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AMERICAN fencing

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FALL/WINTER 2014
VOLUME 64
ISSUE 2



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AT THE **YOUTH**
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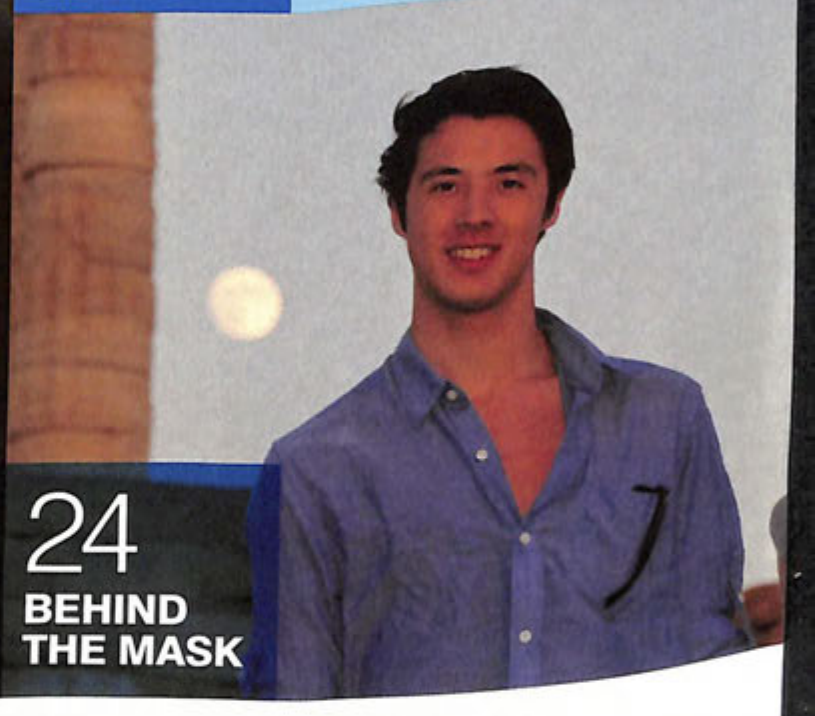
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AMERICAN fencing

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AMERICAN fencing

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Cover Photo:
Eliza Stone, Mariel Zagunis, Ibtihaj Muhammad and Dagmara Wozniak won gold in the women's saber team event at the Senior Worlds in Kazan, Russia.

CONTRIBUTORS

JEFF BUKANTZ

author of Rules and Referees and the feature on New Jersey fencing, was a member of the FIE Rules Commission and has been captain of multiple U.S. international teams, including the 2006 World Championships Team and the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games Teams.

KIRSTEN CROUSE

(Parent's Corner) can be found pit crewing for her two young fencers in Texas at the Woodlands Fencing Academy. She is an advocate for youth fencing and enjoys talking to other families about youth fencing issues and the perfect margarita.

DR. JOHN HEIL

is the chair of Sports Science for USA Fencing, and the author of the Psychology of Sport Injury (available at fencing.net). Sport psychology training materials by John Heil including those on mental training routines are available at fencing.net as well. He is with Psychological Health Roanoke in Roanoke, Va., and can be reached at jheil@psychhealthroanoke.com.

BUZZ HURST

has been a leader of initiatives on clubs and divisions for almost two decades, having formed the committee for clubs, divisions and sections in 1988, serving as its chair for eight years, and then as Vice President of USA Fencing. Most recently, Hurst worked on updating USA Fencing's highly successful guide for division officers. Hurst, a Maitre d'Armes, also coaches at the Cabrillo Academy of the Sword in San Diego.

TED LI

is a member of the USA Fencing's Technical Commission. He was the head site armorer for three Olympic Games (1984, 1996, 2000), as well as for Pan American Games, Universiade, Senior, Junior and Veteran World Championships. Li has also served as the head armourer at the NCAA National Championships and countless USA Fencing North American Cups. He is a proud student of Joe Byrnes and Dan DeChaine, and has been armouring for more than 30 years.

KEVIN MAR

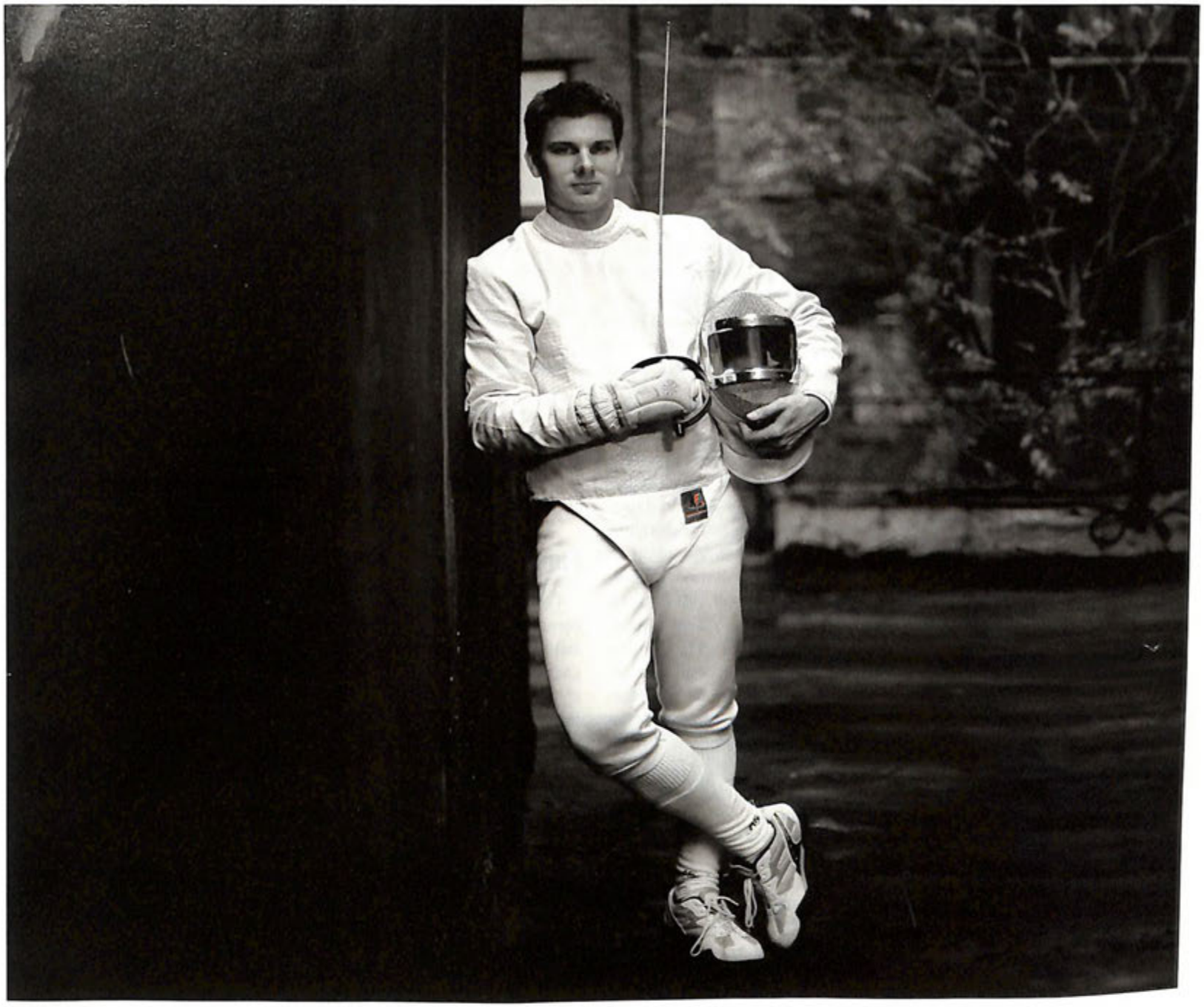
who wrote the Behind the Mask profile in this issue, is the co-founder of the Washington Fencing Academy and has served as co-vice chair for the Western Washington Division for the last eight years. He has been fencing for more than 13 years.

AUSTIN SHIH

wrote this issue's fantastic Club Tip on building an inexpensive wheelchair fencing frame. Shih is a senior in high school at Del Norte High School in San Diego, Calif. He has been fencing for seven years, currently at Los Angeles International Fencing Center. Recently Shih donated the frame he built to Golden Sabre Academy. He is currently working on a second frame for another club.

JEREMY SUMMERS

Chief Medical Officer of USA Fencing, wrote this issue's Sports Medicine Q&A on knee pain. Summers is a chiropractic physician and certified athletic trainer in practice in California. He is a former nationally ranked saber fencer and multiple times a member of the Junior National team.



Tim Morehouse likes to dress for success.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we enter the new fencing season, we are more than half way through my four-year term, and I would like to take a moment to reflect back on where USA Fencing is today compared to when we started this journey together. In the summer of 2012 we were $1.5 million in the red, we had had a "going concern" qualification from our external auditors for more than six years, and the U.S. Olympic Committee had us on its watch list because of our financial mismanagement, governance challenges and turnover in our National Office. Two years later, due to the hard work of a number of dedicated individuals including Sam Cheris, Kris Ekeren, Keri Byerts, Steve Trevor, Ron Daugherty and Daugherty Business Solutions, we are in a much better place as an organization. We are very close to being in the black and we recently had a clean audit from both our internal auditors and the USOC, which has taken us off their watch list and are looking at us as an example of how to turn around a national governing body. The turnover in our national office is still a concern, but the Board of Directors has embraced our new governance model of delegating "operational management" to the National Office with the board focusing on policy, governance and fiduciary responsibility, and it has significantly reduced the amount of conflict and challenges faced in the past.

Over the next two years, we look forward to the continued excellent performance of our athletes and are prepared to support them as we head into the Rio Olympic Games. A major part of that effort will be to increase revenue from donations and sponsorship. Thanks to the leadership of Lee Shelley and Seth Kelsey, we kicked off an initiative to increase alumni support from our Olympic, World and National Team members with an event at the October North American Cup in Portland and the San Francisco Men's Foil World Cup. We recently brought on Mary-Clare Brennan as our new marketing director. We are also very fortunate to have additional marketing support being donated by Phil Reilly's company, CMD.

International Competitions

Our junior and cadet teams have started out the season in fine fashion, continuing their excellent performance and getting many podium results. Our senior teams are also off to a great start with the women's saber team repeating its gold medal performance in Kazan at the most recent competition in Venezuela. USA Fencing hosted our first men's foil World Cup in San Francisco in October and had a great turnout of participating athletes and paying audience members. In December, we hosted an inaugural FIE Grand Prix Series event in New York and had another great turnout.

Financial Status

This will be a challenging year financially for USA Fencing. We are very committed to maintaining the budget discipline demonstrated over the last two years. The National Office was forced to make a number of adjustments to the budget approved by the Board in June due to a major shift in USOC funding policy for our athletes. The shift was due to the USOC's new direction of funding only athletes and teams they feel have shown medal potential for the Rio Olympic Games by performance in the past season. The new expectation is that NGBs will fund their other elite athlete development programs from internal resources. The result of this change in funding resulted from having to reallocate resources targeted for other aspects of our business to our athletes for training, coaches and travel. This has only heightened the need for new sources of revenue, especially as we go into the Olympic qualifying cycle.

Board Elections and Governance

The board welcomed our new board members Lorrie Marcil, Lianne Merchant and Michael Aufrichtig at the September Board of Directors meeting and retreat in Colorado Springs. The onboarding process went well and we look forward to the addition of their expertise and perspectives in meeting our strategic objectives.

I want to thank our National Office staff for their excellent work and the board for their commitment to the growth and development of our sport.

Donald K. Anthony, Jr.

Donald K. Anthony, Jr.
President, USA Fencing



EDITOR'S NOTE

As 2015 gets off to a frigid start for most of us, it's inspiring to look back over 2014's achievements. U.S. fencers made history all over the globe this season:

- Foilist Gerek Meinhardt earned an historic individual Gran Prix gold in Tokyo and became the first U.S. men's foilist to earn a no. 1 FIE world ranking.
- Courtney Hurley became the first U.S. women's epeeist to win a Grand Prix medal with her silver in Cuba.
- Sabrina Massialas won USA Fencing's first Youth Olympic Games gold.
- Brother Alexander Massialas finished his junior career as the most decorated fencer in the history of Junior and Cadet World Championships, with 13 medals to his name, including six gold.

Add to that team gold and an overall World Cup title for the U.S. Women's Saber team, more gold to add to Lee Kiefer's collection at Junior Worlds as she won the individual title and the women's foil team stood atop the podium, and more medals earned by U.S. wheelchair and veteran fencers… it's getting nearly impossible for our fencers to get through metal detectors at the airport!

But elite fencers aren't the only Americans setting records. USA Fencing held the world's largest EVER fencing tournament as 4,166 athletes competed at Summer Nationals and July NAC in Columbus, Ohio. And USA Fencing's membership reached an all-time high of almost 34,000 members.

USA Fencing is growing at a rate some of us older fencers can hardly believe. Stay tuned to our website and our pages here – it's going to be a great ride!

Cindy Bent Findlay
Editor, American Fencing Magazine



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The company we keep.

Meet Daryl Homer and Miles Chamley-Watson. Miles just became the first individual senior men's world champion for the United States. Daryl successfully competed in the London 2012 Olympics. Miles has big, serious plans for his fencing future. Daryl is a hard-working up-and-comer who intends to do just that: come up – hard. We are proud to announce that Miles and Daryl will be joining #TeamAbsolute through the Rio 2016 Olympics. We are very excited for Miles and Daryl to be part of the Absolute family. Find out more about what's ahead for #TeamAbsolute. Check out this year's line-up of exquisite fencing gear. Experience world-class customer service. Visit us at *AbsoluteFencingGear.com*.

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Miles smiles.

That's Miles Chamley-Watson and he's a history maker. Miles has made history because he has recently become the first individual senior men's world champion for the United States. Miles took some pretty fierce opponents to school in Budapest last month, and in very short order the "comeback kid" became the "destroyer king."

And we were there with him. Because while Miles was working hard to make history for American fencing, he was wearing Absolute Fencing gear. Just like a great win, great fencing apparel is all about the details. Experience world-class customer service. Find out more about our great fencing apparel. Visit us at *AbsoluteFencingGear.com*.

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It was the BEST of times;

2014 Pan American Youth/Veteran Fencing Championships — Aruba

August 20 – 24, 2014



The 2014 Pan American Youth and Veteran Fencing Championships was a fantastic one for U.S. athletes: 30 competitions in five age categories, and 68 MEDALS! Our fencers, youngest and oldest, did us proud and our national anthem rang out for many, many gold medals!

The U.S. team was represented at the event in Aruba by 77 excellent fencers, along with 54 family members, friends, coaches, two referees and two support folks (Grant Jones and Nancy Anderson). It could not have been a more wonderful group of athletes and supporters in every way.

Aruba is a beautiful island and, although it was humid, the temperatures were friendly, as were the winds and the people. The venue was perfect, quickly set up from a ping-pong championship the day before. Grant Jones, USA Fencing's new manager of sports performance, came through for the team in a big way as team manager at his first international trip for the sport. The organizers for our tournament were always ready to deal with any and every request that came their way.

Our youngest athlete was 10 (Roddy Atwood of Connecticut — two gold medals!); our oldest athlete, Kaz Kampe of Edgewater, Md., was 77 (a bronze medal) with 65 additional medals in between! This event truly represented that we are privileged to enjoy a lifetime sport. On two occasions, we were able to be proud, not only of our national anthem for the gold, but to see the entire podium filled with our team and flags honoring four of our medalists! It can't get any better.

This event is special in that it doesn't have any repercussions other than bragging rights. Our youngest and oldest athletes can enjoy doing their best and hoping for bigger and better things in the future. Some of our athletes were looking forward to the Veteran World Championships in Hungary and were able to hone their game; our younger contingent had a no-stress opportunity to strut their stuff and look ahead to more fun with fencing and possibly future glory. For everyone, a win-win time!

