

American Fencing



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GEORGE J. PILLER

Mr. George Piller is a former Lieutenant Colonel of the Hungarian Royal Guard and had been for seven years the head coach of the Hungarian Olympic Team. He has held several Hungarian foil and sabre championships and four European (now World) titles. In 1932 at Los Angeles he won gold medals in both the individual and team sabre Olympic Championships. Since then he has cherished the friendliness of the American people and has many close friends among the fencers of this country. He is 60 years of age. For further details see page 10.

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W. L. Osborn, Publisher
J. R. de Capriles, Editor-in-Chief
M. A. de Capriles, Features Editor

Editorial Office

601 Douglas Road
Chappaqua, New York

Policy Board

D. S. Thompson J. R. de Capriles
R. Goldstein L. Sobel
T. Jaeckel W. L. Osborn

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE — JANUARY 12

Corrections

Maralin Haley was a member of the team which won the Women's National Team Championship for 1959 but through an oversight on our part her name was omitted in our report of the tournament. Miss Haley won as many bouts as the other members of the team.

Due to the above error Miss Haley was also omitted from the list of classified 'B' fencers. Our apologies to Miss Haley on both counts.

* * *

Scott D. Breckinridge, Jr., is back in Washington, D.C. and our list of Classifications failed to give him a 'B' rating in foil, to which he is entitled.

PERSONALS

Our Congratulations to: Eve and Stanley Engel for Fred Martin, born September 19; Grace and Peter Hillyer for Susan Grace, born September 23; Henrietta and Albert Axelrod for Stephanie Joan who arrived August 27.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933 AND JULY 2, 1946 (TITLE 39, U.S. CODE, SECTION 233) showing the ownership, management and circulation of American Fencing, published bi-monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1959. 1. The Publisher and Business Manager is W. L. Osborn, 2709 Grand Central Terminal, New York 17, N. Y.; the Editor and Managing Editor is J. R. de Capriles, 601 Douglas Road, Chappaqua, N. Y. 2. The owners are W. L. Osborn and J. R. de Capriles (above). 3. The known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

J. R. de Capriles, editor-owner

Printed and subscribed before me this 17th day of September, 1959.
Lawrence Berman, Notary Public, State of New York
31-5290885, N. Y. County. My commission expires March 30, 1960.

Olympic Squad Coaches: In our August issue we listed the coaches who, by their training of our Pan American competitors, had earned appointments as Olympic Squad coaches. We regret that Mr. Delmar Calvert of Chicago was omitted from the list. He has been appointed by virtue of his coaching Larry Silverman in foil for the last several years.

SUE QUINN

Susan B. Quinn died on October 11, 1959 in Washington, D.C. Miss Quinn had been a member and enthusiastic supporter of the AFLA for over thirty-five years. She had been active in Washington, D.C., fencing circles for the past twenty years and before World War II fenced extensively in New York.

Olympic Charter Flight: In the October issue we stated the departure date to be on or about August 2, 1960. The correct date is on or about August 21, 1960 and the return flight is on or about September 17th. There are still places open on the flight and if you wish to take advantage of this bargain your money must be forwarded promptly to L. Pongo, 11 Terrace Circle, Great Neck, L.I., N.Y. Checks should be payable to the AFLA.

Because of the error, the deadline for deposits is extended until December 31. Any member of the AFLA and his immediate family is eligible. Full fare must be paid before May 15 or deposit will be lost. If the AFLA is forced to cancel the trip, deposits will be refunded.

Individual questions regarding stay in Europe should be addressed to Lindbald Travel Inc., 1 East 53 Street, N.Y.C.

CONNECTICUT TROPHY

The numerical superiority of fencers in the Metropolitan Division*, as well as cooperation with the National Office, has resulted in this division's winning the Connecticut Trophy for the 1958-59 season.

The standings in individual categories, as well as final standings are described below:

Number of Members: 1. Metropolitan; 2. Southern California; 3. Northern California; 4. Western New York; 5. New Jersey
Percentage Increase: 1. North Texas; 2. St. Louis; 3. Long Island; 4. Kentucky; 5. Western New York

Number of Competitions Held: 1. Metropolitan; 2. Gulf Coast; 3. Philadelphia; 4. Michigan; 5. New England

Number of Competitors: 1. Metropolitan; 2. Philadelphia; 3. Gulf Coast; 4. Michigan; 5. Western New York

Standing at National Headquarters: 1. New Jersey; 2. Western New York; 3. Metropolitan; 4. Gulf Coast; 5. Minnesota.

Final Standings: 1. Metropolitan; 2. Gulf Coast; 3. Western New York; 4. Philadelphia; 5. New Jersey

*The Board of Governors has appointed a committee to revise the method of scoring so as to carry out the intent of the donor (Mr. Robert Grasson) to reward the division showing the most growth on membership and competitive activity.

RE CLASSIFICATIONS

by Abram Cohen, Chairman

AFLA Classifications Committee

Many competitions which might be properly classified as Group I or Group II did not get that rating for last season because those in charge failed to apply to the Committee by sending in the requisite information: name of competition, number of competitors, number of A, B and C fencers in the meet. One such event was the North Atlantic Sectional Championships for 1958.

