

American Fencing



photo by Springfield College

Some of the fencing students at the special education course given at the Mary M. Lynch school in Springfield, Massachusetts. From l. to r.: Chris D'Amato, Roy Bryant, Lauren Taylor, Tony Barrow, John O'Neil, Michael Zancan, and Juan Dixon. Camera shy was Tim Alexander. In the second row is Class Nurse Sue Gustamacho, Teacher Katherine Smith, and Fencing Instructor Lou Cotton.

STORY ON PAGE 17

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

AMERICAN FENCING

Volume 26

Number 3

©1974 Amateur Fencers
League of America, Inc.

Official Organ of the
Amateur Fencers League of America

Dedicated to the Memory of
JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969

Second Class Postage
Paid at Westfield, N.J. 07090
and at additional mailing offices

Publisher: W. L. Osborn

Editor: Ralph M. Goldstein

Assoc. Editor: Richard Gradkowski

Feature Writers: Irwin Bernstein,
Dan Lyons,

Historian: Alex Solomon

Editorial Staff: Marilyn Masiero

Photographer: Russell Ellis

Policy Board: Stephen B. Sobel, Chairman,
R. M. Goldstein, I. F. Bernstein, W. L.
Osborn, H. Goodman

Advertising Correspondence:

33 Leland Ave., Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570

Printing and Advertising Plates:

Linotype Composition Company, Inc.

208 Piaget Avenue, Clifton, N. J. 07011

Published six times a year. Subscriptions for non-members of the AFLA is \$4.00 in the U.S. and \$5.00 elsewhere. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of American Fencing or the AFLA.

Copies of American Fencing in 16 and 35 MM Microfilm are available from University Microfilms, Inc. 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Prices on request.

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE: Articles, results of competitions, letters to the Editor, photos and cartoons are cordially solicited. All manuscripts must be typewritten, double spaced, on one side of the paper only, with wide borders. Photos should be glossy finish and with a complete caption. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned unless submitted with a stamped self addressed envelope. No anonymous articles accepted. Send all contributions to:

Ralph M. Goldstein
397 Concord Road
Yonkers, N.Y., 10710

President: Stephen B. Sobel, 18 Beverly Road
Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009.

Secretary: Irwin F. Bernstein, 249 Eton Place,
Westfield, New Jersey, 07090.

DEADLINE FOR 1974-75 ISSUES

Issue Date	Closing Date for Copy	Mailing Date
Mar./Apr.	Feb. 10	Mar. 31
May/June	Apr. 10	May 31
July/August	June 10	July 31

EDITORIAL

"Why Not A Course in Team Strategy?" Fencing has been called "Physical Chess". In addition to the techniques and speed which must be thoroughly mastered, one must learn to think ahead and plan accordingly, yet be prepared for the unexpected.

As a rule fencing coaches teach fencing techniques and even some tactics. Superior team strategy is developed through years of experience by only a handful of uniquely gifted people. And this is not only a matter of deciding which fencer to start off with, or which to take the last bout. The captain must know each team member extremely well and have as much information as possible about the opposition and the available jury presidents. While the captain and his team are engaged in a match he should have scouts checking and reporting back the other matches which are going on at the same time.

Ordinarily an example of good strategy in a situation where you are ahead by a comfortable score in your bout, and the one minute warning has been called, is for you to wait out and win on time. But suppose the score in bouts in an international team match is 8-7, with your team leading. As you go up for the last bout, your captain tells you that you need to score only 2 touches for your team to win the match. Its a tough fight. The score is 3-1 against you. Each time you attacked, your opponent made a successful parry and riposte which scored. Now there's less than a minute left and suddenly you realize that your opponent would be willing to win the bout by letting time run out. You recall what your captain said just as you stepped on the strip for this bout: "You need score only 2 touches for us to win the match." The inference is clear. If you persist in attacking and your opponent succeeds as before, its possible that you could lose by a score of 5-1. On the other hand if time is called at 3-1, the final score would be 5-3. You'd lose the bout but win the match!

Think about it — and there are many other situations where following your captain's instructions pay off handsomely.

DON'T PANIC, OR: HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND ENJOY THE NEW SABER REGULATIONS

by Richard J. Gradkowski

In the last issue of American Fencing Dr. Joseph Byrnes published the official translation of a new group of sabre fencing rules. These rules were used by the FIE at the 1974 World Championships in Grenoble and at the present time it seems likely that they will be adopted as part of the regular procedure. My first exposure to these regulations was at the Director's clinic held prior to the beginning of the 1974 World Championships and I found out that most of the countries participating in the championships had not yet been warned of the proposed new rules. The U.S. team was totally unprepared for the new concepts. This put us in a difficult spot, as our fencers had to go out and compete under strange conditions. As could be imagined in such a situation, there were many rumors and misconceptions flying about.

In an effort to get an exact interpretation of these rules for our sabremen, I arranged with Averil Genton, our team interpreter, to have a conference with Edgar Mercier, the chairman of the FIE Commission du Arbitrage. He graciously consented and very patiently went over the regulations, step by step, in order to clarify them for us. I was then able to relay this reliable information to Paul Apostol, our sabre team Captain.

Over the past few years international sabre fencing had deteriorated for one reason or another (weak officiating, fencer's failure of technique or tactics, lack of control under pressure, etc.) and a great increase in double actions had plagued the sport. No one who has seen such an ugly series of consecutive simultaneous attacks, even at the high level of Olympic competition, could fail to sense that something was basically wrong. I recall at the 1972 Munich Olympics one sabre bout with over 25 double attacks.

The effect of this poor fencing was so demoralizing that, several years ago, the FIE appointed a special commission to study and remedy the problem.

In an effort to correct the situation the commission first issued clarification the validity of certain actions and what constituted the "right of way" in some cases experienced fencers and officials have had to laugh at the exactitude of these "new" rules. Was sabre really at a 135 degree angle attack (Rule 419 d-2)? Did the fencer really hit the floor before the cut or a few tenths of a second late (Rule 417 b)? While these rules have in some cases, overly exact, at other times they have omitted some theoretical clarifications. At the 1973 Director's clinic Goteberg, Guido Malacarne of the federation pointed out, for instance Rule 420 g-2 does not distinguish between the line's being open or closed when subjected to a beat on the lower third blade. To date, this important point has not been officially clarified.

Incidentally, U.S. fencers who have participated in discussions of the question of "point in line" would be amused by these international meetings, in the very same discussions in six different versions of French.

While we all respect and indeed appreciate this desire to systematize and objective the criteria for judging, as experienced officials must acknowledge "certainty" can only be found in books on the strip; both fencers and officials must rely on their observation and mature judgment. Thus while these rules are intended as guidelines, we are really right where we were before. There was nothing new about the principles behind "new" rules.

Now, as a further step in rectifying the situation, the FIE adopted those significant anti-double action measures presented in our last issue. My first reaction to this was that they were incomprehensible. There was serious doubt whether they violated the spirit of fencing as a sport. Above all, to deliberately

duce the element of chance into fencing decisions seemed to me to minimize the factors of skill, training, and tactics. However, in actual practice I was pleasantly surprised at the good effect of these regulations. Let us see then, how these new anti-double action rules are applied.

When a simultaneous attack occurs, the Director announces "first simultaneous attack".

If there is any other action or exchange following this first simultaneous attack, (not necessarily involving a hit), the "first simultaneous attack" announcement is cancelled and we are back to normal. If, however, there is another simultaneous attack (the "consecutive" of the new rules) the Director announces "second simultaneous attack" and issues a warning to both fencers. This warning constitutes a notice that they are now both subject to the new Priority system should another (third) simultaneous attack occur.

While the rules do not address themselves to this point, it might be a good idea at this time for the Director to ask the scorekeeper to note the warning on the score sheet to forestall any possibility of misunderstanding or dispute. This was done at Grenoble.

I have summerized those simultaneous actions which are to be reckoned towards a warning in the following tabulation:

- Case 1.** A hits valid; B hit valid.
- Case 2.** A hits off target; B hits off target.
- Case 3.** A hits off target; B hits valid.
- Case 4.** A hits valid; B hits off target.
- Case 5.** A misses; B misses.

It should also be noted that among those simultaneous attacks counted toward this official warning we do not include the case when only one of the combatants receives a hit (either good or off target) and the other misses. This would be analogous to the "one light" in foil.

After the warning has been given, regardless as to whether there are any exchanges, valid hits scored, off target touches, etc., the warning holds for the rest of the bout or until the cycle of priority is completed.

Now, if the fencers participate in another simultaneous attack, the Director goes

through the new procedure of assigning priority.

The rule with respect to this refers to drawing "lots", but in Grenoble this was done simply by flipping a small piece of colored cardboard onto the strip. Prepared beforehand by the Directoire Technique, the cards were about three inches square, red on one side and green on the other side, and inscribed with D "droit" (right) and G "gauche" (left) on the opposite sides.

Once this priority is assigned, the fencer who does not have the priority faces a penalty for participating in a double attack.

It is important to emphasize that having the priority is not an advantage. The fencer who has the priority must still fence sensibly. If he simply throws himself at his opponent, he is vulnerable to all the orthodox strokes (stop cut, time thrust, prise de fer and cut, esquive and cut, and parry riposte).

Now, if a simultaneous attack occurs, the fencer without the priority receives a penalty touch. It doesn't matter how this simultaneous action manifests itself or how the hits are distributed. The important thing is that, having been warned that penalties are going to be imposed, the fencers again participated in a simultaneous action.

Again, for your convenience, I have prepared the following table of possibilities and the resulting decisions:

SIMULTANEOUS ACTIONS FENCER "A" HAS PRIORITY

- Case 1.** Both A and B hit valid.
Result: Penalty touch against B.
- Case 2.** Both A and B hit off target.
Result: Penalty touch against B.
- Case 3.** Both A and B miss.
Result: Penalty touch against B.
- Case 4.** A hits valid, B hits off target.
Result: Penalty touch against B.
- Case 5.** A hits invalid, B hits valid.
Result: Penalty touch against B.
- Case 6.** A hits valid, B misses.
Result: Touch against B.
- Case 7.** A misses, B hits off target.
Result: No touch awarded.
- Case 8.** A misses, B hits valid.
Result: Touch against A.

Note that in Case 3 although A and B may both miss completely, yet, as B participated in this double action, he still receives the penalty hit. Also, should both fencers miss completely on the simultaneous action, the immediate remise by one or both (which would ordinarily make an accountable touch) is ignored. Only the fact of the simultaneous action counts.

In Case 7, since A misses and B hits off target, no score is awarded and the priority stays with A.

In Case 8, since A misses and B hits valid (one "light"), the touch is against A and the priority also goes over to B.