This is a wonderful event for all involved, athletes and others (equally important!). We look forward to next year in Lima, Peru! ■

-Nancy Anderson

it was the BEST of times...



Sam Moelis and Nicole Kogan Earn Connor Porter Memorial Scholarships

Less than a month after the 2012 Summer Nationals, Trish Porter (Albuquerque, N.M.) lost her son, Connor, and husband, Pat, in a plane crash.

While the tragedy was devastating for Trish and her daughter, Shannon, the Porter family chose to honor Connor's legacy by creating the Connor Porter Memorial Scholarship.

Beginning in 2013, the Porter family has donated $2,000 scholarships annually to one male and one female athlete who are selected through an essay contest.

This year's honorees were announced during Summer Nationals in Columbus, Ohio.

Cadet foil fencer Sam Moelis (Hewlett, N.Y.) and junior foil fencer Nicole Kogan (New Haven, Conn.) were named as this year's scholarship recipients after writing outstanding essays in response to the following question:

Connor Porter loved both fencing and the people and activities that went along with the sport for him – the friends he made at tournaments around the country, the younger fencers he helped at his club, cheering on his teammates and others, the times when he was just having fun being part of the fencing community. Write about a time when either your own or someone else's fun-loving attitude changed your perspective and describe how it altered your training as a fencer OR altered your thoughts about winning and losing.

In his essay, Moelis discussed the lessons he learned from his interactions with Connor – a fellow foil fencer who won bronze in the Division III event at the 2012 Summer Nationals.

"Connor taught me to come out of myself and recognize that fencing is about all participants, each deserving attention and praise. Connor showed me that kindness and humor do not preclude victory. Connor taught me that setting goals is not the same as working for goals. But above all Connor taught me that life is sometimes tragically short and that while I may train every day of my life I must never lose sight of all that is to be enjoyed in life, every day and with almost everyone I encounter," Moelis wrote.

Kogan's essay focused on her realization as a teenage fencer that, unlike her initial experiences in the sport, "the fun was not in the victory, but in the fencing. I have been frequently asked why I smile after a bout, even if I lose. My response is that my victory was in having fenced, in gleaning immense enjoyment from holding my foil, in meeting and befriending extraordinary athletes. This 'joie de vivre' is something that no medal can give."

USA Fencing would like to congratulate Moelis and Kogan on their scholarship awards and offer our gratitude to the Porter family for its continued generosity and contributions to the sport of fencing. ■

Visit www.usfencing.org in the coming weeks to download the application for the 2015 Connor Porter Memorial Scholarship.

2014 Connor Porter Memorial Scholarship Winning Essays:

SAM MOELIS



TRISH PORTER AND SAM MOELIS

In 2011-2012 there was a fencer who followed me around tournament venues. He was a fellow foil fencer, my age. I wondered how he had time to watch me (pools too!). He stood beside the strip, never intrusive or distracting; always smiling, cheering me on; congratulating me on a good touch. My club mates called him "Sam's Friend".

During that season I came to expect to see my Friend while I fenced and looked forward to his calm presence and words of encouragement. I didn't know him personally but looked up his results. He was above average, consistent, someone to watch. I couldn't help feeling badly researching my Friend. He had done nothing but support and be nice to me.

At the 2012 Summer Nationals in Anaheim I did not fence well. Despite being a top fencer in both Y14 and Cadet, I lost two close bouts, and was eliminated in the round of 16 in both events. I squandered an opportunity to gain my first junior points and bombed in the Division 1A event. All I could think about was how much work I had to do and how far I had to go to compete at the level to which I aspired.

But something odd happened in Anaheim. My Friend won a Bronze medal. For all his kindness, smarts and humor; his 'averageness' and lack of stellar results, my Friend succeeded where I failed. While I expected to do well and failed to meet my goals, my Friend worked hard, competed well, and triumphed. While I was tense and preoccupied, my Friend was sunny (everyone describes him this way), enjoying every moment of the experience of a national fencing tournament alongside Disneyland.

My Friend's name was Connor Porter. By his conduct, Connor conveyed some basic truths; not just about fencing but about life. Connor taught me to come out of myself and recognize that fencing is about all participants, each deserving attention and praise. Connor showed me that kindness and humor do not preclude victory. Connor taught me that setting goals is not the same as working for goals. But above all Connor taught me that life is sometimes tragically short and that while I may train every day of my life I must never lose sight of all that is to be enjoyed in life, every day and with almost everyone I encounter.

NICOLE KOGAN



NICOLE KOGAN

"Thank you - great fencing," I say, as I smile and extend my sweaty hand to meet my unmasked opponent's equally-perspiring palm. Handshake successful, I begin walking toward my chair, only to have my quest thwarted by a spectator: "Who won that bout? I saw you smiling at her; that means you won, right?"

When I took up fencing, I was initially drawn to its competitive aspect, particularly the individual glory that went with besting others. This was a natural progression; everything I had done before – academic work, extracurricular activities – was often completed in the binary scheme of "successful" or "not successful." Fencing was just another opportunity to sustain my competitive spirit.

Initially, the desire to succeed, to win motivated me: but I wanted to win so badly that my mental and physical states began to deteriorate. My competitions became dreaded, insurmountable hurdles, causing distress rather than joy. Eventually, such experiences made me question my "Tiger Parent" upbringing: were victory and ruthlessness really the only values that mattered?

It is human nature to want to win. But often, this ambition eclipses the sensation of "being in the moment." My prolonged exposure to an environment where winning is everything has ironically shown the opposite to be true: learning to enjoy the moment and displaying sportsmanship (the journey) are far more important than the outcome (the destination).

My desire to correct my own misperception of fencing began with changing my on-strip behavior. Engaging in a sport rooted in principles of respect and civility meant that I had to do my part in reintroducing these core values into the sport. I also discovered that treating my opponents not as mortal enemies but as partners who share a love for the sport rekindled my enjoyment of fencing.

I had, in fact, lost that bout; the score was not close, either – somewhere in the realm of 15-6. But, my gratitude and smile were not sarcastic: it was my way of letting my opponent know that for me, the fun was not in the victory, but in the fencing. I have been frequently asked why I smile after a bout, even if I lose. My response is that my victory was in having fenced, in gleaning immense enjoyment from holding my foil, in meeting and befriending extraordinary athletes. This "joie de vivre" is something that no medal can give.

Joseph "Joe" Byrnes: Master Armorer



Joe began his decades long involvement with fencing in this country as an epee fencer with the now defunct Bergen Fencing Club in the 1950s, and because of his fascination with electronic Heath kits, became the person who was asked to maintain and fix the finicky electric scoring boxes which were proliferating at the time. Joe's ability to correctly diagnose, fix, and maintain the electro-mechanical scoring apparatus, as well as his friendship with Miguel DeCapriles and the Costello brothers (NYU coaches and owners of Costello Fencing Equipment Co.), led to his deeper involvement in the small world of what was then dubbed the Amateur Fencing League of America (AFLA), now USA Fencing.

After the 1960 Rome Olympics, Joe became one of the three international American armorers – along with Dan Dechaine and Ed Purdy — for the U.S. international teams, serving as armorer for numerous World Championship, Junior World Championship, Pan Am Games, Olympic Sports Festivals and Olympic Games. In his capacity as team armorer, Joe not only worked with the U.S. teams, but also with the athletes and cadres from many other nations. He didn't discriminate – if there was an equipment problem which needed to be fixed, or a weapon to be tweaked, Joe was more than willing to do it, regardless of nationality or language. In essence, Joe set the standard of service for all the U.S. team armorers to follow.

In the 1960s, the AFLA turned to Joe when it needed a translation of the FIE rules into English. Not only did he produce a very readable translation of the international rules, but he added appendices which became the foundation and guide for all modern armory and inspection procedures.

As the 1960s and 1970s saw the beginnings of American fencing's growth, Joe became the effective godfather to many East Coast armorers, always willing to share his knowledge, his expertise, and his time with those who wished to learn about armoring. His style of teaching was always hands-on and he would accompany his demonstrations of his highly efficient "quick-and-dirty" techniques, usually at competitions and tournaments, with wryly amusing stories about his experiences in Germany, Japan, Italy, Brazil, Canada, China, Romania, and the myriad other places where he had served as team armorer.

Through the subsequent three decades, Joe continued to serve as head armorer for NYU home meets and local, divisional, and national tournaments. His willingness to help others solve problems never abated, even when a few years ago his back began restricting his travel. Whenever someone had a technical problem, he was one of the first whom people would ask for sage advice. For his long and distinguished service to the fencing world, Joe was elected to the USA Fencing Hall of Fame in 1996, and to the NYU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

In recent years, with the explosive growth of the U.S. fencing, fewer people got to know Joe on an intimate basis, but many people remember Joe as an avuncular armorer who wore ironically inscribed, intellectually challenging t-shirts, a person who would patiently explain how to fix a particular equipment problem or prevent it from happening.

This is the Joe that people remember – a highly articulate, often wryly ironic, master of his craft: a teacher, a mentor, and above all, a humble man dedicated to the sport and people whom he loved. ■

- By Ted Li

In Memoriam

JOSEPH A. BYRNES 1928-2014

Prof. Joseph A. Byrnes, one of fencing's foremost armorers as well as a leading authority on its rules, died on July 18. He was 86.

Byrnes began fencing while serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After the war he graduated from Seton Hall University (1954), which did not field a fencing team at that time. He earned a master's degree in 1955 and a doctorate in 1963, both from New York University.

Byrnes was a professor of English at NYU and was well known for his expertise in the fields of 17th and 18th century drama and literature. Among his published works is an annotated bibliography on the literature of those two centuries in the volume "Good Reading" (1990), a suggested lifetime reading list currently in its 23rd edition. Eventually, Byrnes served as assistant dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences of NYU (1967-69). Subsequently, he was assistant to Miguel DeCapriles in the latter's role of vice-president, secretary and general counsel of NYU (1969-74). Byrnes also provided assistance when DeCapriles became the president of the International Fencing Federation (1961-1965).

Byrnes was one of a small circle at the topmost rung of armorers and technicians in our sport, with an international reputation of fifty years standing. As such, he was a familiar figure at competitions ranging from New Jersey high school events to national and international events for some sixty years.

Byrnes was the second man to serve as armorer of the U.S. Olympic fencing team (1964), a post he held twice; and for the U.S. Pan-American fencing team three times.

He is probably the most prolific contributor in the history of American Fencing magazine, providing a "Technical Talks" column almost every issue for more than 35 years.

In 1965, Byrnes wrote the technical manual for a vastly expanded Amature Fencers League of America Fencing Rules & Manual edited by Jose R. DeCapriles, the founding editor of "American Fencing." In 1974, when a new edition of the rules was required, Byrnes served as editor, translating the FIE Rules into English from the French. ■

- By Jeffrey R. Tishman



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Coaches' Association Announces 2014 Awards

On August 16, the U.S. Fencing Coaches' Association named its 2014 Coach of the Year and its 2014 Collegiate Varsity Coach of the Year. The announcement was made at the Association's annual meeting at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

The prestigious Deladrier Sword will be presented to Master of Arms Wes Glon of the Pennsylvania State University. Despite the turmoil surrounding the university and the disruption it caused in the fencing program, Coach Glon provided a steadying hand that not only brought the team through, but guided the team to a 13th NCAA National Team Fencing Championship. The men's team compiled a 21-3 regular season record, while the women finished 16-10. However, the women finished the NCAAs with four All-Americans, only one less than the men, who had five. In addition, the men's side produced one individual NCAA Saber Champion, Kaito Streets. Glon was also selected by the State College Daily Collegian as 2014 Coach of the Year, earning the title over a number of highly successful PSU teams and coaches.

The plaque to recognize the Collegiate Varsity Coach of the Year was presented to Coach Tom Vrabel of Sacred Heart University. This year his men's and women's teams both were Northeast Conference Champions, and in the process of compiling a 21-8 regular season record the men's team defeated two perennial collegiate powerhouses, Columbia and North Carolina. Sacred Heart qualified an unprecedented five fencers to the NCAAs (three men and two women) and two of the men were named Honorable All-Americans. Long-time observers of the collegiate varsity scene are uniform in their admiration for the great improvement that Coach Vrabel has brought about since he took over the Sacred Heart fencing program. ■



WES GLON, COURTESY PENN STATE

RED CARD

In the Summer issue of American Fencing, we ran the list of Regional Youth Circuit 2013-2014 Point Winners. Some errors were inserted during layout.

Blodwen Bindas was the Gold patch winner for Region 3's Youth-12 Women's Epeeists.

The correct list of Youth-12 Men's Foil winners was:

Y12MF	Julian Chitu	Royal Arts FA	2
Y12MF	Bogdan Hamilton	The Fencers Academy	2
Y12MF	Bernardo Perez	Iowa City FC	2

Finally, below is the list of Youth-12 Men's Saber Point Winners.

Y12MS	Jude Stephenson	Avant Garde Fencers Club	4
Y12MS	Nicholas Dinu	Laguna Fencing Center	4
Y12MS	Richard Privalov	Coastside Fencing Club	4
Y12MS	Justin Bonsell	Lone Star Fencing Center	5
Y12MS	Arthur Murtaugh	Husar Fencing School	5
Y12MS	Justin Cho	Lone Star Fencing Center	5
Y12MS	Jacob Miller	Virginia Acad. of Fencing	6
Y12MS	Robert Kaufman	Mid-South Fencers' Club	6
Y12MS	Noah Gentry	Birmingham Fencing Club	6



What does sanctioning really mean?"

There are many great mysteries in the universe:

"What caused the Big Bang?"

"How many Greeks named Homer actually wrote *The Iliad*?"

"How did the first cell form?"

"Why are the Kardashians famous?"

But a mystery that continues to plague many in the fencing community, especially division officers and bout committee members, is: "What does sanctioning really mean?"

Fortunately, this question already has an answer.

We know that divisions do it (as does USA Fencing) and we're told that it is important. It is, and for two very good reasons. The first one is that only at a sanctioned tournament can a fencer raise, or renew, his or her classification. I think just about everybody knows that, and it certainly is a solid reason for competitors to seek out sanctioned tournaments, but I think that the second rationale is even more compelling: there could be money involved.

Few are the club owners who don't know that their clubs have to be officially registered with USA Fencing in order for them to be eligible for the association's liability insurance coverage. The fee the club pays for this coverage is well below the rates that are usually quoted by private insurers. There have been clubs that have gotten their own policies over the years, and have claimed that they were able to pay lower premiums, and I say bully for them, and huzzah! The few that I know anything of seem to include on the policy an enormous amount of fine print, i.e. "the company will provide a defense only in the case where the plaintiff was injured while standing under a portrait of Balzac..." and so forth. So, in most cases, the USA Fencing liability coverage is the best deal a club can get. Anyway, my bailiwick isn't clubs, but divisions, so I'll simply point out to club owners that, should you ever be sued, even though you are pure as the driven snow, without liability insurance you could be bankrupted proving it in our legal system. If you don't quite believe this, please ask an attorney – which I am not.

Even if you are insured privately, and up to the hilt, it would still be a wise thing for you to register your club, at least as an affiliate. Remember that every member of USA Fencing gets, as part of the membership, a secondary accident policy that will cover $25,000.00 in medical bills, but only kicks in when his personal insurance (if any) maxes out. However, if the fencer competes in an unsanctioned tournament, even though a full member of the USA Fencing, its policy doesn't cover her. That was news to me when the association's insurance broker pointed it out, but even more fascinating information followed: if you choose to practice at an unregistered club, you are not covered if you suffer an injury during that practice. I am told that the accident insurance coverage only applies to fencing or fencing-related activities which are "approved or sanctioned." Activities at a USA Fencing member or affiliate club are considered to be approved; activities at a non-member club are not.

