

# American FENCING

Spring 2005



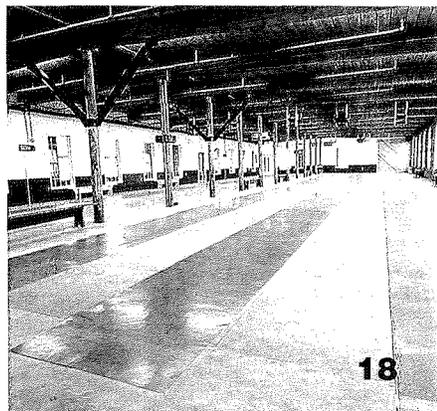
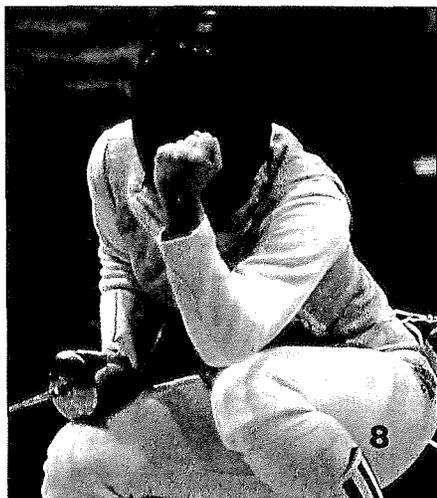
## YOUTH LEADS THE WAY

U.S. Fencers excel at the  
2005 Junior and Cadet  
World Championships in Linz



# American FENCING

Spring 2005 · Volume 55, Number 1



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On the Cover: Scenes from the Junior and Cadet World Championships in Linz, Austria (page 8). From top: Emily Cross tossed in the air by teammates as she wins the Junior Women's Foil World Championship title; Junior Worlds silver medallist Nick Chinman with coaches Andrea Lagan, left, and Gary Copeland, right; Junior World Cup Champion Rebecca Ward on the attack.

All photos by Serge Timacheff, [www.fencingphotos.com](http://www.fencingphotos.com).

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

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# A thank you to the sport ... REASON TO BE PROUD

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

**T**hank you for getting your athletes to a school, fencing club, or other venue for them to enjoy the sport of fencing.

Thank you for the efforts you put forth in patience, encouragement, and (certainly) dollars. I hope you share my strong feelings that all of these are good investments.

I recently returned from the Junior/Cadet World Championships in Linz, Austria. Every one of you should feel proud of the excellent results of the U.S. team: three individual gold medals, one team gold medal, one silver medal and one bronze medal. Every one of you should feel proud, not only because it was a stellar performance for the U.S. team, but because every one of you contributed to that success.

Not every fencer will become part of a World Championships team, but every fencer supports the presence of the athletes on that team, either by membership in the USFA, by increasing the visibility of our sport, by enjoying whatever satisfaction fencing brings to each individual or by nipping at the heels of those who do make a team. You are

part of that process.

There were many parents with us in Linz. They cheered and clapped and waved flags with every touch scored by a U.S. fencer. There were tears of joy for every medal and tears of frustration when there wasn't one. Most importantly, the U.S. team felt their support.

Many of our athletes are children of fencers. Many parents become fencers because of their children. Why not?! It's better than sitting around waiting for a class, or lesson, or session to be over. Fencing promises to be a "lifetime sport" – and there is such a thing as a Veterans' World Championships to look forward to! The next one will be held in Tampa, Fla. in September, so we're on the world calendar.

Please continue to be part of the fencing family. There is a link on the USFA website for parents and we welcome your participation in our sport on all kinds of levels. Let us hear from you! And again, THANK YOU!!  
— AF

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### OFFENDED BY BUKANTZ 'JACKAL' REFERENCE

As a member of the professional TV community, I was offended by Jeff Bukantz' casual slur in his article on the Olympic Games. Bukantz referred to TV cameramen as "jackals" when they attempted to capture Keeth Smart's heart-felt emotions following his loss to Pozdniakov and the evaporation of U.S. men's saber medal hopes.

Someone should remind Bukantz that it's not just "The Thrill of Victory" but also "The Agony of Defeat" that makes the human side of athletic competition so compelling. If you watch any televised sporting event where there has been a monumental reversal of fortune, the images of the celebrating victors are just as poignant – and relevant – as the looks of stunned disbelief etched on the faces of the vanquished. If Smart had won the final touch, would Bukantz have tossed off equally pejorative terms for the cameramen swarming the celebration? Would he have equally lauded Smart's teammates if they closed ranks and prevented the viewers from seeing Smart's exultations?

Fencing on TV is good for the sport. Bukantz and others need to realize, though, that unless they're the executive producers of the program, the end product is not always going to be a mindless Pollyanna ode of boosterism for the sport. In the meantime, characterizing the media as jackals is not a productive way to encourage interest from TV executives who might have become intrigued with the effervescence of Mariel Zagunis' victory lap or the pathos of Smart's defeat.

*Bill Ward, Portland, Oregon*

### A MOM'S THANKS

I know there are a lot of critics. That being said, let us once again thank the USFA in general, the volunteers, the host cities of the NACs, the armorers, bout committees, directors and anyone else I have forgotten or am not aware of working in the shadows. Everyone who in some small or large part make this thing called fencing work here in the U.S. need to be recognized and patted on the back. THANK YOU.

*A Fencer's Mom*

### OFFICIALS, STEP BACK

It is no secret that the FIE wants to make fencing more spectator friendly, and such measures as new timing for scoring machines, wireless fencing, see-through masks, and other rule changes are intended to help accomplish this goal. Yet, there seems to be a reluctance on the part of some fencing officials to accept the upshot of this goal of spectator friendliness, meaning less involvement of fencing officials in determining the outcome of fencing bouts. In fact, there seems to be an increase in yellow card calls for covering target, turning of the back, and simple corps à corps offenses, even when the offenses are slight.

Assuming there are spectators at fencing matches, they do not come to see fencing officials hand out multiple cards, resulting in bouts being determined by cumulative penalties instead of being determined by which fencer hits the other most with a sword. Spectators come to see attacks and parries of attacks. Attacks and parries are sword fighting to the lay audience. Spectators do not care whether fencers reverse shoulders, turn their backs, or acci-

dentally touch one another. There was a time in fencing when officials could determine bouts based upon "style points" and not touches, and hyper-technical officiating is a move back toward the rigid formalism of the past. Modern fencing is about athleticism, not formalism. It is athletes in motion that audiences pay to see in other sports. Spectators do not come to hear people in suits make complicated reconstructions of fencing actions. Spectators do not come to see people in suits engage in discussions of rules. Spectators do not come to see people in suits hold up colored pieces of plastic and then change the score of bouts. Spectators do not come to have the score of bouts withheld from them by people in suits.

Fencing officials must learn to accept their somewhat lesser status in the future world of fencing. The game of fencing is about athletes striking one other with weapons and defending against such strikes, not about the officials showing their authority. In keeping with the new approach to the sport of fencing as articulated by the FIE, fencing officials need to exercise restraint in making hyper-technical calls unrelated to the substance of fencing matches. Or, the FIE needs to continue its quest to eliminate officiating discretion from the sport by further simplifying the rules. Perhaps the elimination of penalties for athletic movements and for incidental contact in foil and saber would be good changes. Maybe the epeeists have been right all along.

*Dr. Joseph S. Streb  
Columbus, Ohio*

***AMERICAN FENCING reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity.***

***Please include your name and hometown***

***if you would like your letter printed.***

## Fencer Looking To Start Program In Iraq

Aaron Isaacson, currently deployed and fighting in Iraq as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, is seeking help to start a fencing program at his base in Iraq. "My unit will be deployed for a very long time," he says.

Isaacson, who says he learned to fence in college and has loved the sport ever since, is hoping to get some help from a fencing organization to get some used equipment to spread the love of this sport and help with morale.

"I can provide more details upon request but I know that this will turn into a major event for the 10,000 soldiers on our base," says Isaacson.

Interested clubs and fencers can contact LT Aaron Isaacson by emailing [aaron.p.isaacson@us.army.mil](mailto:aaron.p.isaacson@us.army.mil).



Isaacson and young Baghdad locals.

## Weinbaum Dominates on NIWFA Stage

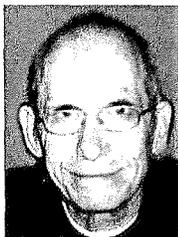
In early December, U.S. Military Academy Cadet Michelle Weinbaum, a junior from Cranston, R.I., became the first fencer to win three consecutive invitational titles in the 72-



Weinbaum (far right) with fellow competitors.

## Jean Gerard Poujardieu Jr. Dies At 64

On December 27, 2004, well-known San Antonio, Texas fencing coach Jean Gerard Poujardieu Jr., 64, passed away of lung cancer. A native of Bazas, France, his father, a fencing master himself, taught him to fence early in life. Among his many fencing honors, he won the 1957-58 European Three Weapon Championships. Poujardieu attended New York University on a fencing scholarship.



"Pouj," as he was known, assisted his father, the long-time head fencing coach for U.S. Modern Pentathlon, by coaching the Junior Men's and Senior Women's team at the 1977 World Championships, where his students won overall gold in Women's and silver in Junior Men's Pentathlon.

After obtaining his third echelon as a fencing master, Pouj opened his own salle in San Antonio in the mid-'80s. He has coached numerous students to World and National Teams. Almost 200 attended his memorial service just after the holidays. He is survived by wife Diana, sisters Christine and Geraldine, sons John, Neil, and Jody, and grandchildren Christian, Camille, Kenny, Crimsyn, Amber, and Autumn.

year history of the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association.

On Dec. 5, Weinbaum defended the NIWFA Christmas Invitational Saber title during a tournament held at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, resulting in a championship record of 5-0. Additionally, she was the only collegiate fencer to finish in the top ten. Weinbaum was one of 55 women saber fencers who represented a variety of varsity teams, including the University of Virginia, Cornell University, and Johns Hopkins University.

Weinbaum also defeated the Air Force Academy's number one fencer at the All-Military Tournament held on Nov. 14 in Colorado Springs.

## U.S. Junior Fencers Shine In Linz

The 2004-2005 Junior World Cup season came to a close in Linz, Austria on March 30, and as is becoming almost old hat, U.S. Juniors scored some stunning successes that show an unprecedented rise in power for U.S. fencing programs.

It used to be that Junior World Cup medals came but once or twice in a season. Now, it seems that they come every weekend.

The junior women's saber program, for instance, simply dominated the rest of the world for most of the season. Five of the top 10 Junior Women's Saber fencers are from the U.S., an historic achievement for U.S. fencing.

