

Stories of Olympic Glory: A Conversation with Bud Greenspan



American FENCING

THE 2005 LEIPZIG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Captain's Log by Jeff Bukantz

GULF COAST FENCERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF KATRINA

THE VALUE OF FENCING STATISTICS

HONORING DANIEL NEVOT

SADA JACOBSON

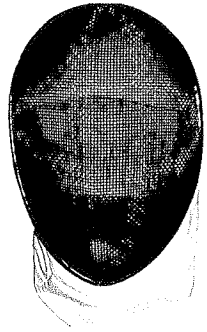
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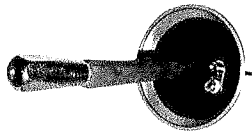


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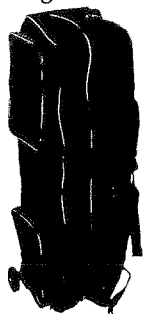
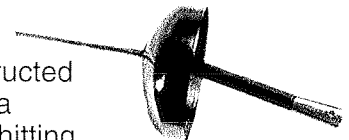


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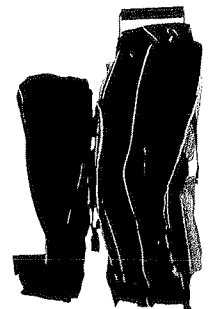


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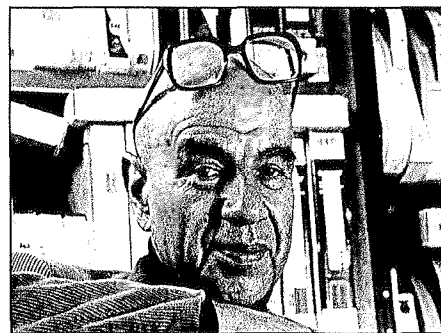
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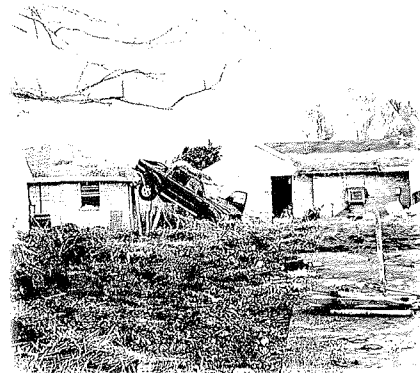
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On the cover:

2005 World Championship Women's Saber Team: Caitlin Thompson, Sada Jacobson, Rebecca Ward, Mariel Zagunis. Photo: Serge Timacheff of FencingPhotos.com

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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In this Issue

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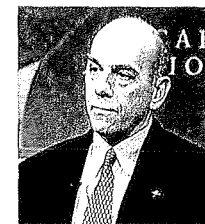
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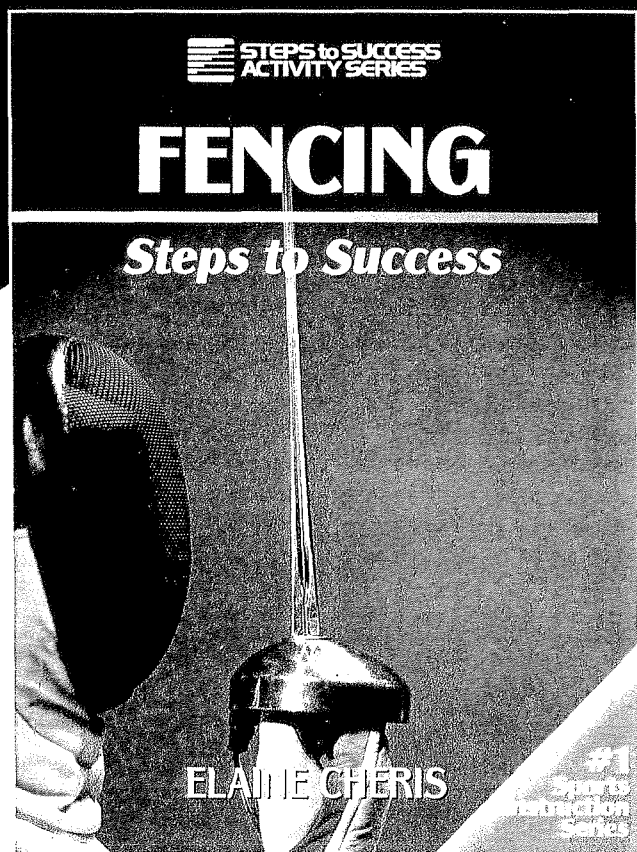


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Readers' LETTERS

Please note that letters must be limited to 400 words or less or they will not be published. Opinions expressed in Letters are not the position of American Fencing or the U.S. Fencing Association. American Fencing reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. Please include your name and hometown when submitting letters to USFencingMedia@earthlink.net.

BAN THE BANSHEES

I sat as did thousands around the world and watched our Olympic saber fencing team in action in the finals on TV. Being an old time fencer (pre-flick era) I looked forward to seeing some fine sword crossing.

Well, needless to say, I quickly learned how fencing has changed in the last thirty-odd years. I shall not be going into that. It was what they did after each point that I address here.

Each time they scored, both fencers turned to the judge, shook their

fists at him and screamed like a pair of banshees. While I was trying to figure out what the purpose of this noise was, the announcer supplied the answer. He said it was to intimidate the judge, apparently so that the point would be awarded to the one that screamed loudest. The judge, however, did not appear to fall for this, though much gusto was expressed by each fencer.

I was raised to believe that the art of fencing was a gentleman's (or lady's) sport and that good manners should prevail on the strip. What I saw that night was a blatant example of extreme rudeness and bullying. I was disgusted by this display, which culminated with the victorious fencer using his sword like a machine gun mowing down the loser. Appalling!

The other night at my fencing club, I was engaged in a practice duel with our master. I was doing pretty well as the score was even at match point. Suddenly I was startled out of my concentration by a blood-curdling scream! Instantly, my opponent

took advantage of the distraction and scored the winning point.

As it turned out, an Argentine fencer—who was almost one hundred feet away—was engaged in his practice match and was the source of the outlandish bellowing. As this was not even a tournament, I could see no reason for his outcries. It was rude and disruptive as each time he bellowed, every head in the room was turned to him (especially the children).

With all the changes that have occurred in this sport, this "fashion" is the most disruptive and unnecessary. It has nothing to do with the scoring of a point or anything to do with skill. It is a childish display that degrades our sport.

I for one would like to see a yellow card awarded to any "banshee" that screams during a bout. Fencing used to have some class to it. Such obnoxious behavior should not be tolerated.

Frank Menser
Deerfield, Florida

FencingNEWS

2006 Arnold Fencing Classic Offers \$1K Scholarship

COLUMBUS, OH—A competition coming up in Columbus, Ohio is offering a unique prize: a \$1,000 scholarship to go to a competitor in the Junior event at the 2006 Arnold Fencing Classic, a grand event that's part of the Arnold Fitness Weekend. The Weekend is a three-day sports festival and fitness expo that welcomes 120,000 visitors and 15,000 competitors annually.

In order to apply for the scholarship, Junior entrants to the competition must create a poster display meant to promote the sport of fencing to the uninitiated. "We wanted to not only reward great performance in fencing but also create more awareness of our sport," says Fencing Classic founder Julia Richey, coach of the Royal Arts Fencing Academy in New Albany, Ohio.

"We hope the posters will be a good tool for that. Also, we hope that creating the posters also creates awareness among young fencers about the need to tell the world how great their sport is."

Criteria used to select the scholarship winner include creativity and effectiveness of the poster, plus performance in the Junior event at the Weekend. The poster will be evaluated by a board created by Richey.

The scholarship will be awarded by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and a Columbus Rotarian as a part of the Weekend's festivities. The Rotary Club of Columbus is the sponsor for the college scholarship—one of twelve the group is awarding to different sports participants at the Weekend.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship—and competing at the Classic—should contact Richey at Julia@royalarts.org.

Dreams for Youth Fencers Earn Their Colors

SAN ANTONIO—The San Antonio Sports Foundation's Dreams for Youth fencing program has implemented a color-coding system that ranks athletes based on skill

and ability. Modeled after the system used in karate, fencers have 12 levels to achieve, with the last three geared toward attaining coaching certification. Assistant Director of Dreams for Youth José Sanchez believes that implementing the system will provide an incentive to athletes, as well as make progress more tangible. Fencers will receive a patch, and the color will change as they attain greater skills and master technique. Sanchez will administer both a practical and written test to rank fencers and says that the system is unique and separates us from the other clubs.

According to Sanchez, the ranking system lends itself as an assessment tool to gauge a student's knowledge and progress. It also streamlines curriculum, making the dissemination of knowledge from teacher to student much easier. "Utilizing this method puts us on a path toward developing lifelong recreational fencers and identifying competitive fencers," explains Sanchez. "Through this color-coded system, we can provide a basis for our fencers to become better, as well as become rated referees and coaches."


For more information on the Dreams for Youth fencing program, contact José Sanchez at (210) 226-5479, or e-mail him at jsanchez@sanantoniosports.org.

The San Antonio Sports Foundation, founded in 1984, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating sports opportunities for our community and its youth. The Sports Foundation bids on and hosts premier amateur sporting events like the NCAA Final Four, which have generated a local economic impact of more than \$200 million. Sports Foundation youth initiatives, including Dreams for Youth and the Valero/Diamond Shamrock Go!Kids Challenge, annually touch the lives of more than 180,000 children in San Antonio through sports training and fitness programs. To learn more, visit www.SanAntonioSports.org. ★

RED CARD

Correction: World Veterans Team member Paula Straka, profiled in the Fall issue, is an epee athlete, not saber. Our apologies and heartfelt wishes for her recovery to Paula.


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Honoring Daniel Nevot

Fencing Master Named to North Texas Fencing Hall of Fame • George Stone

At age 86, the trim and fit Fencing Master Daniel Nevot still jogs every day and teaches fencing. On October 15th, this distinguished hero of the "greatest generation" returned to Dallas and was honored by fencers young and old for his passionate love of fencing, 22 years of teaching and coaching in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and his service in WWII.

At an event sponsored by the Fencing Institute of Texas, Alliance Francaise and the La Reunion Fencing Academy, Mr. Nevot was honored as the first inductee in the North Texas Fencing Hall of Fame, a project designed to preserve local fencing history and recognize individuals and groups who help fencing grow in the region. The master was also presented with a stunning fencing portrait created by noted artist and illustrator Lamberto Alvarez (the portrait can be viewed at www.lamberto.com). The North Texas Fencing Hall of Fame will reside on the Web so that current and future generations of fencers will not forget this history.

Daniel Nevot came to Dallas in 1964 with his French-English dictionary under his arm to begin a second career of teaching fencing in the North Texas area. He had just retired after 25 years of service in the French Marine Corps. Mr. Nevot was one of the original two hundred volunteers who made up the Free French and served under the famed General Leclerc. He received several decorations and awards for his rôle in major battles in North Africa and Europe, including a Purple Heart and the War Cross. He also took part in the Normandy Invasion which earned him a medal from FDR.

He was born into a military family in France and at the age of eight entered a military school. A decade later he joined the Free French forces. In 1943 he became part of the Free French Second Armored Division that fought in coordination with the British forces to destroy enemy positions in North Africa. In 1944 his division linked with Patton's forces to invade Normandy, and was later dispatched to liberate Paris.

After the war he spent much of his time as a physical education instructor in military schools in France and in French colonies in Africa. During those years he became a fencing master and developed his teaching skills and certifications in judo and swimming as well as in the academic fields of math, chemistry and philosophy. In 1963, he retired from the military and a year later he was brought to Dallas by the old Fencer's Club which quickly connected him to St. Mark School to teach. Later he also became the coach at the General Dynamics fencing club. During his time in Texas, several of his students went to the Junior Olympics, placing in the top ten, and two of his students went to the Olympics in Mexico City and Los Angeles.

After 22 years of teaching, he retired to Utah to live with his family, where he continued to teach part-time at a community college. He eventually became a U.S. citizen and received the Chevalier de la Legion D'honneur, the highest award by the French government.

At the celebration in Dallas, several people gave touching and heartfelt accounts of Mr. Nevot's arrival, his personal life and years of teaching. Some traveled from afar, including Bill and Marietta Towry from El Paso, and one former student, Kerry Sulkowicz, from New York, who brought his daughter who has just started fencing. Many of the stories about Mr. Nevot told by his daughter Pat Johnson and former students were about his character. Mr. Nevot has those qualities that

make a coach great beyond teaching technique and technical skills. Besides motivating us to be the best fencers we could be, he also imparted the values of honesty, honor and hard work.

I know those of us who were in our teens when Mr. Nevot arrived did not know what to expect of a French fencing master. With our imaginations fed by historical novels by Dumas and others, we probably had a romanticized notion of what



Nevot stands next to his portrait painted by Lamberto Alvarez.

continued on page 40

Psychological Training

Recovering From Injury · Peter Harmer, Ph.D, ATC

Q I have heard that recovering from a major injury has as much to do with what's in the athlete's head as it does with the actual physical damage. How much truth is there in this?

