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Membership Application Information Details

The United States Fencing Association is an organization that strives to broaden the base of fencing in the U.S., both in participation and public recognition. It currently supports over 20,000 members. US Fencing is responsible for training and fielding U.S. teams to the Junior, Cadet, and Senior World Championships, Pan American Games and Olympic Games.

Determining Your Division

Your division is determined by your place of residence, or by the location of your school or competition club. Unless otherwise specified, you will be assigned to the division associated with the preferred mailing address. The division specified on the application or to which you are assigned **WILL BE THE ONLY DIVISION FROM WHICH YOU CAN QUALIFY** for the Junior Olympic Championships and Summer National Championships.

Division Names. Note state names with an asterisk (*) = state with several divisions.

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Ark-La-Miss [1]	*Gateway FL* [10]	Nebraska – S. Dakota	*Columbus*	*Gulf Coast TX* [24]
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California *	Georgia	New England [15]	*Southwest* [18]	*North TX* [26]
Central CA [2]	Green Mountain [12]	New Jersey	Oklahoma	*South TX* [27]
Mountain Valley [3]	Hawaii	South Jersey	Oregon	Utah- Southern Idaho
Northern [4]	Illinois	New Mexico	Pennsylvania *	Virginia
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Capitol [8]	Louisiana (Southern)	*Western NY*	South Carolina	
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Special Membership Types

Family: Up to four individual memberships of which a maximum of two can be competitive members and others are associate (non competitive) members. Memberships are non-transferable among competitive and non-competitive family members. Family members must reside at the same address. **All members must provide their date of birth to be eligible to vote or compete!**

Senior: Fencer who was born between 1967-1986.

Junior: Must be under 20 as of January 1 of the membership year(s) being paid; e.g. for membership year ending July 31, 2007, a junior must be born 1987 or later. NOTE: membership type does not guarantee eligibility.

Veteran: Fencer who is 40 or older as of January 1, 2007 or later (birth year 1966 or earlier).

Supporting: Payment of 1/10 of life dues for 10 consecutive years, after which membership converts to Life Membership.

Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to American Fencing Magazine - USFA Quarterly Publication
- www.usfencing.org – access to tournament entry forms, rulebook, results, schedules, latest news and more.
- Athlete Accident Insurance: Covers USFA sanctioned activities (contact USFA National Office for policy specifics.)
- Voting Privileges: Members 18 and over, as of February 1st of the membership year, have the right to vote in USFA elections.
- Discounts on Travel and Fencing Equipment
- USFA Membership card: Recognition as a member of U.S. Fencing and passport to worldwide fencing.

Receipt of Membership

Include a self-addressed stamped postcard, or a fax return sheet with your membership application for confirmation of receipt of your membership. It may take from 2-6 weeks to receive a membership card once application is received by US Fencing office. **Duplicate or replacement cards may be requested for a fee of $10.**

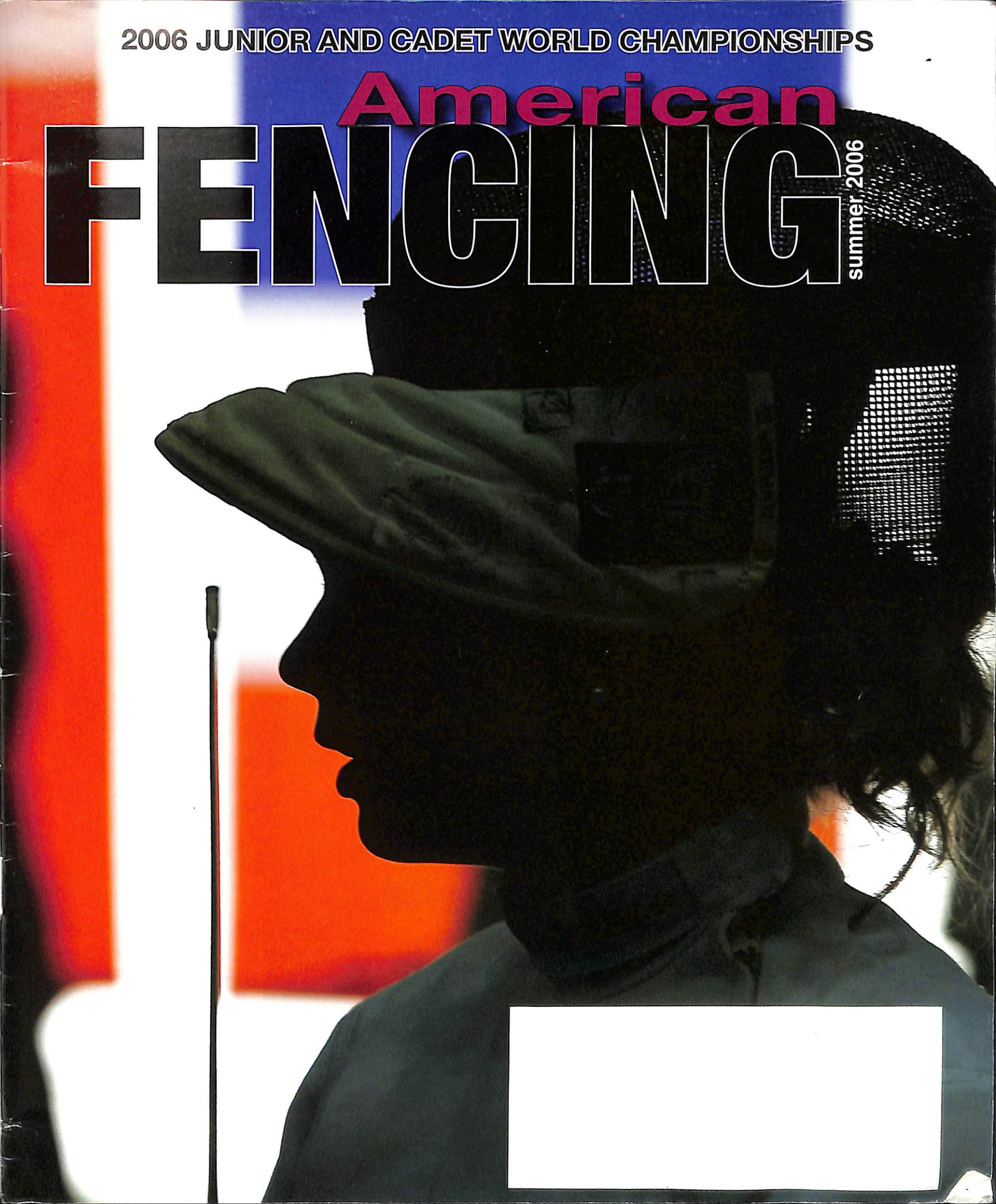
How to Contact the USFA

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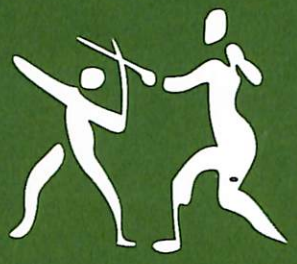
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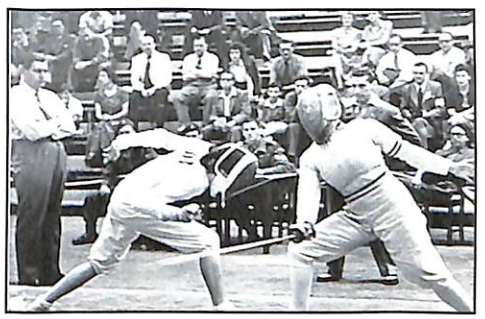
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Unknown athlete at the 2006 Junior and Cadet World Championships, South Korea—photo by Serge Timacheff, FencingPhotos.com.

The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

The United States Fencing Association is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Escrime, 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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The United States Fencing Association

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Contributors

In this Issue

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JEFF BUKANTZ writes the "Rules and Referees" column. He is a member of the FIE Rules Commission. Email Jeff at bukieboy @fencingofficials.org.

JAMES CARPENTER has been involved in fencing for 25 years, competing and coaching. He represented the United States at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta in individual and team epee. He also is a two-time Pan American Games medalist and three-time member of the U.S. World Championships team. He now coaches at the Gold Blade Fencing Center in Southlake, Texas.

MEGHAN GARDNER is the director and CEO of Guard Up, Inc. in Burlington, Massachusetts. Her business skills are the result of "many years of expensive mistakes, a voracious reading habit and rabid networking." She now consults start-up and small schools in improving their growth, staff training, and quality of service. In this issue, Gardner contributes valuable organizational advice for her "Club Tips" column.

PROFESSOR PETER HARMER is the chief medical officer of the USFA and a member of the FIE Medical Commission. Professor Harmer contributes the "Sports Medicine Q&A" column for *American Fencing.* He can be reached at: pharmer@willamette.edu.

MONIKA KAO is a freelance writer in Pittsburgh who played fencing mom to son Alex for many years.

ALADAR KOGLER, Ph.D., has coached seven Olympic teams, both in his native Czechoslovakia and in the U.S. He has published 10 books and more than 25 scientific papers and is the director of the U.S. Olympic Committee-founded Sports Psychological Research Laboratory at Columbia. Kogler is presently the Associate Coach at Columbia University and has helped lead the Lions to many titles in his 23 years there.

GEORGE KOLOMBATOVICH has served the USFA in too many capacities to list here, from coach to captain to officer to referee. He is an internationally rated referee and is a member of the FIE's Arbitrage commission. He is also Head Coach at Columbia University.

SERGE TIMACHEFF is a fencer, the founder of FencingPhotos.com, and the official photographer for the International Fencing Federation (FIE). He is also the author of two books on photography, *Total Digital Photography* and *Digital Sports Photography: Taking Winning Shots Every Time.*

References, Resources, Recourses

Nancy Anderson, President, United States Fencing Association

Do you know who your Divisional Officers are?
Do you know who your Sectional Officers are?
Do you know who the people are that run the club(s) where you fence?

You should!

These are the people who should provide correct answers to all your fencing questions or who should refer you to others within your division, section or club who do have complete and accurate answers. That is their responsibility and that is (in fact) why your division, section, and/or club has put them into they positions they hold. These people are responsible to YOU and to the USFA. They conduct competitions throughout the year that determine classifications, qualification to national tournaments, points, and (we hope) correct understanding of the rules that govern the USFA and the sport of fencing. They provide opportunities for referees to be identified and hone their skills for increasing levels of competency. They monitor and encourage tournament personnel (bout committee, armory and technical staff, etc.), they offer an environment for non-competitive supporters of our sport (parents, family, friends, spectators) to contribute to all our athletes in their own way. These are the folks that should make fencing your sport of choice, whatever you hope it will provide you.

These components of the USFA structure have traditionally been the bedrock or our sport since its beginning when it was the Amateur Fencers League of America with barely 1,000 members to serve. We now have nearly 25,000 members. The USFA still relies on its volunteer officers to serve as a liaison between the membership and the office in Colorado Springs for accurate record-keeping, updated information flowing between the national office and local constituencies, and for promotion of the sport of fencing. The USFA membership should demand this service. It is part of your membership at the local, divisional, sectional and national levels.

Work with the system beginning with the level that is most likely to have the information you want and need. I'm confident you will find full satisfaction. If not, "kick it up a level!" When all else fails (but I do expect you to first exhaust the steps that are rightfully yours!) get in touch with me (nanderson1@nj.rr.com) and I will work for an appropriate remedy. But remember: we have approximately 25,000 members. Your best recourse is the folks closest to you and those immediately responsible to you. These are the people who should be very qualified to give you an answer and you may save yourself some time by going to them first. It is your right!

Yours in fencing,

Nancy E. Anderson
President
United States Fencing Association



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Paralympic Wheelchair Fencing Coaching Seminar

The Wheelchair Fencing Committee of the USFA is conducting coaching development seminars across the U.S. to assist fencing coaches interested in working with and teaching fencing skills to potential seated fencers.

Fencers need not be confined to a wheelchair to be able to compete in wheelchair fencing. To qualify they must have a permanent physical disability that would keep them from competing as an able-bodied fencer. Many of the top world class wheelchair fencers walk. They may have a prosthetic, or braces, or even just a bad limp. These athletes are eligible to compete in National, International, and Paralympic competitions.

The emphasis of this seminar will be on adapting your able-body coaching skills with the appropriate modifications to teach persons to fence while seated in a wheelchair. Trained and experienced staff will be provided (either a national wheelchair fencing coach and/or an elite athlete) to acquaint you with the differences and similarities between modern able-body sport fencing and Paralympic wheelchair fencing.

This will be a three day seminar, Friday PM, all day Saturday, and Sunday.

Other topics covered:

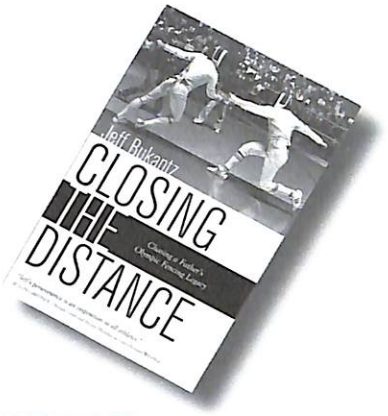
- basic information and plans for constructing a platform/fencing frame to use for lessons and bouting
- the rules and modification of those rules suited for wheelchair fencing
- drills and the basics of conducting lessons for teaching fencing skills to new wheelchair fencers
- physical training and special needs of wheelchair athletes

This will be "a hands on" clinic with plenty of opportunity to work with and practice your skills. The clinic could also be used to help recruit fencers as they could be invited to participate as part of the seminar.

US Fencing will provide transportation for staff designated to teach this seminar. Room and meals will be provided by the host. At least four to five clinic attendees must be enrolled as a minimum commitment. In order to purchase reasonable flights and to arrange instructor schedules, at least one month notice is needed.

This program is a great opportunity for clubs, Divisions and/or Sections to pool their resources and start a Paralympic wheelchair fencing program in their regions.

Contact Larisa Graham at the USFA office to make arrangements to conduct a coaching seminar in your area. You may contact Larisa at 719.866.3607 or email her at the USFA from the USFA web site. If you have any questions about Paralympic wheelchair fencing you can contact Jerry Benson at redlandsfencing@earthlink.net.



Closing the Distance

American Fencing *columnist and referee extraordinaire Jeff Bukantz has published a memoir. It's entitled* Closing the Distance*. Veteran foil fencer and fencing mom Kathy Schifferle submits this review.*

Closing the Distance is very much like a great bedtime story told by a true fencing fanatic.