Early in January, at a Junior World Cup competition in Budapest, Hungary, four U.S. junior women stood atop the women's saber medals podium, leaving no spots for any other nation. For the first time ever in a European World

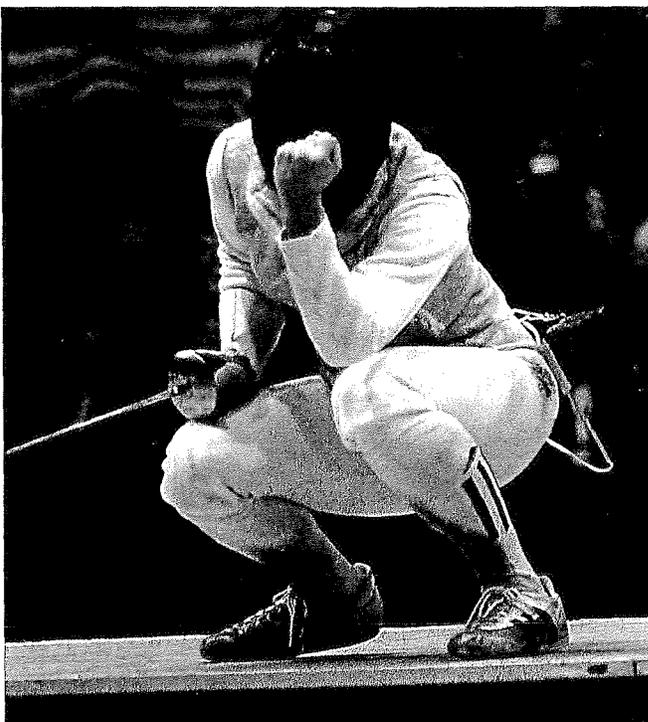
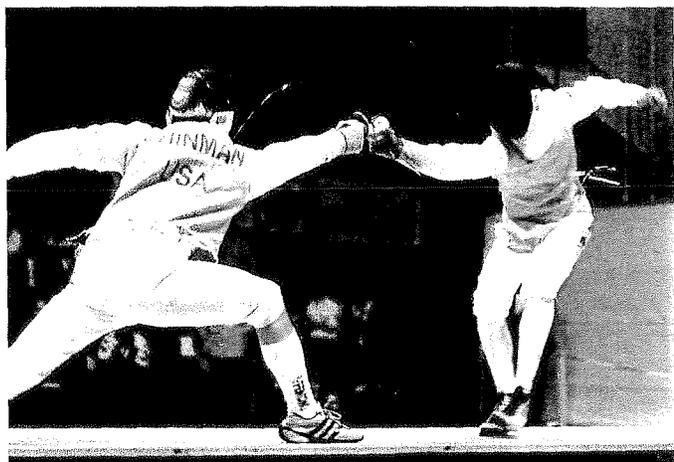


The World Champion Junior Women's Saber team, left to right: Emily Jacobson, Mariel Zagunis, coach Ed Korfante, Caitlin Thompson, Rebecca Ward. Photo: Serge Timacheff.



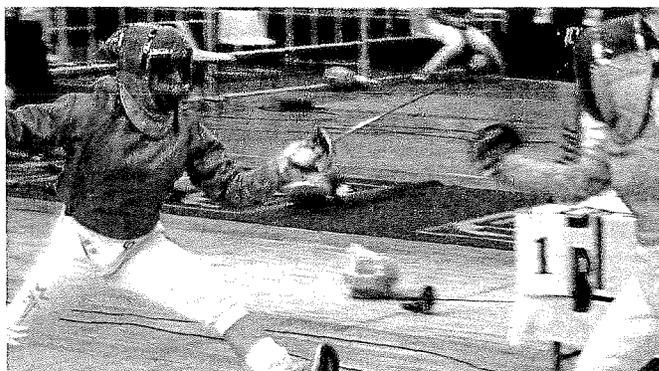
Kelley Hurley, second from left, World Champion, Cadet Women's epee. Photo: Serge Timacheff.

Nick Chinman on his way to silver in the Cadet Men's Foil competition at Junior Worlds. Photo: Serge Timacheff



Emily Cross celebrates winning the Junior Women's Foil World Championship title. Photo: Serge Timacheff

Mariel Zagunis in action at Junior World Cup in Budapest. Photo: Bill Ward





Michael Petin and Emily Cross. Photo Serge Timacheff.



Harried workers at the Junior World Cup in Budapest struggle to find and hang four U.S. flags before the National Anthem plays. Photo: Bill Ward

Cup, four U.S. flags waved in the victory ceremony.

**Rebecca Ward** (15, Portland, Ore.) won that competition; clubmate **Caity Thompson** (18, Portland, Ore.) earned the silver medal; 2004 Olympian **Emily Jacobson** (19, Dunwoody, Ga.) and **Dagmara Wozniak** (16, Avenal, N.J.) won the bronzes.

And women's saber isn't the only U.S. strength. **Andras Horanyi** (18, Boulder, Colo.) came a whisker from winning the overall men's foil Junior World Cup title; he finished the season in third place.

Overall, nine young U.S. fencers finished the season ranked in the top 10 of the Junior World Cup standings, in five out of the six weapons.

At Junior Worlds, to cap off the season:

- Olympic gold medalist **Mariel Zagunis** (20, Beaverton, Ore.) earned the title of Junior World Champion for the second time in her final year of Junior competition and led the U.S. women's saber squad to the gold in the Junior Team Saber competition. Ward, at 15 the youngest U.S. medalist

at Junior Worlds, capped the 2005 season by finishing as the U.S.'s fourth ever overall Junior World Cup Champion. Ward also earned the bronze in the Cadet Saber competition and was a member of the gold-medal U.S. Junior Saber squad.

- **Emily Cross** (18, New York, N.Y.), a former Cadet World Champion, won the gold in the Junior Women's Foil event only days after earning the title of NCAA National Champion back home;

- **Kelley Hurley** (16, San Antonio, Texas) won the title of 2005 Cadet Women's Epee World Champion, and became the first U.S. women's epee world champion in any age group; teammate **Keri Byerts** (17, Beaverton, Ore.) reached the final eight in the Junior event;

- **Nick Chinman** (16, Boulder, Colo.) won the silver in the Cadet Men's Foil competition.

Congratulations to all of the young and rising U.S. stars on an amazing season!

### City Teen Splits \$50K Science Prize

New York state high school fencer Jessica Fields, 17, shared a \$50,000 scholarship prize in the national 2004 Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Along with research partner Taylor Bernheim, 16, of Holliswood, Fields won the New England Region Silver Medal in the nationwide competition.

Fields and Bernheim have developed promising new low-cost methods of directing nano-patterns of ECM assembly, and have begun to explore how different cell types respond to these patterns. Their research has potential implications for tissue engineering and organ transplants, medical implants and cancer diagnosis.

Fields, a senior, is captain of Jericho High School's varsity fencing team and is editor-in-chief of Blue and Gold Literary Magazine. She was also named an Nassau County All-County Saber fencer. In 2004, she was an Intel Inter-

national Science and Engineering Fair finalist and, in 2003, she was a Siemens Westinghouse Competition semi-finalist.

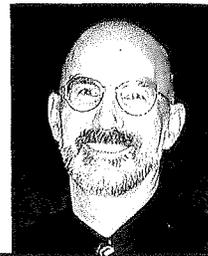
### Tampa Will Host Women's Saber Crown

Following the establishment of Women's Saber as an Olympic fencing medal event at the Athens games, the Federation Internationale D'escrime (FIE) has granted World Championship status to Veterans Women's Saber beginning with the 2005 Veterans World Fencing Championships at Tampa, Fla., in September.

Women's saber has been a demonstration event at previous Veterans World Championships, including the 2002 tournament also held in Tampa.

In other action, the sport's international governing body awarded the 2006 Veterans World Championships to Bath, England, and the 2007 event to Sydney, Australia.

Gesundheit ...

**NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT**To shake hands or not when ill • by Peter **HARMER, Ph.D, ATC**

**Q** *I was at the NAC in December and had a cold. I know that a lot of cold and flu is spread by hand-to-hand contact and I didn't want to make anyone else sick so after my bouts I didn't want to shake hands but do something like touch elbows. However, when I told the referee he said that if I didn't actually shake hands that I would be blackcarded. This seems very unfair when I am only trying to be considerate of other fencers. What should I do?*

**A** Being conscientious about preventing the spread of common respiratory illness is highly commendable. Prevention is better than cure. However, there are two issues to consider in this situation: a) the probability of spreading contamination by shaking hands after a bout, and b) the interpretation of the rule related to conduct on the strip.

There is no doubt that it is possible to spread contamination by direct contact if you have been coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose. However, the risk can be considerably lessened by following the recommendations of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology and states' Departments of Human Services or Health, including coughing or sneezing into your elbow rather than your hands and, most importantly, washing your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleanser.

It is also advisable to use disposable tissues rather than handkerchiefs and, for the truly considerate, wear the small disposable face masks that are a very common sight to anyone who has visit-

ed Japan in the winter. As a practical matter, I would point out that the non-fencing hand is the less likely to be used for nose-blowing, etc. and there seem to be few opportunities to contaminate your "free" hand during a bout, so the risk of infecting your opponent (or the referee) may be smaller than you think. I suggest your best approach is to clean your hands before you begin each bout.

In reference to the issue of the rule related to shaking hands after a bout (t.87), it seems that the referee was unreasonably literal (and perhaps too superficial) in his position. According to George Kolombatovich of the USFA Fencing Officials Commission and the FIE Arbitrage Commission, referees must follow the rules as written. However, they must also exercise a measure of common sense. The intention of t.87 is to ensure good sportsmanship and if a fencer is patently willing to demonstrate his/her appreciation for a good bout by some other reasonable gesture given the circumstances, such as touching elbows in this case, then Mr. Kolombatovich considers this clearly acceptable.

Moreover, when I checked on the rule I noticed that it refers to shaking "with the unarmed hand," not the ungloved hand as is commonly believed. It could be construed that it is permissible to shake with the "gloved" hand once the weapon has been transferred to the other hand or placed elsewhere, as was the case with a well-known, long-time member of the Canadian national team who did not have the use of one of his arms. Clearly, there are some fencers who cannot or should not be required to

adhere to the usual form of the application of the rule and circumstances in which referees need to apply their discretion. In this light, your compromise for adhering to the spirit of rule t.87 while being considerate of the health of others seems more than reasonable and hopefully your question will allow referees to explore the issues more fully. I will also be forwarding your concerns to Jeffrey Bukantz, who is a member of the FIE Rules Commission.

**Fencing safety and insurance coverage denials:** Over the past several months I have received a number of inquiries from coaches and others who have had their programs terminated, moved or prevented from beginning because of perceived safety concerns by insurance companies. As an initial response to insurance companies that take this position I suggest that fencing club officials refer to my column in Fall 2003 issue of *AMERICAN FENCING*. In the meantime, I am working on analyzing the injury data for three full seasons and hope to have this completed and published shortly. As part of this work I would like to hear from anyone who has run into this problem (even if you have contacted me previously I would appreciate hearing from you again to make sure that I am not missing any relevant information). Please contact me by via email at the address at the end of this column. — **AF**

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

# Passion + respect ...

## A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

An athletic search for excellence • by Dr. John HEIL

**M**uch has been said of what it takes for an athlete excel. But what about the sport organization? Are there values and virtues that foster excellence from the strip to the boardroom?

These are troubled times in sport. The turn of the calendar from 2004 to 2005 ushered in a winter of discontent. A plague of drug problems reach from track and field to Major League Baseball and beyond. NBA players have brawled with fans, and the NHL decided to skip an entire season. Chinese basketball player Yao Ming studies English so he can learn to "trash talk." Even as athletic prowess reaches astronomical heights, obesity is a nationwide epidemic. How did it come to this?