A In the past 20 years, the importance of psychological training in elite performance has come to the fore and is widely considered to be the major factor differentiating the very best from the rest. What is less well known is how recovery from injury, especially significant injury, can be just as dependent on psychological skills training. Successful return to competition requires a clear understanding of the negative impact of injury on mental well-being (e.g., distress, denial, culpability) and the ability to utilize techniques to overcome these psychological barriers to recover (e.g., education, goal-setting, social support). For an excellent introduction to this topic, I suggest you refer to the chapter "Injury" in the recently published book *Applying Sport Psychology: Four Perspectives from Human Kinetics* (J. Taylor & G. Wilson (Eds)). This chapter reflects the unique structure of the book, with insights and contributions from a variety of people directly involved in the process. Three of the four contributors to the chapter on injury were drawn from fencing and have extensive experience with the problem: Dr. John Heil, Chair of the USFA Sports Medicine and Science Committee, provided the perspective of a practicing consultant in sport psychology; US Olympic fencer, Iris Zimmerman, gave her view as an athlete who had to deal with the dilemmas presented by injury; and I explained some of the issues that clinical sports medicine staff encounter as they guide athletes through rehabilitation. For an in-depth analysis I recommend Dr. Heil's book *Psychology of*

Sport Injury (Human Kinetics, 1993), which may be considered the definitive work on the subject.

Request for Injury Information

The injury surveillance project that we have set up for all of the NACs and other national events is functioning well. I presented preliminary data from the first three years of the program at the Medical Symposium of the World Championships in Leipzig and will have it in print for the benefit of USFA members in the near future. However, we are aware of significant injuries that may occur in club practices, or local and regional competitions and for which no established reporting system is in place. As a first step to expanding the injury surveillance system, reports of any significant injuries (particularly any penetrating wounds or injuries that require treatment in an Emergency Department) should be sent to me at: pharmer@willamette.edu. With accurate information we can work to further reduce the already low risk of injury in fencing.

The newest WADA List

As required in the WADA Code, modifications to the List of prohibited substances and techniques are made public on October 1 each year and become active on January 1 of the subsequent year. The newest version of the List (for 2006), with a summary outlining the changes from the 2005 List can be found at: <http://www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibitedlist.ch2>.

The most notable change is that use of topical glucocorticosteroids such as hydrocortisone for skin, ear, nose, mouth and eye problems no longer requires a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application. However, it is in the interest of all athletes, coaches, parents, administrators and physicians to be familiar with require-

ments of the current List and all of the changes.

The USFA Medical Support Program

As usual at this time of the year I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of the members of the Sports Medicine Support Program. The Summer Nationals in Sacramento marked the end of the fourth season of the USFA program to provide certified athletic trainers (ATCs) or other appropriately qualified sports medicine professionals to all NACs and other USFA-sponsored competitions. I would like to thank the following who volunteered their time and expertise to the program: Maria Duthie (Spokane, WA.); Doug Rank, Lonnie Sellers and Brian Russon (Seattle, WA.); Nick Tobianski (Sterling Heights, MI); Kyle Momsen (St. Peters, MN); Jacon Chun (Stanford, CA); and Jennifer Pejo (Colorado Springs, CO). Special thanks and congratulations go to John and Marli Carollo (San Antonio, TX), who not only continued their outstanding work for USFA athletes but also have gone above-and-beyond by ensuring a future supply of eager volunteers—beginning with their own new addition, Robert! Participants in the 2028 Summer Nationals can be assured of his undivided attention.

I would also like to extend my personal appreciation for the support of Director of National Events, Christie Simmons, and the members of the Bout Committees with whom we have worked, especially Tanya Brown who has been instrumental in data acquisition for our on-going injury analysis study.

Any suggestions or comments on either the program or the performance of the healthcare providers at the NAC are encouraged (feel free to contact me at the email above). ★

Doing the Math

Crunching The Numbers For Team Fencing · Dr. John Heil

Three fencers from each team compete in a series of nine bouts, five touches each, for a total of 45 points – $(3 \times 3) \times (5) = 45$. While these numbers sum up the team competition, they are just a small part of the story of the team game. Team competition is critical to the success of American fencing. Doing the math is simple—when one team qualifies, three fencers are in the Olympic Games, each with two chances to succeed.

Give this word problem a try: “The fencer from Team A loses the first bout 5-0; each fencer from team A goes on to win the each bout 5-4; who has the advantage going into the last bout? Answer: Team A by two—but if you really understood the team game you would know without counting. *Lesson: Be patient; be steadfast; be persistent.*”

In math, there are constants (always the same) and variables (which change). Individual DE bouts are constants —always starting even at “0-0” and going to “15,” if time allows. Team bouts are variables—starting and ending on varying numbers, with bouts most often *not* equal in score at the start. In the team competition, the fencer may start ahead, even or behind, and needs to fence a given opponent accordingly, adding to the tactical complexity of the team game. (Doing the math: “Even Score Tactics” + “Leading Tactics” + “Pursuit Tactics” = “3 x Tactics”.) *Lesson: Be smart; know your plan; work your plan.*

Theory holds that numbers are created equal. But factoring people into the equation creates some unusual and contradictory effects. For example, to most fencers whether an individual DE bout is lost 15-11 or 15-9 is of little consequence. But in a team competition this could be the

difference between winning and losing. *Lesson: Every touch counts.*

Virtually all agree that the last bout is the most important. But which is the next most important? Many feel that it is the first bout, which is puzzling from a pure numbers perspective. In the language of math, a “lead” is a difference score (let’s call it *d*). The further the bout progresses the greater the potential for a large *d*. The first

Momentum in physics is well understood, while psychological momentum remains largely a mystery.

bout is the one with the least to win and the least to lose, and the most opportunity to recover (at most $d = 5$). Its value is psychological—starting the bout well establishes the tone and creates momentum. *Lesson: Be prepared for every bout; make the momentum yours.*

Momentum in physics is well understood, while psychological momentum remains largely a mystery. As a general rule, winning (and losing) is contagious—that is, winning (perhaps by reinforcing confidence) gives way to more winning actions, with the reverse applying to losing. Psychological momentum (call this *m*) is a force pushing in one direction, and resisting push back. But the direction of the momentum can shift—especially with a new match-up. This reveals a para-

dox of sorts: When momentum shifts to the team that is behind, the force of that momentum is potentially greater. For example, a fencer starting the fifth rotation ahead with the score 20 -10 can score five touches. The opponent, on the other hand, can score 15 ($m = 15$ is greater than $m = 5$). In fact, the possibility of scoring a greater number of touches is directly correlated with how far behind a team is. On a practical level, this translates into the possibility of huge wins and devastating losses. *Lesson: Be ready to ride the ups and downs of the team game.*

Consider also the question: Can a tie bout be a victory? In an uneven match-up between fencers, the possibility for the score to make a large shift (change in *m*) is greatest. As the match progresses into the second and third rounds, the value in stopping a superior opponent from making a run increases (because of the possible greater change in *m*). When a relatively weaker fencer holds a superior opponent to a tie, this is a tactical victory. That is, the further the bout progresses the greater the potential for a large *d*. The larger the *d*, the greater the tactical value of tied bout. *Lesson: It is about more than whether you win or lose the bout.*

Then there is the X Factor, that which can’t be easily explained by the numbers. Like how a team of fencers with modest rankings can defeat a team of superior individual fencers. Synergy is used to describe the situation where the whole is more than the simple sum of the parts, where the team is more than the sum of the individual fencers. What is the X factor in the team competition? It is the team itself, their relationships, their collective intelligence and their readiness to fence the team game. *Lesson: more team work + more team knowledge = more Olympic success.* ★

Veterans: Looking Ahead

Burning Issues, Smoldering Thoughts and Radical Ideas About Veteran Fencing • Bob Block

As we move into a new year of fencing it seems like a good time to take a look at the veteran movement, consider some of its current issues and see what the future holds or should hold for us. Give it the old annual physical, if you will, something I think most vets can easily relate to. Competitively, the American pulse seems stronger than ever: American vets won two more world championships in Tampa last September, bringing the total to five since 1998 (one in men's epee, one in women's saber and three in men's saber). We've also collected a multitude of silver and bronze medals during the same span of time at the Veteran Worlds. So, competitively speaking, we appear to be in pretty good shape.

We've made progress in many areas of the sport. The national qualifying path has finally evolved into a pure selection process. Starting this season, all veteran NACs will be age-group specific and you will only be competing for national points against other fencers in your own age category. This is obviously a lot better than having a 60-year old competing for points against a 40-year old who isn't even eligible for the Worlds. After all, the basic premise of age-group competition at any stage is to level the playing field so one can compete against one's peers on a fair basis. There will still be 40 & over-combined events at the NACs, but any points earned will just be used for seeding purposes.

Event-wise, we now have gender equality in weapon categories with three events for both men and women, something the USFA Veterans Committee has lobbied long and hard for. This represents quite a change from the first official championships in 1998 when only men's epee and women's foil were held in La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland. Unfortunately, the same

progress hasn't been made with veteran age categories. The FIE's first test event of a world championship for veterans in 1997 at Capetown, South Africa, where the only event held was men's epee, consisted of three age categories: 40-49, 50-59 and 60 & over. The next year at La Chaux de Fonds the 40-49 age category was eliminated and the situation has remained unchanged with the World Championships presently including only the 50-59 and 60 & over events.

At Tampa last September the team captains voted to ask their respective

We now have gender equality in weapon categories with three events for both men and women.

national federations to petition the FIE to add a 40-49 age group category to forthcoming Veteran World Championships. I think it's safe to assume that the USFA Veterans Committee will endorse this proposal and then the USFA will petition the FIE. However, to be successful the proposal would still have to overcome some entrenched thinking in the FIE hierarchy. It would most likely be dependent on the perceived ability of tournament organizers to handle world championships that would become a third larger than they are now. It would probably also mean that 40-49 year olds would not be able to fence in World Cup events if they wanted to be eligible for the Veteran World Championships.

And at the other end of the age-group issue are the older veterans who would like to see a separate 70 & over age-category become part of the Veteran World Championships. Although the USFA Veterans Committee would undoubtedly endorse this idea, the

indication right now is that the powers that be within the FIE won't even consider such a proposal. In order to change those minds it would probably be a good idea to keep track of the number of international vets over the age of 70 who currently compete in the Worlds and in the veteran movement as a whole. If the numbers are high enough, it might eventually help sway the FIE to add an older age-group category. Although the baby-boomers are on their way, those numbers may not be added soon enough to help current 70 & over fencers who have seen their playing field tilt and would love nothing more than to have it level out again.

We haven't even mentioned funding. Why is it that American fencers in the Junior and Senior World Championships are funded out of USFA coffers, while veteran fencers have to foot their own bill all the way down to the cost of a national team warm-up suit? Our national office will say that there just aren't enough resources to fund all of the teams. This may be true, but the result of the current policy is still inequality. The veteran movement as the "new kid on the block" still gets the short stick. This is an issue that will have to be addressed and rectified as our numbers grow larger and voices louder.

Another thought: Although many do so already, what if every veteran fencer set aside a little time to contribute something to the sport of fencing other than their own personal competitive focus? I'm talking about doing some teaching, coaching, refereeing, committee work or volunteering in any way at the local, divisional, sectional or national level. American veterans have proven that they can win championships and medals, so why not show how valuable veteran involvement can really be to the sport as a whole? And you thought funding was a radical idea. ★

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Blockage Time

More Ghosts Than Saber Ripostes · Jeff Bukantz



October has become one of my favorite months. It starts with the Senior World Championships and ends with Halloween. Yup, October runs the gamut from ripostes to ghosts.

Of course, you can't really see ghosts, everyone knows that. So, I would have to settle for seeing some ripostes in Leipzig at the Worlds.

In Leipzig, there probably were a few incredible ripostes by our saber teams. After all, the women won the World Championship and the men placed fifth, their best result ever. Congratulations to Mariel, Sada, Caitlin, and Becca! You are the best, as are your coaches, Ed and Arkady. Congratulations to Ivan, Tim, Adam, and Jason, you guys were super. Kudos to your great coaches, Yuri and Vladimir.

But, in Leipzig, it became abundantly clear, crystal clear, exactly where our sport was hurt most by the shortening of blockage time. It was in saber, where the riposte has become nearly extinct.

When I was the FIE observer at the men's saber World Cup in Budapest last year, I noticed that there were virtually no ripostes. Even the Olympic Champion, Aldo Montano, known for his ripostes, was reverting to a game that utilized only attacks and remises. Remises? In saber? On purpose?

I thought that maybe the fencers were just experimenting with new ways to get an edge with the shorter blockage time. Maybe, after the initial attempts to beat the timing, the ripostes would reappear.

Then, at the Junior/Cadet World Championships in Linz, Austria, I watched intently as the tall, long, and aggressive British Cadet, Alex O'Connell, steamrolled his way to the World Cadet title. O'Connell basically

charged at his opponents, and, if parried, just remised every time. He did so intentionally and exclusively. Perfectly executed ripostes against him were regularly blocked out. Hey, bully for him, he figured out what was needed to win, he's good, and he deserved it.

But, it was glaring how the riposte game was employed. The winning fencer did not even attempt one during the gold medal bout. The losing fencer, Kuksa of Ukraine, properly mixed up his game with a healthy dose of parries, but each and every riposte was blocked out by the machine.

In conclusion, these teenage fencers figured out that ripostes don't work anymore. The losers found out the hard way.

So, what I saw in Budapest was basically repeated in Linz. Then, at the World University Games in Izmir, Turkey, it was more of the same.