Following the setting up of the priority, if there is any action resulting in a touch being awarded, the priority is reversed. In this case the rules make no distinction between a touch being scored in combat or as a penalty (going off the strip, etc.). After the priority has completed one cycle between the fencers, it is nullified and the fencing resumes normally.

Incidentally, at Grenoble, the colored scoring lights were used to identify which of the fencers had the priority, with very dramatic effect.

The only case in which the priority does not complete the cycle is in the situation where the score is 5-5 and the fencers are going for "la belle".

The scoring of the sabre bout has to account for this cycle of priority. Should one of the fencers be in a position to win the bout by virtue of the application of the penalty, as the original priority was the result of chance, his opponent still has the right to a turn at the priority. Thus the cycle must be completed regardless of whether either fencer wins the bout.

For example: if A who has the priority is leading 4-3 and scores the fifth and winning touch (either by application of the priority or in a regular action) the score goes to 5-3. However, B still has the right to a turn "at bat". The bout continues; if A makes another good hit the score would be 6-3 and the bout is over with the official score written as 5-3. If, on the other hand, B who is taking his turn at the priority scores, he raises his score to 4 (losing by 5-4).

Thus, at least, he gets a chance to try his indicator and possible seeding.

Curiously, the rule as it is expected does not mention what happens in the event when the bout is 4-0 (it specifically the examples of 4-4, 4-3, 4-2, and 4-

Through Ms. Averil Genton's and Mercier's good offices, I found out this case is handled exactly like the

When the bout is at 4-4 the possibility exists of the score going to 5-5, by each fencer being entitled to a touch. In this case, the FIE has decided that one more touch shall be fenced to solve the tie, and the official score is then as 5-4. Even if the fencers again participate in a series of simultaneous actions calling forth the setting up of the priority, they fence for only one touch more because of the necessity of completing the cycle.

At the present time I am waiting for an Epee fencer to ask "What if the score goes to something, with one fencer having the bout, and time runs out?". When I asked M. Mercier about this, he gave a peculiar look, and we hastily dropped the matter. I sincerely hope that this situation never occurs when I am directing.

In these situations when one fencer has already won the bout, one can easily envision some problems in fencing psychology and sportsmanship. While fencer B sometimes use his extra point for his own gain, fencer A having already won the bout may not be psychologically capable of maximum effort. Possibly, B having been frustrated from contention by the loss may not feel like trying too hard.

At this time it would be an especially the responsibility of the Director to oversee the enforcement of the rules according to the situation. He should remember that each bout pool affects the others and that Rule 653 ("defending one's chances") has equal application to each fencer's d'armes.

I have mentioned before that having the priority may not necessarily be an advantage. Let us hypothesize what might happen to a fencer A who had the priority assigned. Thinking that he might have an advantage in that B was forbidden to participate

simultaneous attack, A made a rash, ill timed attack, and was hit with a good parry and riposte. Now, beside gaining a valid touch in consequence of A's foolish move, B also takes his priority. A blew his supposed advantage and now has to fence extra carefully.

Directors should also be warned that these rules are intended for use only when true simultaneous attacks occur. There are many cases of both fencers hitting together, but only one has the right of way. Directors are still strictly obligated to call these touches correctly and to award the hit to the fencer who had the right of way. In order for the simultaneous action to be called it must fulfill the conditions of Rule 422 f (3) . . . "In general, in this case, the double touch is the result of simultaneous faults by the fencers, which fact justifies the replacement on guard. (The fault of the attacker lies in indecision, slowness, or inefficient feints; the fault of the fencer attacked lies in his delay or slowness in making the stop.)" The fact that these new rules exist does not justify the Director's "copping out" by not calling the right of way, even in close bouts, and leaving things to chance.

TO THE POINT

Recently we have viewed several copies of an outstanding divisional newsletter "The Point" of the Western Washington division. We are not sure why the Editor's name isn't featured, but whoever is doing the work is doing a very good job. The newsletter is very informative, with lots of useful items for it's readers. One fine feature is the including of an AFLA membership form with each issue. We are also very curious about one thing: the newsletter is for the Western Washington division (Pacific coast), yet it seems that the printing is done in Washington D.C. Interested readers should write to: The Point, P.O. Box 3158, Midway Station, Kent, Washington 98031.

ANGER

Cigarette smoking pollutes the air for everybody.

It was my observation that the application of these rules at the 1974 World Championships resulted in far fewer simultaneous actions. I have no exact statistics but I would estimate that they were cut by 80 to 90 percent. Certainly the sabre fencing was far more interesting to watch and the horrors of the recent past greatly reduced.

As with the recent regulations calling for arm judges in Foil, the basic effect of the new sabre rules was prophylactic. Once the fencers were put on notice that simultaneous actions were going to be dealt with and penalized, they themselves avoided them and fenced a better game.

Do I hear some foil fencers snickering at the rear of the salle? Don't. With the amount of double actions in foil increasing, and a remarkable lack of even simple parry ripostes in the finals of top competition, you may be next!

Sabre fencers may also find this is only a transitional phase. There are more and more electrical sabre machines being demonstrated, and you may soon join the rest of us with all kinds of electrical troubles. Fencing keeps evolving.

RULES CHANGES

Fencers, officials, and coaches should note that the following articles of the 1974 Rules have been changed by the FIE Congress of May 1974: Article 17, 21, 30, 50, 52, 208, 310, 407, 525, 526, 528, 531, 542, 544, 545, 547, 548, 576, 577, 640. All participants in fencing competitions are responsible for a full knowledge and correct application of these and all rules.

WORLD JUNIORS

The World Junior Championships will be held from Friday, March 28 to Monday, March 31, 1975 at Mexico City.

informative, international, lively
THE FENCING MASTER
the Journal of the British Academy of Fencing
for free sample copy write:
**CTC—LEON PAUL, BOX 3164,
TORRENCE, CAL., 90510**

SPOTLIGHT ON: ED ZEISIG

by Mary Heinecke

"The Dean of Wisconsin fencing" is a title often applied to Edmond F. Zeisig, Legal Counsel for the AFLA. There are few fencers who have given more of themselves to the sport than Ed. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who know him and it is only fitting that his many accomplishments and contributions be shared with all fencers.

Ed's start in fencing began in Bay View High School, just before his fifteenth birthday. He wasn't built for football and was looking for a sport where size was not a great factor. His first fencing teacher was a fellow student, Nick Lubovich, who later changed his name to Nick Lee and became NCAA Heavyweight boxing champ while at the University of Wisconsin. When Ed went on to that same University, he continued his fencing. Harvard Law School and service in the U.S. Navy during World War II interrupted, but upon his return to Milwaukee, he again took up his foils.

Ed comments: "Fencing has been the greatest single interest in my life, outside of the practice of law. The thrill of competition, the great friendships I have developed, and the fun of helping fencing to grow has been extremely rewarding. I am an avid Muskie fisherman and the pleasure of seeing a 15 pound Tiger of the fresh waters lying in the bottom of a boat almost equals winning a fencing competition; but not quite."

Ed's competitive record is impressive. He was a semi finalist in Foil in the 1955 U.S. Nationals, and a member of the Bronze medal Foil team in 1957. In 1969 he was Illinois foil champ. Along the way, he was Wisconsin Foil champ ten times, Epee champ twice, and Three Weapon champion six times.

Ed was also selected to be U.S. Pan American Fencing Team Captain for the 1967 Pan American Games which were held in Winnipeg, and he was Chief of Delegation for the U.S. Team to the 1970 World Fencing Championship in Ankara, Turkey.

His administrative record also reflects his years of responsibility and service to



EDMOND F. ZEISIG

the AFLA. He has been Wisconsin Division chairman innumerable times, Midwest Section chairman from 1955 through 1958, a member of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Committee since 1964 and U.S. Delegate to the Pan American Olympics in 1959. He also filled the post of AFLA League Counsel since 1964, participating in many important deliberations and decisions affecting the course of U.S. fencing.

In Ed's judgment the future of fencing is very bright. "Each year sees a growth of membership. There is an ever increasing effort to strengthen our competitive position internationally. There is constant burgeoning at the grass roots level. Our biggest obstacle to greater growth is the limited number of accomplished teachers available. For the young fencer of today, what sport offers greater opportunity for selection to the U.S. Olympic Team, the greatest reward any athlete can achieve?"

Ed's sense of sportsmanship, his brilliant analysis of his foes, and his dogged determination on the strip, have made him a respected opponent. Off the strip, because of his charm and gentlemanliness, quick wit and savoir faire, he is always delightful company. Wherever he is, you can be sure he is promoting and discussing fencing.

From The President

by Steve Sobel



A sport is fun when nobody gets hurt. It is everyone's responsibility to insist on safe practices at all times. Although there is 100% agreement with this principle, due to either lack of knowledge by some, or carelessness by others, or perhaps false economy, safety practices are often ignored or overlooked. Sometimes the participants are lucky, but when no accident occurs a false sense of security can develop concerning unsafe habits. Safe practices must become routine before an accident happens. "It's too late to lock the barn after the horse is stolen". It is therefore important to discuss the basic safety guidelines now.*

1. Personal Equipment Safety: There are very few specific FIE Rules regarding regulation equipment. That is why the Fencing Subcommittee of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is diligently working to adopt specific standards concerning masks, jackets, and other items of fencing equipment. However, even at the present time, simple and basic safety practices can be followed concerning personal equipment. The mask should be regularly inspected to be sure there are no visible signs of rusting, holes, or excessive deformation from the original shape. A fencer should also be certain that the mask will not fall off in the middle of a fencing action because it is too loose or improperly fitted. Jackets and trousers should be checked to be sure all parts of the body are covered, and there are no holes or visible signs of tears or weak spots. The regular use of adhesive tape to cover holes is a very poor economy since the cost of a new fencing jacket is much cheaper than even one doctor bill should an injury occur.

2. Organization of Competitions and Fencing Practices: In organizing a fencing room for either a practice or a competition, every

effort must be made to be sure that there is a safe distance between strips, between the officials and the fencing actions, and between the spectators and the fencing action. Obviously, in arranging for adequate space, the organizer must be a person with complete knowledge of both the physical facilities available, and the needs of the fencing activity. This sounds relatively simple, but surprisingly enough, there have been recent competitions with pillars or other obstructions at the end of a strip, and with strips so close that an official on one strip could not be in a position to properly observe the action without being too close to either the strip he was observing or the adjacent strip. Furthermore, many spectators without a fencing background do not realize what constitutes a safe distance from the strip, and in their anxiety to find a good viewing point, they get too close. The rules specifically provide that the Director of the Bout has control over all the spectators and officials, as well as the fencers. He must always insist that non-competitors remain a safe distance from the fencing.

