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NYU ALUMNUS VISITS ALMA MATER



'U Alumnus Neil Diamond, now an acclaimed international Rock music star, pays a visit to his Alma Mater and talks over old times with NYU Co-Captains James Bonacorda (left) and Herb Mones. Diamond fenced for NYU from 1958 to 1962 and on the occasion of his Madison Square Garden Concert in October, took the opportunity to drop in for a quick workout.

(see page 3)

AMERICAN FENCING

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Page Two

EDITORIAL

At the age of 65 the Chairman of the Board of a good-sized industrial company has just asked me about going back to fencing again. About 50 years ago he was interscholastic champion in foils. Now he regrets that at Dartmouth College instead of continuing with fencing he went in for the more popular sports of baseball and squash — with considerable distinction. Subsequently, he played top notch polo for many years.

Now, ready for retirement from business, he feels that steeplechasing on horseback is not a suitable sport and while he will continue to ride, he feels that he would like the thrill and exercise of fencing. He told me that he wished he had kept up with our sport through all the intervening years and wondered whether he was too old to go back to it.

You can imagine my answer, "It would be a testimonial to our sport!" Is there another healthy, year-round, exhilarating, active pastime to equal it? This is an aspect of fencing which should be assiduously promoted in the educational field — from elementary school through the university level "the life-time salutary value of fencing"!

MAESTRO VISCONTI

Maestro Edward H. Visconti passed away on August 27th, at the age of 96. A graduate of the Italian National Fencing Academy, he came to the United States in 1916 and taught for many years in San Francisco. American Fencing extends its sincere condolences to his family and many pupils and friends.

SANDOR NAGY

Maestro Sandor Nagy has passed away in November at the age of 72, near his home at St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, where he had retired. The Hungarian born fencing master taught for many years in his academy in New York. Our profound sympathy is extended to his wife, Theresa, and to his family and friends.

AMERICAN FENCING

ROCK STAR GIVES UP SABER FOR ELECTRIC GUITAR

by Jay Horwitz

Most people easily identify Neil Diamond as one of the top pop singer-composers in this country. But few, if any, known that the Brooklyn native was a premiere fencer for New York University a decade ago.

Diamond, now 31 years old and living in Beverly Hills, Calif., was in New York City last October to perform a 15-day series of one-man show performances at the Winter Garden Theater on Broadway. In spite of his hectic schedule, he still found time to visit NYU at the Violets' Washington Square Gymnasium.

"My four years at NYU were just beautiful," said Neil, who helped Abraham Lincoln High School capture the New York City scholastic fencing championship in 1958. "Whenever I come back to New York, I always try to have a reunion with my fencing teammates. The captain of the 1959-60 team, Mike Dasaro, lives in San Francisco and every time I play there, I always make it a point to spend the day with him."

Diamond, a saberman, fenced for NYU from 1958 to 1962.

"Neil was a solid athlete," recalled Hugo Castello, the Violets' head fencing coach for the last 26 years. "We won two National College and three Intercollegiate Fencing Association championships when Neil was here, and he was the third man in saber for us. Once, in two consecutive dual meets he didn't have a touch scored against him. I still think that's a school record."

Diamond, who was good enough to represent the Violets at the I.F.A. championships, might have been even a better fencer according to Castello.

"Neil always used to bring his guitar on our road trips," kidded the coach. "I always knew that music would eventually be his career."

But Diamond still has a high regard for his old sport. He has begun fencing again in Los Angeles and he hopes to enter AFLA tournaments in the near future.

AMERICAN FENCING

"I really enjoyed meeting the present NYU team," said Neil. "They earned seven gold albums. "They look back a lot of pleasant memories



Photo 1

FIFTY YEARS OF FENCING AT NEW UNIVERSITY. Shown above is part of the more than sixty former N.Y.U. fencers gathered at Washington Square, New York, November 10 for the annual Varsity Fencing Meet. Once again the Varsity won, 14-13, co-captain Jim Bonacorda defeated the 1957 I.F.A. champion, in the final. The senior alumnus present was Albert team captain in 1926 and 1927 and a fencer at the New York Athletic Club fifty years ago this season that NYU's first fencing team. Since then the nineteen I.F.A., nine NCAA, and nine championships; while sixty-two Violets named All-Americans.



SECTIONAL DATES

We are advised that the following National Championship dates have been set:
Mid Atlantic Sectionals, May 5
William Paterson College, New Jersey
Atlantic Sectionals, May 12 at
Grossinger's Grossinger, New York
East Sectionals, May 19 and 20,
State, Tallahassee. **Metropolitan**
will be held May 5 and 6, at Washington
N. Y.

From The President

by Steve Sobel



A LIFETIME SPORT IN A TROUBLED WORLD

Following the 1972 Olympics a spotlight of public opinion has been focused on all sports, and their proper place in society. The public has been vividly exposed to many disturbing events in the news headlines: An American concept of Amateurism which is idealistic and praiseworthy but has proved to be unrealistic in international athletic competition; a swimmer who conquered an asthmatic condition to win an Olympic gold medal, only to lose it in disgrace since his prescribed medicine contained a forbidden drug unknown to him; competitors who missed an Olympic event because the coach had the wrong schedule; a basketball team which won first place, and was then told to "do it over," only to lose, because the timekeepers couldn't agree on whether the clock was right or three seconds remained; international officials destroying the image of impartiality by conflicting decisions based on political preference rather than athletic performance. Add to these a major disagreement among sports administrators resulting in the NCAA withdrawal from the U. S. Olympic Committee; an expressed refusal at the polls by the electorate in Colorado to host the next Winter Olympics awarded to them; political fanatics committing kidnapping and murder on innocent athletes at an Olympic competition; and the full realization of the major problems facing the athlete and his sport, is revealed in an awesome picture.

Our approach must be to seek solutions to major problems, not escape from them. We haven't grounded flights due to increased skyjacking, nor have we abandoned the automobile as a result of the high accident-fatality rate; neither should we lose sight of the positive advantage of

sports in society and of the Olympic movement in international relationships. With this in mind, it is advisable to reevaluate the desirability of the promotion of fencing by the AFLA, and why fencing enjoys the designation of a **lifetime sport** by the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

At the high school and college level, fencing can be a major part of the education of a student. In sports, all are equal, rated on performance, and strive for success according to established rules of a duly constituted organizing body. There is also another major advantage — it is enjoyable, recreational and lasting. Ten years after graduation you won't remember who sat next to you in the English class, but you will know who was on your varsity team and how the team performed.

For the average person, fencing is an enjoyable exercise at any age and a recreational outlet — a night at the fencing club, a day in AFLA competitions, a social event among friends with mutual interests. It is also the opportunity to derive satisfaction by helping others in organizing and running fencing competitions and AFLA meetings and events.

To the internationalist and Olympic candidate, fencing combines the educational aspects of the student in a higher league of competition and the recreational opportunities of the average person. In addition it means more. It demands more in terms of time, effort, expense, physical training and devotion, but it returns more individual benefits such as international travel, understanding, and the glory of success when achieved. Furthermore, the sum of the individual benefits contributes to a greater goal — an international bond among nations and individuals, divided by different languages and political ideologies, but united by a common understanding — the ability to compete and the desire to win in international sports competitions.

FIE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1973 World Championships and Junior Championships will be held according to a revised format, approved at the last FIE Congress held in May, 1972. The present pools of six system will be amended as follows: Preliminary pools of six will be used for the first and second rounds, until 24 competitors remain. At this point, the competition will be organized on a basis of pools of four fencers, each pool being fenced on two strips, with the two pairs of fencers meeting simultaneously. Qualification, in the event of ties in these small pools, will be by barrage. The final will be a normal FIE final of six.

The AFLA has indicated an intention to enter a United States Team in the Senior World Championships to be held in Goteborg, Sweden from July 2 to July 14, 1973. At the present time it appears that members of this team will not receive any financial support from the League. Further, the International Selection Committee will not hold a specific tryout competition to determine selection.

Competitors who feel they are qualified to be considered for selection, by reason of past performance, experience, and ability, are invited to send their applications to AFLA International Selection Committee, c/o Peter Tishman, 37 Griswold Place, Glen Rock, N. J. 07452. Applications must be postmarked not later than March 1, 1973. All timely applications will be acknowledged and will receive consideration.

