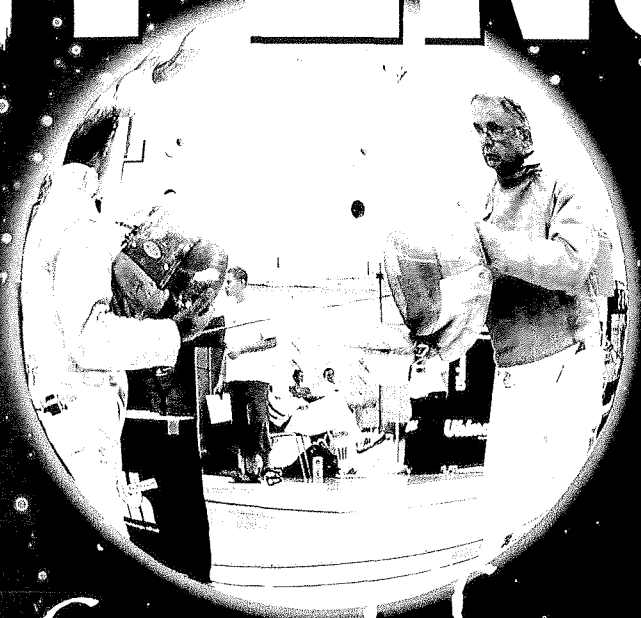


American FENCING

Winter 2005



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Americans of all ages are excelling
In competitions around the world

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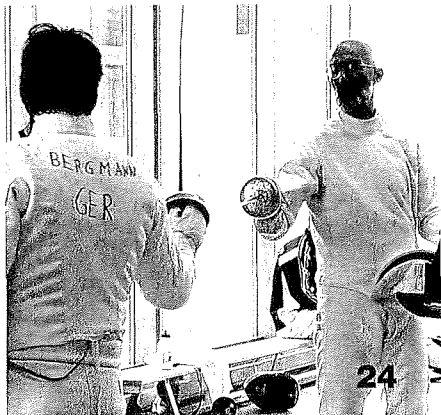
World Veterans
Junior World Cup



American FENCING

Winter 2005 · Volume 54, Number 4

AF FEATURES

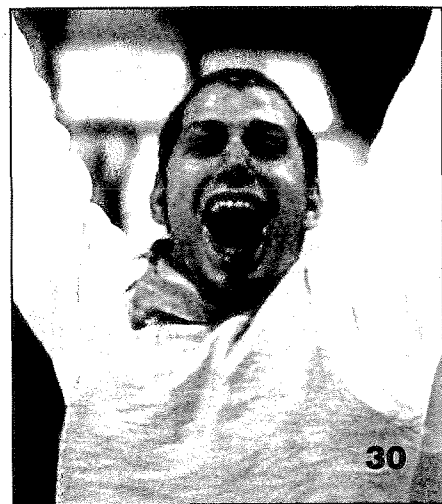


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On the Cover: Scenes from the Veterans World Championships in Austria (page 24) and the Junior World Cups in Europe this season (page 8). Photos courtesy of the Ward family and Sam Lillard.
Cover Design: Andy Teng

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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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Recently we purchased an Official Awards Stand for use at our National Tournaments. We believe it to be the only professionally constructed fencing awards stand in the world. We must apologize for ordering a 7 person stand which called for 8th place to stand on the ground. After viewing the faces of our young athletes we realized our error and ordered an 8th Place, which should arrive shortly.

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Looking at the task ahead ...

A SUCCESSFUL 2004 PAVES THE WAY FOR 2005

by Nancy **ANDERSON**, President, United States Fencing Association

This season started with the wonderful high of the Olympic results: **Mariel Zagunis** and **Sada Jacobson** in women's saber, the great showing of our men's foil and men's saber teams, and the tremendous performances of all our Olympians. With a total allocation of 200 fencers in Athens, we can be very, very proud that 14 of those athletes were representing the United States. At the Paralympic Games, **Scott Rogers** took a bronze medal, an extraordinary result for us! (It has been announced that wheelchair fencing will be part of the World Championships in Torino, Italy in 2006.) The United States has taken a strong position within the international fencing community and the bar is set high for the future.

We also had excellent results at the recent Congress of the FIE: we presented candidates for every Commission and for the Executive Committee. **Sunil Sabharwal** was our nominee for the Executive Committee and although he did not win, he tied with Mario Favia of Italy and Emmanuel Katsiadakis of Greece, both of whom are long-time members of various FIE committees and commissions, an excellent showing for Sunil and an indication of his value internationally. All U.S. candidates to the Commissions won:

Donald Alperstein – Disciplinary Commission
 Carl Borack – Commission on Promotion and Publicity
 Jeff Bukantz – Commission on Rules
 Sam Cheris – Legal Commission
 Dan DeChaine – SEMI Commission
 George Kolombatovich – Arbitrage Commission
 Ann Marsh – Medical Commission

Additionally, Carl, Sam and George were elected Presidents of their Commissions and Donald was selected to take on the unofficial role of Vice President. With representation at every level of the FIE, we can hope to have a significant role in decisions that will benefit fencing in general and the USFA in particular.

The task at hand, however, is to ensure that ALL our members are winners. With a membership of over 21,000 individuals, "winning" takes on many personal definitions. It may be opening a new club; starting a new school program; getting in shape; gaining balance; being part of a school or university team; beating that "formidable adversary" consistently; participating in local tournaments; enjoying the company of other fencers (there are certainly many stories to tell!); watching a family member, friend or student develop his or her fencing skills; the satisfaction of running a good tournament; refereeing confidently; learning the rules; fencing internationally for yourself and the United States; earning a berth on an Olympic team and winning a medal.

At the Junior/Cadet World Championships in Bulgaria this year, the Korean contingent was on our bus from the airport. A very young girl was humming and giggling all the way, full of energy even though she had just been on a very long flight from Seoul. When she got off the bus at the hotel, she turned to me with a big smile and blurted out "Happy me!!" She didn't win a medal, but she was a winner.

Every one of you is as important and special to us as that young Korean fencer. How can the USFA make you a "Happy Me" in fencing? What is "winning" for you? — **AF**

GREETINGS FROM BARBADOS

I am an American citizen living in Barbados and a competitive coach member of USFA. I was involved in starting the Barbados Fencing Club in 2000. So far we have received Barbados Olympic Association recognition and [were] scheduled to receive FIE recognition in December, 2004 in Paris.

The Pan Am Sports and Pan Am Fencing associations together with the IOC have organized "Solidarity" Olympic Coaching Seminars where coaches from all of the Americas attend 8 day workshops with top coaches from around the world. One of the two I have attended so far was taught by Maitre Daniel Levavasseur in Montreal in 2002, where I had the opportunity to practice coaching technique with the Canadian National Men's and Women's epee team fencers. There were coaches from nearly every Pan Am country except Brazil and the U.S. which, as an American, I found surprising. Maitre Daniel expressed his disappointment that there were no coaches from the U.S. These were prophetic words. Maitre Daniel was subsequently hired to coach the Canadian Women's Epee Team and take them to the Olympics. Living in Barbados, I receive my AMERICAN FENCING magazines late so I just read the statement that the American Women's Epee team did not qualify for the Olympics because it was edged out by the "formidable Canadian Women's Epee Team."

Wouldn't it have been very useful

for some U.S. coaches to have witnessed Maitre Daniel's coaching technique as well as to see the Canadian fencers' training methods? Information is power, an opportunity was missed and a price was paid.

If I have the opportunity to attend more of the Solidarity Coaching Seminars, I hope to see some of my fellow Americans there.

Cheers From Barbados.

*Bob Kiss
Barbados*

.....

GENDER DISCRIMINATION DEMANDS A RESPONSE

I'm writing to bring to light a practice within the Michigan Division (and perhaps elsewhere) that in my opinion is a case of gender discrimination and to solicit a response from the USFA as to whether it condones this practice. In short, there are tournaments being held by clubs within the Michigan Division that are formatted to include a women's event in a given weapon and a mixed event in this same weapon, with women, of course competing in the women's event, and both men and women in the mixed, but no event specifically for men. When I've questioned the fairness of this format the response I most often get from tournament organizers is that they are trying to promote woman's fencing, that women are inherently "weaker" fencers than men and should be given the option to compete only with women (if they feel intimidated

by fencing men in a mixed format) or to compete along with men, especially if they want to improve and "bring up" their game.

While these may be noble aspirations, I still view this as a discriminatory practice. However good the ends, the means used to achieve them are inherently unjust. Why should a woman have the option of competing in two events when a man has only one? Lest someone mistake my intentions, I'm not a misogynist. I have no problem fencing with and against women. I'm simply seeking an equal opportunity to compete. Please respond.

*Joseph Znoy
Sterling Heights, Mich.*

.....

MICHIGAN DIVISION EXPLAINS ITS POSITION

This is in response to the letter from Mr. J. Znoy of the Michigan Division. The role of the Michigan Division is to support our 31 member clubs and our 450+ fencers. All of the Division hosted qualifying tournaments are run as separate events in accordance with the USFA. The clubs run a variety of events, including both mixed and separate. The format of the club-hosted tournaments are dictated by what the hosting club's membership is comfortable fencing, by scheduling, and by economics.

Please note that the Michigan Division supports all club events run in accordance with the USFA, and it

***AMERICAN FENCING reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity.
Please include your name and hometown
if you would like your letter printed.***

is not the role or the policy of the Michigan Division to dictate format to the clubs. The Division encourages the clubs to host well-attended and profitable events. We want all the clubs in Michigan to remain financially stable so they may continue to promote fencing. Unfortunately we, as with any group or business, are unable to satisfy 100 percent of our membership all of the time. We do encourage everyone to fence when they are able to, in events they are comfortable fencing.

*Beth Vance,
Farmington Hills, Mich.,
President, Michigan Division*

**FRENCH BASHING
NOT APPRECIATED**

Jeff Bukantz writes, in his Fall 2004 AMERICAN FENCING article Fencing History is Made: "I'm sure everyone has seen Touya's terrible lack of sportsmanship as he air-machine gunned Keeth and our team as he gloated after the last touch. Well, I guess that's as close to fighting as the French get."

The only thing in this article stupider than what Touya did is what Mr. Bukantz writes about the "French." Truly appalling, and from the Captain of our Olympic Team, no less.

For the leader of the representatives of our country to the fencing world to belittle an entire nation and its fencers in a mainstream publication is outrageous. Clearly the French come a lot closer to fighting than Bukantz seems to think. They certainly picked up their share of medals in the Games.

If Bukantz is trying to make a political comment, it's ill-placed. If he's trying to say something about French fencing, it's ludicrous.

*Doug Woos
Middlebury, Vermont*

**Crescent City
Open
2005**

**RIVERSIDE HILTON
NEW ORLEANS
APRIL 2 & 3**

Juniors Leading The Way For U.S. Fencing

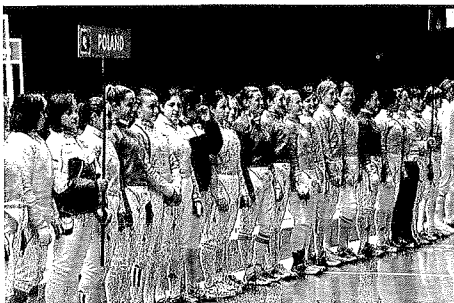
U.S. Juniors seem to be carrying the glow of the Olympics into the new fencing season. In early appearances in Cadet and Junior World Cup competition in Europe, young men and women are showing that U.S. fencers will be a force to reckon with well into the next decade.

Top-eight performances this fall include:

- **Jon Berkowsky**, Silver, Cadet Saber, Poland, Sept. 18
- **Courtney Hurley**, Silver, Cadet Epee, Germany, Nov. 14
- **Doris Willette**, 5th, Cadet Foil, Germany, Nov. 21
- **Caroline Vloka**, 6th, Cadet Saber, Hungary, Oct 24
- **Mera Keltner**, Silver, Cadet Saber, Poland, Sept. 18

- **Kurt Getz**, Bronze, Junior "A" Foil, Madrid, Nov. 20
- **Andras Horanyi**, Silver, Junior "A" Foil, Madrid, Nov. 20 and Bronze, Junior "A," France, Nov. 28
- **Pat Ghattas**, Bronze, Junior "A" Saber, Poland, Oct. 17
- **Ben Igoe**, 6th, Junior "A" Saber, Germany, Nov. 28
- **Kelley Hurley**, 5th, Junior "A" Epee, Bratislava, Oct. 16
- **Emily Jacobson**, 6th, Junior "A" Saber, Poland, Oct 16
- **Caitlin Thompson**, 8th, Junior "A" Saber, Poland, Oct 16
- **Rebecca Ward**, Bronze, Junior "A" Saber, Poland, Oct 16 and Gold, Junior "A" Saber, Italy, Nov. 20

U.S. junior saber women line up for the Junior World Cup in Poland. Photo courtesy of the Ward family.