I think that everyone can follow the logical thread from here. Under the circumstances, I would certainly think it a fair question for a USA Fencing member to ask a club whether it is a member or affiliate even before he or she asks about its hours for open fencing.

Finally, there are some divisions that, I am told, occasionally sanction certain events at a club but not others being held concurrently. For those of you who have put any thought into this, you would know that the bout committee at a sanctioned tournament comes under the liability coverage of USA Fencing, as do the referees and other officials. However, what happens with one of these split sanctioned/non-sanctioned jobs that some divisions are approving? Well, the answer is all the above-named people are still covered, even if they should get sued by someone in the non-sanctioned part. Of course, the question of why you would want to put the two species of events on the same floor at the same time is to me a mystery right up there with why lemmings perform synchronized diving into Norwegian fjords. I think that it's rather asking for it, so much so, in fact, that Murphy won't just enforce his law, he'll probably come to the venue and beat you over the head with it.

One last thing. Can a division sanction a competition that is being held at an unregistered club? Yes, it can. The situation is the same as if the event were being held in a municipal gym somewhere, and for the same reasons that you do it for the city or the school, you should provide the hosting club with a 3rd Party Insurance Certificate. You get those from the National Office.

I don't know about you, but finding out some of this reminded me of Neils Bohr's famous quote: "Anyone who isn't shocked by quantum theory hasn't understood it." Now that we all understand sanctioning and insurance, I suspect that the effect in some divisions may be much the same – rather like a mouse running through the middle of a yoga class. In any case, my work here is done. ■

Never Missed a Shim

I really enjoyed my colleague Barbara Anderson's piece on epee refereeing in the Summer issue of AF ("Anyone can referee Epee, right? Wrong.")

The piece brought to mind several interesting experiences that I, as a multiple-weapon ref, have encountered over the decades.

While I agree that, in order to be a successful epee ref, one must know the rules cold and have high doses of concentration, I believe that in order to be a great epee ref, there is something far more important.

And, that's getting the call right. The most difficult aspect of epee refereeing is, after long periods of having no real calls to make, having some crazy action or infraction and making the correct call.

As there are so few calls to make, a mistake by the referee in epee carries so much more weight than in saber and foil, where there are so many calls.

I believe that referees who also officiate the right-of-way weapons have a distinct advantage in this area, as they are mentally prepared to make tough calls one after another.

While I have been primarily a foil and saber referee, I've had my share of interesting occurrences in my epee career.

My first one was at the 1978 NCAAs at University of Wisconsin-Parkside. I was assigned to the three-way fence-off between Lee Shelley, Chris Hansen and Peter Schifrin by Head Referee Jack Keane.

After it was over, I proudly went up to Keane and asked: "Hey, Jack, how did I do?"

Without a blink, but with a gleam in his eye, Keane responded: "Bukantz, you didn't miss a shim!"

While competing at the 1983 Worlds in Vienna, I also passed my FIE foil exam. Immediately afterwards, I was told I needed to pass at least one other weapon.

So, when serving as a ref at the Junior Worlds in Arnhem, Holland, in 1985, I took and passed the saber exam. Immediately afterwards, Chaba Pallaghy says I must next take the epee exam. I said: "Uncle Chaba, I will stick to the right-of-way weapons and let the epee-only refs, who don't do foil or saber, handle epee."

Chaba wouldn't take no for an answer and continued: "Bukantz, you will be much more marketable as an FIE referee if you have all three licenses."

Stubborn, as always, I responded: "Uncle Chaba, I respect your opinion, but I'm not taking the epee exam."

When I received my new FIE license shortly thereafter, I was not only a "B" in foil and saber, but also in epee!

As incredible as it sounds, I was given my FIE license in epee as a punishment!

The next year, 1986, I was second alternate for the World Team in Sofia, Bulgaria, but was selected as a referee. Sure enough, I was assigned to the men's epee individual.

This scared me a bit, as I knew the epee fencers had all sorts of shtick which I wasn't familiar with.

I was assigned to the pool on the raised finals strip. So, if something happened, it would be in full view of many and there would be nowhere to hide.

Early in the pool, there is a bout between a Swiss and Cuban fencer. All of a sudden, the Cuban's light goes on when his point was at least a foot short and the Swiss fencer starts jumping up and down and shouting: "Monsieur, ne pas possible. Ne pas possible!"

And, he was right, it was not possible that a hit was scored. So, I called over the armorers, one of whom was Ted Li, and gave them the Cuban's weapon.

While they were inspecting the potentially altered weapon, the Cuban was sitting on the raised strip and with bloodshot, albeit yellowish eyes, asked in a combination of French and Spanish: "Monsieur, c'est une problema grande au poco?"

Well, it was a very big problem, as he had set up a trigger which enabled the pressing of the two wires together in an area with no insulation in order to complete the electrical circuit.

And, in my first pool as an FIE epee referee, I had to expel a fencer from the entire World Championship, both individual and team competitions.

Somehow, I had an entire decade between crazy epee situations on the international stage. At the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, I was honored to have successfully officiated a bout in the men's individual foil finals, undoubtedly the highlight of my career.

A few days later, I was assigned as a side judge in the men's epee team gold medal match between Italy and Russia. Prior to the match, I asked fellow ref George Kolombatovich if there was anything I should watch for. George quickly replied, "Jeff, as there is no run-off on the side of the strip, it will be virtually impossible to have a floor touch."

George was right, as the poorly constructed raised finals strip was noncompliant with the rules and incomprehensibly constructed without the requisite run-off space on the side. This actually led to three terrible injuries, as fencers going off the side had something like a four-foot drop. Italian foilist Diana Bianchedi ruptured her Achilles tendon when she took a nasty fall off the side.

Back to the epee action. During one of the encounters, I was having a nice little daydream while the action was at the other end of the strip. All of a sudden, there's a controversial touch and the referee points and yells to me: "Bukantz?"

My knee-jerk reaction was to adhere to George's advice, as it made sense. "Bon touche," I confidently proclaimed.

Not a word of protest, so I must have been right. There was no video replay in 1996.

After the match, a couple of referees come up to me and said, "That was a great call. How were you able to see it that far away?"

Well, shortly after, we were able to see the replay from the television. And, in slow motion, we all saw the Russian Alexandr Beketov hit himself with his own epee in order to get the touch.

And to think, that this all happened because my good friend Chaba Pallaghy gave me my FIE epee license out of spite!

Thanks, Uncle Chaba! ■

The Three Best "Conditional" Compliments in Four Decades of Refereeing

As I said, a referee rarely, if ever, receives an "unconditional" compliment. While that may come across as a flippant generalization, it is an undeniable truth of refereeing.

And that's why I always crack up when I realize that three of the best compliments I ever received were extremely "conditional."

• The legendary Emik Kaidanov was one of the most successful collegiate coaches ever, having led Penn State to 12 NCAA Championships during his storied 31-year career.

For the majority of that career, I officiated more important PSU foil bouts than anyone. I'm sure that, along the way, I cost PSU some bouts. But, over two decades, the calls had to even out. Who knows, with Emik's omnipresent pressure, PSU probably got the lions' share of the calls.

Emik worked me over, which was his job, and he was the best at it. He never once thanked me or even said that I did a good job. I didn't take it personally, as it was only business, as Emik once told me.

There is a saying that familiarity breeds contempt. Well, let's just say that after 30 years of refereeing for Penn State fencers at the NCAAs, NCAA Regionals, dual meets and NACs, there was, ahem, quite a bit of familiarity.

At the NCAA Regionals about three years ago, Emik finally and uncharacteristically let his guard down, no doubt unintentionally. After I refereed four grueling rounds of men's foil, right into the final pool which included three Penn Staters, Emik came up to me and, while trying to get in his customary dig, actually gave me the greatest compliment when he said with a wry smile: "You know, you're not as good as you used to be."

Hey Emik, I waited three long decades for that, and the wait was well worth it!

• One of the "conditional" compliments actually came from a referee, Nadia Nazarova.

After a pool of nine at an NCAA Regional, Nadia approached me out of the blue and said: "Jeff, that is the best foil refereeing I've ever seen. You were like a conductor conducting a symphony. Every call was perfect. You saw everything. It was incredible."

Well, this was not my first rodeo and I instinctively knew something was up as this seemed like an "unconditional" compliment of the highest order, let alone from an old school Soviet referee.

I walked over to the scorer's table and my answer literally jumped off the pool sheet when I noticed that one fencer had an unblemished 8-0 record in the pool.

That fencer was Nadia's son Alex.

• The funniest "conditional" compliment came from Felix Reichling, a German fencer who was attending Stanford.

Going into the 2001 NCAAs, Reichling was the two-time defending foil champion. He didn't three-peat, but earned a very respectable third place finish.

Afterwards, I saw Felix moping around the gym with a look of utter disdain and misery on his face. I asked: "Felix, what's the matter?"

Without any hesitation, he answered in his thick German accent: "The refereeing here vas awful. You...ver the least awful!"

Well, conditional or not, I'll take it!

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Fencing Intelligence in Theory & Practice, Part 2



Continued from Summer 2014 issue.

Fencing in Action

Next let's examine the fencer in the context of the motor genius or action intelligence idea of Dr. Bruce Ogilvie. Guilford's five levels of knowledge complexity are listed, in order, below:

1. Units – Single items of knowledge.
2. Classes – Groups of items sharing common attributes.
3. Relations – Cross comparisons, such as opposites, things occurring in sequence, or as part of an analogy, etc.
4. Systems – Complex networks that incorporate a large body of knowledge.
5. Transformations – New learning or change via a creative process.
6. Implications – Predictions, inferences or anticipations of the impact of events.

These five elements represent the knowledge tree of fencing actions. Units are the basic building blocks of the fencer in motion, like advance and retreat, parry and riposte. Classes as combinations of footwork and blade work that represent the fundamentals of attack and defense, while Relations are sets of actions that might be used in a compound attack. Systems organize fencing actions within an overall framework — think of the idea of a tactical wheel. Transformations represent innovation in tactics and training, and overall athlete development. All sports, like fencing, are in a constant state of evolution with innovation, reaction to change and more change. This may even spill over into modification of the rules of play – think of the flick in foil and the fleche in saber.

As a fencer trains the body to execute actions precisely and according to a plan, he or she is also training the mind to think in terms of units, classes, relations, systems and transformations. The learning thus acquired through fencing transfers to a broad range of situations, especially when precise thinking and skilled action must occur in tandem.

Communicating in Fencing

Effective coaching is critical to learning and essential to success on the strip. At the core of this is communicating effectively, another form of intelligence. Information can move along four channels, according to Guilford's mental grid.

1. Semantic – The spoken or written word, and the rules of grammar.
2. Figural – Concrete, real world information, Things can be seen, heard and felt.
3. Symbolic – Symbols or signs that stand for something else, like musical and scientific notations.
4. Behavioral – People in action, and the meaning they express.

Of the many situations in which a coach may be called upon to communicate with an athlete, the most challenging is stripside during competition. Here the coach must think quickly and deliver information precisely in a chaotic environment. I remember a World Championship bout in La Chaux du Fond, Switzerland with a Cuban fencer in an intensely crowded and noisy environment. There was the Cuban coach standing on a chair, head and shoulders above the crowd, calmly communicating with his athlete using simple hand signals — an example of Symbolic information in the service of tactical communication. Just as important, or perhaps more important, was the coach's Behavior and the message it sent. His demeanor projected calmness and confidence, which no doubt rubbed off on the athlete and sent the message — I believe you can do this. All too often, stripside coaching can descend into an expression of frustration and disappointment, making a bad situation worse. The point being that effective communication is a skill set of its own.

In most situations, the coach and athlete can communicate comfortably with everyday language or Semantics. Consider also the fencing lesson where the coach is communicating with the athlete along the Figural channel, via movement and timing and the subtle elements of pressure and distance.

Concluding Perspective

While sport performance is motor skill dependent, expertise relies on a complex array of neurocognitive and psychophysiological skills, notably perceptual acuity, information processing, decision making and composure control. That is, sport requires rapid thought and quick action in an environment that is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. The ability to function effectively in a challenging environment is a fundamental element of human intelligence.

In his best-selling work, *Blink*, Malcolm Gladwell describes a meeting between generals and stock market traders, and a moment when these two seemingly different groups realized that they faced a common challenge – the need to make high stakes decisions quickly, with incomplete information, under high stress. This illustrates the far reaching importance of being able to maintain composure and perform under pressure, and highlights the opportunity for learning that sport provides.

That being skilled with a sword is linked to surviving and thriving in the history of combat is without dispute. More importantly, the mental abilities developed by the body in actions are skills for all ages, preparing the athlete to meet the challenges of the ancient and those posed by modern society. ■

If you have a question you'd like answered in a future issue, email editor@americanfencing.com.

Q: What are some common injuries in fencing, specifically injuries to the knee?

A: Actually, in 2008, Peter A. Harmer, ATC, PhD and the USA Fencing Sport medicine program conducted a five-year prospective study of time-loss injuries from the 2001-2006 competition seasons. Of 78,223 competing athletes, only 184 reportable injuries were recorded. The study concluded that the risk of serious injury within fencing is low; types of injuries are similar to any ballistic stop-start sport with rapid change-of-direction, and the occurrence of fencing specific injuries are ~ 3 percent respectively (cuts, lacerations, puncture). In competition, women have a 35 percent greater risk of injury than men, and those fencing saber have a 62 percent greater risk of injury compared to athletes competing in foil and epee. Of reportable injuries, 63 percent were found in the lower extremities (hips down), which includes:

- 20 percent knee
  (most common site of injury)
- 26 percent muscle strains injuries
  - 14 percent thigh strains
- 73 percent hamstring group strains
- 27 percent quadriceps strains
- 25.5 percent ligament sprain injuries
  (half are ankle sprains)
  - 12.5 percent ankle sprain

Further studies are needed to find the occurrence of specific knee injuries that do not necessarily require medical withdrawal from competition.

The knee is a complex structure, and its evaluation can present a challenge to the sports medicine practitioner. The differential diagnoses of the knee is extensive but can be narrowed with a detailed history, a focused physical exam and, when indicated, the selective use of appropriate imaging and laboratory studies.

As for diagnosing, it is important to characterize the pain, including its onset (rapid/insidious), location (anterior, medial, lateral, posterior), duration, severity and quality (dull, sharp, achy, etc.) Aggravating and alleviating factors also need to be identified. Mechanical symptoms should be addressed such as locking, popping, or giving way of the knee. Joint effusion or swelling is also a very important clue to diagnosis in addition to understanding the mechanism in which the injury occurred.

In fencing, knee ligament injuries are rare (ACL, PCL, MCL, LCL) as are cartilage defects and meniscus injuries. These injuries are scarce due to the lack of physical contact or blows to the knee; however, abrupt changes of direction can stress knee ligaments. Most fencing knee injuries are overuse injuries which include patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS), patellar tendon disorders, Osgood Schlatters, Jumper's knee, and iliotibial band (ITB) syndrome. Other areas of injury or irritation may include Hoffa's fat pad syndrome, the plica or tibofibular joint dysfunction.

Clinical observation or location is also a major key to diagnosing overuse injuries of the knee. However, we will only discuss a few categories in this article.

Patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS) is one of the most common ailments of the knee and accounts for 25 percent of all knee injuries encountered in sports medicine clinics. It is an overuse injury characterized by aching pain in the front of knee that may be exacerbated by stairs, squatting, lunging, jumping, running and/or by sitting with the knees flexed for prolonged periods of time. Clinical assessment and treatment of this condition is extremely difficult due to the multiple forces affecting the patellofemoral joint. Such factors as abnormal lower limb biomechanics (flat feet), soft-tissue (muscle) tightness, muscle weakness and/or excessive exercise may be contributing factors. More specifically, hip dysfunction commonly seen as weakness to the gluteus medius (hip abductor) and tightness and/or overuse to the hip lateral rotators (piriformis/gluteus maximus) are actually quite unique to fencing. Other tight tissues may include the hamstrings, iliopsas (hip flexor), iliotibial band and gastrosoleus. A detailed management plan to account for the above deficiencies may be needed to resolve such knee complaints. Some temporary pain relieving taping techniques (kineso-taping, functional taping, McConnell taping techniques) may be beneficial for pain relief while fencing.