Well-known U.S. Fencing community stalwart Jeff Bukantz has penned a memoir spanning his career, from young athlete to referee and team captain for numerous U.S. international teams, including the 2004 Olympic Games. It's a crisp, amusing narrative that offers numerous life insights that make the time spent reading it a good investment.

If you are a fencer, it provides a wonderful view of the fencing world and the Olympics in general over the last 35 years, with glimpses of legends from even further back. As I am relatively new to the sport, it was fascinating to "hear" how it used to be and "listen" to anecdotes of fencers that today I know as a coach, a referee, or just a legend.

If you are a parent, it paints the picture of a father that set the standard for role models. Often, an admiring child depicts a parent through rose-colored glasses; in this case it is clear that the entire international fencing community, and in fact, broader sports communities, would enthusiastically agree that Danny Bukantz was truly a world-class champion.

If you are a child (and I have learned through my association with you that many of you will never grow up!), you will recognize the struggle we all have with wanting to take what is good from our parents while creating our own, unique selves. Of course, this starts at peak hormonal raging and is more often than not accompanied with long periods of yelling, stomping and rebelliously wrong choices...you can certainly expect a lot of that in Jeff's book.

What I personally liked best is his candid look at the personal growth of a frankly pigheaded, opinionated and antagonistic individual. In *Closing the Distance*, Jeff does not cut himself any slack, sharing the warts with the wins.

Through this story, I see the changes and advancements that he has made; where he came from and who

he is today. I can relate to how not just his father's legacy but also how the act of fencing has been his conduit to personal development and the tool for a determination to achieve seemingly unreachable goals.

At the end of the day, *Closing the Distance* teaches us that life is not about winning the bout, but the integrity of each touch.

Closing the Distance, 264 pages, soft cover, Acanthus Publishing, $19.95. Available from www.jeffbukantz.com.

FIE 2006 Women's Saber World Cup Champion

In June, Mariel Zagunis (21, Beaverton, Ore.) won the title of overall FIE 2006 Women's Saber World Cup Champion.

She clinched the crown with her victory at the 2006 Las Vegas Grand Prix on June 16. One World Cup event (Havana) was held after that date, but no fencer had enough points to surpass her.

Zagunis finished the season with one gold, two silver, two bronze, and three top-ten finishes on the World Cup circuit.

Zagunis, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist, is only the second U.S. fencer to hold a World Cup title. Sada Jacobson (23, Dunwoody, Ga.), 2004 Olympic bronze medalist, earned the cup three years in a row, from 2003-2005.

Three other U.S. athletes finished in the top ten of the World Cup standings. Jacobson finished the season ranked 7th. Zagunis's Oregon Fencing Alliance clubmate Rebecca Ward (16, Portland, Ore.), 2006 Junior and Cadet World Champion, is ranked 8th.

Between Jacobson and Zagunis, U.S. women have held the Women's Saber World Cup title for four of the eight years of its existence.

The Federation International d'Escrime, or FIE, is the international governing body of the sport of fencing. The FIE holds a series of World Cup competitions around the globe each season. The athlete with the best series of results from those competitions is crowned the year-end World Cup Champion.

Edyta Skarbonkiewicz

We are sad to report that Edyta Skarbonkiewicz passed away in May in Colorado. Edyta was the wife of Adam Skarbonkiewicz, an assistant coach at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. and a former coach at Oregon Fencing Alliance, as well the 1996 National Champion at men's saber. Our hearts and prayers go out to Adam and their baby, Magda.

Condolences can be sent to: Adam and Magda Skarbonkiewicz; 7785 Julynn Road; Colorado Springs, CO 80919.

Donations to help Adam and Magda can be sent to: Jensen Investment Management; 1211 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 2130; Portland, OR 97204-3721; Attn.: R. Zagunis.

Please write on the memo line of checks: Edyta's Memorial Fund. For information, call 800-221-4384, ask for Robert Zagunis or Marianna MacKenzie.

Women's Sabre Team will be included for the first time in the program of the Olympic Games 2008 in Beijing.

The Federation International d'Escrime (FIE), fencing's international governing body, voted to include women's saber team plus women's foil, men's saber, and men's epee team events in the 2008 Games at its meeting in Taebaek City, South Korea in April.

Due to constraints placed on the size of the Games by the International Olympic Committee, fencing was offered only 10 events at the 2008 Games, as was the case in 2004.

In Athens, 200 athletes were allowed to compete at fencing. Women's saber individual was included for the first time; women's saber team and women's foil team were omitted from the roster.

As most fans of fencing know, women's saber fencer Mariel Zagunis earned the first gold medal in 100 years for the U.S., and Sada Jacobson won the bronze in the same event.

In 2005, the FIE voted to send two men's and two women's teams to Beijing to create more gender equity, and to rotate which team events would be included at each Olympics going forward. Women's epee team was therefore omitted from 2008, as it was the only women's team event to be included in Athens.

The General Assembly of the FIE then held a secret vote in South Korea to determine which men's team event must be dropped.

"I believe men's foil had good chances as well, but maybe the delegates found saber more modern and more dynamic," said René Roch, president of the FIE.

The Beijing Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games (BOCOG) and the FIE agreed to host the 2008 Team-World Championships of women's epee and men's foil in the Olympic venues as the official test event prior to the Games.

Also this spring, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) increased the number of fencing athletes at the Games: Instead of 200 athletes in 2004, fencing will now have place for 212. Those 12 additional places will be used in the four individual events of those disciplines which run team competitions.

This is exciting news for U.S. Fencing, as U.S. women's saber fencers continue to dominate the world stage—see our story above! ☆

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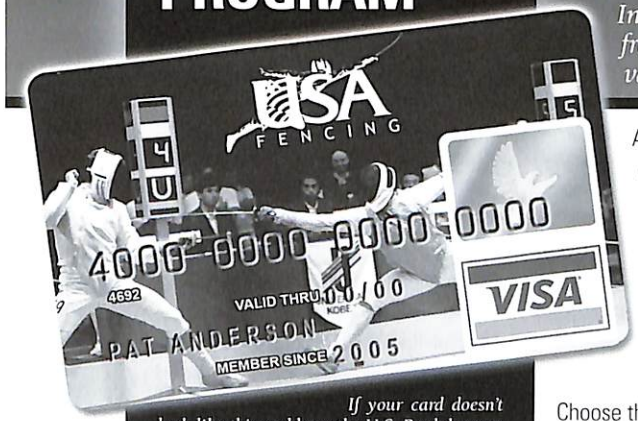
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Sudden Impact

Avoiding Jet Lag · Peter Harmer

Q What is the best way to avoid jetlag on long trips to competitions?

A This is a very common question with no very good answer. A "jet lag" primer by USOC physiologist Randy Wilber, Ph.D., for US athletes going to the Athens Olympic Games is available at: http://dps.usta.com/usta_master/usta/doc/content/doc_437_77.pdf (this is through the US Tennis Association. It does not seem to be available from the USOC itself). In general, Dr. Wilbur covers the essential elements of jet lag, including discussion of various approaches to dealing with it. Unfortunately, many of the recommendations are unsupported by research and come from anecdotal reports and personal experiences of athletes and international travelers. This is not necessarily completely bad as one of the major recommendations from the literature is for athletes to experiment and develop an approach that works for them. Of course, this is somewhat problematic until a good routine is developed.

However, there are several common elements to consider while working on an efficacious protocol for limiting the physiological and psychological downside of long distance travel:

a) The detrimental impact of long travel can come from two sources—travel fatigue and jet lag. Travel fatigue, associated with environmental stressors such as early rising to make a plane, dealing with security, sitting in cramped seating for long periods, dehydration from aircraft air-conditioning, alteration of eating habits, etc, may be easier to counteract than jet lag.

b) "Desynchromization" of the body's normal hormonal rhythm of waking and sleeping).

c) Adjusting to eastward travel is more difficult than to westward travel so it requires more planning and practice.

d) Despite advertising claims and "common wisdom" melatonin supplementation is not a panacea and needs to be used judiciously, if at all. A recent study published in the British Medical Journal found no evidence that melatonin prevented jet lag while a study from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School published in Sleep did note benefits in very specific circumstances (i.e., when the body "wasn't releasing its own supply of melatonin"—in other words outside of the normal sleep hours). Athletes *must* keep in mind problems associated with taking any supplement (prohibition or restriction by WADA or potential contamination with prohibited substances).

e) Hypnotics have been shown to improve sleep quality and/or diminish jet lag but any potential benefit must be considered in light of side effects, including "headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, and amnesia."

f) Exposure to bright light "turns off" normal melatonin secretion and manipulating exposure to bright light may help adjust the "body clock" either by advancing or delaying it (depending on the direction of travel) to bring it into phase with local time.

g) Although some researchers argue that travel across less than five (5) time zones should not result in significant jet lag, the general consensus is that it takes approximately one day in the destination time zone for each time zone crossed for circadian rhythm to return to normal.

For those who are interested in further reading on dealing with jet lag, the following articles should be useful:

- Herxheimer, A (2005). "Jet Lag." *Clinical Evidence*, 13, 2178-2183.
- Reilly, T., Waterhouse, J., & Edwards, B. (2005). "Jet lag and air travel: Implications for performance." *Clinics in Sports Medicine*, 24, 367-380.
- Buscemi, N. et al. (2006). "Efficacy and safety of exogenous melatonin for secondary sleep disorders and sleep disorders accompanying sleep restriction: Meta analysis." *British Medical Journal,* 332, 385-393.
- Wyatt, J. et al. (2006). "Sleep-facilitating effect of exogenous melatonin in healthy young men and women is circadian-phase dependent." *Sleep*, 29(5), 609-618.

Equipment on loan from the Sports Medicine staff

The USFA Sports Medicine program, which provides coverage at all USFA national events, lends various types of braces, splints, orthopedic devices and crutches as needed to competitors who are injured at these competitions. However, it is important that participants who are issued these pieces of equipment return them (either at the end of the competition if they are not needed to travel home safely or at the next competition) to keep operating costs as low as possible and to ensure that the equipment is available for the next athlete who may need it. Since the inception of the program in the 2000-01 season, we have had very good support from participants in this regard. Unfortunately, the non-return rate has been increasing over the past season. If you are issued any equipment by the Sports Medicine staff, please remember to be a responsible partner in US Fencing and return it as soon as possible.

The Danger of Misdiagnosis

Monitor Your Weakness and Take Action · Aladar Kogler, Ph.D.

The *Olympic Coach* magazine published a two part series of newsletter articles concerning monitoring and evaluation of the elite athlete. (All coaches and fencers should read it.)

When reading this article it reminded me how advanced was the former "East Block" theory and method of sport training, when 40 to 50 years ago the training programs and athletes' preparedness were monitored, tested and evaluated regularly.

To wait for the Olympic games, world championships or other target competitions to show us whether we did a good job is too late.

Monitoring provides a means of controlling the fencer development process and this is a window on preparedness. Monitoring provides the link between planning and preparedness, between planning and performance. Monitoring can provide us with insight into fencers' preparation that we have never had before.

In 1976 I made a scientific analysis of two of my world class fencers' sport preparation including monitoring, testing evaluation, applying the scientific knowledge and means available at the time. The fencers were Katarina Raczova, silver medallist from the world championship in Hamburg and World University Games gold medallist in Sofia, and Jaroslav Jurka, silver medallist (epee) at the World Championship in Barcelona.

In 1993, I translated and published part of this study in the U.S.A. ("Planning to Win: Designing, Recording and Evaluating your Fencing Training Program"). Although the data cannot be used today (then the fencers fenced 5 touch bouts, finales with 8 fencers round-robin), the essence and principles are valid and show an example of what can be measured and tested in fencing. Unfortunately, the most important part of the analysis, monitoring, evaluation of mental preparedness (internal feelings, emotional states, etc.) could not be revealed due to confidentiality purposes.

In this article, I want to bring into your awareness only one aspect of mentoring: *monitoring the weakness*.

Monitoring the weakness is more complicated in fencing than in other sports.

You can lose a bout due to poor *technique*, poor footwork, insufficient technical repertoire, a predictable way of fencing, passive style, but also because of keeping the wrong *distance*, inability to create the favorable distance for attack and/or because the attacks are not executed in tempo and lack the element of surprise.

Another important factor is lack of *tactical skills*. You are not able to quickly and correctly identify the opponent's actions, intentions, strength and weaknesses (you do not know how you got a touch, what was his action) or you do not know what to do. Your failure can be due to inability to quickly *recognize*, *analyze*, *evaluate* and *execute process* or some segment of the process is the problem.

Your weakness might be lack of *preparation* of your attacks (actions), lack of actions with second intention, etc.

The most frequent cause of failure of top fencers is the *mental* factor. Losing the bout(s) due to stress, pressure, lack of concentration, lack of control of emotions, lack of confidence, inability to eliminate distraction, negative internal monologue, etc.

For a less experienced fencer, the main cause of failure is lack of *technical-tactical* skills.

For top fencers, the main cause is the mental factor and/or the tactical aspect.

In my latest book, "One Touch at a Time / Analyzed the Fencing Competition in the Olympic Games in Sydney and Athens," you have excellent examples of top medal contenders failing due to mental factors.

In this year's NCAA championships I made a study with the top Ivy League NCAA fencing teams including this year's NCAA champion team, Harvard, Columbia and Princeton and the last year's NCAA champion team Notre Dame.

The NCAA team members self-evaluated to what extent the mental factor affected the loss of the bout in the NCAA championship.

The higher level of fencer, the more loss of the bout was affected by the mental factor.

This was more significant in the 15 touch bouts than in five touch bouts. In the individual competition almost all lost bouts implicated the mental factor as a cause of losing the bout in the direct elimination and finale bouts.

In the Columbia fencing team duel Ivy meets except for the men's and women's saber squads and to fencers from the other squads all fencers lost their bouts due to technical-tactical weakness; bringing this into fencer's awareness was an important momentum.

How to Identify Your Weakness

Step 1. In each NAC, World Cup (or any other) competition, evaluate subjectively on a scale 1 to 5 to what extent did the mental factor affected the loss of your bouts:

1 Somewhat
2 Moderately
3 Considerably
4 Highly
5 Entirely

Evaluate each of your lost bouts (both five and 15 touch bouts.)

As an example, let us assume that during a season you will participate in 10 to 12 top competitions. After the third or fourth competition (or even sooner), if your evaluation shows that the loss of your bouts was considerably or entirely affected by the mental factor then your weakness is the *mental aspect* of fencing.

Any increase of your training bouts, lessons, drills, footwork or conditioning will not help you.

