

# American Fencing



**NORMAN LEWIS**  
President, AFLA, Inc.

(See page 2)

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

# AMERICAN FENCING

Official Organ of the Amateur Fencers League of America

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## DEADLINE FOR 1965 ISSUES

September - Aug. 12

November - Oct. 12

## NORMAN LEWIS ELECTED PRESIDENT

Norman Lewis will take office as the new President of the AFLA in September. The contest among four candidates for the office was resolved on the third ballot. The preferential voting system adopted by the Board of Directors produced no candidate with a majority in the first ballot. On the second ballot Ed Zeisig's votes went to the named second choice. Again there was no majority and Tony Orsi's second choices were recorded on the third ballot which gave Norman Lewis a clear-cut majority over Fred Linkmeyer.

Over 1,100 votes were cast in the first contested election involving more than two candidates. The campaigns were all conducted on a high level and the atmosphere is excellent for a united effort to solve the League's basic and pressing problems.

## TODD LUND

On May 9th, with the death of Todd Lund the fencers of Wisconsin lost a most dedicated fellow-fencer. It is planned to establish a tournament with a memorial trophy in his name.

## Personals

Our best wishes to Alan Miles and Betty Jane Ruben, married on May 23rd in Marion, Pa.

## CONNECTICUT TROPHY

17 divisions reported their annual activities. Based on the data presented, the computation of the scores for the Connecticut Trophy gave the following five places in order.

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. North Texas     | 461 points |
| 2. Arizona         | 440 points |
| 3. Oklahoma        | 385 points |
| 4. Central Florida | 367 points |
| 5. Kansas          | 353 points |

W. Latzko

## MURAY SABRE

The competition for the Nick Muray medals was also the national qualifying round for Metropolitan sabremen. Nineteen entries were reduced to a final of nine with the following results:

1. Andrew Kemeny;
2. Walter Farber;
3. Robert Blum;
4. Jack Keane;
5. Alex Orban;
6. Csoba Gall;
7. Frank Lowy;
8. Umberto Milletari;
9. Marshall Pastorino.

## 1965 NATIONALS

We delayed our press and mail deadlines to give you the name of our new National Champions. A full report will appear in the September issue.

**Foil:** 1. Robert Russell, Salle Santelli; 2. Albert Axelrod, Fencers Club; 3. Uriah Jones, Salle Santelli

**Women:** 1. Janice Romary, Salle Vince; 2. Pilar Roldan, Mexico; 3. Carol Abby, NYU

**Epee:** 1. Joseph Elliot, Salle de Nord; 2. Gil Eisner, NYAC; 3. David Micahnik, Salle Csiszar

**Sabre:** 1. Alex Orban, NYAC; 2. Eugene Hamori, Salle Csiszar; 3. William Goering, Michigan.

**Women's Team** won by Santelli (Santelli, O'Connor, Reed)

**Foil Team** won by NYAC

**Epee Team** won by Csiszar

**Sabre Team** won by NYAC

**Martini & Rossi Trophy** won by NYAC



## JAMES MONTAGUE

A quiet, unassuming gentleman who contributed much to fencing has died at the age of 78 and left a sad void in our ranks.

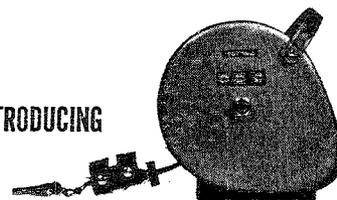
Mr. Montague was born and learned to fence in England. After service in the infantry and later the Royal Flying Corps in World War I, he came to the U.S. and taught fencing for over 35 years. He became varsity coach of C.C.N.Y. in 1937 and for years conducted the Salle Montague. After his retirement in 1953 he continued to help teach college fencers. A number of his pupils won intercollegiate and national championships, and in 1952 five of his fencers made the Olympic Team (Bukantz, Lubell, Axelrod, Strauch and Goldsmith). Not only did he develop top-notch fencers; he instilled in his pupils a lasting devotion to the sport.

Impressive as his record is, the true caliber of the man is reflected in the profound respect he earned from his pupils and the many fencers from rival clubs.

He is survived by his wife, Mabel Bernice, a sister and four brothers.

J.R.deC.

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## L.I. UNDER 19 CHAMPIONSHIPS

by James Castello

There were 22 entries from high schools and colleges in Long Island, New York and New Jersey. The finalists, in order, were: Jeff Kestler, Columbia; Walter Krause, Essex Catholic; Wayne Krause, Essex Catholic; Bill Cott, NYU; Shamash, Jamaica; Mark Jaffee, Guyvesant.

This was the second annual event, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Levittown. The entry was less than expected because of final exams and the fact that most boys finished their season in March.