Patellar tendon disorders are thought to be caused by repetitive eccentric (lengthening) load to the patellar tendon causing inflammatory or degenerative changes to the patellar tendon. These tendon changes can occur at any age.

Osteochondrosis is a term used to describe a group of disorders that affect the growing adolescent skeleton. Osteochondrosis (abnormal bone/tendon stress response) is very commonly seen at national fencing events and may occur at different sites around the knee. Adolescents in fencing may acquire some of the following responses to fencing sport demands.

As we can see, there are many causes of knee pain and the history and evaluation are critical for correct diagnosis. The overwhelming majority of fencing related knee injuries are caused by overuse with rare rates of injury within competition that would require a withdrawing from an event. Patellar femoral pain syndrome, patellar tendon disorders, and osteochondrosis are overwhelmingly predominant within the fencing community and more than likely will not require the fencer to withdraw from an event. Treatments can be complex, however; rest or decreasing training intensity while performing a generalized flexibility and strengthening program to the hips and legs may be considered. More specifically, hip flexibility (in all directions) and strengthening of the hip flexors, hip extensors, hip abductors, knee flexors and extensors are often beneficial.

If you are wondering what is causing your knee pain, seek out a quality sports medicine provider near you and stay tuned for an article dedicated to giving you the tools to help prevent overuse fencing injuries of the lower extremity. ■

If you have a question you'd like answered in a future issue, email editor@americanfencing.com.

The Referees' Top 10 Pet Peeves



While this column usually focuses on rules and philosophy of right-of-way, this one will be along the lines of a public service announcement, especially for young fencers.

The job of the referee is a labor of love, albeit a thankless one.

A referee enters the gym each day as perfect and leaves being called either incompetent or unscrupulous. Very rarely does a referee receive unconditional compliments from fencers or coaches, let alone a pat on the back for a job well done.

And, as my late father Dan told me as I embarked on my refereeing career forty years ago: "The life of a referee is like an ever-decreasing concentric circle...until there is nobody left that loves you because everyone remembers the one call that cost them dearly."

My dad's words were prophetic as I still remember a call that George Kolombatovich made against me at the 1984 Nationals, exactly 30 years ago. George was one of the best foil refs at that time, certainly one I, as well as the Fencers Club team, was very comfortable with.

The referee is not your friend, but there is no reason to make the relationship any more confrontational than normal.

Whether a grizzled veteran or a neophyte, a referee is under tremendous pressure. Each call is so important, and, with fencers, coaches, teammates and parents surrounding the strip, the atmosphere is perpetually tense.

The referee is trying to do the best possible job, so the last thing you want to do is make the working environment worse, which invariably leads to more mistakes.

Now, I must have full disclosure here, so I can't be accused of being the pot calling the kettle black. As a fencer, I did not adhere to the advice I am espousing here. In fact, in 1984 the Los Angeles Times ran a column on the Nationals and alluded to my treatment of referee David Ladyman as "shades of John McEnroe on the fencing strip."

However, having worn the referee hat for so long has certainly taught me that dealing with fencers like I was is no fun at all.

While the John McEnroe comparison sets the bar really high, the reality is that there are many ways, small and large, subtle or in your face, in which a fencer may annoy a referee.

With respect to David Letterman, and David Ladyman, here is my Top 10 List:

10) Not being ready to fence

Fencers should arrive on the strip fully dressed and ready to go. Don't arrive half-dressed, and then zip up, and then put the glove on, and basically delay the bout or pool.

9) Asking the Referee Who's on Deck

At the outset of a pool, referees announce how the on-deck bouts will be called, either by name or number. Then, the referee systematically announces the on-deck fencers and, in pools of seven, even the in-the hole fencers.

Referees often are hoarse at the end of the day from the constant announcing.

I can't tell you how annoying it is when, after diligently making the on-deck announcements prior to each bout, fencers come up to the strip and ask: "Excuse me sir, but who is on deck?"

8) Systematically Delaying the Bout/Stall Tactics

This can be accomplished in numerous ways.

• I will never forget refereeing Sunil Sabharwal's bouts when he attended The Ohio State University from 1984-88. After each stoppage of the bout, Sunil would lift up his mask and lick his moustache. This drove me nuts and I finally had to tell him to stop. Currently, Sunil is licking his moustache serving as alternate executive director of the International Monetary Fund.

• At the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Tim Morehouse's shoelaces kept coming undone. As team captain, I had no problem with this, as it appeared to be working in Tim's favor. Finally, referee Mariusz Florea told Tim to double-knot them or receive a card the next time they came undone.

• Caitlin Thompson was the 2004 World Under-17 Saber Champion and had a great career. But she frustrated opponents and referees alike when, after each touch, she would go to the end of strip and then, agonizingly slowly, take mincing baby steps back to the on guard line.

(Note: None of the fencers mentioned did anything wrong here. The onus is always on the referee to prevent these delay tactics.)

7) The Hair Trick

A fencer has been hit two or three times in rapid fashion and needs a breather and to break the opponent's momentum.

With the hair perfectly secured inside the mask, the fencer asks the referee: "May I fix my hair?"

Invariably, referees fall for it and allow this to happen. The fencer then takes off the mask, walks to the end of the strip, undoes the hair, then flips the hair back and re-ties it...and then slowly comes back to the on guard line.

By having suckered the referee, this fencer has just received an unwarranted time-out, and in the process, broken the opponent's momentum.

6) The Ground Hog

Some fencers constantly try to steal ground.

As an example, Fencer A attacks Fencer B, who holds the ground without retreating. Fencer A, now much closer to Fencer B, comes on guard

as if the new center should be established from where he is standing after the attack.

The problem is not with a fencer trying to do this once in a while, but rather when the referee must move them back prior to each time the fencer comes on guard.

5) The Center On Guard Ground Stealer

This occurs only at the center on guard lines. Fencer A comes on guard with the feet together. When the referee says: "Fence," Fencer A basically moves the front foot forward and falls into the on guard position.

What just happened?

Fencer A has basically stolen up to a meter and gained an advantage.

The Rules Book does not delineate, in writing, what a proper on guard is. However, there is a photo of the correct on guard position which clearly shows that the fencer's feet should be about shoulder length apart.

In four decades of refereeing, I haven't seen another referee enforce this. But, even as the lone wolf, I will continue to toe the line.

4) Bogus "Selling" on Simultaneous Attacks

There is nothing wrong with fencers selling the action. Referees do get swayed when one fencer sells and the other remains silent.

The fencer who doesn't sell a simultaneous action may just pay the price, so as a result, everyone is always selling.

However, the unintended consequence of constantly selling simultaneous actions is that the "Boy Who Cried Wolf" scenario emerges.

As a perfect example, one of the most prominent high school teams in New Jersey, as a hard and fast rule, has the entire team cheer on every action when both lights are on.

I'm certain that this tactic has garnered some undeserved calls from many refs, including myself. But, now it is just white noise and has no sway whatsoever, even when the call is deserved.

The bottom line with selling: Pick your spots.

3) The Stare Down

Referees are fully cognizant of a fencer's body language, especially after disagreeing with a call.

While body language may be annoying, it is not necessarily disrespectful or done in a threatening manner.

However, some fencers choose to stare down the referee. That, in my opinion, is crossing the line.

For those who saw the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman," recall the unforgettable moment when Louis Gossett, Jr. says to Richard Gere: "You better stop eyeballing me, boy!"

I will always remember when no-nonsense Russell Wilson, the youngest referee to earn a triple A FIE rating and one of the best referees in the world in his time, was eyeballed by Robert Anderson at a NAC.

Let's just say that Anderson didn't eyeball any other refs until the next NAC.

2) Incessant Arguing and Discussion

It is healthy for referees and fencers to have a reasonable repartee. It is unreasonable for referees to just repeat the call verbatim when a fencer asks for a clarification.

The best possible atmosphere is achieved when a referee and a fencer can openly and honestly discuss an action or call.

The problem is when a fencer wants to either argue or discuss almost every call.

I saw this at the 2014 Summer Nationals in Columbus.

One top-ranked foil fencer worked over the referee on basically every call when both lights were on. The referee showed great restraint, but at the same time allowed the fencer to violate that show of good will.

At last year's Ivy League Round Robin Championships, I saw a saber fencer seek to have a private discussion with the referees after every single call. Candidly, the fencer was perfectly respectful and not at all antagonistic.

However, the systematic attempt to cajole the referee had the affect of delaying the bout and completely throwing off the opponent's momentum.

1) Publicly Embarrassing the Referee

Let me stipulate that a referee is perfectly capable of publicly embarrassing himself by blowing calls. It is inevitable and it comes with the turf.

A referee accepts the responsibility of the assignment and the potential consequences of not being perfect.

What a referee will not accept is being publicly humiliated or dressed down by a fencer, coach, family member or teammate.

Without a doubt, this is the worst thing anyone could do to a referee. No matter how bad the call or the importance of that call, no referee deserves to be verbally harassed and embarrassed by anyone at any time.

1A) Not Shaking the Referee's Hand

There is nothing in the rules which says a fencer must shake a referee's hand after a bout, match, or pool.

And, yes, there were plenty of times as a fencer when I really didn't want to shake a referee's hand because I thought he did a bad job or displayed a bad attitude.

Yet, I always did. And, the reason I did was twofold.

First and foremost, the referee was trying his best and putting himself on the line for me. So, no matter what, the least I could do in return was shake hands and say thank you.

Secondly, and don't delude yourselves here, referees have long memories. The last thing I needed to do, having already earned the John McEnroe of fencing moniker, was to alienate a referee for being disrespectful over a simple handshake.

Always shake the referee's hand and thank them. Many referees have a very thin skin. Why risk getting underneath it?

This is the referees' side of the equation. It would be quite refreshing to hear the fencer's Top Ten Pet Peeves about the referees! ■

Without a doubt, this is the worst thing anyone could do to a referee.

by Kevin Mar



MASSIALAS, RIGHT, IN ACTION AT THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES. PHOTO CREDIT SERGE TIMACHEFF/FIE/ FENCINGPHOTOS.COM

ALEX MASSIALAS



"I just wish I had this type of opportunity when I was growing up," marveled Alex. He and the other men's and women's world foil team members had just finished a clinic for excited youth and cadet fencers. "Early in my career, the U.S. teams just hoped to have an OK showing at Worlds," he quipped. My, how things have changed since Alex Massialas started his fencing career.



RACE IMBODEN, MASSIALAS, GEREK MEINHARDT AND MILES CHAMLEY-WATSON AT THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES. PHOTO CREDIT SERGE TIMACHEFF/FIE/ FENCINGPHOTOS.COM

During the early 2000s, the United States was just starting to gain some recognition as a fencing force. The current generation of fencers is now breaking new ground. There are World Championship and Olympic medalists in every weapon and each gender in the last decade. That had never happened before this crop of athletes. Alexander himself finished his Junior career with 13 medals from Junior and Cadet World Championships – tying Lee Kiefer for the most for any American athlete ever. AF caught up with Alex recently.

It looks like you had quite an experience over the last couple of hours!

Yeah! We just finished up our two-hour clinic with about 50 youth and cadet fencers! That was energizing!

What type of things did you go over?

We had some drills that we showed them and then we shared our experience being on the World team. The topics ranged from maintaining weapons to dealing with jetlag, keeping good nutrition abroad, and training methods… all sorts of topics that we as athletes had to glean from other athletes who competed nationally and internationally. We never had an opportunity like this to gather as a group and ask questions. I was just fortunate to have my dad [Greg Massialas, U.S. Men's National Coach] as a resource.

That is fantastic that you and the other national foil team members were willing to take time from your hectic schedule and host this clinic! This is a busy time for all of you during Summer Nationals and getting ready for Worlds in Kazan.

It is busy and hectic, but it is also important! It is essential that we give back to the sport. That way it can keep growing!

How has the transition from high school to college life been going so far?

It's been fantastic! I love all of the learning and the culture is awesome!

Now that I am in college it is definitely a lot harder to balance schoolwork and fencing because of the workload I get at school. Often times not only will I be scrambling to get work done early, before I go to a competition, but during and after the trip are just as bad. Stanford is on the quarter system, which makes it especially difficult because if I miss a week of school, I am basically missing a tenth of the whole class since there are only 10 weeks per quarter. Though it is tough at times, it is still rewarding and I do not regret it at all.

How did you choose Stanford? You do realize your mascot is a tree…

HA! Yeah, well, that aside… I had always said from a young age that I was going to go to Stanford. What was astounding though is when I really started looking at colleges, it turns out that Stanford had all of the things that I was looking for. The learning atmosphere is incredible and the people there are great. In my class alone there are multiple Olympians and World team members for their sport. There is one girl in my class who was the MVP of the Olympic gold medal water polo team! That's crazy!

The students have a laisse faire demeanor yet they are all super intelligent and have multiple talents. It's not uncommon to have students in a heavy science class load and then some sort of artsy club that they are involved with! I love that!

Right now, you are traveling frequently being on the men's national foil team. Are there any strange travel stories that you've encountered?

I was in Jordan for the 2013 Junior World Championships. It was my first event in the Middle East and I was exhausted when I got in. Sometime in the middle of the night I heard gun shots. When I say I heard some gun shots, I don't mean one or two; but dozens! I thought, "This is supposed to be one of the safer Middle Eastern countries and this is what I hear?" Needless to say I slept with one eye open the rest of the night!

It turns out it is a Jordanian tradition that after a wedding everyone shoots a bullet in the air. Since we were in a hotel that would host weddings, that is what happened!



MASSIALAS WALKED WITH 2012 OLYMPIC TEAMMATE MARIEL ZAGUNIS DURING CLOSING CEREMONY IN LONDON

QUICK FACTS

CLUB: Massialas Foundation / Stanford University

COACH: Greg Massialas and Dean Hinton

SCHOOL: Studying Engineering, Stanford University, '17

CURRENT LOCATION: Palo Atlo, Calif.

BEST RESULTS: Silver in St. Petersburg, Russia '13, (First Grand Prix medal and had a tough pathway including Kim (KOR), Willette (USA), Marcilloux (FRA), Meinhardt (USA), Aspromonte (ITA), and finally losing to Davis (GBR) 15-14 for the best result at a Grand Prix for an American in 14 years)

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Being an Olympian in London '12

JOCK OR GEEK: Jock

TRAINING REGIMEN:

M, T, W, Th:
-30 min warm up and stretch
-30 min footwork
-1 hour free fencing
-45 min lesson

F, Sa:
-30 min warm up and stretch
-30 min footwork
-2 hours free fencing

- Pilates for strength and flexibility. Fencers generally have:
- Weak core
- Tight ITB Band
- Weak inner thighs (VMO)
- Weak low back
- Weak glutes
- Tight fencing arm

It is busy and hectic, but it is also important! It is essential that we give back to the sport. That way it can keep growing!

That had to be freaky! You would have definitely been bringing a sword to a gun fight if they stormed your room! How did you do? You didn't get much sleep!

It was actually one of my best results. I took gold in cadet, silver in junior, and gold in junior team!

I guess all of those shots were good luck for you. What type of last thoughts do you have for up and coming fencers?

Enjoy the ride! If you're not enjoying it, you won't do as well. You may go through the motions of practice and competing, but you won't get as far as you want and it won't be as fun. There's travel possibilities and friends to make from around the country and world and a chance to experience new cultures.