Persons desiring to accompany the team as officials (captain, coach, manager, armorer, etc.) should also submit applications as indicated above.

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Saber: 1. Orban; 2. Apostol; 3. I. Gales; 4. Gall; 5. Keane; 6. T. Kaplan; 7. Goering; 8. J. T. Danosi; 9. Hamori.

Women: 1. White; 2. Clovis; 3. Armstrong; 4. King; 5. Ad Devan; 6. Mitchell; 7. Genton; 8. O'Connor; 9. Lath;

U-19 Foil: 1. Littell; 2. Lucic; 3. Mullarkey; 4. Neale; 5. Pol

U-19 Epee: 1. Israel; 2. Mullarkey; 3. Irwin; 4. Nonomura; 5. 6.

U-19 Saber: 1. Losonczy; 2. Brand; 3. Dale; 4. DeVivo; 5. 6.

U-19 Women: 1. Farkas; 2. Hurler; 3. Perry; 4. Lynch; 5. 6. 7.



MACCABIAH GAME

The 9th World Maccabiah Game held in Israel from July 4 to July 11, 1973. The U. S. Committee for Sports is planning to send a full contingent of men and women athletes if full members of the Jewish faith and those fencers who feel that their record merits consideration to the team should request a participation form from:

Albert Axelrod
Fencing Chairman
U. S. Committee for Sports
701 Ardsley Road
Scarsdale, N. Y. 10584

THE MYSTERIOUS INDICATOR AND HOW TO USE IT

by Richard Gradkowski

Some years ago the FIE adopted an improved method of measuring a fencer's performance called the "Indicator". This system is superior to older methods and has been universally accepted by FIE member federations. The fundamental idea is simply to use a fencer's "batting average" to rate his performance.

There are two kinds of Indicators, and both are used together for the fencer's ranking. The first is the **Victory Indicator** and consists of the Ratio of Victories to the Total Bouts fenced. This is exactly analogous to the ratio of hits to "at bats" in baseball. Thus, if a fencer in a six man pool fences five bouts and wins three of these, his **Victory Indicator** is 3:5 or .600.

The second Indicator, which is used to further evaluate a fencer's performance and to resolve ties which may come up because of equal Victory Indicators is the **Touch Indicator**. The Touch Indicator is the ratio of the number of Touches Scored over the number of Touches Received. Thus, if a fencer in the previous example scored 20 touches and was hit ten times, his **Touch Indicator** would be 20:10 or 2.000.

The Touch Indicator is the one that gives most scorekeepers trouble. Most AFLA score sheets are not set up to enter these touches clearly, and the peculiar fractions often encountered (19/17 or 14/15) are puzzling to most people. However, to make things easier, the Rules Book has already set up and included a complete Table of Indicators on page 96. These tables are very comprehensive and contain most possible cases. But just because of this, they are also very big and crowded and confusing. Since one will rarely need to figure out a ratio of 67/52, it is a good idea to prepare for one's self a larger sized but abbreviated table. This was done by the Bout Committee for the past U.S. Nationals and made the job of reading off the Indicator very easy. A table that goes to about 30 by 30 touches should ease eyestrain and cover all usual situations.

The great merit of the Indicator system over the old "touches received" method is that the Indicator gives a competitor immediate credit for his touches scored, even in a lost bout. Thus, in the Indicator system, if you lose a "la belle" (4/5), you get credit for the four touches you scored; whereas the old system of "touches received" would have shown only the five touches against you.

It is, of course, possible for there to exist a dead heat between two fencers, both in Victory and Touch Indicators. In this case, the rules call for a **Barrage** bout, to determine a placing, or qualification to the next round.

The current rules for the U.S. National Championships require all promotions to a following round to be by barrage, rather than by the international system of Indicators. These constant fence-offs result in long delays and slow down the Nationals very much.

Some time after the FIE introduced the Indicator system a modification was tried whose intention was to cut down the possibility of cheating between already qualified fencers. This change was the totaling up of the Indicators, from round to round, as you went along. The idea was to make a fencer's ranking an aggregate of his performance in all previous rounds, and make a fencer fence his best at all times. However, as it turned out, this method didn't cut down enough on cheating and had the undesirable effect of eliminating a fencer who may have done very well in a pool, because of a previous shaky performance. So the accumulation of indicators was dropped and now each round is counted by itself.

One of the great advantages of the Indicator system is in helping set up an accurate seeding among qualifiers for a following round, even though these qualifiers may have come from different pools. The clearest way to show this is through a practical example.

Let us assume that we have the following qualifiers:

Pool A (six fencers)

- Jones (5v-Od) (25 ts/ 5 tr)
Indicators are: 1.000/5.000

- Smith (4v-1d) (20 ts/ 18 tr)
Indicators are: .800/1.111
- Ferd (3v-2d) (18 ts/ 16 tr)
Indicators are: .600/1.125

Pool B (five fencers)

- Clay (4v-Od) (20 ts/ 16 tr)
Indicators are: 1.000/1.250
- Grey (3v-1d) 19 ts/ 17 tr)
Indicators are .750/1.118
- Hay (2v-2d) (18 ts/ 10 tr)
Indicators are: .500/1.800

We can now arrange the qualifiers from these two pools in an exact line up of their performance. Please note that we are using only two pools in this example for clarity, although any number of pools would be handled the same way.

Tableau of Qualifiers

- Jones: 1.000/5.000
- Clay: 1.000/1.250
- Smith: .800/1.111
- Grey: .750/1.118
- Ferd: .600/1.125
- Hay: .500/1.800

In this particular case the rankings could have been done perfectly well using only the first (Victory) Indicators, but you can see that, if there were a tie among these indicators, the second (Touch) Indicators could have been used to break up that tie. If two fencers from different pools had completely identical indicators, they could be ranked equally, or by a flip of a coin, or at the discretion of the bout committee (keeping them, of course, within their relative position to the others).

The six ranked fencers can now be arranged into two groups by the usual methods as illustrated:

Pool 1	Pool 2
1	2
4	3
5	6

And thus the two new pools would be:

Pool 1	Pool 2
Jones	Clay
Grey	Smith
Ferd	Hay

This example is simplified by a small number of fencers, but strictly of using the Indicators for any number.

At the 1972 Olympics in Munich the Indicator System was used exclusively by the Bout Committee for initial seeding, the Indicators an objective evaluation of a fencer's performance, and the better he did the better his seeding in the next member, with the Indicator System you are losing a bout, every you can make will give you a better seeding in the next round. With a little fencers and competition manage this system a useful aid in the.



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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT
by Arnold Behre and Steve Chalmers

Bentley College, its facilities and its personnel, were an invaluable assistance in dealing with the problems and work details prior to opening day and thru-out the week of the events. To them, we extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude, especially to Bob Forbes and his crew.

The fencing equipment, from other divisions, presented another picture. At the end of the individual events, six out of eighteen machines were inoperative. Many of the machines initially received by the host division were in poor condition, and unfortunately the Division did not have the wherewithal to repair them immediately. Reels arrived with broken wires, dirty contacts, and loose connections. In spite of careful checks, delays still occurred on the strips during the fencing, and there were problems with the equipment at the end of the fencing day with 20% of the reels in need of repair for the next day's fencing.

The fencers' personal equipment was in generally **poor condition**, with sabre the only exception. Below is the summary data specifying the per cent of weapons that passed all tests thru weapons control.

Sabre	97	*Blade too thin
Foil-Men's	73	Electrical continuity; tape insulation
Epee	69	*Flexibility; tip travel
Foil-Women's	58	Electrical continuity tape insulation

*Usually manufacturer's fault

These statistics are poor for any tournament, particularly for the U. S. Nationals. Poor blade and handle taping is inexcusable for anyone accomplished enough in the sport to qualify for the National Championships. Electrical failures were due to weak springs, rust or broken wires. Rust and continuity are easily checked by a fencer with a simple battery and bulb circuit. Every fencer (or team manager) with electrical weapons should have in his equipment bag the simple implements necessary to correct most faults; tape, spare parts (springs and tip screws), jeweler's screwdriver, tip cleaning materials (pipe cleaners or cotton swabs and cleaning fluid), and sandpaper (for rust).

The total travel and flexibility failures were not due to fencer's negligence but within fencer's control. Many new blades failed for high internal resistance from dirty points which fencers had not checked carefully. NEW BLADES, improperly stored (e.g., in a damp basement) or simply unused for some time, can fail at weapons' check, prior to any usage.