## Long Island

by Alfred Bachner

Open Foil: 1. Kestler, Columbia; 2. Whiteman, Santelli; 3. Krause, Essex  
Fixed Doubles won by the team of Lawson and Jones

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## CANADIAN UNDER 18 TOURNEY

by Lorant Kaffka

The 4th annual London JYA International Foil was held at the Jewish Center in London, Ontario. Twenty-two entries from Buffalo, London and Toronto competed, with the final nine placing as follows:

Robert Frey, U. of Buffalo; Geza Tatrallyay, U. of Toronto; David Dashford, Gloucester Hall; Michael Pope, London JYA; Ira Schwartz, Buffalo; Peter Wright, Toronto; Fritz Stoekler, London JYA; Wayne Giambrone, Buffalo; Peter Gutmanis, London JYA. The first three received Holiday Inn Trophies donated by E. B. Fletcher, Vice President of the Canadian Holiday Inns.

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## NORTH ATLANTIC

by Nelson Fishman

The 11th annual Sectional Championships are held at Paterson State College in Wayne, N. J. The events were by round-robin and final of eight by direct elimination. The organization, under the direction of Irwin Bernheim, was excellent. The entry of 162 fencers made this one of the largest Championships to date. New champions were crowned in every category except the women's.

Anne Drungis and Denise O'Connor of New Jersey repeated their performance of last year, placing 1-2 respectively. Third went to Carolyn of Long Island over last year's bronze medalist, Madeline Miyamoto.

The foil crown went to Marty Davis of Philadelphia in a hard fought bout with Uriah Jones of Connecticut. Third and fourth were taken by teammates Larry Anastasi and Steve Ermut of Philadelphia.

David Micahnik, Philadelphia, defeated his team mate Larry Anastasi for the epee title. Third went to Connecticut's Ralph Spinella over Don Promish of Philadelphia.

Eugene Hamori of Philadelphia was so superior that he not only was undefeated, but only one opponent scored more than two touches against him. Defending Champion on Balla, also of Philadelphia, was second. Two New Jerseyites followed - Cal Schlick and John Cilio.

Ed Richards, recovering from surgery, could not compete this year.

Other finalists, in order:

Women - Santelli, Melnik, Smith, Kuzen  
Foil - Spinella, Bankuti, Steere, De Vito  
Epee - Margolis, Carfagno, McMahon, Greene  
Sabre - Garbatini, Lilien, O'Sullivan, Kolb

## Oklahoma

by Mary Alton

Divisional Championships:

Foil: 1. Oscar Parsons; 2. Bob Saxon; 3. Roger Kirkland

Women: 1. John Duke; 2. Joan Hagers; 3. Ruth Lindsey

Epee: 1. Elmer Hoyle; 2. Art Wade; 3. Oscar Parsons

Sabre: 1. Bon Saxon; 2. Oscar Parsons; 3. Elmer Hoyle

Women's Team won by TYFC (Hagers, Wade, Lindsey)

Foil Team won by TYFC (Hoyle, Wade, Kirkland)

Epee Team won by OCFC (Parsons, Saxon, Williams)

Sabre Team won by TYFC (Hoyle, Wade, Kirkland)

## MIDWEST

by Ralph Goldstein

The record field of 120 entries provided some exciting final rounds and produced two new champions. The field represented 15 divisions.

The successful defenders were Bill Goering in sabre and Tony Zombolas in foil; the new champions were Carol Bond and Mike Bruce. The tournament was held in Lexington, Ky. and was very well organized. The lion's share of the credit goes to Polly and Paul Ross, Bobbie Robinson and her helpers, and armorer Mike Gilchrist and his assistants. Al Kwartler and Ralph Goldstein helped as Directors and report that the sportsmanship throughout the event was exemplary.

Carol Bond of Wisconsin was outstanding in the final round. Second went to Diane Dobesh, also of Wisconsin, on touches over defending champion Julia Moore of North Dakota.

Tony Zombolas was so clearly superior in foil that the only battle was for second place. A three-way tie for second was resolved on touches with Ed Zeisig of Milwaukee taking the silver medal over his team mate Jerry Bodner, with Larry Silverman fourth.

The most intense competition was in epee. There was a four-way tie for the title, and the first fence-off resulted in a tie between Mike Bruce of Michigan and Dieter Von Oppen of Chicago. Bruce won the title 5-2. A tie for third was won on touches by Albert Wolff over Tony Zombolas.

The sabre was all Bill Goering of Michigan, who was undefeated and took the title for the third consecutive time. Second place went to Frank Bartone of Kansas and third to Larry Silverman of Chicago.

Illinois won the Men's Teams and over-all trophies, and Wisconsin won the Women's trophy.

## Central Florida

by Karen Meadows

Divisional Championships:

Women: 1. Joan Coll, Bankuti; 2. Ingeborg Prietzel, St. Pete Y; 3. Karen Meadows, Tampa FC

Foil: 1. Rick Coll, Bankuti; 2. Bill Warinner, Sarasota; 3. Steve Bronstein, Presbyterian College

Epee: 1. Rick Coll, Bankuti; 2. John Shinner, St. Pete Y; 3. Bill Fox, St. Pete Y

Sabre: 1. John Shinner, St. Pete Y; 2. Rick Coll, Bankuti; 3. Steve Bronstein, Presbyterian College

## I.W.F.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS Paterson and Melnick Repeat

by Barni Brill

Paterson State retained its crown in the 37th annual championships of the Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association. The champions were undefeated in eleven matches and no school scored more than six wins against them.