Dagmara Wozniak versus Rebecca Ward in the finals of a Junior World Cup in Italy. Photo courtesy of the Ward family.



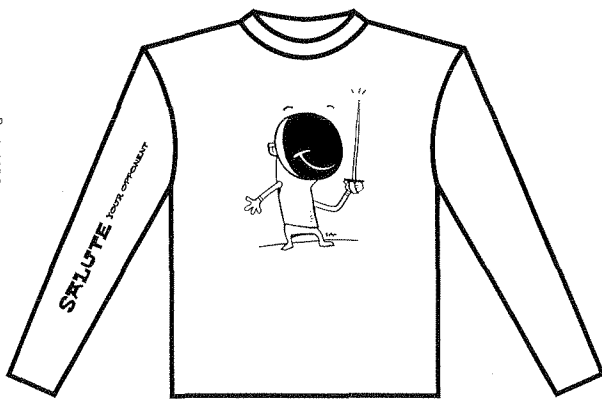
- **Dagmara Wozniak**, Bronze, Junior "A" Saber, Italy, Nov. 20 and 6th, Cadet Saber, Poland, Sept 18

- **Mariel Zagunis**, 6th, Junior "A" Saber, Italy, Nov. 20

There have also been too many top-16 and top-32 finishes to list. Stay tuned for more great news from overseas as the Junior season continues in full swing and the Senior season gets underway.

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Mourning The Passing Of Old Friends

AMERICAN FENCING sadly notes the passing of two friends late last year.

Christian Vidosa, 55, passed away peacefully in Toronto on November 11, 2004, after a brief but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Christian was born in Spain, raised in France, and called Toronto home.

He was a well-known international fencing referee with an "A" ranking in all three weapons, and refereed at 13 World Championships and two Olympic Games. He was also a TV, film and stage actor and producer and a friend to many in fencing. He will be sorely missed.

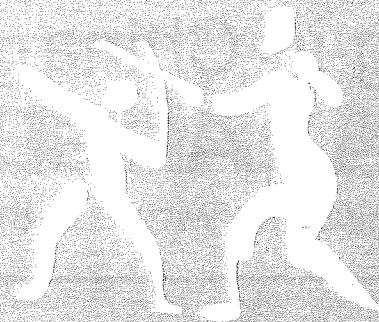
R. Richard Dyer, 74, of Haverford, Pa., retired chairman of the board of Peirce-Phelps Inc. and 1955 national champion saber fencer, passed away Nov. 4.

Dyer was also a medalist at the 1955 Pan American Games, and a member of the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Teams and a member of the fencing team at Pennsylvania State University.

During the Korean War, he fenced for the Army team in Germany. After his discharge, he worked in sales while competing for the Philadelphia Fencing Club and served a term as club president.

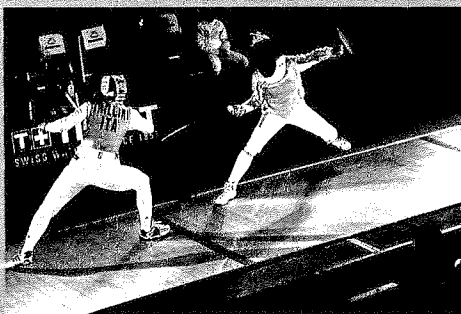
Our sympathies go out to their families and friends.

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Finding fencing in China ... **A UNIVERSA LANGUAGE**

Author learns you can fence anywhere in the world • by Ali**TIMMINS**

China is a spectacular place to fence. I've been living and fencing in Shenzhen, China since April and have managed to experience Chinese fencing to the fullest!

I began fencing foil at the Jacksonville Fencing Club (JFC) in Florida during early 2003. After about a year of fencing with the JFC, I learned that my father's company would be moving our whole family to Shenzhen, China. At first I was upset and worried that I would not be able to find good fencing in Shenzhen. After doing a bit of research, though, I discovered that there would be great opportunities for me to fence in my new home.

Shenzhen has two active fencing clubs. There is the Special Zone Press Club (SZPC), which is run by the city, and the Shenzhen University Fencing Club (SZUFC). Both clubs have instruction in all three weapons and are active in local competitions.

Usually, I am able to fence every night at Shenzhen University. It's very accessible by taxi, bus or bike. What I really enjoy about fencing at the SZUFC is the frequency with which the club meets. I am able to fence almost every day of the week for four to five hours at a time. Everyone at SZUFC is very friendly and most of the students speak English, so it's a very comfortable atmosphere. The fencing club is the one place in China where I actually forget that I'm in a foreign country. It's a great antidote for culture shock to spend time with a lot of people who are

as crazy about fencing as I am. There isn't much structure to the fencing routine at Shenzhen University, and most of the time there is spent on the strip. However, it's a great place to gain valuable fencing experience.

If I want good footwork training, drills and lessons, I go to the Special Zone Press Club in downtown Shenzhen. There, you can get excellent training from Coach Ma, a former national saber champion, and Ms. Zhu, former all-Asia foil champion. They are both incredibly enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the sport. I love training with them because they really stress the basics and they don't let any mistakes slide by. They are very tough coaches. Even though neither Coach Ma nor Ms. Zhu speak any English, it's very easy to understand them. I've found that fencing has its own universal language.

The SZPC is located on the sixth floor of a large health club. When you are actually inside the fencing club, you would never know that you were in China. It's like any fencing club in the U.S. There are mirrored walls, lunging targets, Uhlmann reels, and of course, plenty of fencers.

The fencing doesn't end in Shenzhen, though. Just an hour and a half away is Guangzhou, the location of three of the top fencing training centers in China. I, being an American, am only permitted to fence at the Wei-Lin Sports School, one of the three Olympic training centers in Guangzhou. The other two schools don't allow foreigners in for

fear that they might steal top-secret Chinese fencing techniques. The Wei-Lin Sports School, however, gladly welcomed me to come and train with them.

The Wei-Lin Sports School is an academy solely dedicated to training young children to become Olympians and World Champions. It's a boarding school where the children live year-round and train for seven to eight hours a day in their chosen sport. The school specializes in ping-pong, fencing, weight lifting, and high diving. The fencing room is about the size of three gyms and has 20 permanent strips. Training begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. with only one break at noon for lunch. Children as young as five years old are receiving lessons, footwork training, and lectures while others fence. What impressed me the most was the discipline and dedication the children had for fencing. There was not one person at the Wei-Lin school who wasn't excited about being there and fencing.

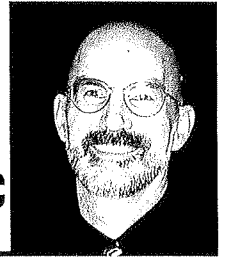
In China, amateur fencing is a relatively new idea. When China was closed off to the rest of the world, the only fencing that went on was for Olympic training and it wasn't available as a hobby for regular people to enjoy. As a result, there are many high level professional fencers and many beginner fencers in China, but not much in between. Fencing isn't nearly as widespread in China as it is in America, but I personally love the Chinese fencing scene and think it is a great place for fun fencing!

— **AF**

A common ailment ...

THE BLISTER PROBLEM

Tips on making feet feel better • by Peter **HARMER, Ph.D., ATC**



Q Whenever I begin training after a lay-off I have a problem with blisters, especially on my back foot. Is there anything I can do to stop this?

A Blisters are a common, annoying and, unfortunately, potentially significant injury. As most people have experienced, they are caused by friction that goes on too long, happens too often or is too intense (or a combination of the three) and results in fluid accumulation under the skin as the body tries to protect itself from the irritation. As with any injury, prevention is much better than cure and there are a number of simple approaches to avoiding blisters. Most of the significant blisters are on the feet, particularly the ball of the back foot, and/or the heel.

The first preventive measure is to make sure you have shoes that fit correctly – blisters are likely if shoes are too big or too small. In addition, you should wear two pairs of socks, not simply for the “padding” but for another layer within which friction can be distributed. One pair of threadbare socks is a very common cause of blisters on various parts of the feet.

The third thing to check is the condition of the insole in your rear foot shoe. The pressure of the ball of the foot will wear a divot into the insole which will blister the ball of the foot because of the decreased padding and also because the head of the first ray will sit in the divot and

be rubbed by the edges of it. If your insole is thinning in this spot, it should be replaced. Do not wait until you have worn a hole right through it.

Even if you follow all of these prevention measures, you may still be at risk for a blister because you are training too much before your feet are “conditioned” to the stress. However, blisters usually give a warning signal when they are developing in the form of a “hot spot,” a very specific sensation of heat in the area of friction that should not be ignored.

If you get a hot spot, you have several options. First, you can cut back the amount of stress you are putting on the area by training for shorter periods or less intensely until the skin can respond appropriately to the friction by developing a callus. However, the preferred option is to use skin lubricant such as Vaseline or to pad the area. There are several commercially available products that adhere well and mold to the shape of the foot. Using adhesive elastic tape over the pads will help keep them in place because they are subject to a lot of stress and can be rubbed off.

If a blister develops despite your best efforts to prevent it, you need to treat it prudently. If it is small and has not broken, a donut pad can be used to protect the area until the blister subsides. If it is broad and/or deep, the area should be thoroughly cleansed and the blister can be drained by carefully piercing an edge

with a sterile needle. The skin should be left in place and the area treated with antiseptic ointment and covered with a Band-Aid. The dressing should be changed regularly. If the blister is torn, the torn edges can be trimmed away with sterile scissors, and antiseptic and dressing applied. Although most athletes think of blisters principally as a nuisance, there is a real risk of infection and the need for care in treating them cannot be overemphasized. If you have any concerns about the condition of a blister, check with your healthcare provider.

Finally, a callus is the positive functional response of the body to friction and acts as a protective layer. However, it is important to realize that a callus can “grow” and if it gets too big, it can also irritate the underlying skin and produce a blister underneath it. The best prevention is to regularly trim any significant callus with a callus shaver or pumice stone. The callus should not be removed completely, but simply smoothed out.

Although blisters in fencing most frequently occur on the feet they can happen anywhere (gloves with holes in them are another common cause) and the principles of prevention, padding and treatment illustrated above can be used in all cases. — **AF**

Professor Peter Harmer is a member of the FIE Medical Commission and associate chair of the USFA Sports Medicine & Science Committee; pharmer@willamette.edu.

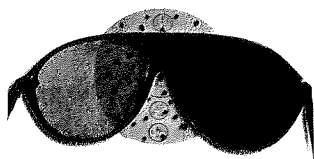
Sports vision enhancement ... **TRAINING THE EYES: PART 2**

by Alan **ARATA, Ph.D.**, Alfred **WILE, M.S.**, and Michael **ZUPAN, Ph.D.**

In the last edition of *AMERICAN FENCING* we reviewed the use of the Accuvision training system to build visual skill. This article looks at training depth perception and dynamic visual acuity. Depth perception is the ability to determine the distance of an object from the eyes, and requires both eyes to accurately focus on an object. This is paramount in the sport of fencing, as athletes are constantly evaluating the distance between themselves and their opponents. Making a move to record or avoid a touch is based on proper distance.

The Brock String is used to increase each eye's ability to correctly focus on an object. A Brock String consists of a 20-foot string with beads affixed at five foot intervals. One end of the string is mounted to the wall while the other is held straight out from the wall by the athlete. The fencer places the loose end to their nose and looks down the string. When both eyes are working together fixating on a Brock String's bead, fencers will see two strings that cross at that bead. If they see the strings cross in front of the bead, then they need to relax their eyes so the point of fixation moves down to the bead. If they see the fixation point past the bead, they need to increase their eye's vergence so the image will move up to the bead. This exercise continues for one minute with the athletes jumping from bead to bead with their eyes.

Dynamic visual acuity is the ability of athletes to see clearly if 1) they are moving, 2) their target is moving, or 3)

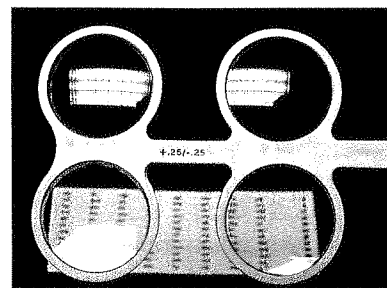


both are moving. This skill is important in fencing since both athletes are in constant movement. Dynamic visual acuity is trained with an exercise called rotary pursuit.



Rotary pursuit consists of a 20-inch disk mounted on a motor that can spin the disk at various speeds. Letters are mounted on the disk and there is a chart under the disk with a table of letters. Athletes stand six feet away and look at the table to find the letter they will be required to find on the rotary pursuit wheel. Once they find the first letter they look back down at the table and see what the second letter is. This activity lasts for one minute and the athletes record the number of letters they tracked down in that time period. The speed on the disk can be increased as athletes become more advanced.