Each fencer must be responsible for and knowledgeable in the care of the tools of his sport. Ignorance is absolutely no excuse. And weapons need be checked before each tournament as use, travel and storage affect the condition of a weapon. Saying — "I didn't use that weapon last week so it doesn't need to be checked" — is an irresponsible attitude of the fencer to his equipment. It takes so little time for each fencer to check his equipment and so much time at a tournament when equipment problems arise due to fencers' personal equipment.

Jackets, if clean, were generally passed electrically but a number of fencers had lames that did not fit them properly. The jacket fit is not in the control of the Technical Committee but represents an area of concern that officials need contend with.

Another problem faced by the Committee was the fencers' attitude toward the members of the committee. The Technical Committee is a voluntary group, donating its service to ensure that the fencers have safe weapons — to prevent injury to himself and to his opponent during a bout — and prevent unfair advantage of a fencer with improperly adjusted weapons. Last, but not least the Committee is responsible for ensuring that equipment at each fencing strip is operating properly thru-out the tournament. All of these tasks require a great deal of time by a few people and long hours of constant pressure in solving problems and dealing with each fencer's **unique** problems. Many fencers were downright rude to the committee and intolerant of the job each was trying to perform for their sake. The Under-19 fencers were much more cooperative and courteous thru-out their events than many of the senior fencers. To them we give our special thanks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Divisions should ensure precheck and repair of equipment and fencers' weapons, etc., before each competitive event in a Division. More specifically, each Division should have a weapons' check prior to each event and technical workshops during the season for the fencers' edification on the care and repair of personal equipment.
2. The Bout Committee should instruct Directors on the proper fit of the electrical vests and require the enforcement of the dress rules throughout the tournament.
3. The AFLA should maintain inventory lists of each Division's equipment, machines and reels, to enable the Technical Committee for each Nationals to request desired equipment and have it delivered to a designated repair service at least three weeks before the Nationals. The repair service can then completely refurbish everything before the competition, deliver it to the Technical Chairman at the host site and charge the entire costs for parts and labor to the National AFLA. Hope-

fully, the Divisions will thus be via the equipment service to and eliminate the initial problem Nationals the heavy repair expense enable the host division to reknown serviceable equipment. We believe that following these recommendations will ensure smooth operations competitions and less physical and logical wear and tear on the varizing committees. We know of no amateur sport where participants are fully ignorant of their own equipment so indignantly opposed to rectify a deplorable condition.

FENCING MASTER AVAIL

Fencing Master Abdallah Salah able to teach. A graduate of the Institute of Sports in Paris in Salah has taught in France and may be reached currently at the of Baghdad, College of Physical Baghdad, Iraq.

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SIMPLY EXTENDING

by Arthur W. Lane

Most beginners, if they are lucky enough to have competent instruction, learn to extend their sword arm before lunging. Prior extension is usually accepted blindly as an article of faith and, like most matters of that sort, honored mostly in the breach though faith continues to be taught and accepted. Speed seems to be more desired than excellence of form by the inexperienced, and simultaneous extension of both the forward arm and the rear leg obviously makes for maximum speed. This speed works too, if your opponent is close enough not to be able to react in time. But how often is the average opponent that much of a fool? How often have you measured an opponent, seen that he was wide open to a straight thrust, and known that you could hit him if only he were one blessed centimeter closer?

Other things (like beats and binds) aside, there are no more than two ways to attack an opponent, basically. You can either go directly in where he is open; or you can pretend to do this, forcing him to cover (or freeze where is is) while you go into another exposed line. Both of these ways involve an extension of the arm, of course, but there must be deliberate method or nothing works at all. You **don't** want your opponent to react if you are going straight in: you **do** want him to react if your attack is composed. Therefore there should be differences in the manner of your extension and the timing of your lunge to fit your purposes. All the best fencers use the differences.

Since you don't want your opponent to react in time on your straight attack, you don't want to alert him until too late. Extending into his open line is going to ring a bell, of course. The question is, how loudly, compared to hurtling your body (lunging) forward? Considering the high intelligence of fencers in general, it is disappointing that so many of them never notice that a body movement tells their opponent far, far more, than a simple, unemphasized, extension of the arm. At normal lunging distance most opponents are alerted hardly at all if

you extend your arm smoothly. Compared to a movement of your shoulders or feet, it appears as hardly a threat that needs attention. Such is the nature of human perception. Yet you have gained all that point-target distance, and the time that it gives you, before you alert him fully by lunging. If your movement is smooth, and your acceleration rapid **after** your extension, your opponent will be reacting for a speed that he measured a moment ago rather than for the speed at which you are actually going. This is a hard tactical reason for prior extension, one that you can test and prove instead of simply honoring with blind faith. At certain distances it works where speed alone will not!

Extending for a feint is something else. This needs emphasis! You can't lunge yet without spoiling the distance needed for your next move. Therefore, contrary to a straight thrust, your extension must appear to your opponent — for one little moment — like something much more dangerous than it actually is. So you extend in a manner to make him think you are lunging already. The instinctive urge for speed is no obstacle here. (The necessity to overcome this urge in favor of smooth classicism for an attack by straight thrust or by simple disengage is probably why so few of these actions are successful in terms of their opportunities.) There are dangers, however. You don't want to build a case of "tennis elbow" from snapping your arm straight. And you don't want your point to waste time by going too high in the feint when it has to be fairly down in anticipation of the next move, though still threatening the open target. Both of these things, and the momentary illusion of an immediate lunge, start with control by the **fingers**, assisted by the wrist.

You can test the elbow-locking as you sit reading. Simply make a fist, tightening the last three fingers in particular, then extend your arm as straight as you can. If you are not double-jointed your elbow **cannot** lock as long as your fingers are tight.

Applying this to the extension, you start by pushing the point downward with your thumb and forefinger, your wrist following.

(Explore these basic details slowly, in sequence, as written!) As soon as your point is started, and not before, you start reaching for target. At this time your last three fingers should start tightening. As your arm stretches out you will feel the muscles grow taut at the thickest part of your forearm. This feeling will tell you when to trigger your next move, be it lunge, disengage, or deceive. Triggered this way, there is no jerking or freezing between one movement and the next. The above applies to every extension for every purpose.

For a feint (in high line) you should move the top of your wrist, as your point is pressing slightly downwards, sharply towards your opponent's eyes — taking care not to lift it above your shoulder. For one little moment **all** of his attention should be fixed by this emphasized movement that has an element of seeming to attack his face as much as his open target. And you shouldn't over-emphasize! (You can practice in front of a mirror; but this may cause you to build habits only suited to an left hander's line of sight. A good instructor is better.)

Now, in tightening your fingers, you shouldn't go all the way into rigor mortis. If you are making a feint your fingers must be able to relax again to move your **point only** for the final, while your hand remains where you first put it and **keeps** your opponent's attention right where you grabbed it with your feint. Holding your weapon "like a bird" makes solid sense. Even when you tighten your fingers you must keep that bird — your blade — alive. Moving your point with wrist or shoulder after a good feint just tells your opponent that the feint was false, and gives him time to handle your next move.

No competent fencer simply extends. He extends his arm in certain ways to obtain particular results. Thus prior extension, if done with method, is no blind article of faith. It is a classicism with real "for now" purpose.

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OUR STUDENTS NEED FENCING

by T. F. Windsor

(Ed. Note: The following is an article originally published in American Fencing in 1951 by Tinnin F. Windsor. With the passing away of Mr. Windsor, father of Marietta Towry, we are reminded of his ideals and dedication to fencing.)

Fencing, which for centuries in Europe had been a part of the curriculum of the great colleges and universities, was the first sport to enter our institutions of learning in the Americas. Even in the colonial days before there was a United States of America, it was a sport that developed the body, the mind and the emotional stability of those who practiced the art. Using a quotation attributed to one of the kings of France, addressed to the Captain of his guards, who had been the king's own fencing master, we find this idea brought out very forcefully:

"It is our desire that you take the Dauphin into thy charge for this next twelve month. Separate him from the flattery of the court and there, upon the strip, foil in hand, teach him to assume courage as his natural heritage, also chivalry and courtesy toward others and to rely upon and take the judgement of those qualified to judge. Show him the wisdom of maintaining his character the same in victory or defeat. In short, make of him a true gentleman worthy of someday wearing a crown." In these few words the head of a nation gave us his idea of what training in fencing would do toward building the character of a youth.