Of course, while the die was cast, and the sabreurs knew that the riposte game was too dangerous to employ, the powers-that-be were adamant that the change to the blockage time was working perfectly.

Show us otherwise, they said. "Prove it," they said.

Seriously, what difference would it make? If the FIE hierarchy didn't see what the shortening of the blockage time had done to the saber riposte, any opposing point of view would be viewed as rabble-rousing.

Sad, isn't it? Basically, the FIE has sacrificed saber ripostes in an attempt to make fencing more TV-friendly.

The result is that we've eliminated the riposte in saber. Does any one reading this think that even one extra viewer will now tune it to fencing on TV because there are more one-lighters?

If you look at the dictionary for the definition of miscalculations, this would be it!

Some would say I'm was just over-reacting. Some would say I'm just trying to justify my position against the blockage change. Some would say I'm just carrying the mantra of the FIE Rules Commission, which was not in favor of this change in the first place. Some would say that I'm blowing off steam because these changes were voted on by the FIE Congress to be used only as a test at the junior level, and somehow morphed into a permanent change even at the senior level.

Or, maybe, just maybe, I'm right.

In Leipzig, I spoke with many fencers, coaches, and team captains about the blockage change taking ripostes out of the game. Most hated the change but some actually liked it. However, those who liked the shorter blockage time, for whatever reasons, agreed that it has basically rendered the saber riposte as obsolete.

In the past, I've railed on those who live in the past, those who spent their time bellyaching about the flick instead of figuring out how to defend against it. I guess I'm a hypocrite, because now I'm doing the same exact thing, albeit with the blockage time change.

So as not to be a complete hypocrite, I agree the fencers have to beat the machine and their opponents as opposed to complaining. Well, duh. As Team Captain, I'll suggest that they remise after every attack and never risk using a riposte, especially on an important touch. Gotta win, after all.

As I've said before, the change to the blockage time has turned "right-of-way" into "wrong of way."

The thought that the best fencers in the world have traded in their classic and beautiful ripostes for ugly and

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Growing Up Fencing

Valuable Lessons We Can Learn On The Strip • Monica Kao

Have you finished reading the manual, yet? Not the manual on how to replace an epee tip, but that pink or blue instruction book that came with the baby. It has personalized directions for getting through the terrible twos and sibling rivalry.

Okay, would have been nice, but your kid didn't come with a manual. And despite well meaning in-laws, the responsibility of teaching life's lessons falls squarely on you. That's where fencing may help. Conventional wisdom says playing a sport can build a kid's character. Fencing seems to encourage a particular set of values. Perhaps our job as parents will be easier and our children's ability to fence will be improved if we recognize these values and reinforce them on and off the strip.

Individual Responsibility

The first sport in our household was soccer. Once a week, our 6-year-old kicked around the ball until it was time for juice boxes, and at the end of the season, everyone was a winner. A few years later, the kids had learned teamwork, how to pass the ball and set up plays. Winning became dependent upon how well the team played together, and teammates shared the excitement of victory and the disappointment of defeat.

Fencing isn't like that. The lessons from a team sport just don't seem to apply to this individual sport. In soccer, 12-year-olds only play against other 12-year-olds. But in fencing, many local and regional tournaments are not categorized by age, so in order to compete, 12-year-olds have to fence older teens and adults. If your child has just started, you'll soon realize that most fencers, particularly beginners, lose more than win. As parents, we can offer encouragement for scoring touches on

more experienced competitors, and a coach can give advice, but a fencer must win or lose each touch, bout, and tournament alone. This sets up lesson number one: on the strip, the fencer, and only the fencer, is responsible for his or her actions—not a coach, not a referee, not another fencer, and certainly not a parent. Taking responsibility for a defeat is difficult, but it seems to make the victories so much sweeter. Good fencing is an individual accomplishment that builds confidence and self-reliance.

Taking responsibility for a defeat is difficult, but it seems to make the victories so much sweeter.

Work Ethic

For me, watching coaches give private lessons is boring: up and down the strip, parry here, hit there, over and over again. Fencing is a learned skill. While some fencers bring talent to the mix, moving and acquiring skill faster than others, most kids soon realize that in order to get better you've got to take that trip to Carnegie Hall—practice, practice, practice. With beginners in particular, spending time and dedication in practice produces tangible results. So the second lesson to be learned on the strip is one of life's little nuggets: if you want something, you have to work for it.

Etiquette

All sports teach sportsmanship. You just can't get away with pulling a ponytail or spiking a ball these days. But in fencing it seems so built-in: salute, shake hands, and lest you be accused of taunting - aim your chest-beating

victory scream at the referee, not your opponent. I've heard that some fencing parents have taken to wearing a navy blue blazer and grey pants to dinner every night, just to hear their kid say, "Sir, please pass the potatoes." Lesson number three: mind your manners.

Growing up

If your teen fencer has the inclination and the ability, encourage him or her to consider refereeing. Most people think of refereeing as a great way to subsidize the cost of fencing. A rated referee is paid an honorarium to work at a national tournament, and depending on how much the referee works, the USFA may also pick up the cost of transportation and lodging. But to see refereeing as only a paycheck is to miss its intrinsic value. Good referees are in control of their strips. They take responsibility for fairly and accurately ruling. Their confidence comes from knowledge of the rules and actions. Isn't that what we would like our kids to be?

Referees are governed and trained by a group of respected national and international USFA referees, the Fencing Officials Commission, commonly called the FOC. FOC Vice-Chair Iana Dakova says to become a referee, first find out whether you have potential, "Read the rule book and then referee at practice. Do you see the actions? Your teammates will tell you how you are doing. If you think you can see it, if you think you feel good doing it, then take the steps to become a referee." Those steps are listed on the USFA web page www.usfa.org, under Competitions and Results, Refereeing for the USFA. The steps are in the Referee's Manual.

Becoming a good referee, like growing up, is a process. "It is not only a way of saving money," says Dakova. "It is a responsibility." Lesson number four: maturity. ★

Wired

Fixing Body Cords and Floor Cables · Joe Byrnes

In the last couple of years, people going into certain body cords (especially) or floor cables, looking to reattach a wire that had broken, just where it disappears into the pin, have found a new problem in clearing the stub end of the wire from that pin. When there is merely wire, held down by a set screw, there has never been a problem. And if the wire had been "tinned," as it's called, i.e., flooded with a bit of solder to make a more solid metal unit for the set screw to bite into or press upon, that has also usually been pretty clear sailing. However, this latest approach, used by a couple of prominent manufacturers, is to crimp a tiny, very soft, metal tag or tab (rather like that on the end of a shoelace) onto the wire, then stuff it into the hole in the pin and crank down the set screw. This makes for a very tight attachment, as it happens, but one that's a real bear to get out, since the soft tab expands to fill the whole bore of the pin. I find that drilling the resultant mass out is about the only approach that works. (You need some rather fancy tiny drill bits; used dental bits work well). Of course you can always throw the pin away, and buy a new one; or, even better doubtless, from the manufacturer's point of view, buy a whole new body cord. (Maybe that was the idea?)

What I am going to advise now is the approach that I feel comfortable recommending and the one that I tend to use myself—some of the time. (Actually, most of the time, but only when there is time.) People who have seen me at work, however, will know that I don't always do it. So here I am, hypocritical me, giving good advice: do as I say, not as I do? Well, let me point out that I have been fooling around with solder and soldering irons for nearly six decades, and have acquired almost

an instinct for what will work. It's the tinning, as mentioned above that is the preferred way to go, when you are dealing with a wire (a stranded wire, of course; that's what it will be) that is to be held by a set screw. The amount of solder to be applied to the free end of the wire need not be very much—in fact, too much will only bulk out your wire to the point where you will probably not be able to get it into the little hole where it must fit. The difference that the tinning makes, however, is great, in the holding power of the set screw. If you merely run the set screw onto, or into, the loose strands of the wire, they will tend to move out of the way, and the resultant fit will be somewhat loose to begin with, and will only get worse with time.

The one exception to this advice is with those assemblies that use spike-pointed set screws that are intended to cut into the plastic insulation and make their contact with the wire after passing through the insulation, which naturally serves to hold the strands together. These are mostly the original Leon

Paul style body cords, although some other models have been encountered. Removing the insulation at the end of the wire is a serious mistake, with these types. Where this approach comes a cropper, however, is with imitation Paul cords (mostly from Far Eastern sources) in which the wire and its insulation is much thicker than the original British design called for. With these, it is impossible to run the insulated wire up through the narrow channels in the foil/saber cord front end, or at the 3-pin end also, for that matter. Then you do have to remove insulation, and are left with loose strands, which cry aloud for careful tinning. ★

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The Big Decision

Part Two: Where and How • Meghan Gardner

In the last article, I listed a number of operational expenses that you would need to consider should you decide to open your own fencing school. Among those expenses was rent.

So the first part of this endeavor is to locate the "Perfect Space." First, let me warn you that there is almost no such thing as the "Perfect Space"... there will always be something that is overpriced or insufficient. But to give you a starting point, here are some items to look for in a good space:

1. Size of space, layout and ceiling height

The space needs to be long enough for your regulation strips and wide enough to fit multiple strips. You will also want to consider the number of bathrooms (two minimum), an office, a viewing area, storage/equipment room, perhaps some changing rooms and possibly a retail area. And don't forget the ceiling height... your taller fencers will thank you and your ceiling will be spared numerous gouges. Ten and a half feet is a good guideline.

2. Location

Does your school get good drive-by traffic? This can make the space much more expensive... but it can also help you stretch your marketing dollars by attracting customers who find out about you by walking or driving past your school and seeing fencers through the window. Another primary concern for location is the demographic of the area. Are you within five miles of the type of client you want to cater to? There is an entire article on this forthcoming. Also consider accessibility to a major highway or mass transit. It is easier to draw a larger circle of students when you are convenient for them to get to you.

3. Parking

Don't underestimate this one. Unless you are across the street from a major mass transit stop, you should seriously consider how much parking you have available to your students and staff. Street parking is hit and miss. Figure the number of students you will have at your facility at one time and then add half again the number (for arriving and leaving crossover traffic).

4. Price

There are different methods of calculating the cost for rent. One type is Gross Rent which includes the lease of the space as well as utilities, taxes, maintenance, etc. The other type is NNN or "Triple Net." Triple Net is a base per square foot cost with the pro rata share of the utilities, taxes, and extra costs passed on to the tenant. Both rental agreements usually include "Common Area" rent – which means you pay a percentage of the rent and costs for the non-rentable space such as the building's lobby, shared restrooms, boiler room, etc. The price is usually quoted in square feet and cost per year. So a 3,000 square foot space that rents at \$10/sq ft NNN would equal \$2500/month plus NNN expenses (3k x \$10 / 12 months).

5. Terms

This is why you need a lawyer to look over the lease. Please spare yourself the terrible experience of being locked into a lease that favors the landlord over you. Some of the terms to be aware of:

a. What is included in the Gross Rent and what is not. What are all of the elements of NNN and are capital improvements included (eg. If the entire building needs a new roof, do you have to pay for it?). For NNN,

what is the history of expenses that other tenants paid and are any of them due to increase (ie. Is there a new tax assessment due that will increase your taxes after you sign the lease?).

- b. Does the landlord require a personal guarantee on the lease? This part of the lease will have the largest impact on your life if your business fails. If a personal guarantee is required, then you are personally liable for the total amount of the lease – and you could be forced into personal bankruptcy if your school closes. My advice: Never sign a lease with a personal guarantee. Imagine signing a lease with a three year commitment for \$2500/month and (for whatever reason) your business closes after one year. You are now on the line for \$60,000 (plus expenses if your lease was NNN) and court costs when your landlord comes after you.
- c. How much Buildout (added or removed walls, flooring, painting, ceiling tiles, wiring, plumbing, etc) is included in the rental of the space? And if you need additional Buildout to make your space useable, will the landlord add it into your rent... and what interest rate will he charge on that amount?

There are many more items to consider and even more to negotiate. Your lawyer can walk you through each item in the lease so you understand your commitment and liabilities. Hiring a real estate agent to represent you (instead of the seller which is what most agents do) is also a good idea.

As you can see, there are many dif-

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An Interview with Bud Greenspan



Bud Greenspan is a legend in the world of sports broadcasting. He has become the chronicler of the modern Olympic Games, producing films that cover the drama of the human spirit in competition in seven Olympiads. His productions have won eight Emmy awards, and in 1996, he was awarded the Peabody Award for his outstanding service in chronicling the Olympic Games.

*American Fencing spoke with Greenspan recently about his film on the Athens Games, *Stories of Olympic Glory*, which features 2004 Olympic Women's Saber gold medallist Mariel Zagunis. Zagunis is one of only two American athletes profiled in the film.*

AF: Have you covered fencing before?

BG: In a superficial way, not as story content. We are known for storytelling, with a beginning, middle and end, and unlike the networks, we do it in 15 minutes instead of three. We were interested in the sport because it takes as much talent, pride and courage as the big ones. Fencing has been almost like a bastard son—our response is, it's because the networks don't know how to do it. It's a pioneering attempt, to give fifteen minutes to a sport people don't know anything about, seemingly.

AF: What was it you found to be compelling about fencing?

BG: The things I found interesting were things that did not happen in the match itself—the gyrations of the two fencers, the winner and loser, told me a story that I didn't have to see with the blades. As soon as the touch was made, one was jumping for joy, the other one in tears. You'll see the passion in the film.

