

Volume 26
Number 5



Jennette Starks (left) and Anne Marie Williams of Brooklyn College, during a fencing demonstration at the gigantic World Trade Center of the New York Port Authority. The public relations department of the Port Authority invited the AFLA to present a fencing show at their plaza. Also participating in the exhibition were Denise O'Connor, Steve Sobel, Bob Dow and Csaba Elthes.

AMERICAN FENCING

Volume 26

Number 5

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Issue Date	Closing Date	Mailing
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July/August	June 10	July 31
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Page Two

EDITORIAL

To avoid the recurrence of something that happened at the last Nationals, I feel compelled to mention two distasteful incidents that occurred in sabre. In the first instance, one fencer attacked and his opponent made an attempted parry and riposte. The judge abstained and the director ruled a hit, saying that the parry was late. The fencer's coach called out in a loud voice "The attack was parried". The director stopped the bout and warned the coach that if he made another remark about the officiating he would be ejected from the premises. The director then stated that it was because of such poor sportmanship on the part of some coaches that many fencers lost confidence in the officials and developed bad manners. The fencer who had been hit apologized for his coach. In the second case, another coach created quite a furor over a call against his fencer. The director warned him. Finally, the director stated that the bout would not continue until the offending coach departed. The latter left, and the bout continued in peace.

These were our National championships. Our very best directors were officiating. If we cannot expect the coaches to be objective, we can, at least, ask them to be reasonably quiet.

PHOTO CREDIT

American Fencing would like to thank Mr. Thomas Chin for the fine photograph of Michel J. Alaux, the late coach of the U.S. Olympic team and Hunter College, which we ran on our last issue's cover.

CONGRATUALIONS

American Fencing extends its congratulations to our women's National Champion Gay Jacobsen and to her coach Mike Dasaro on the occasion of their marriage.

RULES BOOK

Do you know your fencing rules? An order form for the new 1974 Rules book will be found on page 31.

AMERICAN FENCING

TIM GLASS TAKES BRONZE MEDAL IN EPEE AT 1975 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By William Goering

Tim Glass of Illinois, duplicating Ruth White's 1971 performance at Notre Dame, took third place in the World Junior Epee Championship held in Mexico City.

The U.S. Under 20 World Championship Team was chosen by points earned in the 1974 National Under 19 Championships and the Portland Junior Olympic Championship. The sixteen fencers who participated were:

Foil	Epee
P. Martino (N.J.)	T. Glass (Ill.)
M. Marx (Oreg.)	L. Shelley (N.J.)
J. Herring (Wis.)	G. Massialas (Mich.)
P. Gerard (Ill.)	J. Neale (N.J.)
Sabre	Women's Foil
M. Sullivan (Mass.)	V. Hurley (Calif.)
E. Majtenyi (N.J.)	A. Crowley (Mass.)
C. Brunet (N.Y.)	C. Massiala (Mich.)
K. McAuliffe (N.J.)	H. Konecny (Conn.)

The team gathered in Mexico City on 24 March. For the next three days the team practiced at Mexican Olympic Center or at the fencing site, which was a bus ride away across town. Practice matches were arranged between our teams and the Australians and the Canadians. In addition, private practices with Mexicans, Poles, Brazilians and Argentines were arranged.

The day before the opening event, the team took a tour about the city and disembarked at the Church of The Lady of Guadalupe and at the pyramids at Teotihuacan. The tour was donated by Emily Johnson, whose continued support of Under 20 fencers was most appreciated. After lunch at La Gruta (a restaurant in a cave), we returned to CDOM to prepare for the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony consisted of a parade of over 300 athletes and officials, some speeches, and a folk dance presentation. Since he had carried the flag at last year's opening ceremony, Mike Marx graciously deferred to Mike Sullivan, the next youngest fencer, who did the honors.

The first day of competitive fencing was Friday, 28 March. Our foil fencers, Mike Martino, Mike Marx and Jim H survived the first round where they advanced from pools of four. In the first round (6 pools of 6), Martino was defeated with a 1-4 record and Marx with a 2-3 record after defeating Russian Caleev 5-0 in his last bout. Jimmy H would have eliminated Mike, but Jimmy had a 1-2 record and a 1-2 score against the West German Ohnions when he broke and pierced his jacket, parried shirt and him. The FIE doctor recommended prompt examination to the hospital. Fortunately, the wound was not as deep as the doctors feared. Jimmy was eliminated in the quarter-finals (4) in a repeat of last year's performance. The results of the men's foil semifinals are given below.