Fencing is a sport designed to build the individual. The hours of practice in the posture of fencing and its various movements build the muscles of the body. The necessity of constant vigilance trains the eye and muscles to coordinate instantaneously with the brain. Graceful actions learned upon the fencing strip become in time the natural carriage of the individual. The desire to win stimulates the ambition of the pupil and the necessity to follow given rules teaches fair play. The ideas and wishes of the individual must bow to the majority in the

question of the officials whose judgement must be accepted without protest. The natural courtesies laid down in the rules accustom one to being courteous in lieu of complete chaos.

For so many years the youth of this country, through sports, have been taught team work and how to get along with others and work with others for the good of all. This team effort has been for the good of the nation as a whole. Football, Baseball, Hockey, Soccer and other team sports have gained the limelight and reached a peak. We have learned to watch them, yell for them, and support them with all the zeal at our command. But there has been something lacking. The training of the individual as an individual, the responsibilities he has toward himself as well as the responsibility toward school or Club and his team mates. Have we, in our desire to build great teams, overlooked the individual?

It is suggested that now more than any other time we need to stress individual character and reliance upon oneself throughout the student bodies in our schools and colleges. This along with the team work taught in our other sports will add to the character of the individuals graduated by our schools. Thus would these graduates go into the world better equipped to face the problems we are struggling with today.

Fencing is the most demanding of individual sports. Yet one of its greatest assets is that fencing may be taught to a vast number of men and women who, due to personal preference or physical structure, would not enter the athletic activities of so many other sports. There is nothing so invigorating as a bout with an opponent upon the strip. This sport along with swimming and gymnastics seems to bring sluggish or defective muscles back to strength and assists the mental control over them. The body responds rapidly to the rhythm of sword play.

The student of or institutions of learning would indeed be greatly benefitted should these schools "teach him to assume courage as his natural heritage" . . . for individual courage is much needed throughout the world today.

SOUTH JERSEY FENCING

by John Lillback

For once the division in the pinelands of South Jersey got off to a rousing start in the new fencing year. A reorganization meeting was held in August, new officers for 72-73 elected, and meets and sites chosen. Heading the division is Sandy Smith, fencing instructor at Monmouth College, Bob Barden of Bayville is vice chairman, while Dave Howell of Rancocas Woods holds the reins as secretary-treasurer.

Women's Novice/Dry Foil: 1. Claire Sheldon, CCC, 5/1; 2. Marion Blasko, CCC; 3. Terry Grischbowski, BT, 4/2; 4. Judy Grischbowski, BT.

Men's Novice/Dry Foil: 1. Fred Ladd, CCC, 9/1; 2. Casimir Dallago, CCC, 8/2; 3. Gabriel Di Tomasso, CCC, 5/5; 4. Harry Brammell, CCC, 3/7.

Sabre: 1. Jeff Shikoluk, BT, 6/1 - f/o 5-3. 2. Earl Barber, Phila. Div. 6/1. 3. Augustin de la Llave, M, 5/2. 4. Bruce Gerstein, MC, 3/4.

Epee: 1. George Schietinger, Unatched, 6/2, f/o 2/0. 2. Bill Kebea, MC, 6/2. 3. Kevin Smith, CCC, 6/2. 4. Bill Olivero, CCC, 5/3.

MRS. NIEDERKIRCHNER

Mrs. Theresa Neiderkirchner, wife of Neiderkirchner, fencing master at York Athletic Club and the New York Athletic Club, passed away in December. Fencing offers its sincere condolences to the family of Maestro Neiderkirchner, and to the friends.

MRS. STUYVESANT FISH

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, pioneer writer on fencing, died Sunday, Dec. 10 at the age of 85. She was a member of the N. Y. Fencing Club and was several times a national champion. Fencing offers its condolences to her family and friends.

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PENN STATE FENCING CLINIC

by Joseph A. Krasevec

Approximately thirty-five high school and college teachers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York attended a fencing clinic on October 27, 28 at the University varsity Park Campus of the Penn State University. The clinic was organized and directed by Maxwell R. Garret and Mary Beth Alphin, men's and women's varsity fencing coach, in conjunction with the schools continuing education program.

The clinic featured a variety of lectures, drills, and demonstrations on such topics as fundamental skills, rules interpretation, teaching, officiating, and techniques and tactics of fencing. Many of the practice sessions were video-taped, affording the participants an opportunity to review their individual performances.

The clinic, which lasted a day and a half, was well conducted and it seemed as if everyone gained valuable knowledge into the sport of fencing.

GRADUATE CREDIT

Cornell University will sponsor a Coaches Clinic from 10-24 August, 1973. Graduate credit may be obtained by attending. Three hours credit may be arranged through the Summer School Department of Cornell. Interested persons are requested to contact Raoul Sudre, Department of Athletics, Teagle Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850.



FENCING MASTER

Prof. Lou Lopata, a fencing master of the Academic d'Armes de France is seeking employment in the United States. He has had extensive experience teaching fencing in Australia, South Africa, and France, and may be reached at 69 Hardy Street, Dover Heights, Sydney, NSW 2030, Australia.



photo

Some of the lovely participants in the fencing clinic held at Mary Baldwin College in Virginia.

VIRGINIA TEACHER'S CLINIC

by Gwendolyn E. Walsh

In spite of closed roads due to a steady three day rain and rivers overflowing their banks, forty-two fencers met at Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia for the Annual Pre-season Fencing Clinic. The need for teachers to improve their own skills and to help move their students beyond the basics has prompted the clinic. We were fortunate in having as our clinician Denise O'Connor who was assisted by Pat Flynn.

After warm-ups and basic skills the group started progressive group drills stopping now and then for demonstrations, questions and answers, and discussion of special problems. Lunch in the college dining room was followed by care and technical repair of electrical equipment. Everyone fenced electrically and either watched or tried their hand at directing.

Sunday morning the group was given another drill session that should help students advance beyond the basics. One of the guests, Madelyn Zakaib, had spent a week at the fencing matches in Munich.

Clinic participants were primarily teachers in a major or service program. Three years ago the clinic had twelve teachers. This year there were forty-two participants.

Coaches and students came from College, S. C.; Wake Forest a Greensboro, N. C.; and from Virginia Wood College, Mary Washington Madison College, Randolph-Macon College, Lynchburg College, Radford Hampton Sydney College, the E Fencing Club of Waynesboro and Washington, D.C. Save Columbus end next year (Oct. 6 & 7) for a review of skills and drills at Mary College, Staunton, Virginia.

AFLA AND AAU

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A PROPOSED NEW LOOK FOR THE AFLA

by Emily B. Johnson

Instead of trying to patch up our present structure let us consider building a new one.

How about splitting the AFLA into two major regions — an AFLA West and an AFLA East? Each region would have its own officers and Board of Directors, each would publish its own magazine, each would handle its own affairs except in a few limited areas.

A National AFLA committee would handle foreign affairs, deal with organizations such as the USOC and the NCAA, set qualifications for the U. S. Nationals, and coordinate the activities of the two organizations.

Qualifications to the U. S. Nationals would be from regional championship competitions.

The present structure of the AFLA is impractical. Divisions handle divisional affairs. Sections are paper organizations except for sectional competitions. The result? Everything except divisional affairs is handled at the national level. This makes no sense.

Members of the national board of directors cannot afford to fly back and forth across the country to attend meetings. Either directors from one geographical area run the AFLA or directors from two separate areas alternate in deciding the future course of the AFLA. This does not make for a smooth running national organization. Either way most of the directors are effectively precluded from taking part.

If we had two regional AFLAs the regional directors could get to the meetings. They could handle local problems with greater knowledge and interest, they could budget their share of the dues in a way best suited to the area, and they could set up an organizational structure that was the best for the area.

The U. S. Nationals would be held alternately by the two regions. The qualifications would be from the regional competitions with perhaps eighteen or twenty qualifiers from each region in each weapon. Team

competitions would be limited or eliminated.

This would result in a true national competition instead of the present potpourri of fencers of all levels of skill that is costly and cumbersome for the host division. The smaller divisions could afford to sponsor the nationals. Less skillful fencers could try their wings at the regionals with some hope of getting out of the first round.

Membership on international teams would be based on results at the U. S. Nationals.