Changes in AFLA Directory

Non Divisional Governors:

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NATIONAL RANKINGS

1960-61

Men's Foil

Joseph Paletta	US Navy
Albert Axelrod	Salle Santelli
Gene Glazer	NYU
Harold Goldsmith	Fencers Club
Larry Silverman	Univ. FC, Chicago
Byron Krieger	Salle de Tuscan
Edwin Richards	Salle Elde
Bela Szentivanyi	Wayne U.
Anthony (Jack) Keane	New York AC

Epee

Henry Kolowrat	Fencers Club
James Margolis	Fencers Club
Paul Levy	Salle Csiszar
Roland Wommack	US Navy
Richard Berry	Salle Schmitter
Paul Pesthy	Modern Pentathlon
Michael Dasaro	NYU
Howard Fried	Case Inst.
Robert Gates	US Army
John Mooney	New York AC
William Andre	Unattached

Women's Foil

1. Maxine Mitchell	Los Angeles AC
2. Vivienne Sokol	Fencers Club
3. Harriet King	Salle Lucia
4. Tommy Angell	Halberstadt SF
5. Judy Goodrich	Mich. State U.
6. Jane Dardia	Fencers Club
7. Madeline Miyamoto	Faulkner SF
8. Betty Santelli	Salle Santelli
9. Iris Hoblit	Burbank FC
10. Barbara Brill	Salle Santelli

Sabre

1. Tomas Orley	Pannonia AC
2. Attila Keresztes	Los Angeles AC
3. Allan Kwartler	Salle Santelli
4. George Domolky	Pannonia AC
5. Robert Blum	Salle Santelli
6. Tibor Nyilas	New York AC
7. Chaba Pallaghy	New York AC
8. Alfonso Morales	US Navy
9. George Worth	Salle Santelli
10. William Goering	Salle de Tuscan
Walter Farber	Fencers Club
Daniel Magay	Pannonia AC
Alex Orban	Pannonia AC

COMMENTS ON PAN AM PERFORMANCES

by Ralph M. Goldstein, Team Captain

Ed. Note: We regret that limitations of space compel us to edit the report drastically. The full report is being mailed to team members and the Olympic Fencing Committee.

The day after we arrived in Chicago, Tibor Nyilas drove me to the Naval Armory and after parking the car pointed to the number of the parking space 111. "That settles it . . . we will win the three team events and at least three of the four individuals," he commented. Prophetic though this was, the task was by no means a cinch.

Foil Team. Axelrod, Glazer, Goldsmith and Paletta were fencing up to their usual high standards and made the best combination for the final. Ed Richards lacked his usual fluid speed and his accuracy was off. Larry Silverman fenced carefully and performed well, winning 5 of his 8 bouts, and was our reserve if something unexpected should happen during the final. The four selected for the final complemented each other perfectly: when one faltered, the other three made it up and in no instance did we lose more than 5 out of 16 bouts.

Foil Individual. It was a difficult choice to enter only three in the individual event. If left to team record alone, Glazer (16/4) would have replaced Axelrod (14/6). But these are the things that make a captain's task difficult: he must exercise his opinion as to who will reach the highest possible goal.

With a bye in the first round, our entries first fenced in the semi-final. Axelrod and Goldsmith were unbeaten while Paletta won 4 out of 5. Axelrod started the final by beating Goldsmith 5-1 and Paletta 5-3. If he had been able to sustain that level of effectiveness he would have won handily. Goldsmith, smarting from his first-bout defeat, turned back Paletta and then lost no more. Axelrod lost to Jesus Gruber of Venezuela in his fourth bout, at which stage he and Goldsmith were tied for first. In the last bout of the final Axelrod dropped a 5-3 decision to Juan Paladino of Uruguay thus losing a chance for a fence-off and making Goldsmith the first Pan American Champion to defend his title successfully. Paletta was clearly beaten by Cicero of Mexico for his third loss; he won his other bouts by good margins and took third on touches by a good margin over Venezuela's Gruber. Joe has great promise.

Women's Individual. Maxine Mitchell won all her bouts in the first round with only seven touches against her. Vivienne Sokol had no difficulty winning 5 of her 6. She fenced calmly and effectively, losing only to a much less experienced fencer after she had won her first four. She got careless but took the lesson to heart because she won her next bout decisively. Harriet King was a bundle of nerves. The excitement of her first big international championship was too much and she froze until it was impossible for her to qualify. In her last two bouts she relaxed and won — a lesson to remember.

In the final Mitchell was beaten by Leal of Venezuela who took full advantage of Maxine's attempts to advance with the foil drawn back for a delayed coupe. In the last bout she met Pilar Roldan, current U.S. Champion, who had lost only to Vivienne Sokol. The winner would be the Pan American Champion. Miss Roldan, in excellent condition, showed little fatigue and again (as she did in the U.S. Nationals) took advantage of Maxine's delayed coupe. Maxine took second on touches over Panama's de Saurer. Vivienne Sokol fenced her usual cool game. She lost to Sander of Venezuela and de Saurer of Panama but was the only one to defeat Roldan. With more experience and concentration she will go far.

Epee Team. National Champion Henry Kolowrat was outstanding. He won 19 out of 24 bouts; fenced in every match and never lost more than one bout in any of them. Roland Wommack scored 13/3 and two of those losses were against Venezuela. Mike Dasaro's distance and timing were superb and he finished 15/5. I was especially impressed with his ability to follow instructions in the heat of battle. Dependable Dick Berry started us off in our first match (Cuba) with 4 victories. Although he did not sustain such peak effectiveness, his spirit had an important effect on the rest of the team. Had Dick been in better physical condition his record would have rivalled the best. Paul Levy did not do as well as he should. It is difficult to account for his comparatively poor performance. He was in good physical condition and I attribute his performance to an "off" day. Howard Fried just didn't seem to be able to get going. We were all sorry we did not have the help of Jim Margolis who developed an unexplained fever.