Arlene Melnick made it an all-Paterson event with the successful defense of her individual title. She was undefeated, with 47 victories in the two days of competition.

N.Y.U. and Carol Abby each placed second - the University with a 10/1 record and Miss Abby with 46/1. Fairleigh Dickinson - Teaneck and its Pat Ford were third with 9/2 and 43/4 records respectively.

The other team standings were: R.I.T. (8/3); Rutgers-Newark (7/4); Montclair State (6/5); Hunter (5/6); Jersey City State (3/8, 68v); Brooklyn (3/8, 58v); Elmira (2/9, 78v); F.D.-Rutherford (2/9, 53v) and Cornell.

In the individuals, the other places went as follows: Cindy Jones, Paterson, 39/8, 48 t.r.; Carol Chesney, Montclair, 39/8, 75 t.r.; Pat Opp, Elmira, 38/9; Princess Monterio, NYU, 37/10; Carol Mitteldorf, Paterson, 35/12; Barbara Moody, Rutgers, 33/14, 92 t.r.; Brigit Peters, RIT, 33/14, 98 t.r.

## OFFICIALS NEEDED

The Intercollegiate Fencing Association registry of officials for the 1965-66 season must be increased and brought up to date in order to provide juries for the IFA member colleges (varsity and sub-varsity meets) and a dozen or more non-member schools.

College coaches are requested to submit suggested names without delay. Surely among the varsity fencers graduating this year there are interested and qualified officials who could increase their skills and help collegiate fencing. Officials assigned by the IFA are paid \$10 expenses. Where travel cost exceeds the minimum fee, an additional allowance of 20c per mile one way is added.

Contact George L. Shiebler, Eastern College Athletic Conference, Hotel Manhattan, New York 36, N. Y.



ARLENE MELNICK

### ARE FENCERS CONSISTENT?

1964 IWFA Team standings: Paterson, NYU, FDU-Teaneck.

1965 IWFA Team standings: Paterson, NYU, FDU-Teaneck.

1964 IWFA Individuals: Melnick, PSC; Abby, NYU; Jurgen, FDU; Jones, PSC

1964 Xmas Invitation: Melnick, PSC; Abby, NYU; Ford, FDU; Jones, PSC

1965 IWFA Individuals: Melnick, PSC; Abby, NYU; Ford, FDU; Jones, PSC

## So. California

by Fred Linkmeyer

Open Sabre Team won by Vince (Etter, Lampl, Romary)

3-Weapon: 1. Carl Borak, SdN; 2. Joe Elliott, SdN; 3. Don Bengé, SCFC

Bowman Handicap: 1. Phil Marsh, FSF; 2. Fred Schmidt, LAFA; 3. Gerald Adomian, LAFA

Epee Team won by SCFC (Arp, Linkmeyer, Goldberg, Bengé)

3-Weapon Team-Mixed won by SdN (Dmytryk, Filerman, Elliott)

Epee Open: 1. Halton Arp, SCFC; 2. Joe Elliott, SdN; 3. Fred Schmidt, LAFA

Women's Open: 1. Alice Ferakin, FSF; 2. Bernice Filerman, SdN; 3. Bettie Drago, SCFC

Women's Open Team won by FSF (Gerakin, Gardner, Mencher, Kriens)

Women's Handicap: 1. Terry La Monte; 2. Marcia Bennett; 3. Edna Mencher

## 1965 SUFFOLK COUNTY FENCING TEAM

by Thomas Cakouros

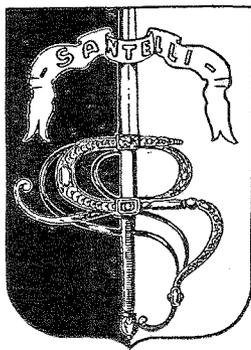
In accordance with recommendations made by the New York State PSAL the following county Team was chosen by a closed ballot of the fencing coaches:

**First Team:** William Lovis, Newfield HS; James Dixon, Whiteman HS; Dennis Harrsch, Huntington HS

**Second Team:** Nick Contantino, Newfield; John Davidson and Sam Lewis, Huntington

The selection system differs from that formerly used. The six boys who placed highest in the final tournament used to be automatically on the team. The current system is more equitable in that it represents the achievement of a boy throughout the season, and not in just one event. Winners of the final tournament are recognized by medals and awards.

The fact that the team is now being chosen under the guidance of the State is another indication of the growing recognition and status which the sport is receiving in our public high schools.



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## EDUCATING P.E. INSTRUCTORS

"Fencing in the Physical Education Program" was the topic for a 75-minute demonstration of Technique of Fencing for Beginners and Advanced Performers at the 80th anniversary convention of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation held in Dallas, Texas.