Sport is rife with conflict. But underlying this conflict is passion. Passion is the engine of sport, making it go higher, faster and stronger; but also, making it go meaner, darker, and harsher. When passions collide, conflict follows, creating the potential for crisis, creating the opportunity for change. Like all engines, passion needs direction if it is to remain on course. What is the way to make things right?

R-e-s-p-e-c-t. Diva Aretha Franklin spelled it out as she shouted it out, in what is considered one of the greatest rock songs of all time. It was the '60s, a period of great conflict and change. This plain and simple message delivered with great feeling, tried to infuse values into troubled times.

In the Kevin Costner movie, "For the Love of the Game," Billy Chapel, an all-star pitcher, finds himself in the midst of conflict, with a compelling choice before him. Passions swirl as he engages his personal demons, and the inevitable forces of organizational change. In his "love of the game" he finds an answer, one that gives respect back to the game that has given him so much, and gives respect to those who have been there with him. In the end everyone comes out a winner.

The word, "respect," (derived from Latin) reaches back to the Roman Empire. It means to esteem, to show appreciation, to avoid violation or interference with. It's not about being liked or being right, but is about integrity and fair play. It is the remedy to the greed and arrogance, to the druggery and thuggery that plague the business of sport. It mattered to Julius Caesar, it mattered to Vince Lombardi.

A look at the fencing budget and all that national organization does quickly reveals that US Fencing could not have risen to its current status on money alone. Looking at our athletes compete and our coaches coach reveals clearly that passion is part of the equation. You also see it in the Referees' Lounge, at the Tournament Committee Table, in the beehive of our National Office and in the boardroom. In fencing there is no shortage of passion.

Passion comes from within. It can't be given, but can be cultivated. Pas-

sion lives in light and dies in darkness. It will grow and sustain itself if provided the proper environment. Respect cultivates passion. But unbridled passion means needless conflict, which tears at the heart of the sport, damaging the game and those who play it.

Disrespect is to passion as kryptonite is to superman. It draws down energy and distracts from the common goal. It is the leading cause of attrition in sport, from its athletes to its coaches to its leaders. To fully realize its potential, a sport organization must find a way to simultaneously cultivate passion and demand respect. Consider this formula as a guide to behavior from the board room to the strip:

### Passion + Respect = Success

Passion is sport's bright side and its dark side. Even when there is not enough money to go around, respect can be available in abundance. It is free to give and invariably well received. Respect is an offer we can't afford to refuse ourselves. Passion plus respect is a prescription for times both good and bad. It is a guide that transcends the moment, that reaches across race and nation, across the fields of play and fields of conflict. — AF

*Dr. John Heil is Chair of Sports Medicine and Science for US Fencing. He can be reached at Lewis-Gale Clinic in Roanoke, VA at [jheil@lewisgale-clinic.com](mailto:jheil@lewisgale-clinic.com)*

# Channelling Howard Cosell ... A TOP TEN LIST

The sport's most important changes • by Jeff **BUKANTZ**



A friend recently told me that she read in a fencing chat room where someone called me "The Howard Cosell of fencing."

For those of you who are way too young to remember Cosell, he was a trailblazing sportscaster who starred on Monday Night Football and ABC's Wide World of Sports.

The late Cosell was a cigar-smoking, balding, opinionated, brash, often controversial, and generally obnoxious New Yorker whose famous catch phrase was, "I tell it like it is!"

I can't understand why anyone would compare me to Cosell, as I don't smoke cigars! But, I tell it like it is. (Actually, the proper grammar is "as it is.")

Without a doubt, as detailed in the last issue, it is my opinion that the worst change in the history of fencing has been the shortening of the blockage time in saber and foil. We went from a perfectly normal blockage time to one that favors such out-of-time actions as fast remises and counterattacks.

Dishonorable mention goes to the change in the contact time. Forget about the flick. Now we have coaches mandating that their students wear the hard chest protectors and teaching the vaunted chest parry!

To be perfectly blunt, these changes have done nothing...ZERO... to help our sport. The television audience will not increase nor understand fencing any better. The weak referees will make even more errors than they previously did.

I just returned from the men's saber World Cup in Budapest, where I saw this firsthand. Olympic gold medalist Aldo Montano reverted to scoring on previously unheard-of (for him) out-of-time remises during the team event. When the cor-

rectly executed riposte was blocked out, Montano took off his mask, had a big, fat Cheshire cat grin on his face, and then shrugged in dismay. This is what it has come to for a champion who once exemplified classical technique!

Sometimes, as the saying goes, "The best laid plans of men go astray." In this case, however, it was the clear from the moment these changes were proposed that these were the worst laid plans by men who went astray.

OK, they blew it big time with these two changes. However, when you see such glaring mistakes by the hierarchy of our sport, you have to ask, "Did they ever do anything right?"

Thankfully, these transgressions were blatant aberrations. Over the years, there have been tremendous improvements to fencing. Some have been technological, others to prevent cheating, and some to make fencing more presentable to a viewing audience.

In this column, we're going to accentuate the positive for a change, as we will take a look at changes that have had a positive impact on our sport.

For me, the changes that helped prevent cheating are at the top of the list. After all, what good would the cosmetic presentation changes mean if the audience was watching tainted bouts?

Here's my Top Ten list. What's yours?

## 1. Electrifying saber

For those who don't remember, saber was the last of the Mohicans to go electric. The bouts were presided by a referee and four side judges. The ref was solely responsible for determining right-of-way, while both the ref and the judges were responsible for determining the materiality of the actual hit. Each judge had one

vote and the referee had one and a half votes. In other words, if both judges on the same side voted one way, the referee's vote was irrelevant. If one judge voted and the other abstained, the referee's vote could overrule the judge.

The amount of cheating that went on was mind-boggling. Sometimes a judge would abstain as a way to allow the referee to overrule the other judge. Sometimes the judges would cheat. Very often, the referees would cheat. Dry saber officiating often resembled a three-ring circus.

As if right-of-way errors, whether intentional or not, weren't bad enough, the actual materiality of the hit was often in question due to the lack of proof without having any lights as evidence.

While everyone undoubtedly has their favorite horror stories from the dry saber era, here is one that left a mark on me and almost changed the course of American fencing history.

At the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, our best hope for a medal in 24 years was in the classy and capable hands of the great Peter Westbrook. In the bout to get into the final eight, Westbrook was facing the Italian Dalla Barba. And, surprise, surprise, he was also facing a jury (still dry saber) which included some blatant bias, particularly by one side judge.

We all stood there stunned and livid as our medal hopes were being taken away in an overtly nefarious way. Well, sometimes miracles occur. We'll never know for sure exactly how it happened, but one of the judges on the opposite side decided that he had seen enough and began to, let's say, level the playing field. (I nominate him for a USFA Service Award!)

With a “fair” chance, Westbrook won that bout and went on to earn his deserved bronze medal. Whether it was a miracle or not is up to discussion. But, there is no denying that Chaba Palaghy’s icy stare from the side of the strip coincided with the playing field being leveled.

In conclusion, saber is still not perfect. Side judges have been replaced by lights, which is great. Off targets have been eliminated, which leads to an occasional ridiculous counterattack counting when the attack misses the lamé by a fraction of an inch. But, all in all, this was the best tradeoff that fencing ever made.

## **2. Replacing the all-pool system with Direct Elimination**

Believe it or not, competitions, both domestically and internationally, used to be run only with pools. Even the finals would be held in a round-robin format, usually a pool of six.

This led to rampant cheating. A fencer with a 4-0 record in a six-person pool was already qualified into the next round.

So, this fencer would now be in the position of throwing the last bout to an opponent who needed it to qualify. The deal was that he or she could ask for the bout to be returned either in the next round (very often the finals), or at any other time in the future.

This cheating took place anywhere from local opens to the Olympic Games. I’ll never forget watching at the 1972 Munich Olympics when Paul Apostol was deprived of a shot at the finals due to a bout throw in his semifinal pool.

So, the current format, where Direct Elimination follows the one seeding round, has been a tremendous step forward for fencing, as it basically eliminated the most egregious and prevalent form of cheating.

## **3. Qualifying from seeding round based on entire results, as opposed to the individual pool**

This has prevented or severely limited the amount of shenanigans in the seeding pools, as it became more risky to throw bouts.

With the elimination of the self-contained qualifying pools followed by a Direct Elimination bracket, a fencer never knows where he’ll wind up. The end result has been that fewer bouts have been thrown in the seeding rounds.

## **4. Technology preventing fencers from “grounding out the machine”**

It has only been a decade or so since this technology has been in effect. Before the machines were set up to prevent this “grounding,” a fencer could easily and intentionally touch his weapon on the lamé. This would effectively ground out the opponent’s touches, as it prevented the light from going on!

Don’t you think some fencers practiced this type of cheating?

In addition, the anti-grounding machines also wiped out another type of grounding. A fencer with a wet glove, while squeezing an uninsulated metal handle, could also ground out the opponent’s touches.

With the current machines all having anti-ground provisions, the grounders have been grounded.

## **5. Immediate red card for intentional hits not on the opponent**

This enabled a fencer, usually in epee, to intentionally touch the floor and only get a yellow card! So, an epeeist leading by one touch for the World Championship, with only a second or two remaining, could simply touch the outside of the strip; this would have the double whammy effect of stopping the clock and preventing the opponent’s action from scoring!

Quite frankly, that was quite a value considering the “punishment” of the yellow card most certainly didn’t fit the crime of intentionally cheating (albeit within a quirk in the rules).

Thankfully, the rule has been cleaned up again, and an intentional hit not on the opponent, at any time, results in an immediate red card.

## **6. Positioning of the alligator clip under the fencing arm**

This is relatively minor compared to the aforementioned changes, but something that was long overdue. Some fencers, and especially those from one particular European country, used to put the clip on the lamé in a spot under the unarmed hand. This enabled them to use the back arm to swipe the alligator off the lamé at critical moments, thereby rendering the opponent’s hit as off target.

Now, the alligator must be clipped on under the fencing arm, and another type of cheating has been clamped down upon.

## **7. Elimination of the one and two meter warnings**

In foil, there used to be a one meter warning. In saber and epee, there was a two meter warning. A fencer could “regain distance” and wipe out that last warning by reaching the middle line with one toe. This led to unending games of cat and mouse, warning and regain, etc. In addition, this made refereeing a lot tougher, as the ref had to constantly worry about the status of the warning.

This tactic came to a head at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics during the men’s saber finals. Two fencers, possibly teammates, decided to play the ultimate game of cat and mouse. One fencer would push the other off the end of the strip to necessitate a two-meter warning. Then the warned fencer would push the other down and off the strip, bringing on his two-meter warning.

This went on repeatedly, and the crowd and the FIE was getting very upset. The FIE muckety-mucks held a back-room powwow and ordered the fencers to fence. Actually, this was probably one of the first official reactions to fencers’ passivity.

Thankfully, the strip is now finite in length. You go off once, you’re cooked. They figured it out, better late than never!

## **8. Shortening of the bout combined with adding “priority”**

The pool bouts used to last six minutes, including the last minute which was preceded by a warning.

That was a long time! But, if bouts were tied when time ran out, there was no time limit for scoring the last touch. If you had a bout between two fencers who refused to pull the trigger, the bout could last forever.