There are three other exercises that are used to strengthen fencers' eye muscles. Neither of these can be directly related to specific fencing performance, but should help reduce eye fatigue during competition. The first exercise, vergence training, incorporates the use of prism flippers with base-in and base-out



lenses, (see picture) that cause the eyes' focus to change. The second exercise is done with +/- diopter flippers. These flippers make the ocular muscles of the eyes relax on one flipper and then work on the other flipper.

The other non-specific activity for fencers is a short-long eye chart exercise. Fencers use a small eye chart (3"x 3") that they hold four inches in front of their eye and another chart (8" x 10") located twenty feet away. Like other exercises, these can be made more realistic. In this case, once an athlete performs optimally, vertical oscillation on a mini trampoline is added, which works dynamic vision acuity. This is like when fencers bounce on the strip during a bout. The trampoline also helps strengthen feedback from the body's vestibular system.

As with any type of exercise, there is a fatigue factor that accompanies eye training. Exercising eye muscles enhances strength and endurance and allows athletes to perform at higher levels for longer periods of time. There is no direct way to determine how much these visual exercises help a fencer during competition, but with over 70 percent of the sensory information coming from the eyes, enhancing a fencer's visual system can be the difference.

— AF

The authors are part of the Human Performance Lab, U.S. Air Force Academy

Getting through the airport ... **THE TRAVELING BLUES**

Tips on bringing gear to tournaments • by Joe **BYRNES**

Hauling oneself in and out of airports to get to our national competitions has never been much fun, in my experience. Naturally it is much worse these last few years. It seems that travelers with odd-shaped, long, big heavy luggage, especially if it has lots of metal – not to mention wires, or batteries – just start the TSA inspectors salivating. Perhaps fencers are doing them a favor, by relieving the monotony. In my capacity of armorer, I travel with lots of metal and wires, not to mention those super bugbears, batteries.

I learn through the grapevine that some of my armory colleagues have been even more rigorously treated than myself: carefully crafted test devices have been opened up, often crudely, and not always put back together the way they were; batteries and their leads have been torn free or cut out; a commercially available, nationally-sold ohmmeter has been disassembled and the case broken in “reassembly.”

I suppose that I should regard myself as lucky: I arrived at the last nationals to find my rather neat (I think) body cord checker with two big greasy thumbprints on it and all the screws on the bottom loose. The wiring inside had clearly been moved around, doubtless in a search for plastique explosive, but since I use an outboard battery pack with that one, there was less temptation to cut or tear things free.

Here’s a suggestion: I know it’s a pain in the proverbial, but if you have anything like that to go in your luggage, you might try removing the batteries and putting them in a clear plastic bag taped to the outside of the device. I am not so optimistic as to suggest that they wouldn’t open such a suspicious thing, but they might not tear it apart.

These days too, it is necessary to be very careful about what you say and how you say it. There has been an anecdote, apparently substantially true, floating about on the web, about an epee fencer (presumably young and inexperienced) who stepped into a messy big security brou-ha-ha by remarking to the inspectors that what was in that funny-looking bag was delicate: something to the effect that “if you damage the wires, it won’t go off.”

Just think: GO OFF! What goes off? Talk about the old comic book joke of waving a red table cloth at a mad bull....

This leads directly to another aspect of how you present yourself these days – and this applies to all competitors. Given the present grounds for nervousness, not to mention the quantity of “p.c.” wussies and wimps among us, you want to be discreet about how you describe what’s in your bags. I

suppose calling it “fencing equipment” might be safe, but you still might have to define fencing. “Athletic equipment” or “sports equipment” or “competition gear” would doubtless all be safer. I know it may disappoint your lil’ ol’ swashbuckler’s image of yourself as Errol Flynn on Warner’s back lot, but don’t talk about your “weapons.” (This is nothing new. Ask any old-timer from the Philadelphia Division about the long-ago episode of the late Maestro Csiszar and the Canadian Border Guards. It’s too long to tell here, but it’s funny and extremely apropos.)

So, what to do? Apart from no longer traveling, that is? Exercise a little forethought, a little discretion. Guard your tongue, and learn to go with the irritating flow. As a pessimistic medieval hymn put it (translated): “These are the latter times/These are not better times/Let us be vigilant.” — **AF**

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Impact of a new regulation ... **SHORTENING THE BLOCKAGE**

New rules favor the 'wrong of way' • by Jeff **BUKANTZ**



Based on the passionate responses by readers to my column (*Blinded by the Flick; Spring, 2004*) about the flick, it is clear that we are a divided country. Come to think about it, the vitriol and rhetoric exhibited made the Presidential campaign look like child's play.

Fortunately for me, I have a thick skin; after all, it's no fun being called disingenuous for candidly suggesting that the anti-flickers are living in the past or being retroactive in their thinking in their quest to eliminate the flick.

But, we're going to take break from the flickering, I mean bickering.

Due to the shortening of the blockage time in foil and saber, something that has been adopted at all levels by the FIE against the will of its own Congress and Rules Commission, the entire face of these right-of-way weapons has been disfigured.

Incredibly, with the shortening of the blockage time, the out-of-time sucker actions such as the remise and the counterattack may now become the bread and butter actions of even the best fencers.

As I predicted, foil and saber may become bastardized forms of epee, as a super premium has been put on hitting first.

I recently spoke with an extremely successful coach who said that he has already started training his fencers with an eye on remising! What is going on here?

Over the years, whenever I tried to explain the difference among the three weapons to non-fencers, I always started with epee, as it was the easiest to understand; the first one to hit gets the touch, no right-of-way, no requirement to parry, etc.

I'd tell them that it was an advantage to be tall in epee, as height and length do make a big difference. As an example, I'd say that in epee someone the size of Wilt Chamberlain, Yao Ming or Shaq would have a gigantic advantage over small point guards such as Allan Iverson or Earl Boykins. The smaller fencer could overcome the size differential with a combination of footwork, blade work, timing, distance, and technique, but as a general rule, the taller fencer maintained the advantage.

Take a look at epee fencers, and it's clear that I didn't stumble across something revolutionary. They are, far and away, the tallest fencers as a group.

Now that the blockage time has been shortened, it is conceivable that tall fencers will have that advantage in foil and saber, as well. Now that fast remises will often score while slow but correct ripostes get blocked out, fencers will now look to score on actions that previously were considered stupid and against the basic concepts of fencing.

As an example, the shorter Mike Momtselidze will have his work cut out for him when trying to hit the taller and

longer Keeth Smart on a simple or compound riposte. While that was a daunting task with the old blockage time, if Smart becomes a remise specialist, he will have a huge new weapon in his arsenal.

Someone like the ultra-fast and very tall Olympic foil bronze medallist, Andrea Cassara of Italy, who employs multiple lightning-fast remises while retreating after an attack, will be impossible to hit with a riposte.

Fencers who use a slow attack as a means of drawing the out-of-time counterattack will be at risk of getting blocked out, even while maintaining the right-of-way.

As the saying goes, "You get what you pay for." Yup, the FIE, or at least a persuasive minority in the leadership, wanted more one light actions and far fewer subjective decisions for the referees.

Well, they certainly will accomplish those goals. But, at what price?

The jury is out as to how costly these changes will be; but, with the early precincts reporting from Florida and Ohio, it looks as if right-of-way, the single most important aspect of foil and saber, will possibly take a back seat to its antithesis...the sucker actions.

I don't think our great sport can ever put a price-tag on the devaluation of its primary currency, the right-of-way.

The shortening of the blockage time in foil and saber has the ability to bankrupt foil and saber fencing of its sancti-

Winners and Losers of the 2004 Rules Changes

Winners

Tall fencers
 Remisers, Duckers, Squirmers, Coverers
 Fast Counterattackers
 Weaker Referees
 (less chance to make errors)
 Coaches who teach remises
 Equipment Companies (new chips,
 lots of new uniforms)

 Hard Hitters
 Fencers wearing chest protectors
 or with abs of steel
 Fencers who rely more on speed and
 power than technique
 The FIE hierarchy who pushed through the changes

Losers

Short fencers
 Riposters
 Slow Attackers
 Stronger Referees
 (less tough calls to make)
 Coaches who teach correctly
 Fencers, Clubs, Parents, Divisions
 (cost of changing machines and
 buying new uniforms to replace
 punctured ones)
 Normal Hitters
 Everyone Else

 Technically proficient fencers
 The sport of fencing

ty. And for what? More one light actions for weak referees? Phooey!

In my opinion, this watershed change represents the epitome in the point of diminishing returns for our sport.

Instead of right-of-way, we're going to favor wrong-of-way.

LONGER CONTACT TIME = HARDER HITS AND BIGGER BRUISES

Back in the Spring, 2004 column (Blinded by the Flick), I predicted that attempts to limit flicking by increasing the contact time or increasing the pressure in the foil tip would be pointless but not harmless.

Lo and behold, take a look at the very first email that arrived at the USFA offices after the first NAC with the changes:

"I am sure there were good reasons for changing FIE rules regarding the timing of actions in foil fencing, but I am concerned for safety of fencers. My son recently came back from Bratislava with new battle marks. His new

lame had two little round holes and his knickers had one hole. The holes are size of a pea, which makes me believe they were caused by a single action each. I understand the chest protector was not allowed because it made the foil tip bounce, and the fencers had to attack with greater force to get the touch to register. I hope things will get better as everyone gets used to new foil timing rules, but meanwhile I wanted to let you know my concerns for safety."

Well, I hate to say I told you so, but...

It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that an increased contact time would lead to fencers blasting off on each other. Certainly, you could understand even male fencers wearing non-mandatory chest protectors as a safety precaution.

However, nobody anticipated that these chest protectors would be utilized for a competitive edge. Incredibly, the hard shell had the effect of bouncing the tip off of the chest before the new contact time would allow the touch to register. Word got out, and everyone

was wearing the chest protectors under the lame, but over the jacket, as this tactic performed a magical type of parry.

"Every time I think I know all the answers, they change the questions!"

Typically, whenever there are any changes to the conventions of fencing or any sport, the athletes and coaches focus on finding the loopholes. The chest protector sham, at least for the men, has been tempered but not eliminated, as the FIE reacted by sending an edict that the fencers must wear the chest protectors under the jacket. It didn't help at the Louisville Junior World Cup, that's for sure.

Once this chest protector issue is straightened out, the fact remains, as predicted, that fencers will hit harder than ever, and there will be more bruises than ever.

This change, as with the shortening of the blockage time, accomplished nothing for the sport other than the necessity to revisit them as soon as possible.

— AF

En garde, Your Highness ... **FENCING'S HAWAIIAN FLAVOR**

Salle Honolulu brings fencing to the islands • by Dr. Wes **YOUNG**

On several days each week, members of Salle Honolulu practice Olympic fencing in air-conditioned comfort at the most prestigious health club in Hawaii, the Honolulu Club, under the tutelage of Hawaii's only fulltime fencing pro, **Colin Chock**. Chock is a former Olympic hopeful and his members regularly place in state fencing competitions. By a twist of fate, Salle Honolulu trains within blocks of stately Iolani Palace, former home to Hawaii's monarchy, and the only royal palace to grace American soil.

Local fencers are often surprised to learn that Hawaii's last reigning monarch, King Kamehameha III, also trained in European swordfighting in 19th century Hawaii. The young men and women of the royal family who called Iolani Palace home were educated on a par with their European counterparts and "many of the boys learned fencing as well, because it was something that an aristocrat did then," explains **Robert Becker**, a writer on Hawaiian history and himself a veteran fencer. Though not as widely practiced as Asian martial arts, a small but dedicated mix of enthusiasts practice, teach and compete in Olympic-style fencing here, following in the king's footsteps.

If one includes all skill levels, there are several hundred fencers in Hawaii with about equal numbers of adults and children. Hawaii's largest club is Salle Honolulu Fencing Club with about 60 members meeting at several sites. Other Hawaii fencers meet at the Hawaii Fencers Club and at another Honolulu group known as the YWCA



Hawaiian monarch King Kamehameha.
Photo by Wes Young/www.youngPHOTO.com

Fencing Club, all on Oahu. There is also a small club of about 20 fencers located in Kona, on the island of Hawaii, also known as the "Big Island," who call themselves the "Silver-swords" after a rare Hawaiian plant by the same name.

To date, none of Hawaii's fencing clubs has a dedicated home. All rent or otherwise share space with other organizations. Chock, founder of Salle Honolulu, notes that he evenly splits earnings with the Honolulu Club where his members meet several times a week. "It's not a money maker," Chock notes, but he finds value in that setting, since it appeals to an upper cut of clientele and, "the environment is comfortable and convenient for both adult and youth members."

Victoria Reventas, an interior designer with the architectural firm Wimberly, Allison, Tong and Goo, is another local pillar of the sport. She

competes nationally and serves as the USFA Hawaii Division chair, a post in which both Chock and Becker previously served. She is a member of the Hawaii Fencers Club, coached by **Tony Nishimura** and, like Becker and Chock before her, supports the annual Hawaii Fencing Open.