Good Buys

The AFLA has for sale the following items which have been used only in the World Championships, August 1958, and Pan American Games this year. The equipment has been used and is in first-class condition. It has approved by the F.I.E.

— Carmimari electrical foil registration apparatus complete with reels, cables and tension lights. **Special price:** \$300. F.O.B. Chicago.

— Paul electrical epee indicator with tension lights (no reels). **Special price:** \$100. each, F.O.B. Chicago.

Each set must be bought complete as above. Terms to AFLA clubs or divisions are cash, balance in one year; all others, in full should accompany order.

Orders will be filled on a "first-come-first-served" basis. Orders accompanied with checks for proper amount will be given preference.

Mail orders to Donald S. Thompson, President, Amateur Fencers League of America, 1100 Norwood Road, Shaker Heights 22, Ohio.

Edward F. Lucia

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BY APPOINTMENT

Individual. Dasaro was number one on preliminary strip, with 4/1 and Kolowrat second on his strip with the same record. Wommack qualified with 3/2. In the semifinal Wrat led his strip (5/2) while on the strip Wommack and Dasaro were 1-2 6/1 and 5/2 records.

the final Roland Wommack's superb condition and supreme self confidence off. He won six straight and clinched the before dropping his last bout. Thanks to wrat's defeat of Canada's Foxcroft, Mike won second on touches over Balestrini (le) and Foxcroft. All told, Kolowrat had 43 bouts in the team and individual ts, winning 31. The prospects for a good team in 1960 look most promising.

Team. We were all sorry Bob Blum did not compete due to a knee operation. The place was filled most creditably by Wally Far. Morales was used against Chile and a 2/2 record, as did Goering against i. Kwartler, Nyilas and Worth fenced in five matches. The crucial match was st Argentina and although we won 9/7 is very close. With the score 7/7 Worth ed us of a tie by scoring our 8th victory (third) and Kwartler scored his third to Nyilas won two and Farber one. Worth's record was outstanding, as was Nyilas 16/3.

Individual. Worth was in excellent condition and fencing at the top of the game but Nyilas, I felt, would not be able to maintain his effectiveness throughout the individual event. Wally Farber looked more promising to me than either Al Morales or Bill Goering so I picked Worth, Kwartler and Farber for the individuals.

Worth won 4 out of 5 in the first and then 6 in the semifinal. He fenced confidently and well but unfortunately he apparently hadn't paced himself properly, for he lost his first two bouts in the final to his team mates. He came back to win his next three bouts a chance to tie for first when he lost his last bout to Goliardi of Uruguay. Goliardi's loss dropped him to fifth, but let us note that he had the best team record and only one bout away from a tie for first in the individuals.

Wally Farber gained confidence as he went along and his fencing improved steadily. He was in excellent condition. In the final he lost only to Kwartler and Goliardi to tie with them for first. Although Kwartler beat him 5-0 in the fence-off, he thoroughly defeated Goliardi (5-2) to clinch second. Wally has matured and has a part in the future of U.S. international sabre fencing.

Al Kwartler's fencing was spotty. He lacked his normally clear, speedy attacks. He started the final by beating Worth, Farber and Goliardi, dropped to Vida of Canada, beat Ramos of Mexico and lost to Vasallo of Argentina. He hit his stride in the fence-off and the difference was electrifying.

Conclusion. It is very comforting to do so well in a major international tournament. But let us not kid ourselves. The level of competition was far below what we can expect in 1960. If we had not done so well in Chicago our chances in Rome would be well nigh hopeless. As it is, I see considerable promise. We must work. We must train. We must fence. There is no easy way. We have the nucleus of an effective Olympic Team in all weapons. With proper attention we can develop it. Let's go at it!



Myrel Paput

American Fencing

WHY DO NEW UNIFORMS TEAR?

Over the years it has puzzled many fencers that a simple touch can tear a uniform the first time it is worn. There may be a simple answer. Virtually all cloth is sized in the last stage of manufacture, which would tend to produce stiffness or brittleness in the fiber. This fact plus our experience that these uniforms do not tear as easily after they have been used and washed several times, may be the answer.

What to do about it? Don't wear a fencing uniform until it has been thoroughly washed once, to get rid of the sizing! If you doubt this, ask a cotton cloth manufacturer about it.

F. D. Jones



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American Fencing

TROUSERS

An improved model of fencing trousers with two outstanding features has been introduced by the Castello Fencing Equipment Co., Inc.

The trousers, made of 10½ or 12 ounce army duck, feature an elastic insert in the crotch to provide more freedom to the active fencer.

This elastic insert also gives the fencer more comfort in movement and allows him to lunge on "on guard" position without difficulty. The elastic is made of nylon which will resist rotting and loss of elasticity. The trousers are launderable and sanforized.

Fashion has also played a key role in the designing of the new trousers. Tighter fitting around the seat and the thighs, through side stitching and tucking, the trousers give a tapered appearance.

The form fitting trousers may be ordered from Castello's in both full length and knicker styles for either men or women.