And that's basically what happened during a direct elimination bout at the 1981 Michel Alaux men's foil circuit. I was fencing Canada's Luc Rochelieu late in the table. The score was 1-1 at the end of time in what was then a 10-touch bout. All the other bouts in the table were completed, and everyone was gathered around our strip. And, they stayed glued to the strip for the next 45 minutes (this was after time had run out!), as we waited for the other fencer to make a mistake.

While the level of discipline was impressive on both sides, this wasn't exactly crowd-pleasing fencing. And, it helped cause the competition to end at 2:15 AM!

But, this had a dual/duel happy ending for me, as I won with an attack to his flank, and thanks to the advent of the priority, debacles like this bout are a thing of the past!

Priority is anything but perfect, but still one of the great improvements for our sport.

### 9. Making it impossible to score a valid touch while committing an infraction

At the last Congress in Leipzig, this loophole was finally closed. For some strange reason, there were situations where a fencer could commit an offense (simple corps-a-corps, covering), get carded, and still score a valid touch. There was always something odd about that, and due to the lack of logic, many referees, coaches and fencers were often confused about the correct application of the rules in these cases.

Now, any touch scored while committing any infraction is rightfully annulled, regardless of the offense.

### 10. Elimination of the "one foot off" stall tactic

This one was relatively minor, but only recently fixed. Some fencers would float or drift off the side of the strip with one

foot. For some, this was accidental. For others, it was an intentional act utilized to precipitate a halt to the action without the risk of incurring a penalty.

Regardless of the intention, this caused all sorts of stoppages and there was nothing to deter the offenders from doing it repeatedly, as the fencers were placed on guard at the same spot.

Now, a fencer who goes off the side with one foot will face the exact same music as the fencer who goes off with both feet. The penalty in both cases is the gain of a meter by the other fencer.

Now that we've dealt with the positive changes that have helped clean up the competition, particularly cheating, in the next issue we'll take a look at what I believe are the top 10 changes that have improved the presentation of fencing for the audience.

Email me your top ten lists. The five readers with the most right answers will receive an official USFA souvenir. — **AF**

*Jeff Bukantz is a member of the FIE's Rules Commission. Email Jeff at [bukieboy@fencingofficials.org](mailto:bukieboy@fencingofficials.org)*

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# Give everyone a break ... THE CURSE OF STINKY EQUIPMENT

A few steps to common fencing courtesy • by Joe **BYRNES**

It happened some years ago, not too long after the fragmentation of a major empire, and we were seeing fencers at the World Cup Saber event under new flags. I was, as usual, paying attention to my test gear on the table when I became aware of a new presence. It wasn't anything I saw or heard. It was the smell – the odor – that alerted me. Of course, "odor" is a mere four-letter word, not strong enough: stink would be better; no, STENCH. There they were, the whole men's saber team from newly-minted nation X (name suppressed to protect the guilty).

A rather mad idea ran through my mind as I looked at them. Here was a group of saber fencers. Therefore, from one point of view, armigerous men (and thus minimally qualified to swagger around a royal court), with a heap of the most rank electrical jackets and masks I had ever encountered.

And it wasn't only their masks and jackets that reeked, you understand. I remembered something I had come across a long time ago in my miscellaneous reading: it may be apocryphal, but a certain queen famous in European history was supposed to have been described by one of her courtiers as having "of late installed in her palace a bath, where-

in she doth bathe once a month, whether she need it or no." It struck me that these rascals would probably have fitted in gloriously at that court.

Now why do I bring up this memory just now? You're ahead of me, I'll bet: a few (fortunately only a few) of our domestic competitors have dumped such stuff, or stuff almost as bad, in front of me in recent months. I have often wondered how much risk we armorers run, having to handle all that potentially septic clothing. Masks, it seems to me, offer a special opportunity for broadcasting bacteria and viruses. With much of the fencing season overlapping the flu season, I wonder that I don't have even more trouble with upper respiratory infection than I usually do every winter.

I have been tempted – and I may yet start doing it – to put on a pair of surgical gloves to handle masks and electrical jackets. Recently, my attention was called to a spray disinfectant, sold by an athletic goods wholesaler, that advertises itself as effective against various germs and viruses, including Herpes Simplex, Hong Kong Flu, and HIV. Evidently it's not the panacea that the ancient alchemists sought: no mention of anthrax, cholera, bubonic plague or cancer. But I suppose you can't have everything.

I wonder what would be the reaction of some people to seeing the inspector put on gloves (and maybe a sanitary mask) and carefully spritz their equipment with a blast from a formidable can? Perhaps they would be insulted. My advice to such people would be: if you don't want to be insulted, don't make yourself insultable. Besides the question of health (yours, as well as other people's) there's a practical consideration: dirty stinking jackets, gloves, and masks will wear out much faster than necessary.

So don't just bundle a sweaty jacket up and stick it back into your bag: hang it up to dry. Wash it now and again. Of course, avoid damaging the metallic thread in the jacket. Basic instructions: for your average stainless and other metal lamés, use a gentle solution of Woolite and a touch of ammonia in warm (not hot) water, dunk and drip dry. And at least sponge off your mask's bib with the same stuff and give it an airing. Of course, follow manufacturer's recommendations; if it says don't wash it, don't. But don't let it cook in wet sweat; hang it out to dry. Maybe you are one of the people, and perhaps they are lucky, who don't smell these odors, but lots of other folks do. Do us all a favor.

— AF

# A story of fencing progress ... **A HOME OF THEIR OWN**

Prise de Fer thrives in Massachusetts • by MattCASEY

**W**hat can you learn from Dave Blake, Ariana Klinkov, Prise de Fer?

Husband and wife Dave Blake and Ariana Klinkov opened the doors to the permanent Billerica, Massachusetts location in December after four years of existing as a club on someone else's turf. Now, instead of three days in a town recreation center each week, Prise has open fencing five nights a week and classes on Saturdays.

How did they get there? The New England division gave Blake and Klinkov a grant in 1997 to start recreational programs.

"Once we had enough students we decided to start having open fencing," Blake said.

The couple reserved space in nearby Bedford's town center and held open fencing once a week for three hours. By 2003 this expanded to three days a week, and fencers packed in every night. Lines formed at the bathroom door so people could change, and they ran out of strips.

During the summer of 2004, Bedford demolished the building. First the town moved them to a smaller room in the same structure that could only fit four strips, then that room closed too. They spent time in a private high school's gym, but Blake and Klinkov planned ahead, and they found a space to rent in the refurbished Faulkner Mill, a former industrial building renovated to house museums, offices, and now a fencing club.

"I think we started looking at this place in April, and we started construction in September," said Blake,

who is the club's full-time fencing coach. Rent, he said, is obviously a much greater expense than before. But with 100 members paying either year-round membership or floor fees, they're breaking even before the end of year one.

**N**ow fencers enter the club and gawk. Blake set up 10 regulation length grounded strips with overhead reels and scoring machines. Eight of the strips meet Blake's standards for competition strips. Blake and Klinkov also equipped the space with a sound system and an overhead projector. During classes, the instructor can use a microphone to save his voice, and during open fencing the speakers blast music. Blake installed the projector with the intent of using it to post results in real time during tournaments, but club members occasionally use it to view fencing footage. Parents can bring their laptops and hook into the WiFi internet connection while their kids fence.

"I think it's a great space," club member Brian Bower said. "This is the most professional setup I've seen in any new club."

But how did they arrange this? Making

Prise de Fer happen took a combination of time, money, and connections.

Blake scrounged up used strips and saved himself a bundle. He saved more money by reducing the amount he paid for labor. He asked club members to volunteer their time. They painted, nailed, flattened metal strips and bonded to the new space.

"They were anxious to get in," Blake said. "The club members feel like they have an interest in the club."

"Club is the highlight of my week," Hannah Braaten said. "I love it, especially because I helped out here. I helped [with] the wiring through all the conduit stuff, [and] I helped paint. It took so long, but it was so worth it." Braaten fences on Blake's high school team and goes to Prise's open fencing nights twice a week.

Now that the doors open six days a week, the money comes with it. Blake

The ample permanent space at Prise contains airy fencing strips that can hold dozens of fencers at any one time.



and Klinkov support the business through a combination of sources. Memberships cost \$500 and absolve members of \$10 nightly floor fees that non-members pay. They offer eight-week introductory classes ranging from \$100-125 Monday through Thursday, and advanced training classes on Saturday for \$20. Members receive a \$10 discount to these. Epee coach Gamal Mahmoud brings in more revenue, and works for a portion of the classes and lessons he offers.

The landlord cut the club a deal on the lease, a common arrangement in new and newly renovated spaces – rent will go up in subsequent years. But as Prise is gaining momentum, Blake is confident they are on track to handle the scheduled rise in rent.

In addition to the third floor space where they have open fencing, Blake

and Klinkov have space on the second floor where they will open a store. On Memorial Day weekend they will host its first tournament. Each weapon will get a day of round robin competition and, if weather allows, they'll hold the final bouts outside by a gazebo and a waterfall.

So what can you learn from them?

Scout for locations long before you think you're going to need one. Blake and Klinkov started looking at the Faulkner Mill in April, but they had their eyes open long before that.

Build community. People need to want to help you and their community if you want them to volunteer time and energy to build a club. Also, drawing more people to the sport through introductory classes draws continuing revenue to a club.

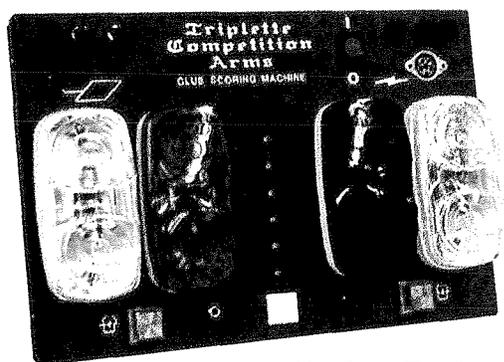
Work your connections. Find equip-

ment for cheaper than market value, and there's no harm in getting used equipment for some things such as the strips, which came used from university programs.

Think ahead. The Prise de Fer store isn't open yet, but if Blake and Klinkov waited, someone else might have taken the space.

Most importantly, love fencing. Though several young members of the club have already become very highly ranked nationally, Blake says the club's priority is to get people exposed to fencing. "We try and put as much work into kids who just come to fence recreationally as for competitive people, or at least make them feel as welcome and involved. Though even their focus becomes fairly competitive," says Blake. So expansion fit neatly into the club's mission for being. — AF

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# From high school to college ... **MAKING THE TRANSITION**

Choosing and adapting to higher education • by Ron **DILBERT**

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**T**his issue, I would like to share with you information several stout-hearted parents shared with us to help make our experiences with the big transition from high school to college fencing a little bit easier.

So sit back and take in these tidbits offered from these parents' mad adventures when their kids partook in the annual ritual of college selection, accompanied by large doses of SAT jitters, midterms, finals, fencing and SAT Courses — better known as junior year in high school.

First, understand we're talking about kids who have already decided they definitely want to fence on an NCAA varsity team. That is not always an easy decision. "Do you want to practice four hours every day? and not only want to, but have to?" asks Jon Moss, a former principal, a teacher, and a fencing club and college club coach.