The Women's Foil event was appointed for the U.S. Our top three fencers, Hurley, Crowley and Massiala, were eliminated in the first round with victory in thirteen bouts. They are better fencers than this indicates, whatever reason failed to respond to the challenge that day.

Our best results were obtained as all three fencers passed to the final (6 pools of 4) after two elimination rounds. Greg Massialas was eliminated in the quarter-finals after a lengthy bout with Greg's weapon was inoperative. Greg received a touch that made the referee call against him in a critical bout. The referee (Garcia Diaz) refused to test Greg's weapon because the clip holding the reel of the jacket had been detached by a strip attendant immediately following the final touch. The Directoire Technique held this ruling on the narrow legal ground that the rules (Article 327b) require that the equipment be changed in the event of a change in the equipment in the event that neither Greg nor any team had been responsible for the " "

Moral: Don't let anyone touch your equipment until you are prepared to accept the results of any actions.

Lee Shelley was eliminated in the semi-final (3 pools of 4) as Bellone (Italy) and Bcisse (France) advanced with two victories each. In Tim Glass' semi-final pool, Pusch (West Germany) advanced with three victories, leaving Gaille (Switzerland), Perez (Cuba) and Tim tied with one victory each. A barrage resulted in another tie, which was resolved on indicator putting Tim into the finals. Looking back, I believe Tim's success can be traced to his 5-0 in the second elimination round. This gave him a good seeding for the quarter-final, and his two victories there resulted in a good seeding for the critical semi-final pool. However, the best was yet to come. Tim fenced cautiously and lost his first two bouts in the final to Pusch (5-4) and Boisse (5-2). Then he defeated Bellone 5-3, Fakhroutdinov (USSR) 5-4, and the champion Poffet (Switzerland) 5-3 to tie for second and take third on indicator. This was the best U.S. performance since Ruth White's third place at Notre Dame in the 1971 Championships.

In sabre only three fencers advanced from pools of 5 and 6 in the first round. Majtenyi and Brunet were eliminated with 1-4 records. Sullivan reached the second round on indicator with a 2-2 record, but was eliminated there with a 1-4 record. The current sabre rules, the judging factor and the lack of familiarity of international presidents with our fencers make a balanced analysis of our sabre results impossible.

The 1975 Under 20 Championship was well organized and certainly the U.S. team was more relaxed and fenced better than in Istanbul last year. The organizing committee thoughtfully provided a team representative, John Holland, a former U.S. Pentathlete now living in Mexico. He quickly became the 25th team member as he freely gave of his time and effort to insure that the team lacked nothing. In addition, the transportation, meals, and communications systems were all available and responsive to our needs.

The AFLA is indebted to the hard-working cadre that accompanied and directed the team effort. Deputy chief Ferenc Zold was always ready with information and counsel. Coaches Michel Sebastiani, Leon Auriol and Lauren Hein worked with all of the fencers, both in warm-ups prior to competition and in practice. Armorers David Nononura and Eleanor Turney deserve credit for the lack of equipment problems and for solving the new regulations that the FIE armorers seem to invent at each championship. Manager Bill Kullman established an excellent working relationship with the team and saw to their needs in an exemplary manner. The entire membership owes these volunteers a debt of gratitude for without them there would be no team.

RESULTS

Foil: 1-Kuki (RUM), 2-Behr (RFA), 3-Kosenko (USSR), 4-Fumenko (USSR), 5-Cerboni FRA, 6-Schaeffner (RFA).

Women's Foil: 1-Trinquet (FRA), 2-Batazzi (ITA), 3-Losert (AUT), 4-Grisu (RUM), 5-Astralosch (RFA), 6-Ganser (AUT).

Epee: 1-Poffet (SWI), 2-Boisse (FRA), 3-Glass (USA), 4-Pusch (RFA), 5-Bellone (ITA), 6-Fakhroutdinov (USSR).

Sabre: 1-Arcidiacono (ITA), 2-Burtsev (USSR), 3-Dalla Barba (ITA), 4-Trottein (FRA), 5-Kiknadse (USSR), 6-Pellegrini (ITA).

NEW SECRETARY

Mrs. Carla Mae Richards has been named Secretary of the AFLA International Committee, replacing Mrs. Evelyn Terhune Fuller, who has resigned from the committee. Her address is: 41 Central Ave., Newtonville, Mass. 02160; (617) 244-3571.