3. Safety in Teaching Fencing Classes: A great emphasis must be placed upon the teacher, due to the fact that the pupils may be inexperienced. Students should not be permitted to fence unless they are wearing regulation equipment in good condition, and inexperienced pupils should not be permitted to practice without supervision.

4. Common Sense: Someone once remarked "Most shooting accidents happen with unloaded guns", implying of course that in an erroneous belief that a gun is not loaded, normal safety practices are ignored. The same analogy can also be applied to fencing. Fencers not wearing jackets and masks should not try to illustrate fencing actions by borrowing two weapons and demonstrating. This type of procedure can be ex-

tremely dangerous. No fencing actions should be practiced or demonstrated unless both participants are wearing the full complement of equipment. Coaches who desire to warm up their students at the site of a competition should bring the proper equipment with them, and not merely put a mask and plastron over their street clothes. At a competition, although the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, the safest distance between two points at opposite ends of a room is a route which goes around the end of the fencing strips, rather than across them.

Actually, safety, in all instances, is nothing more than the exercise of good common sense, and the basic principles are extremely simple. Give careful consideration to routinely observing safety practices at all times. It is better to be safe, than sorry.

(Ed. Note: We wish to thank the Amateur Fencing Association of the United Kingdom for the use of their excellent report on safety. Readers are also directed to Sue Watkins' article elsewhere in this issue.)

CANADA-U.S. JUNIOR MEET IN 1975

Arrangements with the Canadian Fencing Association have been concluded for an annual Canada-United States Under 20 Dual Meet. The teams will be composed of eight fencers (two in each weapon). The winning team will receive the Jack Dalton Memorial Trophy, named after the deceased past President of the C.F.A. The first meet will take place during the weekend of February 22, 1975, in the Canadian capital, Ottawa.

The format of the competition will be three bouts in each weapon, with one point being awarded each bout victory. In the event the bout victories are tied, touches will be counted to determine the winner.

The U.S. Team will be selected after the AFLA Junior Olympic Championships at Portland, Oregon. Selection will be based on the combined points earned at the 1974-Under 19 Nationals and the 1975 AFLA Junior Olympic competition. The A.F.L.A. will accept applications from divisions, wishing to host the 1976 meet in the United States.

1975 BUDAPEST AFLA CHARTER FLIGHT NOW ORGANIZING

The AFLA Charter flight to the World Fencing Championships in Budapest is continuing to organize under the auspices of Don Gordon of Jersey combers International. Don is now waiting for space on a 747 for the charter (we hope to leave on July 21) and return on July 21). Remember only members of the AFLA are eligible you will have a chance to travel with the team, see the championships, and vacationing and sightseeing as well as going as a group we will be able to save enormous savings over the regular rate. For further information send your name and address to **Irwin Bernstein, 24 Place, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.**

HELP WANTED

The readers of American Fencing know by now that the quality of our magazine depends upon them and their contributions. If they submit good articles and stories to us, we shine. If their articles and stories are not so good, we don't.

Everyone likes to get an interesting written and informative magazine in the mail; but if you don't write these interesting, well written and informative articles and stories (and photos) who will?

Fencing is obviously a wonderful sport about which to write. How about it? If you need any help or advice, contact our



**WILKINSON
SWORD**

Limited Edition Military
and Collectors' Swords
& Edged Weapons.
Send \$1 for fascinating catalog.

HQ Ltd Post Office Box - 18
Fort Washington, Pa. 191

AN APPAREL DESIGNER LOOKS AT THE FENCING JACKET

by Sue Watkins

(Ed. Note: Sue Watkins, a professor in the department of Design and Environmental Analysis at Cornell University is chairman of the ASTM Subcommittee on Apparel and Design. Working with the ASTM Fencing committee, she launched a research project on fencing jackets using samples submitted by equipment manufacturers.)

In the July/August issue of **American Fencing**, Steve Sobel wrote about the importance of voluntary standards and the need for all individuals concerned with sports equipment — from manufacturers to consumers to those preventing or treating sports injuries — to be involved in the formation of these standards.

How will a voluntary standard for the fencing jacket be written? Mr. Sobel and I discussed this at a recent meeting of the apparel subcommittee of ASTM's F-8 Committee. The ideal beginning seemed to be to find a fencer who was also a clothing and textiles specialist. Since no one on the committee was aware of such an individual, a practical alternative, considering the technical nature of the tests to be developed, was to have a clothing and textiles specialist begin the work. One of my senior students agreed to take a look at the problem. As we viewed foil fencers at work, here is what two apparel designers (who had never previously seen a fencing bout) saw as major areas with which a fencing jacket standard should be concerned.

1. Protection from the foil

The most obvious type of protection required of the jacket is protection from blows delivered by the foil. The great majority of fencers we contacted had never seen (and many had never even heard of) any serious injuries resulting from a blade penetrating a jacket. This observation pays great tribute to the manufacturers of fencing jackets, as well as to coaches or those in advisory capacities who help fencers buy and care for their equipment.

In writing a jacket standard aimed at eliminating penetration accidents, several

factors must be considered. First is the basic strength of the material alone under conditions of a repeated jabbing impact. A test designed for the fabric alone would have to reflect the fact that on the fencer the fabric may be taut or relaxed; it may be backed by soft flesh or not-so-well-padded bony areas.

Second, a standard would have to take into consideration the difference in protection needed by various body areas. For example, the soft tissue of the women's breast necessitates additional protection in that area. The under-arm area, being concave, can provide a natural hollow for the blade to become lodged, and thus more fabric strength may be needed there than in the body of the jacket. The FIE Rules state that an underarm protector of "at least two thicknesses of material" must be worn during competition. A standard could specify a level of fabric strength for the underarm area that could be met by a combination of underarm protector and jacket alone. It is possible that one thickness of a newly developed fabric might be more protective than two thicknesses of an existing one.

A third consideration is the surface of the fabric. A loosely woven or rough fabric might cause the tip of the foil to stick as it touches the jacket, and increase the likelihood of penetration.

It may also be feasible for a standard to specify more precisely the coverage a jacket needs to provide. One area, the neck, might come under joint consideration by those developing jacket and mask standards, so that the bib of the mask and the neckband of the jacket together would provide adequate protection.

2. Durability of the fabric

It would be of doubtful value to specify levels of protection needed for a new jacket and stop there, without considering the durability of the fabric and garment. A fencer needs to be assured that the protection offered will last a reasonable amount of time. If we consider the durability of the fabric first, then abrasion, perspiration, cleaning, and tension on the

fabric are four major items to investigate.

Abrasion is the wearing away of a part of a material due to rubbing against another surface. Before an effective test for abrasion can be performed, the abrasants need to be identified. We noted several in foil fencing. One is the lame as it moves over the surface of the jacket, and particularly as it rubs against itself, as when the arm is swinging past the body, although this was not as big a factor in fencing as we suspected before we observed a fencing bout. A third would be the foil rubbing the surface of the jacket as a touch is made.

Because the jacket is a closely fitting garment worn during strenuous exercise, perspiring is almost certain to take place. Perspiration can have a weakening effect on some fabrics, particularly if it is left on over a long period of time.

Cleaning could adversely affect the protective properties of the fabric, or could improve the protection offered. Care labeling is a help to the fencer in deciding how best to care for a jacket. In laundering, the most commonly recommended method, the many variables to consider include machine type, water temperature, detergent, cycle setting and method of drying.

Perhaps a standard might specify testing following a certain number of cleanings by the method specified by the jacket manufacturer.

Since most of the arm movement, particularly on the fencing arm side, is a forward motion, the majority of tensile impact (or sharp, quick, snapping strains on the fabric) takes place across the back in the region of the shoulder blades. Fabric strength here is not likely to be of much concern to the fencer. However, there is a good deal of tension placed on the underarm area, too, particularly during a lunge.

3. Durability of the jacket

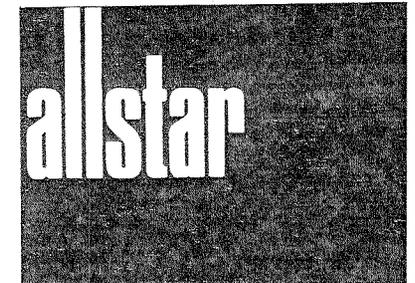
The way a jacket fits has a great effect on a range of fabric durability factors — from the amount of perspiration generated to the tensile impact on the fabric during movement. The tension of a garment on the body must be considered when setting a standard test procedure for the fabric.

The strength and location of both seams and closures may affect the safety of the fencer, from the standpoint of both providing an opening for the foil to penetrate a providing a surface on which the tip of the foil could catch.

How will a voluntary standard for the fencing jacket be written? Perhaps Mr. Sobel has the answer as he says by "representation of all interests." As fence manufacturers, retailers or others concerned with the sport, I hope you will comment on our observations and provide feedback we need to begin work on the technical side of standard development. Every fencer stands to benefit from a standard which reflects the comments and concerns of interested parties.

ARMSTRONG COACH

Sheila Armstrong, one of our leading women fencers, is new coach of the women's team of Montclair State College, Montclair, New Jersey. With Sheila's experience and enthusiasm, the team should soon be showing good results.



**Fabulous
Stretch Nylon
Fencing Uniforms
Preferred by Olympic Champions**

Not one of the thin stretch fabrics,
but the heavy duty Monsanto Original.
(and still the best.)

You owe it to yourself.

**For ALLSTAR in the U.S., write to:
So. Calif. Fencers Equipment
348 N. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA. 90004**

Fred & Dan Linkmeyer Dan DeChaine

EFFECTS OF CHRISTMAS VACATION ON RETRAINING OF UNIVERSITY FENCERS

by James R. White, Ph.D.

Many past studies have concerned themselves with the mechanics by which man adapts to various muscular exercises, but little research has been done to determine whether physiological benefits occur as a result of fencing programs. Two questions arise. Can a fencing program which includes calisthenics, stretching, and individual and group lessons, along with daily bouts and vigorous running, produce superior physiological benefits? Secondly, what effect does the intervening month of inactivity during Christmas vacation have on fitness and subsequent performance of university students. A study has been made in an attempt to answer these questions.