**O**K, so say that decision is made. Know this: Grades are the most important part of your application to any school. "That's the biggest misconception kids have. They think they can coast in to a school if they excel athletically," says Rick Wire, who runs a national seminar and educational business educating parents on what they need to do to earn scholarships and get into NCAA athletic programs.

"A lot of kids ranked No. 1 or 2 think fencing will get them in and it's not true, you still have to do well academ-

ically. I can't even bring them in or even encourage them to apply unless they do," agrees Peter Brandt, head coach at Harvard.

Urge your child talk to coaches early on and impress on them that fact.

Next, it is a good idea to have the kids fencing on the national circuit, especially at Junior Olympics and Summer Nationals, so the coaches can see them. It is a good idea to create a fencing resume to send to the coaches and to also keep copies with you for when you meet with them. This resume should contain your accomplishments as a fencer, your GPA and your SAT results, as well as anything else you deem important for showing who you are and what you have accomplished. You can customize this a bit to what you believe each coach may be looking for and to highlight your strengths.

To help find colleges your child is interested in, you should be prepared to make extensive use of the internet. Begin researching which schools have fencing teams/fencing clubs and how to contact the coaches. You should also ask for assistance from your guidance counselor for this and all other aspects of the college application process. You should get to know them well and utilize their knowledge and resources.

**O**nce you have learned about the different schools, then you need to progress to the next step — now you have to start eliminating schools and

narrowing down the search. You should then make appointments to get formal tours of the campuses. Once you have your visit date you will want to contact the coach to arrange to meet with him/her so that you can get a feel of who they are and they can get a feel of who you are. It is best to do this during the regular school year and not the summer so you can get a genuine feel for the school.

**A**fter the formal tour, walk around the school and get a sense of the environment at the school, the student body and the demeanor of the school. Stop students and inquire about their thoughts on the school and if they had to do this all over again, would they pick this school and why. Ask for the good, the bad and the ugly about the school. You should especially ask the same questions of the kids in the fencing program. Jon Moss says "Talk to the number three or four fencer on the team, not the starter."

See if you can watch the team practice and see what type of atmosphere exists during practices, how the coaches are with the kids and how the team works together or doesn't work together. See if you can speak with some of the students in your major and see what their feelings are. You may even want to ask the coach if you can stay over in the dorm with someone from the team to get a better feel of the place. Also know your desired major, if at all possible, so you can focus on the schools

that have a good program for your major. For example, if you want to be a lawyer in New York, schools like NYU and St. Johns would be some of the places you may want to look. Remember, it's not all about the fencing.

If you have a coach you work with regularly and who knows you, you can request that they help you. Even though you cannot speak to a college coach about fencing at their school until the summer after your junior year, your coach can. This also brings up a very important subject – NCAA rules. You should get the NCAA rules book for athletics and familiarize yourself with it. This will give you all the Dos and Do Nots of the athletes college application process. You can get

them at the NCAA site or ask one of the colleges to supply one to you. Do not rely on your guidance counselor to know what can cause your child to become ineligible to fence with an NCAA program — they most often won't know!

**A**fter each visit send an e-mail or letter to the coach and the people who have helped you out, thanking them for their help. And finally, coaches say that they are most impressed by students who don't play games with them, who are honest about whether their school is the student's first choice — and also like students who talk to them directly, not just through their parents.

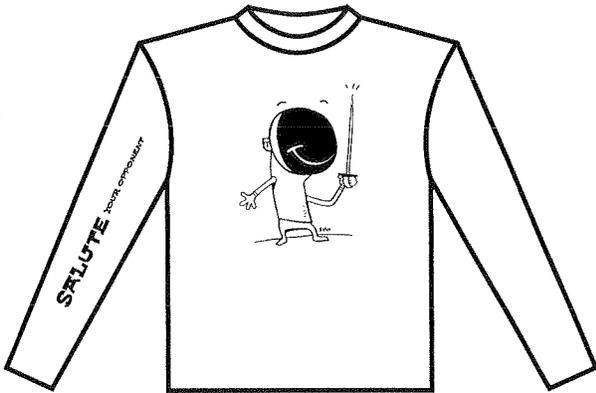
Also, one last tidbit – it is a good

idea to ask your English teacher to help you practice answering college application essay questions and then reviewing them so when the real essays have to be written the kids have already been exposed to it.

I hope that this article has given everyone some worthwhile tips and information to make this task just a little bit easier. I know putting this article together has helped open my eyes to this process that I am just beginning with my son. Good luck in your search and remember an education is one of the most important things that you can do for yourself so make sure that you have a good feel for the school you decide to attend and worse case scenario – transfer!  
— AF

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#### • Adam Crompton

2003, 2004 NCAA Sabre Champion  
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# An out-of-this-world experience ... **FENCING & THE SPACE PROGRAM**

Space and fencing share some similarities • by Candy **TORRES**

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**I**t may seem a bit of a stretch but there are some intriguing connections between the U.S. space program and our beloved sport of fencing. In this article we will describe just four ways in which fencing and the U.S. space program are connected: garments and equipment, fencers, exercise, and hot air balloons. Yes, hot air balloons!

## THE GEAR ...

Have you ever noticed that fencing outfits resemble the strange otherworldliness of space suits? Both traditional fencing outfits and spacesuits are basically white, but for different reasons. Fencing whites came from the fact that foils were originally tipped with charcoal to mark a touch. Spacesuits are white because the temperature rapidly climbs to over 250 degrees in full sunlight. We both wear several layers of protective garments, though astronauts' spacesuits guard against radiation and provide body temperature regulation. What fencer wouldn't love to have the latter option? Also, fencers are tethered to the scoring box while astronauts need to be tethered to their space vehicle so they don't float away.

Space has given us some of the more exotic fabrics used in ultralight fencing lamés. These fabrics, initially developed to shield electronic equipment, use a conductive fiber that lamés must have to help indicate touches. And lexan is finding its way into fencing masks after being used for years for space helmet visors. The tough transparent plastic is both easier to form and harder to scratch than plexiglass. And it has an easier time absorbing the hit from an epee tip or a piece of space debris moving at high speed without shattering. That could ruin the day for either an epee fencer or an astronaut.

As for other equipment, the microprocessor controlled scoring boxes are made using technology developed to reduce the size and weight of spacecraft electronics. All of the modern electronic devices used in fencing, from the voltmeter that tests your lamé for conductivity to the little practice gizmos that show you where to hit a practice target and then scores your results, can be traced to the revolution in electronics brought about by trying to get to the moon. Soon, when the FIE discovers the concept of telemetry, we could do away with reels and tethers all together.

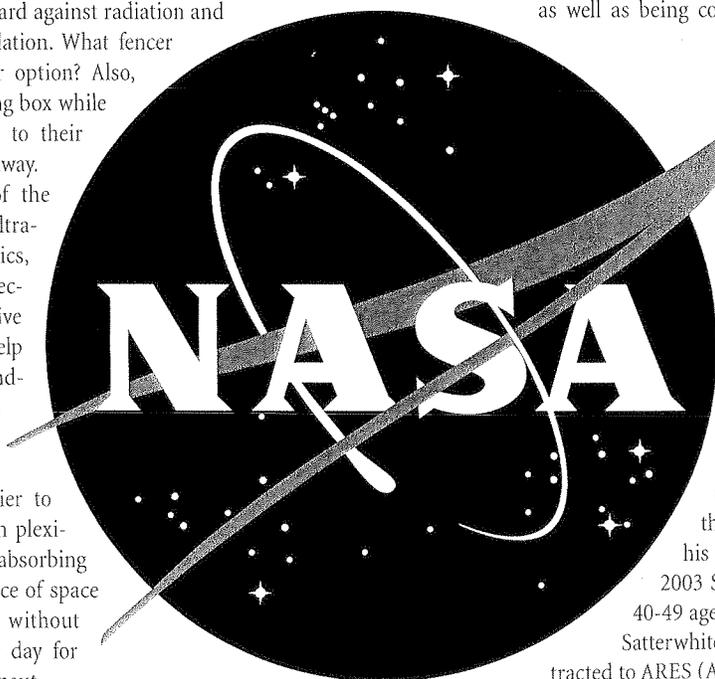
## THE FENCERS ...

But there are other similarities between fencing and the space program. The NASA-Johnson Space Center (NASA-JSC) in Houston has contractors that support various aspects of the human space exploration program as well as being competitive

fencers. **Don Cravey, Bill Satterwhite, Rod Fleming, Pete Wells and Candy Torres** are veteran fencers who are members of that elite group.

Cravey works for Barrios Technology, Incorporated, in the JSC Electronic Systems Test Laboratory, involved in verifying Shuttle and Station communication systems for the Avionic Systems Division of the Engineering Directorate. He has been fencing for 11 years, and now competes in epee, foil, and saber. He has B, C, and C ratings in these weapons, respectively, and has finished in the top three at several local competitions, but his best result was finishing seventh at the 2003 Summer Nationals in the Veterans Epee 40-49 age group.

Satterwhite works at JSC for Jacobs-Sverdrup, contracted to ARES (Astromaterials Research and Exploration



Science) Division, Curation Branch, as a laboratory leader and maker of Custom Handmade Petrographic Thin Sections of Lunar, Antarctic Meteorite, Terrestrial, and Experimental rocks. He supports the Lunar and Meteorite Pristine Processing and Curatorial Laboratories, which monitor and care for the Lunar Materials Collection and The Washington Smithsonian Institute's Antarctic Meteorite Collection, acquired annually by the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) Team. Satterwhite started fencing six years ago and competes in foil and epee as a veteran member of Clear Lake Fencing Club and has a D04 epee rating.

Fleming – now retired – was an engineer who worked for United Space Alliance in the capacity of a Navigation flight controller. His primary task was to model the trajectory of the vehicle as it makes its way into and out of its orbit around the Earth. Rod had been “on console” – working in NASA's Mission Control Center – for more than 22 years and had supported every flight of the Shuttle since the first “operational” flight, STS-5.

Rod is a three-weapon veteran fencer and occasionally delves into the more esoteric world of rapier and broadsword. Lately, however, he has become interested in the properties of the Italian grip and how it might be used in modern competitive fencing. Being a physicist who habitually measures things, he has been doing some experiments with the grips and has come up with some interesting, if not particularly useful observations.

Wells is with The Boeing Company as the Project Engineering Manager on the International Space Station Program (ISS). He has been fencing foil for the past five years with Salle Mauro, a fencing school located in downtown Houston. He primarily fences in local open events against opponents of all ages. He has competed in several U.S. national events and is nationally ranked in the Veterans-50 classification.

Torres is an engineer for Barrios Technology. She works in the Operations Planning group, which is part of the Mission Operations Directorate



Candy Torres in Krems.

Torres, center, holding sign, was part of the team in the ISS Flight Control Room supporting Expedition 9 last year.



supporting the ISS program. Her primary tasks involve responsibility for maintaining the website containing documents used by the ISS crew for their daily tasks and ensuring that the appropriate materials are uplinked to the ISS crew. She works in the Mission Control Center coordinating activities with other flight control team members in order to maintain the website and other activities to support space operations.

Torres has been fencing for over six years, although she first picked up a foil while an undergraduate during physical education class. She was one of four to continue into a second semester. However, there was a gap of about 25 years before she returned to the sport. She focuses on foil, though she has been known to occasionally wield a saber. She has competed in several NACs and Summer Nationals where she is recognized as "the NASA lady" because she wears the NASA and ISS patches on her sleeve as well as having the NASA logo on socks, sweatband, and T-shirt.