And also of course, the story of women's saberists. The story surrounding that is what put this over the top. What we tried to do is say they are people first and then athletes. The girl who wins was out of it, didn't even qualify at first for the Games. To come up out of left field and win your way back is a story whether it's rowing, boxing, it just happened to be saber.

Human nature prevails on our shows. You can have drama in fencing, cycling, track... We were happily surprised that we have gotten so much interest in the spot, people saying gee, I didn't know about any of that. We are hearing a lot of questions about the sport so far.

AF: What was the biggest challenge in depicting fencing?

BG: Most people think of fencing as Errol Flynn jumping up and down in Robin Hood. Getting across of course the rules of fencing—there are still some questions that are tough to answer, because of the visual aspects of the touch. In my own office, they didn't see a difference in who touches who first. The scoring light did not come through as we were hoping it would.

AF: How did you then approach the problem?

BG: We told the audience. We the made narrator Everyman. What he says, so and so touched first, and then you see the look on so and so's face, and the audience is duped into figuring it out. We have someone figure it out for you so you don't have to worry. When someone was asking who won that, now we can tell by the huge smile, throwing off of helmet, whatever. I was wrong myself a couple times.

AF: Were you able to catch on yourself to how the sport is played?

BG: I can now watch, yes, but it became my job. It's like cricket. The Brits don't understand how we don't understand cricket. It's exciting sport, the noise it makes is exciting. What has to happen is the sport has to not depend on itself to promote these things.

AF: So you're saying, *Go out and teach the audience?*

BG: Yes. It was lucky with us—the story we used was almost like a bad movie—you have the best friends, the sisters, having to face each other to qualify... If you wrote it as fiction, people would not believe it. The champion of the world almost does not make it to the team ... and wins eventually.

But no one knows how the team is selected. I had the opportunity to see it 20 times a day, I finally put it together, but it still does not emphatically come across, and that is of great substance.

So not only the selection process but also who's winning, you have to make that more obvious. I found myself watching for helmets to come off.

AF: Could fencing ever be more popularly broadcast?

BG: It all depends on what TV can do with it. If TV can manipulate the sport to the viewer at home, and be satisfied that the viewer is presented with something understandable—with every sport, there's a finish—you cross the finish line, in boxing there's a knockout, you have to produce the finish, so everyone in the world can understand.

AF: Do you have suggestions on how to make that happen?

BG: We were thinking about it—no, so far. We didn't see one saber touch, and there were many. You've got to experiment. It's not the speed of the blades, the blades are OK, It's the last touch—the thing missing is the light going off, a great sound, perhaps.

Also I think the length of the touch, the sport also makes it over too quickly. The challenge is, the defense and offense have to be explained. I'm a layman, but becoming an expert.

AF: Would you cover the sport in the future?

BG: There has to be residual benefit besides fencing itself. The story of the two sisters, the friends, the mother—all our stories have human interest involved. The actual match so far has not been the deciding factor. It was the human interest thing that put us over the top to do it. ★

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HARD TIMES IN THE Big Easy

by Cindy Bent Findlay

Richard Exnicio's neighbor's truck...not exactly where he left it.

The holiday season approaches, and the fencing season is in full swing. For most of us in the fencing world, life is a busy mix of nightly or weekly club practice, career, homework or housework, Christmas shopping and planning for that next big tournament trip.

For hundreds of our compatriots along the Gulf Coast, however, this fall and winter has been a different thing entirely.

Some have lost their homes and feel lucky to have escaped with their lives. Many of those who still have homes mostly intact lost their clubs, their equipment, their workplaces.

The sport they love has had to take a back seat to recovering from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a one-two punch that has left fencing in New Orleans and around the south stuck in the mud.

The brightest spot is that as far as the USA's Ark-La-Miss Division officials can tell, no fencers seem to have lost their lives to the storms.

But sport will be put on hold for at least months to come. When fencing is able to return to the Big Easy, and in what form, is anyone's guess.

"So many nice folks in Atlanta have been inviting us to come fence, offering to loan equipment... but the big thing right now is just, even if I could fence, and you can't in New Orleans, we're still in crisis mode. Every drop of spare time we have is spent carrying drywall and talking to insurance companies. So many other things have to be done first," says Richard Exnicios.

It's a devastating blow, especially considering the rich fencing tradition in New Orleans. Tulane University has had a club

since 1834. The New Orleans Athletic Club has archives of newspapers advertising Mardi Gras fencing tournaments going back into the 1700s.

Exnicios's experience typifies that of many local fencers. An attorney by trade and head Fencing coach at Tulane University as well as one of the instructors at the New Orleans Fencing Academy, Exnicios lives in a turn-of-the-century home about a mile from the University in one of the city's oldest suburbs.

Structurally, Exnicios's house is OK, and his family was able to evacuate to Atlanta in the nick of time. His wife and 4-month-old son are still staying with relatives.

But as is the case with most residents' homes, the damage came mostly from the flood of Lake Pontchartrain — three feet of brackish water that hung around for a very unpleasant two and a half weeks.

As a result, everything on the ground floor—traditionally serving as a New Orleans basement — is completely ruined, including the floor and walls themselves.

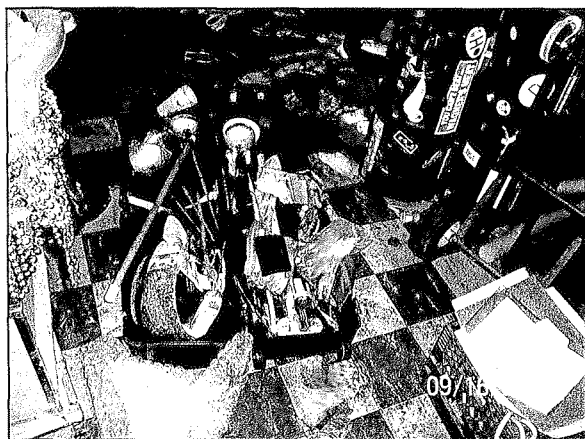
"Once the water went down the amount of mold and corrosion was staggering. Anything of fabric, cloth, wood, metal, ruined. We lost all the wedding pictures, almost every picture we've ever taken, all of my fencing medals from more than 20 years," says Exnicios.

The financial damage is as devastating as the personal loss. Exnicios had been storing gear and ten strips worth of scoring equipment for several clubs — \$30,000 worth that's not even worth recycling.

"You take an FIE maraging steel blade and soak it in salt

water for two weeks, you can snap it like a twig," he says. "The small parts on the reels are totally corroded."

It is true most homes, as well as Tulane University, were covered by Federal flood insurance. But that insurance is



A bag full of moldy and rusted equipment ready for the trash heap.

strictly capped, and most will see only perhaps half or even less of what they lost reimbursed.

Tulane, for instance, may have their equipment covered, but rebuilding their campus will obviously take top priority. Varsity sports are on hold for perhaps years; there's no telling when club sports like fencing will be funded again.

The New Orleans Fencing Academy's gym was flooded out, its floor destroyed. Head Coach Eugene Hamori is living in North Carolina with his daughter and may or may not return, according to his friends, and at least one other coach is probably permanently relocated.

The New Orleans Athletic Club is open but the fencing program is on hold. Tulane University, shut down for the semester, will reopen in January, and Exnicios says the club will hopefully be back as well, though hurt badly by the loss of the annual fall chance to recruit freshmen.

Some bright clouds have emerged after the storms. The fencing community across the country swung into high gear to help out. Clubs from all over flooded Exnicios's inbox and phone with offers of help.

"As soon as people found out where we were, offers came left and right for a meal, a job as a coach, a place to fence, to live. People were coming out of the woodwork. I can't tell you how nice it was to feel the love. When you're in a catastrophic situation, that makes all the difference," says Exnicios.

South Houston High School in Houston, Texas recently sponsored a tournament donating all proceeds — \$1,000 — to the hurricane relief effort. The USFA is seeking equipment vendors, many of whom have already pitched in, to match donations to replace lost equipment.

Exnicios says for now, as thankful everyone is for the offers

for fencing help, New Orleans athletes just can't take anyone up on them—yet.

With all of the programs on hold, many fencers scattered around the country, and those who are at home trying to rebuild their lives, they can't even take inventory yet on what is needed.

"Come February, March, don't forget us! Please! that's when we're going to need it," says Exnicios.

The future will be murky for some time to come. No one knows how many fencers and coaches will return to the coast. No one is quite sure where the money will come from to replace equipment and gyms.

"If someone wanted to come start a new program, this is the opportune moment," says Exnicios. "Those here now have so many other things to deal with that I can't go coach anyone right now. If you wanted to come down, you'd be welcomed. We're tired, we're exhausted."



The trash heap outside of Exnicio's home after a few days of cleanup.

Come to the Crescent City Open, he suggests, the area's largest annual bash. It will be held March 5-6, and, he says, it will be held in New Orleans... somewhere.

"For us it was important to have it in New Orleans, the same weekend, for a moral victory. We're wet, we're soggy, but here," he says.

If you would like to contribute to help fencers who have been devastated by Katrina, you can do so through The Fencing Foundation. The foundation is usually used as a basis for development of normal fencing activities, but those activities have been suspended to take regular charitable donations to assist our fencing families and, if funds allow, clubs. The Foundation is currently working on methods of donating equipment and strips as well.

You may contribute to The Fencing Foundation's Katrina relief effort by sending checks to: The Fencing Foundation; 2249 Guinevere Way; Atlanta, GA 30345; contact: Exnicios@bellsouth.net. ★

Teams USA (Gold), Russia (Silver), Hungary (Bronze) at the Women's Saber medal ceremony.



Captain's Report 2005 LEIPZIG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Jeff Bukantz

While it was hard to believe that over a year had passed since the ultra-successful Athens Olympics, it was an increasingly confident United States team that embarked for the Leipzig World Championships late this past October.

The teams started arriving by weapon and were met at the airport by Team Manager Andrea Lagan, and then taken to the Renaissance Hotel. It was a good sign to see the Italian fencers in the lobby, as they always stay in the best hotels. Without a doubt, the athletes and coaches felt this was the best hotel we've stayed at in a long time.

The fencing was held at the spacious Leipzig Arena, about

a twenty minute drive from the hotel. The team had a van helmed by Andrea, which was crucial due to the extremely limited shuttle schedule. Without a doubt, we need to prioritize the renting of a team van on future trips.

The post-Olympic year always represents a worldwide changing of the guard, as many fencers retire while new stars emerge. In addition, this would be the first Senior World Championships utilizing the new contact and blockage times. In our case, missing were familiar faces Keith Smart, Erinn Smart, Iris Zimmermann, Emily Cross, Jan Viviani, Kamara James, and Stephanie Eim. In fact, eleven of the twenty-four fencers were Senior Worlds rookies.

Spirits and expectations were high, especially in men's saber and men's foil, both of which placed fourth in Athens. Of course, our expectations were sky-high in women's saber, as Sada and Mariel, our two Olympic medalists, were ranked nos. 1 and 2 in the world. While the team was ranked seventh, anything less than a medal would be considered a disappointment. The bar was also set high for Soren Thompson, who had reached the final eight in both Havana and Athens.

DAY ONE: MEN'S EPEE INDIVIDUAL (177 ENTRIES)

Seth Kelsey was seeded 15th and earned a bye into the 64. In the pools, Ben Solomon overcame a shaky 0-2 start to finish 4-2, +3. Thompson was 3-3, -2; and Cody Mattern was 2-4, -4.

In the table of 160-96, Thompson beat Casa Erck of Belgium 8-4; Solomon beat Mendez of Argentina 15-8; Mattern beat Bonde of Denmark 15-14.

In the table of 96-64, Thompson beat Albrekht of Georgia 15-9; Solomon lost to Shabalin of Kazakhstan 15-4; Mattern beat Dominguez of Argentina 15-8.

In the 64, our epee hopes were dashed in rapid fashion. Mattern lost a close one to no. 1 seed Carozzo of Italy 15-11, Kelsey's style didn't match up with Motyka of Poland 15-6, and Thompson lost a heartbreaker to Fabrice Jeannet of France, the eventual silver-medalist, 15-14. Final rankings: Kelsey, 36th; Thompson, 63rd; Mattern, 64th, Solomon, 76th

Captain's Log: Mattern, Thompson, and Kelsey are experienced and have all made World Cup finals. Solomon is a high-energy fencer with tremendous talent. While epee has the deepest pool, there is no reason why this group can't have much better success during the rest of the quad.

WOMEN'S FOIL INDIVIDUAL (75 ENTRIES)

In the pools, Hanna Thompson was 5-1, +15; Samantha Nemecek was 3-3, +1; Doris Willette was 2-3, -2; Andrea Ament was 1-5, -9 and was eliminated. Thompson and Nemecek drew a bye into the 64.

In the table of 96-64, Willette lost to Andrei of Romania 15-12. In the 64, Nemecek lost to Gabriella Varga of Hungary 15-9. Thompson had a 15-0 walkover, as her opponent Fuenmayor of Venezuela did not show up in time for the bout.

In the 32, Thompson's good fortune reversed, as she drew eventual silver medalist Anja Muller of Germany. After a tough fight, Hannah was defeated 15-10.

Final rankings: Thompson, 25th; Nemecek, 56th; Willette, 65th; Ament, 76th.