The subjects were twenty men and six women fencers on the university fencing squad. Ten male and three female non-varsity fencing students were used as a control group. Each subject was given a battery of tests which included tests of resting heart rate, working heart rate (taken during a standard work load on a bicycle ergometer) aerobic work capacity (physical fitness) as measured in milliliters of oxygen per kilogram of body weight per minute, and measurements of total body weight and percent body fat. The battery of tests was given during the first week of school in September, again just prior to Christmas vacation in early December, and at the conclusion of Christmas vacation, about January 8. The non-varsity fencing students in the control group were given the battery of tests but did not participate in the special exercise program. In the experimental group, ten men and three women were asked to work out using a running exercise program if possible during Christmas vacation. They were also asked to try to return to school in January in the best possible physical condition. It is interesting to note that in spite of this suggestion, none of the subjects in this group voluntarily participated during vacation in an exer-

cise program and therefore, in the experiment, were termed the "non-running" experimental group. In the "running" experimental group, ten men and three women were "persuaded" to follow and record a six-day a week exercise program consisting of warm-ups, calisthenics, stretching and alternating runs of two miles at a 12 to 13:30 minute pace for men and a 14 to 15:30 minute pace for women on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with runs of one mile at a 5:30 to 6 minute pace for men and 6:30 to 8:00 minute pace for women on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays with ten 100-yard dashes (with one minute rest between each dash) following the mile run.

The results (see Table of Raw Data) indicates that both experimental groups made significant reductions in average resting and working heart rate but that the non-running group lost their conditioning during the Christmas vacation. Slower heart rates, e.g., between 45 and 65 beats per minute, generally indicate good physical condition. The better conditioned fencers had resting heart rates in the 50's. The control group made no significant changes in any of the parameters investigated.

The tests for aerobic working capacity, i.e., the physical condition of the heart and lungs indicated that both experimental groups made significant increases but that the non-running group lost 50 percent of their conditioning during the vacation and the running group maintained their conditioning. Generally, scores of 35 to 39 MLO₂/Kg/min. indicate fair physical condition, scores above 40 are considered above average. The better conditioned fencers scored 45 to 60 on this test (see Astrand Nomogram).

There were significant reductions in the body weight of both experimental groups, but non-running group regained the lost weight during the vacation period. The control group maintained their lower average weight. It is generally agreed that body

GROUP	RESTING HEART RATE			WORKING HEART RATE			MLO ₂ /Kg/Min			BODY WEIGHT			% BO	
	Sep	Dec	Jan	Sep	Dec	Jan	Sep	Dec	Jan	Sep	Dec	Jan	Sep	Jan
Experimental "Non-Running"	85	73	82	178	166	175	32	38	35	168	160	167	20	1
Experimental "Running"	87	72	71	174	164	172	31	38	45	168	161	162	20	1
Control	87	85	88	178	177	180	29	30	29	172	174	175	23	2

TABLE OF RAW DATA

weight is not necessarily the best indication of whether or not a fencer is overweight. Lean body mass or lack of fat is the best criterion. It is noted that the female fencers who reported in September were grossly overweight. This data is not reflected in the Table of Raw Data.

The average percent body fat on the first test was 20%, i.e., 20% of the fencer's body consisted of pure fat. The male fencers had 18% fat, and the female fencers had nearly 30% fat. Both experimental groups made significant reductions in percent body fat, and the running group maintained their during the Christmas vacation. Ideally, male fencers should have between 10% and 15% body fat and females should have no more than 18% to 22% body fat. Fat mass was determined by skin fold analysis, as described by Durnin.

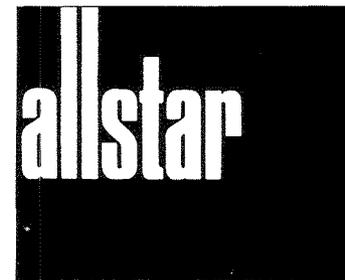
Conclusions based on the data obtained in this study are:

1. Fencers do not report in good condition following summer vacation.
2. Ten weeks of calisthenics, stretching, and individual and group lessons, together with daily bouts and running, produce significant physiological benefits.
3. If an exercise program is not maintained during Christmas vacation, physical conditioning will be affected adversely.
4. An exercise program consisting of running six days a week will maintain physiological fitness in the absence of the regular fencing program.
5. Women fencers reporting in September are grossly overweight and extremely de-trained, and they often cannot achieve optimal conditioning even by the end of the season.

6. The fencers who maintain a program during the vacation significantly more victories and higher in large fencing meets than the fencers who do not maintain fitness during the vacation.

O'CONNOR COLUMNIST

Denise O'Connor is now writing a column on fencing titled "Pen and for the Italian Tribune News of New Jersey. Subscriptions are available for Tribune at 427 Bloomfield Ave., New Jersey 07107.



**Fabulous
Stretch Nylon
Fencing Uniforms**

Preferred by Olympic Champions

for information
write to:

**ALLSTAR Fecht Center
7410 Rutlingen
Postfach 881
West-Germany**

U.S. ACADEMY OF ARMS

by Raoul Sudre

Anyone following Fencing for the last three or four years will have been aware of a new effervescence of activities towards the development of better quality Fencing. Based on the equipment sold yearly in the country, it is estimated that close to 200,000 people fence in the United States at one level or another, and even though the majority of these are individuals who were introduced to Fencing either through physical education programs or community group activities, they are, nevertheless, a tremendous reservoir of talent that could be channeled through various programs to eventually direct them to competition and AFLA membership. To do this, there must be many efforts.

A major effort has to come from the people who teach Fencing, and from the organization that guides and advises them. This particular task is one of the many goals that the USAA has set for itself. In order to homogenize the teaching techniques in this country, the USAA is developing an "American Fencing Methodology". To the classical fencer, this may sound like heresy. However, one should understand that this does not mean in anyway that the USAA is going to create a new method of teaching, but simply is going to try to agree upon a unified system of techniques, progression and vocabulary, so that someone learning to fence in Mississippi will not be totally destroyed when he moves to New Jersey, and has to change instructors and/or club. Other sports have had to do the same thing, and the one that immediately comes to mind is skiing: they too had the majority of their instructors come from the major European skiing countries. Each represented a school, each was very proud and chauvinistic, defending their particular technique over any other. But they soon realized that, in order for skiing to become a success in the U.S., they had to agree on a unified teaching technique, so that people going from one area to another would be able to take lessons from instructors, and not be told that what they had been taught was wrong. It took skiing a few years to accomplish

this, but they were very successful, and today they are literally millions of people who have taken up this activity. Anyone watching the Europeans fencing today at the world level realizes that there is very little difference in Fencing technique from one country to the other. The main difference is in the presentation of the subject from one school to the other. Therefore the task of setting up a unified system of teaching in the U.S. would only require, for each instructor, coach, or Fencing Master in the country, to adjust ever so slightly the presentation of their teaching to align themselves with the proposed system, which itself will be a composite of the traditional Fencing schools of France, Italy, and Hungary. Once these guidelines will have been set up, they will be disseminated throughout the country to people who are responsible for Fencing programs at every level.

The immediate application will be the inclusion of the system into the examinations given by the USAA for certification of instructors, prevosts, and Masters. Of course, this is only a first step, and it will be a long time before the results will show. However, we strongly believe that this is the direction to take if Fencing in the United States is going to be counted on a par with the major Fencing powers of the world. The development has to be made from the base.



DALE RODGERS DARTMOUTH COACH

The appointment of Dale K. Rodgers as the head coach of fencing at Dartmouth College was announced by Director of Athletics Seaver Peters, marking the first step toward providing increased stature to a sport which has operated informally and on a club basis for most of the past 40 years. Rodgers, who is from Franklin Lakes, N.J., graduated from Montclair State College in 1970. He was captain of fencing at Montclair for four years and in 1970 was a finalist in the epee competition at the NCAA championship meet.

FENCING AND COLLEGIATE REGULATIONS

by Al Peredo, NFAA President

Three organizations of U.S. Fencing, The Amateur Fencers League of America (AFLA), The National Fencing Coaches Association of America (NFAA), and The Intercollegiate Fencing Association (IFA), took the initiative and helped establish an interpretation favorable to "individual sports" of the member colleges of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC).

At the annual ECAC meeting in April, 1974, an amendment to a conference by-law, (Art. 3, Sec. 9, c) was passed concerning restrictions of individual athletes of member colleges to participate in outside competition (non-collegiate) during their sport season, (first day of practice to the date of the last dual meet). There arose conflicting interpretations of this by-law from the eligibility committee. The most crucial as far as fencing was concerned was that collegiate fencers of an ECAC institution (211 Eastern Colleges) would not be permitted to participate in an AFLA competition during his schools fencing season. This interpretation caused one major Eastern fencing college to instruct its fencers not to enter AFLA competition under possibly penalty of ECAC or NCAA sanctions.

This presented grave and crucial implications for U.S. fencing. Among them, the inability of our Eastern collegians to gain experience against top flight AFLA fencers, lost opportunity to fence in some AFLA National qualifying competitions, and Olympic Trials, and a possible conflict of loyalties between one's fencing ambitions and one's collegiate institution. Any number of additional problems could have arisen had this particular interpretation been upheld and the by-law mandated upon the ECAC member colleges.

The Presidents of the AFLA, The NFAA, and the IFA, working in close communication, persistently advised and lobbied the ECAC Executive office and the eligibility committee of the detrimental effect on fencing, on individual fencers, and the possible

broader implications on other individual sports such as tennis, track, etc., that an interpretation would affect. We presented a position which in essence said: an individual student-athlete (fencer) participate in outside competition during his sports season provided he had the approval of his institution (Athletic Director, etc.) and represent the institution at such competition and do not compete as an individual, unattached to any club, group, or organization. This position was one that the ECAC Commissioner agreed was the interpretation, and the one that the eligibility committee of the ECAC upheld at its meeting on Oct. 15, 1974.

It is safe to assume that fencing holds a unique position in U.S. athletics. The amateur and professional fencing organizations work in close harmony for the benefit of the sport apparently runs counter to the inter-relationships of other sports in this country. I am personally proud of this cooperative accomplishment which I am confident helped insure the continued qualitative development of fencing in the United States.

SPECIAL NOTICE WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

Readers are advised that our World University Games notice on page five omits the fact that full time graduate students are also eligible for the team.

In addition, the deadline for declaration of intention to try out for the team been extended to April 1, 1975.

A declaration form may be obtained from:

World University Games
c/o Director of Athletics
Baruch College, CUNY
17 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010



YALE SABRE: UNIQUE

by Alex Solomon

If ever in the history of fencing there had been a sabre team with three left handers before the Yale Varsity of 73-74 it failed completely to come to the attention of the writer. Feeling, perhaps, that he had been a trifle unobservant he began asking some of his more knowledgeable and sophisticated friends and contacts whose experiences far exceeded his own. But, one by one, Giorgio Santelli, Ralph Goldstein, Mike de Capriles, Hugo Castello, Dan Bukantz, Ed Richards, Chaba Pallaghy, Odon Neiderkirchner, Roland Asselin, Tibor Nyilas, and Michel Alaux all indicated that, like himself, they had no knowledge of such a phenomenon. A few of the above recalled teams with two lefthanders or a one meet together team with three leftie sabremen, but none could recall anything like the Yale varsity that has fenced together for the last two years. Prior to that, for another previous two years there were only two lefthanders, Dave Jacobson and Steve Blum on the team as Edgar House didn't join the club until 1973.