An audience of some 275 physical education instructors and administrators watched the program conducted by Bill Towry of the Dallas Y with the assistance of the club's fencing master, Daniel Nevot. The program covered basic fundamentals, single student and class instruction, advanced foil lesson, a judged bout between prep school students, an electrical epee bout, a sabre lesson and bout, and a final electrical foil bout.

In stressing the necessity for P.E. instructors to learn fencing and to teach it where no professional is available, the proximity of local AFLA divisions in each area was mentioned as a source of experienced aid. The question and answer period ran overtime and the interest in fencing was marked. The Big Problem: teachers to teach teachers; how to find them and get them teaching NOW.

## SOUTHWEST

by Mary Allton

**Women:** 1. Sophie Trett, Gulf Coast; 2. Naomi Abbott, No. Texas; 3. Marietta Towry, No. Texas

**Foil:** 1. Ed Sims, No. Texas; 2. Oscar Parsons, Oklahoma; 3. Bob Russell, No. Texas

**Epee:** 1. Art Wade, Oklahoma; 2. Elmer Hoyle, Oklahoma; 3. Steve Farrid, Gulf Coast

**Sabre:** 1. Oscar Parsons, Oklahoma; 2. Ed Sims, No. Texas; 3. Axel Tan, No. Texas

**Women's Team** won by Oklahoma (Lindsey, Hagers, Wade)

**Foil Team** won by Oklahoma (Hoyle, Wade, Kirkland)

**Epee Team** won by Oklahoma (Hoyle, Wade, Kirkland)

**Sabre Team** won by No. Texas (Bickley, Sims, Towry)

The championships were held in Dallas

## FENCING CAN'T AFFORD DIVIDED HOUSE

Pursuant to the recommendation made by the "independent" sports within the U.S. Olympic Committee, the internationally recognized governing bodies for each sport have regained the majority voice in their corresponding Olympic Games Committees. The recommendation was fought by the N.C.A.A. as part of its conflict with the A.A.U. The matter has been reported fully in the press, but fencers should be apprised of a disturbing situation that has arisen within our ranks and must be resolved in the interests of fencing.

The A.F.L.A. joined other independent sports governing bodies in support of the recommendation. The National Fencing Coaches Association elected to wage a strong campaign in support of the N.C.A.A.'s efforts to undermine the A.F.L.A.'s authority within the Olympic movement as the governing body for fencing in the U.S. The Executive Committee of the N.F.C.A.A. is composed primarily of coaches from colleges belonging to the N.C.A.A. but it is doubtful that the general membership of the N.F.C.A.A. was consulted before this regrettable effort was made.

Most of us who are old time fencers with deep roots in both the collegiate and post graduate phase of our sport are greatly troubled with the effort to carry over into fencing some of the conflicts that exist between the A.A.U. and the N.C.A.A. We are troubled because amateur fencers have often taken the lead in developing new centers of collegiate fencing throughout the country and have

given unstintingly of their time, effort and money to the promotion of our sport in the colleges, notwithstanding a widespread lack of interest or cooperation on the part of many athletic directors. We are troubled because the structure of the A.F.L.A. gives colleges which are active in the sport the same rights as are accorded amateur clubs with respect to the management of local and national fencing affairs. We are troubled because college fencers have exactly the same individual rights as members of amateur clubs. We are troubled because for the last 15 years fencing coaches have been welcome as Associate Members of the A.F.L.A. and enjoy full voting rights. We are troubled because many amateur fencers are members of the N.F.C.A.A. and have wholeheartedly supported its efforts to improve the quality and standardize the certification of fencing teachers. In short, we are troubled because we think the A.F.L.A. as the national governing body deserves the support of the N.F.C.A.A. and N.C.A.A. as well as of the A.A.U., and we see nothing but harm to the sport from any attempted separation of amateurs and coaches, or clubs and colleges, into rival factions.

We believe that the best way to avoid the creation of such rival factions is to have amateurs and coaches, clubs and colleges, work within the open and democratic framework of the A.F.L.A.

M. A. de Capriles

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## A FULL TEMPO, PLEASE

by Herb Cohen

One of the noticeable differences between American and International directing is the ease of a full tempo. Outside the U.S. a tempo is measured according to a "waltz", whereas in our country a "twist" is used to set the beat.

The greatest problem in deciding right of way occurs when the defender attempts to regain right of way without parrying; which incidentally, is one way to do it. Here the director must watch for several things: when a stop action was made with respect to the normal part of the attack; whether or not the attack was continuous and smooth enough to negate the stop; did the attacker, at any time, become responsible for removing that stop hit, point in line? Technique and execution are the most important factors in influencing the director's decision on this point. Most Americans can execute a fine stop hit. Unfortunately the reasons for our success in developing the stop hit lie mainly in its simplicity; and also in our experience with it in international competition. I am referring only to a stop action where both fencers are touched and the question remaining is one of right of way.