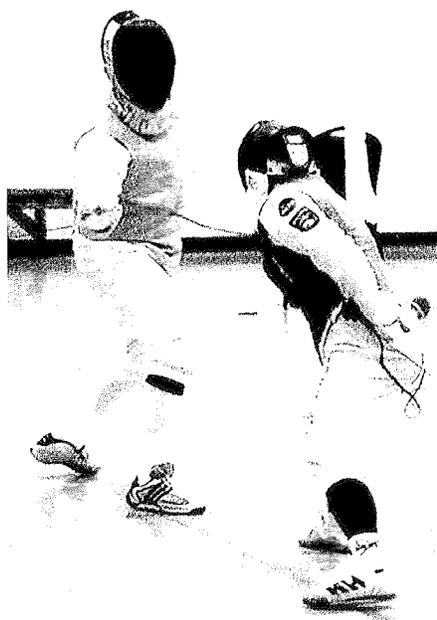
Now that the Clear Lake Fencing Club has a logo – space-related and she was one of the designers – it has been added to her sleeve. In addition, she practices educational outreach when she brings NASA handouts for interested fencers. Torres placed seventh in Veteran Women's Foil at the 2004 Summer Nationals and was on the U.S. Veterans Women's Foil 50-59 team at the Veterans World Championship team in Krems, Austria last year.

### EXERCISE ...

And competition brings us to another connection between fencing and the space program. At the NASA-JSC, there is research into exercise training and rehabilitation for the astronauts to develop countermeasures to long-term space habitation. Living in the microgravity environment of ISS over time decreases strength and bone mass thus requiring the astronauts to spend a minimum of two hours of exercise everyday. So how does this relate to fencing? Well, in order to meet her athletic goals, Torres recently enlisted the expertise of members of the Exercise Physiology Laboratory NASA-JSC – Exercise Science-Biomechanics and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS).

**John DeWitt, Corey Twine, Yamil Garcia and Bill Amonette** are all NASA contractors who work daily researching and implementing exercise programs for crewmembers. Each of these individuals brings extensive sport and training expertise to NASA. Each person has a Master's degree in

Torres in action



an exercise related field, and within the group there is more than 45 years of coaching experience. In addition to their work at JSC, the group works together to train athletes to improve their agility, footwork, strength, power and speed.

Coach Amonette first experienced training techniques for fencers while working in his internship at the United States Olympic Training Center. He worked with **Soren Thompson** in the weight room in Chula Vista, Calif., during the



Rod Fleming

summer of 2001. Thompson was a member of the 2004 Olympic Men's Epee team and placed seventh individually in Athens this summer.

The group also designs and implements training programs for a variety of athletes (e.g. baseball, basketball, track and field, soccer, etc.) that are specific to the needs of their athlete. In Torres' case, her ability to move explosively and to maintain balance are critical elements for successful performance. The group designed fencing-specific activities and trained Torres for the six-week period prior to her participation in the 2004 Summer Nationals. The training methods used are based on sports training research and the experience of the coaches.

### ... AND HOT AIR BALLOONS

Several of the above-mentioned fencers belong to the Clear Lake Fencing Club, which sponsors the annual Fete de Lune Veterans Tournament held at the NASA-JSC's Gilruth Recreation Center. The date coincides with the annual hot air balloon event – Ballunar Fest – that holds its competition the same weekend on the grounds of JSC at the end of August. So in addition to fencing at a fine facility, participants and family can view the sights and sounds of beautiful hot air balloons.

Currently in its sixth year, the Fete de Lune is the only recurring Veterans' Tournament in the Houston area. It provides a unique opportunity for fencers, many of whom have decades of training, to cross blades with their peers. Competing over the course of an entire day, fencers of both genders display their skills in all three weapons: foil, epee, and saber. The Fete de Lune is a rare chance for both fencers and visitors to see a martial art in which the speed and endurance of youth is often no match for the patience and cunning achieved from years of experience. Following the tournament is a banquet, where fencers balance a day of dueling with an evening of camaraderie.

So in addition to fencing at a fine facility, Fete de Lune participants and family can view the sights and sounds of beautiful hot air balloons. Also, Ballunar Fest attendees can not only watch the beautiful balloons, but can also stop by the Gilruth Center for a glimpse of space age technology and training applied to the art of fencing. — AF

# A friend remembered ...

## RALPH ZIMMERMAN, 65

The fencing world will miss a strong supporter

Ralph A. Zimmerman, Ph.D., 65, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, at his home following an apparent heart attack. Zimmerman was one of the most well-known and loved members of the USFA and served the association for decades, most recently as a member of the USFA's Board of Directors and member of the Fencing Officials Commission, along with several committees.

Many may not know much about Zimmerman's "civilian" or non-fencing life, but it was fascinating. Born in Philadelphia, he was raised in Vineland where he graduated from Vineland High School in 1956. He then began studying chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but quickly found himself unprepared and enlisted in the United States Air Force. During his four-year stint as a bomber crew chief, he traveled around the world several times. His plane was part of the U-2 surveillance project, flying the perimeter of the Soviet Union, detecting signals from the interior. Even though he flew in peacetime, his plane was damaged by Soviet fire and his service earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross. Upon his discharge, he returned to MIT and finished his undergraduate work in 1964 and earned his doctorate degree in inorganic chemistry in 1967. He worked as a research chemist for several years, then for the New Jersey League of Women Voters and the Passaic River Coalition, from which he retired in 2003.

Dr. Zimmerman also was a music lover, especially of bluegrass and organ music. He was a member of the South Jersey Wheater Organ Society and played the organ as a hobby, but his heart was in his volunteer career and the sport of fencing.

He began fencing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was the New England Champion in his senior year. He also was president of the New England Division of the Amateur Fencers League of America at the time. He eventually won a national silver medal as a member

of the New York Athletic Club fencing team, but his greatest successes were in officiating. As an internationally ranked fencing official, he refereed many NCAA, USFA, World Cup, Olympic and World Championship bouts.

Zimmerman was a three-time Olympic Referee, in 1968, 1984, and 1992. He crowned his career by presiding over gold medal bouts at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

Colleague and friend George Kolombatovich describes a story that illustrated the respect Zimmerman earned in the fencing community. He recounts the many years during which the New York Athletic Club, of which Zimmerman was fencing chairman, and the New York Fencers Club competed hotly for the title of National Champion.

"It was unanimously agreed by all fencers and coaches involved that the referee would be Ralph. These matches were always hotly contested; never was Ralph's fairness even considered – it was totally accepted. And that feeling did not stop at our borders," says Kolombatovich.

It was universally recognized within the FIE, as well as the USFA, that Ralph was both impartial and an excellent analyst of actions, and was respected by fencers, other referees, and FIE officials everywhere.

"But he never lost the urge to compete. One funny story: about 10 years ago he went back into training (of sorts). When I asked him why, he said there was a cheeky saberman at Princeton that he wanted to beat. And in some regional contest or other, he did win," says longtime friend Jack Keane.

He was a member of the USFA's Fencing Officials Commission for more than 20 years, and chair for 12. In 2001 he was elected as a USFA Referee Emeritus, the highest honor for a referee given by the USFA. He is one of only six referees ever so honored.

He also devoted his time to the sport by serving two four-year terms as vice-president of the USFA. At the time of his death, he was chair of a



Ralph Zimmerman led a fascinating life, both inside and out of the world of fencing.

special USFA task force, even though failing health had curtailed his activities.

Zimmerman regularly gave his time and money to aid the USFA. He would often travel very long distances to work without a penny in compensation, pay for his room at the hotel, and buy all his meals – as well as a drink or two for his many friends – without any financial compensation.

"I doubt if there ever was anyone else who devoted as much of his time and love to our sport," says Keane.

"If every member of the USFA over all the years Ralph was involved with our sport had given him a penny for each time Ralph helped, Ralph would have been a very rich man," says Kolombatovich.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Nancy (Kyte); a daughter, Nancy, and husband Shawn Daniels of Yardville; two brothers, Donald and wife Sharon of Vineland and David and wife Serie of Morris Township; five nieces and one nephew.

Memorial contributions in Ralph's name may be made to the United States Fencing Association, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. — AF

# A long-time fencing debate ... **CAN WOMEN FENCE?**

It has gone way beyond just 'exercise' • by Andy **SHAW**

**M**ariel Zagunis won the Olympic Gold medal in Saber for the United States at the 2004 Athens Games. One hundred years before, at the St. Louis Olympic Games of 1904 New York's *Albertson Van Zo Post* won the Olympic gold medal for the United States in the Single Stick event.

So now the two sexes are tied in American Olympic Fencing Gold. But the view of women in fencing has hardly been equal. Fencing history is rich in conjecture and editorial exposition regarding the fencing potential of women. I have combed through the many entertaining comments made on the subject and have a selection for your perusal.

From the beginning, fencing was seen mainly as good exercise for women. A handful of women created much publicity to encourage women across America to try fencing for fitness and sport. During the late 1800s, while America's industrialized cities were growing exceedingly fast, so were the city-dwellers' waist lines. The first well-known women to study fencing were actresses like Marie Tempest who starred in a Broadway show in 1889 entitled "The Fencing Master." Her role was loosely based on real-life fencing teachers in New York City like Madame Stamm and Miss Olive Oliver.

"Apart from its novelty, it is so healthful an exercise that it has been recommended by different physicians on medical grounds alone. It develops their chests and muscles, quickens their blood, steadies their nerves, and

helps them in many ways. Fencing is particularly advantageous to persons of sedentary habit and delicate constitution, which includes the majority of American women residing in cities. They need exercise sorely, and to their lack of it must be ascribed many of their ailments, much of their invalidism. Married women are as much benefited as, indeed more benefited than, unmarried women by sword play," the *New York Times* wrote in 1880.

The 1880s also brought two significant women into the media spotlight, Jaguarina and Mathilde Jagemann. Jaguarina (aka Ella Hattan) was famous on the west coast for her saber fencing on horseback. Jaguarina reportedly won thousands of dollars in reigning victorious in over 130 of her 135 career matches utilizing foil, epee, sabre, dagger, broadsword and all done either on horseback or on foot and exclusively against men. She retired in 1897.

Ms. Jagemann, a member of a Viennese opera company touring the United States, also seemed to threaten many men across the country and a Denver newspaper chronicled her bloody duel with a Mr. Rosenberg in 1889 in which he conceded defeat. Her great skills with foils and rapiers



What women want: More than a century ago, they wanted to fence.

encouraged many society women to study the sport.

But women fencing was treated with skepticism and as merely a novelty curiosity for quite some time by many through our history.

"A REAL woman fencer?" said the maitre d'armes, repeating the words as if he did not understand the question. 'Ah, yes, I suppose that may be but she is very rare; she will not practice; she may take up fencing for a time, but she gets tired too easily and gives it up before she has really learned.' Fencing among women in New York has been more or less popular for many years. It was started here about 1878, and has been much in vogue since that time. Once every three or four years it becomes a fashion — even touches the fad mark. Gen-

erally this rise is to be attributed to the fact that some well-known society woman has taken to fencing. The simple announcement that Mrs. John Jacob Astor was one of the best fencers in the metropolis caused a perceptible increase in the demand for foils and fencing outfits, and doubled the classes of M. Senac and other maitres d'armes," wrote Jerome Case Bull in the July 1897, *Munsey's Magazine*.