With two magazines there could be more local news and advertising. Members of one group would subscribe to the magazine published by the other region if it were interesting and informative.

Fencers could transfer to the other region if they moved.

I suggest a national committee composed of seven members, three from each region and the seventh from the two regions alternately. The committee would elect its own officers. It could meet as needed either in person or by telephone. Its powers would be clearly outlined.

This is a bare outline. Details can be worked out.

We can't do anything about the size of the country or the cost of transportation but we can make this a more effective organization. I feel that the results would be most beneficial.

What do you think?

Write a letter to Ralph Goldstein, Editor of American Fencing, Steve Sobel or me at 1250 Ellis St., No. 11, San Francisco, Ca. 94109.

CHICAGOLAND OPEN

The Chicagoland Open Fencing Tournament will be hosted this year by the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle. The fencing will be held in the Illinois Room of the Student Union Complex, at 750 South Halstead Ave., Chicago, Illinois on April 7 and 8. Mail entries and inquiries to Fred Rhodes, 5056 North Albany Ave., Chicago, Illinois, 60625. Entry fee is \$7.00. Deadline is March 30, 1973.

ONE NATION — ONE SPORT — ONE AFLA: FOR THE DEFENSE

By Steve Sobel

If you cut a person in half you do not create two people — what remains is one corpse. I regard "A Proposed New Look" as an invitation to attend the funeral of the AFLA, "American Fencing", and the growth of the sport of fencing in the United States. I see no advantage derived from the new structure which can't be achieved under one national organization. I see many disadvantages to the replacement of a national organization with two regions, including a loss of prestige in the FIE and the Olympic Committee, the loss of national programs under a national Board of Directors, the loss of a national magazine, and the loss of a national Treasury. An examination of the specific areas of proposed benefit will indicate that these benefits can be achieved within the existing AFLA structure.

1. "Sections are paper organizations" — but they need not be. A section is an independent unit composed of Divisions. It has its own Treasury, its own officers, and establishes its own programs. It can print its own news letters, can create inter-section competition, and can do all this on a regional basis by intersection competitions and ventures. That it hasn't in the past is no reason to destroy the national organization; rather, the remedy is to suggest programs to the Section Administrations.

2. Representation at Board of Directors meetings — True it is expensive and far to travel from New York to California, but it is also expensive and far to travel from Texas to California, from Florida to New York, and from Massachusetts to Illinois. Is it therefore realistic to believe that Board meetings will be better attended on a regional basis? The problem isn't eliminated. It is merely reduced in size, but not significantly to justify a different conclusion. The answer to national representation is not 100% attendance at Board meetings which will never be achieved, but the desire of the majority expressed by the policies of the Board, and the opportunity to be heard before action is taken. This year we have two

meetings in the East and two in the West with descriptive agenda, reports and articles in American Fencing on the issues prior to Board action.

3. The National Championships — True that the competition is too large and the qualification procedures are too expensive. This does not require a new structure, merely a review of the present structure which is presently in progress.

To the opening statement "Instead of trying to patch up our present structure let us consider building a new one" — it is easier and far more beneficial than to kill and start over from questionable foundations. To the question "How about splitting the AFLA into two major regions" I answer — United We Stand or Divided we fall.

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Rules and Officiating

by Chaba Pallaghy



In view of the recent Olympic Games it would be proper to give a brief report on directing the way it is done on the International level.

First of all, I would like to state that due to the complexity of directing in fencing and the substantial strain imposed on the director, one can and should not expect infallible performance. Therefore, all evaluation should be made with the acceptance of a certain number of errors in directing. These mistakes can be broken down to three main categories: a) mistakes by the directors; b) mistakes caused by the fencer; c) mistakes of the observers. Accordingly, any objective evaluation of officiating should be done in consideration of the above. Taking these factors as a basis of our evaluation, it is safe to say that officiating at the Munich Games was at a very high level. What were then the problems and the tendencies to be reckoned with? One of the primary objectives of the Directoire Technique (Bout Committee) was to find competent directors, fully detached from any interests in the outcome of the fencing of the events they officiate. At first glance the solution seems to be at hand, considering the large number of qualified directors who were available in Munich. Upon closer scouting, one will find that the problem is not as simple. There are a great many "obligations" and "attachments" existent in the International circuit known only to the initiated. The problem is compounded when unforeseen complications arise, such as the overall gold medal standing between the U. S. and Russia (which was the basis for one Russian objection). In general the tendency was to settle for the most neutral director even at the expense of quality in officiating. One very obvious difference in directing at the Olympics was the absolute favoring of the

attack over the stop or time action as in contrast to the usual practice in the United States. A stop or time hit had to land by an enormous time difference before the completion of the attack, for it to be honored. There was a difference in the interpretation of the line also. A number of the top directors follow the principles laid down by the U. S. Commission on Fencing Rules and Officials (please refer to article published in American Fencing, Volume 22, issue No. 3). However, there are many who agree with the following interpretation: Arm fully extended, target threatened, but line will be honored even when fencer retreats. There are a very few who will consider any threat to the valid target area a line, but none of these directors were amongst those who are considered tops or who have received assignments to direct in the quarter finals and up.

In general, the Directoire Technique preferred to settle on a director who was firm, was known to be able to keep the situation under control, and would not be influenced by the fencers and spectators. The fencers also opted in favor of such director. There were a few instances where the audience, often divided into two or three different camps, was able to influence the director's decision, mostly with disastrous results. Accordingly, even the fencing teams known to be the most complaining preferred a firm and stern director. Usually the quality of fencing was much better under such directors.

Summarizing. The officiating was generally good at the Olympic Games. Our own officials enjoyed a good reputation and were often used in difficult situations, giving credit to our known impartiality and sportsmanship mentality.



CLAUDE CAUX

by Cathy Jackson

The Colorado Division of the AFLA is pleased to introduce its new Fencing Master, Claude Caux. In 1956 after completing a three year course at the National Military School of Physical Education (College of "E.N.E.P.M.") in Antibes, France, he graduated as a Fencing Master. The year he graduated, M. Caux was the French Military Epee Champion and Best Man at Arms — the latter title being an award given for the highest placing in all three weapons.

He first taught in Metz and Nancy, France where Monique Laroux, who became the French Ladies Foil Champion, was his pupil. In 1959 he accepted a position in Johannesburg, South Africa where he was appointed as the Transvaal Fencing Coach and eventually as the National Coach.

In recognition of his efforts the French Government awarded him the "Medaille d'Honneur de la Jeunesse et des Sports" in 1964. Maestro Caux's proficiency was also recognized by the late Charles de Beaumont in 1969 in *The Fencer*, the official South African fencing magazine and in *The Sword*, the official British fencing magazine when he wrote ". . . If South African fencing is of such a good technical standard it is due to the good organization of the Association and especially to the excellent instruction provided by Maitre Caux. Maitre Caux is obviously a most popular member of the fencing community but it is impressive to see the

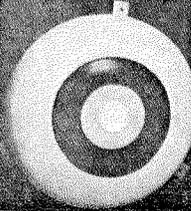


manner in which he has been able to inculcate the basic principles of true fencing in a wide variety of pupils and enthusiasm for our sport."

Marcel Marceau, the world famous mime, offered him a position at his International School of Mime in Paris in 1969.

At the end of 1971 Maestro Caux returned to Colorado and we are all looking to a long and successful association with so distinguished a Master.

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The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

There was a major oversight in your coverage of the '72 Nationals Sept./Oct., '72 American Fencing. I found no editorial account of the women's competition.

To quote July/August, '72 American Fencing, "A full report on the National Championships will appear in our next issue."

Do you consider results alone sufficient coverage on an event such as the Nationals, particularly in an Olympic year?

I find the omission inexcusable, your staff writer should have been assigned the completion of Mr. Lyon's article.

As a fencing magazine, you disappoint me.

Sincerely
Georgette Pascotto
New York, N. Y.

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that the results of the Southeast Section Championships were in error with the given listing of places in Women's Under-19 Foil.

The first place fencer in that event is not from FSU, nor does she ever intend to be. She is a staunch supporter of the University of Florida and a freshman there. I would greatly appreciate it if some notice of that fact could be taken.

The third place fencer in that event is also a student at the University of Florida. She, too, was listed as an FSU fencer.

Due to the fact that the article was written by Kate Alexander from FSU, it seems strange that such a mistake could have been made.