They all had one thing in common. None of the three had any fencing experience prior to entering Yale and all started their careers under the inspiration of Coach Henry Harutunian.

However, being the first sabre team with three lefthanders since the dawn of civilization (or before) is not the only distinction of the Yale team. For while college teams have won the National team championship in epee and foil respectively (Yale in 1924 and NYU in 1959) no previous college team had either won or placed in national sabre championships until this year's Yale varsity took it's third place medals.

As a matter of fact the national sabre team championships has been the tightest of all monopolies, with the N.Y.A.C. and the Salle Santelli winning all but eleven between them of which the Fencers Club won five.

But the above distinctions are not the only unique characteristics of this team.

For each of them, Steve Blum in '73, Dave Jacobson in '74, and Edgar House for '75 have been elected Captain of the Yale varsity. Try and tie that one! Not one, but three left handed sabre fencers Captains of the varsity fencing teams three times in a row.

Like all close knit dedicated teams this Yale team had problems. Probably the main one was finding enough good right handers to practice with, but it did not prevent them from being the only college sabre team this year to win three berths on the U.S. Olympic Training Squad.

As to the future, with only one promising frosh lefthander, Dave Hoge, to replace Steve Blum and Dave Jacobson who are graduating, the Yale sabre team will be reduced in 1975 to exactly where it was 3 years ago with only two lefthanders, Hoge and House.

One cannot help but wonder whether or not it was a happenstance of sorts, a coincidence, that all these novice lefthanders got concentrated in sabre. This actually is not too tough a question, as a matter of fact it was sheer intent. For, in contrast to the established thinking that has dominated the sport for over the last 100 years, Coach Henry Harutunian believes that a left hander has a definite advantage over his fellow righties in sabre, in fact a bigger advantage than he has in both foil and epee. But whether Henry has or has not effectively proved a point one thing is sure; he must have been doing something right.

P.S. The Editor feels that the fact that the author of this article was a left handed Yale Sabreman has not unduly prejudiced him.

SWORDS, ARMOUR, ACCESSORIES
 From European Artisans
 Send \$1.00 for our Artistic Catalogue
 refunded on first order
THE KINGS' ARMOURER
 6317 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, Mo. 63117

**SPECIAL STUDENTS
 FENCING CLASS**

by Louis Cotton

(Ed. Note: Lou Cotton is a member of the U.S. Epee Squad and Modern Pentathlon team. The following work was done while he was attending graduate school at Springfield College. Currently he resides in San Antonio, where he is involved in special education.)

In spring of 1974, twice a week for ten weeks a fencing course was given to non-ambulatory students at the Mary M. Lynch Elementary School in Springfield, Massachusetts. Five of the students had cerebral palsy, two had spina bifida and one child was stricken with sickle cell anemia. At the end of the course the children were capable of accomplishing the following fencing skills:

- (a) extend and hit. (b) beat, extend and hit. (c) parry 4 and riposte. (d) parry 6 and riposte. (e) counter 4 and 6 with riposte. (f) feint, disengage, and hit. (g) one-two attack. (h) cut over attack. (i) counter parry riposte. (j) fencing terminology. (k) scoring. (l) fundamentals of judging and directing.

Most of the students were able to engage in and enjoy informal bouts amongst themselves from a sitting position. Two of the children, because of the severity of their condition, could only fence with the instructor in a very controlled bout or lesson situation.

At the conclusion of the course the students were all awarded Springfield Fencing Club certification for the successful completion of a fencing course. All the children enjoyed fencing very much and showed considerable willingness to learn, strong competitive drive, outstanding team spirit, and excellent sportsmanship.

NEW RULES BOOK

Do you have your new Rules Book yet? Do all the members of your club and team know and understand the rules?

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

The World University Games will be held in Belgrad, Yugoslavia, from September 12 to 29, 1975.

**STRONGER, FORMER
 DOUBLEKNIT
 UNIFORM**

At far less cost than European doubleknits

Optically white doubleknit nylon with ton backing. Extraordinary absorptivities. A vast improvement on all fabrics.

Look just great. Allow fabulous free movement while keeping target to a minimum.

You feel your best when you look your best and these strikingly handsome uniforms signed in the European manner, do this. We've taken the best of European cut and used a significantly heavier weight ton-backed nylon doubleknit fabric (throughout, to give that much more protection for all 3 weapons.

Pure white. Zipper closures. Suspended with all trousers.

The best value by far in formfit uniforms

- SNT** Men's Jacket
- SNL** Women's Jacket
- Cut to special measurement: \$7 E;*
- TM** Men's Trousers
- (suspenders included)*
- TL** Women's Trousers
- (suspenders included)*

Cut to special measurement: \$6 E;

State standard sizes or measurements. check with order. N.Y. residents — add tax

Send for free Catalog No. F574

CASTELLO

836 Broadway, N.Y., N. Y. 10003 GR

MORE ON THE PROFILE

By Eric Vlahov

ED. NOTE: Mr. Vlahov is Graduate Assistant in Physical Education at the University of Maryland.

In the March/April 1974 issue of **American Fencing**, Jean Williams presented an article discussing research she had undertaken dealing with the personality profiles of champion level female competitors. At that time, the editor noted an interest in further research being undertaken related to the topic of personality profiles and fencing.

During the Spring semester of 1974, a study was conducted by myself at the University of Maryland under the guidance of Dr. Donald Steel in which a group of fifty-six male college varsity fencers, fifty-one male college fencing class participants, and fifty-eight male non-athletes were compared. The study attempted to determine if fencers at the college varsity level differed in personality traits from non-athletic peers. The assumption that fencing might attract a certain personality "type" was investigated by determining if fencing class participants varied or tended to follow a trend with either the varsity fencer or non-athlete profile. Also, the study attempted to find if there were significant differences in the personality traits of fencers using foil, epee, or sabre.

Cattell's Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form A) was the testing instrument employed. Multiple discriminant analysis was used to compare groups on their total profiles, and if significant, analysis of variance was used to interpret what factors were significant.

The result showed that both the profiles of the varsity fencers and the fencing class participants differed significantly from the profile of the non-athletes. When looking at separate personality traits, the varsity fencers were significantly more reserved, emotionally stable, trusting, imaginative, forthright, self-assured, and experimenting than the group of non-athletes. Compared to the group of non-athletes, the fencing class

participants were significantly more reserved, tender-minded, imaginative, forthright, and experimenting. Although the varsity fencers were significantly more trusting and less tender-minded than the fencing class participants, the difference between their overall profiles was not significant. Apparently, fencing does attract a certain personality type. The personality profiles of the foil fencers, epee fencers, and sabre fencers were not discriminable.

MAGAZINE MAILINGS

All AFLA members are reminded that if they haven't been receiving **American Fencing** they should check with their division secretary to be sure that their membership has been properly forwarded to the AFLA National Secretary Irwin Bernstein, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. Our mailing lists are updated frequently and all AFLA members should be getting the magazine regularly.

1975 MARTINI ROSSI

The 1975 Martini and Rossi International fencing competition will be held March 21, 22, and 23. Foil will be held on Friday, March 21, Epee on Saturday March 22, and Sabre on Sunday March 23. The Women's Foil event will start on the afternoon of Saturday March 22 and the semi finals and finals will be run off on Sunday the 23rd.

MICHEL J. ALAUX

Michel J. Alaux, Fencing Master at the Fencer's Club of N.Y. and three times U.S. Olympic team coach died on December 30, 1974. American Fencing extends its sincere condolences to his family and many friends. We hope to have a complete obituary in our next issue.

1975 TUCSON GRAND INTERNATIONAL

Entries must be postmarked by April 19, 1975

Limit of 60 fencers each event

Fee: \$15 (All Activities) \$10 (Social Events Only)

Place: University of Arizona, Women's Gym, Tucson, Az.

Time: April 25: 9 AM Men's Foil; 2 PM Ladies Foil; 8 PM Desert Party (Place TBA)

Time: April 26: 6 AM Desert Breakfast at San Xavier Misson; 7 AM Men & Ladies Espada at San Xavier (1-Touch Epee; Ladies use foil / epee rules)

Time: April 26: 10:30 AM Epee; 12:30 PM Men's Hndcp. Foil 1 PM Ladies Foil Concludes 8:30 PM Gala Night (Rancho Corona)

Time: April 27: 10 AM Sabre; 11 Ladies Hndcp. Foil; Buffet Dinner (Place (Roll Call ½ hour prior to listed start times)

Weapons Check 1-2 hours prior to start times

Send following information with entry Name of fencer; Address; Fencing Division; Events to be fenced, and re-tive classification (If unclassified, how have you fenced?).

If flying to Tucson: Airline, date, tin arrival.

Tourney Hdqtrs: Tucson Inn, Box 566 (127 W. Drachman) Tucson, Az. 85703 (602) 624-8531

Contact directly for reservations; identify yourself as a fencer for this tourname Rate: Single \$10 Double \$12-\$12.50 (7% tax).

It's time to work on your comeback



SPECIAL SALE

Cat. #46A SABRE MASK \$12
Cat. #114A KNICKERS, deluxe \$12
Cat. #138A KNICKERS, Women, deluxe 12
(specify left or right, please)
(add \$1.20 for shipping; Calif. residents
add 6% sales tax)

Joseph Vince Co

15316 S. CRENSHAW BLVD.
GARDENA, CALIF. 90249
TEL: (213) 323-2370, 321-6568

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

Yesterday arrived the Sept./Oct. issue of **American Fencing**. What a disappointment to see nothing much about our new foil champions, Gay Jacobsen and Heik Hambarzumian. An entertaining article by Werner Kirchner relayed the information that Westbrook won the sabre. There was a brief reference to Gay, who received a Champagne trophy; there was not a word about Heik or Dan Cantillon, who won the Epee, and there was an odd statement that "due to technical difficulties" the results of the Nationals will be printed in the Nov./Dec. issue.

We should hold our breath so long. What "technical difficulties" would prevent at least announcing the results of the finals in each weapon? What did you guys do, lose all the score sheets? Here it is November and readers of our official fencing publication would never suspect that some new young champions appeared on the horizon last June.

Oh, well, that's American Fencing!

Yours,
Mary Huddleson
Chairman, Northern California Division

Ed. Note. This is the kind of painful letter that we like to receive as it keeps us on our toes and encourages us to do better. It had been our intention to print the complete results of the Nationals in our July/August issue and we had made special arrangements for this with the Organizers of the Nationals. In fact, we held up that issue specifically for that purpose and were just as disappointed as our readers that the Organizing Committee let us down. However, on the last page of the July/August issue we did print a capsule of the results. Miss Huddleson's suggestions as to topics for articles in **American Fencing** are excellent, and we hope that she will volunteer to write some stories for us (with photos of the subjects, too). Readers should note that we are always on the lookout for stories and that we rely upon our contributors for the material which is printed here.)