Page Seven

Mexico

The First International Tournament held by National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico consisted of a women's and 3-weapon men as well as individual events. There were seven fencers from North Texas and Oklahoma, as well as entries from the University of Mexico, Polytech Institute, Junior Club of Mexico, San Angelo club. The results:

Women's Team won by the Junior Club with Roldan, Lourdes Roldan and Olga Pareyon. The Dallas FC (Helen Gray, Marietta Gray, Alice Wade) was second and North Texas Blue Blades (Bobyn Royalty, Char Cunningham, Alice Norris) third.

Women's Individual: 1. Pilar Roldan; 2. Lourdes Roldan; 3. Helen Gray; 4. Marietta Gray; 5. Olga Pareyon; 6. Alice Norris.

Foil Team won by Junior Club (Cicero, Ramos, Agostoni), while U. of Mexico (Abaunza, Gas, Llorente) placed second and North Texas (Turner, deLeon, Willman) was third.

Foil: 1. Hector Abaunza; 2. Raul Cicero; 3. Luis Vargas; 4. John Turner.

Epee Team won by Club San Angelo (Roldan, Hay, DiPrima) with Junior Club (Ramos, Gas, Agostoni) second and North Texas (Turner, Willman, deLeon) third.

Epee: 1. Angel Roldan; 2. Benito Ramos; 3. Eduardo Hay.

Sabre Team won by Junior Club (Ramos, deLeon, Llorente) with second and third going to teams of the U. of Mexico.

Sabre: 1. Guillermo Fajardo; 2. Benito Ramos; 3. Andres Llorente.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Metropolitan Division will be the host for the year. Olympic Year means large crowds and exceptional drama as fencers vie for places on the Olympic Team. Everyone cautioned to file official entry within the period fixed in the Rules Book and Automatic qualifiers are reminded that they must comply with the entry rules in order to compete.

The Place: Grand Ballroom, Hotel Commodore, New York City.

The Time: July 3 to July 9, inclusive.

NOTE

In next issue we will start to publish a list of all clubs with coaches, in each Division. Of course we can only print what has been reported to us, so if you want your club listed in the information to us.

Canada

The Canadian National Exhibition Tournament at Toronto saw a team from Northern Ohio (Aprily Musichuk, Fried) defeat the Canadians (Schwende, Foxcroft, Andru) 6/3. Only two U.S. fencers competed in the individual events and each won his specialty: Chaba Pallaghy in sabre and Al Musichuk in epee.

* * *

The fifth annual Canadian Heroes Memorial Tournament was held at London, Ontario, and resulted as follows:

Women: 1. Goodrich, Mich.; 2. Sokol, N.Y.; 3. Dumemieux, Toronto

Foil: 1. Widmeaier, Toronto; 2. Steinhardt, N.Y.; 3. Andru, Toronto

Epee: 1. Schmitter, Mich.; 2. Musichuk, N. Ohio; 3. Miller, Mich.

Sabre: 1. Georing, Mich.; 2. Andru, Toronto; 3. Foxcroft, London

More About Connectors

"Having been a fencer for 25 years I am thoroughly conversant with both the banana plug and the amphenol connectors and speaking as a professional engineer it seems absolutely incredible that anyone could seriously consider changing from the standardized amphenol connector back to so crude a device as the banana plug. In our industry (Mr. Flynn is Head of the Mechanical Development Dept., of General Motors) this would be tantamount to shelving the 1960 models and going back to the Model 'T' Ford class of vehicle.

"Amphenol connectors are designed and built to extremely rigid military specifications for the severest type of service where absolute reliability is required. They are designed to be vibration and shock proof and to have superior electrical properties. They are made by the millions on automatic production equipment virtually untouched by human hands until used, thus maintaining superior standards. In my personal experience amphenol connectors have only the limitation mentioned by Mr. Jones (August 1959 issue), namely, that of the set screw, which is easily corrected as he suggests."

Gregory Flynn, Jr.

American Fencing

Letters to the Editors

Nyilas Article

"Tibor's article is excellent and has been complimented by everyone who has read it."
Franklin D. Jones, Pennsylvania.

* * *

Sallye and Ray Chambers

The Chambers have moved back to Paris, with new address: c/o American Embassy, APO 230, N.Y. Their many friends will enjoy Sallye's announcement:

"We've swapped our sun tans
for pale tones of the city'
Still Ray's in a classroom
bi-lingually witty

"I'm with the dogs
promenading for 'places'
Gasping past pissoirs
full of feet with no faces

"Here raincoats come fur-lined
as bikinis did not
Our Riviera's now passe
with Paris we're fraught

"So write us please do
our address is inside
We're saving you shekels
an APO we provide"



About our new format

"Three cheers for the new format. For us fencers with pack-rat tendencies American Fencing can now take its rightful place next to the Federalist Papers, Treasure Island and Tom Cringles Log rather than being heaved out with last week's papers."

David Thorndike, Massachusetts.

* * *

"... it certainly did arrive in much better shape than the larger size ever did."

Marietta Towry, Texas.

* * *

"Congratulations on your new format... it is an excellent job well done. I find the cover quite attractive."

Dave Silverstone, California.

* * *

"We sure do like the little American Fencing."

Maxine Mitchell, California.

* * *

"I like the new format and particularly enjoyed the cover picture of George Worth, enunciating."

Shirley Canter, Michigan.