How many Americans can prepare and execute compound and ballestra attacks like Franke, Magner, Kamuti or Woyda? How many of us can match them in the quickness with which their lunge follows the short hop; in the smoothness and coordination between hand, arm and feet? Axelrod is the only one who compares favorably in this respect. Because of this generally uncoordinated execution of complex attacks, there is naturally much opportunity for making a stop hit. When we look at our top foil fencers, we find the stop action very prevalent. It is even basic to some of their games. Ed Richards won two international titles with a beautifully timed stop action. Of course, most of the time Ed was not even reached with the attack. However, at the 1963 Pan American Games and the 1964 Olympic Games the opposition was a little more agile. Not only Ed, but Gene Zager who won his second Olympic berth by virtue of many strategic stop actions, and

Larry Anastasi who used his excellent defense to set up many startling stop actions, acknowledged their need for much greater confidence in the use of their attacks. During the NYAC International, Uriah Jones made maximum use of stop hits. With this tactic, the constant threat of it, Uriah managed to keep several of the world's best fencers off balance. More variety in his parries and more smoothness in his attacks would certainly make him a still more formidable opponent.

I am simply saying that when a fencer relies too heavily on stop actions, they become a limitation to his game. Reliance on a stop hit and an inability to capitalize on the opportunity to attack, soon become apparent to an experienced fencer. Once this is recognized, the bout can be more or less controlled by the fencer better equipped to threaten with the attack. Reliance on the attacks, on the other hand, does not preclude the serious threat of a stop hit, or other action.

Some fencers feel that with the coming of electric foil, stop thrusting in various forms has replaced the parry. Some look at this as a necessary evil, while others pine for the old days when a different technique was employed. I think this is a very confused issue. I specify "various forms" of stop thrusting because I think stop thrusting has become badly confused with opposition thrusts. The former attempts to re-establish or steal the right of way; the latter, for whatever else it tries to do, attempts to deflect the attack so that no light registers against the defender. It is the opposition thrust we see so often in international fencing, not the stop thrust. In this sense the electric foil has wrought a change in parrying; but definitely not an abatement of it. Unfortunately it is with the stop hit, and not the opposition thrust, that most Americans excel.

Many Americans try to out-do the rest of the fencing world by combining the stop and opposition thrust into one. When we rip off the mask and spin to see the lights, we hope and pray to see only one. However, if both are on . . . well, we still have our stop hit, don't we? It is precisely this kind of action

that does, but should not, give directors most of their headaches. From my (unscientific) observations of international as opposed to American directing, it appears quite simply that fewer stop hits are awarded.

Since execution is the main factor in determining the impression an action makes on the director, his decision as to right of way, or rather his evaluation of your technique, also has a direct effect on your strategy. If a stop hit is given the right of way over your ballestra or compound attack, chances are you will hesitate to try again. During a bout you can't easily change your technique, but you can . . . well, I don't have to tell fencers about strategy.

Poor execution usually means that too much time exists between the initiation and completion of an action. It follows then, that more time also exists for a correct counter-time action. However, determining the right of way in this situation is still very much a matter of interpretation and judgment. And it is here that I think American directors can become of great service to American fencing.

The consequences of being overly anxious to interpret the compound attack as out of tempo are severe. It takes longer to develop a good complex attack than it does an effective stop hit. I don't see why we persist in discouraging an action which is the mark of an accomplished fencer, while encouraging what is for the most part, ironically enough, only a desperate defense against superior technique. We are quick to see a poor ballestra, but slow to recognize and condemn a lazy, unathletic, and most of all an internationally futile stop hit.

If we are to approach international ranking, we must encourage a high level of technique. One step in that direction could be taken if our directors would award right of way to the attack whenever doubt between the attack and stop hit exist. This would not only encourage initiative, but would also put the job of convincing the director that a full tempo has been stolen, where it really belongs; with the stop thrust.

## Maryland HS Epee

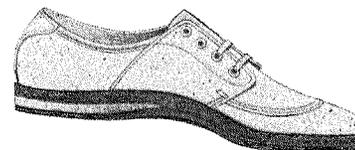
by Dick Oles

Maryland's first high school epee championship, and probably the first such held anywhere in the U.S., drew fencers from New Jersey, Annapolis and Baltimore.

The title was won by Chip Fraser of Baltimore's Tri-Weapon Club and his club-mate Jim Cohen placed second. Third went to Ralph Maglio of Essex Catholic, and other finalists, in order, were Charles Pfeiffer, Richard McLaughlin and John Montano - all of Essex Catholic.

Safety rules were rigidly enforced. In contrast to several other divisions having high school fencing, we allowed properly executed fleches. We consider such actions an integral part of modern fencing and no more dangerous than a chest cut in sabre. It is better to penalize faulty execution than to ban the action entirely.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FENCING IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

By Gerard J. Biagini

The San Francisco High School Fencing League was organized in 1957, and is the first association of its type in Northern California. The League governs all of the City high school activity in the field of foil fencing for both boys and girls. However, because of the influence of the Academic Athletic Association, the governing body for all recognized high school sports activity in the city of San Francisco, boys only are official competitors in fencing, as in other interscholastic sports. The girls, although they take an active part in our high school fencing, and indeed have a division of the League for their own competition, must wait for some more liberal developments in official circles before they can become subjects for a report similar to this.