Captain's Log: This was a very young team, as only Thompson was a veteran of a senior worlds. She is a battler, and has the ability to break through. Both Nemecek and Willette showed signs of being very competitive at this level, which was very encouraging at their stage of the game.



Women's Saber Team

Ament has succeeded in epee and foil at the cadet and junior levels, and has thrived at the high-pressure NCAA level, but wasn't on her game in Leipzig.

DAY TWO: MEN'S SABER INDIVIDUAL (114 ENTRIES)

In the pools, Adam Crompton was 6-0, +14; Jason Rogers was 5-1, +13; Tim Morehouse was 5-1, +10; Ivan Lee was 4-2, +12.

All except Lee drew byes into the

64. In the table of 96-64, Lee beat Amirov of Azerbaijan, 15-6.

In the 32, Rogers lost to Dumitrescu of Romania 15-8; Lee beat Oh of Korea, 15-13; Crompton lost to Boyko of Ukraine 15-10; Morehouse lost to Medina of Spain in a nail biter 15-13. In the 32, Lee lost a close one to Sanson of France, 15-13.

Final rankings: Lee, 29th; Crompton, 41st; Rogers, 45th; Morehouse, 47th.

Captain's Log: It sure was weird not having former no. 1-ranked Keith Smart on the team. Crompton is athletically gifted and has tremendous upside. Rogers is already an Olympic veteran and has proven capable of beating top fencers. Morehouse is relatively new at this level but has already shown he is ready to succeed. Lee has been in finals and will do so again. Unfortunately, the chips didn't fall right in Leipzig.

WOMEN'S EPEE INDIVIDUAL (132 ENTRIES)

In the pools, Kelley Hurley was 3-3, 0; Maya Lawrence was 3-3, -6; Lauren Willock was 2-3, -6; Lindsay Campbell was 1-5, -8 and was eliminated.

In the table of 160-96, all three had byes. In the table of 96-64, Hurley beat Rodic of Serbia, 15-11; Willock lost to Bacioiu of Romania 15-7; Lawrence lost to Romagnoli-Tatouk of Switzerland 15-12. In the 64, Hurley lost a really tough bout to Nisima of France 10-8. Final rankings: Hurley, 61st; Lawrence, 83rd; Willock, 86th; Campbell, 115th.

Captain's Log: Hurley, at the ripe age of just 17, is the current Cadet World Champion and a veteran of senior teams. Once she combines an offensive game or second intention game with her stellar defense, she will improve at this level. While some rookies fence at their first senior Worlds like a deer in headlights, Willock showed a fighting spirit and competed well. Lawrence and Campbell are talented and experienced, and once they develop confidence in their games, should continue to improve.

DAY THREE: WOMEN'S SABER INDIVIDUAL (82 ENTRIES)

Well, there is no getting around the fact that this is the flagship of the USFA's portfolio right now. With Olympic Gold Medalist Mariel Zagunis ranked no. 2 and

Olympic Bronze Medalist Sada Jacobson ranked no. 1, they were favored to repeat their Athens success. In addition, our team boasted current Junior World Cup Champion Rebecca Ward and 2004 Cadet World Champion Caitlin Thompson.

Zagunis and Jacobson, of course, had byes into the 64. In the pools, Ward emerged with the best record at 5-0, +18; Thompson was 3-2, +5 to qualify for the table of 64.

In the table of 64, we ran into terrible luck as Mariel, Becca, and Caitlin all landed in the same quadrant. Zagunis beat Guittierrez of Venezuela 15-5; Ward beat Suikayeva of Azerbaijan 15-6; Thompson beat Cloutier of Canada 15-12. Jacobson beat Chicon of Spain 15-5.



Olympic Gold Medalist Mariel Zagunis

Day One

MEN'S EPEE INDIVIDUAL (177 ENTRIES)

Gold: Pavel Kolobkov, Russia
Silver: Fabrice Jeannet, France
Bronze: Bas Verwijlen, Netherlands
Bronze: Claus Moerch, Norway

WOMEN'S FOIL INDIVIDUAL (75 ENTRIES)

Gold: Valentina Vezzali, Italy
Silver: Anja Muller, Germany
Bronze: Edina Knapek, Hungary
Bronze: Adeline Wulleme, France

Day Two

MEN'S SABER INDIVIDUAL (114 ENTRIES)

Gold: Mihai Covaliu, Romania
Silver: Stanislaus Podzniakov
Bronze: Oleg Shturbabin, Ukraine
Bronze: Alexey Yakimenko, Russia

WOMEN'S EPEE INDIVIDUAL (132 ENTRIES)

Gold: Danuta Dmowska, Poland
Silver: Maarika Vosu, Estonia
Bronze: Laura Flessel-Colovic, France
Bronze: Sherraine Mackay, Canada

In the 32, Zagunis beat Vignaux of France 15-11; Ward beat Gheorghitoaia of Romania 15-13; Thompson lost to Lucchino of Italy 15-11; Jacobson beat Nagy of Hungary 15-9.

This set up a battle of Oregon Fencing Alliance teammates Zagunis and Ward in the table of 16. In this meeting, youth overcame experience as the fifteen-year-old Ward beat Zagunis 15-9. Jacobson single-handedly eliminated Hungary by beating Csaba 15-9.

In the final of eight, our medal hopes were ruined as Italians Lucchino beat Becca 15-11 and Bianco beat Sada 15-13. Whereas the fifteen minute timeframe when both Sada and Mariel won to make the medal round in Athens was exhilarating, this temporarily took the wind out of our sails.

At the finals, Sada was presented the medal for once again winning the Senior World Cup. Final rankings: Jacobson, 5th; Ward, 7th; Zagunis, 9th; Thompson, 26th

Captain's Log: It is pretty sick when we can have two finalists in the World Championships and go back to the hotel devastated. It is time for everyone to understand that while our fencers have had inordinate success, there are plenty of other good fencers out there. The bottom line is that we take the women's saber success completely for granted and we need to appreciate their incredible results as opposed to expect it. Of course, I expect to be appreciating more great success in the future!

MEN'S FOIL INDIVIDUAL (139 ENTRIES)

Dan Kellner was 12th ranked and drew a bye into the 64. In the pools, Andras Horanyi showed no nerves whatsoever in his first Senior Worlds and went 5-1, +14. Jonathan Tiomkin was 5-1, +8; Jed Dupree was 4-2, +2. All three had byes in the table of 160-96.

In the table of 96-64, Horanyi beat Seliverstov of Ukraine 15-14; Tiomkin lost to Okano of Japan 15-9; Dupree beat Richter of Austria 15-7. In the 64, Dupree lost to Wu of China 15-3; Kellner lost to Goncalves of Portugal 15-11; Horanyi lost to Szuchnicki of Poland 15-11. Final rankings: Kellner, 35th; Horanyi, 45th; Dupree, 52nd; Tiomkin, 66th

Captain's Log: This was a disappointing result for the experienced foilists. All three Olympians have had big results, but this wasn't their day. As for Horanyi, he obviously has a bright future, and has already shown to be a cool customer at the senior level.

In the six individual events, this is how we fared: Out of twenty-four entries, seventeen reached the round of 64. Five reached the round of 32. Three reached the 16. Two reached the top 8. The positive outlook is that we've done much better in the recent past and are likely to do much better in the near future.

DAY FIVE (NO EVENTS ON DAY FOUR): MEN'S EPEE TEAM (38 ENTRIES)

We were seeded 7th and drew a bye into the 32. In the 32, we handily beat Qatar 45-20. Thompson was 15-5, +10; Mattern was 10-1, +9; Kelsey was 15-8, +7; Solomon was 5-6, -1.

In the 16, we drew a tough Spanish team. The guys led from the start until the 7th bout, where the score was 25-20. Unfortunately, Font beat Mattern 5-0 in the eighth bout to draw even. Abajo outscored Kelsey 13-10 to win the match 38-35.

For the match, Thompson was 13-8, +5; Kelsey was 14-14, 0; Mattern was 8-16, -8. This was a winnable match, and a top 8 was within reach.

In the 9-16 bracket, we faced a tough South Korean team. We went into the seventh bout trailing 21-13 but Thompson scored a gigantic 11-4 to bring us within 24-25. The South Koreans held on to win 45-42. For the match, Thompson was 16-13, +3; Mattern was 10-9, +1; Kelsey was 16-23, -7.

In the 13-16 bracket, we beat Sweden 45-40. Solomon was



Junior World Cup Champion Rebecca Ward

12-8, +4; Mattern was 6-4, +2; Kelsey was 13-12, +1; Thompson was 14-16, -2. In the 13-14 match, we lost to Switzerland 45-30. Kelsey was 4-5, -1; Solomon was 11-14, -3; Thompson was 7-11, -4; Mattern was 8-15, -7.

For the day, Thompson was 65-53, +12; Kelsey was 62-62, 0; Solomon was 28-28, 0; Mattern was 42-45, -3. Final ranking: 14th

Captain's Log: There was a chance for a big result in Leipzig, as the Spanish match was in hand and the feeling was that we matched up well with Germany in the 8. This is a veteran team, and they all held up their touch ratios for the day. The only thing that hurt was an untimely bout against Spain.

With the likelihood that the nucleus of this team will remain intact, there is a good chance that it can break through into the upper echelon.

WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM (19 ENTRIES)

We were seeded 11th and drew a bye into the table of 16. In the 16, we drew a highly experienced French team consisting of Seigneur, Wuilleme, and Matrejean, and were overmatched by 45-23. For the match, Thompson was 9-13 (-4); Nemecek was 11-18 (-7); Willette was 3-14 (-11).

In the table of 9-16, we rebounded by soundly defeating Kazakhstan 45-23. The highlight came when Willette clobbered Kazantseva 10-4 in the third bout to open up the match. For the match, Thompson was 15-6 (+9); Willette was 10-4 (+6); Ament was 10-6 (+4); Nemecek was 10-7 (+3).

In the table of 9-12, we clobbered Canada by a score of 45-

20. For the match, Willette was a stellar 17-4 (+13); Thompson was 15-8 (+7); Ament was 8-4 (+4); Nemecek was 5-4 (+1).

In the match for ninth place, we drew a very tough German team which was originally ranked fifth. As in the French match, we were no match for the depth and experience of the Germans, as they won by 45-29. For the match, Thompson was 12-10 (+2); Ament was 2-3 (-1); Willette was 6-10 (-4); Nemecek was 9-22 (-13).

For the day, Thompson led the way at 51-37 (+14); Ament was 20-13 (+7); Willette was 36-32 (+4); Nemecek was 35-51 (-16). Final ranking: 10th

Captain's Log: Considering the inexperience of this team (except for Thompson) at the senior level, this was an excellent performance. They battled against no. 6 France and no. 5 Germany, and fenced great against Canada and Kazakhstan. Willette, Nemecek and Ament all showed signs of being able to compete with the big guns, and they will certainly continue to improve as they gain the necessary experience.

Thompson has the tools to be a very valuable team fencer, as proven by her touch scores with France and Germany. The reality is that with the addition of Emily Cross, this group could easily score some big wins. The further reality is that if Iris Zimmermann and/or Erinn Smart decide to go for Beijing, our women's foil team could once again regain its elite status.

DAY SIX: MEN'S SABER TEAM (25 ENTRIES)

We were seeded fourth and drew a bye into the table of 16. In the 16, we drew a very tough South Korean team. The guys



Rebecca Ward leading the way.



Team USA: 11 of the 24 fencers were Senior Worlds rookies.

got the lead in the second bout and went on to win 45-36. For the match, Rogers was 14-10 (+4); Lee was 16-13 (+3); Crompton was 15-13 (+2).

In the final of 8, we drew the no. 5-ranked Ukraine, which boasted the loaded lineup of Lukachenko, Tretiak, Boyko, and Shturbabin. The guys were ready and fenced their hearts out from the first touch.

Rogers out-hit bronze medalist Shturbabin 5-3 in the first bout and we maintained a lead throughout the eighth bout, 40-39. Unfortunately, Shturbabin got his revenge on Lee, and the 6-3 margin gave Ukraine its first lead to win the match 45-43.

Day Three

WOMEN'S SABER INDIVIDUAL (82 ENTRIES)

Gold: Anne Lise Touya, France
 Silver: Sophie Velikaia, Russia
 Bronze: Ilaria Bianco, Italy
 Bronze: Alessandra Lucchino, Italy

MEN'S FOIL INDIVIDUAL (139 ENTRIES)

Gold: Salvatore Sanzo, Italy
 Silver: Liangliang Zhang, China
 Bronze: Nicolas Beaudan, France
 Bronze: Andrei Deev, Russia

Day Five

MEN'S EPEE TEAM (38 ENTRIES)

Gold: France
 Silver: Germany
 Bronze: Ukraine

WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM (19 ENTRIES)

Gold: South Korea
 Silver: Romania
 Bronze: France

This was a heartbreaker, as these guys were once again in the running for a medal. The refereeing was fair, but Ivan did come out on the short end of two very close and controversial calls in the last bout. For the match, Rogers was 15-14 (+1); Crompton was 15-15 (0); Lee was 13-16 (-3).

In the table of 5-8, we beat China 45-31. For the match, Morehouse was 15-8 (+7); Lee was 15-9 (+6); Rogers was 15-14 (+1). In the match for fifth place, the guys trounced Germany by 45-34. For that match, Lee was 15-7 (+8); Morehouse was 15-9 (+6); Rogers was 15-18 (-3).