This ambitious tournament draws as many as 80 competitors, including a few top fencers from across America. She explains USFA leadership, including Section President **Frank Van Dyke**, "designed the Hawaii Open to let people in Hawaii experience the higher level of competition that mainland fencers take for granted. It can cost a great deal of money for us to compete in any tournament on the mainland, so we try and bring them to our fencers every year." Chock adds, "Mainland fencers who come to the event seem to thoroughly enjoy the competition and consistently praise the experience."

In the past, advertising the Hawaii Open has been via snail mail. In an effort to save costs next year, Chock has petitioned the Hawaii Division to use an email-based campaign to notify and attract an even broader crowd of competitors for 2005. Since Hawaii lacks referees at the required level, it depends on qualified referees from the west coast who are partially reimbursed for their efforts. Volunteers on both sides of the Pacific have generously donated their time and energies each year to make the event an ongoing success.

The Hawaii Division also hosts a Junior Olympic qualifier for those 19 or younger, sectional qualifiers and,



Coach Colin Chock poses with Canadian fencing star Donna Saworski. Salle Honolulu often brings in internationally known fencers for instructional clinics. Photo by Wes Young/www.youngPHOTO.com

for the first time this year, a Junior Foil Series to encourage younger competitors. Reventas admits, though, that local USFA officials depend on Hawaii's private fencing clubs to entice entry level fencers into the sport.

Sharing his colleagues' goal to increase recruitment of young fencers, Chock teaches both adult and youth classes, mostly at Oahu's private schools. His demonstration teams perform at various sites, including a wide

Groups of junior Salle Honolulu Fencers. Photo by Wes Young/www.youngPHOTO.com



variety of ethnic festivals, martial arts studios and private parties, all to expose local residents to Olympic fencing. Salle Honolulu currently uses its contacts to bring in top international fencers as visiting instructors and seminar leaders.

Another member of Honolulu's fencing community is **Michael Burns**, an actor, Fullbright Scholar and recent transplant from Utah. He teaches fencing for the Richards Street YWCA in Honolulu, which is just across the road from the palace. Concerned about the lack of exposure of Hawaii residents to the European sword arts, he notes, "you have to start young. At that age, most kids love the idea of sword fighting. Most adults find their hobbies when they are young."

Burns admits the interest level is not optimal. "Fencing is not a spectator sport. It's like cricket. If you haven't played it, it makes no sense." Burns notes America's historic gold medal in fencing at the 2004 Olympics and technical innovations, such as the light-emitting masks worn by the competitors. He believes these should make the sport more appealing to casual spectators and generate interest among youth. Chock thinks that hot fencing jackets are sometimes

also a deterrent for Hawaii's children, who prefer shorts, flip-flops and t-shirts.

Becker suggests that "one key to success in Hawaii would be letting parents know that fencing is a wonderful extracurricular activity. It's a sport that is intellectually challenging and a great feather in your cap when it comes to admissions to the best colleges."

Fencing continues to have the solid foothold in the Hawaiian Islands that it has had since the time of the monarchy. This is due to a few dedicated athletes, instructors and volunteers willing to put in long hours organizing competitions and training. The consensus of state leadership seems to be that Hawaii has not yet reached critical mass for Olympic fencing to be a common sport here.

There is also broad agreement that a statewide recruiting program focused on entry level fencers is an idea whose time has come. Chock explains, "Well-advertised youth camps and competitions, train-the-coach programs, media exposure, public education, knowledgeable and qualified coaches" are necessary to expand Hawaii's fencing community. "Just as ancient Hawaiian hula, language, and canoe paddling

have been reborn in recent years, Olympic-style sword fighting is a unique part of Hawaii's history and martial arts tradition. Historic American victories at the 2004 Olympics may also spur local interest. Our challenge," he concludes, "is to do the needed footwork to grow Hawaii's fencing community." — AF



Dr. Wes Young is one photojournalist who believes, "the Sword is mightier than the Pen ... at least when you are fencing." He fences with Salle Honolulu in Hawaii.

Finding good officials ...

THE 'GOOD CALL OPEN'

A novel form of referee training • by Dr. Joseph **STREB**

There is an old saying, "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach," but for fencing officials in Central Ohio, it's "Those who can do, also can teach."

Experienced fencing officials **Cindy Bent Findlay** (editor of *AMERICAN FENCING*) and **Patricia Szelle Cannon** participated along with other rated fencing officials in the "Good Call Open" referee training program and fencing tournament this fall in Columbus. The purpose of the event was to bring national level directorial talent and training to the club level of the sport. As most national level coaches know, a large part of success in fencing, especially in foil and saber, requires knowledge of the rules and rules interpretations. Learning how top fencing officials make decisions and analyze actions helps club fencers make the transition to the national level.

"One of the greatest impediments to the advancement of club level fencers is lack of good quality officiating," says **Mike Shearer**, a nationally rated fencing official. "It is like the blind leading the blind, bad habits get perpetuated," says Shearer, who also started the Salle Aramis Fencing Club in Columbus. "When club level officiating is inferior, it retards the development of the fencers."

Attempting to break the chain of bad officiating leading to bad fencing, the Columbus, Ohio Division USFA (COD) devised a two-part strategy. First, the Division contacted well-known Olympic fencing official and instructor, **Derek Cotton**, who agreed to come to Columbus to conduct the official referee training seminar, to administer the written fencing official's test, and to

provide practical examinations to those people in the local fencing community interested in becoming fencing officials. "The practical examination is often the most difficult aspect of becoming a rated official," says **Joseph T. Streb**, 16, of the Columbus Fencers Club. "It is very difficult to get used to having an experienced official looking over your shoulder, but you have to do it. At a national event, there could be hundreds of people watching you work."

Second, prior to the arrival of Cotton, the COD scheduled the "Good Call Open," an experimental fencing event intended to provide novice fencing officials with hands-on training and immediate feedback from experienced fencing officials.

"The idea was to allow for as much participation as possible from the fencing community, and mainly to have our unrated local fencing officials get practical experience out of immediate constructive criticism from nationally rated fencing officials," says **Samuel Lillard**, a participant in the event, and co-owner of the Dublin Fencing Center, host of the event. The structure of the event was as follows:

- Fencing was an open tournament in order to provide a wide range of talent for the novice referees to direct.
- Participants were allowed to both fence and to practice officiating (the FOC rules on attire were suspended for this purpose) in order to encourage a large turn-out.
- Rated fencing officials were

assigned a pool of fencers and novice referees.

- Novice referees officiated until the final direct elimination round of eight.
- Rated fencing officials stood directly behind the novice officials to simultaneously observe the fencing action and to provide immediate constructive criticism of calls.
- Rated fencing officials had authority to overturn any "bad calls" by novice referees, turning bad calls into "good calls," hence, the name of the event.
- All present were instructed before fencing started that conversations about calls were to be only between the experienced officials and the novice officials, with no input from fencers, coaches or spectators being allowed.
- Fencing was conducted, as at most local USFA events, with five touch pool bouts, and with every fencer promoted into a direct elimination table of 15 touch bouts.

On the whole, the event was a success. "I believe the event was good," says **Dr. Enrico Bonello**, 42, a plant biologist and novice foil director. "I certainly felt that I learned things by being observed by experienced officials."

Nevertheless, there were some minor problems. **Chelsey Howell**, 17, whose father operates the Salle du Lion fencing club in Cincinnati, commented, "I think it is really good that they are having the more experienced

directors work with the less experienced ones, but it really makes things slow sometimes."

"The fencing was difficult because the initial calls could be pretty weird," says Streb, who is nationally ranked in U16 men's foil. "My concentration was sometimes thrown off waiting for the FOC officials to correct the bad calls of the novice officials." He still managed to win the foil competition.

Despite some problems, both fencers and officials praised the event. Bent Findlay offered, "This is something that should be done all around the country. It gives experienced referees teaching experience and it helps novice referees develop as well. It was gratifying to see novice referees improve right before your eyes."

"It was a good experience; it is great to do the real thing," says Michael Teieg, 17, an epee fencer and novice foil director who traveled three hours from Kent, Ohio to attend the event.

"I think the event was great," says Cannon-Szelle, "I think we should do this more often and try to make the potential referees only focus on refereeing instead of letting them fence. That would give them more focus for the day."

Lillard waxed philosophical on the events of the day. "Directing fencing requires considerable analytical ability to bring order out of seeming chaos. We made good progress today in improving the level of local officiating, but we know it will take more." When

asked for a final assessment of the event, Mark Hedien, 37, pondered the matter and said, "I enjoyed it, but you make the call." — AF

Joseph S. Streb is Chairman of the Columbus, Ohio Division USFA and the Great Lakes Section USFA. He is member of the 2004 and 2002 U.S. Veterans' World Championship foil team and a silver medalist in saber in the 2004 Veterans' Summer National Championships. The "Good Call Open" originated from a conversation between Dr. Streb and Vladimir Nazilymov, head fencing coach at The Ohio State University, regarding the difficulty with fencing officiating at the club level of the sport.



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Change is a constant ...

RULE CHANGES ARE NOT NEW

The sport has always tinkered with the rules • by Andy SHAW

Whatever your stand on the issue of flicks, there's lots of talk about "lockout time," "milliseconds," scoring device upgrades and whether or not to wear plastic "deflectors" under the uniform.

These are hardly the last of the rules changes to hit the fencing world. I thought that now would be great time to elaborate on some of the less-known rules and rule changes to affect the fencing public of the United States.

Some folks get really confused by these changes. I remember a college coach in New York City who was very confused right after the USFA changed the rules from, "touch against" to "touch for." Officiating on a Saturday afternoon in uptown Manhattan, I called a parry riposte for the opposing team's fencer and this coach came running out to inform me "that the rules had been reversed and that a parry-riposte now counts for the person who was parried!" I told him that it would take a little time and that I would explain the rule change right after the bout.

From 1891 to 1915 the American Fencing League printed 22 different rule books that increased in size and complexity. (At least that's how many original rulebooks I have.) New rules are always popping up and sometimes going away. Think about how American women must have felt in 1936 when they had their bouts changed from 5 touches to 4 touches. The Europeans apparently convinced the Americans that a 5-touch bout was too strenuous for "the fairer sex," as they were called. How did they manage to survive 5-touch bouts since the mid-1800s? It took the United States until 1976 to turn that rule back!

Our first four U.S. National Championships (under the auspices of the newly founded Amateur Athletic Association in 1888) were run with a "direct elimination" format with the first bouts determined by the drawing of straws. That's right! You lose, you're out. (Entry fees weren't very high and the fencers were very wealthy.) The officials determining "right-of-way" were known as Referees and they were mostly professional fencing teachers.

As 2004 is the 100th anniversary of the first New York City subway, which was originally owned by August Belmont, the President of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, it may be pertinent to note that his son Perry was the first Referee of the first official U.S. National Fencing Championships in 1888.

The fencers protested the D.E. format as unfair and distrusted pros as their refs. They formed a new organization called, "The Amateur Fencers' League of America."

FENCING FORM

The A.F.L.A. hosted its first U.S. Nationals in 1892 with "pools only."

The new rules stipulated the same 5-touch bout formula but with a new bonus situation. Rule 6 of the 1891 book stated, "The judges may award to each contestant in each bout a maximum of 50/100 of a point for defense, 50/100 of a point for attack, and 50/100 of a point for general good form. The method of judging is based upon the idea that the contest is intended as an exhibition of skill as well as the securing of touches."

To make foil fencing even harder, only the outside half of the front of the

torso was valid target and hits below the waist were foul. Movements like ducking and turning were considered illegal. The front of the foil jacket had a line down the middle called the median line.

Fencers showing good form were consistently awarded some variety of bonuses until the Americans returned from the 1912 Olympics. The other country's fencers didn't look as good as we did but they took competitive advantage.

THE STRIP

If a competitor's foot extended beyond any boundary line in 1891, a point would be deducted from his final score.

Foil bouts were contested in a space limited to 20 feet long and 36 inches wide. Epee bouts had no limitations of space ... no strip. Saber had the same strip rule as foil in 1891 but in 1893 the rule was amended to have no limitation of space that lasted for many years.

The strip rules alone went through a myriad of changes in foil during the early years:

- 1893-1896: If the foot goes beyond boundary line, half point deducted.
- 1897-1899: 5 points deducted from final score for foot faults.
- 1900-1901: No penalty touch for opponent if your foot extended beyond any boundary.

THE UNIFORM

New rules usually are accompanied by increased costs. That's always true when the changes are about the uniforms. For many years, fencers had their uniforms custom made. Norman



Foil fencers' jackets with median lines down the middle of chest.
Cornell Fencers Club: 1903-04.

Armitage (17-time U.S. Saber Champion) had his uniform made out of sail cloth to avoid welts from the heavier saber blades used in those days.