I was just talking to a friend who started fencing at the same time I did. When we were in eighth grade, I wrote in his yearbook "See you in London 2012." Well, since I enjoyed fencing so much and trained hard, I was able to make that a reality.

AF: I wonder how many are now going to be writing "See you in Tokyo 2020!" now? ■

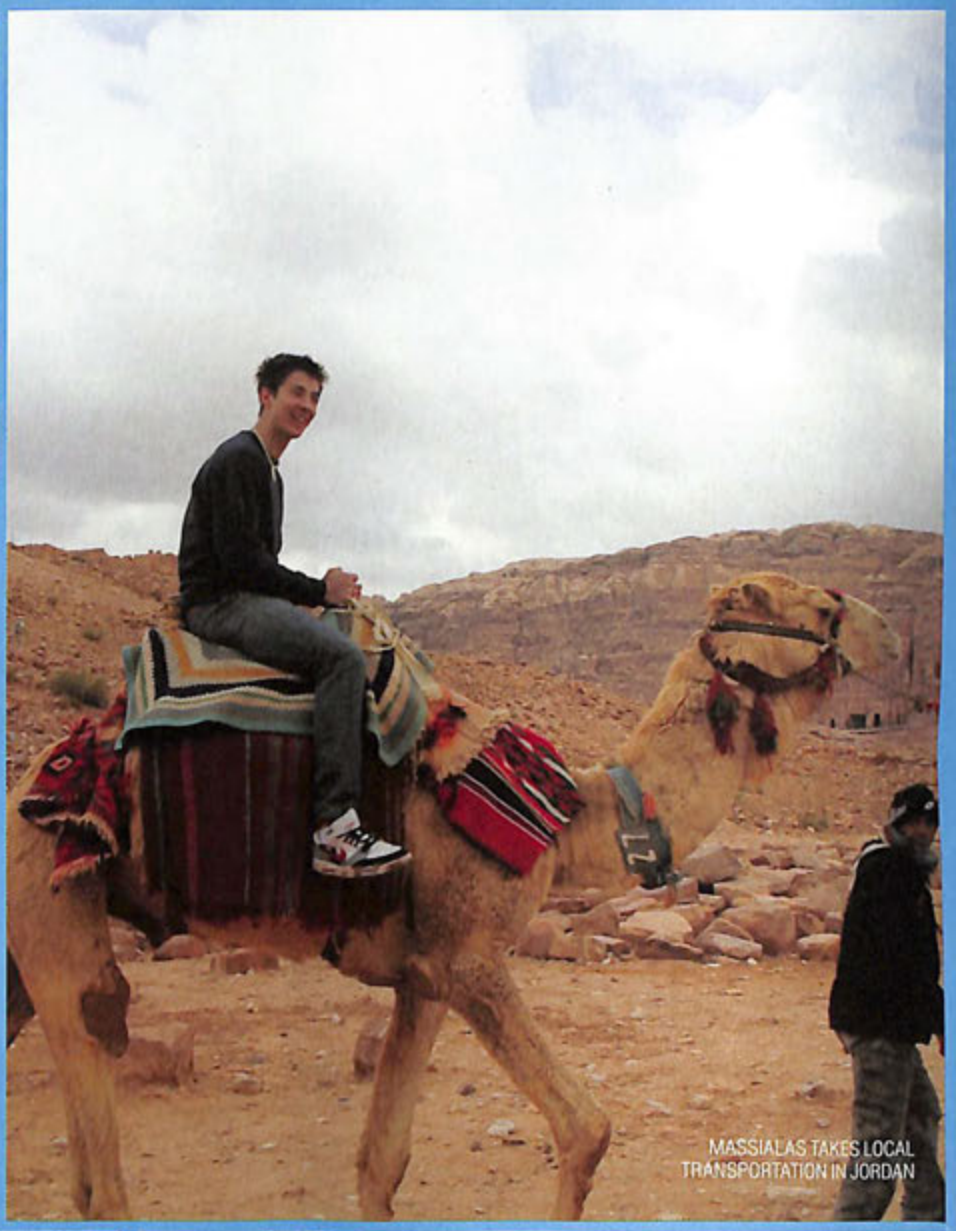


MASSIALAS CELEBRATES A QUARTER-FINAL WIN IN THE TEAM EVENT AT THE LONDON GAMES WITH RACE IMBODEN. PHOTO CREDIT: SERGE TIMACHEFF/FIE/ FENCINGPHOTOS.COM



ALEX, SECOND FROM LEFT, WATCHING THE TEAM MEN'S FOIL AT THE 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES. HE WOULD BE AMONG THE COMPETITORS AT THE NEXT OLYMPIC TEAM MEN'S FOIL EVENT, IN LONDON IN 2012.

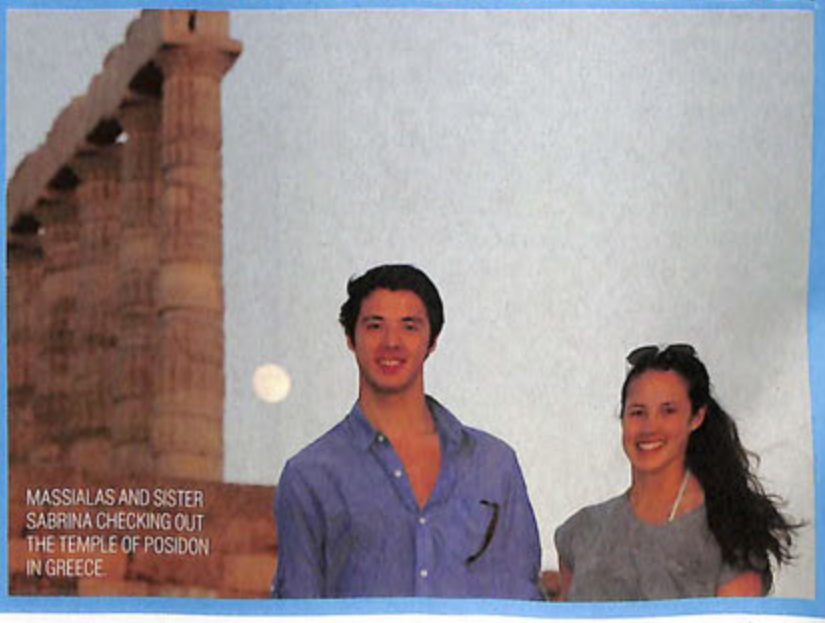
It turns out it is a Jordanian tradition that after a wedding everyone shoots a bullet in the air. Since we were in a hotel that would host weddings, that is what happened!



MASSIALAS TAKES LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IN JORDAN



ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD MASSIALAS POSED WITH MARIEL ZAGUNIS AT THE ATHENS GAMES IN 2004 AFTER HER GOLD MEDAL WIN.



MASSIALAS AND SISTER SABRINA CHECKING OUT THE TEMPLE OF POSIDON IN GREECE.

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Week two -- August 2 thru August 8

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Sabrina Massialas

Wins First Ever Youth Olympic Games Title for USA Fencing

by Nicole Jomantas

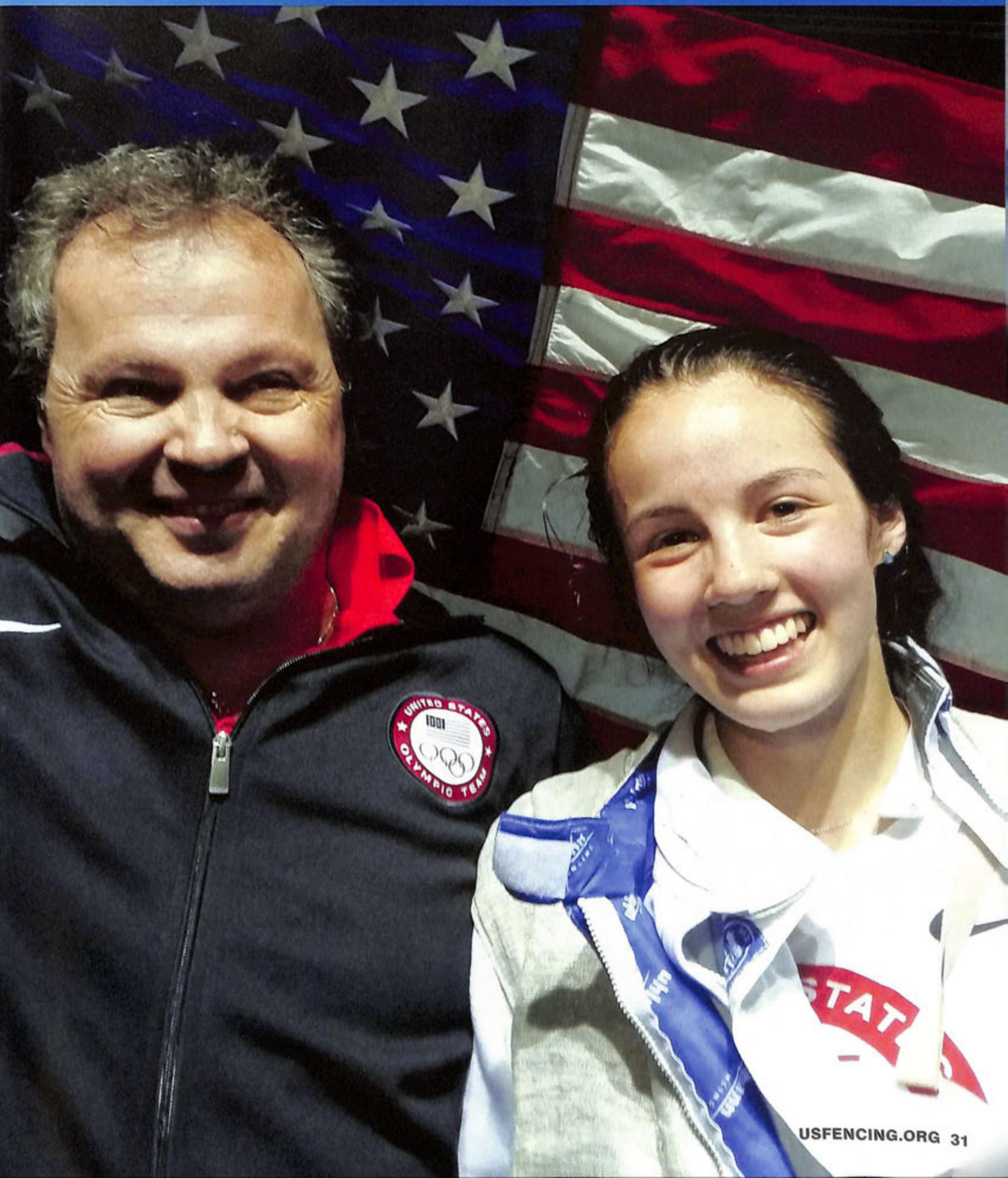
The Massialas family trophy cases hold medals and awards from Olympic, World Championship and Pan American events spanning five decades.



AMERICAS 1 DURING THE MIXED WEAPON TEAM EVENT

PHOTOS BY SERGE TIMACHEFF/FIE/ FENCINGPHOTOS.COM

SABRINA MASSIALAS WITH PROUD COACH AND FATHER GREG
PHOTO CREDIT: BRANDON PENNY


UNITED STATES
OLYMPIC TEAM

A legacy that began with father Greg Massialas representing Team USA on three straight Olympic Teams ('80, '84, '88) has continued with his children, Alexander and Sabrina.

Following in the footsteps of Alexander, who won silver at the Youth Olympic Games and went on to compete as the youngest Olympian in London, Sabrina arrived in Nanjing with the goal of adding the gold medal that had escaped her brother to the family trophy case.

The youngest Massialas began the women's foil competition as the event's second seed, but had a tough pool round where she finished with a 3-3 record.

"I started the day kind of slow. The Youth Olympic Games were getting to me. I had no fire in me, no fight in me," she said. "Afterwards, my dad said: 'You've got to fight, be aggressive, be mean.' I got myself into the zone."

Following her slow start, Massialas went on to win her first direct elimination bout of the day, 15-7, over Yara Elsharkawy (EGY) and defeated 2014 Cadet World medalist Flora Pasztor (HUN), 15-9, in the quarter-finals.

After a break while the men's saber early rounds took place, Massialas dominated the first two periods of her semifinal against Ali Huang (CHN) and held an 8-1 lead at the start of the third. Massialas and Huang fenced an action-packed final period and Massialas guaranteed herself a medal with a 12-7 victory.

The gold medal final came down to an overtime period when Massialas and Karin Miyawaki (JPN) were tied at 6-6 after three periods. The bout was sent into overtime and Massialas scored first to take the win, 7-6, and become the first U.S. fencer ever to win a gold medal at the Youth Olympic Games.

"At 6-6, I knew I was tired and it would be a big risk to go for a touch, so I told myself 'go into overtime, and work as hard as you can for that one touch.' I've been in many overtime, high-pressure situations, so I knew I could handle it," said Massialas who claimed silver at the Cadet Worlds in April after three straight one-touch bout wins. "My performance at Cadet Worlds this year proves that I could do it and gave me confidence to shake the nerves. I was ready, focused, and determined. I didn't want to just wait around for time to run out, so I set up my touch and made it happen."

The win made Massialas the first American fencer ever to win the Youth Olympic Games.

"It feels incredible to be the Youth Olympic Champion and an honor to be the first U.S. fencer to win gold at the YOGs," Massialas said. "I've been struggling to get on the top of the podium with two silvers at the past two Cadet Worlds and it's so fulfilling to finally get the gold, especially here."

While Massialas knew that she had made USA Fencing history, it wasn't until after the finals that she realized she was the first U.S. team member from any sport to win gold at this year's Youth Olympic Games.

"I had no idea I'd be the first gold medalist! I didn't know until the guy from NBC told me after I had won. I don't usually like to think about winning or losing because it throws off my focus, so all I was thinking about was my next touch," said Massialas.

And, of course, in addition to the joy of winning gold for herself and her country, Massialas said she was happy for a chance to make a name for herself on fencing's international stage.

"It means the world to bring home the gold! I'm always competitive with my brother, even though he isn't at all with me," Massialas laughed. "So it feels great to finally one-up him. I feel like I'm starting to make myself known as Sabrina Massialas, rather than Alexander Massialas's little sister or Gregory Massialas's daughter." ■

> "It feels incredible to be the Youth Olympic Champion and an honor to be the first U.S. fencer to win gold at the YOGs," Massialas said.



KASIA NIXON ON HER WAY TO FOURTH PLACE IN THE WOMEN'S EPEE EVENT

Team USA at the Youth Olympic Games

Individual Competition

GOLD: Sabrina Massialas (Women's Foil)

4. Kasia Nixon (Women's Epee)
4. Justin Yoo (Men's Epee)
10. George Haglund (Men's Foil)
10. Karol Metryka (Men's Saber)

Mixed Team Competition

5. **Americas 2** – Karol Metryka with Dylan French (CAN), Gabriela Cecchini (BRA), Tia Simms-Lymn (JAM), Aydil-Marie Colon Quinones (PUR) and Pedro Marostega (BRA)

8. **Americas 1** – Sabrina Massialas, Kasia Nixon, Justin Yoo and George Haglund with Pietro Jose di Martino (ARG) and Julieta Isabel Toledo Ames (MEX)





JUSTIN YOO EARNED FOURTH PLACE IN THE MEN'S EPEE EVENT



FOILIST GEORGE HAGLUND, LEFT, FLIES AT HIS OPPONANT



MEN'S SABERIST KAROL METRYKA, LEFT

Chamley-Watson Mentors Athletes In Nanjing

London Olympian and 2013 Senior World Champion Miles Chamley-Watson (New York City, N.Y.) traveled to Nanjing as well where he joined athletes from around the world as an athlete role model.