However, the listing in American Fencing makes it appear as if FSU walked off with all three places in Women's Under -19 foil, and it would be a real shame to let that impression go uncorrected.

Thank you.

Jennifer James
Gainesville, Florida

The Editor,
American Fencing

Dear Ralph Goldstein,

I am gratified to learn of the inquiries from the general public reaching your desk relative Boy Scout fencing.

It is important to note I require my scout team members to be AFLA members. Membership afford them an individual Rules Book with six issues of American Fencing. In that Scouting offers a broad variety of sports, AFLA news helps the fencing scout to decide on fencing as a life sport or merely as a temporary skill with which to earn a merit patch. This decision is very important to a volunteer instructor.

Fencing requirements are outlined in the Boy Scout Manual 1972 copyright (Lib. of Congress Cat. No. 10-600) p2. After three happy years of effort I know you share my delight to see it there. Confident that the ladies and gentlemen of the AFLA are living examples of the Scout Oath, I invite a few or many to participate.

Your truly
Norma Goldberg
Brooklyn, New York

The Editor,
American Fencing

Dear Sir,

I would like to register my strong disagreement with the conclusion of the 1972 Nationals Bout Committee report that the Under-19's should be divorced from the Nationals. This conclusion appears to be based on two assumptions that the Under-19's are difficult to schedule into the Nationals, and that Under-19 fencers do not benefit from fencing in the Nationals.

There is no doubt that the Under-19's do put an extra burden on the bout committee, but it does not seem an unmanageable burden. Careful scheduling can assure few conflicts for the fencers, and it is not necessary to bunch the Under-19's into the last three days of the Nationals, as was done in 1972. Furthermore, it does not seem impossible to line up half a dozen or so competent directors for each Under-19 event in advance, although it is not surprising that it is difficult on the spur of the moment.

The blanket statement that Under-19 fencers as a group are unable to benefit from participation in the senior Nationals is clearly invalid. 1972 was the first time in recent years that no Under-19 fencer reached the final round of the senior events. Lisa Burton, who is not even mentioned in the article on the Under-19 Nationals, did the best, being eliminated with a 2-3 record in the quarter-finals. It is obvious that fencers such as Peter Gaylor, Ed Ballinger, Brooke Makler, Blythe Devan, Ruth White, and Sally Pechinsky, all of whom were finalists in the senior events while Under-19, were quite ready for the senior Nationals.

The fact is that anyone who can qualify for the senior Nationals and has the initiative to get to them is entitled to fence in them, regardless of age. It is only by fencing better fencers at every opportunity that the young fencers can improve. A round or two of the senior individuals and team events plus the Under-19's add up to a week of fencing experience which is nowhere else as obtainable for most young fencers.

The following points seem germane to the problem of the Junior Olympic program. First, the present scheduling of the Junior Olympic Tournament is inconvenient for most, and distinctly unfair to some fencers. The Nationals, on the other hand, are always held shortly after the end of the school year, the optimum time for the student fencer. Second, while the expense of just one trip to the Nationals is a severe burden to many Under-19 fencers, the added expense of two such trips may prove prohibitive for some. Third, the problem of a team selected in July not training for an event in April can be easily dealt with by requiring regular training progress reports. Perhaps Junior Olympic funds could then be used for a training camp shortly before the World Under-20 Championships.

In any case, opinions should be actively solicited from all sources, especially the Under-19 themselves, as the recent questionnaire attempts to do, before any final decision is reached.

Sincerely,
Paul Soter
Berkeley, Calif.

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein:

I was very interested to read Jeffery's letter re women fencing sabbatical in the March/April issue of your magazine. How refreshing to read a letter from someone with an inquiring mind! My own mind is unfettered by traditional programming.

For several years 5 or 6 of us in Ontario (Canada) have been fencing and enjoying it immensely. Recent years of us have started fencing epee.

There are now 2 tournaments in Ontario for women interested in these 1. The St. Jamestown third annual sabre tournament in Toronto on October 29.

2. The first (and hopefully annual) Sword Club ladies 3 weapon tournament (sabre, epee and foil) in London Ontario on November 22.

I am eagerly awaiting the announcement of other similar tournaments.

Yours very truly,
Carol Graham
London, Ontario
Canada

The Editor
American Fencing

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

Imagine my surprise and delight when I read the letter from the Augusta Military Academy of Fort Virginia mentioned under the BI Fencing Conference on page 17 of American Fencing.

I attended this establishment from 1927 until graduation in 1929. In 1927 of mine and I, having seen a Douglas S. Banks picture in which there was a "fencing" each other with when a Major E.S. Yates, retired Marine Corps told us that if we were interested why he would order some fencing and teach us to fence, as he was some instruction while attending A.M.A. fencing and because I am a paw, after receiving instructions from Yates, who was "normal" I would take to my room and practice with the I Thus I ended up as an ambidextrous

cer, however, better with the left hand.

There was no fencing available at Hampden Sydney College and I did not get back into fencing again until after my retirement in 1967. In the winter of 1969 I joined the University of New Mexico Fencing Association and am at the present time a member of the Albuquerque Fencing Club.

I have participated in electric meets at Farmington, New Mexico twice, at the Farmington Club, and once at the College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Now at the age of 62 I find my lunge shortened sadly because of Arthritis in the hips but I still enjoy the game.

Yours very truly,
George F. Miller
Albuquerque,
New Mexico

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Mr. Goldstein

I have read with interest and at great length, numerous articles in your publication decrying the lack of interest in fencing in America and proposing various remedies.

It is my humble, but studied opinion, that one of the most glaringly obvious reasons has been totally ignored, let alone explored. I refer to the A.F.L.A.'s total lack of recognition of the small, often poorly financed and struggling, local fencing club and its instructors.

Much time, effort and funds are spent by the "League" in promoting the careers of our prestigious and usually affluent top fencers. In fact, most of your publication seems to be devoted to their exploits to the exception of little else.

In my opinion, more of these commodities should be directed toward the real heart of fencing, i. e., the local club fencer at the bottom. Remember, no bottom, no top. Let's as the kids say, get right down to the nitty-gritty of the situation. Golf, tennis, trap shooting were never popular with the great American public while they were confined to the financial limits of a select few at the top. It was only after much promotion and exposure to the masses that these sports became nationally accepted.

Why should we think fencing is any different?

You are missing the boat by not promoting fencing at its' grass roots, the small local club.

Better facilities should be made available. In our Los Angeles area, we must travel an hour to a match because its location is handy for the officials. We must also wear our fencing togs to change in a toilet and in either case go home sweat-soaked, because no locker or shower facilities are provided. Hardly conducive to stimulating greater participation!

Our members join the A.F.L.A. only because if you don't join, you cannot fence. It offers them little except a publication, which is usually a month late being delivered.

Let's make A.F.L.A. membership more rewarding for the little guy at the bottom. Fencing must be promoted and sold to the American public at the local level. This is where the average citizen is exposed to fencing and until we stimulate his support and interest, our sport will never gain the national popularity we all desire.

So let's upgrade the small club and its instructors, or at least recognize them for the fine job they are doing.

Sincerely,
Rodman Jordan
West Covina, Calif.

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph:

The strong efforts now under way to make the governing organs of the AFLA more responsive and effective in a truly national sense are long overdue and will undoubtedly lead to great improvement of our organization at all levels. I have no particular cause to push in this direction — I simply applaud the efforts in full confidence that they will result in a large measure of success.

There is one area in which all parties appear to be in full agreement. This is that the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee must function in a manner more truly national than heretofore. This means more than a wider geographical composition

of Board and Committee members. There is also the acute physical problem of holding frequent and meaningful meetings. People cannot travel to meetings hundreds or thousands of miles away at the drop of a hat. Neither can the League pay the cost of their travel.

There is a relatively easy and inexpensive method of holding meetings, however. This is by means of a telephone conference hookup of ten used by large corporations for executive meetings that would be impossible otherwise. The cost and usefulness of the telephone conference method for AFLA Board and Committee meetings should be thoroughly explored if it is not already under consideration, and the method made permissible in the By Laws if necessary. It might also be applicable to the Sectional level. There is no reason for parliamentary procedures to be impossible by telephone.

Yours truly,
Arthur W. Lane
Berkeley, Calif.