Uniform requirements for all three weapons were also changing with the wind. Here are some of the epee and foil changes (epee wasn't officially called "epee" until 1915; prior to that, the epee was called "dueling sword" or "duelling sword").

- 1891-1892: Dark fencing jackets required
- 1893: Dark fencing suit and dark glove
- 1894: White fencing suit and white glove. (Everyone went out and got new fencing uniforms)
- 1895-1903: Dark fencing suit and two dark gloves
- 1895: Foil fencers were required to wear dark fencing suits so that the white chalk marks can be seen.
- 1900: Foil fencers had to have their valid target area covered with chamois or buckskin on white jackets. Those fencers who had kept their old jackets were smart.
- 1904-1906: Dark fencing suit and one dark glove
- 1907-1911: White fencing suit and one white glove
- 1912: Clean White Fencing Suit and white glove. (You can only imagine how

smelly these tournaments had to be for the League to make a rule change to add the word, "clean."™

During these early "mark the jacket" years, fencers used chalk for the dark jackets and ink for the white jackets. Vinegar was used to clean ink off the jackets and fencing tournaments were very smelly affairs. Some fencers wishing to shield themselves from hits would pre-soak their

jackets in vinegar in hopes of avoiding valid touches.

Touches Required for Victory in Dueling Sword (Epee)

- 1891-2: 5 touches, bonus each for good attacks, good defense, good form (dueling sword/epee)
- 1893: Five touches but no bonuses anymore (epee)
- 1894-1902: Three touches (epee)
- 1902-1912: One touch epee

The saber world had some interesting changes. It seemed that saber fencers kept on making simultaneous attacks and neither fencer was consistently parrying. A new rule in 1908 awarded two touches for a riposte and a penalty point for the fencer who fails to attempt a riposte! In 1912 we added a rule that punished both fencers for a simultaneous attack. Touch against both! And in 1903 the AFLA eliminated point hits in saber. In 1904, point hits were brought back.

But no matter what rule was introduced, some folks were happy and others complained bitterly.

No matter how many touches were fenced in epee, the fencers complained. During World War II, there was a steel shortage and the AFLA went back to one-touch epee bouts. One contingent of American fencers loved one-touch epee and felt this made

epee fencing realistic, just like its roots of a duel of first blood. The other half of the League claimed that any lucky stiff can get one touch and it showed no particular skill to win a one-touch bout.

For the record books, **Henry Breckinridge** and **Leo Nunes** once fenced a one-touch epee bout that lasted 90 minutes.

TARGET AREA

The groin area for men was considered for many years to be "below the belt" and off target. It became valid target in 1923. But the groin for women was off target until 1960!

SCORING DEVICES

"Science has caught up with the ancient and noble art of fencing. Do not be surprised if in the near future progress overhauls baseball, tennis, football and other sports."— Paul Gardner, *NY American*, January 20, 1936

Alfred Skrobisch and **George Baker**, under the supervision of **Hugh Alessandrini**, developed the scoring device for epee that would be used in the first "electric" Olympics in Berlin 1936. While other countries had developed epee machines before the Columbia team, each delegation had concerns with regard to fairness and the Americans were considered to be unbiased in the fencing world.

Bela de Tuscan and his wife, **Joanna** (1936 U.S. foil champion) traveled the world demonstrating their fabulous invention of electric foil sets. The translucent green and red-colored guards would light up when the tip struck the opponent's lame. This was an invention that the public actually understood. The American fencing body was not interested! — AF

Andy Shaw teaches fencing in Shreveport, La. at the Fairfield Avenue School of Fencing and at the Southfield School. He requests that you mail any articles or anecdotes about your fencing history and any other historical data 'for the record.' Andy Shaw, 620 Stephenson St. Shreveport, LA 71104.

Taking on the best ... A VETERAN PERFORMANCE AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

U.S. team competes in Austria • by Peter **HARMER**

The largest contingent of veteran fencers yet assembled converged on Krems, Austria, during the first week of September to contest the 2004 World Veterans Fencing Championships. More than 300 competitors from 30 countries vied for honors in 10 events: men's and women's foil (50+ years; 60+ years); men's and women's epee (50+ years; 60+ years), and men's saber (50+ years; 60+ years). As usual, the United States was well represented with participants in every event, supported by **Gerrie Baumgart** on the Directoire Technique and **Wes Glon** and **Vladimir Lilov** as referees.

Krems is a beautiful 1,000-year-old city about 50 miles from Vienna, situated at the beginning of the Wachau region, known for wine and apricots. The hills above the city are all terraced with grape vines, and the city is dotted with quaint and inviting restaurants and cafes.

The competition was housed in the Krems Sporthalle, on the banks of the Danube River. There were nine pistes for the competition (including a central finals piste) and four practice pistes of the Krems Fencing Club located in the Sporthalle available for participants. The majority of competitors were housed at the Kolping Campus.

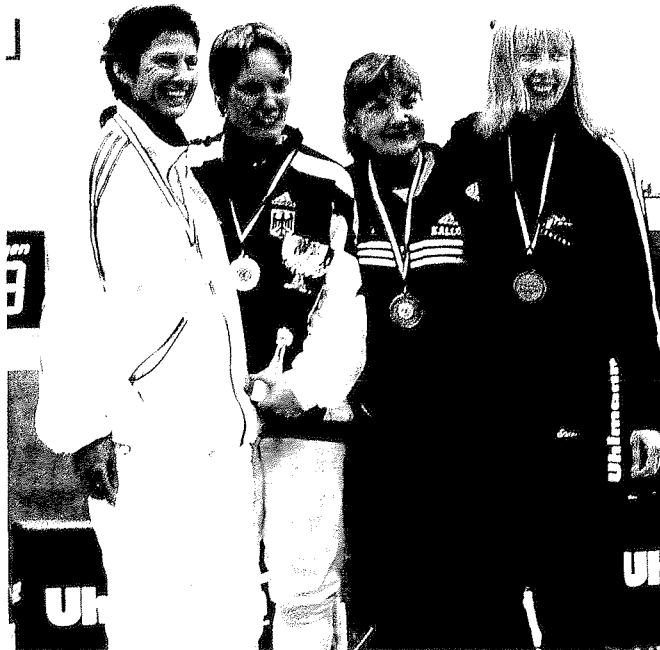
Under the impression that this was a hotel, most were very surprised to find that it was, in fact, a college dormitory (albeit a very nice one, although there were only twin beds in each room). More surprising was the fact that it was so new that when the first U.S. team members arrived, workmen were still installing lights, caulking walls and fitting doors. However, the management went out of its way to ensure a

high degree of satisfaction for all guests and throughout our stay the final touches were put into place. It was interesting to arrive back one afternoon and find that televisions sets had miraculously appeared in every room.

The competition began on Friday, September 3, with women's foil (50+ years), men's saber (50+ years) and men's foil (60+ years). The women's foil had 24 competitors from 11 countries, with the U.S. represented by **Judith Offerle**, **Jann Ream**, **Candy Torres** and **Yvonne Walton**. An early indication that the quality of competition was increasing was evident here where, although all of the U.S. team made the cut after the first round, Candy and Jann didn't make it into the top 16 and finished 17th and 18th, respectively. Yvonne caused a nice upset of 5th-ranked **Annick Martin** of France, 10-6, in the round of 16, only to also fall to **Gardini**, 10-7, to finish in 8th place.

The men's saber (50+ years), with 27 competitors from 10 countries, held great promise for the U.S. with two-time world champion **Ed Korfanty** and former medallist **Wang Yung**, anchoring the team. **Alfred Lara** and **Larry Pinkus** completed the group. Unfortunately, despite good seedings from the pools (Wang 4th, Alfred 5th and Ed 7th), the day was fraught with disappointment. Larry did not make the round of 16 and finished 22nd. Then, in quick succession, Alfred was upset by 12th seed **Volkhard Herbst** of Germany, 10-9, and Wang fell to 13th seed **Frederic Reynen** of France, 10-9. However, Ed had a brilliant three bouts in a row to set up his return to the gold medal match against **Richard Cohen**, also of Great Britain.

U.S. bronze medallists **Diane Kallus** (second from right) and **Jann Ream** (right). Photo by Sam Lillard.



Unfortunately, Cohen, the author of the well-received and critically acclaimed history of fencing, "By the Sword," was having an exceptional day and outlasted Ed 10-7 to take the gold. Wang and Alfred finished 9th and 10th, respectively.

The final event of the opening day was the men's foil (60+ years), which had a remarkable field of 32 competitors from 13 countries. The U.S. was represented by **Jim Adams, Don Benge, Max Callao and Ray Sexton**. Both Don and Max had tough pools and failed to make the table of 16, finishing 25th and 27th, respectively. Jim was promoted 8th and battled Giovanni Abati of Italy to a 5-4 victory before falling in a frustrating loss to the 16th seed, but eventual bronze medallist, Robert Schiel of Germany, 10-9, to finish 7th.

At the conclusion of the first day's events, the opening ceremonies featured a parade of nations, with Yung and **Kazimieras Campe** selected to represent the United States, followed by a welcome from the Burgermeister of Krems and FIE President Rene Roch and a performance by traditional Austrian singers and, somewhat incongruously, a modern dance performance that was accompanied by plenty of pyrotechnics. If nothing else it livened up the spectators before the crowd dispersed for dinner and preparation for Saturday.

Saturday was the main day of competition, with four events scheduled: men's and women's epee (50+ years), women's foil (60+ years) and men's saber (60+ years). The men's epee was the largest event of the competition with 50 competitors from 20 countries battling it out for medal honors, including the 1987 World Champion Volker Fischer of Germany.

The U.S. men's epee team consisted of **Charlie Schneider, Jere Bothelio, Bob Cochrane and Robert Chidel**. Bob had the best of the pools and was promoted 7th, but unfortunately he could not get past Oleksandr Garin of Ukraine, 10-5 in the round of 16, and finished in 10th place. Robert was seeded 29th but was upset in the

Author Peter Harmer (right) spars against other epeeists in the impromptu team competition. Photo by Sam Lillard.



Bill Hall (right) on his way to bronze in the 60+ men's saber. Photo by Sam Lillard.

round of 64 by 36th seed Frigyes Lasetzky of Hungary, 10-8, to place 35th. Charlie drew **Peter Harmer** of Australia (yours truly) in the 64 and but fell 10-8 after a close bout throughout to finish 36th. Jere got past Eiichi Ide of Japan, 10-7, before giving 1st seed and eventual bronze medallist, Aldofo Fantoni of Italy a real battle in the round of 32. Unfortunately, Fantoni prevailed 7-6 and Jere placed 29th.

Meanwhile, the U.S. epee women were making the team's biggest mark on the competition. **Marianne Bosco, Loy Grotts, Diane Kallus and Jann Ream** battled well through a field of 26 competitors from 10 countries, with Marianne promoting 2nd, Diane 6th, and Jann 16th. Unfortunately, Loy drew a pool with four-time gold medallist Marja-Liisa Someroja of Finland and eventual 2004 gold medallist Karin Jansen of Germany, and did not make the DE, finishing 24th. The round of 16 provided one of the great moments of the competition for the U.S. Jann was down 7-2 to the 1st seed, Martine Singla of France, with time running out but staged an amazing comeback to take the bout 9-8 and move into the round of eight.

In that round, Marianne downed Janat Tukhtayeva of Kazakhstan, 10-4 but, unfortunately, she then had a 10-5 loss to Annick Martin of France, to finish in 5th place. Jann continued her winning ways with a convincing 10-3 win over Edith Stoschitzky of Austria to join Diane in vying for the gold medal round. However, Martin was to claim another U.S. victim and ended Diane's run with a score of 10-3, and Jansen got past Jann 10-4, before beating Martin 10-9 for the gold. Nonetheless, the bronze medals for Jann

and Diane and the 5th place for Marianne were outstanding team results.

The women's foil (60+) was the most select event, with 19 participants from nine countries, but the level of competition was high. The presence of multiple time World Foil Champion Marie Chantal Demaille of France was another exclamation point on the growing strength of veteran's competition. The U.S. team of **Terry Abrahams**, **Patricia Bedrosian**, **Bettie Graham** and **Nadine Obermiller** had their work cut out for them. Nadine finished in 17th and Terry in 19th. Bettie made the cut but drew 3rd seed Fielitz in her first DE and lost 10-1 to finish in 14th place. Patricia had a good seeding round, promoting as the 4th seed and beating Motoko Kitami of Japan, 10-5, in the first DE but fell to Barbel Gorius of Germany, 10-4, in the round of 8 and to earn a final placing of 6th.

The men's saber (60+) closed out Saturday's events with a strong field of 34 fencers from 16 countries. **Bill Hall** was back to seek another World Championship for the U.S., accompanied by **Peter Calderon**, **Howard Goodman** and **Ray Sexton**. Unfortunately, Howard went down to Michel Hossard of France, 10-5, and placed 24th, while Peter suffered a difficult loss, 10-9, to Josef Krammer of Austria to claim 21st place.