You need to learn to control your mental states. If your evaluation shows that the loss of your bouts were only somewhat or moderately affected by the mental factor, then your weakness are probably the *technical-tactical skills*.

Monitoring and identifying your mental or technical-tactical weakness early in time enables you to focus on your weakness and work on it.

Step 2. Keep a competition diary. From each bout record all your observations about opponents, their style, actions, best strokes, strength and weaknesses.

Record your feelings, thoughts, self-talk, your own actions, and any other observations.

How detailed and extensive your recording is depends on you. The more detailed, the more valuable sources you will have for eliminating your weaknesses.

If your weakness is the mental factor, your observations and recording should be much more detailed. What self-talk, thought you had when in which phase of the bout (competition). Did you feel muscle tension? In which muscles, when? What was the level of your concentration, arousal in each bout, etc.?

If the technical-tactical skills are your weakness, equally detailed should be your observations and recording the tactical aspect of the bout and your opponent. Constantly observe and physically record the opponent's actions, intensions, best strokes, preparation, record and constantly analyze all bouts and all touches given and received. Record what mistake you made and what should have you done.

Keeping a diary is extremely important. It should be a must to each fencer!

Step 3. *Take actions!* Identifying your weakness is not enough. You must take action to eliminate your weakness. The start is *analyzing your competition diary*. The next step is a topic for another article, Mind/Body Mastery.

The Danger of "Misdiagnosis"

Be aware of that often symptoms may indicate the cause of failure, the mental factor.

But your real weakness is lack of technical-tactical skills.

I will illustrate it with an example. A fencer was leading 3:0 in a bout before the opponent scored three touches in a row. She became frustrated, lost her confidence, because anxious, afraid of losing the bout. She got distracted by her thoughts, lost her concentration and also the bout 5:3. She evaluated that loss of the bout was entirely affected by the mental factor.

Her opponent scored five times with the same action. She could not recognize what action her opponent did and lost the bout.

Lack of tactical kills (not knowing what to do) caused her frustration, loss of concentration and her temper.

No mental training can substitute technical-tactical skills. She ought to work on her tactical skills.

Be aware of that no amount of lessons, training bouts, drills and conditioning will eliminate weakness in the mental factor.

And vice versa. No mental practice can substitute and help lack of automatized technical skills and tactics.

In our next article, we will discuss suggestions for activating these strategies. ✯



Your Fencing Library

On the Literature of Fencing · Bob Block

"It should be acknowledged that fencing cannot be understood, much less learned, merely by reading about it"
Aldo Nadi, *On Fencing*

One of our sport's basic tenets is that fencing cannot be learned from a book. Although some basic techniques can be taught in a class environment, sentiment de fer by its very meaning can only be passed on from master to student and from fencer to fencer through the hand holding the blade. It all makes sense because ours is a combat sport in which the competitor stands face to face with an opponent. So, why do we need books if we want to practice an extremely physical activity that apparently can't be learned or understood by reading about it? Because, as Nadi goes on to further explain his thought, "...the arid and scientific contents of a fencing treatise can be appreciated and assimilated only by the practicing student." Therefore, he is actually recommending the literature of fencing as a peripheral study that compliments the physical as well as the mental aspects of the sport, which, of course, is one the reasons why he like so many other coaches have written books on the subject.

But perusing the literature of fencing can be a rather daunting task. This is because the books on fencing are seldom found in one readily accessible collection. Unless you happen to live not far from the Sport Sciences Library at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as I do, or belong to a long established club that had the foresight years ago to establish a fencing library, you will discover that there are relatively few collections of fencing books conveniently available. Just as fencing itself is an individual sport, collecting fencing books seems to be an individual passion.

There are usually one or two fencing books at the neighborhood public library and perhaps a couple on the shelf at your local Barnes & Noble or Borders bookstore. If you go on-line to some of the major book sites you will find a few more fencing books that are currently in print and can be ordered. But once you start searching you soon realize that a lot, perhaps most, of the fencing books you are interested in locating are no longer in print. Unless you have access to a rare book room at a major library, your best chance of getting your hands on that special volume you are looking for is through the rare and used-book market. If you really want to familiarize yourself with some of the literature of fencing you will undoubtedly start building your own personal fencing library.

Just as fencing itself is an individual sport, collecting fencing books seems to be an individual passion

One of the perks of being a veteran fencer is that I've been around for awhile and over the years have had the time to put together my own fencing library by browsing through new and used bookshops and expanding my search a few years ago to on-line sites. If you are interested in the literature of fencing, I recommend that you take the same path. As a true fencing bibliophile you can expect to experience the thrill of the hunt since the field of opportunity, all depending on your financial resources, may be rather small and those gems of fencing literature few and far between.

Where to start? Again, I would first consider what is available locally in both new and used bookstores. Then I would go on-line and get a sampling of what is out there for you in cyberspace. I would also look for bibliographies that list historical fencing works that may be available at a reasonable price in reprint or photocopy. For example, I have a bibliography from one on-line source that lists approximately fifty photocopy reproductions of historical fencing manuals, some of which were originally published as far back as the 15th and 16th centuries. Although I haven't ordered anything from this source yet, the bibliography is very interesting and the cost quite reasonable with prices ranging from $2.00 to $32.00.

Most of the fencing books that you find currently in print will also have useful bibliographies at the end of text. These can be very helpful if you are trying to find books that cover the various techniques, tactics and strategies of the modern Olympic sport of fencing. They may also lead you to other related interests such as coaching methodology, the history of the sword, Medieval and Renaissance fencing techniques, modern classical fencing, theatrical swordplay, the history of dueling, bladed-weapon collecting, the evolution of schools of fencing and some of the legendary figures in fencing's past.

Excellent bibliographies in this regard can be found in some recent publications, which I believe are still in print such as William M. Gaugler's books on *The History of Fencing* (1998) and *The Science of Fencing* (1997) published by Laureate Press. Nick Evangelista provides an eclectic bibliography touching on many aspects of fencing in his *The Art and Science of Fencing* (1996) from Masters Press. Maxwell Garrett, Emmanuel Kaidanov and Gil Pezza include a

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The Fifth Tool: Ref Smarts!

Working the Refs · Jeff Bukantz

In order to become a champion in any sport, an athlete needs to possess all of the necessary tools.

In baseball, for instance, the best prospects are those with the "five tools": hitting for average, hitting with power, arm strength, fielding ability, and running speed.

In fencing, it is not always the strongest or fastest athlete who becomes the champion. Raw talent can only take you so far. The champion needs to have a more complete package. The "five tool" fencer is comprised of the following attributes:

1. Physical
2. Technical
3. Psychological
4. Strip Smarts

Wait, that's only four. What's the fifth tool?

This column deals with reality; and the sad but true reality is that fencers need to have another tool/weapon/skill in their arsenal. That extra component is:

5. REF SMARTS

In fencing, the ability to sway the referee can be the difference between winning and losing. As long as that is the case, it is in the fencers' best interests to learn how to 'work' the refs.

Some referees are, indeed, human beings. And it is human nature to either consciously or subconsciously react to pressure. The pressure faced in officiating an important bout or match can be overwhelming. When the heat is turned up by the fencers (yes, coaches, captains, and parents, too), even the most experienced and savvy referees can become rattled.

You can never be sure how any referee will react to the additional pressure, so you really have to know your customer, as the saying goes.

When it came to terrorizing referees as a fencer, I was considered to be either the worst or the best, depending on which side of the strip you were on.

In fact, in June of 1984 the *Los Angeles Times* referred to me as "The John McEnroe of fencing."

For those of you who don't quite understand the relevance of that, please Google "John McEnroe and temper tantrums."

As a competitor, I was a class A jerk. And, for the most part, it worked to my advantage. Of course, I had to pick my spots.

As a referee, I had to deal with jerks like me! And, I learned what pushed my buttons in a bad way.

As Team Captain, I had come full circle, because I thought I could go back to doing what I loved most, which was acting like John McEnroe to those miserable, no-good referees. However, my thirty-plus years of officiating taught me that in order to be more effective as Team Captain, the McEnroe act would have to be toned down. Hopefully, the following will help make you a more effective fencer, at least when it comes to working the refs.

1. Working the weak referees. The weakest refs will make the most mistakes and be most likely to succumb to your pressure. Very risky, though, as they will implode and the calls can go either way, not necessarily to the fencer working them over.

2. Working the mid-level referees. As the mid-level refs are more experienced and more competent, they are less likely to fall prey to the baiting. Plus, it may have the opposite effect, as they may start picking on you to show everyone watching that you AREN'T intimidating them!

3. Tread lightly with the monster refs. Working the monster refs comes with the greatest risks and least rewards. These refs are the best, have handled far more pressure than you can throw at them, and generally have egos to match their ratings. Here, you have to reverse course: Whereas you were trying to get the weaker or mid-level ref to listen to you, now you have to listen to the monster ref. The odds are the ref isn't going to change based on your intimidation tactics, so listen to their calls, and give them what they want. If you pick a battle with a monster ref, you will be eaten alive.

4. How to question a call. How do you think a ref will react to you taking off your mask (legal after the decision) and angrily asking, "Wasn't that my attack...line...riposte...whatever?" For crying out loud, the ref already gave you the answer! Why knock your head against the wall and antagonize the ref? You will not change the call anyway. The late Hall of Fame baseball manager Leo Durocher was famous for saying that you argued for the next call, not the current one. In this case, it is best to plant a seed by calmly saying to the ref, "I thought I started the attack, parried, whatever...but I'll try to make it clearer next time." Here, you have not threatened the ref, but have rather made him or her think about the next one. Subliminally, you have also made the ref think that you have accepted blame for a mistake that might have been made.

5. Never stare down a ref. Oh, do some refs deserve it. And, we've all done it. But, as a ref I can tell you that this is competitive suicide. In the dictionary next to the definition of the word "dumb" is a photo of a fencer staring down a ref. At one NAC, a

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The Bottom Line

The Cost of Fencing · Monica Kao

Fencing is often accompanied by pain. There are sore muscles, aching joints, the sting of a well-placed hit—and for parents, a throbbing wallet. How much does it cost to fence?

Unfortunately, no one can answer that. Recreational fencing, with fewer lessons and tournaments, costs less than competitive fencing. The price of equipment can be based on individual preference and fencing style as well as weapon. For instance, shoes run from $50 to $200, with no consensus that expensive shoes are a better value than cheaper ones. With six weapons, clubs in all shapes and sizes, coaches whose skills range from Olympic to one-step-ahead of the student, eight different levels of fencing based on a student's age and competency, and an assortment of tournaments – the list of variables affecting the cost of fencing goes on and on. That said, let's see what training and competing, but not equipping, might cost a high school student with competitive goals. And before sticker shock sets in, let's compare it to the cost of participating in other activities.

We'll define a high school student with competitive goals as an eleventh-grader competing at the junior level. The fencer belongs to the best available club, takes from 30 to 45 minutes of private lessons per week from the best available coach, and attends a summer camp. This fencer is pursuing national points, so attendance at Junior Olympics, Summer Nationals, and at least one other North American Cup is in the budget. One of the fencer's goals is to compete on a top-level NCAA fencing team.

The amount of money spent on fencing will vary greatly depending on where a fencer lives. A top-notch club in New York City charges a one-time initiation fee, then $550 for membership, plus $440 for a locker each year. In Iowa, one club's annual membership fee is $180. The Western Pennsylvania Division appears to be in the middle for cost and competency. It has never produced a national team member, but fencers have gone on to start on good NCAA teams, such as Penn State and Notre Dame. So, for a competitive high school fencer in W. Pa., annual club membership can cost $600, plus another $50 for USFA membership. $30 per week for private lessons for ten months is $1,200; camp is $500. Here's a big expense—national tournaments at Houston, Hartford, and Atlanta. Airfare from Pittsburgh booked two months in advance is $754, registration for the events is $240, and two nights in the venue hotel at an average of $95 per night comes in at $570. Of course fencers share rooms and find cheaper transportation and hotels. But they also usually fly with a parent and often compete in more than one event, costs not included. And so this very unscientific tally of one year of competitive fencing in W. Pa, not including equipment, comes to $3,914.

Let's stack fencing up against soccer. An eleventh-grader who wants to play in college will be on a high school team in the fall. In the spring, competitive players participate on club teams, usually called cup or classic. A good classic team in W. Pa. costs $1,600 per year. Players also compete in the Olympic Development Program (ODP), a system of regional teams of talented players, at a cost of $1,000 per year. Tournaments are very important to competitive soccer players as a way to make themselves known to college recruiters. With that in mind, the coaches decide on how many and what particular out-of-town tournaments in which to compete. This year, a W. Pa. classic team participated in a four-day tournament in Jacksonville, Florida. Airfare from Pittsburgh is $210 and four nights in a hotel room shared with another team member is $190, or $400 for the tournament. So, using a conservative estimate of one tournament for each team, players spend $800 a year on tournaments. Finally, many competitive players hire strength and speed trainers who work one-on-one with the athletes for $65 an hour. A once-a-week session for six weeks comes to $390. Grand total for a soccer player, not including equipment —$3,790.

Dancers have different kinds of goals from fencers. They ultimately want to be professional, but first must get into a good school to further study dance or musical theater. In W. Pa., a competitive dancer would probably attend an academy for after-school classes rather than the corner dance studio. Two semesters of jazz, ballet, modern, and tap lessons, or substitute voice or acting lessons, comes to $2,400. A two-week summer dance intensive is another $850 for a yearly total of $3,250.

Of course, all of this is comparing apples to oranges. A fencing mask costs more than shin guards or ballet slippers, but a good dancer can wear out a pair of slippers in one performance. Colleges offer scholarships to more soccer players than fencers, but once out of school, where does a veteran soccer player fit in? A dance student may find a career in the theater. So, like most things in life, the literal bottom line in fencing is not the figurative bottom line. Once a family decides what money it can afford to spend, the worth of fencing, not the cost, becomes important. For watching your child learn sportsmanship and self-discipline while having fun is priceless. ☆

To The Point

A Brief History of the Shim · Joe Byrnes

On my home turf, we do an annual event (part of the "State Games") that follows USFA rules, and is certainly run by the divisional officers, but, I gather, because of political sponsorship, has to let in some people, in all capacities, who wouldn't usually show up; something like that; I don't do politics. Therefore I was surprised but not totally astonished to be queried by a young and successful foil fencer at the end of the day, in words somewhat to this effect: "what's with this sticking a shim in a foil?" By then it was too late to find the official involved, and ascertain in what hermit's cave he had been hiding for maybe thirty years. (Of course, I suppose it all might have been a joke, played by someone with a sense of humor not too far away from my own. After all, the fencer who reported it said that no penalties were being given, just solemn head-shakings and "that's a pretty sloppy assembly" admonishments.)