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

I would like to thank you for the of "Technical Talks" by Mr. Joe the last issue of **American Fencing** (November-December 1972) and the p feature this column regularly. I I trying to find some technical mate repair of electrical equipment time now. My efforts have been f feel as if this column is the ans search, and I anxiously await my of **American Fencing!**

Yours truly,
Alice Mitchell
Louisville, Ky.

QUICKIE QUIZ

Under what circumstances would you receive a ground loss penalty meter, after having fleched off the strip with both feet? (See Page 26, of the 1970 Rules book)

It's time to work on your comeback



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Technical Talks
by Joe Byrnes



Maybe after scaring a few people with the shape of things to come in my opener last issue, it's time to see what the not-too-technically-minded fencer can do about checking electrical equipment. Of course, without an ohmmeter and test weights and shims, you cannot do what the inspector does at the Olympic Games or at the Nationals, Sectionals, or at a well-run divisional event. But some simpler tests are available. The little device described by Manny Forrest recently ("A Weapon Tester for Everyone" in the Sept.-Oct., '72 *American Fencing*), or an even simpler version, without the switch and the capability of body-cord checking, such as has been made and sold by a least a couple of the European suppliers, is useful, and in the absence of more elaborate equipment, is going to be essential to the fencer trying to do it alone. The market for such quick-signal testers should become such that if I were commercially minded, I'd go into the business of making them.

What these devices do, when you plug in your foil or epee (attached to its body cord, of course), is give you a quick answer: "Is it working? Yes/No."

For *epee*, such is the simple nature of the beast, that's about all you really need, especially since a two-lamp model of tester (or Manny's three-lamp model) will also tell you if you've got a sneaky short circuit. Just press the point down: if the one lamp (between the A & B lines) goes on every time, your point is working. If more than one lamp goes on, you've got a short and no touches register out on the strip. Incidentally, the shim test for epee travel works perfectly with such a device, and these days any epee fencer worth his salt should have not only the traditional epee man's little jeweler's screw driver, but a

set of test shims as well, or at least the 0.5 mm one for the final travel check. Epee directors should make it a practice to carry their own set as well and use them before each bout; it won't win you any popularity contests at first, but it will eliminate a great source of disputes and prevent some fencers from getting an unfair advantage. In my judgement the shim test for epee travel is more important than the weight test for spring strength for your average epee competition.

Do you need a weight, then? One would help, but epee springs are pretty tough, and unless they are very old or have been deliberately lightened at some time (that's legal, so long as you don't go too far), they are not nearly so likely as foil springs to soften up. Incidentally, the epee itself often weighs nearly as much as the test weight, so try holding it vertically and pressing it down on the floor: feel how strongly the spring throws the whole thing back. That is not the same test dynamically as putting a 750 gram weight on the tip, but you should soon develop a feel for whether the thing still has enough pizzazz to behave.

For *foil*, this sort of go-no-go test is still useful but not so certain. With weapon and body cord plugged into the tester, one lamp should light at once and stay lit no matter how hard you shake or beat the blade, so long as you don't actually depress the point; if you do that, the light goes out, and comes right back on when you release it. If you have a 500 gram weight, it should be pushed firmly back up by the spring, after you have pressed it down. Vibrate the blade with the weight in place: there should be no flickering. Without a weight, you can try pushing the blade vertically onto the floor, as mentioned for epee, but since a foil has to weigh less than 500 grams, the test really depends on how educated you become to how a good foil reacts. Nevertheless, I will assert without fear of contradiction that any foil spring that cannot throw back the weight of its own foil will not work properly for you.

If you don't have the little pocket tester we've been talking about, you can wait till a meet and try to get access to a scoring

machine that's not in service. Some of the older models came equipped with test jacks that performed exactly the tests I've described. More recent machines require that you use the regular hookup: you plug into the reel or into the sockets for a floor cable. Epees check out easily this way; for foil, you either have to have a partner — both checking at once — or else short off one side of the machine (connect the B & C jacks together temporarily).

o o o This is the conventional label-
A B C ling for the 3 pins of the FIE connectors, note the 3:4 ratio of the spacing.



"Swords out and tilting one at other's breast in opposition bloody"

— Othello, Act II, Scene II

Culled by Lou Shaff

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

by Carol Gralia

Foil Open 1. Bob Schopp, St. Louis F Ellis, Parkway FC; 3. Carl Herkstroeter FC.

Epee Open 1. Terry Ellis, Parkway Schopp, St. Louis FC; 3. Bill Witten Edwardsville FC.

Women's Open 1. Jamie Schopp, SIU-E FC; 2. Stephanie Stanley, Parkway F Saum, Parkway FC.

Sabre Open 1. Dan Edwards, St. Louis Edwards, St. Louis FC; Dan Goldberg Univ.; 4. Bob Bernardi, St. Louis FC.

Women's Novice 1. Roz Neuman, St. L Dorothy Watts, St. Louis FC; 3. Don Parkway FC.

Foil Open 1. Carl Herkstroeter, St. L Terry Ellis, Parkway FC, 3. Bob Schoof FC.

Sabre Open 1. Tom Edwards, St. Louis Schopp, St. Louis FC; 3. Dan Edwards FC; 4. Bob Bernardi, St. Louis FC.

Foil Prep 1. Mike Korklan, Missouri Un Stark, SIU-Edwardsville FC; 3. Wade Louis FC; 4. Dick Eaton, Parkway FC

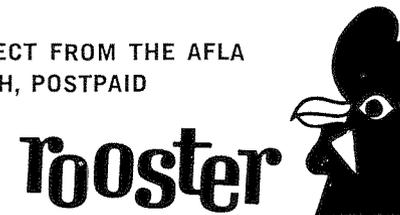
Women's Open 1. Jamie Schopp, SIU-E FC; 2. Stephanie Stanley, Parkway FC Gralia, St. Louis FC.

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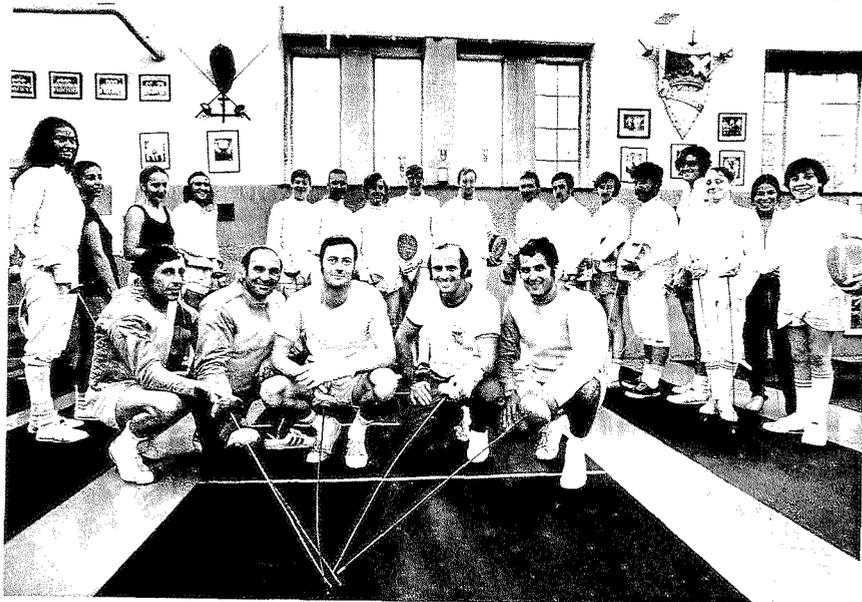


photo by Hamilton

Some participants at the international fencing clinic held at Cornell University this past summer. In the foreground are Fencing Masters (l. to r.) Jean Pierre Genin, Jean Jacques Gillet, Daniel Barbas, Raoul Sudre, and Abderouf El Fassi.

SUMMER FENCING CAMP AND COACHES CLINIC

by Victor Sampon

(Ed. Note: Mr. Sampon teaches French and Fencing and is chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages at Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.)

Maitre Raoul Sudre, Cornell University Head Coach, with his assistant Maitre Jean-Jacques Gillet organized an AFLA Olympic Development Camp and Coaches Clinic from July 15-30 and July 31-August 13 at Ithaca New York. They were helped by a distinguished team of French fencing masters: Jean-Pierre Genin from the Racing Club de France, Paris; Daniel Barbas from the Salle le Masque de Fer, Lyon; El Fassi, National Coach of Morocco. Fifty-six fencers and eleven coaches participated in the program. The participants came from 12 states and foreign countries (1 from Canada and 7 members of the Women's Olympic team from Colombia plus their 2 coaches).