For the day, Lee was 59-45 (+14); Morehouse was 30-17 (+13); Rogers was 59-56 (+3); Crompton was 30-28 (+2). Final ranking: 5th



A little team building: clockwise from top left, Andras Horanyi, Jed Dupree, Tim Morehouse, Ivan Lee, Adam Crompton, Dan Kellner, Jon Tiomkin.

Captain's Log: Despite the disappointing loss to the Ukraine, this was a great competition for the sabreurs. The team was without former no. 1 in the world Keeth Smart, yet proved that they are still among the best in the world.

Ivan Lee is the emotional leader of the team, as well as the closer. While he came up just short against Ukraine's Shturbabin, Ivan has the makeup to handle the pressure. Both Morehouse and Crompton more than held their own in their first senior worlds and will be integral in keeping this team at or near the top. Rogers is steady, calm, and cool, and is now a mainstay the team relies on. This group is very strong as is, but it would be a powerhouse with the return of Smart.

WOMEN'S EPEE TEAM (23 ENTRIES)

The team was seeded 14th and drew the Czech Republic in the table of 32. After 6 bouts, the Czechs held a 27-26 lead.

The match was basically won in the seventh bout when Hurley scored a huge 8-2 win over Stefflova, and the team went on to win 45-37. For the match, Hurley was 13-7 (+6); Lawrence was 15-13 (+1); Campbell was 16-17 (-1).

In the 16, we drew no. 3-ranked France, the eventual gold medalist. The team hung tough through five bouts, and kept the score to 14-20. The French opened it up in the next two bouts by a 15-7 margin and that was that, 45-31. For the match, Campbell was 13-16 (-3); Lawrence was 8-11 (-3); Hurley was 10-18 (-8).

In the table of 9-16, we lost to no. 6-seeded China 45-27, with China winning all nine bouts. For the match, Willock was 4-5 (-1); Campbell was 7-10 (-3); Lawrence and Hurley were both 8-15 (-7).

In the table of 13-16, we lost to no. 7-seeded Ukraine, World University Games gold medal team in August, by 45-35. For the match, Campbell was 13-14 (-1); Lawrence was 11-15 (-4); Hurley was 11-16 (-5).

In the match for 15th place, the women beat Japan 41-25. They deserve a lot of credit for continuing to battle after such a tough day, where they fenced three of the top-eight teams along the way. For the match, Campbell was 21-14 (+7); Willock was 10-5 (+5); Hurley was 10-6 (+4).

For the day, Willock was 14-10 (+4); Campbell was 70-71 (-1); Hurley was 52-62 (-10); Lawrence was 42-54 (-12). Final ranking: 15th

Captain's Log: The epeeists competed hard but were out-matched against the top teams. In order to move up the ladder, Lawrence and Campbell will have to step up while Hurley continues to gain experience. Willock showed some grit in her first appearance at this level. Eventually, the team will need to develop a leader who can bring positive indicators against the top teams. With slightly better draws, the result could have been higher, but the team performed admirably.

DAY SEVEN: MEN'S FOIL TEAM (27 ENTRIES)

We were seeded 6th and drew India in the round of 32. The guys dominated by a 45-12 score. For the match, both Kellner and Tiomkin were 15-3 (+12); Dupree was 15-6, (+9).

In the round of 16, we drew Canada. The match was precariously close after five bouts, as we held a narrow 19-15 lead. In the sixth bout, Kellner put the match out of reach with a huge 9-3 over Hindi Khaled, and the team went on to win 45-31. For the match, Kellner was 17-5 (+12); Tiomkin was 15-14 (+1); Dupree was 13-12 (+1).

In the final of eight, we ran into a buzz saw, as the Chinese took it to us, 45-33. The guys fenced as hard as they could, but were basically out-fenced on this day. For the match, Tiomkin was 13-15 (-2); Kellner was 12-15 (-3); Dupree was 8-15 (-7).

In the table of 5-8, we lost to a gritty Polish team, by 42-37. For the match, Tiomkin was 14-12 (-2); Dupree was 10-13 (-3); Kellner was 13-17 (-4).

In the match for 7th, we lost to Austria 36-35 in overtime. While the guys were less than pleased fencing for seventh, they went tooth and nail until the last touch of the day. Unfortunately, Dupree was the recipient of four calls in the eighth bout that turned a potential big lead into a 30-30 tie. Schlosser scored the deciding touch against Kellner.

For the match, Kellner was 12-10 (+2); Dupree was 12-11 (+1); Tiomkin was 11-15 (-4).

For the day, Kellner was 57-35 (+22); Tiomkin was 57-44 (+13); Dupree was 46-46 (0). Final ranking: 8th

Captain's Log: The trio of Kellner, Tiomkin, and Dupree has been the team for a few years now, and just missed a medal in Athens after the monumental upset of Germany. They also ended a thirty-two-year-old hex against Cuba when they beat them at the 2003 Pan Am Games in Santo Domingo.

Despite the loss to China, and the ultimate result in Leipzig, this is still an elite team. What the team needs is some new blood to both push them and step in when necessary. In the meantime, this close-knit group will continue to rely on Kellner to close and Tiomkin to provide positive touch ratios and plenty of emotion. As I've said before, it will be the continued emergence of Dupree that will vault this team into medal contention. Once Dupree's confidence reaches the level of his athletic prowess, he can be a huge force.

WOMEN'S SABER TEAM (17 ENTRIES)

Well, I saved the best for last. This team, with Emily Jacobson, had won plenty of World Cups; however, it had been unable to win the elusive World Championship. Last year in New York, the team had a big lead going into the ninth bout against Russia for the gold, but couldn't close the deal. Would they be snake-bitten or would they get the monkey off of their back?

The team was seeded no. 7 and drew a bye into the table of 16. In the 16, we drew a surprisingly tough team from Great Britain. After five bouts, we were barely ahead by 25-21. Young Ward won the next bout 5-1 against veteran Bond-Williams and the women never looked back, winning 45-38. For the match, Ward was 15-9 (+6); Jacobson was 13-9 (+4); Zagunis was 5-6 (-1); Thompson was 12-14 (-2).

In the final eight, we drew no. 2-ranked France. The team was trailing 10-6 when Zagunis scored a big 9-4 win over Berengier to give us our first lead of 15-14. The team won the next six bouts to earn a decisive 45-32 victory. For the match, Ward again led the way at 15-8 (+7); Zagunis was 19-14 (+5); Jacobson was 11-10 (+1).

In the round of 4, we drew no. 6-ranked Hungary. After getting the lead in the second bout, the team went on to win 45-27. For the match, Zagunis was 18-4 (+14); Jacobson was 15-5 (+10); Ward was 12-18 (-18).

Finally, it was time for the gold medal match. Finally, it was time to extract revenge against the top-seeded Russians, who broke our hearts last year in New York.

The team women's saber gold medal match would be the final event of the championships. After a disappointing time in Leipzig, we were hoping to leave on a high note. And, to be candid, a silver medal would not have done the job.

Ward, under an inordinate amount of pressure for a fifteen-year-old, opened up the match with a 5-4 win over Netchaeva. Zagunis added to the lead with a 5-1 win over Kormilitsyna and the team went on to avenge last year's loss by a no-doubt-about-it score of 45-36! For the match, Zagunis was 15-8 (+7); Jacobson was 15-12 (+3); Ward was 15-16 (-1).

For the championship day, Zagunis was 57-32 (+25), Jacobson was 54-36 (+18), Ward was 57-51 (+6), Thompson was 12-14 (-2).

So, after all the near misses since their win in Budapest in 2000, where Sada and Mariel were joined by Nicole Mustilli and Chris Becker, we can once again proclaim, "The United States, Women's Saber World Champions!" Final ranking: 1st

Captain's Log: The team got over the hump, so that can only bode well for the future. The strength of the team was not diminished by the loss of Olympian Emily Jacobson, as Becca Ward stepped right into her spot without a hitch. Sada and Mariel have been two of the top fencers in the world and there is no reason they can't maintain their lofty status. Caitlin Thompson is very capable and will be able to compete at this level.

Day Six

MEN'S SABER TEAM (25 ENTRIES)

Gold: Russia

Silver: Italy

Bronze: France

WOMEN'S EPEE TEAM (23 ENTRIES)

Gold: France

Silver: Hungary

Bronze: Germany

Day Seven

MEN'S FOIL TEAM (27 ENTRIES)

Gold: France

Silver: Italy

Bronze: Germany

WOMEN'S SABER TEAM (17 ENTRIES)

Gold: United States

Silver: Russia

Bronze: Hungary

One of the best parts of this championship was that both Sada and Mariel closed the door when put in the high-pressure closing position.

FINAL CAPTAIN'S LOG: CADRE

Sending a full team to a World Championships is a daunting task. It takes tremendous effort from so many people, an effort that starts in the National Office with Corinne Greenman.

The cadre was exceptional. First and foremost, kudos go to Team Manager Andrea Lagan, who did a great job. Andrea took care of logistics, from airport runs to perpetual van runs, to providing food at the hotel and at the site, to planning a terrific team dinner. And, to repeat, the entire team really appreciated staying in a top-notch hotel.

Our armorers, Ron Herman, and Kathy Waters, were simply great. They were there to fix weapons, sew on patches, re-fix names and logos, and deal with whatever the FIE Semi delegates would throw at them. Our trainers, Doug Rank and Brian Russon, were equally great. They were always present and available for whatever the athletes needed. Thanks to John Heil, our Sports Psychologist, who still couldn't figure out what is wrong with me!

And at the end of the day, we'd be nowhere without our dedicated coaches. I want to especially thank our great team coaches Simon Gershon, Paul Soter, Nat Goodhart, Michael Pederson, Ed Korfanty, Yury Gelman, and Jim Carpenter. You are the glue of your squads, and I thank you for allowing me to work with you in Leipzig.

I'd also like to thank the unofficial coaches who helped out the team, Vladimir Nazlymov, Emik Kaidanov, Terrence Lasker, Michael Marx, Mike Nemecek, and last but certainly not least, Arkady Burdan. Special thanks to our referee, Charles Washburn, and to head of Arbitrage, George Kolombatovich.

THE OVERALL RESULTS

Considering we brought home a World Championship, it is tough to view Leipzig as an overall disappointment. The individual results weren't up to expectations, but it just isn't a cakewalk to reach the top 16 in any weapon. As for the teams, we knew going in that both women's foil and epee were not likely to get a big result. Men's epee continues to be a puzzle, as the talent is there but the results just haven't been, at least on a consistent basis.

As for men's saber and foil, our two teams that made the



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medal round in Athens, there was nothing to be ashamed about a top eight result. In order to crack the top four, the stars sometimes need to be aligned. In the case of saber, it was close. In the case of foil, it was not.

Once again, on behalf of the entire organization, hip, hip, hooray for our Women's Saber Team of Caitlin Thompson, Rebecca Ward, Sada Jacobson, and Mariel Zagunis, the 2005 World Champions! And congratulations to their coaches, Ed Korfanty and the lovable Arkady Burdan. As always, it was an honor and a privilege to lead our team, and my thanks to the ISPC for selecting me. ★



Winning

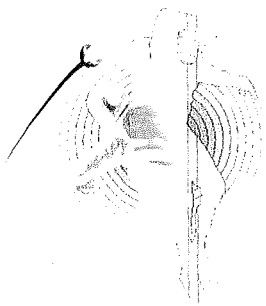


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What's in a Number?

The Value of Fencing Statistics

By Martin Tetloff

At tournaments you see this happening more frequently: smart fencers are recording their bouting experience in journals and noting details about opponents and on their own performance. Well-coached juniors are recording their scores in bouting and writing about their experience. Tournament organizers are using software like Fencing Time for scorekeeping and transfer all of the tournament scoring information to online programs like the Fencing Results and Events Database (AskFred.net). These variations of tabulations are examples of statistics, the science of collecting, assigning and analyzing numbers and information.

Research and technology are shedding ever greater insight into human behavior, ranging from how attitude affects performance, biomechanical efficiency, to decision making in sports, to player selection and performance under pressure. Thinking with numbers has helped athletes see their game in a whole new light, often completely redefining the game for them in the process. This trend is making its way into the highest levels of sport. There is potential and value at all levels in fencing as well.

Tournament results are the primary source of information about performance. Anyone can calculate their own winning percentage (the number of wins divided by the number of bouts fenced), a statistic to exhibit a basic trend in performance when maintained over time.

Keeping track of the tendencies of your opponent, what works or doesn't, is a form of statistics. Bout analysis information can provide awareness of the tactical and technical strengths and weaknesses of an individual fencer in order to devise strategy. If the numbers show that you consistently fall prey to a given tactic or fencer, there is a reason to revisit a skill or refocus your training.

Aladar Kogler suggests that using and recording the number of bouts fenced at high intensity in workouts, when integrated into training, like periodization, are good benchmarks to use in the analysis and comparison of competitive performance.

The list of statistics in sports is endless and each sport has its own unique set in maintaining a relatively detailed level of performance. Many sports have detailed statistician manuals defining the rules and methods to record numbers based on a common set of definitions of actions and sport specific events. This is much more than just scorekeeping and in fencing no such manual exists.

Scoring forms provide little useful information except the result. Accurately recording information like the number of attacks that arrive on target versus off target, types of attacks, successful counter attacks, or parries where the riposte landed valid, etc. requires detailed bout analysis. It's not an easy task. It requires a trained eye and standards. It should be recorded as a normal part of the game for the value it provides.