For the benefit of all those who have never heard of such a thing, and maybe don't believe it was ever done, let me call your attention to what's still in the rule book: specifically, in the section on foil, rule m.11, para. 4: "The course or stroke of the point ... may be infinitesimal; [it] must not be greater than 1 mm." Yes, indeed, back in the beginning days of electrical foil, the infallible gurus of the FIE decided that a sloppy foil point might/would mess things up, and must be prevented. Besides, it gave the officials one more thing to check and exercise authority over.

Isn't that a lovely word: "infinitesimal?" After a while, one manufacturer actually read the rule book and tried to make an infinitesimal gap, and came very close to succeeding. These were not the first points on the scene, by the way; so everybody had become used to the usual (frequently large-gapped) clunkers, when suddenly here were points that were so beautifully machined that, even holding the tip up to your eye, you really couldn't swear that anything happened when you pressed it. As someone who works in miniature machining myself, I know how difficult keeping that kind of tolerance is--and those were the days before CNC machine tools! That was a French maker, by the way; never conclude that all the French can do is wine and cheese: think Concorde, think Exocet missile.

However, there is a sad ending to the story; fencers didn't like the sort of you-must-take-it-on-trust appearance of the point; they wanted to see at least a little action. I could name a couple of national champions of that era who flatly refused to have these points on their foils; being discreet, I will not name them; but they were not alone, and pretty soon the manufacturer caught on and stopped making that model. I can safely assert that neither he nor any other manufacturer has ever made one that elegantly again. What price the better mousetrap, eh?

To return to our Rip Van Winkle referee, if that's what he was. Unless he had brought his own foil shim from several decades ago, he must have been using what was on the table, the epee travel shim set that is currently used. But that is totally incorrect for the test he was purporting to do. The modern epee shim set has two blades: 1.5 and 0.5 mm. One's too big, the other too small. The 0.5 is half what the old foil test was supposed to be. One reason the foil test gradually faded into the sunset was that manufacturers began to make their foil tip assemblies much better, so the question simply didn't arise any more. In my experience, it has been many years since that particular test has been invoked at the Olympics or World Championships, not to mention other lesser-prestige events; thus the 1.0 shim isn't supplied any more.

Another reason for its disappearance arose from a certain ambiguity in the very phrasing of the rule. Do you see the joker? The "foil" test shim was 1.0 mm. Obviously, the only way to use it was as a "no-go" eliminator. If it fitted in, the foil flunked. However, the gap is presumably specifically permitted to be 1.0: look at that rule again; it just isn't supposed to be MORE than 1.0. So the sea lawyers would argue, at least. If the 1.0 shim could just about be jammed in, did that foil pass or flunk? It became a bit too subjective a call to be bothered with. What the FIE gurus presumably meant to do, but as so often didn't, was to set a more precise specification. What they should have done is specify the gap as LESS than 1.0 mm. Q.E.D. But of course it's still in the Reglement the way they carved it in stone.

For a while, shim "sets" were sold that contained only a 1.0 mm and a 0.5 mm blade. You used the two held tightly together for 1.5 for epee total gap; you separated them and had the thin one for epee travel, and the thicker one for foil no-go. You can still find these around in old equipment boxes at club and school armories. They will be at least twenty to thirty years old.

One reason a present day fencer would want to look at the size of the gap at the tip is that if it is bigger today than it was yesterday, or last bout, your point tip is probably unscrewing internally at its back, and is getting ready to fly apart on you. Watch out for that. And that's about the last vestige of a reason to check the foil tip gap these days. ☆

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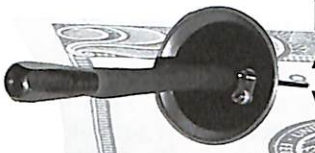
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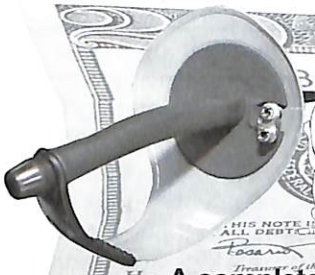
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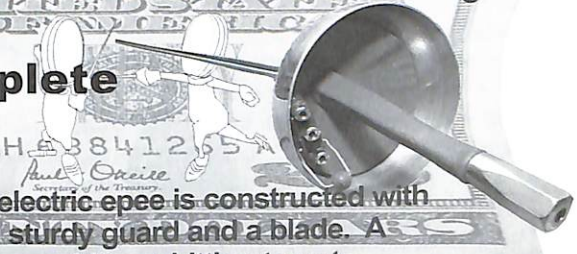
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The Larger Market

More on Student Types · Meghan Gardner

In the last issue, we talked about your second most important aspect of your business: your students. The article focused on demographics and appealing to the average fencer. I received a number of inquiries for more details about how to capture a larger portion of the market and what types of classes appeal to them. So this article will expound a bit on various methods to consider.

First, let's talk about the three types of Salle. There are the non-profit clubs (large and small) that are more interested in fencing and teaching fencing than in turning a profit. There are the elite fencing schools (both for-profit and non) that focus on fencers with Olympic goals (or at least Nationals). And there are for-profit schools that have the goal of providing fencing instruction combined with a solid profit margin.

For the purposes of this article, and because of my lack of experience in the first two, we will focus on the third school type, the for-profit business.

There are a number of ways to provide fencing instruction while maintaining a good profit margin. One is to appeal to a larger client base. This can be achieved by offering a variety of programs that are not specifically fencing, but related to swordsmanship in general. These may be historical in nature (such as classes in Rapier) or more in line with the theatre (stage combat). There are also programs like our own Sport Sword® that cater to younger (or younger at heart) sword enthusiasts who desire more creativity and less equipment.

At some point, attracting a larger client base requires that you appeal to a wider and more general perception of sword play. This means that you can offer classes that cater to those who are interested in competition but the majority of your students may actually be more interested in the activity of fencing or sword fighting than in winning medals.

Also, it is important to keep in mind that there are many parents who don't sign their children up for fencing to have them become competitive fencers. Instead, they are looking for a physical activity for their otherwise physically inactive child. They are also looking for a social outlet for their kids where they can interact with other kids with similar interests. And finally, they want their children to come out of class learning something beyond fencing or sword play. Lessons that provide obvious exploration of important life skills like teamwork, leadership, creative problem solving, communication, etc. are of much higher value to these kinds of parents.

Attracting a larger client base requires that you appeal to a wider and more general perception of sword play

So how do you appeal to both the serious fencer with competition goals and the "Fencing for Fun" group more interested in playing at sword fighting? The answer is to simply offer different classes.

The advantage of this is that you will find some students cross-train; they enjoy both the competitive aspect of fencing as well as the creative entertainment value of the less serious classes. Also, your competitive classes won't be diluted with less focused students who are more interested in the games than winning bouts. And your sword play classes won't lose students because they aren't getting the competition training they desire. Last but definitely not least, some of your sword play students may change their objectives as they grow and you might find that your sword play classes are excellent "seeders" for your more serious fencing classes.

Attracting these different types of sword enthusiasts requires marketing that really isn't any different than the marketing for fencers. They are very close to the same demographic but with different goals and somewhat different personalities. Competitive fencers are driven, focused, and appreciate the hierarchy of good to better to best. Sword play types like a little more chaos, creativity, and tend to be more interested in entertainment value than on winning. But both have a passion for swords.

How you wish to portion out the class types is up to you. If you react to demand, you may find that your sword play classes become more popular than your competitive fencing classes. You may also find that your client base shifts to encompass more children and teenagers.

It's your call on how to respond to this. Know what type of school you want to have, what kind of revenue is acceptable to you, and then adjust your schedule accordingly. But having too many clients come knocking on your door is not a bad problem. This is the point where you get to decide who and how you want to train and who you can recommend to another school. It doesn't matter how everyone else does it. You don't have to be like everyone else. And neither does your school. ☆



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ANNIVERSARY



2006 Junior and Cadet World Championships



CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Jim Carpenter, team captain, reports from the 2006 Junior and World Cadet Championships in Taebek City, South Korea, which took place April 9-17, 2006. All photos courtesy of Serge Timacheff, FencingPhotos.com.

The 2006 Junior and Cadet World Championships were the U.S.'s most successful ever. Despite having to travel all the way to South Korea, the team broke the U.S. record for most medals earned, tallying six gold, one silver and four bronze for 11 overall medals. All around the venue were rumblings of the nascent U.S. juggernaut. I had to smile when throughout my own competitive career, we were always trying to figure out how to do things like the Europeans, and now the Europeans were coming up to me to ask how the U.S. was doing it!

The results were even more impressive considering the extensive travel and brutal jet lag. After a 20 hour or so flight,



U.S. women's saber fencers (above) conquered new territory in April.

the team was greeted with a five hour bus ride up a single-lane winding road up to some very remote parts of the mountains of South Korea (think Appalachia). The fencers would arrive bleary eyed each night (actually, by then it was morning) at 2:00 am.

They were cheerily greeted upon arrival at the very nice Golfhotel by team managers Andrea Lagan and Elizabeth Beguinet (I'm not sure the two of them got any sleep the entire trip!). The coaches were unsympathetic to the fencers' sleep deprivation and got them up at early the next morning for breakfast and training.

In the end the jet lag might have been an advantage for us. Our fencers have to deal with it at every international tournament and are prepared for it. The Europeans, especially the juniors, don't have to confront it very often.

The main venue was the Taebaek Highland Gymnasium, a very nice local multi-sport stadium about a half hour bus ride from the hotel. However, it wasn't large enough to host all of the fencing, so there was a large, semi-permanent tent which was a short walk away. That would have been fine, if the weather had held up… which, of course, it didn't… Once the rain started, the tent started to leak and it became extremely dangerous for all the fencers.

Finally, after one of the British fencers injured himself while slipping during a lunge, they halted fencing in the tent. More strips were unpacked and installed in the main room of the stadium so fencing could continue. The tournament ran fairly smoothly after that.

I was particularly impressed with the growing number of countries at the championships and their skill levels. In Junior Men's Epee alone there were 50 countries represented. Fencers hailed from Kuwait, Dominican Republic, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Macao, just to name a few. They didn't all win medals but they were obviously well coached and well funded. It's fantastic to see fencing become such a truly an international sport.

Day One

CADET MEN'S SABRE INDIVIDUAL (56 ENTRIES)

In the 16, Davidson beat a very tough Max Hartung of Germany who was second seed coming out of the pools. Unfortunately, that set up Davidson and Mahaffey to fence each other in the quarterfinals. They fenced a very nice bout with Davidson coming out on top 15-11.

Ochocki's loss was to Ku of Korea, the eventual Gold medalist. The Korean saber fencers were on fire, stoked up by a very enthusiastic home crowd. Davidson was pitten against the other Korean, Yoo, in the semis. Yoo slipped by Davidson 15-10, earning Davidson the Bronze Medal. First event, first medal!

The new sport arena in the mountainous town of Taebek City.



SCORECARD—DAY ONE

CADET MEN'S SABRE INDIVIDUAL (56 ENTRIES)	Pools	32	16	8	Semifinal
Harrison Mahaffey (15, Los Angeles, Calif./Los Angeles Int'l .F.C.)	5-1, +15	V. Couturier (CAN) 15-14	V. Nikitin (UKR) 15-11	D. Davidson 11-15	
Raskyrie Davidson (17, Newark, N.J./ Westbrook Found.)	5-1, +9	V. Stearns (CAN) 15-14	V. Hartung (GER) 15-12	V. Mahaffey 15-11	D. Yoo (KOR) 11-15 - BRONZE
Aleksander Ochocki (15, Clark, N.J./ Fencers Club)	5-1, +11	V. Mailhes (FRA) 15-13	V. Mahaffey 15-11		

CADET WOMEN'S FOIL INDIVIDUAL (65 entries)	Pools	64	32
Abigail Caparros-Janto (17, Maplewood, N.J./ Fencers Club)	2-3, -2	V. Delany (GBR) 15-7	D. Shaban (EGY) 10-15
Lindsay Knauer (16, Medford, N.J./Fenc. Acad. of S. Jersey)	3-2, +8	D. Yoo (KOR) 13-15	
Nicole Ross (17, New York, N.Y./Fencers Club)	3-2, +10	V. Sinyta (UKR) 15-1	D. Zouari (FRA) 10-13

Final rankings: Davidson BRONZE; Mahaffey 7th; Ochocki 10th.

Captain's log: Top-notch athletes with top-notch coaching. I think you will see big things in the future from all three of these fencers.



Vloka vs. Ward in the all-U.S. Cadet Women's Saber Final.

SCORECARD—DAY TWO

CADET WOMEN'S SABRE INDIVIDUAL (40 ENTRIES)	Pools	32	16	8	Semifinal	FINAL
Jackie Jacobson (17, Dunwoody, Ga./Nellya Fencers)	4-1, +17	V. Vila (SPA)	V. Bujdoso (GER) 15-6	V. Vecchi (ITA) 15-13	d. Ward 11-15	
Caroline Vloka (15, Upper Saddle River, N.J./Fencers Club)	6-0, +25	V. Ponti (ITA) 15-9	V. Limbach (GER) 15-7	V. Ostojska (POL) 15-12	V. Woschek (GER) 15-4	d. Ward 14-15
Rebecca Ward (16, Portland, Ore./Oregon Fenc. Alliance)	5-1, +16	V. Dandamon (THA) 15-4	V. Jaquet (FRA) 15-4	V. Gregario (ITA) 15-12	V. Jacobson 15-11	V. Vloka 15-14

CADET MEN'S EPEE (75 ENTRIES)	Pools	64	32	16	8	Semi-final	FINAL
Corwin Duncan (17, College Park, Md./DCFC)	2-3, +3	D. Moussally (SUI) 13-15					
Cooper Gegan(15, Culver City, Calif./LA Int'l. F.C.)	4-2, +9	V. Kang (CHI), 15-5	V. Bardenet (FRA) 15-13	V. Mymrenko (UKR) 15-9	d. Garozzo (ITA) 15-12		
Graham Wicas (16, Phil. Pa./Fencing Acad. Of Phila.)	6-0, +17	Bye	V. Maciejczyk (POL) 15-11	V. Glane (GER) 15-14	V. Galassini (ITA) 15-7	V. Budai (HUN) 15-14	V. Garozzo (ITA) 15-7

CADET WOMEN'S FOIL INDIVIDUAL (65 entries)

Final rankings: Ross 24th; Caparros-Janto 30th; Knauer 33rd.

