact that fencing is a non-problem sport, says Lynch. "We have no sportsmanship issues, and schools love the fact that we're easy to deal with. Show that fencing's a model sport for both sexes, and you can even fence as a coed team."

At the same time, make sure you can answer another question you might not expect from athletic directors, says Moss.

"Suppose you're a football, basketball or hockey school—and fencing's season is November to March—the athletic director is going to ask, 'Are they going to take people from varsity football or basketball?' No, this addresses different athletes, those who have no niche now," says Moss. "You really have to push that piece."

"Find out from the youngest varsity program in your school what turned the corner," suggests Lynch. "How did they

do it? And then keep on it."

But that's only the beginning. Convincing schools to add to already overburdened programs, Moss says, means you need to answer some hard questions for the administration.

"One, if I'm an administrator, I'm going to ask you, OK, fine, you've got the kids, now tell me, what happens if you decide to quit?" says Moss. Schools consider varsity sport a huge part of their identity and the status is not awarded lightly. Showing a strong base of support in your local fencing community, and a willingness on the part of alumni to come back and teach your club, will help show the long-term viability of the program.

Resources are available to train additional coaches. The U.S. Fencing Coaches College and the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association, for instance, give great introductory and intermediate coaching classes and provide certification—another important requirement for attaining varsity status. Check out the links at www.usfencing.org for more information.

"The fact that fencing programs come with ready-made coaches is huge for athletic directors," says Lynch.

Money is always a huge factor. Moss says that the school can choose to designate a sport as "unfunded varsity." Students have to pay a fee, fund their club as they have been doing through fundraisers, and they get the use of the school's bus. If the school is unwilling to try this approach, find out if there are other districts in the area who do have unfunded varsity, and educate the board about them.

"That's becoming more and more common around the country," says Moss. "They try the sport for a period of time, and if it's a solid program, they will start funding it."

It's not impossible to overcome these problems. The N.J. State Interscholastic Athletic Association added five new high school fencing teams last year alone and expanded from three to four districts.

But fencing has been a part of high school culture in states like New Jersey and New York for at least half a century, and other varsity teams are just around the corner to point to as examples. New Jersey clubs don't face the one hurdle that may be simply impossible for others, in the short term, to overcome: If there is no one to compete against in your area, there will be no varsity status for your club.

"That's the biggest question you have to answer for your administration," says Moss. "Who is your competition? Do you have to go all the way to Cincinnati from Columbus to find anyone to fence against? If you can show them, OK, we've got 14 clubs around and seven kids who qualified for Junior Olympics, that's a start."

Consider that becoming a varsity sport is not necessarily the best option, either.

"Examine your goals, and your kids' goals—do they want the varsity letter, (and) want to represent their school? Do they want to become expert fencers? Or have fun in the winter season?" says Lynch.

Because, say Lynch, and Moss, and everyone who has tangled with state athletic associations, along with that varsity letter jacket most often comes a closet full of regulations, including restrictions on season length, practice length, travel, coach certification, budgets, fundraising, and on.

“At a high school level, in a club, you’re thinking about your kids all the time, and the school or the state athletic association is not. They’re thinking about football,” Moss says. For example, varsity status may mean that students may not be permitted to compete in season in anything other than official high school competitions—meaning, no Junior Olympics.

Or they may be limited to an extremely brief fencing season, with out-of-season practices causing a student to lose eligibility—untenable for a competitive fencer, or even one who enjoys recreational fencing year-round.

Still, high school varsity fencing can be a fantastic experience. “I love the excitement of it,” Salmon says. “When we got the varsity program we had to start cutting kids, we got so many, especially girls.

“When it’s a varsity program, you get varsity-quality athletes trying out for it. To go varsity legitimizes fencing as a sport in the school. To me, that’s a big issue.”

While state regulations prevented kids from practicing on

his varsity team year-round, Salmon says, they are free to go to outside clubs as often as they want. For Salmon, the struggle for varsity has been worth the benefits; his school has doubled the team’s budget, provides transportation and uniforms—and the energy surrounding the team increases every season.

So, examine your goals in starting to work with young people in fencing. Do you just want to coach during the fencing season? Do you want to build a fencing empire, introduce the sport to as many people as possible? Is your aim to make money and recruit for your competitive club? Do you have potential help from other fencers and clubs in the area?

High school varsity may not be the be-all, end-all for you or your competitive club, or may not even be possible right away. There may only be one high school within your geographic reach—but there will almost certainly be at least a handful of public, private, and parochial schools in your town. Another goal to consider is simply to start an after school program for younger kids—and then another, and then another.

Next issue: Create your fencing league.

Cindy Bent is the USFA’s media contact and has fenced for 13 years. She also assisted with coaching two high school programs.

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MIND ON WINNING, PART 2:

ancient roots and modern engima **by Dr. John Heil**

This is the second in a series of articles on winning. The first looked at two of the icons of 20th-century American sport, Vince Lombardi and Knute Rockne. This article looks back in history to the beginnings of sport, and forward to the emerging science of sport psychology.