Selected by the International Olympic Committee, Chamley-Watson was a member of an all-star team of athletes from both summer and winter sports that included 2012 Olympic Fencing Champion Sheng Lei (CHN), 2012 Olympic Judo Champion Lucie Decosse (FRA), 2004 Olympic Track and Field Champion Liu Xiang (CHN) and two-time Olympic Bobsled Champion Heather Moyse (CAN).

"The other role models have amazing resumes in their sports, so it's been great to share experiences with them, especially since I am one of the youngest," Chamley-Watson said.

As an athlete role model, Chamley-Watson's schedule was packed full of fencing demonstrations with kids, media interviews, dinners with dignitaries and autograph sessions.

"My experience so far has been amazing. I have been getting so much love from all the kids and the people here in Nanjing. We have had so many kids showing up and asking me questions, and saying that it's an honor to meet me. It's really been humbling," said Chamley-Watson in an interview from China.

Among his appearances, Chamley-Watson had the opportunity to meet with IOC President Thomas Bach, himself an Olympic medalist in fencing, during a demonstration in Nanjing.

He also was on site at the fencing venue where he presented medals after the women's epee event.

"My best experience so far I think was when I had about a hundred people running after me after I handed out the medals for women's epee and I had to be put into a car and driven off. That was my David Beckham moment," Chamley-Watson laughed. "But, really, this entire trip has just been an amazing honor. The Youth Olympics themselves are a wonderful competition and education opportunity for these kids and being part of that as an athlete has been an even better experience than I had hoped. I wasn't sure what it would be like, but the athlete role model program is great because the kids can learn from you, ask you questions and for them it's important because they get to interact with you one-on-one with their role models and learn what it takes to make it to the big stage of the Olympics in the next two or four or even eight years down the road."

PHOTOS BY SERGE TIMACHEFF/FIE/
FENCINGPHOTOS.COM



WORLDS OF SUCCESS



STONE, MUHAMMAD, ZAGUNIS AND WOZNIAK

U.S. WOMEN'S SABER RETURNS TO THE TOP IN RUSSIA

The U.S. women's saber program has long been one of the most successful in the world, winning five out of nine individual medals at the three Olympic Games that have been held since the weapon's inclusion on the program.

WORLDS OF SUCCESS

Two-time Olympic Champion Mariel Zagunis (Beaverton, Ore.) has grown from a fresh-faced gold medalist straight out of high school at the 2004 Olympic Games to the leader of a team that won gold at the 2005 Senior Worlds and bronze at the 2008 Games.

Following the retirement of her teammates after the London Games, Zagunis has stepped up to continue her individual success with back-to-back Senior World titles in 2009 and 2010. Although the team event wasn't included on the London program, Zagunis continued to help groom her squad into a team that would win three straight Senior World bronzes in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

As the team began its return to the top of the world rankings, Zagunis's teammates also continued their individual success. Once a replacement athlete in Beijing, Dagmara Wozniak (Avenel, N.J.) is now both the setup fencer for Zagunis in the team event as well as an alternate anchor who has climbed the individual ranks to No. 5 in the world.

After qualifying for her first Senior World Team in 2010, Ibtihaj Muhammad (Maplewood, N.J.) has won two individual medals on the World Cup circuit and played a key role in each of Team USA's podium finishes at the Senior Worlds.

Newcomer Eliza Stone (Chicago, Ill.) burst onto the international scene during her first season on the circuit in 2013 and is now one of the top-10 women's saber fencers in the world with two individual international medals to her credit last season.

Fencing on the first day of team competition at the Senior World Championships on July 21, Team USA earned a bye into the table of 16 where Wozniak got the Americans off to a solid start when she anchored the squad to a 45-22 victory against Kazakhstan.

In the quarter-finals, Zagunis returned as anchor against China and held up Team USA's lead to win the match, 45-43.



WOZNIAK CELEBRATING SEMIFINAL VICTORY

The semifinals came down to Team USA and Ukraine – the reigning Senior World Champions whom the Americans had beaten at the Absolute Fencing Gear® Korfanty World Cup in Chicago in May.

While Wozniak was given a three-touch lead at 40-37 going into the final bout against Ukraine, she also found herself up against Olga Kharlan – the two-time individual reigning Senior World Champion whom she had fenced in Chicago when Team USA also defeated Ukraine in the semis.

"Honestly, I didn't feel too much pressure. I just knew that if I kept myself calm, no matter what happened, it's like I've been saying to myself all day – 'It's not over, 'til it's over.' I knew I just needed to stay focused, stay calm and just execute," Wozniak said.

Her steely focus helped Wozniak through a difficult bout as she broke the tie at 44-44 with a single light touch to give the Americans the win and the team its first trip to the gold medal final at the Senior Worlds since 2006 when Team USA took silver.

"That was a big hump we had to get over. The past three years we've been in third place and we've always come so so close and it's that semifinal match that gets us," Zagunis said. "I think a lot of pressure was lifted off of us after we won the match because we knew we were fencing France in the final and we knew we overcame a really tough team. We took a couple hours during the break to reflect on what happened with Ukraine, but also refocus ourselves for this evening. We knew that France wasn't going to be easy because this is a position they really wanted to get into – to be in the gold medal bout."

In fact, France qualified for the finals by defeating Russia – a team that won gold in 2010, 2011 and 2012 – in the quarter-finals and Italy in the semis.

Team USA took in a early lead in the gold medal final, but France caught up and held a 20-15 lead after the fourth bout. Zagunis came in for the fifth, however, and outscored two-time Junior World team medalist Manon Brunet, 10-3, to give the Americans a 25-23



JEFF SPEAR, LEFT, IN
MEN'S SABER ACTION



TOP, BOTTOM AND RIGHT:
ZAGUNIS SEALS THE GOLD VS. FRANCE



"I WAS JUST CONCENTRATED ON SCORING ONE TOUCH AT A TIME AND GETTING THAT COMEBACK FOR OUR TEAM."



lead that was pivotal for the bout.

"I was not thinking about the score. I was just thinking about fencing Brunet like she was any other fencer and that it was a regular semifinal or final bout on that stage," Zagunis said. "I was just concentrated on scoring one touch at a time and getting that comeback for our team. I was calm and I knew that she was going to be nervous. It was her first World Championships in that position and I used that to my advantage."

Wozniak split her touches with 2009 and 2010 Senior World team medalist Cecilia Berderat 5-5 to hold the two-touch lead for Team USA.

Fencing in the seventh bout, Stone played a key role in helping grow the lead against France as she outscored Saoussen Boudiaf (FRA), 5-2.

Stone noted that her win against Boudiaf was the perfect end to her day and served as a confidence builder for the future.

"I've been training all year long mentally to never do what I did at the 2013 Worlds in the match against Italy ever again," said Stone who struggled with the pressure of the bronze medal final last year. "It meant so much more than winning today. It meant that, in a small way, the mental work I've been doing has paid off because I was able to keep it mentally tough out there for the team."

"WE'VE FENCED TOGETHER FOR SO LONG THAT I FEEL LIKE WE KNOW EACH OTHER'S IDIOSYNCRASIES AND THE WAY WE PLAY OFF OF EACH OTHER AND THE WAY WE BUILD EACH OTHER'S CONFIDENCE..."

Wozniak won her bout against Charlotte Lembach, 5-3, which afforded Zagunis a seven-touch cushion at the start of her final bout against Berderat whom Zagunis defeated in the table of 16 in the individual event.

Berder scored six touches against Zagunis, but couldn't hold off the Americans who won the bout by a six-touch margin and a 45-39 score.

"We've fallen short this past few years, but I always knew we had it in our team, things just never aligned and this year I feel like we had some great results this season," said Zagunis who won bronze with her current teammates in 2013 and two more bronzes with Wozniak and Muhammad in 2010 and 2011. "We all really wanted it. Everyone fenced really really well today and I'm proud that we were able to bring home the gold."

For Muhammad, the win marked a breakthrough moment for her and her teammates after years of hard work.

"We've fenced together for so long that I feel like we know each other's idiosyncrasies and the way we play off of each other and the way we build each other's confidence. I think it's all finally come together and like we've been bridesmaids at every single World Championships I've been at and now we finally get to be the bride!" Muhammad laughed. "It's just a nod to the hard work and team unity and comradery that we have. I feel really thankful and just blessed to have the group of girls that I've been with. I feel like we have this core team and no other team has what we have. We fight for each other and know we've always got each other's back out there."

With this as her seventh Senior World team appearance, Wozniak has won team medals and been a part of squads with near misses at this event.

"It feels amazing. Now I know why Mariel likes winning so much!" Wozniak laughed as she waited for the medal ceremony. "I definitely want this feeling again – and hopefully in individual!"

While the win marked the first Senior World title for Wozniak, Muhammad and Stone, Zagunis continued to build her resume as the most decorated fencer in U.S. history with five Senior World titles to her credit.

"It's really funny because we were just counting all the medals throughout the years since my first Senior World Championship team 15 years ago when our U.S. team won a gold medal for the first time in history in any weapon. It's really exciting, but I'm never thinking about racking up numbers ... It just feels amazing to be a World Champion again," said Zagunis who now holds three Senior World team titles to go with the back-to-back individual golds she won in 2009 and 2010.

Zagunis Takes Fifth Individual Medal

The U.S. Women's Saber Team's victory meant a second trip to the podium for Zagunis who also won silver in the individual event two days prior.

Zagunis, whose five individual medals came in just seven championships between 2006 and 2014, came into the event as the No. 2-ranked fencer in the world and was determined to return to the podium after a three-year hiatus since her last silver medal at the 2011 Senior Worlds.

After earning a bye into today's table of 64 due to her No. 2 world ranking, Zagunis defeated Hin Wai Lam (HKG), 15-4, in the table of 64 and Kata Varhelyi (HUN), 15-7, in the 32.

Zagunis won her next two bouts by 15-11 scores over two-time Senior World medalist Cecilia Berder (FRA) and 2003 Senior World medalist Aleksandra Socha (POL) to qualify for the semifinals.

The women's saber semis were held after Opening Ceremony as the first bouts of the evening at the Kazan Tennis Academy and Zagunis drew 20-year-old Russian Yana Egorian in front of a crowd that came out in force to support the host team. "Based on the Russian contingent that was in Budapest last year, the crowd was something I was definitely prepared for, whether or not I was going against a Russian. You could hear them all day being really enthusiastic for fencers on other strips. So I knew the semifinal was going to be really tough to concentrate in because of all the cheering for her," Zagunis said. "So when they were saying 'Russia!' I was just imagining that they were chanting 'Mariel!' instead and that helped me kind of focus and keep my motivation up and not be bothered by it much."

Although Egorian held a 8-7 lead at the end of the first period, Zagunis regained the lead at 10-9 and never looked back as she went on to win the bout, 15-12.

The gold medal final would not only be a battle between the top two fencers in the world – Zagunis and 2013 Senior World Champion Olga Kharlan (UKR) – but it was the third gold medal final between the two fencers out of the last five Senior World Championships with Zagunis winning gold after their last two meetings in 2009 and 2010.

Zagunis held an 8-6 lead at the break, but Kharlan had scored five of the next seven touches to be up by two when she slipped during a retreat and fell off the side of the strip. After a brief injury timeout for Kharlan, Zagunis scored the next touch to tie the bout.

Kharlan responded with three straight touches and gave up just one to Zagunis before going on to take the win and the gold with a 15-12 victory.



CHAMLEY-WATSON, RIGHT, IN TEAM FOIL ACTION



MARIEL ZAGUNIS FENCED OLGA KHARLAN (UKR) IN THE GOLD MEDAL FINAL.



LEE KIEFER, RIGHT, IN FLIGHT DURING WOMEN'S FOIL TABLE OF 16



JASON PRYOR, LEFT, AND JIMMY MOODY DURING THE TEAM MEN'S EPEE EVENT



COURTNEY HURLEY

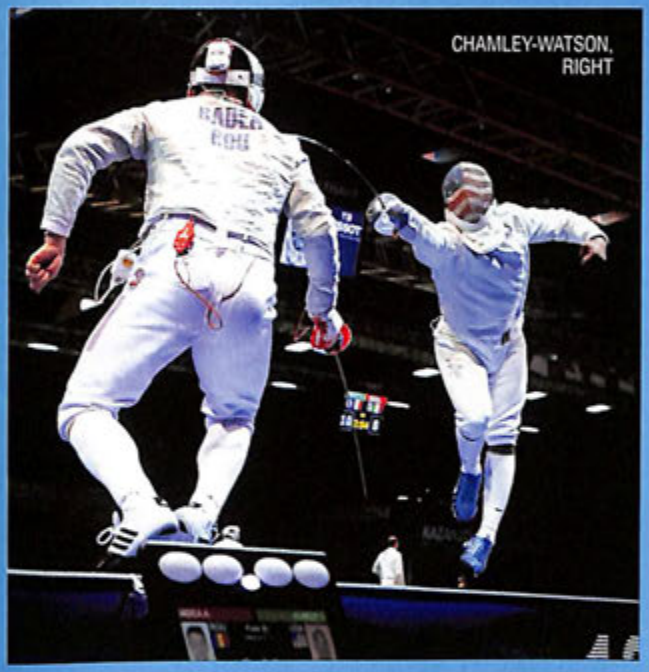
1 and No. 2 going at it for a gold medal. She and I were 1-1 this season so I felt pretty confident going into that match and I knew she was going to be a really tough competitor so I was happy to have made it to the gold medal round," Zagunis said. "I wish the bout could have been a little bit better and I could have pulled out a win, but, then again, I am happy to be back on the podium. Kharlan is such a great competitor and she just fenced better than me tonight."

Wozniak, who also fenced in the quarters at the 2012 Olympic Games, placed sixth overall.

In the foil competition, London teammates and former Senior World medalists Gerek Meinhardt (San Francisco, Calif.) and Lee Kiefer (Lexington, Ky.) finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

As the No. 3-ranked fencer in the world, Meinhardt drew Felipe Guillermo Saucedo (ARG) in the table of 64, and scored the last two touches to win the bout, 15-13. In the table of 32, Meinhardt held just a two-touch lead at the end of the first round at the break within the next 30 seconds, but he couldn't dig out of the hole and Cheremisinov went on to win the bout, 15-9, late in the first period. By the end of the evening, Cheremisinov would become a hero to the packed arena of Russian fans when he went on to win his first Senior World title.

Kiefer started her day with a pair of first period wins as she took out Wenying Wang (SIN), 15-4, in the 64 and Astrid Guyart (FRA), 15-10, in the 32. Kiefer went on a 5-1 run game in the table of 16 as she controlled her bout against Anne Sauer (GER) for a 15-9 victory.



CHAMLEY-WATSON, RIGHT

"IF YOU LOOK AT THE COMPETITION AS A WHOLE, THAT'S WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE COME DOWN TO – NO. 1 AND NO. 2 GOING AT IT FOR A GOLD MEDAL.

Quarter-final Finishes for Saber and Foil

Three of Zagunis's teammates earned top-eight individual results in Kazan.

Wozniak got off to a strong start with a 15-8 win over Fei Li (CHN) in the table of 64 and a 15-5 victory against Stefanie Kubissa (GER) in the 32. She controlled her table of 16 bout against Malgorzata Kozaczuk (POL) as well where she followed an 8-5 lead in the first period by giving up just four more touches to take a 15-9 victory.

In the quarter-finals, Wozniak was dominant again with an 11-7 lead against Ekaterina Dyachenko (RUS) – a silver medalist in both the individual and team events at the 2013 Senior Worlds. Dyachenko couldn't be stopped as she scored eight touches to close the bout out, 15-13, to secure a fifth career Senior World medal.

at 8-6 against Volodymyur Koltygo, but kept the Ukrainian to just one point in the second half and finished with a 15-7 victory.

The win set up a table of 16 bout between Meinhardt and his London Olympic teammate, Race Imboden (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Meinhardt's battle with Imboden was fast paced and the two needed less than two minutes for Meinhardt to take a 9-8 lead. In the final minute, Meinhardt scored six more touches to Imboden's three to win the bout, 15-11, and leave his teammate with a ninth place result.