Captains Log: I think the girls were all disappointed in their results. But they fought hard and they're very talented young fencers. The future will be very bright for them.

Day Two

CADET WOMEN'S SABRE INDIVIDUAL (40 ENTRIES)

Captain's log: Gold, silver, bronze! What can you say, just unbelievable, great athletes and great coaching.

We knew by the end of the quarterfinals there would be three Americans on the podium.

In the Semi-final, Vloka steamrolled Woschek of Germany while Ward and Jacobson fought it out for the other final berth, with Ward coming out ahead. That set up fantastic nail-biter final with Ward prevailing over Vloka by one touch.

Final rankings: Ward GOLD; Vloka SILVER; Jacobson BRONZE

Our woman's saber teams continue to dominate. What a tough coaching combination, Korfanty, Gelman and Burdan, among the best coaches in the world and they work well together. The rest of the world has some catching up to do here.

CADET MEN'S EPEE (75 ENTRIES)

Final ranking: Wicas GOLD; Gegan 8th; Duncan 49th.

Captain's Log: What a pleasure it was to watch Wicas fence. Congratulations to him and his coach, Mark Masters. It must be very satisfying to see all their hard work paying off in such a big way. And Gegan and Duncan are also great talents. Gegan has another year in cadets, I think he'll win it next year.

Day Three

CADET MEN'S FOIL (81 ENTRIES)

Meinhardt lost a hard fought bout to the eventual Gold Medalist Zherebchenko. In the 8, Desmet lost a tough one to Biondo, the eventual Silver Medallist.

Final rankings: Desmet 7th; Meinhardt 9th; Parkins 40th.

Captain's log: No medals yet but watch out for these guys. There is a ton of talent here and they're all extremely well coached.

CADET WOMEN'S EPEE (72 ENTRIES)

Final rankings: Hurley GOLD; Brandfield-Harvey 42nd; Scanlan 52nd.

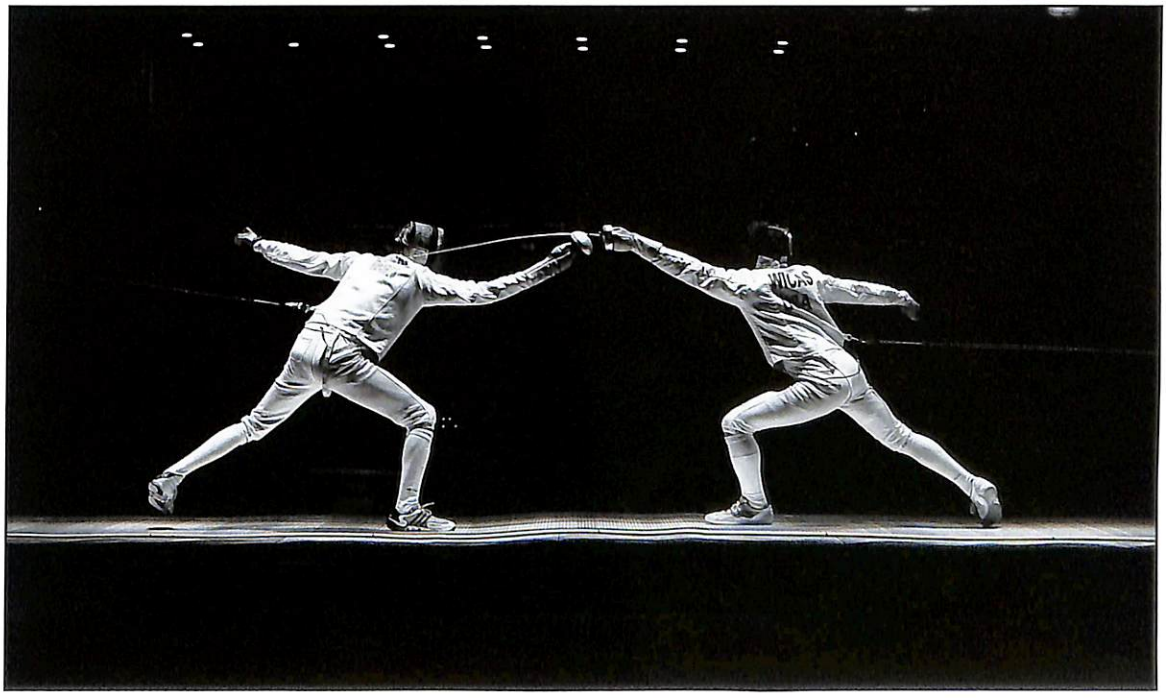
In the 16, Hurley came up with an incredibly gutsy performance against Rizzi of Italy. Although down 6 hits and exhausted, she fought her heart out touch by touch to come back from an seemingly insurmountable deficit to win 14-13.

Captain's log: FYI, Courtney's sis Kelley Hurley won the same title just last year, in 2005 in Linz, Austria. Just a fantastic effort by Hurley, what a great young talent and a great job coaching by Paul Pesthy.

SCORECARD—DAY THREE

CADET MEN'S FOIL (81 ENTRIES)	Pools	64	32	16	8
Ariel DeSmet (15, Portland, Ore./NorthWest Fencing Center)	4-2 +9	V. Kiil (DEN) 15-4	V. Cellar (SVQ) 15-9	V. Yunes (UKR) 15-13	d. Biondo (ITA) 7-15
Gerek Meinhardt (15, San Francisco, Calif./ Massialas Found.)	6-0 +19	V. Baluyot (PHI) 15-2	V. Remijn (NED) 15-9	d. Zherebchenko (RUS) 13-15	
Benjamin Parkins (17, The Woodlands, Texas/ Salle Mauro)	3-2 +2	d. Remijn (NED) 14-15			

CADET WOMEN'S EPEE (72 ENTRIES)	Pools	64	32	16	8	Semi-final	FINAL
Neely Brandfield-Harvey (15, Houston, Texas/Salle Mauro)	3-3, -2	d. Westman (SWE) 4-15					
Courtney Hurley (15, San Antonio, Texas/Team Hurley)	4-1, +13	V. Lavoie (CAN) 15-5	V. Matthews (GBR) 15-5	V. Rizzi (ITA) 14-13	V. Kummer (GER) 15-11	V. Dabrowa (POL) 15-14	V. Coquin (FRA) 15-13
Susannah Scanlan (15, St. Paul, Minn./Twin Cities F.C.)	2-4, 0	d. Andrushina (RUS) 14-15					



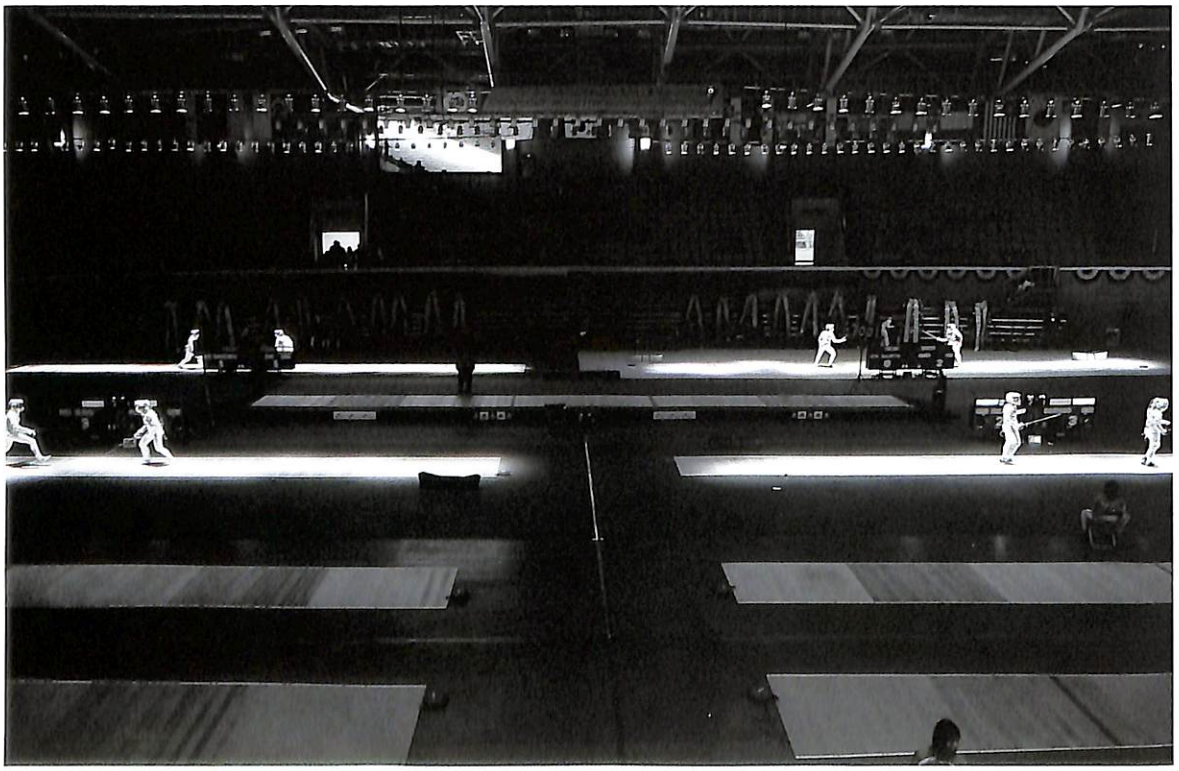
Graham Wicas, right, on his way to Gold.

SCORECARD—DAY FOUR

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER (79 ENTRIES)	Pools	64	32	16
Andrew Bielen (17, Philadelphia, Pa./Fenc. Acad. Of S. Jersey)	3-2 +3	d. Lu (CHN) 15-14		
William Thanhouser (20, Portland, Ore./Ore. Fencing Alliance/Notre Dame)	4-2, +4	V. Kizildag (TUR)	V. Giondov (BUL) 15-9	d. Kovalev (RUS) 7-15
Matthew Zich (19, New York, N.Y./ Fencers Club/Penn State)	5-1 +10	V. Ningomba (IND) 15-7	d. Kovalev (RUS) 14-15	

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL (72 ENTRIES)	Pools	64	32	16	8	Semi-final	FINAL
Emily Cross (19, New York, N.Y./ Fencers Club/ Harvard)	4-1 +13	V. Liu (HON) 15-5	V. Tagliapietra (ITA) 15-6	V. Krobeinikova (RUS) 15-7	V. Chanaeva (RUS) 15-14	V. Genevois (FRA) 15-8	V. Errigo (ITA) 15-5
Lindsay Knauer (16, Medford, N.J./Fenc. Acad. of S. Jersey)	2-3 -2	d. Willette 10-15					
Doris Willette (18, Rodeo, Calif./Golden Gate)	3-2 +4	V. Knauer 15-10	V. Hanzelova (SVQ) 15-5	V. Groslambert (BEL) 15-11	d. Errigo (ITA) 15-13		

Below: Fencers face off in pools of light.



Day Four

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER (79 ENTRIES)

In the 32, Zich lost a thriller to eventual Bronze medallist Kovalev 15-14; Thanhouser handily took out Giondov of Bulgaria who was 4th seed coming out of the pools.

Final rankings: Zich 13th, Thanhouser 29th, Bielen 35th.

Captain's log: No medals, but some great gutsy fencing.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL (72 ENTRIES)

In the 8, Willette battled back and forth with the very tough Errigo of Italy, eventually losing 15-13. Cross managed a fantastic come from behind victory over Chanaeva of Russia. She was down 6 touches but never panicked or gave up. She methodically executed one touch at a time to come back and prevail 15-14. It was really just a fantastic performance.

The battle with Chanaeva turned out to be her toughest challenge as Cross easily won 15-8 over Genevois in the semi-final and 15-5 over Errigo to win the Gold.

Final rankings: Cross GOLD; Willette 7th; Knauer 42nd.

Captain's log: Wow, just a great performance by Cross, guts, talent and athleticism, I hope she's able to continue balancing college and fencing at such a high level. A great job by Willette too, and Knauer is a very talented fencer, I'm looking for good things in her future.



Above: Rebecca Ward's determination earned her triple gold.



Left: Ras Davidson (right) on his way to bronze.

Day Five

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER (60 ENTRIES)

Final ranking: Ward GOLD; Vloka BRONZE; Wozniak 7th.

Captain's Log: Caitlin Thompson was to have fenced, but suffered a severe leg injury while training back in the States.

Almost a repeat of the Cadets, and I think it would have been, but Wozniak and Vloka fenced their table of 8 bouts at the same time and their coach, Yury Gelman couldn't be two places at once. Ward just continues to dominate; no one from outside of the U.S. is giving her much of a challenge. Congratulations to her and her coach Ed Korfanty, they're putting together a game plan that's tough to beat.

JUNIOR MEN'S EPEE (112 ENTRIES)

Final rankings: Ungar BRONZE; Sherrill 42nd; Smith 68th.