In the meantime, Ray had a convincing win over Milan Pestal of Czechoslovakia, 10-3, before narrowly missing out on making the medal rounds in a 10-9 loss to Malcolm Cawton of Great Britain and taking 5th place. Bill was keeping pace with Ray and took out two good Italian fencers before falling to the German Karlheinz



Traditional Austrian carolers at the Opening Ceremonies. Photo by Sam Lillard.

Esser, losing 10-8 and taking a bronze. Marvin Fine from New York, fencing for Canada, finished 11th.

The team dinner took place on Saturday evening and everyone had a chance to relax and enjoy the Austrian cuisine and think about the final day. Sunday would see the close of competition with men's and women's epee (60+), and men's foil (50+ years).

The women's epee had a good field of 25 participants from 11 countries, with Marie Chantal Demaille of France looking for the foil-epee double for the championship. The stalwarts of the women's team, Bedrosian, Graham and Obermiller, were once again into the fray. Unfortunately, it would prove hard going. Pat didn't promote from the pools and finished ranked 22nd. Bettie was seeded 15th but couldn't get past Anne Marie Richter of Germany in the round of 32, going down 10-5. Nadine had the 12th seed and a bye into the 16, where she faced the very tough 5th seed Margit Waldmann of Germany and a 10-3 final score to end in 13th place. Demaille completed her double victory taking the gold 6-2, over Lisa Astrid Dobloug of DC Fencers, who was competing for Norway.

The men's epee, with 38 competitors representing 13 countries, had Ray Sexton lining up for the trifecta, accompanied by **Jonathon Jeffries**, Calderon, and former finalist Campe. Kaz and Jon had the best of the pools with Kaz promoted 8th and Jon promoted 25th. Of course, this set up the unfortunate situation that they faced each other in the round of 32. Kaz prevailed in the bout, 10-5, and went on to beat Volker Horvat of Australia, 10-6, before having his run ended by 1st seed and eventual silver medalist, Gerard Lapouge of France. This left Kaz with a final placing of 7th, Jon at 26th, Peter at 31st and Ray at 34th.

This event had the distinction of hosting the oldest competitor of the Championships. Emil Koebel of Hungary again lined up to represent his country at the age of 90+. He exemplified the best of fencing and the concept of maintaining an active lifestyle and was a great inspiration to all attendees at the competition.

Men's foil (50+) closed out the official events of the 2004 World Championships with 32 participants from 12 countries taking the pistes. The U.S. was led by defending World Champion **Joe Biebel**, with **Heik Hambarzumian**, **Tom Lutton** and **Joe Streb** rounding out the team. In a day apparently not made for U.S. interests, Tom and Joe Streb drew each other, as happened in the epee event earlier in the day. Tom prevailed with a 10-4 victory to move into the

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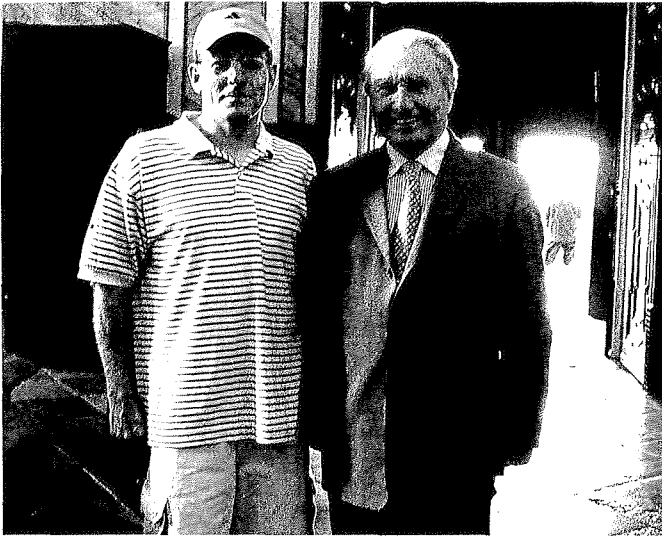
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Joseph Streb and Rene Roch, President of FIE, conferred briefly on the subject of fencing on TV during a chance meeting at the Gottweig Monastery, across the river from Krems, Austria during the Veteran's World Championships.

round of 16. But both Heik and Joe stalled in the 16, with Heik going down to former World Champion Graham Paul of Great Britain, 10-5, and Joe losing to Guilio Paroli of Italy, 10-7.

Meanwhile, Tom was able to take out 4th seed, and 2003 bronze medallist, Kazuo Takeishi of Japan by a score of 8-7 before falling short with Takeishi's teammate and 2003 silver medallist, Isao

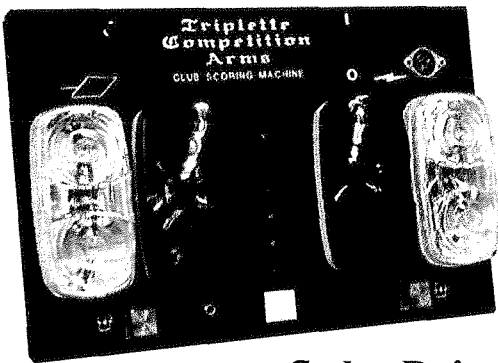
Nakajima, 9-7. In the final standings, Tom placed 8th, Heik was 11th, Joe Biebel finished 12th, and Joe Streb was 20th.

While the official competition was running its course on Sunday, two vibrant "unofficial" team events were being held in the practice hall. **Larry Pinkus** and **Robert Chidel** decided that there was more fencing to be had and set up a saber event (Larry) and an epee event (Robert). These proved very popular, with saber having three teams (U.S., Germany, and a European composite) and epee fielding four teams (U.S., Germany, France and an Australian composite with **Terry Amrine** of Dublin Sport Fencing Center in Ohio doing duty as an honorary Aussie). The success of these events is pushing discussion of including some form of team competition as an official part of the World Championships in the near future. As the organizers work to bring in women's saber as well, the Veteran's World Championships is destined to grow in size and quality.

As we packed for the various return journeys to the United States, a number of very positive images remained from the Krems experience – a beautiful city; excellent volunteer help, especially the three young sons of the head of weapons control who almost disappeared under the mountain of equipment to be checked on the first day but who valiantly and expertly worked their way through the pile; great work by the DT to keep things running smoothly; the free equipment repair provided by the Martin family, the AllStar-Ulmann distributor in Austria; a wonderful closing Gala Dinner.

The world will be coming to Tampa in 2005. Mark your calendars. — AF

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Teach your parents well ... **FENCING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR**

Parents are being introduced to the sport by their kids • by Paul LEVY

Why are there suddenly so many veteran fencers across the country? Lively discussions at Veterans Committee meetings mention the obvious: competitive fencers who turn 40, as well as people who used to fence in school deciding to try it again. But something new has been added. There is an increasing number of veteran-fencing-parents who have begun to fence competitively after their children became involved in one of the numerous youth fencing programs. Parents therefore find themselves car-pooling not only to Little League, tennis and other main stream youth activities, but also to fencing clubs, and many of those parents are joining those fencing clubs and learning to fence in order to participate along with their children. These are the stories of some of those parents who have taken the next step and ventured into USFA competition.

Mark Goldstein is a busy physician from Westport, Conn., whose son began to fence two years ago at Candlewood Fencing Center.

"I realized after a year of sitting on the couch at the club watching him that I am just getting fat. Since Mondays I play jazz piano and Thursday is tennis night, and I'm running three medical offices as a solo practitioner, I figure why not complicate things a little more? So I started lessons eight months ago. If I knew how great (and difficult) fencing would prove to be, I would have started years ago," says Goldstein.

Mark is not just a club fencer, he also competes in veteran's events in the Northeast, where most of the veterans have been fencing for quite a while. "Too bad there is no novice veteran category," he pines (By the way, Mark only has to look to the north a little, because several Boston veterans fenced in a novice competition earlier this year.).

In Los Alamos, N.M., **Tom Hill's** son, **Josh**, was always wanting to try new things, so he suggested Josh try fencing when Tom saw it advertised in the Los Alamos paper. Josh did, and he

loved it. When Tom watched him, it looked like fun, so he took it up as well at age 48. They fenced together for five or six years, through Josh's high school days, but when Josh moved on to college, he dropped the sport. Tom says he "had to decide whether to fish or cut bait. So I decided to become competitive and see how far I could take it and push this old body." Result: Tom was sixth in the 2003 Summer Nationals!

Rich Lukash of Great Neck, N.Y., observed a fencing exhibition in a summer camp when very young (he remembers the names **Bernie Balaban** and **Paul Rosenberg**). When his oldest daughter entered high school, he "wanted to give her an edge," so he found a coach (**Tanya Adamovich**) in the yellow pages and fencing lessons commenced. Rich "decided that it would be fun to do it as well. This became a bonding experience with my two older daugh-

The Escrime du Lac Division 1 women's epee team at the 2003 Summer Nationals included Anne Kercksmar, coach Zoltan Dudas, Louise and Eleanor Leighton and Joanna Niklinska.



ters. We went to lots of tournaments, including youth/veteran combos. Ultimately number three **Molly** entered the sport. **Sarah** and **Molly** evolved to Saber and **Abigail** and I chose epee.” All of his daughters have participated in the Junior Olympics. Now, **Rich** says, “we hope to resume traveling as a family to competitions now that **Sarah** is back from college.”

Cynthia and **Sean Ameli** of Las Vegas, Nev. saw their two children fencing in competitions. Summer Nationals took a great deal of time but was so exciting that they couldn't resist taking up fencing. Now **Cynthia** fences epee four or five times a week. **Sean** is also an epeeist, and he loves to fence with his kids but loses regularly to his 12-year old! It's an all-epee nationally-ranked family, with their daughter **NikNik** ranked first nationally in Y-10 epee as well as fourth in Y-10 foil; brother **Kain** is 3rd in Y-12 epee; **Cynthia** is 19th in WEV40 and **Sean** 35th in MEV40!

When **Bryan** (16) and **Rachel** (8) **Kim** began fencing, dad **Jai** did most of the driving to their practices and matches. **Jai** had competed in martial arts and was a black belt fighter when he was younger. Now of veterans age, he “missed competition,” so he started to fence. Most recently, he won a medal at Arlington, finishing eighth in VetMS. Still, **Jai** says, “my son wins our bouts regularly.”

The **Leighton** family of Mishawaka, Ind. also has its first exposure to fencing through the younger generation. **Louise** and **David's** two children, **Jim** and **Eleanor**, are now mainstays on the Princeton University fencing team. **Louise** says she “learned everything [she] needed to know about competitive fencing by watching and doing for my kids, except how to actually fence.” And then she learned to fence, well enough to finish third in a WEV40 event and seventeenth at this year's NAC in Palm Springs. **David** competes in the NACs and Summer Nationals, as well, and while he looks forward to better results, says “Intriguingly, the one decent fencer I can usually beat is **Louise!**”

Joyce Jones of New Hampshire's Wicked Cool Fencing Club has been fencing all three weapons in veterans events for several years. She took her son **Tristan** to his fencing lessons and competitions and noticed that “everyone was having a good time.” After a while, she was “tired of keeping score” and it was “too cold to run in the winter” in New Hampshire, so she began to fence. In 2003, **Joyce** was third in WSV40 at the Summer Nationals, and she competes regularly in NAC and other veteran tournaments, even in mixed events. She finds it “fun to fence with your kid,” and every once in a while “hit him over the head with a saber!”

Karen Huntress of Bedford, Mass., fences at Boston's Priz de Fer club. Her daughter was fencing and **Karen** “had to be there anyway,” so when a teammate was needed at a team event, she was drafted to fence saber. Since then, she has been a veteran fencer. Often we see her at the bout committee table at NAC tournaments.

One of our top women's saber fencers, **Delia Turner**, of Philadelphia, followed her daughter **Jessica** into fencing. **Jessica** started fencing at the Fencing Academy of Philadelphia when she was in fourth grade. **Delia** and her husband took turns driving her to practices and watching until it was time to take her home again. They thought it was a nice atmosphere, with interesting people. They liked the coach, and the way he dealt with their daughter.



Cynthia and **Sean Ameli** were lured into fencing by watching their children, **Kain** and **NikNik**. Photo courtesy Ameli family.

Delia thought it was a cool sport, though at the time she thought it was only for kids, since those were the only fencers she ever saw. After a couple of years, the coach announced a “parents day” in which they could go through the children's routine and find out what it was about. **Delia** explained that “he had us go through their warm-up routines, and games, and taught us footwork. At the end of the day, he suited us up, put epees in our hands, plugged us in, and had us face one of his top athletes, **Mary Frye**. I managed to hit her twice (you notice I still remember the details). I was hooked. I also had very stiff muscles the next few days. It was a very intense workout.”