Dr. John Heil

ANCIENT ROOTS

The roots of wisdom on winning can be traced to the origins of civilizations, Eastern and Western. The skills of the warrior served as the prototype for the development of organized sport, and so winning was linked to the idea of survival in combat.

The tradition of sport in Western civilization began with the ancient Greek Olympics well over 2,000 years ago. The Greek Olympics turned the methods of the soldier into games of skill. Better athletes meant better soldiers, a better army, and a nation safer from foreign invasion. But more than an athletic event, the ancient Olympics were a festival of arts, philosophy and religion—in essence, a celebration of Greek culture. While receiving the modest prize of a laurel wreath, the champions were much acclaimed throughout the land, receiving special attention and privileges. As the Games grew in stature so did the benefits of victory. Eventually rules were bent and twisted, as competitors sought less than honorable means to gain an advantage. And so the Greeks saw many of the same problems that plague contemporary sport today.

In the Asian martial arts there is a “psychology of action” that evolved over countless centuries of practical application. The central idea of total concentration was built upon a rich set of methods for teaching mental skills such as calming, composure control, and visualization. While these practices have much in common with sport

psychology, they appear esoteric, remaining embedded in a culture that is not easily understood by contemporary Westerners. The most puzzling of these is the role of “detachment” from winning. The underlying idea is that the route to total focus is to separate oneself from all thoughts—of fear and celebration, losing and winning, death and life.

Before turning to contemporary sport science, let’s consider a quote from baseball legend Yogi Berra. When asked what he thought about when hitting, he replied: “You can’t think and hit at the same time.” The logical extension of which is: “You can’t think about winning and hit your opponent at the same time.”

MODERN ENIGMA

Sport psychology tries to take ideas of winning and convert them into plans for winning. It is less folksy than Lombardi and Rockne, less idealistic than the ancient Greeks, and less esoteric than the Asian martial arts—but draws on the wisdom of these all. From the perspective of sport psychology, the pursuit of victory is full of subtlety and nuance. Too much of an emphasis on winning can backfire, turning into pressure and ultimately becoming the source of its

own demise. In contrast, thoughts of losing undermine confidence, becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy.

It is easy to see how thoughts of losing are a problem. What one imagines to be true becomes more likely, because thoughts create expectations. Negative expectations are enough to bring about poor results. Being intimidated by an opponent, or giving up, will lead to losses that could be wins.

It is far less obvious why thoughts of winning are a potential problem. But it is clear that simply expecting to win is not enough. Fencing involves executing skills from moment to moment as the competition unfolds. The best chance for a best result is 100 percent concentration. Any thoughts other than those directly related to fencing in the moment (including winning) are a distraction, subtracting percentage points from 100 percent concentration. Thoughts of celebration take the fencer out of the moment into a view of the future that may never happen—and become less likely for the thinking. Premature celebration is one of the main causes for losing a large lead because in so doing the fencer steps out of the moment. If you are not there, you will not fence well.

The search for the secrets of winning continues in the next issue with a look at two outstanding 21st-century performances.

Dr. John Heil is chair of Sports Medicine and Science for the USFA. He is at Lewis-Gale Clinic in Roanoke, VA; email: jheil@rev.net.

SABER, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE

by Jeff Bukantz

At a recent youth saber competition, a fencer lost his match by a score of 5-1, 5-4. As his father/coach was helping the fencer unhook just seconds after the last touch, he “consoled” his son by saying in a voice loud enough for the referee to hear, “Don’t worry, you were screwed by the referee.”

Let’s forget about the bad manners of this father/coach. Let’s recognize that the last call may or may not have been correct. Those are both tangential to the main issue, which is that this adult enabled his teenage fencer, who lost by an aggregate score of 10-5, to walk away from the strip thinking that the referee was *entirely* responsible for his demise.

Surely, the naysayers will claim that I have cherry-picked an isolated incident. Well, nothing could be farther from the truth. At the recent Peabody Saber World Cup, I watched as our top two fencers and the team each lost one elimination match. Each competition-ending loss was completely blamed by the coach on the referee’s *final call* of the bout. Even our top saber referee disagreed with the coach, but that did not deter him from devoting the rest of the weekend to telling anyone who would listen that the referee was *solely responsible* for each loss.

Think about that for a second—75

touches were scored against our fencers (45 team and 30 individually) in those three matches. Yet, all three losses were attributed to a handful of alleged referee mistakes!

Yes, referees make mistakes. And, yes, sometimes those mistakes unfortunately occur on the decisive last touch. This coach conveniently ignored the likelihood that the “mistakes” evened out in the course of those three matches, which probably had as many as 200 decisions by the referees. Instead, he focused on *three calls* (albeit at critical moments but not necessarily incorrect), which represented about 1.5 percent of the decisions, in order to justify the results.

We have a huge problem in this country, and it is mainly concentrated in, but not limited to, the *ever-controversial* weapon of saber.