Captain's log: What a great job by Ungar, he's a terrific fencer. Congratula-

SCORECARD—DAY FIVE

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER (60 ENTRIES)	Pools	64	32	16	8	Semi-final	FINAL
Caroline Vloka (15, Upper Saddle River, N.J./Fencers Club)	4-1, +11	Bye	V. Tanaka (JPN) 15-8	Pundyk (UKR) 15-14	V. Block (GER) 15-11	d. Bujdoso (GER) 12-15	
Rebecca Ward (16, Portland, Ore./Oregon Fenc. Alliance)	5-0 +13	Bye	V. Benko (HUN) 15-8	V. Gulotta (ITA) 15-13	V. Kozlova (UKR) 15-7	V. Diatchenk (RUS) 15-5	V. Bujdoso (GER) 15-11
Dagmara Wozniak (17, Colonia, N.J./Fencers Club)	3-2, +5	V. Rossetti (AUT) 15-6	V. Vila (ESP) 15-6	V. Danilova (RUS) 15-12	d. Diatchenk (RUS) 12-15		

JUNIOR MEN'S EPEE (112 ENTRIES)	Pools	128	64	32	16	8	Semi-final
Ben Ungar (20, New York, N.Y./ N.Y. Athletic Center/ Harvard)	5-1 +13	Bye	V. Lycos (GRE) 15-13	V. Katay (HUN) 15-13	V. Szenyi HUN 15-14	V. Lapuste ROM 15-9	d. Wang (CHN) 15-9
Dwight Smith (18, Elmont, N.Y./Westbrook Foundation/ Columbia)	3-3, 0	d. Hasan (KUW) 15-10					
Teddy Sherrill (19, Short Hills, N.J./Fencers Club/Harvard)	4-2, +7	Bye	d. Heinzer (SUI)15-12				

SCORECARD—DAY SIX

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL (100 ENTRIES)	Pools	128	64	32	16
Kurt Getz (17, Rye, N.Y./Fencing Acad. of Westchester)	5-1, -2	Bye	V. Budecz (HUN) 15-8	V. Simmons (CAN) 15-11	d. Bassal (ISR) 15-11
Andras Horanyi (19, Boulder, Colo./ Northern Colo. Fencers/Ohio State)	3-3, -2	V. Chua (SIN) 15-5	V. Sakano (JPN) 15-2	V. Kenber (GBR) 15-9	d. Aspromonte (ITA) 15-6
Gerek Meinhardt (15, San Francisco, Calif./ Massialas Found.)	4-2, +9	Bye	V. Celler (SVQ) 15-11	d. Han (KOR) 7-15	

JUNIOR WOMEN'S EPEE (94 ENTRIES)	Pools	64
Christa French (18, Southlake, Texas/ Grapevine Texas F.C.)	3-3, +3	d. Shutova (RUS) 13-15
Courtney Hurley (15, San Antonio, Texas/Team Hurley)	4-1, +4	d. Nelubova (RUS) 10-15
Kelley Hurley (17, San Antonio, Texas/Team Hurley)	3-2, +4	d. Iordachioiu (ROM) 12-15

tions to him and his coach Aladar Kogler. Years of hard work are paying off. And also kudos to Kornel Udvarhelyi, he did a fantastic job of strip coaching Ungar all day. Sherrill's and Smith's results are disappointing; but these two are extremely talented, athletic and well coached, on any other day, either could have medaled.

Day Six

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL (100 ENTRIES)

Final rankings: Getz 11th; Horanyi 15th; Meinhardt 26th.

Captain's log: In the 16, Horanyi lost to eventual gold medal winner Aspromonte of Italy 15-6. No medals, but once again, look out for these guys in the future. Meinhardt is only 15, I'm sure he'll have a lot of medals by the time he ages out.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S EPEE (94 ENTRIES)

Final rankings: Courtney Hurley 35th; Kelley Hurley 46th; Christa French 47th.

Captain's log: Disappointing results, but some tough pools and tough D.E. draws. All three are young and I look forward to big things in the future.

Day Seven

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER TEAM (18 ENTRIES)

TEAM U.S.A.: Andrew Bielen (17, Philadelphia, Pa./ Fenc. Acad. Of S. Jersey); Bill Thanhouser (20, Portland, Ore./Ore. Fencing Alliance/Notre Dame '07); Matthew Zich (19, New York, N.Y./Fencers Club/Penn State '08); Teddy Levitt (19, Pacific Palisades, Calif/Los Angeles Int. l. Fenc./Stanford '08)

We were seeded 8th and drew a bye into the table of 8 where we drew a very tough Chinese team. We were down 20-14 when Matt Zich went on a monster run against Lu of China to give us the lead 25-24. Unfortunately we couldn't capitalize on the momentum that Matt gave us and we ended up being outmatched to lose 45-37.

Final ranking: 10th. Gold: Russia. Silver: Ukraine. Bronze: Germany.

Captain's log: A tough draw and a disappointing result. But I was impressed all week with Matt Zich. A natural leader and a fierce competitor, he'll be a big asset to the U.S. team in the future.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM (18 ENTRIES)

Team U.S.A.: Emily Cross (19, New York, N.Y./Fencers Club/Harvard '08); Lindsay Knauer (16, Medford, N.J./Fenc. Acad. of S. Jersey); Adrienne Nott (18, Rochester, N.Y./Rochester F.C./Notre Dame '09); Doris Willette (18, Rodeo, Calif./ Golden Gate)

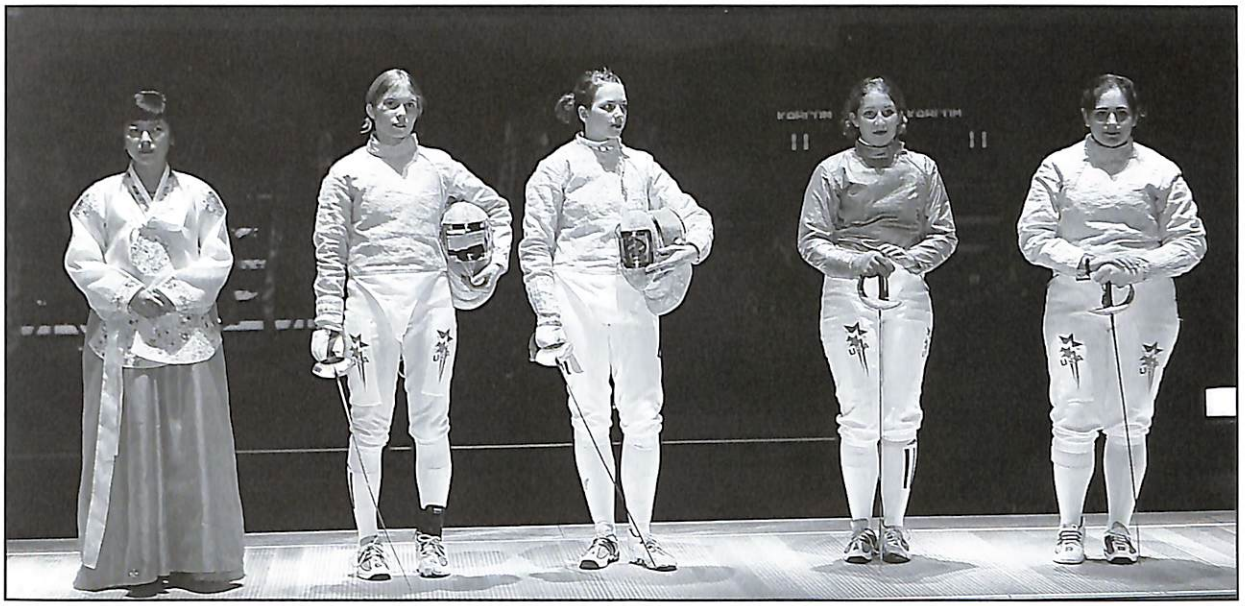
We were seeded second and drew a bye into the table of 16. In the 16, we handily beat Hong Kong 45-12. All four girls finished in the positive indicators.

In the 8, we drew a very tough Hungarian team. The lead changed hand several times but Cross closed it out strong with a 8-5 win against Lemberg to win 45-43.

SCORECARD—DAY SEVEN

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER TEAM (18 ENTRIES)	Final Standing
Russia	Gold
Ukraine	Silver
Germany	Bronze
USA: Andrew Bielen; Bill Thanhouser; Matthew Zich; Teddy Levitt	10th

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM (18 ENTRIES)	Final Standing
Italy	Gold
Russia	Silver
Germany	Bronze
USA: Emily Cross; Lindsay Knauer; Adrienne Nott; Doris Willette	4th



Left to right: Vloka, Wozniak, Ward and Jacobson were not to be denied.

In the 4, we drew Italy. Cross started us off strong with a 4-1 win in the first bout against De Costanzo, but we couldn't keep up the momentum and we dropped the match 45-34.

After the tough loss to Italy, our hopes were still high to beat the Germans for the Bronze. But we never quite got on track, getting behind early and weren't able to mount a comeback. We lost 45-31. It was a tough way to finish after they fought their hearts out all day.

Final ranking: 4th. Gold: Italy. Silver: Russia. Bronze: Germany.

Captain's log: What a tough loss. Terrific job by Cross—she'll be a big asset to the Senior teams from here on out.

Day Eight

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER TEAM (15 ENTRIES)

Team U.S.A. : Jackie Jacobson (17, Dunwoody, Ga./Nellya Fencers); Caroline Vloka (15, Upper Saddle River, N.J./Fencers Club); Rebecca Ward (16, Portland, Ore./Oregon Fenc. Alliance/home school); Dagmara Wozniak (17, Colonia, N.J./Fencers Club)

We were seeded first and drew a bye into the table of 8, where we made quick work of Hong Kong, 45-29.

In the 4 we drew Italy. The girls started out slow and were actually behind 10-7. Wozniak took control and went on an 8-3 run to take the lead 15-13. Vloka and Ward won the next two 5-1 and the rout was on. The final score was 45-28.

For the Gold Medal match, we drew the very dangerous Chinese team. Wozniak started us out with the lead and then when it got close towards the end, she broke their back with a 15-5 run over Wang. Score: 45-32.

Final result: GOLD. Silver: China. Bronze: Italy.

Captain's log: Just an awesome job by all the fencers, especially Wozniak, coming in as the alternate when Thompson withdrew, and then putting up a +15 in the Gold medal match.

SCORECARD—DAY EIGHT

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER TEAM (15 ENTRIES)	Final Standing
USA: Jackie Jacobson; Caroline Vloka; Rebecca Ward; Dagmara Wozniak	Gold
China	Silver
Italy	Bronze

MEN'S EPEE TEAM (28 ENTRIES)	Final Standing
Kazakhstan	Gold
Russia	Silver
Germany	Bronze
USA: Teddy Sherrill; Dwight Smith; Ben Ungar; Stanley Vaksman	12th



Above: Proud medalists Jackie Jacobson, Caroline Vloka, Graham Wicas and Rebecca Ward.

MEN'S EPEE TEAM (28 ENTRIES)

Team USA: Teddy Sherrill (19, Short Hills, N.J./Fencers Club/Harvard '08); Dwight Smith (18, Elmont, N.Y./Westbrook Foundation/Columbia '09); Ben Ungar (20, New York, N.Y./N.Y. Athletic Center/Harvard '08); Stanley Vaksman (17, North Woodmere, N.Y./NYAC/St. John's '09)

We were seeded 8th in the table of 32 where we drew the Dominican Republic. The guys made short work of it winning 45-13.

We drew the Czech Republic next. The guys never quite got it going and we were losing 40-28 going into the final bout. Ungar gave a heroic effort and brought it all the way back. We actually took a 43-42 lead! It looked like Ungar was going to get the next hit as well as his counterattack appeared to land in time on Ambroz's chest, we all stared in disbelief as the box showed one light against Ungar. A single against us and then a double and it was all over... that was a tough loss to take, but what an incredible effort by Ungar.

Final Result: 12th. Gold: Kazakhstan. Silver: Russia. Bronze: Germany.

Captain's log: A disappointing result, these guys have a ton of talent and I thought they had a great chance at winning a medal.

Day Nine

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL TEAM (24 ENTRIES)

Team USA: Kurt Getz (17, Rye, N.Y./Fencing Acad. of Westchester); Andras Horanyi (19, Boulder, Colo./Northern Colo. Fencers/Ohio State '09); Gerek Meinhardt (15, San Francisco, Calif./Massialas Found.); Nicholas Chinman (17, Boulder, Colo./Northern Colo. Fencers)

We were seeded third in the table of 32 and drew a bye. In the 16, we drew China. The guys did a great job but in the end lost 45-44 with some extremely questionable calls by the referee.

Final ranking: 9th. Gold: Italy. Silver: France. Bronze: China.

Captain's report: Losing with so many questionable calls was extremely frustrating to everyone. These guys will be back, though, and ready for next year.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S EPEE TEAM (23 ENTRIES)

Team U.S.A.: Christa French (18, Southlake, Texas/Gold Blade F.C.); Courtney Hurley (15, San Antonio, Texas/Team Hurley); Kelley Hurley (18, San Antonio, Texas/Team Hurley); Tess Finkel (17, New York, N.Y./Fencers Club)

We were seeded thirteenth in the table of 32 where we drew Malaysia. We got by them easily 45-16. In the 16 we drew the home team, Korea. The girls never quite got on their game and despite a strong closing effort by Courtney Hurley, they were defeated 45-38.

Captain's log: Another team that I thought had great medal chances. Disappointing, but once again, they are talented fencers with a great future.

SCORECARD—DAY NINE

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL TEAM (24 ENTRIES)	Final Standing
Italy	Gold
France	Silver
China	Bronze
USA: Kurt Getz; Andras Horanyi; Gerek Meinhardt; Nicholas Chinman	9th

JUNIOR WOMEN'S EPEE TEAM (23 ENTRIES)	Final Standing
Russia	Gold
Ukraine	Silver
Korea	Bronze
USA: Christa French; Courtney Hurley; Kelley Hurley; Tess Finkel	13th

Final Captain's Log: Cadre

An event such as the Cadet/Junior World Championships is a tremendous undertaking, especially when it's located in such a remote location. Everyone from top to bottom did just a fantastic job.

First of all thanks to Nancy Anderson for her leadership as Chief of Mission. Managers Andrea Lagan and Elizabeth Beguinet did just an enormous amount of work and just a great job. All the logistics of setting up hotels, transportation, food, water, sewing on patches... the list goes on and on. Corrinne Greenman, Manager of International and Elite Programs, did a fantastic job of getting things set up stateside.

The team trainers, John Carollo and Nick Tobianski kept all the athletes patched up and ready to go. The armorers, Matthew Porter and Rocky Sorensen were up late every night keeping the fencers' gear in top notch operating condition, sewing patches and whatever else the FIE Semi could throw at them.

Many thanks to the team coaches who did such a great job: Kornel Udvarhelyi, Simon Gershon, Yury Gelman, Paul Pesthy, Nat Goodhartz, Michael Pederson and Ed Korfanty.

And I'd like to also thank the unofficial coaches who came along and added so much help to the team: Mark Masters, Gary Copeland, Mauro Hamza, Michael Marx, Michael Petin, Mikail Sankofa, Ro Sobalvarro and Arkady Burdan.

Thanks to Doug Findlay for doing a great job of refereeing and to George Kolombatovich, head of Arbitrage.

And I'd also like to add a special thanks to all the parents of the fencers for all the sacrifices they've made for these phenomenal results, especially the parents who pitched in helping to sew on patches for other fencers up until the early the next morning.