Others, however, began to take notice of the differences between the sexes in the sport.

"The weaker sex makes up in cunning what it lacks in strength. Women are much more artful than men. In no case is this evidenced more clearly than in fencing. A man will make a bold open attack, which his opponent will parry if he keeps cool. A woman waits apparently with no fixed purpose

until she sees her opportunity; then with a quickness of eye and hand which defies parrying she makes her thrust, and succeeds if she can keep her point straight," wrote Frank Leslie in the April 6, 1889 edition of the *Illustrated Weekly* of women's fencing classes at the Fencers Club in New York.

Still others focused mainly on what women wore, as did Paul Gallico -- another Fencers Club member, in the *New York Daily News* on April 25, 1935 article "Pants Are For Guys."

"In truth," he wrote, "I must amplify and state that I have never seen such a sloppily dressed group of lady athletes, ever. All I can say is -- darlings, don't wear pants, ever! There never was a more graceful piece of apparel designed for a lady than a skirt. Pants are for guys. Their legs are the right shape."

One wonders if Mr. Gallico would have the same opinion today.

As a result of these attitudes, American women waited until 1912 to compete for their first national foil title. In the 1920s, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish was selected to head the New York Women's Committee on Fencing. She helped organize the first inter-city team tournaments between Philadelphia's and New York's best.

Despite Mr. Gallico's opinion, the 1936 U.S. National Foil Champion, Joanna de Tuscan, was the first American woman to regularly wear fencing pants instead of skirts. Her style was so oriented to long footwork moves concluding with a long lunge that she felt that skirts were too confining for her game. After the 1936 Olympics, many American fencers gave up on skirts. But it wasn't until 1960 that the groin area became valid for women. — AF

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# Ivan Lee speaks on ... SABER FENCING AND THE NEW TIMING RULES

It's not all about who's the fastest fencer

**Q** How should I train for the new saber timing rules?

**A** I think the first thing every saber fencer should understand right now is that technique now means a lot more than it used to. Now that the timing of the machine has changed, it's harder to get the lights on. It's now very important to make your cut in such a way that you can finish on time. What a lot of people do without any strategy is just back up and throw their hand out, counterattack, and for the person attacking, if they hit late, it ends up being one light.

So my suggestion is that when attacking you have to be way more patient with attacks. Take a lot of short steps, don't go very fast. To just run down the strip makes it a lot easier for defenders to make a counterattack. You can't attack with the body, can't do too many feints, you have to finish a lot shorter.

## Footwork Drill | ATTACKING IN STAGES

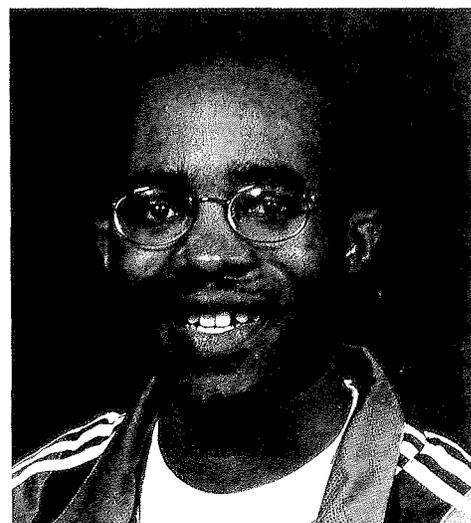
**P** practice attacking in different stages – advance, and pause. Double advance and pause. Jump, double advance and pause. This allows you to see counterattacks coming. Create patterns in footwork, mixing lengths of attacks and pauses.

**PARTNER DRILL:** With partner, Fencer A must pick a length of attack and pause. Fencer B may choose to attempt a short counterattacking cut. If counterattack comes during Fencer A's forward movement, Fencer A must quickly finish the attack. If counterattack comes in Fencer A's pause, Fencer A must stop, parry, riposte.

Version II of the drill: If counterattack comes in Fencer A's pause, Fencer A must stop, retreat out of Fencer B's counterattacking distance, and start a new attack.

On defense, keep your hand OUT. You'll be surprised at how many accidental touches you get just by keeping your hand out. And stay a lot closer to your opponent. Also, when you take a parry-riposte, obviously the riposte must be immediate to avoid the remise.

So distance is even more important – the most important thing now – and footwork and technique with cutting are very important. You have to keep farther away from the person you're attacking. That way, if they do counterattack, you can stop and parry, or be far enough away that they'll fall short. It's all about how well you kept the distance, how well you stay away from your opponent during the attack and how close on the defense. People who can master that are going to succeed with this new machine. — **AF**



Ivan Lee says technique means more now than ever in saber fencing. Photo: Brentwood Imaging

*Ivan Lee, 24, was a key member of the 2004 Olympic Men's Saber team that placed fourth in Athens. Lee finished 12th individually at the Games and also 12th at the 2003 World Championships, won the gold individually and by team at the 2003 Pan American Games and was the 2001 and 2002 NCAA National Champion for St. John's. He fences for the Peter Westbrook Foundation in New York, N.Y.*

## Regional Youth Circuit • Renaissance Fencing Center, Michigan • Saturday, February 12, 2005

### OPEN Y10 MIXED EPEE

Event class: Unrated

- 1 Nikilinska, Eva Escrime Du Lac
- 2 Dittle, Aaron Renaissance Fenc. Club

### OPEN Y10 MIXED FOIL

Event class: Unrated

- 1 Robert, Harris III. Fenc. Club
- 2 Dittle, Aaron Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 3T Murphey, Garrett Liberty Lakes Fencing Club
- 3T Smith, Ryan Liberty Lakes Fencing Club

### OPEN Y10 MIXED SABRE

Event class: Unrated

- 1 Wujcik, Ryan Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 2 Clark, Charlotte Fenc. Acad. Ohio
- 3 Crombez, Connor Renaissance Fenc. Club

### OPEN Y12 MIXED EPEE

- 1 Perkins, Jared Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 2 Nikilinska, Eva Escrime Du Lac
- 3T Murphy, Cody Liberty Lakes Fencing Club
- 3T Meeks, Joe Liberty Lakes Fencing Club

### OPEN Y12 MIXED FOIL

Event class: E1

- 1 Cole, Ben Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 2 Thomas, Alex Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 3T Meeks, Joe Liberty Lakes Fencing Club
- 3T Murphy, Cody Liberty Lakes Fencing Club

### OPEN Y12 MIXED SABRE

Event class: Unrated

- 1 Balayev, Fedor Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 2 Clark, Charlotte Fenc. Acad. Ohio
- 3T Boyd, Emily Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 3T Wujcik, Ryan Renaissance Fenc. Club

## Rhonda J. Jayroe Memorial Open • Renaissance Fencing Center, Michigan • Saturday, February 19, 2005

### OPEN MIXED EPEE

Event class: C1 - 15 competitors

- 1 Znoy, Joe Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 2 Hayenga, Gary AADS
- 3T Weckstein, Daniel U. Mich.
- 3T Shrank, Ron GFC

### OPEN MIXED FOIL

24 competitors

- 1 Wallrabenstein, Inga OSC
- 2 Williams, Joe Grand Rapids Academy of Fencing
- 3T Schleis, Ben Underground Fenc. Org.
- 3T Crandall, Brian Underground Fenc. Org.

### OPEN MIXED SABER

6 competitors

- 1 Zhong, Meng U. Mich. E05
- 2 Haynes, Stephen M MSU
- 3T Lundquist, Trent Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 3T Pezzat, Daniel Underground Fenc. Org.

### OPEN WOMEN'S FOIL

9 competitors

- 1 Vance, Beth Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 2 Mackinder, Madeline Grand Rapids Academy of Fencing
- 3T Leach, Michelle U. Mich.
- 3T Bohn, Keely Renaissance Fenc. Club

### OPEN WOMEN'S SABER

6 competitors

- 1 Zhao, Jing U. Mich.
- 2 Hobig, Jillian Renaissance Fenc. Club
- 3T Schrot, Jackie U. Mich.
- 3T Vance, Beth Renaissance Fenc. Club

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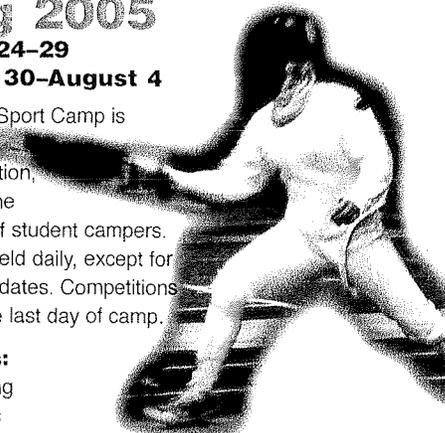
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- *Date TBD South Coast Youth Invitational*, South Coast Fencing Center, Santa Ana, California.

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

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

The **Arizona Division** announces the **Phoenix Cup**, May 21-22, 2005, including Cabaret Night and valuable prizes. See [www.phoenixcup.com](http://www.phoenixcup.com) for details and registration, or contact [piadouglass@earthlink.net](mailto:piadouglass@earthlink.net).

**Columbus Division** announces the **Dr. Todd Curn Memorial Tournament**, May 21-22, Dublin Sport Fencing Center, Dublin, Ohio, and the **Alexandre Dumas Memorial Open**, July 30, 2005. See [www.sport-fencing.com](http://www.sport-fencing.com) for details or call (614) 937-5415.

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

## COACHING CLASSIFIEDS

**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](mailto: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](mailto:eeekoloops@excite.com).

Drawing heavily from his "Big Book of Fencing," Dr. Rudy Volkman is finalizing publication of a textbook for college and club foil fencing classes. Coaches actively engaged in teaching classes are invited to ask for a complimentary copy of the text, syllabus, and teachers' manual by contacting Dr. Volkman at: [rvolk1@comcast.net](mailto:rvolk1@comcast.net).

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

Vassar College invites applications for the full-time position of **Head Men's and Women's Fencing Coach**. Coaching duties include: oversee all aspects of a developing NCAA Division III program, including budget management, recruitment of qualified student athletes, practice planning, etc. This position will include a teaching component and/or one administrative responsibility (i.e. event coordinator, promotions and marketing, strength & conditioning, or assistant for a second sport). This is a 10-month position, which includes benefits. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree (Masters preferred) and college level coaching experience. Knowledge and compliance of NCAA and league rules and regulations are required of the applicant. Starting date: August 1, 2005. Qualified applicants are asked to submit a résumé and three references (with phone numbers and email addresses) to: [careers@vassar.edu](mailto:careers@vassar.edu) or to Department of Human Resources, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Box 712, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604. Application deadline - March 25, 2005. For additional infor-

mation please visit Vassar at [www.vassar.edu](http://www.vassar.edu). Vassar College athletics programs are conducted in compliance with policies, procedures and regulations of Vassar College, the NCAA and the Liberty League. Vassar College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community. Applications from members of historically underrepresented groups are especially encouraged.