One of the nicest things she experienced about fencing was the way she was welcomed into the ranks and found she wasn't even close to being the oldest one around. Moreover, “while adults may not improve as fast as their children do, they have the advantage of life experience, persistence and the ability to drive [them]selves to practice.”

Delia concludes that she knows quite a number of other fencers who started because their kids were fencing.

“In how many sports do parents get to be around their kids this way, as equal members of a community? I think it's better for kids if the rewards for parents don't lie solely in their children's performance. Kids need their own lives, and so do their parents.”

Certainly there are many, many more veteran fencers who also compete in tournaments, and there, too, their competitive kids are rooting for them. Let's go Mom and Dad!

— **AF**

Dan Kellner speaks on ... **YOUR TOURNAMENT BEST**

Having a plan is vital to success • by Dan **KELLNER**

Q *Why am I not fencing well in tournaments? I win lots of my bouts in practice.*

A Lots of younger fencers ask me what do I do if I don't feel motivated during the tournament. It's often easy to blow points during the pool bouts. They say they need help focusing for every touch and every bout.

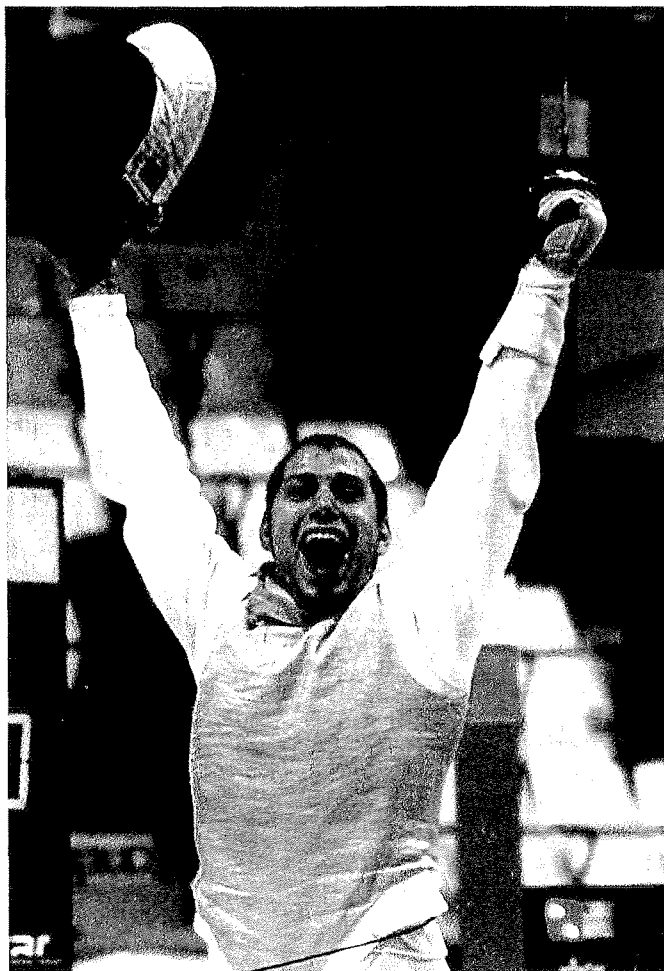
One of the things we've been discussing here with kids is they way that they practice – fencing in practice with your head, with "intention."

The way I get the most out of my practice is to fence with a goal in mind, work on the things in bouts that I need to improve on. Know that winning all your bouts in practice is not necessarily the most helpful way to make you a better fencer.

For me, I barely win any of my bouts in practice. And obviously, the amount I win in practice has no bearing on how well I do in competition.

That's not to say that some days I don't fence to win. We do mini-competitions, where I fence to win every touch. But because I fence my teammates Jed (Dupree) and Jon (Tiomkin) so much, we'd be fencing the same bout over and over and over again if we just tried to win every time.

We do a lot of controlled bouting, where each person has a role, and each person is limited in their roles as to what they can do (say defense or offense a certain way). That's one way that we focus on certain actions. You can choose whatever you want to work on, or do what your coach says



Dan Kellner knows all about performing at his best at tournament time.
Photo: Bob Largman

to work on. It can be anything from "I'm going to practice my beat-four direct attack, and I won't do beat-six because I'm already good at it," or it can be to practice tactics too, say, "I'm only going to do attacks after I pull distance and get away" or "I'm going to work to set up attack in preparation," things like that.

So we try and fence to work on actions, and if they work, they work and if they don't, they don't but we've got stuff to practice. And there will be bouts where I don't do actions I know I'm already good at. If I would only do those things, it's like cheating – kind of like I'm cheating myself actually, because I'm not working on what I need to work on. — **AF**

Dan Kellner, 28, was the captain and anchor member of the U.S. Men's Foil team which placed fourth

at the 2004 Olympic Games this summer – the highest finish for a U.S. Men's Foil team in decades. He was also the double gold-medallist at the 2003 Pan American Games, individual and team, and is founder and president of Athlete Initiative, Inc., a non-profit foundation seeking to help first-time Olympians train and reach their Olympic dreams (www.athleteinitiative.org).

COMPETITION CLASSIFIEDS

The PACIFIC COAST SECTION announces its 2005 Senior and Junior sectional circuit events:

- **January 28-30** Duel in the Desert, Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
 - **February 26-27** Hawaii Open, Blaisdell Center, Honolulu, Hawaii
 - **March 19-20** Sierra Nevada Open, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Chico, California
 - **April 9-10** Youth/Junior Pacific Coast Championships, San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, Cal.
 - **April 30-May 1** Boardwalk Open, Natural Bridges School, Santa Cruz, Calif.
 - **Date TBD** South Coast Youth Invitational, South Coast Fencing Center, Santa Ana, Calif.
- Check out www.pcsfencing.com for information and pre-registration.

USA Sports would like to contact athletes and their parents who are nationally or world ranked with relatives born in Mexico, up to the fourth generation, to invite them to The National Junior Olympics in Mexico in April 2005. USA Sports will cover expenses including airfare, hotels and meals. contact Arturo Mata, 956-778-2228 cell, 956-969-4716 home, 956-702-8358 fax, 916 East Washington, Weslaco, TX, 78596

Metro/NYC 3rd Annual Big Apple Open, venue and date in late April TBD. Please see www.metrodivision.com or contact questions@metrodivision.com for details. This 6 weapon event has drawn on average 200 + fencers. We feature strong competition and quality prizes including Tiffany crystal and glassware.

The **2005 Arnold Fencing Classic**, held in conjunction with the **Arnold Schwarzenegger Fitness Challenge**, will be held in Columbus, Ohio March 5-6. This year's Arnold Fencing Classic will be expanded to include adult mixed open and Y14 events for all three weapons and a Y10 foil only. All competitions are individual events. Fence with Olympians in front of thousands on the big stage, have a chance to meet the Governor! For registration and more details about the unique tournament format please visit www.arnoldfencingclassic.com or www.royalarts.org or contact Julia Richey at 740-501-8521.

Northwestern University announces the **28th Annual Remenyik Open**, Oct. 22-23, 2005. The 2004 Remenyik Open attracted more than 300 competitors in all 6 weapons. Contact Laurence Schiller, lds307@northwestern.edu, 847-491-4654 for more information.

COACH CLASSIFIEDS

Part-time saber coach wanted. Minimum 5 years competitive or coaching experience required, must speak English language; kids be self motivated and enjoy working with kids ages 7-18. Send resume and inquiries to OregonFencing@aol.com or mail to Oregon Fencing Alliance, 4840 SW Western Ave. Suite #80, Beaverton, Or 97005

Seeking Saber Coach. Must be energetic & personable for an up and coming program. Please send resume to include picture, education, experience as a fencer, coaching experience in which weapons, your students' achievements, marital status, contact information, telephone number and address to: The 5 Star Fencing School, 16387 Groce Lane, Hempstead, Texas, 77445.

Got a big competition coming up? Looking for a coach? Looking for a job? Send free classified listings to: Cindy Bent Findlay at USFencingMedia@earthlink.net, fax 614.340.7299. Make sure to include contact information; American Fencing will not act as an intermediary for advertisers and does not research backgrounds or legitimacy of either coaching candidates or advertising employers or clubs. Spring magazine deadlines for all classified ads is March 10, 2005.

TournamentRESULTS

Remenyik Open • Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., October 23-24

MEN'S EPEE	MEN'S SABER	WOMEN'S EPEE
1 Rivera, Christian NYAC/Ohio State	1 Berko, Serhiy European FC	1 Dominick, Christine Illinois FC
2 Schneider, Charles Renaissance FC	2 Kragh, Sam Minn Sword	2 Sullivan, Sharon Northwestern
3T Blackburne, George Unattached	3T Kotsev, Vlado CAAFC	3T Leighton, Loise Esc du Lac
3T Rubrecht, Ward TCFC	3T Truszkowski, Peter CAAFC	3T Niklinska, Barbara Esc du Lac
MEN'S FOIL	WOMEN'S FOIL	WOMEN'S SABER
1 Jedrkowiak, Jakubi Notre Dame	1 Marsh, Ann Renaissance	1 Wells, Carly CAAFC
2 Marsh, Ann Renaissance FC	2 Wallrabenstein, Inga Renaissance	2 Dunn, Lauren Northwestern
3T Habala, Peter CAAFC	3T Florendo, Jessica Northwestern	3T Miller, Alison CAAFC
3T Trenck, Bodo Wisconsin FA	3T Foldi, Julia Northwestern	3T Morich, Marijke CAAFC

Houston Regional Youth Circuit • Houston Athletic Fencing Center, Houston, Nov 13-14

Y14 WOMEN'S EPEE

1	Donnenberg, Elizabeth	SM
2	Howell, Kimberly	AFA
3	De La Torre, Naomi Olivia	SDL
4	Ameli, Nik-Nik	FAN

Y12 MIXED EPEE

1	Donnenberg, Elizabeth	SM
2	Ameli, Nik-Nik	FAN
3	Howell, Kimberly	AFA
4	Witte, Zion	ALL

Y10 MIXED EPEE

1	McInnis, Kael	AFA
2	Rubarth-Lay, Liam	TFA
3	Hudson, Jack	SM
4	Skopik, Bryce	KB

Y14 MEN'S EPEE

1	Parker, Jonathan	TFA
2	Blough, Casey	TEX
3	Nadeau, Kevin	TFA
4	Skopik, Lance	KB

Y14 WOMEN'S FOIL

1	Varadi, Mikayla (Adrienne)	LFPC
2	De La Torre, Naomi Olivia	SDL
3	Bazarbayeva, Dina	ALL
4	Gomez, Marissa	LTFC

Y12 MIXED FOIL

1	Dudey, Michael	SM
2	Azevedo, David	FIT
3	McNamara, Christian	SM
4	Gomez, Marissa	LTFC

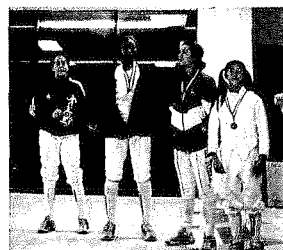


Y-10 Mixed Epee Medallists

Y10 MIXED FOIL

1	Aboud, Russell	SDL
2	Shaito, Mona	FIT
3	McNamara, Christian	SM
4	Skopik, Bryce	KB

Y-14 Women's Epee Medallists



Y14 MEN'S FOIL

1	Nadeau, Kevin	TFA
2	Dudey, Michael	SM
3	Parker, Jonathan	TFA
4	Blough, Casey	TEX

Y14 MIXED SABER

1	Blough, Casey	TEX
2	Grava, Christopher	AFC-GA
3	Jeffius, Alexa	LSFC
4	Overton, Travis	SM

Y10 MIXED SABER

1	Filteau, David	SM
2	Skopik, Bryce	KB
3	Patterson, Joseph	SM
4	Wheaton, Ryan	KB

Y12 MIXED SABER

1	Mitchell, Mason	DFC
2	Neal, George	DFC
3	Gilbert, Alex	DFC
4	Gibson, Conner	DFC

Pacific Coast Regional Youth Circuit • San Francisco, Calif., November 13-14

YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL

1	Nobuo Bravo	MTEAM
2	Jacob Stein	MTEAM
3T	Alexander Massialas	MTEAM
3T	Patrick Sobrak-Seaton	CFA

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

1	Mary McElwee	MTEAM
2	Carolyn Murray	LFPC
3T	Madison Zeiss	LAIFC
3T	Eliza Klyce	MTEAM

YOUTH-10 MEN'S EPEE

1	Alistair Whatley	BHFC
2	Michael Tirella	BHFC
3	Nolan Bailey	Sier

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S EPEE

1	Carolyn Murray	LFPC
2	Maya Bradley	BHFC
3	Rachel Usdan	unatt

YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER

1	Josiah Yiu	LAIFC
2	Jacob Kilgore Sier	
3T	Kaito Streets	FIRST
3T	John Hallsten	LFA

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER

1	Molly Donald	COAST
2	Nicolette Stoddard	FIRST

YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER

1	Turner Caldwell	MTEAM
2	Bryson Abilay	FIRST
3T	John Hallsten	LFA
3T	Jacob Kilgore Sier	

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER

1	Kelly Miller	FIRST
2	Christina Whalen	SCFC

YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL

1	Turner Caldwell	MTEAM
2	Alex Massialas	MTEAM
3T	Nobuo Bravo	MTEAM
3T	Dillon Lew	MTEAM

YOUTH-12 MEN'S EPEE

1	Luc Ginetet	CFA
2	Turner Caldwell	MTEAM
3T	Christopher Mandalian	LAIFC
3	T Chase Houser	CFA

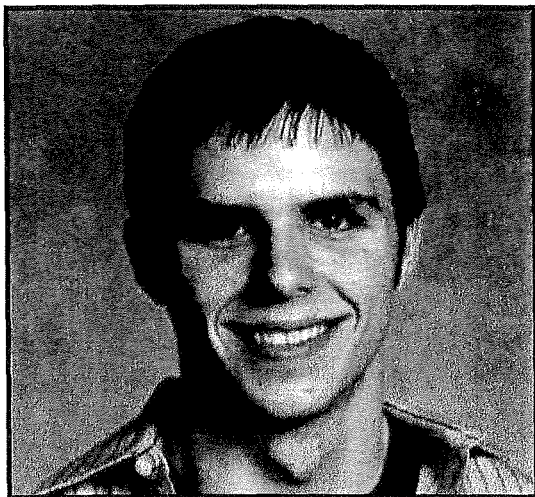
YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S EPEE