Overall Results

Eleven overall medals... six golds... and we could have had a couple more! I certainly feel that men's epee and women's epee teams had enough firepower to bring home a couple of medals. Woman's saber continues to dominate and I don't see that slowing down anytime soon. When Dagmara Wozniak comes in as the alternate and puts up a +15 in the gold medal match, it just goes to show what kind of depth the saber squad has. And you just can't say enough about Becca Ward -- three golds, what an unbelievable performance! Wicas is one of the best technical fencers I've seen in years. Emily Cross and Courtney Hurley showed guts and athleticism in winning their golds. And although they didn't win any medals, I was also extremely impressed with our young men's foil fencers, I think they have a great future and will win medals next year for sure. All in all, I think we are well positioned for the future, a lot of great young athletes with some of the best coaching in the world. ☆

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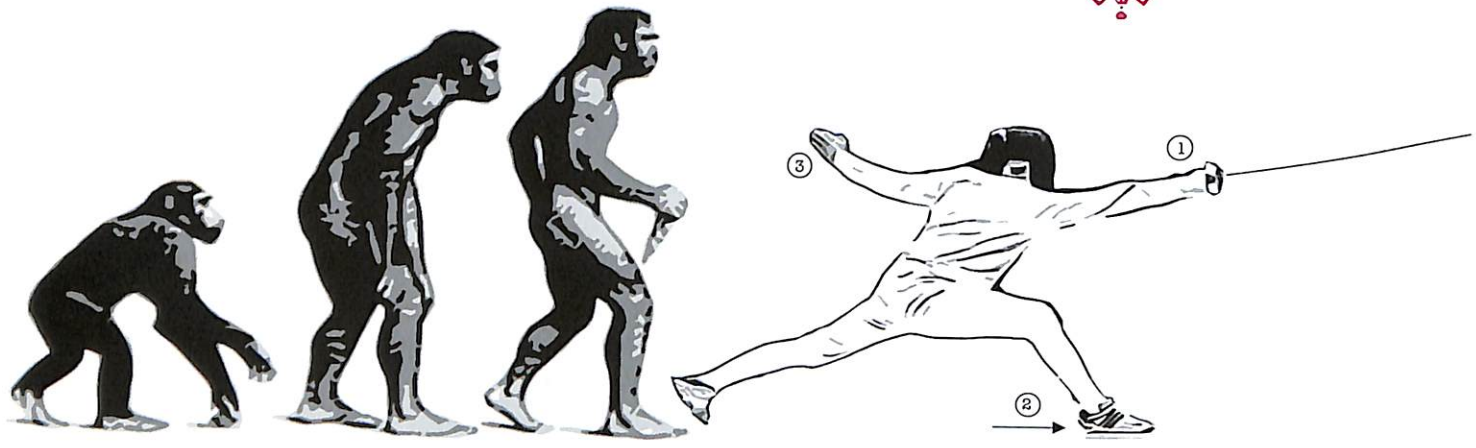


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The Awful Truth

George Kolombatovich looks at "classic" fencing
Photographs courtesy of George Masin



(figure d)

What was fencing like years ago?

As the author Simone Signoret wrote "La nostalgie n'est plus ce qu'elle était." (Nostalgia is not what it used to be.) We all, as human beings, really do tend to remember things as we would like them to have been; fencers are no different.

Many tell stories of the wonderful times when no one wore colored uniforms, no one lunged until the arm was fully extended, and all were completely honest with impeccable integrity. We were (they remember through their rose-colored glasses), a pure sport, a sport of classic movements where perfect technique was always used, and every person was of the highest degree of sportsmanship. Unfortunately, these memories are just not based on reality.

Let's take a look at how things really were in the times of "classic" fencing. Here are some examples of how flawed are those who would have fencing go back to the "good old days."

On the opposite page, top, is a photograph from the foil competition at the 1906 Olympic Games. (The old photographs here are from the excellent collection of Olympic Fencing memorabilia of USA Olympian George Masin; none of the fencers in these photographs is George Masin.)

- The fencer on the left is lunging, but the arm is certainly not even close to being extended. Remember—this is 1906.
- The fencer on the right is also lunging, but his arm is also not extended and the point is aimed at the bearded spectator in the front row.
- Neither fencer has the back arm in a "classical" position.
- The fencer on the left has his forward foot not at all straight.
- Fencers are not in all white uniforms.

There are many other examples of fencers from the "clas-

sic" times that were far from classic. In describing Eugenio Pini, one of the very best Italian fencers of his time, The Graphic of July 2, 1892 wrote "The position used by the Cav. Pini is a very strange one. He leans forward with his head low, his right foot far in front of him, and his left hand hangs near his shoulder. On guard, he holds his foil nearly upright..." Clearly this is not a "classical" fencer.

The next picture was taken during a foil bout is from the 1948 Olympics. Change the uniforms, add electrical equipment, change the attire of the spectators (and have the fencer on the left pull up her socks), it could be easily mistaken for a bout at the 2004 Olympic Games. As for the necessity of increasing the accuracy of officiating with those "terrible" scoring machines, the reminisces of fairness, honesty, and integrity are, most unfortunately, far off the mark.

How dishonest was officiating before the electrical scoring machines? Here are some facts:

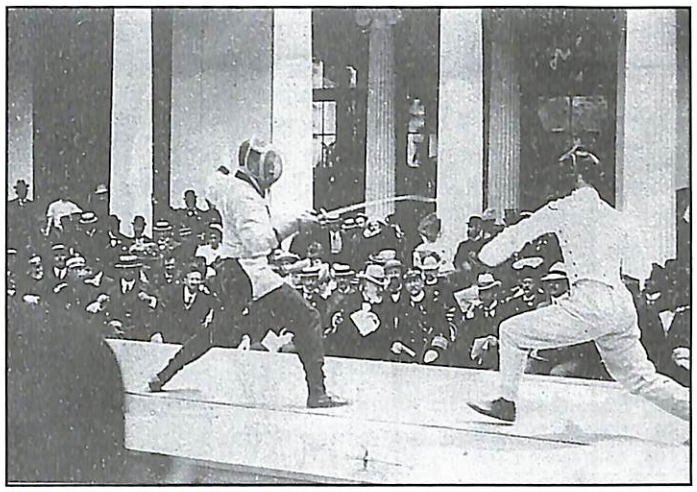
There was a team match between Italy and France in 1895. Judging was such that each judge would count touches and, after the match was over, all of the judges would convene in a separate room to tally the scores. One Italian judge had the match at Italy 540-France 36, a clear impossibility considering the high level of both teams.

Aldo Nadi, in his book *The Living Sword*, tells of many professional matches where officials were far from honest.

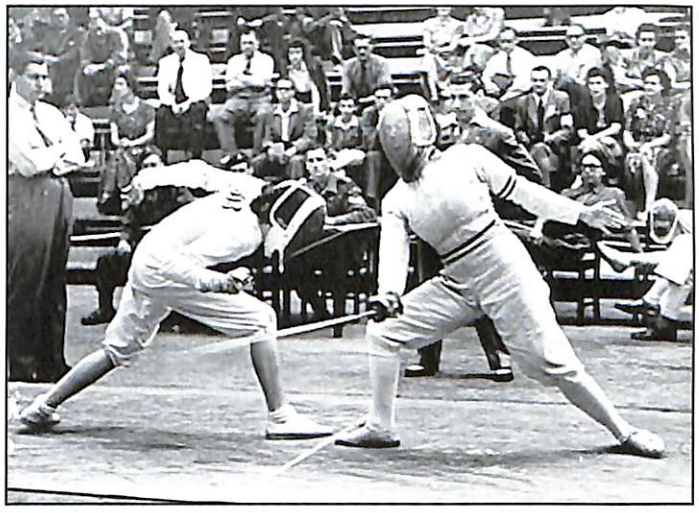
When Ramon Fonst of Cuba won his Olympic medal in 1900, it was really quite an accomplishment. A letter from a Fencing Master in Paris to Ramon's father back in Cuba that was written right after the Olympics showed how truly remarkable that accomplishment was. The Fencing Master wrote of how Ramon had a French fencer as the opponent in a bout which would determine the winner. The entire jury, the President and the four Judges, were all French, he wrote, and they were all doing every thing they could to make sure Ramon lost.

As with all things, in any long period of time, there will be changes; fencing is no different. There was a time recently where far too many of the referees assigned at the highest level were calling as the attacker a foil fencer running down the strip with the point in the air and the guard next to the mask —that is no longer true. (Last year, I saw Olympic Champion Stefano Cerioni coaching at a World Cup. He is clearly the most famous fencer of the old running style. His student had just lost a pool bout by being hit with attacks into his presentation. Stefano asked the student "What are you doing?" Then, he held his hand up in the air. I had to laugh when Stefano continued with "This is not an attack!") The attack is again the attack, but one *never* had to have the arm fully extended before the lunge. (Teaching to "extend before you lunge" was, and still is, a pedagogical technique used by many Fencing Masters.)

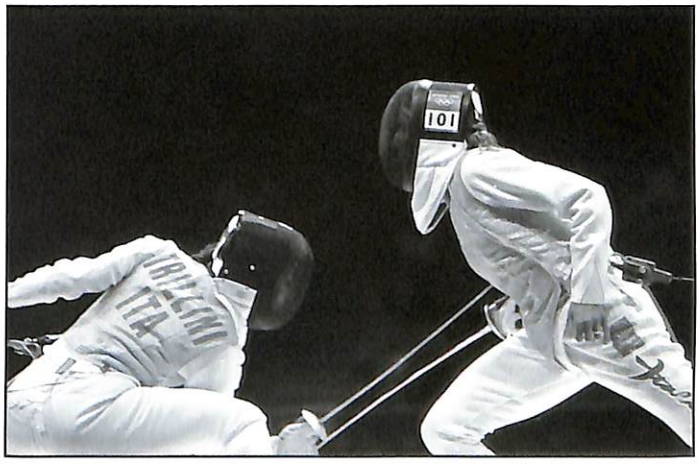
It is certain that sometime in the not too distant future, fencers of today will hear said both "We always had classical form ..." and "Back when I competed, fencers always acknowledged touches and all in fencing were honest." When that happens, remember that sometimes, every one of us will remember things that never were. Hindsight is *not* always 20-20.



Foil competition, 1906 Olympic Games



1948 Olympic Games...



...and 2004.

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Y-10 Mixed Foil
1 LEE, Julia (NYFC)
2 SNELL, Ryan (FASJ)
3T AVENDANO, John (ATLAN)
3T PASCAL, Brazeau (FEQ)

Y-10 Mixed Sabre
1 ZHAO, Eric (UNATT)
2 KULMACZ, Claudia (PAFS)
3T BHINDER, Mandeep (CFC)
3T LEWICKI, Matthew (BERG)

Y-12 Men' s Foil
1 VALIGORSKY, Paul (DUBOLS)
2 MATHIEU, Adam (COB)
3T LEE, Jonathan (NYFC)
3T MOENCH, Morgan (LUCCHETTI)

Y-12 Women's Foil
1 MEYERS, Andrew (FAW)
2 MEYERS, Elizabeth (FAW)
3T GLADNICK, Kane (FAP)
3T MCKEE, Niki (NYFC)

Y-12 Men's Epee
1 KAMMERER, Aj (MLFC)
2 FRANCIS, Ben (MLFC)
3T TOOKER, Peter (ALTIT)
3T SAMELSON, Kyle (MLFC)

Y-12 Women's Epee
1 DEINGER, Emma (WSP)
2 GREENBERG, Susan (FCFC)
3T BHINDER, Mandeep (CFC)
3T BLANCHETTE, Karine (SRN)

Y-14 Women's Sabre
1 GURRIERI, Alicia (FASJ)
2 MESSINGER, Zoe (LILOV)
3T BURNS, Angelica (FASJ)
3T VERHAVE, Jackie (FAW)

Y-14 Men's Sabre
1 BUCKLEY, Sean (NAT)
2 CHOY, Jason (MEDEO)
3T SCHNELLER, Alex (PDF)
3T TOM, Michael (NYFC)

Y-12 Men's Sabre
1 SCHNELLER, Alex (PDF)
2 LAROCHE, Anthony (SRN)
3T SPEAR, Will (NYFC)
3T ZHAO, Eric (UNATT)

Y-12 Women's Sabre
1 VERHAVE, Jackie (FAW)
2 SCHOOLCRAFT, Eve Cusson (CA)
3T LEWICKI, Eden (BERG)
3T WALTER, Ayla (CDFS)

Y-14 Women's Foil
1 LU, Margaret (FAW)
2 GLADNICK, Kane (FAP)
3T MCKEE, Erica (NYFC)
3T PARMACEK, Sarah (FAP)

Y-14 Men's Foil
1 MEYERS, Andrew (FAW)
2 RISMAN, Alexander (MEDEO)
3T BUDOFSKY, Matthew (NYFC)
3T IMBODEN, Race (NYFC)

Y-14 Women's Epee
1 PARMACEK, Sarah (FAP)
2 FOOR, Gabriella (FAP)
3T BARTON, Alison (FASJ)
3T LEE, Jennifer (NYFC)

Y-14 Men's Epee
1 MEYERS, Andrew (FAW)
2 RICHARDS, Dan (HILLS)
3T DENAGY, Alex (FAP)
3T JASANI, Gregory (FAP)

Open Women's Epee
1 LARSON, Emily (PDF)
2 SONSHINE, Elizabeth (MEDEO)
3T FOOR, Gabriella (FAP)
3T GALPIN, Katherine (MEDEO)

Open Men's Epee
1 BACKES, Arne (FAP)
2 SONSHINE, David (MEDEO)
3T CIMET, Charles (PENNST)
3T KRYWOPUSK, Nicholas (BCAF)

Open Women's Foil
1 PRESCOD, Nzingha (PWF)
2 NAJM, Tamara (NYFC)
3T KIRILLOFF, Gabrielle (3RIV)
3T OLIVA, Andrea (FAP)

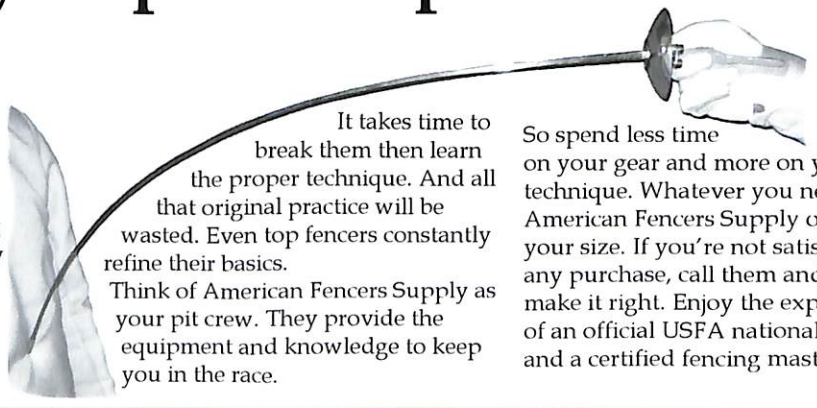
Open Men's Foil
1 GUTKOVSKIY, Stanislav (FASJ)
2 CHAMLEY-WATSON, Miles (NYFC)
3T BAK, Daniel (PWF)
3T SCHIBILIA, Jesse (NYAC)

Open Women's Sabre
1 HASSAN, Aziza (PWF)
2 KAMIS, Danielle (FASJ)
3T AIUTO, Stephanie (NYFC)
3T DUHAMEL, Fanny (SRN)

Open Men's Sabre
1 BIELEN, Andrew (FASJ)
2 SPEAR, Jeff (NYFC)
3T FARRAG, Sherif (FAW)
3T ZIECHMAN, Robert (KOS)

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CompetitionCLASSIFIEDS

THE PACIFIC COAST SECTION announces its 2006-2007 Senior sectional circuit events: September 16-17, 2006—San Diego Senior Games, Escondido, California; September 23-24, 2006—Sierra Nevada Open, Chico, California; September 30-October 1, 2006—Long Beach Invitational, Long Beach, California; November 2006—Palm Desert Open at College of the Desert, Palm Desert, California; February 2007—Hawaii Open, Honolulu, Hawaii; April 28-29, 2007—Boardwalk Open, Santa Cruz California. Check out www.pcsfencing.com for information and pre-registration.