Advanced Youngsters

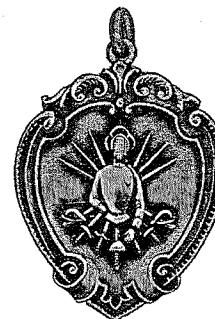
"The Valley Stream F.C. is starting its fourth year of competition, with Fordham coach Pete O'Connor as instructor. The great majority of the students range between the ages of 8 and 13. Some have become proficient in foil and a number of boys are taking sabre lessons and are advancing rapidly. As far as we know, this is the most advanced group of children fencers in the Metropolitan area."

Archie Ignatow

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SPECIAL PILLER PROGRAM

George Piller has cancer." You hear it and you do not want to believe ears.

George Piller has cancer." You fight the idea; "No! It just can't be!" It George Piller has cancer.

You remember the tall, athletically-poss- gentleman with the silver mustache ting his sabremen at the Nationals. You mber him cheering in his charming Mag- cent: "Is good, Donnie . . . is good, At- . . . make so, Tomas." You remember and shake your head because his tongue op- on will make such encouraging words ssible in the future.

Worshipped as Hero

Did you remember other things about ge Piller, too.

He didn't have to make that abandoning from his homeland. He was, after all, a d officer of the Hungarian army and, as was a person of respect and importance. country where sabre champions are more rant than the presidents of corporations erica, he was the maker of champions. In- cle" Piller and "Poppa" Santelli. The iation of greats was easy. Because, just intelli was the father of modern sabre rg, George Piller is its greatest exponent most successful teacher. His popularity in omland was fantastic. World Champion '30 and 1931 and Olympic Champion in , George Piller stands as the only sabre r in history to put three such titles back- ick.

Left Security Behind

His teams were just as successful, winning after title, including the 1956 Olympic n. So George Piller had nothing to gain by ig on that plane from Melbourne. If he red to his own country, he had honors, ity and money waiting. But he did not r.

In spite of the fact that, unlike his boys, age ot on his side; despite the fact that only urity lay ahead, George Piller chose to o America, the country where he had his Olympic crown.

Did you know, George Piller, the man who adopt- is country and its principles in preference a relative ease he could enjoy in Hungary, he victim of a dread malignancy.

Was Struggling

You remember that cancer is the most spendthrift of diseases.

You remember that George Piller was strug- gling on the small income of his Pannonia Athletic Club in San Francisco.

You want to help. But you want to help because there is something above and beyond mere charity here. You want to help because George Piller has given you — as a fencer and as an American — something that money cannot buy. George Piller has given you him- self. He has given unselfishly and wholly. And, in giving you himself, he has given you the respect and wondering admiration of the entire fencing world, a world which, to be somewhat crude, is not always in complete accord with our way of doing things.

Piller Cancer Fund

That is why, whatever is done for George Piller, will not be giving. For to give, one must not be in another's debt.

The Board of Governors of the AFLA, at its last meeting, authorized a program to raise a special Piller Cancer Fund. The first effort in this direction will be a special sabre competi- tion in George Piller's honor, to be held at the New York Athletic Club on December 27th, 1959. It will bring together the outstanding sabremen of the U.S., Canada and perhaps Mexico. George Piller's many friends will be there. We trust you will attend in person or by check, made payable to: **The AFLA-Piller Fund. Mail to Leo Sobel, Treasurer, 721 Wal- ton Avenue, Bronx 51, N. Y.**

Jack Keane

Ed. Note: All AFLA Divisions are requested by the Board to organize a similar program of special competitions and other fund raising activities for this purpose as soon as possible and submit results to the League Treasurer.

CHARLES SCHMITTER

Due to an oversight on the part of the Michigan Division, the Board of Governors had never received a request that an AFLA Cer- tificate of Merit be awarded to the very deserving Charles Schmitter, coach of Michi- gan State. This situation has now been cor- rected and the Certificate was issued by the Board at its meeting of November 10, 1959. Divisions should note the provisions on page 129 of the Rules Book.

Philadelphia

by Elizabeth Wheeler

This season we have a record-breaking schedule of 35 events and our first event, an Open 3-Weapon Team, drew 14 teams! Results: Salle Csizsar (Makler, Micahnik) won while Princeton (Coe, Nagyi, Anger) was second and U. of P. (Fisher, Klepczynski, Bradshaw) was third.

New England

by Dorothy Brightman

Women's Open: 1. Helen Kenney, BFC; 2. Lillian Ayl- ward, BFC; 3. Carla Festa, YWCA.

Sabre Open: 1. Ed Richards, Elde; 2. Junis Kenigs; 3. Harold Turin.

Kentucky

by Mary Gehant

A new club, the Fencers Club of Louisville, has been formed. It meets on Mondays and Thursdays at the Holy Spirit Gym.

The results of our Division Championships and this season's first events are:

Championships:

Foil: 1. Bill Seiller; 2. Charles Thomas; 3. John Gehant.

Epee: 1. Francis Wolff; 2. Charles Thomas; 3. Al- bert Wolff.

Women: 1. Mary Gehant; 2. Virginia Durrett; 3. Barbara Grant.

3-Weapon: 1. Francis Wolff; 2. Charles Thomas; 3. Bill Seiller.

This season:

Open Foil: 1. Robert Hensley; 2. Paul Ross; 3. Francis Wolff.