1	Katie Bartuzik	LAIFC
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YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

1	Lily McElwee	MTEAM
2	Christina Sours	FIRST
3T	Madison Zeiss	LAIFC
3T	Althea James	MTEAM

Jon **BERKOWSKY** • 15, Sicklerville, N.J./Fencing Academy of South Jersey



TheSTATS

Event: Men's Saber
Birthdate: June 26, 1988 (Vorhees, N.J.)
Hometown: Sicklerville, N.J.
Height: 5-10
Weight: 170 pounds
School: Winslow Township HS, class of 2006
Club: Fencing Academy of South Jersey
Coach: Andy Ma

Jon Berkowsky is one of the up and coming young men's saber fencers already scoring big on the international stage. He's currently ranked second in the U.S. Cadet and 11th in the U.S. Junior standings, and recently earned a silver medal at a Cadet International competition in Poland this September. He reached his first World Championships last season, competing in Bulgaria on the Cadet World Championships team in April.

What is your favorite blade?

"Blue Gauntlet's heavy blade works very well for me."

.....

Who inspires you?

"My coach, **Andy Ma**, for his personal success as a fencer and also his dedication to his students." — **AF**

CareerHIGHLIGHTS

- Silver, Cadet International, Konin, POL, Sept. 2004
- 20th, Cadet World Championships, Plovdiv, BUL, April 2004
- 2004 Under-19 Junior Olympic Champion
- 2004 U.S. Under-16 National Champion and 2nd Under-19

How he started fencing ...

Jon started 10 years ago – he and brother Ron, who also fences, went to see The Three Musketeers (still his favorite fencing movie) and were inspired.

Best bout so far ...

"My first gold medal win in Youth-10 Saber. It was a first for me and also my club."

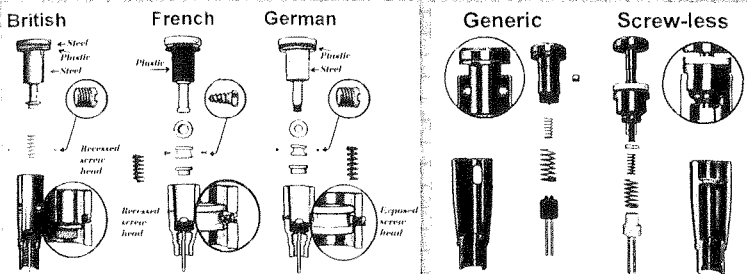
Worst bout so far ...

"My 15-14 loss at World Championships last year in Plovdiv, Bulgaria."

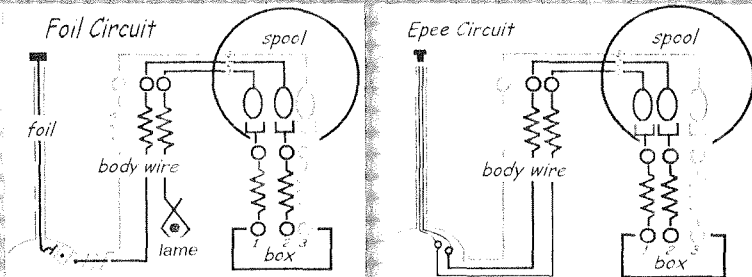
Knowledge is power

Visit www.leonpaulusa.com to see an Armorer's Guide

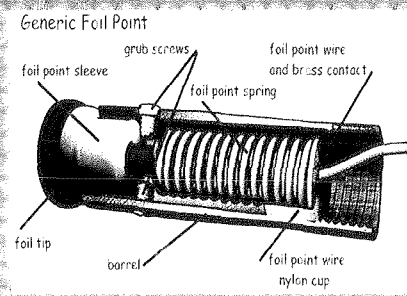
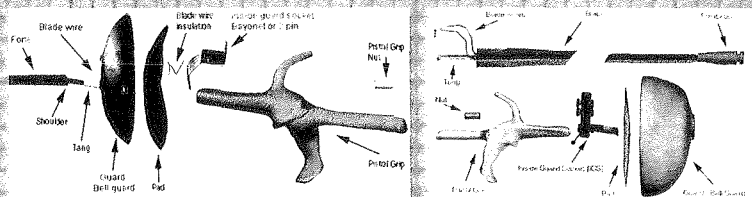
Our in-depth knowledge is power so Leon Paul USA have spent 6 months making a guide to identify the parts and CD models and animations which clearly show how the parts fit together. Step by step demonstrations add more.



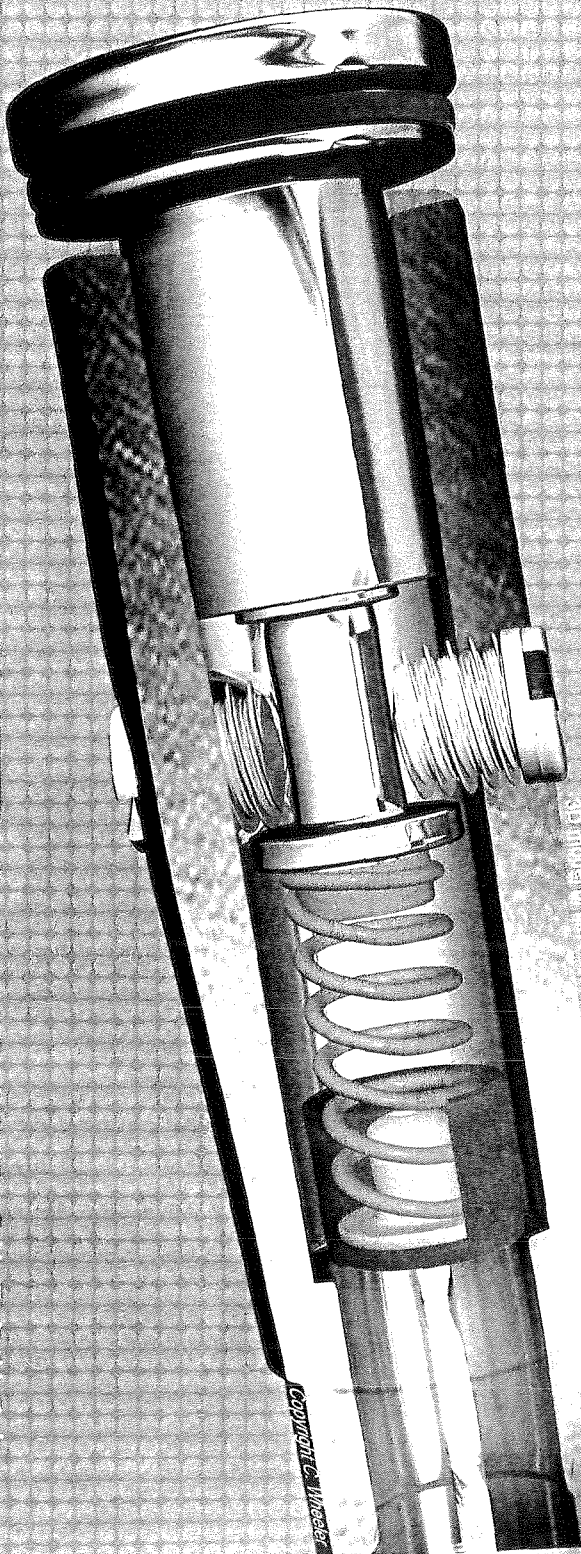
We don't just show Leon Paul designs but so regardless of the component or make you can identify and fix any problems.



Simple circuit diagrams show how electric Foil, Epee and Sabre work and information is included on the history of the weapons and an overview of the rules associated with them.



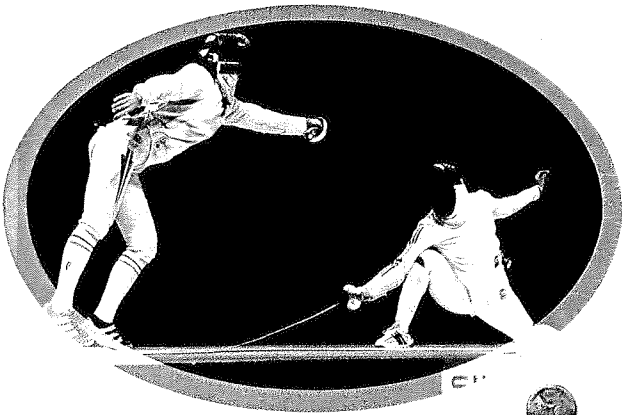
Everything is broken down into its components and annotated clearly so you can easily identify the parts and it also gives details of tips and tools to keep your kit in the competition.



Leon Paul USA
 In association with the fencing.net
 Leon Paul USA 3659 Carmel Rd. Chamblee, GA, 30341 United States
 Email: sales@leonpaulusa.com Website: www.leonpaulusa.com



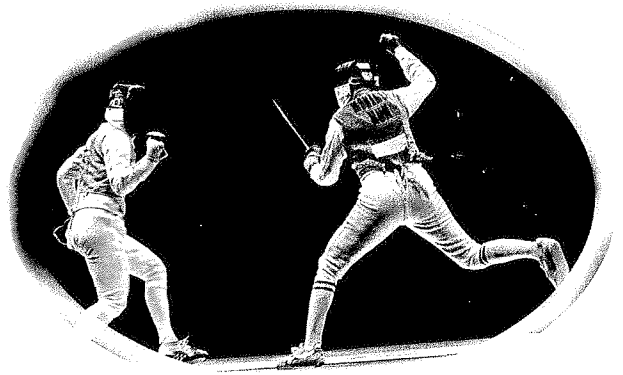
PBT in Athens ... finished strong!



Timea Nagy, Olympic Champion



"Quality
European
Fencing
Equipment"



Aida Mohamed, 4th place



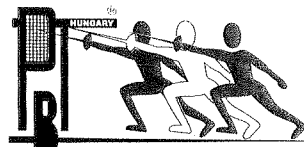
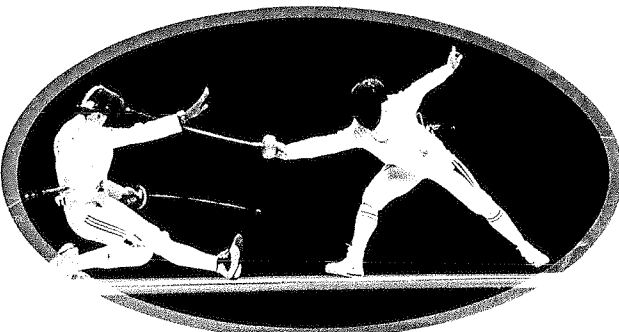
Ildiko Mincza, 4th



Keeth Smart, Team 4th



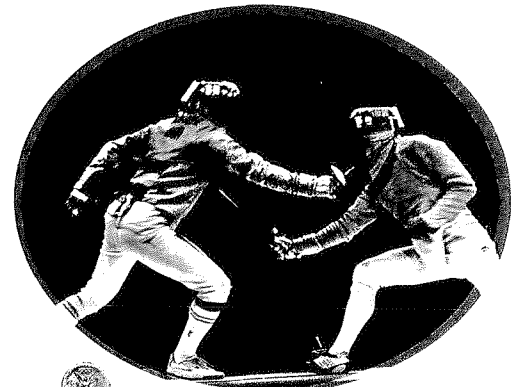
Zsolt Nemcsik, Silver Medal



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