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan Division will be held on Monday June 16 at the McBurney Y.M.C.A. Election of officers will take place and all division members are urged to attend.

1975 MARTINI-ROSSI WOMEN'S FOIL SEES TOMLINSON TAKE SILVER MEDAL

by Marilyn Masiero, Bout Committee

This year's Martini saw thirteen foreign entries in a field of forty seven. Unfortunately, only Christine Muzio of France and Kerstin Palm of Sweden were of top international caliber and the competition was not as strong as last year. Nikki Tomlinson turned in the best U.S. performance to take the silver medal, after losing a barrage to Muzio of France. Former world Junior champion, Kerstin Palm of Sweden took third, followed by Canadian national champion Susan Stewart.

FIRST ROUND:

Pool No. 1: 1. Palm, (4-0); 2. Svetitsky, (3-2); 3. Walbridge, (2-2); 4. Dingle, (1-3); 5. Cinotti, (0-4).

Pool No. 2: 1. Julier, (4-1); 2. Massialas, (3-2); 3. Muzio, (3-2); 4. Lynch, (2-3); 5. Littman, (2-3); 6. Saurer, (1-4).

Pool No. 3: 1. O'Connor, (5-0); 2. Keel, (3-2); 3. Maskal, (3-2); 4. Latham, (3-2); 5. Caffarra, (1-4); 6. Grether, (0-5).

Pool No. 4: 1. Waples, (5-0); 2. Grompone, (3-2); 3. Farkas, (3-2); 4. Campeau, (2-3); 5. Leigh, (2-3); 6. Bejar, (0-5).

Pool No. 5: 1. Smith, (4-1); 2. O'Donnell, (3-2); 3. Stewart, (3-2); 4. Reynolds, (3-2); 5. Starks, (2-3); 6. Crowley, (0-5).

Pool No. 6: 1. Payer, (4-1); 2. Armstrong, (4-1); 3. Moriates, (3-2); 4. Williams, (2-3); 5. Adamovich, (2-3); 6. Porter, (0-5).

Pool No. 7: 1. Tomlinson, (4-1); 2. Annavedde (4-1); 3. McLaren, (3-2); 4. Hennyey, (2-3); 5. Marcy, (2-3); 6. Kowalewski, (0-5).

Pool No. 8: 1. Carter, (4-1); 2. Krebitz, (3-2); 3. Aoyama, (3-2); 4. DeBiase, (2-3); 5. Konecny, (2-3); 6. Sobel, (1-4).

QUARTER FINAL:

Pool No. 1: 1. Palm, (5-0); 2. O'Donnell, (4-1); 3. Keel, (2-3); 4. Aoyama, (2-3); 5. Smith, (1-4); 6. Annavedde, (1-4).

Pool No. 2: 1. Armstrong, (4-1); 2. Julier, (4-1); 3. Walbridge, (3-2); 4. Maskal, (2-3); 5. Waples (1-4); 6. Grompone, (1-4).

Pool No. 3: 1. O'Connor, (4-1); 2. Carter, (3-2); 3. Stewart, (3-2); 4. Moriates, (2-3); 5. Svetitsky (2-3); 6. McLaren, (1-4).

Pool No. 4: 1. Muzio, (5-0); 2. Tomlinson, (2-3); 3. Krebitz, (2-3); 4. Payer, (2-3); 5. Massialas (2-3); 6. Farkas, (2-3).

SEMI-FINAL:

Pool No. 1: 1. Palm, (5-0); 2. Stewart, (4-1); 3. O'Connor, (2-3); 4. Walbridge, (2-3); 5. Keel (1-4); 6. Armstrong, (1-4).

Pool No. 2: 1. Tomlinson, (5-0); 2. O'Donnell (3-2); 3. Muzio, (3-2); 4. Julier, (2-3); 5. Carter (1-4); 6. Krebitz, (1-4).

FINAL: 1. Muzio, (4-1); 2. Tomlinson, (4-1); 3. Palm, (3-2); 4. Stewart, (2-3); 5. O'Connor (1-4); 6. O'Donnell, (1-4).

(Ed. Note: To date, we have not yet received the results of the men's events from the organizing committee.)