In the quarter-finals, Meinhardt fenced Alexey Cheremisinov (RUS) in front of a stadium that was filled with raucous Russian fans.

Although Meinhardt is known for his level-headedness on the strip in high pressure situations, he let eight touches slip away within the first 40 seconds. Meinhardt cut the Russian's lead to four touches and a 9-5 score

In the quarter-finals, Kiefer fenced six-time Olympic Champion Valentina Vezzali (ITA) – the same athlete who defeated Kiefer in the semifinals of the 2011 Senior Worlds. Kiefer led the bout, 4-1, after the first minute, but Vezzali had tied the bout at eight by the end of the second period. During the third period, Vezzali scored five touches to Kiefer's one to secure a 13-9 lead. Kiefer became more aggressive and, although she gave up another touch, she also scored three more, including one on a red card Vezzali received for covering target. As Kiefer ran at the Italian with six seconds on the clock, she got hit once more and Vezzali secured her 24th career Senior World medal.

Team Top Eights in All Three Weapons

In addition to the women's saber team's gold medal, the United States earned four top-eight finishes in the team events.



ZAGUNIS, LEFT, WITH INDIVIDUAL SABER MEDALLISTS KHARLAN, EGORIAN AND KYACHENKO.

While the men's foil team entered the event as the former top-ranked team in the world and reigning silver medalists, Team USA would be stopped by China – the 2011 Senior World Champions. The win by the Chinese team would be just one in a day of upsets that also saw Italy, the reigning Olympic and Senior World Champions, fall to France in the semis.

Meinhardt, Imboden, Alexander Massialas (San Francisco, Calif.) and Miles Chamley-Watson (New York City, N.Y.) remained determined to finish the event strongly and won their next two bouts over Great Britain, 45-40, and Korea, 45-31, for a fifth-place finish.

Featuring two of the athletes who won bronze in London – Courtney and Kelley Hurley (San Antonio, Texas) – the U.S. Women's Epee Team earned its best Senior Worlds result ever with a sixth-place finish.

Joined by former Junior World team medalists Katharine Holmes (Washington, D.C.) and Anna Van Brummen (Houston, Texas), the women's epee squad was the one U.S. team that had to fence over the course of two days due to the size of the 28-team field.

Team USA advanced to the quarters, but lost to Hungary, 45-31. The Americans rebounded in the next round to defeat Korea, the 2012 Olympic Champions, 31-29, for a chance at fifth place.

In the final match, the Americans came within three touches of Romania, the 2013 Senior World bronze medalists, but fell short of fifth with a 45-40 loss.

The U.S. Men's Saber Team came into Kazan as one of the youngest in recent years with two juniors on the roster in Eli Dershwitz (Sherborn, Mass.) and Andrew Mackiewicz (Westwood, Mass.). London Olympians Daryl Homer (Bronx, N.Y.) and Jeff Spear (Wynantskill, N.Y.) brought additional experience to a team that would earn its best Senior Worlds result since 2005.

After falling just short of an upset over fourth-seeded Germany with a 45-41 loss in the quarters, Team USA bested France, the 2008 Olympic Champions, 45-35, in the 5th – 8th place table.

Team USA fenced Italy, the 2012 Olympic bronze medalists, for fifth, but lost the match, 45-36.

The U.S. Women's Foil Team included three members of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team in Kiefer, Nicole Ross (New York City, N.Y.) and Nzingha Prescod (Brooklyn, N.Y.). With Prescod injured before the start of the event, 2014 Junior World Team Champion Sabrina Massialas (San Francisco, Calif.) stepped into the starting lineup at her first Senior Worlds.

After a 45-29 win in the opening bout against Ukraine, Team USA fell, 45-29, to France – a team that would go on to win bronze. The Americans lost a heartbreaker to China, 45-43, in the next round, but finished with a 45-42 win against Poland. ■

the point

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Tierna Oxenreider

Tierna owes her fencing career to sibling rivalry. Older sister Lilit took kung fu lessons and, as she progressed to using weapons, Tierna wanted in on the action – but ONLY swords. Swords suit her – a few short years later, Tierna has risen to the top of the Youth-10 epee rankings as of this issue.



+ STATS & FACTS

HOMETOWN: Reynoldsburg, Ohio

BIRTHDATE: May 31, 2004 (Reynoldsburg, Ohio)

SCHOOL: Ohio Virtual Academy, 2022

CLUB: Royal Arts Fencing Academy

COACHED BY: Julia Richey and Tim Mills

+ HIGHLIGHTS

+ **GOLD,** Youth-10, Super Youth Atlanta, Oct. 2014
+ **SILVER,** Youth-10, Super Youth St. Louis, Sept. 2013
+ **6TH,** Youth-10, 2014 July North American Cup
+ **DOUBLE GOLD,** Arnold Fencing Classic – Youth-10 women's epee, Youth-8 mixed epee

OF INTEREST: Tierna also plays violin, skis and recently started parkour classes.

FAVORITE FENCING MOVIE: Princess Bride

WHO IS YOUR FENCING HERO: I really admire Courtney Hurley. She is an Olympic fencer and I like her fencing style. I got to meet her at the 2014 Summer Nationals. She was very friendly and I was so excited to watch her fence. My fencing coach, Julia Richey, inspires me every day and is a very motivational coach.

FAVORITE BOUT TO THIS POINT: My last bout in Y10 women's Epee at the 2014 July NAC. It was a really fun bout. We were going back and forth on touches but in the end she took the lead and won 10-8. This is my favorite bout because I learned never to lose confidence in myself.

LEAST FAVORITE BOUT TO THIS POINT: I don't have a least favorite bout. Tournaments are so much fun. I love the excitement and the adrenaline I feel before a tournament. I try to have fun, do my best and learn something. If I don't do those three things during a bout, I feel disappointed.

PARENT'S CORNER

by Kirsten Crouse

Better Living through Failure



Failure.

What a dreadful word.

The word alone conjures so many different reactions, assumptions and implications.

Many parents do everything possible to reduce the impact this word can have on their child's life by protecting them from failure or minimizing the consequences at every chance.

I prefer, however, to throw my kids at failure as often as possible.

In conventional terms, failure obviously is considered the opposite of success in that you cannot have one without the other. However, this kind of thinking leads to the premise that if you did not succeed, you, well ... failed. You either win or you lose, it's that simple.

Is it always that simple? What about when success is dependent on the action of people or circumstances outside your control? Which is, as everyone knows and often forgets, the way reality usually functions.

If someone does not have a clear understanding of failure, or success for that matter, and sees failure in terms of black and white, then they hazard letting failures define their endeavors and will quite possibly take decreasingly fewer risks due to the fear of failure.

Outcome bias is where a decision or action is determined to be either "right" or "wrong" based solely on the outcome rather than measuring the decision against the surrounding conditions that led to the decision. The conditions themselves and simple chance may play a larger part in the final outcome than the decision itself, even if the decision or action was well thought out and well executed.

There is a great Star Trek/New Generation quote by Jean-Luc Picard (yes, I'm a Star Trek geek): "It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose. That is not a weakness, that is life."

Success is not magically bestowed. It is earned through hard work, facing the fear of failing and accepting the risks, and the most important factor, learning.

There is the saying: "Luck is the intersection of preparation and opportunity." But having the courage to jump at that opportunity and the ability to reason clearly under pressure is just as critical.

Fencing is the perfect sandbox for this. There are so many opportunities on both sides of the Success/Fail equation.

Risk & Consequence:

Fear of failure can be very strong. Often that fear gets in the way of success. Risk is defined as the possibility that something bad or unpleasant (such as an injury or a loss) will happen. Consequence is something good or bad that happens as a result of a particular action or set of conditions. Sometimes not being able to analyze the risk in a rational manner – the odds, so to speak – or work out worst-case scenarios with possible solutions can make the fear of failure almost overwhelming. This can lead people to play it safe while missing out on opportunities by not believing in themselves.

Learning how to calculate the risks and measure the consequences against personal abilities and past experiences comprise a skill set that takes constant practice.

Being fearless doesn't mean never making mistakes, it means not being afraid to make mistakes and recognizing mistakes as something that can be corrected rather than just a label for an action.

Failure teaches one the importance of paying attention to detail, of time management, preparation and practice, of what needs to be focused on and improved upon for next time. Failure hones, tempers and teaches you what you need to work on next.

North American Cups are very expensive. They take a lot of time and money to attend. National Rolling Points are on the line and the older brackets have National Team Points and/or recognition by colleges at stake. Mistakes have higher consequences as one advances up from youth categories to cadet, junior and up the Divisions to Div. I. With this in mind, my kids have to take ultimate responsibility for their tournament preparation including the upkeep and repair of their epées and body cords and go over them before tournaments and have had to since they were in Y10. This meant that their equipment could fail and possibly have a serious impact on an important NAC.

Yes, there were times that they took shortcuts and their equipment was not up to par. Yellow cards were issued and at one point all the weapons failed (that was not a fun NAC). But, due to being forced into the position of taking responsibility for most aspects of their fencing early on, both kids take more care and attention to detail now that the stakes are getting higher for them.

Trust & Confidence:

When I was 11, I was a youth competitive sailor. I would sail Galveston Bay alone in a small Sunfish. I tended to take a lot of long-distance-based strategy risks as opposed to numerous course corrections (tacking) that would on occasion take me further out from the racecourse than the parents were comfortable with. If a dangerous problem occurred, my dad could only get to me as fast as our outboard motor or sail-power on our family boat allowed. Parents do NOT shadow their kids when sailboat racing. In my mind, I owned Galveston Bay and was willing to sail to Florida in my little Sunfish.

While practicing beat and broad reach runs in rough weather, an incident occurred in the vicinity of a half sunk barge off Eagle Point. My sunfish flipped completely over so that it was in the 'turtle' position with the mast straight down under water and the centerboard sticking straight up in the air. This was also right after the movie "Jaws" came out and I swear I could hear the music signaling the arrival of an imminent shark attack as soon as I hit the water.

My 11-year-old self had to somehow pull up out of the water with non-existent hand or footholds, grab the centerboard and pull the boat back over with my body mass. I was not very big; the weather was rough; and the half sunken jagged-y rusted-out barge seemed terrifyingly close. Did I mention the "Jaws" music?

I was not in danger of drowning at any time as my dad was there in another Sunfish and I had on a life preserver, but I was furious and scared to death. I wanted my problem fixed immediately and with as little time wasted and discomfort to myself as possible – I wanted my dad to save me.

My dad sailed circles around me while telling me how to fix the problem myself and to calm



down ... that I would stay in the water as long as it took for me to solve the problem, and at one point, in exasperation, he told me that he would not be around forever to keep saving me and I had to learn how to do it on my own (he also needed to know that I knew how to do it). He was teaching me how to understand and how to handle a real and scary situation with consequences in real-time rather than with discussion and hypotheticals in a relaxed setting.

Long story short – without all of the drama – I did it. It really was one of those moments that changed my life. I learned to trust in myself and have confidence in my abilities. That no matter how bad things get, ultimately you have only yourself that you can count on to have your back.

I repeat that particular lesson with my kids every chance I get – in school, in fencing and in life.

As my kids have grown up, the hardest thing I have found is not the letting go of and letting my kids do scary things, but to trust that they actually know what it is they need to do in order to succeed and be safe.

I have had to learn to trust in my kids' abilities to save themselves. I have had to learn to trust that when my kids fail, they have the capacity and courage to face the failure objectively and problem solve a solution. It is not an easy thing, to say the least.

Kids need to experience and overcome the small failures with small risks and consequences in order to develop the skills to face down and overcome the potential larger failures with larger risks and consequences they will face later in life. They also have to have their experiences with failure framed objectively so that they continue to shoot for the stars rather than take the easy path and play it safe.

I have always held that children will believe in themselves as much as you actively demonstrate your confidence and trust in them. And that means letting them fail in the small stuff and showing them how to use that failure as a means to succeed. And, like in a chess game, I have had to sacrifice a few pieces, a few small successes on the part of my kids, in order for them to achieve the bigger wins down the road when the risks and consequence are much, much higher.

"Things are only impossible until they're not." – Jean Luc Picard (I could not resist.). ■

the point

PRODUCT REVIEW

by Ted Li



REVERSIBLE TO RED INTERIOR



NAVY EXTERIOR

Leon Paul's Sahara Leather Tote: The Not-So Fencing Bag

While many of the items we that come through our desks at *American Fencing* are either fencing-related or workout products of some variety, Leon Paul's new Sahara leather tote most definitely isn't.

And that is at least part of why we love it.

When Ben Paul's wife had her favorite handbag stolen, he decided to simply make a new one. Since Leon Paul already had top-of-the line leather for their coaching equipment and high quality stitching is used in their products daily, it seemed like a good fit to just make a new bag from scratch.

So what if most of us wouldn't have come up with that idea and probably would have just chalked the bag up as a loss?

The final product is an impressive one. At first glance, it's a navy tote made from soft, but sturdy unlined leather with a subtle, but classic Leon Paul logo embossed to it.

Then comes the genius part. It's reversible. What was a nice navy bag flips inside out to become a stunning red tote which instantly ups its versatility. An inner and outer pocket holds keys, a small wallet or a cell phone while the main compartment is large enough to hold a midsize laptop, wallet, water bottle, etc.

Price: £99.00 with tax $160.00

Available at www.LeonPaul.com. ■

CLUB TIPS

By Austin Shih

A Low Cost Wheelchair Fencing Frame

I first encountered the world of wheelchair fencing when I volunteered at Combat Arms Program, a wheelchair fencing program started by Maestro Stuart Lee of the Lion Heart Fencing Academy, Rocky Herron and Darryl Weiss that brings wheelchair fencing to wounded veterans at the Naval Medical Center at San Diego.

Through Combat Arms, I saw how beneficial wheelchair fencing is for handicapped veterans, and I wanted to bring wheelchair fencing to more people in my own local community. Most of the basic fencing equipment was not a problem to acquire. However, I got a bit lightheaded when I saw the price of the wheelchair frame. A typical wheelchair frame costs around $2,500. As a high school student, this is a significant amount for me, or even for a club, to find funds for.



THE WHEELCHAIR FENCING SETUP.

If the price of the frame was so high, perhaps it was a barrier for other potential wheelchair fencing programs. I asked myself, "What can I do to make this frame more affordable?"

I went online to study a few commercial frames and found that the designs were way too complicated and would require metal welding, which I didn't have the tools or skills for. The only design I found was The Light Sabre, a rotatable frame design suitable for stationary use that had been published on the Assistive Technology Design Projects website (Lerner et al.). Since I couldn't find a published design that fit my criteria, I decided I had to create a design myself.

I wrote my criteria down with a blue crayon on a scrap of paper:

1. *Low cost*
2. *Lightweight, so that it would be easy to move from the club to the program*
3. *Easy enough to build for other high school students who didn't have fancy tools*
4. *Follow the 110° standard angle and be able to accommodate left-handed fencers*



THE TIE-DOWN DESIGN. TWO Y SHAPES TIE DOWN THE WHEEL WITH A HOLDING BAR TO MAINTAIN THE ANGLE AT 120° APART (IN ORANGE). THE FRONT WHEEL IS TIED TO THE FRONT LIP EDGE ANCHOR POINTS (IN BLUE).

After a few failures, I finally built a workable aluminum frame which matched my criteria. The frame is constructed from six aluminum frames sandwiched between two aluminum sheets. About 40 screws are inserted into the frame to create the lightweight but durable base. Three sides of the base have a raised edge to prevent the wheelchair from sliding off and to provide a point to anchor the wheelchair down.