Women's Open: 1. Barbara Grant; 2. Mary Gehant; 3. Anne Furnish.

1964 OLYMPIAD

The 1964 Games (XVIII) have been awarded to Tokyo and are tentatively set for July 25 through August 9.

Jones Beach Tournament

An estimated 2,000 saw the Third Annual 3-Weapon event sponsored by the L.I. Divi- sion and the N.Y. State Park Commission. The NYAC swept the field of 19 competitors from 9 different clubs and schools. Karl Haaf, John Mooney and Eric Sollee placed as listed.

NATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following were elected by the AFLA membership to submit the slate of officers for the 1960-61 season: Edmond Zeisig, Chairman; Jack Baker, Tom Bickley, Tom Carhart, Abram Cohen and John Geraci. The Committee must file its report with the Sec- retary of the AFLA no later than January 31, 1960.

OLYMPIC ITEMS

The 1960 Games at Rome appear certain to be the biggest in history. Entries received up to October 15th reveal that of the 97 nations eligible to compete, 75 have already entered. In 1956 at Melbourne 67 nations participated; the all-time record, at Helsinki, is 69.

* * *

The Fencnig will be held in the Palace of Congresses which is in the majestice, modern garden city at the E.U.R. (Esposizione Uni- versale di Roma). The marble palace contains many large halls and was the site of a previous world fencing championship. It has numerous rest and writing rooms, comfortable dressing rooms and showers, postal, tele- graphic and banking services. The building, divided into two parts, covers an area of more than 32,000 square meters. The Roman Pan- theon would fit into one part of it.

* * *

The Olympic Village will be located in an area near the Tiber. The buildings will be ultra modern, two to five stories high and surround- ed by lawns and trees and raised from the ground on pillars so that the land is left en- tirely open. There will be a total of 8,052 rooms divided into 1502 apartments. Men and women will live in the same village, the women having an enclosure such as was pro- vided in Melbourne. It is planned to have two persons in each room. There will be 12 to 14 restaurants as well as many stores, recreation rooms, barbershops, etc.

METROPOLITAN...

by Harriet King

The Division is experimenting this year with a policy requiring fence-offs for all qualifications in A and B tournaments.

Our foil technician's school is conducted by Bernard Gradkowski and George Leon and its program includes practical experience at competitions. Many of the 14 participants, who had two class sessions on the electric foil and weapon theory, set up machines, used weapons and learned how to locate targets at our first competition. They will mutually help to run the Division's electric fests.

The Masque Fencing Club

Their new club opened on October 1st at 46 West 46 St. Membership is open to all men and women of qualified fencing ability and the age of 18. It meets on Monday and Thursday evenings. For further information write to Dr. Philip Herbert, 14 East Street.

Niederkirchner at Turn Verein

The N.Y. Turn Verein is pleased to announce the engagement of Odon Niederkirchner as fencing master. Under maestro Niederkirchner's guidance the club hopes to regain its former prominence in the fencing world. The club is one of the oldest in the U.S. Its Fencing Section was organized in 1851 and has continued without interruption to the present day. It is located at 85th St. and Lexington Avenue, and meets on Monday and Friday evenings.

Nationals

New York is host to the National Championship Tournament again on this important Olympic Year and the Division is planning to make this annual "fencers' convention" a memorable one.

Questions regard the Tournament should be addressed to Miss Averil Genton, 482 Innes Rd., Wood-Ridge, N.J.



I. Balint

Just a little less tension on the reel, please.

COMPETITIONS

Women's 'C': 1. Neill, Saltus; 2. Wu, Conn; 3. Pauly, Saltus

Foil 'C': 1. Russell, Santelli; 2. Mooney, NYAC; 3. Spinella, Conn.

Epee 'C': 1. Lebrun, Conn; 2. Halpern, NYU; 3. Brodeth, Saltus

Open Foil: 1. Glazer, NYU; 2. Schoeck, FC; 3. Wolfe, FC

Mixed Doubles Foil: Eight teams competed at Travers Island. Madeline Dalton won all her bouts and her partner Martin Brandeis took five. They received a pair of matching silver bowls. Parker-Canvin placed second and Dardia-Farrell third.

Women's Open: 1. Dyer, Csiszar; 2. Schoeck, FC; 3. King, Santelli

Epee Open: 1. Levy, Csiszar; 2. Anastasi, USMPT; 3. Seeman, FC

Sabre Open: 1. Pallaghy, NYAC; 2. Dasaro, NYU; 3. Cohen, FC

Foil Team 'C' won by NYAC (Haaf, Reyes, Farrell, Mooney)

Women's Team 'C' won by Salle Csiszar (Hespenheide, Wade, Wheeler)

Prep Foil: 1. Jay Lustig, Columbia; 2. Barnett Barron, N.Y.U.; 3. Marshall Brumer, N.Y.U.

High School Foil: 1. Marvin Grafton, Forest Hills; 2. Raymond Frey, Stuyvesant; 3. Clarence Melvin, Clinton. Sixty-one competed.

Women's Open: 1. Harriet King, Lucia; 2. Sophie Parker, FC; 3. Louise Dyer, Csiszar.

Sabre 'C': 1. Harry Mayer, C.C.N.Y.; 2. Andrew Kemeny, C.C.N.Y.; 3. Israel Colon, N.Y.U.