The morning session (9:30-12:30) was devoted to an hour of conditioning which consisted of running cross country, up and down hills, through the woods, across streams with four stop for exercises. Three mornings, soccer was substituted for the cross country. Upon regaining the Salle there were mobility exercises for 10 minutes followed by individual lessons for 2 hours. The afternoon session (4-6:30) was devoted to lessons and fencing with the masters and the other participants after 20 minutes of exercises.

Due to the great diversity of abilities no regular theory classes were scheduled; but the masters often stopped a lesson to give long explanations and demonstrations to those observing. They took great pains to explain useful aids to the coaches observing. The coaches not wishing to participate in the morning conditioning program were given practical lessons on how to teach fencing and in the afternoon beginning stu-

dents were brought in for them to practice on. Participating coaches enjoyed complete freedom to observe, participate, ask questions, practice teach as they saw fit. Students were advised to take lessons in only one weapon, but many took them in several. At each session fencers changed masters for their individual lessons. They received ample practice with both left and right handed masters. Lessons were given in English, French and Spanish. If two of the masters were a little weak in English the first few days, they were soon quite fluent. I was also surprised by the number of students who understood French and preferred to receive their lessons in French.

Probably the two greatest weaknesses noticed were: (1) riposting while retreating and (2) poor rhythm (i.e. fencing too fast for the opponent, not making use of a change of rhythm in the attack).

On the second to last day all fencers put into practice what they had learned by participating in a foil tournament. This was not only a learning experience in observing good directing by the masters, but also beneficial to the individual because after each bout the master explained his main faults during the bout. The last morning was devoted to a question-answer period and the airing of opinions about how the camp and clinic were conducted. The session concluded with a picnic in one of the neighboring parks.

I feel that this camp and clinic was very beneficial to both coaches and students and that many more coaches and fencers should attend. As Professor Boston speaking at a coaches clinic in England stated: "As a professional you never stop learning . . . There is no such thing as a perfect fencing master. There is always a better one if you look around. While you are always seeking knowledge you will improve; but when you think you know it all, you're finished . . . You should always try to do better yourself and seek more knowledge." Fencers should note that Professor Boston's words apply also to them, that many of them have reached a point where their present coach is no longer capable of improving their fencing, that they

need contact with a better coach wish to become a "top-fencer." This camp and clinic at Cornell University participants in contact with the FRENCH OF FENCING and excellent masters not only knew how to teach but also champion fencers as amateurs. In concluding I highly recommend the camp and clinic for both coaches and fencers and hope to return again next



NIWFA CHRISTMAS INVITATIONAL

Caldwell College in Caldwell, N.C. was host for the National Inter-Woman's Fencing Association' Christmas Invitational on November 13-14. Marissa Biegel, a junior chemical engineering student at New York University, placed first in a field of 98 girls from 12 colleges. Peggy Walbridge, a Cornell sit junior; and Iza Farkas, a freshman at William Paterson College, placed second and third as listed after a large second was resolved by indicators.

Miss Biegel's victory marks the first time an N.Y.U. girl has won the Invitational, equaling the record set by Hunter College from 1952 to 1954.

Medals for six places were a gift of Professor Julia Jones, Hunter College and one of the members of the NIWFA.

RESULTS

1. Marissa Biegel, New York Univ.
2. Peggy Walbridge, Cornell Univ.
3. Iza Farkas, William Paterson College
4. Debbie Cinotti, Barnard College
5. Mary Siebring, Cornell Univ.
6. Kathy Stevenson, Cornell Univ.
7. Addie Rimmer, New York Univ.
8. Debbie Avimeleh, Brooklyn College
9. Regina Reynolds, New York Univ.

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Photo by Dr. Dan Bukantz
 Robert Driscoll shown with the chess table presented to him by the Fencers Club. (i. to r.) Robert Driscoll, Madame Pinchart, Eugene Blanc.

FENCERS CLUB GALA

by Jeffrey Tishman

The Fencers Club opened its ninetieth season of activity on 11 November with a buffet in honor of the U. S. Olympic Fencing Team. Over 130 members, guests, Olympians, and friends gathered at the New York salle d'armes for the meal prepared by a committee of members.

Fencer Club President Eugene Blanc introduced the team members and made a special presentation to Robert Driscoll, a longtime clubmember. Mr. Driscoll was the 1943 U. S. national epee champion and is a former Columbia University fencer. It is he who funded the Junior Olympic Development Program at the Fencers Club that has proved so successful during the past four years.

In appreciation of Mr. Driscoll's contributions to Olympic Development, the Fencers Club presented him with a chess table which has been in the club's possession for several decades and which has just been refurbished by the prominent woodologist, Dr. David Herzig.

AMATEUR FENCERS
LEAGUE OF AMERICA,

A Brief Fencing Bibliography
by Dr. Joseph Byrnes

A.—General Sources

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B. Instructional Books in Print

To obtain books in print, try the suppliers who advertise in *American Fencing*, or get a local book store to contact you, or inquire of the publisher for full addresses can be obtained from a public or institutional library).

The instructional books on this subject in age and approach, quality and comprehensiveness. They represent different approaches to the sport and various fencing that have prevailed during the twentieth century. The Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc. has made endorsement of any school or school appearance of an instructional book does not therefore imply approval of all it contains, nor does the inclusion of such a book necessarily mean disapproval. [Amateur Fencing Association of Great Britain, cooperating]. Know the

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C. A Limited Selection of Older Instructional Books

With luck, most of these can be found in public and institutional libraries, and sometimes, with more luck, in second-hand book stores.

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Shown here are some of the patches and emblems available members from the League Secret left to right are: The AFLA shield red, white and blue); the AFLA tion patch (in blue and gold), silver, and bronze classification the AFLA Nationals patch (in r and blue); and the AFLA Deca white, and blue). The AFLA shield 3½ inches high by 3 inches wide for the following cataloged items sent PREPAID to:

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SELECTION OF U.S. TEAM FOR UNDER 20 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The under 20 World Championships will be in Buenos Aires, Argentina April 20, 21 and 22. The Board of Directors, at its annual meeting September 30, 1972 decided that the following procedure would be used in the selection of the United States team.

1. Two competitions only will be used: The under 19 Nationals of 1972 in Boston and the Jr. Olympic Championships February 17, 18 and 19 in Los Angeles.

2. The following point system will be applied equally to both competitions: 1st 35, 2nd 18, 3rd 16, 4th 14, 5th 12 and 6th 10. Five points will be awarded to each semi finalist.

3. Qualifiers to the Jr. Olympics Championships in February will be three per division per weapon determined in Division qualifying rounds which shall be open to all fencers who were born on or after Jan 1, 1953. In addition, Under 19 national finalists will qualify automatically. (Under 19 finalists will hold national under 19 ranks in order of placement, to be used for seed-purposes in all under 19 events.)

RULES CORRECTION

We are informed that because of an error in the agenda of the September meeting of the National Board of Directors, American Fencing incorrectly reported on page 20 of our November/December issue that article 719, calling for exclusive use of the Flat Foil Point was passed.

The correct ruling is that the Flat Foil Point is mandatory only after September, 1973, but will be required for the 1973 Nationals.

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4. Ties on points shall be resolved by a decision of the AFLA International selection committee, which shall also have power to remove from the team any individual who is not in physical condition appropriate for an international competition.

The International Committee of the AFLA has authorized the Chief of Mission for the Junior World Championship to solicit equipment and supplies for members of the U. S. team to represent the United States at the 1973 Junior World Championship to be held in Buenos Aires. Manufacturers and vendors of fencing equipment are invited to submit bids for the supply of this team. Bids will be awarded on the basis of lowest cost or no cost to the AFLA. The winner of the bid will be entitled to use in his advertisement the wording "OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF THE UNITED STATES TEAM COMPETING IN THE JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF 1973". Specifications for supplying materials may be obtained by contacting **Chaba M. Pallaghy, 99-11 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, New York 11374.**

MAESTRO CASTELLO

As we go to press, we are informed that Maestro Julio Martinez Castello, father of Hugo and James has passed away.

We will have a full obituary in our next issue. American Fencing offers its sincere condolences to his family, pupils, and many friends.

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Page Thirty-Two

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