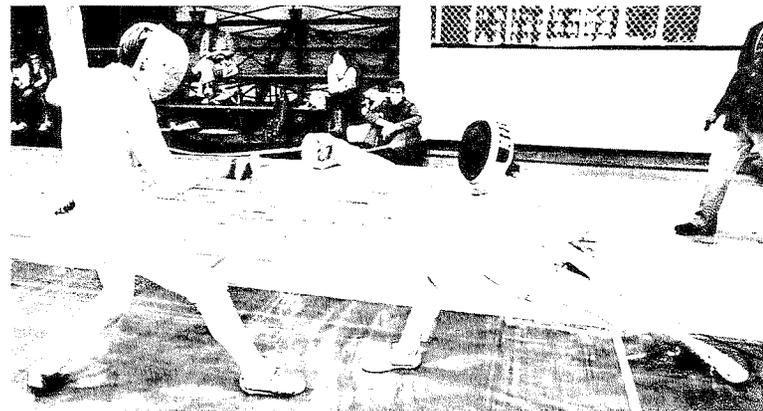


Photo by Lipton

Bruce Lyons attacks Bill Matheson in the final of the Olympic Epee trials held in San Francisco. Bruce won the trial, and later this season turned in a sharp performance to win the Martini-Rossi in New York.

From The President

by Steve Sobel



During a Recession with high unemployment and limited budgets, amateur sports can be mistakenly viewed as a luxury which should be eliminated. When this unfortunate approach is urged at Board of Education meetings, all amateur sports programs are in extreme jeopardy. In the last issue of American Fencing I indicated the importance of starting more fencing programs in high schools. Now is crucial to demonstrate why the discontinuance of existing programs in the interest of economy would be penny wise but pound foolish.

In the high school curriculum, a sport is not a luxury. It is a vital part of the educational process, similar to math, science and other academic subjects. There are many lessons to be learned as a member of a varsity team which are not duplicated in any classroom. They are simple; but what is simple, may not be obvious.

Democracy in Action: In all sports, a game must be played by the rules and officials must make decisions by the same rules. To participate effectively, the athlete must know the rules, his rights under the rules, how to make a protest according to the rules, and how to accept adverse decisions and still succeed. There is no "sit-in" or other demonstration acceptable when a director awards a touch in foil against a fencer for covering the target, but there is an opportunity to reverse the decision by a timely appeal to the bout committee if no prior warning had been given, as required. The fencer who knows the rules and understands how to enforce his rights according to the rules will succeed against an incorrect official decision. Isn't this the same in life?

Teamwork: There is no teamwork in an English class that will ever equal varsity sports. To have a team victory all mem-

bers must work together toward a common goal. The evils of racial and religious prejudice cannot be taught effectively in any classroom when compared to the experience of being a member of a varsity team composed of individuals representing all ethnic groups working together for the common goal of a team victory.

Learn to Accept Defeat: Life is competition with successes and failures, happiness and disappointments. By learning to accept this, and perform under pressure, athletes are constantly trained to meet the problems of life. The ability to bounce back after a defeat and achieve a victory, rather than quit, is an educational experience which cannot be taught in a lecture.

Use of Socially acceptable programs to occupy leisure time: At a time when juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, and narcotics are major problems, there can be no greater deterrent than the demands of a varsity team. An athlete must be in excellent physical condition and must devote many hours to training. This usually leaves little time or desire to engage in the many unacceptable forms of behavior.

Fencing — A Lifetime Sport: After college, what physical exercise is available for graduates with busy business and family schedules? There is only very limited opportunity for the team player in football or basketball who doesn't choose a professional career. There is minimum satisfaction and motivation to engage in just mere exercise alone such as jogging or calisthenics. However, sports such as fencing offer the same excitement of competition with the same demands of physical fitness for the pleasure fencer in a small local event, or the Olympic athlete in international competition.

It is truly amazing that a varsity sports program can provide all these lessons without formal classroom lecture or testing. Just by being a part of the team, the student athlete will acquire a better education than other students who do not have a similar opportunity. It is important to realize that the student athlete is acquiring valuable knowledge without any study and often without conscious realization.

If there is any doubt in anyone's mind concerning the value of a sports program in school, perhaps here is one simple test. Ask any alumnus ten years after graduation "Who was in your history class" and you will get a complete blank. Ask the same person "Who was on your fencing team and what was their competitive record?" and you had better have at least an hour available to listen to the reply and the many interesting stories which will be recalled.