Like the baseball fan tabulating activity through nine innings, an informed fencing statistician would need to observe, record and tabulate a multitude of actions that occur anywhere on the field of play in a very short timeframe over a number of touches and bouts. This is highly problematic.

There really are no widely accepted rules into what information in bout analysis should be recorded or how to actually record it. Only the NCAA in individual and team nationals qualification define, maintain and use factual and comparative data for a 'winning percentage', the basic win/loss statistic and a 'fencer power rating', a comparative statistic.

Making sense and making comparisons based on the numbers without a common and accepted set of statistical rules is simply not possible.

Fencing needs a common set of statistics to define performance along the lines of baseball and other sports where there is a variety of informational and trend based statistics. This kind of information would provide so many more interesting dimensions to the sport.

With our continued success at the international level, there will be a real demand for a meaningful set of information and statistics about the game and the fencers in front of the camera.

This need mandates that we educate fencers, plan for and work toward ways of getting and maintaining statistics for the bigger picture and the greater good of fencing.

Professor Zbigniew Czajkowski calls for “careful observation of competitions (visual observation, film video), analysis of technique and tactics, range of application and efficacy of various fencing actions and practical differentiation” and has presented information from the World Championships in Melbourne citing a set of fencing actions suitable for a baseline set of statistics. These include hits scored or received by attacks, ripostes or counterattacks and those actions that can be delineated through the careful observation and recording of referee calls. He designed indexes of effectiveness for offensive and defensive actions, a significant comparative statistic.

Many interested individuals are actively working toward manual methods of bout analysis. Walter Flaschka of the Oxford Fencing Club devised a sensible form with recording guidelines for any informed observer.

In New Zealand, Martin Brill, the President of their fencing national body, is working to develop an automated analysis tool using digital video technology. Imagine the power of a system that can record “actions such as attacks, parry ripostes, counter attacks, where on the piste each scored most of their hits or where hit, the preferred targets or lines, etc.,” and then to generate a statistical game report “comparing the effectiveness of play and each persons actions in the different phases of the bout,” such as the one the Kiwis seek.

The USFA Committee on Sports Medicine and Science led by Dr. John Heil has an active project in development called EScout, a method of recording fencing activity using

a PDA device intended for high level competitive tactical development.

Someday information entered into the portable device will be transferred to an online result database like AskFred.net to potentially generate as a by product competitive or comparative statistics.

What needs to happen? A national level committee should decide on elements of the game to measure, determine how, document and disseminate them into a statistician’s manual. We need to begin a creative discussion on the long term development of fencing information.

As the sport of fencing grows and exposure in the media expands, the need for information about fencing, fencers and the nature of the sport will increase. Used by the media for reporting and editorial discussion, the value, relevance and nature of the information will be useful in all levels of fencing to highlight the strength and depth of fencers in comparison with each other. In turn this will make the game much more multifaceted and increase understanding of the sport.

Some are reluctant to use statistics, believing that number crunching is no substitute for the wisdom of a good coach nor the intuition gained from experience on the strip. Fencing Master John Proctor correctly states “statistics do not take into account the reasons for performance, only the results.” Without some grounding in numbers, though, it is difficult to make reliable insightful comparison.

“In the final analysis,” as Coach Charles Selberg is fond of saying, the moment to moment decisions on the strip must come from good coaching, solid training, intuition and experience of the fencer—but the more information a coach or fencer has to go on, the better. ★

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Focus On The Fencing

Olympic Medallist Sada Jacobson on Refereeing Issues

Q What do you do when a referee makes a bad call?

A First of all, I think that the more experience you get, the more you realize there are three potential reasons making bad calls. First, even the best refs don't catch everything, people are human and make mistakes. If a good referee makes good calls, and one is a little off the mark, you have to roll with it and realize no one is right all the time.

Then there are referees who make a lot of bad calls all the time. It's very frustrating when you know you're performing correct actions but they're not being taken into account. But part of fencing is working with the referee, figuring out what they see and are not going to see. You have to make every action more clear when working with a referee who is not strong. You can't expect all referees to have the same strengths.

Fencers really shouldn't get involved in going to the bout committee while competing.

But even more frustrating for me is the circumstance where you feel the ref is being unfair and maybe not being honest entirely. But that happens much more internationally than anywhere else, certainly not in U.S. fencing. You can't adapt to that, you're just limited to making one light touches.

You need to concentrate on making every action as clear as possible, and go back to the techniques you're working on. If you have a one light touch - which is obviously not possible all the time - but if you are clear enough in your strategy, it's going to be hard to dispute that, especially with the new saber timings, that has helped a lot in terms of making things a lot clearer for the referee. On the fencers' part it's much easier to have one light touch.

I am really adamant that fencers while competing really shouldn't get involved in going to the bout committee. It's very tricky to negotiate all of those kinds of issues. I've seen a lot of very difficult situations occur when fencers try and get into that. It distracts from your performance and not what you should be focusing on. The most important thing is for fencers to concentrate on their fencing more than anything else.



Sada Jacobson. Photo courtesy Brentwood Imaging Las Vegas.

Finally, I think that having tough calls go against you is a really good learning experience. At some point you will surely encounter a referee who is not so strong or really not honest so it's good to be able to deal with that in a calm, focused way and not let it fluster you -- that's the worst thing that can possibly happen. If you lose focus and concentration, that makes it very difficult to win the bout. You just have to know, OK, there will be another day, another bout, another referee.

Sada Jacobson is the 2003, 2004 and 2005 World Cup Champion in women's saber. She one of only a handful of athletes in history to three-peat a World Cup title. She was also the bronze medallist at the 2004 Olympic Games in the women's saber event. Jacobson is graduating from Yale University this December. ★

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24th Penn State Junior Championship · State College, PA · October 15 - 16, 2005

MEN'S EPEE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 HEFLICH Brian (Mission FA)
- 2 HADLEY Dan (Penn State FC)
- 3 FULLERTON Brendan (Penn State FC)
- 3 KRAFT Dennis (Penn State FC)
- 5 ROGERS Reese (Liberty FA)
- 6 AMANQUAH Kwabena (BFC)
- 7 DELANEY Alexander (NJFA)
- 8 PAGLIACCIO David (FAW)

WOMEN'S EPEE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 ANTHONY Kathryn (FAP)
- 2 POORBAUGH Samantha (Ligioneer FC)
- 3 CIGANEK Heather (FC of Long Isl.)
- 3 GRASSO Jessica (Ligioneer FC)
- 5 URBANOWICZ Martyna (LFA)
- 6 LEATHERS Samantha (Penn State FC)
- 7 LARKIN Emma (LFA)
- 8 GURNOWSKI Elyse (Medeo FC)

MEN'S FOIL FINAL RESULTS

- 1 GOLDENBERG Alex (Penn State FC)
- 2 HEY-COLON Sergio (Penn State FC)
- 3 DINAPOLI Emerson (Penn State FC)
- 3 GASPARIN Janos (Penn State FC)
- 5 MACCLAREN Robert (Rochester FC)
- 6 ROGERS Reese (Liberty FA)
- 7 CHANG Chun Ming (Penn State FC)
- 8 HEIMAN Nicholas (Penn State FC)

WOMEN'S FOIL FINAL RESULTS

- 1 GLASSER Ali (Penn State FC)
- 2 LINK Cordelia (BCAF)
- 3 DUNN Alanna (NYFC)
- 3 GONZALEZ Sara (Penn State FC)
- 5 PIRK Samantha (FC of Long Isl.)
- 6 FITZSIMMONS Christina (Black Diamonds)
- 7 ROSE Kristin (Univ. of Rochester FC)
- 8 LEATHERS Samantha (Penn State FC)

MEN'S SABRE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 VONGRIES Alex (Penn State FC)
- 2 WILLIAMS JR. Marty (PWF)
- 3 BIELEN Andrew (FA SJ)
- 3 RUDNICKI Alexander (LFA)
- 5 BROWN Torian (PWF)
- 6 EFTHIMION Philip (Medeo FC)
- 7 GULMAN Kurt (Brentwood HS)
- 8 BROWN Matthew (Medeo FC)

WOMEN'S SABRE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 MERZA Celina (National FA)
- 2 DIEDRO Lowey (PWF)
- 3 MATTISON Alyxandra (NYFC)
- 3 SCALA Caitlin (Academy of Holy Angels)
- 5 KOZMINSKY Molly (CPFA)
- 6 RUDNICKI Marie (LFA)
- 7 RUSSO Jessica (National FA)
- 8 SAKOWICZ Oliia (LFA)

Nittany Lion Cup Open · State College, PA · October 15 - 16, 2005

MEN'S EPEE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 URMAN Arthur (Penn State FC)
- 2 SKARTBRATT Erik (Penn State FC)
- 3 BRUSCKE Alex (Penn State FC)
- 3 KRAFT Dennis (Penn State FC)
- 5 MOODY Jimmy (Penn State FC)
- 6 HADLEY Dan (Penn State FC)
- 7 BRUMBY Max (Chevy Chase FC)
- 8 SYPES Michael (Penn State FC)

WOMEN'S EPEE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 WANGNER Lauren (FC of Long Isl.)
- 2 DOOM Terrie (Chambersber FC)
- 3 COOK Katie (Penn State FC)
- 3 GRASSO Jessica (Ligioneer)
- 5 URBANOWITZ Martyna (LFA)
- 6 GURNOWSKI Elyse (Medeo FC)
- 7 FOOR Gabriella (FAP)
- 8 ZIELINSKI Diane (Medeo FC)

MEN'S FOIL FINAL RESULTS

- 1 YORUKOGLU Murat (Penn State FC)
- 2 CHANG Chun Ming (Penn State FC)
- 3 DINAPOLI Emerson (Penn State FC)
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- 5 GOLDENBERG Alex (Penn State FC)
- 6 HAMILTON Ian (Penn State FC)
- 7 MILLER Chris (Penn State FC)
- 8 GASPARIN Janos (Penn State FC)

WOMEN'S FOIL FINAL RESULTS

- 1 DONATH Annkathrin (Penn State FC)
- 2 NAJM Tami (Penn State FC)
- 3 GLASSER Ali (Penn State FC)
- 3 ROSEN Dana (TRFC)
- 5 LINK Cordelia (BCAF)
- 6 GONZALEZ Sara (Penn State FC)
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- 8 PIRK Samantha (FC of Long Isl.)

MEN'S SABRE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 VONGRIES Alex (Penn State FC)
- 2 BIELEN Andrew (FASJ)
- 3 DAVIDSON Raskrie (PWF)
- 3 REBLEWSKI Axel (Penn State FC)
- 5 BOGHICEV Franz (Penn State FC)
- 6 WILLIAMS JR. Marty (PWF)
- 7 ZAGUNIS Marten (Penn State FC)
- 8 RUDNICKI Alexander (LFA)

WOMEN'S SABRE FINAL RESULTS

- 1 HISS Sophie (Penn State FC)
- 2 USOWICZ Ada (LFA)
- 3 BACCI Krista (LFA)
- 3 HILLSTROM Laura (Penn State FC)
- 5 KOZMINSKY Molly (CPFA)
- 6 HOWARD Juliet (Penn State FC)
- 7 RUDNICKI Marie (LFA)
- 8 VALIAGORSKY Lee Grace (Beaches FC)

Renaissance Fencing Club's Zorro Open · Ferndale, MI · November 12, 2005

OPEN MIXED EPEE—EVENT CLASS: E1

- 1 Kocab, Greg (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 2 Williams, Mike (Great Lakes Sword Club)
- 3T Mazzoli, Julio (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Luke, Daniel (Great Lakes Sword Club)

OPEN MIXED SABER—EVENT CLASS: E1

- 1 Dosmann, Matt (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 2 Dressell, Todd (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Sollman, Doug (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Lundquist, Trent (Renaissance Fencing)

OPEN MIXED FOIL—EVENT CLASS: E1

- 1 Wallrabenstein, Inga
- 2 Zelkowski, Jon (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Megargle, T.J. (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Purdey-Sachs, Michael (Renaissance Fencing Club)

OPEN WOMEN'S FOIL—EVENT CLASS: E1

- 1 Dobbs, Olivia (Unattached)
- 2 Vance, Beth (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Zeoli, Gina (Renaissance Fencing Club)
- 3T Stoner, Stanna (Renaissance Fencing Club)

Postcard from the Strip

continued from page 9

he would be like. But after we began our serious training with Mr. Nevot, we realized in time what we were getting was far more valuable than anything we could have imagined. After talking to many of his students over the years, I realize how lucky we were to have a teacher so dedicated to fencing and to our region. It seems every week I run into people who fondly remember that proper French gentleman who taught us that we could always do better. ★

Rules/REFEREES

continued from page 15

out-of-time remises is simply mind-boggling and terribly disheartening.

I'll never forget the first touch that left a lasting memory for me. I was at the 1972 Munich Olympics as a fifteen-year-old with my dad, who was a referee. During the men's saber semi-final pool, I was watching Jerzy Pawlowski's last bout. Pawlowski, the defending Olympic Champion, was 2-2 in the pool, and had to win this bout to make the final of six and have a chance to defend the title.