Sabre Open: 1. Abram Cohen, FC; 2. Richard Dyer, Csiszar; 3. Allan Kwartler, Santelli.

Sabre Team 'C' won by the New York AC "A" team composed of Jakob, Keane, Pascal and White.

Epee Team 'C' won by N.Y.U. with Halpern, Eisner, and Poujardieu.



An Ad in American Fencing reaches fencers throughout the United States and is seen in every fencing country in the world.

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NEW F.I.E. RULES

Girls' Target

The most important new International rule, effective January 1, 1960, and therefore mandatory for the Olympic Games in Rome, is that the women's target is now identical with that for men's foil. Since the new F.I.E. Rules Book arrived after the November meeting of the A.F.L.A. Board of Governors, this and other changes made at the Budapest Congress of the F.I.E. last summer will not be formally approved for the United States until after the first of the year. However, there is little doubt that this major change in the women's target will be adopted in time to govern the sectional and national championships.

Also worthy of note is the fact that the foil target in the non-electrical weapon has been changed to conform with that of the electrical foil. Thus, the bib of the mask is no longer good target, but may not cover the chest below the collarbone.

Metallic Jackets

Of equal importance is the new rule on metallic jackets. The lower edge on the sides must reach the top of the hipbones. From the hipbones to the intersection of the groin lines, the jacket must be cut in straight lines when laid out on a flat surface. The strap passing between the legs must be at least 3 cm. wide (1.2") at the apex of the inverted triangle and must be made of metallic cloth.

Foil Point

While on the subject of electrical foil, fencers should remember that the "pineapple" type of point is no longer legal and is not being manufactured. The new tip is made with concentric circles.

Stopping in "Good Faith"

The President of Jury no longer has the authority to annul a touch scored after both fencers have stopped for an appreciable time (without a "halt"), even if they have stopped fencing "in good faith." Competitors beware!

Leaving the Strip

A fencer may not leave the strip during a bout for any reason without the specific permission of the President.

CONDITIONING FOR MODERN FENCING COMPETITION

by Csaba Elthes

he results of the world championships the most important international competitions of the past few years show that the pace of fencing strength has completely leveled in all weapons to the countries behind the Iron Curtain. If any doubt remained, it has been laid to rest by the results of this year's world championships at Budapest. Outright titles, seven were captured by Eastern Europe. England, in the men's individual foil, the only Western country to win.

One may rightfully ask, What happened to traditional great fencing nations—Italy, France, etc.? The enormity of their setback is made more apparent from the fact that fencing has not lost any of its popularity in these countries. Most surprising is the total eclipse of Belgian fencing. The Belgians who were among the best, and especially the thrusting weapons achieved great international success. Almost entirely out of the picture also are the Swedes, Swiss, Dutch, and Austrians who in the past always had strong and successful fencers who were good enough to add their names to the finals of the best international tournaments, even when dominated by Italian, French, and Hungarian fencers. This situation is a matter of deep concern to experts and to those of fencing who are interested in the general welfare of the sport.

The question, 'What has happened?' must be asked if one hopes to find the reason for the deterioration and to explore the possibilities of recuperation. As a rule, the fact that a sport fails to achieve satisfactory results in a particular country inevitably leads to a loss of prestige there, and a consequent decline in the game. If the responsible authorities do not recognize in time the necessity for improvement, international competitions soon become domestic meets between the host nation and its satellites.

Changes in Modern Fencing

In the past ten years there has been a significant change of style and method in all

weapons. The great impetus in foil and sabre came from Hungary, where the normal, slow, gradual process was tremendously accelerated. The Hungarians eliminated from their teaching those exercises that were not useful in practice. They concentrated on purposeful principles relying on a simplified technique built upon perfect execution, flawless precision of movement, and increasing speed. These are the foundations of modern fencing; they serve only one purpose—sport.

The word "sport" must be particularly understood. The reason is that, before the Second World War, the teaching of fencing in the three great fencing nations, Italy, France, and Hungary, still retained some of the characteristics of preparation for the duel. In view of the traditions of the game this is not surprising, but today, as the duel has disappeared, these elements have completely given way to the sport side of fencing. A similar transition has affected the international rules. For example, there is still an international rule that "flat" cuts in sabre are not valid, but in international practice it has been many years since a competent jury refused to award a sabre touch on the basis of that rule. Yet the greatest change is the predominant emphasis upon the athletic aspects of the game. Complicated (and often awkward) movements intended to intimidate the opponent have been displaced by fast, crisp, and light movements designed to touch the adversary, rather than to hurt him.

The reason for Soviet success

What has been said thus far may partly answer the question why the balance of fencing strength has shifted behind the Iron Curtain. It may also explain the unprecedented rapid progress of Soviet fencing in the past ten years. The Russians appropriated the Hungarians' modern athletic method of fencing, adjusted it to their own training system, and became, in the shortest time in history, one of the leading fencing nations. This grand break-through can be explained mainly by the

conditioning for modern competition that the Russians have developed. The Russians have no stars with the genius of D'Oriolo, Mangiarotti, Kovacs or Gerevich; by comparison their stars have mediocre fencing talent, but they are superbly conditioned and they are able to win over the best in the rest of the world.

It is really no answer to say that Russian methods of conditioning demand "professional" dedication to sport. It is extremely unlikely that international amateur sports authorities will condemn these methods. Only two alternatives remain open: Either to keep up with them or to accept the idea of losing the hegemony of the oldest and most classical game of the West to the Russians and their satellites.