Those responsible for the League's origin and for obtaining official recognition were William Coleman of Abraham Lincoln, Gene Benefiel of Balboa, Medford Todd of Polytechnic and Gerard Biagini of Samuel Gompers. In 1961 the League was reorganized to include high schools outside San Francisco and it within the nine Bay Area counties and is now named the Metropolitan High School Fencing Association.

The coaches comprise the Metropolitan High School Fencing Coaches Association, which enacts all rules and regulations and governs all official high school fencing championships in the Bay Area. Academic Athletic Association rules require that each high school coach, regardless of sport, must be a properly credentialed teacher and a member of the faculty of the school at which he coaches. While this rule has presented some hardship, in that valuable help from non-culty but qualified fencing personnel could not be used to its best advantage, it did enable the coaches to work out many of their problems with a minimum of outside interference. High school fencers are eligible for mock letter awards at their various schools, as are athletes in other sports.

At the present time, fencing equipment used by the member high schools is paid for by either the various schools or the individual young fencers. Much of the original equipment was donated by the coaches, and all trophies and awards given in the beginning years were likewise donations, particularly from Mr. Biagini. The League's most prized award, the Jack A. Baker rapier, a beautiful antique weapon presented annually to the team which wins the San Francisco high school championship, was acquired from Mr. Baker in 1957.

The Metropolitan Association, which had its first round of competition in the fall of 1961, had two seasons in 1962, chose the fall for its official season in 1963, and selected the spring term as official beginning in 1965. There were thus no championship rounds in the calendar year 1964, the season moving from Fall 1963 to Spring 1965 and bypassing the spring and fall of 1964. The schools in both leagues met during 1964 for practice matches only, in order to give the less experienced coaches opportunity to practice as officials, thus building up a strong corps of directors for league competition.

The coaches have been able to work toward a plan believed to be necessary to make fencing as secure as the more established sports in the high school program. The idea is to have the more experienced coaches teach fencing to the already employed teachers of the San Francisco Unified School District, since more teachers capable of teaching and coaching fencing were desperately needed. The coaches knew only too well that if one of them were to stop teaching fencing at his school, the sport would go to its grave for lack of a substitute coach. A survey was conducted throughout the high schools to determine how many teachers had some interest in fencing. The results of the survey caused the School District to look favorably upon the plan and put it into effect during the 1965 spring term as a part of a general Physical Education In-Service course aimed at P.E. people, but open to all. It is hoped that the

local colleges and universities will soon take on responsibility for training additional coaches for this sport as part of their teacher-training program.

The championships in both leagues have consisted of foil team events only. Feeling that some additional awards should be made to outstanding fencers whose teams might not have been strong enough to win championships, the coaches select fencers having the highest number of individual victories over the entire schedule as the All-Metropolitan High School Fencing Team.

In 1965 the Individual Foil Championship tournament was inaugurated. Fencers qualify for this tourney by winning a specified number of bouts during the dual-match season. The All-Metropolitan team became the top four boys among the entrants in the Individual Foil Championship, and the next four were chosen as "alternates".

This additional event, plus the steady increase in the number of schools in the League, is expected to lengthen the season.

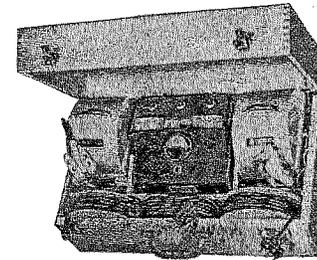
### Champion Teams

- 1957 - Abraham Lincoln
- 1958 - Samuel Gompers
- 1959 - Abraham Lincoln
- 1960 - Abraham Lincoln
- 1961 - Balboa
- 1962 - Samuel Gompers
- 1963 - Balboa
- 1964 - no championship
- 1965 - Mission

### Individuals on All-HS Teams

- 1958 - John Begovich, Balboa; Ron Gras, Balboa; Harry Tuerpe, S. Gompers
- 1959 - Hana Altschular, A. Lincoln; Bruce Mebine, A. Lincoln; Caesar Nuti, S. Gompers
- 1960 - Arthur Domenichelli, S. Gompers; Robert Lawrence, A. Lincoln; William Lindo, Balboa
- 1961 - David Bier, Balboa; Carlos Ciudad-Real, Balboa; Charles Hughes, S. Gompers; John Wiley, Balboa
- 1962 - (Spring) - Carlos Ciudad-Real, Balboa; Charles Hughes, S. Gompers; Ron Brown, Balboa; Lee Butler, S. Gompers

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- 1962 - (Fall) - Charles Hughes, S. Gompers; Lee Butler, S. Gompers; Carlos Ciudad-Real, Balboa; Robert Dean, Balboa
- 1963 - John Nonamura, G. Washington; Lee Butler, S. Gompers; Angelo Lucido, S. Gompers; Gerard Esponda, Mission
- 1964 - none
- 1965 - Richard Montero, Balboa; Jaime Ciudad-Real, Balboa; Michael Benefiel, C. F. Awalt; Dave Taylor, Clayton Valley

### ESSEX CATHOLIC WINS

The 30th annual N.Y.U. Interscholastic Fencing Tournament was won by Essex Catholic High School of Newark when it defeated PSAL champion Jamaica High by 5-1 in the final.