The score was 4-4 against an opponent I don't remember. Sorry. The opponent attacked and Pawlowski riposted to his head. Mr. X caught Pawlowski's head cut with a classic head parry, and the surprised Pawlowski was decisively hit with a counter riposte to his flank.

I remember the thwack against the jacket as it exploded throughout the silent hall. I remember the stunned Pawlowski, who, without the automatic arguing that normally accompanied dry saber calls, immediately took off his mask and shook Mr. X's hand.

That was it. Just like that, the defending Olympic Champion was out. I think it stuck in my mind because of how clear cut the touch was that knocked out the Olympic Champion.

It has become clear, crystal clear, that saber fencing will not be graced with such actions in the future.

A counter riposte? Get serious!

From what the fencers and coaches have told me, a fencer would be at too great a risk to even attempt a riposte from a head parry in the first place, as it would almost definitely get blocked out while the 'well earned' remise scores. Remises in saber? PHOOEY!

Ironically, I never saw any ripostes in Leipzig, but I saw plenty of ghosts on Halloween. Ghosts are supposed to be invisible, a figment of our imagination. On the contrary, great ripostes, like the one I saw in Munich, are supposed to be real and leave a lasting impression.

Thanks to the Trick or Treat changes to the blockage time in saber, those once-spectacular ripostes, a staple of our sport, have gone the way of ghosts.

Those ripostes have become invisible, a figment of our imagination. And, that, in my opinion, is unimaginable.

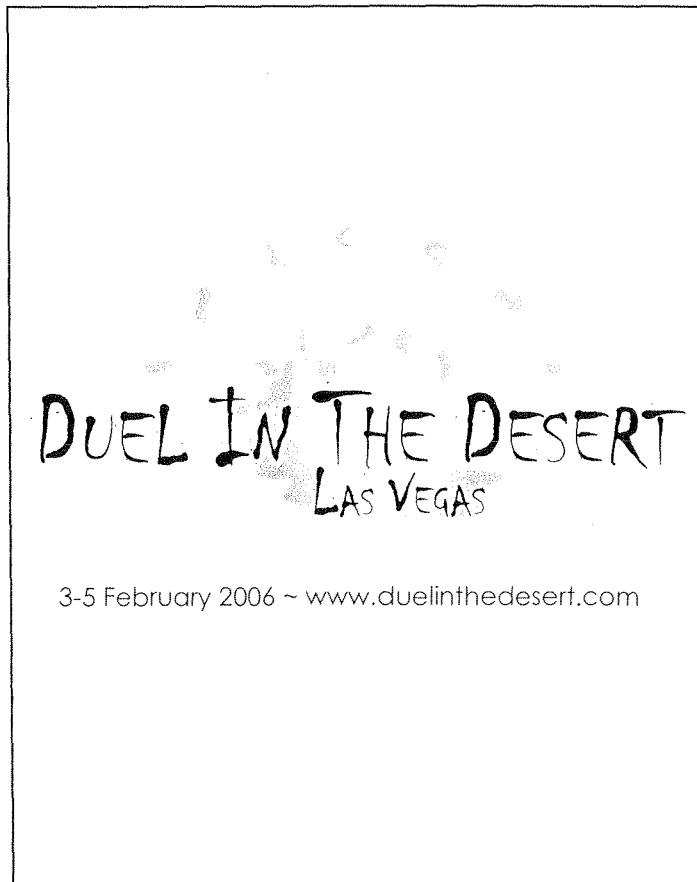
The one word that echoes the sentiments of both ghosts and fencers regarding the blockage change is: BOO! ★

ClubTIPS

continued from page 19

ferent things to consider if you decide to lease your own space. There are other options... like subleasing or working through a recreation department or educational facility. But if you decide to take the plunge, do your homework before you sign on the dotted line.

In the meantime, if you have specific questions, you can email me at meghan@guardup.com. ★



Competition CLASSIFIEDS

THE PACIFIC COAST SECTION announces its 2005-2006 Junior sectional circuit events:

Jan. 7—Beverly Hills Invitational, Culver City, CA, Cadet and Junior (foil)

Jan. 14-15—South Coast Youth Invitational, Santa Ana, CA, Youth 12 and 14 (all weapons)

Feb. 12—Beverly Hills Invitational, Culver City, CA, Cadet and Junior (epee)

May 6-7—Inland Empire Junior Invitational, Upland, CA, Cadet and Junior (all weapons)

May 21—Beverly Hills Invitational, Culver City, CA, Cadet and Junior (sabre)

Check out www.pcsfencing.com for information and pre-registration.

THE 2006 ARNOLD FENCING CLASSIC, held in conjunction with the Arnold Schwarzenegger Fitness Challenge, will be held in Columbus, Ohio, March 4-5. This year's Arnold Fencing Classic will be expanded to include a Regional Youth Circuit competition, a Junior Open, Men's Epee Open, and the International Saber Invitational. 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.arnoldfencing-classic.com or www.royalarts.org or contact Julia Richey at Julia@royalarts.org.

A \$1,000 college scholarship will be awarded to one fencer 19 or younger who participates in the Junior Open at the Classic. In order to apply, fencers will have to create a poster that promotes the sport of fencing. For more information contact Julia Richey at Julia@royalarts.org.

Coaching CLASSIFIEDS

WORK WANTED Italian Fencing Master, current coach of the University of Verona Fencing Team; graduate of National Academy of Fencing in Naples, seeking teaching position in scholastic or club fencing in the U.S. Contact Carmino Galanto, tel. 045-522084, address Via A. Scarlatti, 1/A, 37131 - Verona, Italy.

WORK WANTED Ecole Nationale des Maitres d'Armes, professional fencing teacher at cercle d'escrime de Tours and Laval and experienced international competitor seeks position in U.S. For complete C.V. please contact Jean-Christophe Guibert, telephone 02.99.30.18.49, 06.24.62.49.73, E-mail jchristguibert@yahoo.fr.

INSTRUCTOR IS SOUGHT for the Vail/Eagle Valley, Colorado area to begin January. Please contact: Judy Mosser, 970-524-8159.

LAURALTON HALL-FAIRFIELD PREP FENCING CLUB is a parent supported team competing at the High School level in Connecticut. This is our second season. Seeking an experienced fencer to coach the team. We have approximately twelve members, and a practice space in Stratford, CT. We seek someone who can coach up to five days a week within the window of 3:00 to 6:00PM each afternoon, from November 2005 to March 2006. Contact: James_Lynch@RD.com 914.244.5679

ESTABLISHED, PRIVATE NJ CLUB seeks experienced foil coach for advanced fencers. Send resume to elfin-2@lycos.com or by mail to PO Box 696, Somerville, NJ 08876.

PART-TIME SABER COACH wanted. Minimum 5 years competitive or coaching experience required, must speak English language; must 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.

PART-TIME FOIL COACH wanted. Must be energetic and able to give structured lessons to kids 7-14 year olds. Candidate should have minimum 3 years competitive experience or coaching experience. Send resume or inquires to Peekskill Fencing Center at Sky Movement Studio, 925 South Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 or eeekoloops@excite.com.

SEEKING COACH for New Jersey school's fencing team. Position pays \$1,600 a year. Please contact Eric Linger, ewalkeric@aol.com, (908) 272-3883 (H), or (908) 510-2802.

Got a big competition coming up? Looking for a coach? Looking for a job? Send free classified listings to: Cindy Bent Findlay, USFencingMedia@earthlink.net, fax 614.340.7299. Make sure to include email and phone 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 February 15, 2005.

Courtney HURLEY

15, San Antonio, TX



TheSTATS

Event: Women's Epee
Birthdate: September 30, 1990
Hometown: San Antonio, TX
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 135 pounds
High School: Warren High School, '08
Club: Team Hurley
Coaches: Tracy Hurley, Paul Pesthy

Courtney has some deep footsteps to follow in—her older sister Kelley has been a member already of several Senior international teams, including the World Championships and Pan American Games. But don't call her Kelley's Little Sister. Courtney has been achieving her own successes, including 2005

Junior Olympic Champion. She's now the top-ranked Cadet women's epee fencer and no. 2 in the U.S. Junior standings.

How I Started Fencing:

Courtney's parents (and of course her sister) are fencers and coaches, and introduced her to the sport.

CareerHIGHLIGHTS

- Member, 2005 Junior and Cadet worlds teams
- Silver, 2004 Cadet National Championships
- Double Gold, 2005 Junior and Cadet North American Cup, New Mexico, November 2005
- 2005 Junior Olympic Junior Epee champion
- Gold, Cadet International Cup, Budapest, Hungary, October 2005
- Silver, Junior World Cup Louisville, Ky., November 2004
- Silver, Cadet International, Heidenheim, Germany, November 2004

Favorite Fencing Movie:

Count of Monte Christo

Who Inspires You:

Imke Duplitzer of Germany (5th place, 2004 Olympic Games)

Favorite bout to this point:

Defeating Ling Chow in a senior world cup in Barcelona, Spain, in an overtime bout.

Least favorite bout to this point:

Losing the very next bout to Markowitz—in an overtime bout too. ★

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- Elec. Epee Set 4 pieces Includes: 2 Elec. Epees, 2 Epee Body Cords
- Elec. Sabre Set 6 pieces Includes: Elec. Sabre Mask, Sabre Lamé, Sabre Body Cord
Sabre Cuff, Elec. Sabre, Mask Cord.

Masks	Price	15%off	Lames	Price	15%off
BG 3-W mask 400n	44	\$ 37.40	BG Foil Lamé	63	\$ 53.55
BG Olympic Mask 1000n	52	\$ 44.20	BG Foil Lamé - Stainless	109	\$ 92.65
SG remove. Mask 1000n	55	\$ 46.75	Uhlmann Foil Lamé	134	\$ 113.90
BG elec. Sabre Mask 1000n	78	\$ 66.30	Allstar Foil Lamé	140	\$ 119.00
SG rem. elec. Sabre Mask 1000n	84	\$ 71.40	BG Sabre Lamé	87	\$ 73.95
SG ele. S. Mask 1000 n -St. bib	92	\$ 78.20	BG Sabre Lamé - Stainless	169	\$ 143.65
Uhlmann 3-W Mask 350n	123	\$ 104.55	Uhlmann Sabre Lamé	228	\$ 193.80
Allstar 3-W Mask 350n	127	\$ 107.95	Allstar Sabre Lamé	238	\$ 202.30
Jackets			Body Cords (F, S, or E)		
BG Back-Zip Practice Jacket	33	\$ 28.05	BG Body Cord	12	\$ 10.20
BG Front-Zip C/N Jacket	46	\$ 39.10	SG Body Cord	14	\$ 11.90
SG 350n Nylon Jacket	59	\$ 50.15	Mr.Chen EZ Foil Body Cord	20	\$ 17.00
BG Heavy Nylon Jacket	69	\$ 58.65	Uhlmann Body Cord	30	\$ 25.50
Gloves			Allstar Body Cord	30	\$ 25.50
BG washable Practice Glove	10	\$ 8.50	Prieur Body Cord	22	\$ 18.70
BG washable 3-W Glove	12	\$ 10.20	BG Sabre Mask Cord	7	\$ 5.95
BG leather 3-W Glove	17	\$ 14.45	Electric Weapons *Pistol grip +\$ 3		
ACG washable 3-W Glove	20	\$ 17.00	BG elec. Foil, Fr. Grip	37	\$ 31.45
BG elec. Sabre Glove	25	\$ 21.25	SG elec. Foil, Fr. Grip	40	\$ 34.00
BG elec. Sabre glove-Stainless	32	\$ 27.20	STM elec. Foil, Fr. Grip	45	\$ 38.25
BG elec. Sabre Cuff	13	\$ 11.05	BG elec. Epee, Fr. Grip	44	\$ 37.40
SG Sabre Cuff -Stainless	19	\$ 16.15	SG elec. Epee, Fr. Grip	49	\$ 41.65
Bags			STM elec. Epee, Fr. Grip	53	\$ 45.05
BG Beginner bag	20	\$ 17.00	BG elec. Sabre	45	\$ 38.25
BG Piggy-Back Bag	38	\$ 32.30	SG elec. Sabre	47	\$ 39.95
BG Deluxe Bag	38	\$ 32.30	STM elec. Sabre	49	\$ 41.65
BG Team Bag - one pocket	40	\$ 34.00	Combine With Special Sets, Get 15% Off!		
BG Super Tean Bag - 2 pockets	65	\$ 55.25	BG Chest Protector	27	\$ 22.95
Cart for Bags	16	\$ 13.60	BG Breast Protectors-pair	7	\$ 5.95
Practice Weapons *Pistol grip +\$3			Sports Bra with chest pro.	46	\$ 39.10
BG prac. Foil, Fr. Grip	21	\$ 17.85	BG Cotton Pants	30	\$ 25.50
SG prac. Foil, Fr. grip	24	\$ 20.40	BG Nylon Pants	39	\$ 33.15
PR prac. Foil, Fr. Grip	29	\$ 24.65	BG Cotton Plastron	15	\$ 12.75
BG prac. Epee, Fr. Grip	33	\$ 28.05	BG Nylon Plastron	19	\$ 16.15
SG prac. Epee, Fr. grip	38	\$ 32.30	75% Cotton Adidas Socks	5	\$ 4.25
BG prac. Sabre	36	\$ 30.60	BG CoolMax Socks	10	\$ 8.50
SG prac. Sabre	41	\$ 34.85	BG Victory Fencing Shoes	49	\$ 41.65

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