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Sir,

Our Club wishes, if possible, to exchange correspondence with an American Fencing Club with view to having a "twin" in America.

We are a small Club with only 22 members. We do however enter many competitions including local, County, National and Internationals. We are interested in all aspects of the sport.

Could you possibly supply us with the names and addresses of suitable Clubs.

Yours Faithfully
C. F. Hicks,
11 Stour Court
Rye Crescent,
Orpington,
Kent, England

The Editor,
American Fencing
Dear, Mr. Goldstein,

Thank you very much for printing the articles about the 1974 Modern Pentathlon National Championships in the September-October 1974 issue of the magazine. Although I realize that space limitations of the magazine may require cuts in material submitted for publication, it seems that important portions of a piece should not be omitted.

The article which I submitted contained a very specific paragraph reporting the results of the senior pentathletes' fencing competition:

"After a total of 122 epee bouts each, the seniors were ranked:

1 — Fitzgerald	1019 points
2 — Tempey	1000 points
3 — Greenwald	991 points
4 — Moreau	964 points
5 — Muir	901 points

Perhaps this was left out by mistake in the printing, but would you please include the information in the next issue of **American Fencing**.

Thank you.

Yours,
George L. Nelson
San Antonio, Texas

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

In the July-August issue of **American Fencing** Mr. Pallaghy tells of an interesting experiment by Rudolf Karpati in trying to bring order to a sabre bout where the fencers persist in making double actions without preparation. His solution, to flip a coin and award the touch against the loser, brought back a dim memory of long ago; even before you and I were very young.

Double actions have always been a problem since Labat, and I presume other eighteenth century fencing masters, warned their pupils that they had no right to ignore a blade that was about to hit them, nor to spit themselves upon the defender's threatening point. This created the major officiating problem in fencing best solved by the suicidal epee rule that regardless of intent or preparation, a double hit leaves both men dead.

Back in the first decade of the twentieth century, the AFLA seems to have found the double touch, especially in sabre, a most serious problem. In 1903 a rule was adopted that awarded two touches to the attacker who was met with a stop cut instead of a parry. Fencing usually adjusts to take advantage of anything the rules permit, and by 1911 the problem seems to have become the double attack. In October of that year the revised rule read "After three double touches in any bout, the Director shall cause the contestants to attack in turn throughout the bout and hereafter any double touch shall be counted for the designated attacker. First attack by the lowest score."

It must be obvious to everyone that there is a violation of the principles of fencing when fencers are required to attack in turn, or have touches awarded on the flip of a coin.

When a fencer is hit he is considered to have done something wrong, failed to parry soon enough, missed on the attack and ran into a stop, etc., and is punished by having a point awarded against him. When both fencers are wrong and are hit, why not simply award touches against both,

and in a la belle situation they both the bout. The fencer with the low (high score against him) will avoid their attacks properly, it gets them a strip sooner and possibly out of the petition.

Now please, I am not proposing that of way be abandoned! A correct move against an incorrect one, even at the time, has only one touch called. The den is upon the fencer to establish a of-way, and when neither does so, and are hit, both pay the price.

The problem has been greater in but I would certainly not object to such a rule apply to both conventional weapons.

Sincerely,
Ray Miller
Wayne, New Jersey

(Ed. Note: The knowledgeable Ray Miller, professor of History at William Paterson College enlightened us again. With respect to the hit against both fencers, the FIE has given proposal consideration and rejected it as usual rule of the right of way is still in in saber.)

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

For four years, I've been a member of the features staff of **AMERICAN FENCING**. However, pressing business, scholastic personal affairs necessitate my resigning my position in the magazine, effective once.

I've enjoyed my association with the publication over the years and have learned many useful things that will help me the rest of my life.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey R. Tishman
Glen Rock, New Jersey

(Ed. Note: The staff of **American Fencing** sincerely regrets losing Jeffrey's valuable services. We would like to remind our readers that we rely upon their contributions for the quality of our magazine. Anyone interested in contributing or helping out should contact the Editor.)

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

Ref. American Fencing Vol. 25, No. 6, July/August the article on "The Knee in Sport". It was great. Thank you for printing it. Also "More point in line" will help cut out some of the smart dummies in fencing. Keep up the good work. Your publication is a must reading for anyone who wants to learn fencing.

respectfully yours,
John B. Bullock
97th QM Btn.
Pirmasens, West Germany

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

After a great deal of really careful consideration, I've concluded that the universal use of electric foil is discouraging fencing in America.

To begin with, the equipment is hopelessly unreliable. I have yet to attend an electric foil match where the spectators and the fencers have not been kept waiting 10 to 45 minutes while some trouble is sought and (hopefully) corrected. The situation is becoming so bad we are now considering penalizing fencers bout points if their equipment is faulty. This makes as much sense as passing a law against inflation or unemployment. How can the fencer help it if his expensive equipment simply won't hold up?

Then there is the matter of inflation. Electric foils cost \$22.00. Is it reasonable to ask a high-school student to pay such a sum for a foil which may not last a single bout and which will fail outright in 5 or 6 bouts? How many schools and small colleges have dropped fencing because they find the cost of purchasing electrical equipment to be excessive, and the cost of repairing this equipment to be prohibitive.

People at large universities, supported by the taxpayers in many instances, show little interest in this problem because it's so easy to throw out last year's equipment and buy new. But I can't forgive the sanctimonious ones who say that people to

whom fencing really means something will scrape up the capital for electric equipment. This is the attitude which costs us so many talented people.

The correct procedure is to restore standard foil to all high-school and small college competition. It is a simple matter to introduce electric foil later to those fencers who show real promise. One wonders how many truly talented fencers are lost to us because they cannot cope with electric foil in earlier years either from their own pockets, or from their school's limited budget.

Best regards,
Eaton E. Bayor
Maryland Division

(Ed. Note: The question of the early use of electrical foil has been pondered many times. As far as learning how to fence, there is certainly a good argument that the electrical foil hasn't helped any, and it's high cost may have even hindered development of the sport. However, we do not feel that fencing is that much more expensive than many other sports. As far as the equipment breaking down, the best thing we can suggest is that every fencer should learn how to take good care of his equipment and even to make small repairs and adjustments. With such maintenance, there are far fewer problems.)

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein,

Reference Frank Thomas' letter in American Fencing magazine July/August, 1974 re: names on uniforms of fencers for benefit of spectators, heaven forbid! Let's not. Put the names on track suits, yes, names in programs against a corresponding number which appears on the mask (if the tournament can afford a program — or just a simple sheet) — names on large score boards visible to spectators (if tournament can afford score boards), names on cards at either end of piste — but please not on uniforms.

Furthermore, I don't see why we keep pushing "Fencing is not a spectator sport". Of course it is, it just takes a little more intelligence and effort to learn. Why should we be any less intelligent than people in Europe where families watch fencing, dis-

cuss it, enjoy it and understand it. The North American public is just too lazy or too stereotyped to learn something new.

Anybody can figure out what is happening by watching a baseball, football or hockey game. So we have to start from the ground up and get this sport into schools. Why not expose our children to a new sport, another language, another interest, learning and widening their horizons, in many ways. Why do we limit them to the same old thing? Give them some variety; why play hockey because your father played hockey, why be a doctor because your father was a doctor; why indeed? Why not choose for yourself having had the opportunity to find what suits you best.

Jean MacLean,
B.C. Fencing Association
Vancouver, Canada

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph,

Please change my American Fencing magazine address to 718 Frenchmen St., Apt. 15, New Orleans, La. 70116.

Also, since the Olympics are in Canada in 1976, I was curious to know if anyone associated with the AFLA is going to film the fencing events. I suggest that any information you might have on this be passed on in the magazine. If no one is arranging this, the project should be mentioned and given some consideration in the magazine. Such a film or films could doubtlessly be rented out to clubs and/or divisions which are geographically deprived of opportunities to see top level fencing.

Thanks
Chris Trammell
New Orleans, Louisiana

(Ed. Note: Changes of address should be sent directly to AFLA Secretary Irwin Bernstein at 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. We do not know of any AFLA plans to film the fencing at the Olympics. Undoubtedly the Canadian organizing committee will arrange for films, but our experience has been that fencing is usually given very low priority.)

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Ralph:

An appeal from a former student has been answered, because I do not have date information. Can you help him?

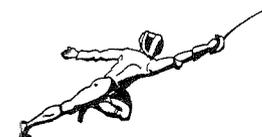
He is stationed in Pearl Harbor, Oah Advanced Base in Guam, and is anxious to contact some fencing assoc in that vicinity.

I am wondering if you are still as fit when I was back there. You remember I always said that you could move ward, faster when you were moving ward, than anyone I ever saw!!!

We are busting at the seams here. week we had working out at one session Albie Axlerod, Carl Borak, three Jap Olympic fencers, one Polish Olympi er, the present World Masters C (George Ganchev), Natalia Clovis, Olympic Team and ten or twelve titles. Our Dance Department is overing, the Drama Dept. is putting on : every week, and the Voice and Accr Departments are jumping.

I hope all is well with you.

Sincerely,
Ralph Faulkner
Hollywood, Calif.



MARINES ADVANCE

The Marine Corps 1974 National Championship Foil team is not resting or laurels: On November 1, Sharon and Freeman announced the birth of Dawn (at 6 lbs. 2 oz.) and on November Judy and Ed Donofrio followed with the nouncement of the birth of Gregory Jo (at 9 lbs. 6 oz.). Best wishes from American Fencing.

CONGRATULATIONS

American Fencing extends its congratulations to Dr. Diane Chen and Neal Chen (of the Fencers Club) on the occasion of their marriage on October 12th.

Technical Talks

by

Joseph Byrnes



What do you do when a blade wire pops out? I've been asked that often enough to warrant some comment, so here goes. First, you really can't do much right at the competition where it happens. A quick repair, however desirable it would be, is not easy in the little time you have between bouts, even at a day-long affair. Just put the blade aside in a safe place until you can examine it at your leisure. If the wire is separated from the groove over several inches of its length, you can loosely tape it down to keep it from being snapped off in your bag on the way home. Before you leave the site of the competition, though, unless you have your own ohmmeter or continuity checker, be sure that the weapon is still working with those wires flapping loose or bulged out. (Incidentally, any serious fencer in foil or epee should have at least a simple lamp continuity checker.)