Modern conditioning

Conditioning for modern competition imposes extremely high demands upon fencing leaders, coaches, and competitors. The task of fencing leaders is to provide proper facilities for conditioning, to arrange for domestic competitions on the highest level, to make frequent participation in international competitions possible, and to base the selection of international competitors solely on national interests. Without consistent international experience, it is impossible for a fencer to stay on the international level.

Even with the best leadership, however, there can be no real improvement if the fencing masters are not able to prepare their pupils for international competition. This is a task that requires the closest cooperation between master and pupil. The good fencing master, besides his professional talents, must have a proper knowledge of biology, psychology, and modern pedagogical methods. His behavior must be exemplary to his pupils. Both master and pupil must understand the two principal phases of conditioning for modern competition. The first is the health and stamina of the competitor. The second is the maintenance of his technical efficiency at the highest level.

Building stamina

The stamina of a fencer is not only a physical, but also a psychological condition. Proper diet is of primary importance. Easily digestible, highly calorized vitamin food is essential. Consumption of very cold or very hot foods, as well as highly seasoned meals, should be

avoided. It is advisable to take food two hours before practice, as digestion deprives the muscles of blood and causes lassitude. Drinking of liquids in great quantities imposes a strain on the heart and is damaging to the functions of the stomach and kidney. Slow, gradual consumption of liquids is preferred.

Modern conditioning also requires the practice of supplementary sports and gymnastics. A fencer should avoid weight lifting, apparatus gymnastics, and other exercises that do not facilitate fencing movements. Light athletics, swimming, and all sorts of ball games are excellent supplements to fencing. After exercise, expert massage, a hot and finally a short cold shower should never be missed.

Strong and lasting practice in fencing, however, is the only way of acquiring the necessary self-confidence, endurance, and reliable nerves which a fencer needs in competition. Conditioning has to be gradual and continuous. The physical requirements should be increased step by step. Sudden and heavy demands might endanger the pupil's health. Continuous training is necessary to avoid the set-back inevitably caused by interruptions.

Technical preparation

To the question, 'What should be taught to the fencer?', the answer is simple: Everything. Limited coaching is not profitable, as it gives an excellent advantage to the opponent in familiarizing himself with the fencer's style. But this does not mean that everything has to be taught equally. The fencing master must recognize the action(s) which enable his pupil to display the ability most suitable to his character. His prime goal should be to develop swift, smoothly executed technical movements. There is no such perfect technique that it could not be improved. Equal attention must be paid to hand and footwork, and special care to the synchronization of them. The right position of the body and head greatly affects balance. Attack and defense, varied actions, harmonious composite movements, as well as counter-actions must be practiced to avoid one-sidedness. Time actions have to be perfected to the highest degree. And special attention must be given to developing the correct sense of distance, tactical skill, will-power and concentration.

The good fencing master develops the intelligence and tactical skill of his pupil by

training him to act like a good chess player, to see one action further than his opponent. Development of will-power can be achieved only through hard discipline. An undisciplined fencer will never possess the will-power to fight through to victory. A good fencing master praises and punishes; too much severity may cause disaffection, too much praise leads to sloppiness. Competition requires a certain psychological toughness. A super-sensitive person will never be a great competitor; he will not be able to tolerate the nervous strain of competition, and sooner or later he will lose his spirit. Toughness in teaching helps the fencer physically and educates him psychologically.

Finally, there is no substitute for the widest possible variety of competitive experience against different opponents. Even the best trained fencer cannot master the challenge of international competition if his experience at home has not properly prepared him. Therefore, difficult selective competitions, visited by leading personalities of fencing, are prerequisites to even the most modest international success.

Conditioning program

Conditioning for modern competition today in Soviet Russia and in the countries behind the Iron Curtain is built on the basis of sports educational science and divided into four periods:

- (1) A **basic period** designed to better stamina through gradual increase in the quantity and quality of exercises.
- (2) A **formative period** devoted to specialized training in the particular game for improvement of technique, tactics, and stamina.
- (3) A **form-development period** intended through competition to raise the technical and

tactical skill of the competitor to the top and keep it there.

- (4) A **form-maintenance period** to dissipate the accumulated nervous strain acquired in competitions while maintaining physical fitness through exercise in supplementary sports.

There is no doubt that, where competitive sport rests on such a basis, there must be a high jump in results. Furthermore the system provides replacements at consistently high levels, so that there is no fear of losing hegemony as old age overtakes the stars.

It is obvious, however, that such a program can be established easily only in those countries where sport is a government-financed activity. It is difficult to obtain a broad enough basis for sport participation without the assistance of the state, particularly in countries which still think of sport only as a game for the comparatively few and cling to the outmoded concepts of amateurism or professionalism. It is not necessary to belabor the propaganda and political possibilities of mass participation in sports. In addition, however, sports are a major factor in solving the world-wide problem of educating youth. Sports absorb the free time of youth, and distract attention from activities which could easily lead to juvenile delinquency and crime. There is also the matter of national self-preservation, since physically strong and healthy youth is the best military material.

The interest of American youth towards all kinds of sports, including fencing, is well marked. Yet sports activity tends to cease when youngsters leave school. There are many young people who do not belong to any college or university and would like to do some kind of sport. But where and when could they do it? The answer to this question lies with the higher authorities, but it is something that should concern all of us.