Twenty teams participated in this popular event. The champions reached the final by defeating Stuyvesant 5-2 while Jamaica was turning back De Witt Clinton 5-1. In the consolation round for third place Stuyvesant defeated Clinton 5-2.

## THAT LEFTHANDER MYSTIQUE

by Alex Solomon

A big majority of our Olympic fencers and coaches will assure you with vigor that the left hander has no advantage in national championship foil. On this both righthanded and left handed Olympic fencers are equally free. There is nothing to confront this unanimity of expert opinion but the championship results themselves, and they tell a most amazing story over the years.

Actually, only one out of every ten civilians left handed and should, if they have no special advantage in this sport, win 10% of the championships over any extended period of time. For illustrative purposes the author has arbitrarily selected the 30 years from 1936 through 1965 because (a) 30 years seems long enough and (b) the checking gets ind of tough the further back you go and (c) follows and omits a left handed championship of Alessandrini and starts with a right handed victory by Levis.

These 30 years, as a matter of fact, expose the rise and decline of those foilsmen who were responsible for our greatest period of achievements in Olympic foil. But to the point. What was the record in National Championships of the lefties during this period? Did they win their share of three titles, or did they win 5, 6, 9 or 10 times? Believe it or not, they won 15 of those 30 titles, and provided 9 of the 18 champions - 30%! It is doubtful if left handers have achieved such success in any other sport over such a long period. In contrast, in boxing and golf the achievement of the left hander is so low that while a devotee of these sports might have a drink with one he certainly wouldn't lend him any money. But these 15 out of 30 championships do not express all the aspects of what amounts to a minority dominance. Where righthanders never won the foil title more than 3 years in a row, here was a stretch of 6 years, 1948 to 1954, when they could not win once. There was, moreover, a period of 3 consecutive years 1950, '51, '52) when they could not win a single medal. Lefties took them all. The fantastic nature of this accomplishment, never remotely approached by southpaws in tennis,

golf, handball, etc., is best highlighted by the righthanders' inability to make such a sweep for even 2 years running.

Those who maintain the left hander has no advantage in top level fencing nearly always mention that he does have a big advantage in high school and college and that consequently he is more likely to become enamored of the sport. Result? A much higher percentage of them than righthanders fail to drop out and so carry on to higher levels of fencing. The inherent weakness of this position is pointed up by the fact that probably no one has ever seen a major foil competition where 50% of the entrants were left handed.

A case in point are the recent metropolitan championships where the turnout was typical. Nine out of 28 entrants were left handed, less than one third. Clearly their winning percentage over the years is out of all proportion to their numbers. In these same metropolitan championships, 5 of the 29 epee and 3 of the 25 sabre men were portersiders. Which suggests the question: "And what have they done on those weapons?" The answer: two epee and one sabre national championship in all those 30 years.

There must be numerous reasons for such disparity but if one is tempted to pin it largely on any single fact, he could point out that championship left handers like Every, Bukantz and Giolito never seriously competed with a second or third weapon in contrast to champion righthanders like Joe de Capriles, Cetrulo, Lewis, Shurtz and Richards. Of the nine left handers who won the foil title during this period none took sabre seriously and only one, Anastasi, worked hard with epee. His epee championship suggests how different epee and sabre history might be today if Alessandrini, Every, Snyder, Lubell, Bukantz, Giolito, Herb Cohn and Russell had done likewise.

Truly, it is worth a moment's thought.

### Arizona by Augi Gustillo

Our State Championships:

**Women:** 1. Sharon Galway; 2. Yvonne Gallego; 3. Linda Schmitt

**Foil:** 1. Nick Olson; 2. Ben Vigil; 3. Art Olson

**Epee:** Nick Olson; 2. Ben Vigil; 3. Mike Merchant

**Sabre:** Nick Olson; 2. Art Olson; 3. Ben Vigil

**3-Weapon:** 1. Nick Olson; 2. Art Olson; 3. Mike Merchant

## The 1965 Olympic Development Camp

by Edward F. Lucia, Director

The camp at East Stroudsburg State College trained 84 men and women during the period June 1 to 13th. The men were once again privileged to "dorm" at the Pocono Music Center through the courtesy of Dr. Paul Makler. The women were quartered at the College, which also provided all the facilities necessary to implement the training program through the courtesy of Dr. Frank Sills.

The Director was fortunate to have on his staff two former Directors, Hugo Castello of NYU and Pan American Coach, and Stanley Sieja of Princeton and trainer-manager of the 1952 Olympic Team. Former Olympian Al Kwartler bore a heavy burden as Assistant Director.

Maestro Bankuti of Columbia directed the extremely important mobility training. Lorand Marcell of Yeshiva averaged 12 to 15 lessons a day during the last week. The final week-end Maestro Michel Alaux, our 1964 Olympic

Foil and Epee Coach, gave unstintingly of himself and gave the trainees a big boost.