A first step before getting the wire back where it belongs is a close inspection of its entire length to be sure that none of the insulation has been stripped off. If any bare wire shows, it is a virtual certainty that gluing it back down will merely short out the weapon. The usual insulation is a fine double thread wrap, and gaps in it will let the metal show through very clearly. With this type of insulation, visual inspection is pretty easy. Some blade wires, however, are insulated with a clear or colored varnish. Gaps in the varnish coating are much harder to detect, and it may be necessary to hook the weapon up to a meter or checker and flex the blade enough to force the wire back firmly into the groove to look for the tell-tale signs of a short circuit.

All this discussion obviously assumes that there is no break in the wire or wires; if there is, forget about that wire. If the blade is in good enough condition, strip

out the broken wire(s); you, or a fencing supply house, or your friendly local technician, can rewire it; about that, more some other time.

If there is a gap in the insulation, what then? Well, you can do as for a broken wire, and in many cases that would be the safest and surest way to proceed. If you like to tinker, you could get some insulating varnish (sold at radio-TV supply houses) and carefully coat the exposed area. If it's an epee you're working on, be sure that you don't insulate the two wires, both bare, together, or you'll have a permanent touch going for you. After the varnish dries, or if the wire is all right without varnish, you can set about gluing it back in the groove.

A number of cements and glues have been used successfully: Pliobond, various epoxy mixes, and even the flexible rubber-based stuff used as windshield sealer for automobiles, among others. I have used all these, and they all work. I am sure there are many more. Some new "miracle" cements have recently been much talked of, but some of these are dangerous unless you exercise great care: one of them can glue you to you, and if you want your fingers mittoned together, just play sloppy games with it. What you want, of course, is an adhesive that will both hold the wire, and have enough flexibility to allow the blade to bend.

Bending is the secret of a good re-gluing job. You must get the glue of your choice into the groove and on the wire — not too much, especially for epee — and then firmly bend the blade as much as necessary to get the wire back all the way down into the groove. That's quite a bend, as you will quickly observe. And once you get the blade bent that far, you have to be prepared to leave it that way for at least overnight; at any rate as long as your glue takes to dry thoroughly, and preferably a little longer. Be prepared to leave the blade bent for a couple of days. You can't hold it that long, at least I don't recommend the attempt. What you need is kind of jig: perhaps the simplest way of handling it is to hook the tip of the weap-

on under a suitably high shelf, table, or what-have-you, and brace the hilt so it won't slip. So long as you pick a spot that won't be disturbed by wife, child, dog, cat, etc., it will work. More elaborate arrangements are limited only by your ingenuity.

CORRECTION

In the Changes to the Rules published in the November-December issue, in the text of Art. 577, the word "drawing" appears by typographical error in the eight examples set forth, which should read:

1st — the two teams having numbers 1 and 2 and so on throughout Art. 577.

WASHINGTON FENCERS

All fencers are invited to drop in as guests at the Washington Fencers Club when in the area. For details and information call Dr. Esther Jorolan at (301) 439-7249 or Captain Caroline Brodkey at (301) 589-2950.

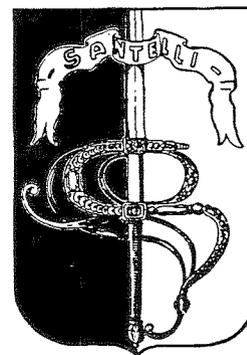


OFFICIALS PINS

All AFLA Officials are reminded that the U.S. Commission on Fencing Rules has authorized an official U.S. rated Directors (Class I and up). The five blue and gold lapel pin is in the form of a shield (pictured above). Any Commission rated official is eligible to wear the pin, and should contact Denise O'Connell at 21 A West 35 Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002. The pins cost \$1.00 each.

QUICKIE QUIZ

What procedure should a Director follow if a fencer loses his balance or equilibrium during an action? (See Article 28, paragraph 1 of the 1975 Rules Book.)



Maker of Champions

*Championship
Equipment*

WRITE FOR OUR FREE
ILLUSTRATED CATALOG

GEORGE SANTELLI, Inc.
412 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y., 10011
(212) AL4-4053

AGAINST THE NEW SABRE RULES

by: Chaba M. Pallaghy

After a try-out at three major competitions, including the 1974 World Championships at Grenoble, it seems to be a foregone conclusion that, the new sabre rules will be standardized at the next F.I.E. Congress.

As a devotee and a past practitioner of the art of sabre fencing as well as a top ranked international director, I wish to record my opposition to the permanent introduction of the new rules as authorized on an experimental basis at the Monte Carlo Congress.

Background of the proposed introduction of these new rules is: deterioration of sabre fencing through the loss of technique, increase in double actions, with the result of substantial loss in spectator appeal.

The possible causes of this deterioration are as follows: a. Increase in the number of sabre fencers throughout the world, without the acquisition of proper sabre technique, coupled with a similar deterioration in the quality of sabre fencing within the leading sabre nations, prompted by the desire for quick replacement of the highest caliber, but over-age talent. b. Lack of availability in sufficient number of proficient neutral directors with the basic knowledge of sabre fencing, enabling them to direct at the highest international level.

The combination of the above produced substantially lower quality fencing at the international level, for almost a decade. This deterioration endangered the future of sabre fencing from the point of spectator appeal. It is a well known fact in sports that, an athlete, improperly trained technically, will lose confidence under the pressures of international competition. The loss in selfconfidence will generally result in the limitation of the athlete's actions to the most simple ones, requiring the least amount of chance to be taken. The feeling of insecurity may increase, when erroneous judgements are made by the judges, particularly, when the director is also unsure of himself and, his decisions betray a lack of proper understanding of the game. I had

the opportunity of observing this influence of officiating on the quality of fencing by less competent directors at the World Championships in 1971, at the Olympic Games in 1972 and at several top international competitions in 1973. On many occasions, fencing of acceptable quality deteriorated as soon as directors without proper sabre knowledge and control, took over the officiating. Similar was the result, when a director, able to perform reasonably well over a short period of time, became tired or unsettled by outside influences. On the other hand, fencers generally displayed better skills, resulting in higher caliber fencing, including a greater variety of actions, when they were able to perform before a director, who was well versed in sabre and, exercised good overall control.

The F.I.E. correctly recognized the danger in the deteriorating quality of sabre fencing and, attacked the problem on two fronts. First through the formation of the Committee for the Improvement of sabre fencing, then through compulsory clinics held at the official F.I.E. Championships.

The action of the Committee in spelling out certain technical requirements as rules, was excellent. It went a long way towards improving the quality of sabre fencing. It should also be noted that, a number of fencers, who had repeatedly finished at the top of international competition over the past few years, have further perfected their game, thereby greatly contributing to the qualitative improvement of sabre fencing.

The problem of course is not completely solved yet, because there still is room for improvement, even at the very top. Where I see a greater and, more urgent need for improvement, is in the quality of directing and, in the necessity of developing a much larger number of sabre directors with sufficient knowledge of the game. The number of foil directors, for instance, is greater at a higher level of competency than of those in sabre. This encourages foil fencers to fence with more confidence and produce actions of greater variety and higher quality.

The introduction of a system, which will leave the outcome of a bout, a competition, or indeed even a championship to chance,

is contrary to the principles of fencing and general sportsmanship. I wish to distinguish here between chances not enhanced by athletic activity, but those reminiscent of a game of chances. (Cards, roulette, etc.) The idea in itself is alien to the principle of "may the best man win". (We may get the luckiest). It is understood that, the purpose of the new rules is to force the sabreurs to fence better. However, the changes based on observations obtained at a limited number of competitions, where the method was tried, (Hungaria Cup, Hamburg, Grenoble; Bruxelles Martini was cancelled), at a time, when the effect of the previous rule changes had begun to take effect and show good results, are hardly justified. The quality of sabre fencing at top level, has greatly improved in all competitions. Therefore to claim that the improvement can be attributed to the so called "flip" rule, used at only three competitions, is somewhat precipitous. I believe it to be fair, to give sabre fencing some additional time to let the cycle of improvement run its full course. The new rule is not only alien to the principle of fencing, as outlined above, but also introduces a factor into the milieu of international finals, which may have a completely adverse effect on the spectator, failing to eliminate the cause, which originated its introduction in the first place. In addition it does nothing to improve directing. A director of lesser ability is still subject to the same errors and mistakes as

before. Indeed, the new rule may encourage directors with less confidence, to increasingly upon the chance, at the possible moment. Particularly could it be the case, when pressure is mounting difficult decisions have to be made in aspect, most unfavorable from the tator's point of view.

In summary, it is my opinion that additional time should be given to allow further development of the marked improvement shown in sabre fencing. Also increased effort should be made to direct a large number of qualified sabre directors. Although there has been substantial improvement in the past in this area as there are still only three or four directors in the world, who can direct any competition without reservation. Developing good directors takes as much as it takes to develop good fencers.

As a conclusion I suggest that, the introduction of the new "by lot" sabre rule should be postponed and reintroduced again if the present trend of improvement not continue. The Congress can examine this question annually and, make its appropriate decision, when the need arises.

AFLA CHARTER FLIGHT

Have you sent in your enquiry about AFLA charter flight to the 1975 Championships in Budapest?

ORDER FORM FOR 1974 FENCING RULES BOOK

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to AFLA, Inc. in the amount of \$..... for copies (at \$3.00 each) of the 1974 FENCING RULES BOOK.

Please send the book(s) to:

PLEASE
PRINT

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

MAIL FORM WITH MONEY TO: AFLA, Inc., 249 Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey 0

NEWS FROM ABROAD

by Chaba M. Pailaghy

The next F.I.E. Congress will be held in Nice (France) May 7-9, 1975.

The Electronics Commission of the F.I.E. found that, two out of five epees were faulty at the 1974 World Championships.

About 7% of the masks were also found faulty, due to weak mesh, defective linings, or generally deteriorating condition.

The Asiatic Games were held in Teheran (Iran) between September 3-13, 1974. Fencing was included for the first time in the program, with 12 nations participating. The Japanese dominated the games.

The French Federation is unofficially in favor of increasing the ladies foil bouts to five touches from four. They are of the opinion that, four touches do not give room for errors, especially in four fencer pools. They are awaiting the report of the F.I.E. medical Commission to take an official stand.

The French Federation had over 21,000 registered fencers in the 1973-74 season.

It seems that the approval of the new

sabre rules stand a very strong chance.

Mexico City is new host for 1975 Pan American Games. After Santiago (Chile) original host, San Paulo (Brasil) also declined, due to a meningitis epidemic and financial difficulties. Although no fixed date has been set, the games are likely to be held in October.

The Canadian Fencing Association has a well rounded fencing development program, partly funded by the government, and partly privately. (O'Keefe Sports Fund). The Association has a substantial annual budget, which permits them to send their top senior and junior fencers to most world events. They are also sponsoring a number of training camps. One of them jointly, with the Cubans in Havana. According to John Andru, Technical Director of the C.F.A., their membership will double this season.