5th ANNUAL SIERRA NEVADA OPEN. Three Weapon Tournament —September 23 & 24th, 2006—Chico, CA. Experience two days of excellent fencing, great referees, best armourers, exotic prizes and the legendary Saturday Night Swordplay held at Sierra Nevada Brewery's "Big Room". Watch the fence-offs between last year's champions and Saturday's gold medallists as they compete for prizes and honor. Enjoy gourmet food and Sierra Nevada on tap with the inimitable wit of Larry Dunn and Eric Ricketts as they provide "blow by blow" bout commentary. Each year there is a special entertainment surprise as well as a silent auction. This year the two-day tournament (a Pacific Coast Section Circuit points event) will be held in the new Chico High Gym, a three block walk from quaint downtown Chico and famous Chico State. Hotels are priced right, as is the tournament. Go to www.SierraNevadaOpen.com for the schedule and more details.

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ECOLE NATIONALE DES MAITRES D'ARMES, professional fencing teacher at cercle d'escrime de Tours and Laval and experienced international competitor seeks position in U.S. For complete C.V. please contact Jean-Christophe Guibert, telephone 02.99.30.18.49, 06.24.62.49.73, E-mail jchristguibert@yahoo.fr.

FENCING COACH WANTED for New Jersey High School Boys and Girls Varsity Team Randolph High School of Morris County, New Jersey is seeking a qualified individual to coach its varsity boys and girls fencing team. This is a new varsity program (previously a club) with strong parent/booster support. Please send CV/Resume to: Damion Macioci, Supervisor of Athletics Randolph High School, 511 Millbrook Ave, Randolph, NJ 07869. Email: dmacioci@rtnj.org

FOIL/EPEE/SABER COACH WANTED. Las Vegas' Red Rock Fencing Club is looking for an established fencing coach who has a unique ability to teach and develop Youth, Jr., and Adult fencers to the national level. Must have a strong competitive background with modern day knowledge of the latest techniques. Able and willing to teach school/college programs that are already established. Must give great lessons that produce results in a short order. Must be able to speak English fluently, with little effort to understand what you are saying, if you are not a native American. Pay scale is anywhere from $400 a week to $1,000 a week depending on desired workload. You must be able to provide for your own travel to Las Vegas and obtain your own vehicle and housing. Must be self-sufficient monetarily. www.redrocktrainingcenter.com All interested parties must send resume with current photo and three American references to Frank Van Dyke, director@redrocktrainingcenter.com, (702) 256-2600. Cover letter must include how you feel you possess the ability to build and sustain national fencers.

PART-TIME COACH/INSTRUCTOR SOUGHT for the Goucher College Fencing Club. Must be able to commit to one or more weeknights and be a high school graduate. Experience in all three weapons preferred. Responsibilities would include working with a dedicated group of beginner and intermediate fencers to prepare for intercollegiate competition. Position pays a stipend. For more information contact Ashley Farris at afarris@goucher.edu

FENCING INSTITUTE OF TEXAS, located in Farmers Branch, seeks Developmental Fencing Instructor to design development program for youth to veteran fencers. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education, Sports Medicine, or a related field, plus two years of coaching

experience. Fax resume to (817) 782-5957 or e-mail to fenceintexas@sbcglobal.net.

SEEKING FOIL & SABER COACH. Coaching and personal fencing experience required in both weapons. Must speak English language, be self-motivated, responsible and enjoy working with fencers of all ages and levels. Send resume to include education, experience as a fencer, coaching experience, achievements and contact information to: The Fencing Academy of South Jersey, P.O. Box 3637, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 or email fasj1@yahoo.com.

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

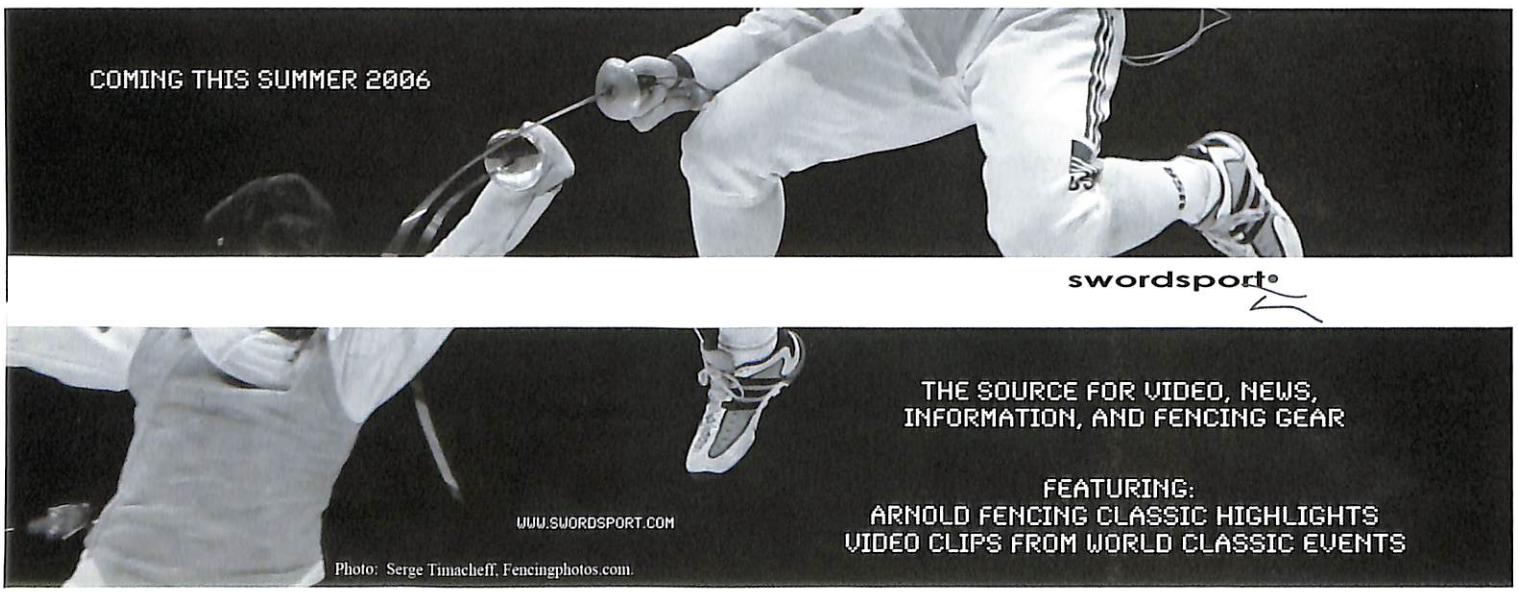
PART-TIME SABER COACH WANTED. Minimum 5 years competitive or coaching experience required, must speak English language; must be self motivated and enjoy working with kids ages 7-18. Send resume and inquiries to OregonFencing@aol.com or mail to Oregon Fencing Alliance, 4840 SW Western Ave. Suite #80,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

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

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

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

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the GrayBLADE

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comprehensive bibliography on the Olympic sport of fencing in their *Foil, Saber, and Epee Fencing* (1994) from Penn State Press. An intriguing bibliography with a distinct historical focus can be found in J. Christoph Amberger's *The Secret History of the Sword: Adventures in Ancient Martial Arts* (1999) by Multi-Media Books, Inc.

Of course there are many other reference sources on fencing books and magazine articles, and what is suggested here is only the tip of the iceberg. If you haven't already done so, I highly recommend taking a plunge into the literature of fencing as I did as a high school fencer when I first read Aldo Nadi's idiosyncratic yet fascinating classic *On Fencing*. On a personal level, I am certain that diving into the literature of the sport will greatly expand and enrich the parameters of the fencing piste for you just as it did for me...Next time we'll discuss the specific books that you might want to include in your personal fencing library. Meanwhile, I'll pose this question to you: Could *sentiment de fer* ever occur in an historical vacuum?

Rules/REFEREES

continued from page 14

bunch of referees watched in anticipation when a fiery left-handed foilist from New York we'll call The Red Menace, known for his steely-eyed stare downs, was matched up with a ref we'll call Quick Draw McGraw. First round. First bout. One stare. One black card. You do the math for the cost of that bout.

6. Never publicly embarrass a ref. Yeah, you might be able to get away with a public browbeating of one of the weaker refs, but that's it. The objective of arguing, cajoling, ref-baiting or intimidating is to enhance your odds of getting subsequent calls. Voicing your displeasure publicly and loudly will only serve to alienate the referee. You want to co-opt the enemy, and in order to accomplish your goal (which is to get future calls), you will have to get your point across in a respectful and discreet manner.

7. Avoid bad body language. I used to stand defiantly with my hands on my hips. Sometimes I would stomp my foot in disgust. Other times I would angrily slap my hand against my leg. These are all variations on the 'stare down' theme. They all serve to show up the ref in a public manner. Do you think that will get you the next close call?

8. Limit the war whoops. Some fencers yell after every action. But, you've got to pick your spots, particularly when yelling to sway the ref on the call. If you do it on close calls, generally no problem. If you do it automatically, no matter how close the call, the ref stops listening. But, if you do it on a blatantly obvious call against you, you've lost all credibility in the ref's eyes; once that happens, you can yell until you're hoarse and never get another close call.

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9. Don't flip off your mask on (what you may think is) the last touch. In some cases, it may cause the ref to resent that you did it and refrain from giving you the call. In others, it might cause the ref to card you for having flipped off the mask, even if just to celebrate as opposed to intimidate. (At the 2003 Worlds in Havana, Jed Dupree was the recipient of the double-whammy, as the ref didn't give him the deserved call on the 15th touch, but did give Jed the card, as the FIE Delegate was watching. It led to a devastating loss in the D.E.)

10. Always shake the ref's hand after a pool, bout, or team match. You might not want to. The ref might not even deserve it in some cases. Fencers have long memories about bad calls, but referees have even longer memories about being disrespected.

While arguing "judgment calls" will risk incurring the wrath of the referee, as well as receiving a warranted card for an "unjustified appeal," fencers always retain the right to protest a misapplied rule. I've done so as Team Captain at the Junior/Cadet Worlds, Senior Worlds, and the Pan American Games. There is no reason you can't do the same at a NAC. The objective is to improve the chances of getting future calls, not to play "King of the Hill" with the refs. You don't have to be their friend...but, you definitely can't afford to make them your enemy.

The wrong "bait" may lead to catching a card instead of a touch.

GrahamWICAS

17, Newton Square, Pennsylvania



TheSTATS

Event: Epee
Birthdate: June 14, Flag Day, 1989 (Philadelpia, Pa.)
Hometown: Newton Square, Pa.
High School: The Shipley School, 2007
Club: Fencing Academy of Philadelphia
Coach: Mark Masters

How I Started Fencing:
"When I was ten. I saw a fencing demonstration, done by my coach, at fair near my house in West Philadelphia. Soon after seeing the demonstration I started fence and have never stopped."

Top Four Results:
- 2006 Cadet World Champion
- Gold, PBT Cadet Cup, Budapest, Hungary, October 2005
- Gold, Junior "A" World Cup, Montreal, Canada, January 2006
- 2005 Junior Olympic Cadet Champion

Favorite type of blade & why:
"Any blade the greatest armourer in the world gives me. Thanks, Lara (Masters, of FAP)."

Favorite fencing movie:
Count of Monte Christo

Fencing hero/inspiration:
Pavel Kolobkov, Fabrice Jeannet.

Favorite bout to this point and why:
"Any bout against a tough opponent where I fence well and stay focused. I enjoy these bouts because regardless of the outcome they improve my fencing."

Least favorite bout to this point and why:
"The bout at my first JOs to make the top 16 of Cadet Men's Epee. I was up 14-10 and my opponent came back, 14-14. Then I got priority and still lost with 2 seconds left."

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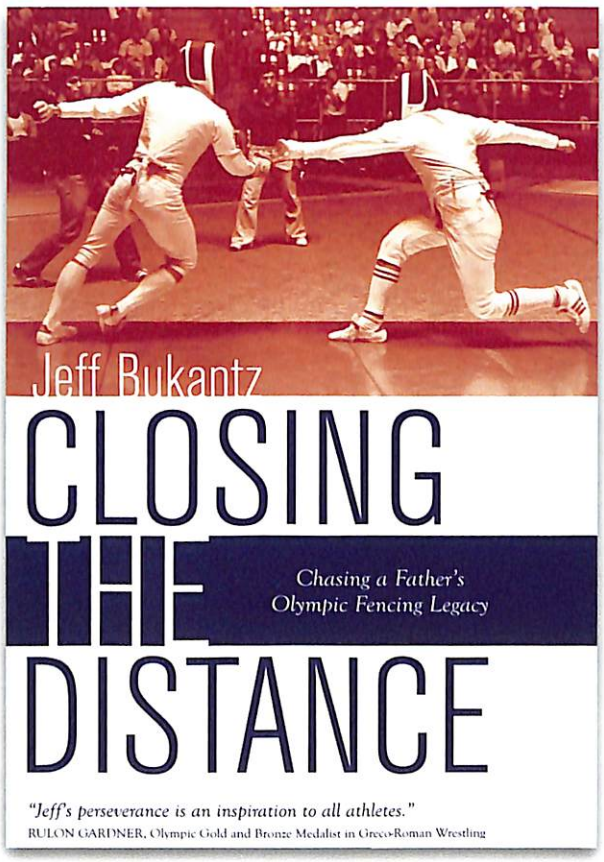
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