Several of the campers with Olympic and extensive fencing background contributed their service because of the large number of trainees. Frank Anger, Leader in epee, and William Goering, Leader in sabre, were a steadying influence over the entire camp. Richard Gradkowski, an amateur who earned his Fencing Master's Certificate at the last examinations of the NFCAA, should properly be considered a member of the staff "ex officio". He served as Leader in foil. The women's division was headed by Miss Julia Jones who served as Chaperon and instructor. Cliff Kirmss of Stevens Tech also helped and reduced our work-load while he was in attendance.

The camp concluded a strenuous and rewarding two weeks of very serious training with a competition in all weapons.

## FENCER:

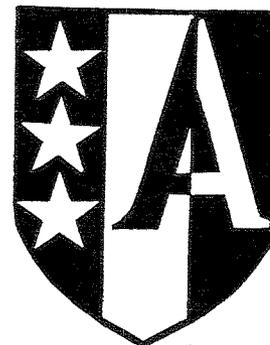
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### Central Illinois

**Foil:** Steve Stoll; 2. Craig Bell; 3. Roger Garret  
**Epee:** 1. Larry Knauff; 2. Mark Gates; 3. Fred Busche  
**Sabre:** 1. Craig Bell; 2. Robert Frase; 3. Rudy Bartha  
**Women:** 1. Roberta Garret; 2. Susan Beicher; 3. Charlene Imbrior

### Illinois

by George Sosnovsky

**Boys Under 19:** 1. E. Carter; 2. G. Johnson; 3. C. Davis  
**Women's Open:** 1. J. Lux; 2. B. Green; 3. E. Harbar  
**Foil Unclass:** 1. E. Longstreet; 2. W. Harwood; 3. D. Walker  
**Foil Open:** 1. M. Abd-Ellatif; 2. J. Wiedel; 3. L. Silverman  
**Women's Open:** 1. D. Dobsch; 2. J. Moore; 3. P. Wiedel  
**Epee Open:** 1. M. Bruce; 2. R. Pew; 3. W. Shaw  
**Sabre Open:** 1. W. Goering; 2. L. Silverman; 3. J. De Lannoy  
**Sabre Open:** 1. G. Sosnovsky; 2. R. Tykodi; 3. J. De Lannoy  
**Epee Open:** 1. D. Von Oppen; 2. R. Green; 3. W. Harwood  
**Sabre Open:** 1. R. Tykodi; 2. G. Sosnovsky; 3. D. Walker  
Division Championships-  
**Foil:** 1. A. Zombolas; 2. L. Silverman; 3. J. Bodner  
**Women:** 1. C. Bond; 2. D. Dobsch; 3. J. Lux  
**Epee:** 1. M. Fain; 2. D. Von Oppen; 3. R. Green  
**Sabre:** 1. L. Silverman; 2. J. De Lannoy; 3. R. Tykodi

### St. Louis

by W. Robert Witte

**Sabre-Foil Open:** 1. Charles Willis; 2. Wayne Spence; 3. Bob Witte  
**Sabre Championship:** 1. Charles Willis; 2. Dan Edwards; 3. Al Fink

**Foil Championship:** 1. Dan Edwards; 2. Al Fink; 3. John Dougan

**Foil Novice:** 1. Al Ottley; 2. Don Horstman; 3. Bruce Lierman

**Women's Novice:** 1. Pat Bollinger; 2. Mary Domeron; 3. Bonnie Claypool

### North Carolina

by Vincent Faraone

Our State Championships were held at State College in Raleigh and resulted as follows:

**Women:** 1. Mrs. Chick Brantley; 2. Rebecca Patman; 3. Diane Ramsey

**Foil:** 1. Bob Dobrow; 2. Mike Hughey; 3. Bill Benton

**Epee:** 1. Steve Worthington; 2. Dick Shore; 3. Bill Pfefferkorn

**Sabre:** 1. Greg Perrett; 2. Dave Whitman; 3. Bob White

We have a new club at Shelby, started by Jack Minkler who began fencing while in the Navy during World War II.

### Oregon

Divisional Championships

**Women:** 1. Traudi Campbell; 2. Pat Hayes; 3. Collen Marx

**Foil:** 1. Carl Ware; 2. Ikuo Kiyokawa; 2. Simon Hernandez

**Sabre:** 1. Harry Jensen; 2. Simon Hernandez; 3. Ikuo Kiyokawa

**Epee:** Cancelled

### Kansas

by Ted L. Hootman

Divisional Championships

**Foil:** 1. Mike Munson; 2. Dave Truzel; 3. John Dillard

**Women:** 1. Carol Crumrine; 2. Lee Stark; 3. Susie Caple

**Epee:** 1. Esam El Shafey; 2. Dr. Reto Engler; 3. Steve Wells

**Sabre:** 1. Dr. Frank Bartone; 2. Ted Hootman; 3. Dick Monteau

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