F.I.E. President Pierre Ferri became 70 this September.

According to reliable reports good electric machines are available for sabre fencing and, may become F.I.E. approved within the next few years.

AFLA DIRECTORY CHANGES 1974-1975

Chairmen and Additional Directors:

34 South Jersey: Sandy Smith, 57 South Bath Av., Long Branch, NJ 07740

57 Virginia: Gene Hollins, 14234 Jefferson Davis Hgwy., Woodbridge, VA 23186

Secretaries:

34 South Jersey: Ursula Redgrave, 13 Second Av., Pemberton, NJ 08068

57 Virginia: Mary K. Troester, 252-D Merrimac Tr., Williamsburg, VA 23185

FENCERS INVITED TO SIXTH SENIOR OLYMPICS

All fencers 35 or older are invited to compete in the 6th Annual Senior Olympics to be held in Los Angeles at the conclusion of the National Championships. Plan to stay another day or two for this special event.

Sabre and Women's Foil will be held Saturday, June 28th, while Foil and Epee will be held Sunday, June 29th, at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, 7th and Olive Streets in downtown Los Angeles.

A feature of the competition is that fencers are pitted against their peers. Events are staged in age groups in 5-year increments and awards given in each age group. Age groups start with 35 through 39, 40 through 44, etc. First, second, and third place awards are given.

For information and entry forms send a stamped, self addressed envelope to: Senior Sports International, Mutual of Omaha Bldg., Suite 302, 5225 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90036.

CHERRYBLOSSOM OPEN

The Washington D.C. Division will again host the Cherryblossom Open on April 12 and 13 in the Armory at the Univ. of Maryland. We request that entries be mailed and post marked no later than March 31, 1975. Please mail your NAME, WEAPON, AFLA RANKING, AND CLUB AFFILIATION along with a registration fee of \$2.00 plus \$5.00 per weapon to: Mr. Wallace Oliver, 11260 Chestnut Grove Sq. #239, Reston, Va. 22090.

Foil will start on April 12 at 9:00 AM. Saber will start the same day at 11:00. On April 13 Epee will start at 9:00 AM and Women's foil at 11:00 AM.

MINUTEMAN

The New England Division is going to host the **Minuteman Championship Memorial Day Weekend**. Ladies and foil will be held May 24 and mixed dc will be held May 25, 1975. New England fencers will accommodate anyone needs a place to stay. For further information, contact: Barbara E. Keel, Vice man, N.E. AFLA, 32 Fairfield Street Medford, Ma. 02155.

COLORADO INVITATIONAL

The sixth annual Colorado Invitational will be held on February 22 and 23, at the Air Force Academy Cadet Gymnasium in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Competitions will be held in men's foil, sabre and There will also be two women's event of which will be a foil competition further information contact Cathy Jac 4421 Clay Street, Denver, Co. 80211 455-7235) or Greg Lane, 7933 Chase Court #182, Arvada, Co. 80003 (303-427-8

VANDERBILT INVITATIONAL FOIL TOURNAMENT

The Sixth Annual Vanderbilt Invitational Foil Tournament will be held in Nashville Tennessee on March 22 and 23, 1975 fencers in both men's and women's divisions will participate as members of individual man teams representing their club; a man may enter as many three-man teams as he likes with the restriction that fencers not be substituted from one team to another during the course of the tournament. Advance entry is required and the fee is \$7.50 per team. Please send entry inquiries to Andrew J. Auerbach, Box 1000 Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. 37235.

*Sudre Fencing
Equipment Company*

The best French equipment

imported to the U.S. and handpicked

at the factory by Raoul Sudre himself.

Send for our catalog and price list.

SUDRE FENCING EQUIPMENT CO.

5 Westwood Knoll

Ithaca, New York 14850



WHEN YOU TRUST YOUR EQUIPMENT YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!



AMERICAN FENCER'S SUPPLY

2122 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94115

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

The By-Law Revision Committee has submitted the following changes in the by-laws on the election of section officers to eliminate the potential problem in the existing by-laws whereby a section officer may become ineligible to serve by reason of not being elected to the section executive committee by his own division. The revision will also give the section executive committee more flexibility in selecting officers for the section.

A proposal to Amend Article XIII, section II, of the By-Laws of the Amateur Fencers League of America, to read as follows:

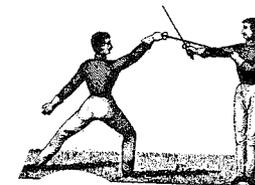
"The management of a section shall be vested in an Executive Committee composed of the Chairman of the Divisions which comprise the Section, one other representative from each Division, any Additional Directors from a Division in the Section, and the Section Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. The additional representative shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of each Division. The Section Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Section Executive Committee from among members of the Section. The Chairman of the Section shall become a member of the National Board of Directors but

will not be entitled to more than one vote. He shall within the time specified by the Secretary of the Corporation with the Secretary of the Corporation report of the finances and activities of his section for the year."



GROMPONE COACH

Emily Grompone, one of our women fencers, is now in her second year as coach of the women's team of City State College. Emily is a graduate of City State College and brings her extensive fencing experience back to her Alma Mater.



"Noble heroes, my sword and yours
good sparks and lustrous, a word, good

Act II, Scene I
All's Well That Ends Well
— culled by Lou Shaf

PROXY FOR ANNUAL MEETING SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

The undersigned hereby appoints William A. Goering, Irwin F. Bernstein, and P. Goodman, or any of them, in his stead, attorneys and proxies to vote with all the rights which the undersigned would possess if personally present at the Annual Meeting (including all adjournments thereof) of members of the Amateur Fencers League of America to be held during the period June 21-28, 1975 in Los Angeles, California at the site of the National Fencing Championships, as follows:

1. On the proposed changes in the By Laws as printed:
..... for the proposed changes
..... against the proposed changes

2. Upon other business as may properly come before the meeting, or an adjournment thereof, this proxy shall be voted as directed, and if no direction to the contrary is indicated, shall be voted FOR all changes to the By-Laws. I hereby certify that I am a member of the AFLA as of this date and have attained my 18th birthday.

Signed Date

SEND PROXY TO: Irwin F. Bernstein, 249 Eton Place, Westfield, NJ 07090

INDEX TO VOLUME 25

The following index of articles published in this volume lists most articles of interest by title, author, and in parenthesis the issue and page number.

COMPETITIONS: 13th Annual N.J. Xmas Invitational; Bernstein (3/15); 1973 U.S. Nationals; Richards (1/20); 1973 Senior Olympics; Rayser (1/10); 1973 World Championships; Gradkowski (1/3); 1973 World Championships Coaches Report; Geraci (1/7); 1974 Mardi Gras; Hamori (6/27); 1974 North Atlantic Sectionals; Richards (6/29); 1974 N.E. Women's Intercollegiates; Richards (6/17); 1974 Under 20 World Championships; Goering (6/11); Junior Olympic Championships; Sobel (4/3); Maccabiah Games (1/15); Moscow Universiade; Danosi (2/3); Middle Atlantic Collegiate Championships; (2/19); Metropolitan Xmas Invitational; (3/5); Metropolitan Sectional Championships; Masiero (5/7); MIT Captures Iron Man at IFA; Tishman (6/15); Middle Atlantic; Jones (6/16); North Atlantic Under 19 Sectionals; Richards (6/29); NYU Sweeps NCAA; Mones (6/22); North Atlantic Intercollegiate (6/21); NIWFA Championships; Tishman (6/18); NIWFA Winter Invitational; Jones (4/29); San Antonio International; Nelson (4/17); U.S. vs. Italy Sabre Match; O'Connor (5/14); Women's Martini and Rossi; Tishman (5/8).

PERSONALITIES: Axelrod Receives Hall of Fame Award; (3/4); A View From the Top; Solomon (3/3); Cohen Coach (3/14); Conomikes Coach (3/17); Castello Steps Down; Mones (5/20); Fencers Club Celebration Cites Driscoll, Blanc, Axelrod (3/5); James Melcher Appointed to Olympic Advisory Council (1/19); Miguel A. deCapriles Retires (4/7); Micahnik Appointed (1/32); Publisher Honored (6/4); Peredo Elected President of

NFCAA; Tishman (6/10); Leo Nunes; Every (6/3); Seton Hall Inducts Three; Tishman (6/10).

ARTICLES: American System of Fencing; Lyon (4/20); Another Collegiate Fencing Program (4/11); A Tip of the Sombrero; Snell (2/22); AFLA Junior Olympic Program; Johnson (2/10); By Laws Changes; Johnson (1/31); Club and the AFLA; Goering (3/8); Do You Fit the Profile?; Williams (4/16); Fourth Preseason Clinic; Walsh (2/7); Fencing Costumes Shown at Metropolitan Museum; Tishman (2/17); Fencing Book Collection; Tishman (2/28); Fencing Class Formations; Gradkowski (3/10); Fencing Officials Course (3/25); Grenoble to Host 1974 World Championships; Gradkowski (5/32); Hydra Headed Monster; Richards (4/14); International Fencing Clinic; Sudre (2/27); Importance of "On Guard Wisconsin"; Gradkowski (2/19); Knee in Sport; Cadet (6/6); Loose Play and Practice Bouts; Nunes (3/22); Lehman College (3/9); Library Sparks Interest in Fencing; Tishman (2/23); Modifications in Rules for Sabre (1/12); Most Passionate Sport; Solomon (1/14); Mail Notices; Tishman (5/21); More Point in Line; Asselin (6/32); National Bout Committee Report; Richards (2/20); No Coaches?; Olivares (3/12); Open Letter to Sobel; Goldthwaite (5/4); Officiating and the Rules; Jones (3/16); Olympic Selection System (2/12); Progress of Junior Olympic Program; Calhoun (2/11); Proposed Changes in Dues Schedule; Goering (2/16); Proposed By Laws Changes; Johnson (3/30); Physical Fitness Status of U.S. Fencers; White (4/8); Retrospect in Search of Foresight; Sebastiani (4/18); Reply to Open Letter; Sobel (5/5); Salle de Turkey; Coupland (2/25); Some Junior History; Gradkowski (4/4); Track Coach Bush Calls for Youth Program (4/19); Uriah Jones Launches Salle du Lion; Tishman (4/27); Update Your Rules Book; Byrnes (5/18); U.S. Academy of Arms; Geraci (5/28); Women's Committee Organizes Martini; Masiero (5/12).

Send change of address to
AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA
249 Eton Pl., Westfield, N.J., 07090

Second Class Postage Paid
at Westfield, N.J., 07090 and at
additional mailing offices.