“Ever-controversial. Saber was the last weapon to employ electric scoring. As you can imagine, the officiating of dry saber was regularly under the microscope as there were so many variables for the perception of impropriety. And, let’s not kid ourselves—that perception was often reality.

The creation of electric saber brought a newfound hope because, while the side judges or the referees

could make intentional or honest mistakes in determining the materiality of a hit, the machine and the lights don’t lie.

But a not-so-funny thing happened on the way to the podium. With the sides judges replaced by the undeniably objective machine (although it should be noted that in the early stages of electric saber, some fencers blamed their misfortune on allegedly faulty electronic equipment!), and with “only” right-of-way being in question, the referee became the sole recipient of the sabrists’ wrath.

Even in relatively one-sided contests, as illustrated in the opening paragraph, a mindset pervasively grew that the referee was responsible for any loss. Isn’t it ironic that the losing fencer was not held responsible for getting out-fenced, and the winning fencer was not given credit for fencing well?

Regularly, coaches become manic after bouts, claiming, “There were at least five, and maybe seven or eight mistakes in that bout! Come, I’ll show you the videotape. It’s all on the video!” After nearly every touch when both lights go on, the circus sideshow begins. The referee’s decisions, demeanor, alleged motives, and even nation of birth are called into question. Often, the opposing coaches start arguing between themselves. At

YOU MAKE THE CALL

For some reason, there are always certain applications of the rules that seem to befuddle fencers, coaches, and yes, even referees. Let’s test your own acumen with the following teasers. Anyone who gets all correct answers will have their name posted on the FOC web page. The answers will be posted after December 1 on the FOC web page, which can be linked through the USFA web site—www.usfencing.org.

1) *Fencer A attacks Fencer B. Fencer B, while parrying the attack, goes off the side of the strip with two feet, and then makes a riposte that scores. The referee does not call “Halt!” until after the riposte hits Fencer A. (Common sense special!)*

Does Fencer B’s riposte count?

2) *With about three seconds to go in an epee bout, Fencer B, who is behind by one touch, attacks Fencer A in an attempt to tie the score. Fencer A, in an*

attempt to both stop the clock and prevent Fencer B from scoring a valid touch, intentionally hits the outside of the strip.

What, if anything, happens to Fencer A in this scenario?

Email your answers by December 1 to: rules@usfa.org. If you get all the answers right, your name will appear on the web site after December 1.

Good luck!

a collegiate dual meet last year, two coaches *from the same team* started arguing with each other after I made a call—in their team's favor, no less!

It is time to stop the insanity. The problem starts at the top and trickles down to the fencers. While coaches and/or parents (who generally follow the lead of the coaches) should be setting the best example of good sportsmanship, especially for the youngsters, too often they are doing exactly the opposite. The stripside behavior of many saber coaches is abysmal, poisoning an already hyper-tense atmosphere.

I witnessed this abhorrent behavior at consecutive NACs, and listened when coaches complained about the officiating and the fact that the referees actually had the nerve to (properly) penalize them with black cards. The coaches tried to turn this scenario upside-down, suggesting that "bad calls" made them act that way.

In addition, the coaches claimed that the referees overreacted, and—get this—the referees should allow the coaches to act inappropriately without penalty. Amazingly, the coaches did not deny that they exhibited terrible behavior, but rationalized that they had some inalienable right to do so.

Let's get something on the table right away: *Nothing* justifies black-card behavior. And, while the onus is on the referee to make as many correct calls as possible, maintain order, and treat the coaches with respect, that respect-giving is a two-way street. Regardless of any perceived mistakes by a referee, coaches *do not* have the right to act in a disruptive or disrespectful manner. On the contrary, the referees have the mandate, let alone the right, to penalize those who display unsportsmanlike behavior.

Furthermore, the referees' reaction or purported overreaction is almost always in response to the coaches'

unacceptable behavior. There must be a level of professional courtesy, and inevitably the worst offenders among these coaches demand it *but don't give it*.

The time has come for coaches to accept responsibility for their behavior, as well as to teach their students to be accountable for their losses. Continuing to place the blame on the referee is a cop-out—it's delusional and downright counterproductive.

It is "reality-check" time. While this column most definitely does not pertain to all coaches, does it pertain to you? And, if it pertains to you, isn't it time to start looking directly in the mirror instead of looking sideways at the referees?

Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC and its Rules Subcommittee, and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission. Email your comments to Jeff at bukieboy@aol.com.

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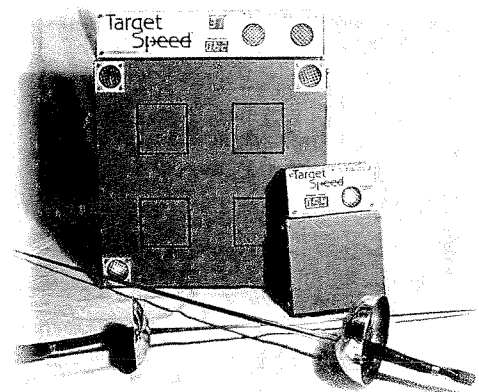
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