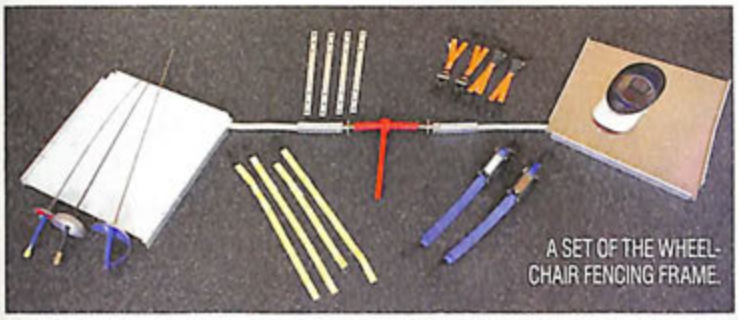
There are two connection bars that can be mounted on each frame, one for left-hand fencers and another for right-hand fencers. You can either build the frame with two bars on each platform, or just build one that you can switch



THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMPONENTS. 1: INTERNAL STRUCTURE FRAMING. 2: LIP EDGE 3: SURFACE PLATE 4: CONNECTING BAR ARROWS: HOLES FOR ANCHORING THE WHEELCHAIR.

back and forth. The angle is set to the standard 110°. The connection bar is mounted to a 1.25" square tube to fit with a ratcheting load binder. The load binder allows the adjustment of the distance. The range is 11 inches and can cover a majority of the cases. For the tie down, an aluminum bar was used to provide stability (shown in picture).

The final cost for this design is $301 (plus a weekend or two of labor in the garage). The design will suit the standard Invacare® wheelchair which I found on craigslist for $50 each. The width of the platforms cannot be adjusted; thus, it does not fit the wide base sports wheelchair. Another possible improvement is replacing the aluminum connection bar with steel for increased strength. Although this floor frame is not internationally certified, it will be sufficient for practice and club use. ■



A SET OF THE WHEELCHAIR FENCING FRAME.

I have posted the drilling diagrams online. The detailed templates for each piece are available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aluminumframe. Any feedback on the design is greatly appreciated. I hope that others can utilize this cheaper wheelchair frame to expand wheelchair fencing in clubs,

Material List:

NO	QTY	RAW MATERIAL	USAGE	DIMENSION (INCH)	LENGTH (FEET)	PRICE (EACH)
1	4	6063 Rectangle Tube	Frame	1x0.5, 0.125t	8	$15
2	4	5052-H32 Plate / Sheet	Surface	24x24, 1/8	N/A	$35
3	2	6061 Flat Bar	Edge lip	0.25x1.5	6	$11
4	2	Countersink screw (100pc)	Assembly	#10-32	¼"	$12
5	1	Ratcheting load binder	Adjustment	0.25x1.5	6	$25
6	1	6063 Square Tube	Connection	1.25x1.25, 0.125t	2	$9
7	1	6061 Flat Bar	Tie down bar	0.125x1	4	$3
8	1	Tie down x4			N/A	$18
						Total: $301

Resources:

Aluminum: www.onlinemetals.com
Binder: www.harborfreight.com

Tool List:

1. Power drill
2. Hacksaw
3. Drill bit for #10-32 tap, 5/32 or No.21
4. Drill bit for #10 clearance hole, 13/64
5. Countersink bit for #10-32
6. Tap bit #10-32

Works Cited:

Lerner, Matt, Robyn Schwartzman, and Henry Shen. *The Light Sabre. Assistive Technology Design Projects.* Duke University, 28 Sept. 2012. Web. 28 Aug. 2014.
http://sites.duke.edu/atdesign/2012/09/28/the-light-sabre/

the point

TECH TALK

by Ted Li

A "Tangle" of Body Cords

There are "choirs" of larks, "mobs" of kangaroos, "prides" of lions, and "pods" of whales. But what do you call that mass of body cords nesting in the corner of your fencing bag? Of course, a "tangle"!

When a tangle becomes most annoying is during the Controle process before a big competition, where traditionally, the Controle staff has requested that the body cords be unwrapped for inspection and testing. The reason for them being unwrapped is so that the length of the "A" line of a foil/saber cord (the wire with the lame clip) can be measured – it's supposed to have 40 cm or more "free wire" to ensure that during fencing, the clip cannot become detached by the fencer twisting his/her body. But how often have you seen the length of the "A" line measured? And when was the last time you were denied a hit because an opponent's clip became detached during fencing? In epee, where the rules stipulate that a body cord is a part of an epeeist's "personal equipment," there really shouldn't be any reason to inspect body cords, except to facilitate a "problem free" competition. Strictly speaking, if there is a problem with an epee body cord, it's the epeeist's problem.

While various people have devised ways of presenting foil/saber body cords for Controle which minimize the tangling of their body cords while waiting to have their equipment inspected, there seems to be a simpler solution to the problem of tangled body cords: bundle or wrap them in such a way that the Controle team can test them without unwrapping them. To do this, there should be at least 12" of wire from the three-prong end to the two-prong/bayonet connector, and at least 12" of wire to the clip (see the illustration referred to).

Epee cords also can be bundled to minimize tangling.

This way of presenting body cords for Controle has a number of advantages: it minimizes the time spent disentangling the cords for inspection; it minimizes the amount of time unwrapping and wrapping cords as they are inspected; and it minimizes the tangling of body cords in your bag.

One of the objections to this way of presenting body cords for Controle is that the middle of the cable is not to be flexed or put under tension during testing. While there is some possibility that there may be a break in the middle of the body cord, the vast majority of breaks occur immediately behind the two-prong/bayonet plug as that is where the majority of the cable flexing occurs; less frequently, there are problems immediately in front of the three-prong plug.

Of course in epee, if the same three-prong plug isn't always plugged into the epee, there is no way of predicting where a break might occur. A side note: mark one end of body cord and ALWAYS plug it into the epee – that way you'll be able to predict where the problems are likely to have occurred.

Having multiple body cords doesn't have to result in a tangle, either in your bag or while you're waiting for a pre-competition Controle. By following the methods outlined above, you'll be helping yourself, the Controle personnel, and those behind you in the Controle line.

P.S. This new method of presenting body cords for inspection has been endorsed by Dan Dechaine, Al Merritt, Brian Rosen, Matt Porter and other top national armorers from around the country. ■

PRODUCT *PRE*VIEW



Phone Case

A gift for the epeeist in all of us – THE fencer's phone case. Fits Iphones 4 and 5. $9.99 from Alliance Fencing Equipment, and now available as free gift with orders over $230. www.alliancefencingequipment.com, 415-666-3606.



Patinando

"Patinando" is Spanish for "to skate" and that is how smooth these shoes are. Full-length adiWEAR outsole for floor contact and durability, suede and synthetic leather overlay mix for lightness, durability and comfort. $175 from the Fencing Post, stores.thefencingpost.com, 800-459-7207.



2015 FIE Calendar

Hot off the presses, Serge Timacheff's photography shines in the 2015 FIE calendar. Available from various fencing retailers.



The Froller

Ice and roll all at the same time. The Froller is frozen rolling disks of relief on a stick. Totally a "why didn't I think of that?" invention. $49.95, from HommeMade LLC, www.thefroller.com.

COMPETITION CLASSIFIEDS

Advertise your largest, regional competitions here for free! Send a classified-style listing to editor@AmericanFencing.com by March 15 for publication in the Spring issue.

WORK WANTED:

WORLD-CLASS EPEE COACH

seeking work in U.S. Michael Tishkov, current head coach for Ukrainian national team. Coach of Cadet World Champion, European Cup and World Championship medalists. Speaks German and English. Contact Slava Grigoriev for more information: fencewestchester@aol.com, 917.353.3499. *First posted Win '12*

S. ASSADOURIAN, THE PROFESSIONAL FENCING COACH

with 30 years of coaching experience in epee & foil, seeking part time or full time teaching position in universities or clubs. Contact: sarkis30@hotmail.com, Cell: (661)309-3082. *First posted Sum '12*

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First posted Win '10

COACH WANTED

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCATION,

Part time/Full time FOIL Fencing Coach wanted: Candidate has to be a US Fencing Association member with professional status (passed background screening and professional membership). Must enjoy working with beginners and young kids. Must be able to work flexible hours and have own transportation. (714) 996-8880, or seanhlin@hotmail.com. *First posted Summer '14*

RAMAPO H.S. IN FRANKLIN LAKES, N.J.

is seeking a head coach and an assistant coach for their Championship boys fencing team. The applicant would be taking over a team that has dominated their League in Northern N.J. for the past 11 years. There is also a dedicated cadre of parents who handle many of the responsibilities that are required to produce a championship team. Those interested should email their resume to the Ramapo Athletic Director, Ron Anello: ranello@rih.org or call 201-891-3356. *First posted Summer '14*

DC FENCERS CLUB

looking for saber and/or epee coach. Full time or part time positions available. Please send resume to: dcfencers@gmail.com, or call 301-562-1990. *First posted Fall '13*

FENCING CLUB IN BOSTON AREA

is looking for an experienced epee coach, preferably with competitive background. For inquiries, call: 781-866-1570. *Renewed Spring '14*

LOOKING FOR A SABER FENCER/COACH

with national or international results who would be interested in joining a growing saber fencing club as a part time coach with potential for full time. Please contact Jae Sang at 213-321-0683, fence@zfencinglos-angeles.com. *Renewed Fall '13*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FENCING CLUB

with National/International results looking for full time coach who enjoys working with beginners and young kids. Coaching experience preferred. Also looking for coach to work summers in summer camp program. Interested parties should send resume and inquiries to: norcalfencingcoachneeded@gmail.com. *Renewed Spring '14*

NEW JERSEY FENCING ALLIANCE,

located in New Jersey, is proud to announce that it will be expanding its coaching staff by two coaches. We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced professionals in FOIL and EPEE. Coach should have good communication skills and must enjoy working with children and adults. This is a full time or part time position. Please email your resume and con-tact information to: fencer0901@aol.com or contact Frank Mustilli at 973-224-3448. *Renewed Spring '14*

SEEKING COACH,

foil or saber. Location is Southern California. Please contact Paul @ 714-872-3959. *Renewed Fall '12*

FASJ AND MR. MA FENCING CENTER

are looking for energized young foil and saber coaches. Opportunities to work in the U.S. or overseas. Please email your resume and contact information to: fasj1@yahoo.com. Please contact Andy Ma at: Andyma@upenn.edu. *Renewed Spring '14*

SEEKING COACH: OREGON FENCING ALLIANCE IN PORTLAND, OR

has an opportunity for a saber coach to work alongside Ed Korfanty and his World and Olympic Champions. This is a part time position teaching beginners the sport of fencing. Individual needs good communication skills and must enjoy working with young kids. Send resume and contact OFA Director of Programs: CZagunis@aol.com// 503.880.3512. *Renewed Spring '14*

GOT A BIG COMPETITION COMING UP? LOOKING FOR A COACH? LOOKING FOR A JOB? SEND FREE CLASSIFIED LISTINGS TO:

Cindy Bent Findlay, editor@americanfencing.com. 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.

Coach Classified Adverts will run for two consecutive issues only and then removed UNLESS requested by advertiser.

Spring magazine deadline for all classified ads is March 15, 2015.

RESULTS

SDFA ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYC 2014

11/22/2014 - 11/24/2014 Crowne Plaza DIA Convention Center: Denver, CO

YOUTH-10 MEN'S EPEE	
1. Levy, Jacob	FFA
2. Dao, Mathew	FAN
3. Imrek, Samuel Alan	ALLIANCE
3. Niebergall, Colin	SDFA

YOUTH-12 MEN'S EPEE	
1. Lee, Aaron	F.A. - NV
2. Nguyen, Ethan	F.A. - NV
3. Shugart, Henry	CFDMPC
3. Stiles, Dylan	SCFC / DYNAMOCAN

YOUTH-14 MEN'S EPEE	
1. Tafoya, Devin	DF
2. Averch, Zelig	RMFA
3. Etchell, Thomas	NCF
3. Mansbridge-Fafard, Fynn	DYN

YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL	
1. Park, Luke	GFC
2. Jeon, Alexander	GFC
3. Guerra, Sergio	HFA
3. Levy, Jacob	HFA

YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL	
1. Dayton, Draper	M TEAM
2. Yu, Eric W	LAIFC
3. Cannon, Caiden	FAO
3. Jeon, Alexander	GFC

YOUTH-14 MEN'S FOIL	
1. Broszus, Blake	SILICONVALLEYFCTR
2. Yee, Maxwell	LAIFC
3. Gassner, Ethan	SANFRANFC
3. Jacobs, Tyler	FENCERSACA

YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER	
1. Griffin, Nicholas	HLBRSDT
2. Bailey, Asher	LAIFC
3. Becker, Dylan	FCAZ
3. Hager, Clark	DUKE CITY

YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER	
1. Schmit, Trenton	HRIS-CSIK
2. Atig, Will	OREGONFA
3. Johnson, Andrew	OREGONFA
3. Bailey, Asher	LAIFC

YOUTH-14 MEN'S SABER	
1. No, Nicholas	HRIS-CSIK
2. Kanary, Logan	FAD
3. Brown, Nathan	USAFC
3. Jones, Alexander L.	AVANTGARDE

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S EPEE	
1. Jin, Jasmine	FORTUNE
2. Khamis, Yasmine	NTFA
3. Frautschi, Shirley Ann	ALLIANCE
3. Maldonado, Pilar	AFA

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S EPEE	
1. Parker, Allegra	TEXASFE
2. Boys, Nishta	ALAMO F.A.
3. Grubesic, Jessee	RMFA
3. Proctor, Sara	NORCOLO

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S EPEE	
1. Grady, Miriam	NCF
2. Beddingfield, Catherine	LAIFC
3. Nguyen, Hannah	FAN
3. Parker, Allegra	TFA

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL	
1. Conway, Josephina	E.D.L.
2. Hung, Juliana	SANFRANFC
3. Qian, Crystal	
3. Lau, Chloe	

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL	
1. Clarke, Genevieve	TOUCHé
2. Hung, Juliana	SFFC
3. Cho, Sabrina	SFFC
3. Sanders, Loralyn	FIT

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S FOIL	
1. Thompson, Julia	LILOV FA
2. Herman, Miya	SFFC
3. Matz, Samantha	FIT
3. Gordon, Galina	PREMIER FC

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER	
1. Kalra, Himani	NELLYA
2. Timofeyev, Nicole	HRIS-CSIK
3. Kong, Isabel	HLBRSDT
3. Skarbonkiewicz, Magda	OFA

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER	
1. Hunter, Nina	OREGONFA
2. Fahri, Monir	CARDINAL
3. Strzalkowski, Aleksandra (Ola)	F.A. DENV.
3. Moya, Keona	HRIS-CSIK

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S SABER	
1. Moya, Keona Lu	HRIS-CSIK
2. Hunter, Nina	OFA
3. Fahri, Monir J.	CARD
3. Sehic, Cassandra	FAD

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB. 13-16, 2015
JUNIOR OLYMPIC FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS
JUNIOR, CADET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS; JUNIOR TEAM
RICHMOND, VA

FEB. 27-MAR. 2, 2015
2015 DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & MARCH NAC
WHEELCHAIR, DIVISION III, VETERAN, VET. TEAM RENO, NEVADA

APRIL 1-9, 2015
2015 JUNIOR AND CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
TASHKENT, UZB

APRIL 17-20, 2015
2015 WHEELCHAIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & APRIL NAC
DIVISION II, YOUTH, YOUTH-14 TEAM
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

JUNE 27-JULY 6, 2015
USA FENCING JULY CHALLENGE
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: DIVISION IA, DIVISION II, DIVISION III, VETERAN AGE, Y10, Y12, Y14, SENIOR TEAM
JULY NAC: DIVISION I, JUNIOR, CADET, JUNIOR TEAM SAN JOSE, CALIF.



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Mariel Zagunis
Olympic & World Champion

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