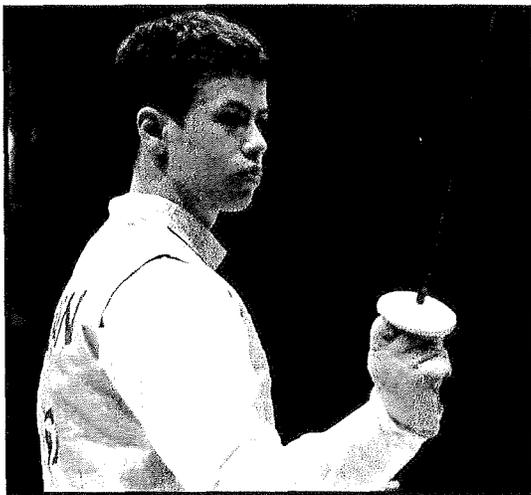
### Arkady Burdan and Ed Korfanty invite you to participate in the NELLYA FENCERS ELITE SABRE CAMP July 18-22 & 23-27, 2005 – Atlanta, Georgia

Train with some of the best sabre fencers in the world as they prepare for the 2005 World Championships: Olympic Champion **Mariel Zagunis**, World Champions **Emily and Sada Jacobson** (Olympic bronze medalist) and many more. Camp will be held on the campus of the Atlanta International School in fully air-conditioned, state-of-the-art gymnasiums with 15 fencing strips.

Under the guidance of Burdan and Korfanty, fencers will focus on advanced competition skills, strategy and tactics, extensive bouting, and physical conditioning. The program will include 2 daily training sessions with seminars on conditioning methods, sports nutrition and equipment repair. A camp tournament is planned at the end of Session II. You may register for session I, Session II or both.

For information and applications go to  
[www.nellyafencers.com](http://www.nellyafencers.com) Or e-mail us at  
[info@nellyafencers.com](mailto:info@nellyafencers.com)

Nicholas**CHINMAN** • 16, Boulder, Colo./Northern Colo. Fencers



**TheSTATS**

**Event:** Men's Foil and Epee  
**Birthdate:** August 8, 1988 (Providence, Rhode Island)  
**Hometown:** Boulder, Colo.  
**Height:** 6-2  
**Weight:** 185 pounds  
**School:** Boulder High, '06  
**Club:** Northern Colorado Fencers  
**Coach:** Gary Copeland and Andrea Lagan

**N**ick Chinman accomplished a first in modern U.S. fencing history this season - he fenced in six (!) events at the World Junior & Cadet Championships in Linz, Austria. In one of those events, the Cadet Men's Foil competition, Chinman brought home the silver medal. He's currently ranked third in U.S. junior men's foil, second in cadet foil, first in cadet epee and second in junior epee.

.....

**How he started fencing ...**

"Every year during the outdoor spring festival in Boulder, Northern Colorado Fencers puts on a free fencing clinic. My first contact with fencing came during this festival, where I was given a brief lesson from a national fencing champion volunteering at the NCF booth, who shortly afterward went on to college with a four-year fencing scholarship."

**Favorite fencing movie ...** I dislike fencing movies.

**Who inspires you?** All the fencers at NCF who have fenced with me.

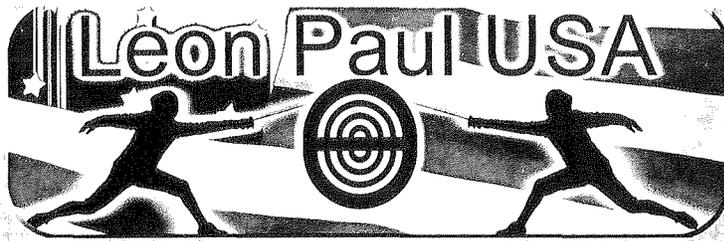
**Best Bout So Far ...** My last D.E. bout of Cadet Men's Epee at last year's World Championships, there was no pressure.

**Worst Bout So Far ...** Every time I fence Andras Horanyi, because I fence him all the time.

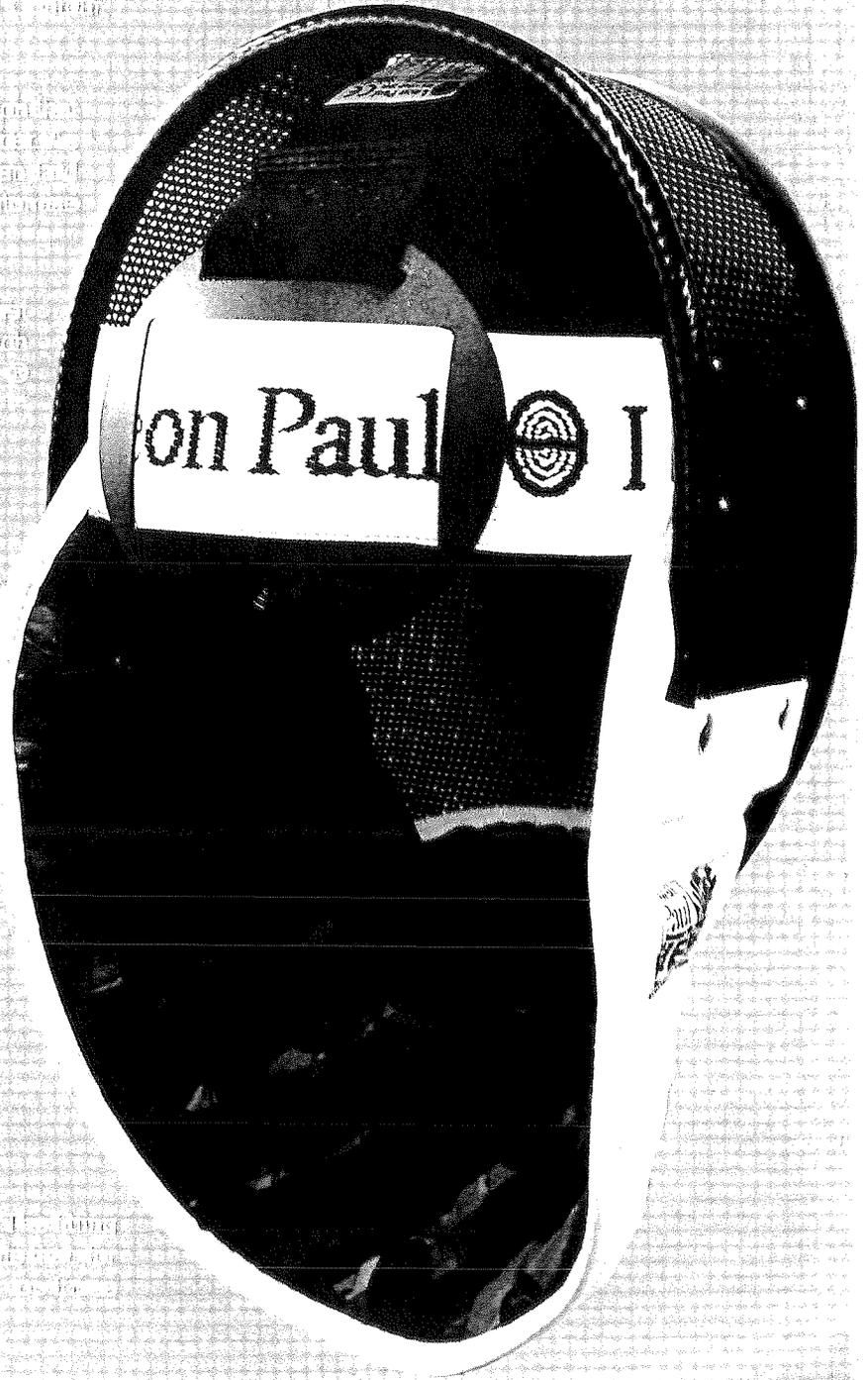
**Do you have a favorite weapon – foil or epee – and why?** Foil, because the bouts are less random. — *AF*

**CareerHIGHLIGHTS**

- Silver, Cadet World Championships, Linz, Austria, March 2004
- 7th, Epee, '04 Cadet World Championships
- 2004 Under-16 Foil and Epee National Champion; 2003 Cadet Epee National Champion
- 2005 Junior Olympic Champion in Junior Epee and Cadet Foil competitions



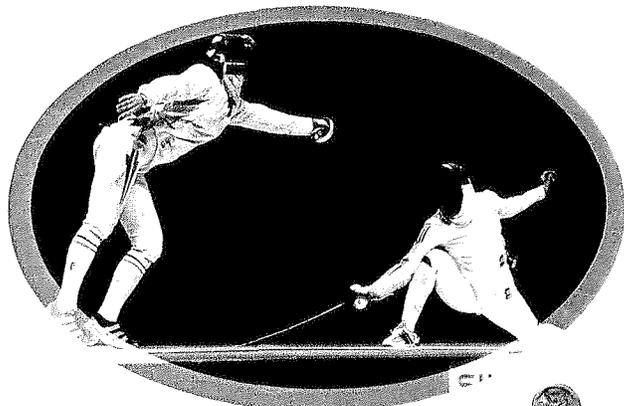
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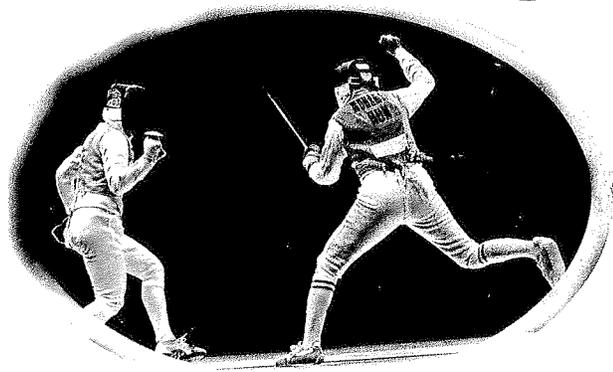
# PBT in Athens ... finished strong!



Timea Nagy, Olympic Champion



"Quality  
European  
Fencing  
Equipment"



Aida Mohamed, 4th place



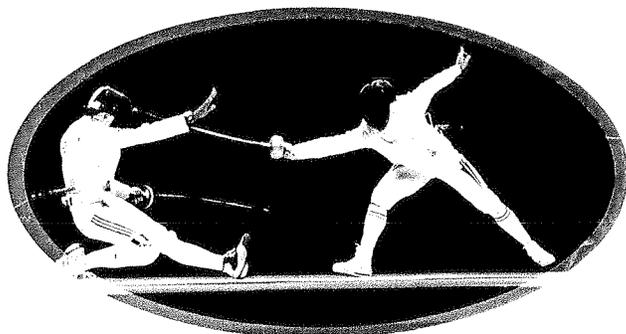
Ildiko Mincza, 4th



Keeth Smart, Team 4th



Zsolt Nemcsik, Silver Medal

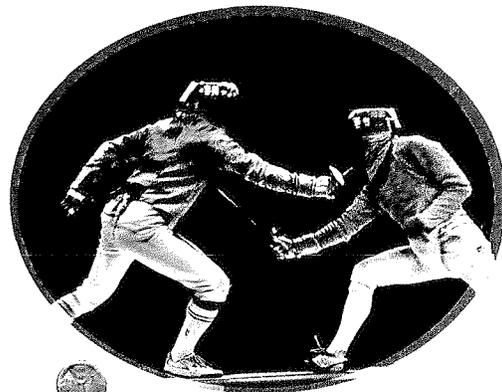


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Serge Timacheff

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