NYU RECEIVES ANONYMOUS \$200,000 GIFT TO HONOR MIGUEL A. de CAPRILES

New York University has received a major, anonymous gift of \$200,000 made in honor of Miguel de Capriles on the occasion of his retirement in 1974 from the University as Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary. The gift will establish the Miguel de Capriles Fencing Room at the proposed new University Recreation Center.

PALLAGHY ELECTED

The Canadian Fencing Association Board of Directors has elected Chaba M. Pallaghy to trustee of the Dalton Fund. The fund was established in honor of the late Jack Dalton, a past president of the Canadian Fencing Association.

TRAVEL RATES

Because of recent changes in air fare rates, the rates quoted in the TRAVEL ADVISORS ad in our last issue (March/April) for their "AFLA National Championships Package" have, in many cases, been reduced. For further information readers may call collect (714) 535-2288. If you plan to attend the Nationals, these low rates can make a big savings.

AFLA RULES ON TEAM REPRESENTATION

by Irwin Bernstein

The AFLA has established rules of composition in the National Championships. Since these rules are only important each season, they may not be fully understood by all competitors. The following are some of the commonly asked questions and their answers according to the 1977 Operations Manual.

1. If I qualify as an individual fencer in Division A, can I represent a team in Division B? Yes. Fencers belong to Division B according to the location of either their residence or their club; teams belong to Division A according to their location. If you reside in Division A and belong to a team in Division B, you may be a member of either Division, but your club must be from Division B.

2. Can fencers who fence "Unattached" during a season later represent a team at the Nationals? The answer depends on more fact. If the fencer was a member of a club at the time he fenced "Unattached" he may not represent any club that season. If, however, he was not a member of a club, he may represent that club at the point in the season when he joined.

3. Can a team use a fencer in the Nationals who did not fence in the division team qualifying event? Yes, so long as the fencer was a bona fide member of the team and represented the club at least once during the season in a competition in the division in which the club is located.

If you have a problem in understanding or applying the rules on team competition please forward it to me before it becomes a source of difficulty.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The annual meeting of the National Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, 21, 1975, at the Los Angeles International Hotel, the site of the National Championships. This is a change in the scheduled location in the last issue of American Fencing, necessitated by a conflict with a meeting of the U.S.O.C.

NICOTINE IS FOUND IN THE NON SMOKER; SMOKERS POLLUTE INDOOR AIR

by Lawrence K. Altman

(Ed. Note: The following article is reprinted from The New York Times of Feb. 2, 1975)

Nicotine gets into your blood and urine even if you never touch a cigarette, according to a British study of non smokers that adds further evidence about the risks of smoking to society.

"Virtually all urban non smokers have measurable amounts of nicotine in their body fluids throughout most of their lives," the authors of the study concluded. They added: "It is derived from the indoor air they breathe and it requires no more than one or two smokers to contaminate a vehicle or building."

In a report in the Jan. 25 issue of *Lancet*, a medical journal published in London, Dr. M.A.H. Russell and Dr. C. Feyerabend said that the average amount of nicotine in the urine of a non smoker was about one percent of the average in smokers' urine.

Though the amount was small relative to that measured in smokers, the doctors said "the fact that some nicotine is present in the urine of almost all non smokers suggests that episodes of passive smoking are common in urban life."

Dr. Russell, who works at the addiction research unit at the Institute of Psychiatry at Maudsley Hospital in London, said that passive smoking occurred mainly in poorly ventilated confined spaces where people had been smoking.

Though such pollution is of little consequence to smokers, the doctors said, the smoke annoyed and caused acute irritation of the eyes and respiratory passages of non smokers, who also absorbed carbon monoxide and nicotine.

Citing evidence from earlier studies, they said that "passive smoking may be harmful, and infants are most at risk."

The doctors maintained that passive smoking presented technical difficulties

that had complicated the development of a reliable method for measuring nicotine in blood. Also, the phenomenon has affected the results of random spot checks on people being treated at smoking withdrawal clinics.

"Several genuine ex-smokers were falsely described as smokers after nicotine had been found in their urine," the doctors said.

To determine how much nicotine non smokers absorb from smoke pollution, the investigators did two series of experiments on 39 urban non smokers.

In the first experiment, they tested the blood of 12 non smokers who had spent an average of 78 minutes seated among people who had filled the unventilated room with smoke from 80 cigarettes and two cigars. However, they said that the circumstances of the experiment were unusual.

"The concentration of tobacco smoke in the experimental room was extreme and would not be tolerated by non smokers, or indeed by smokers under normal circumstances," the doctors said.

In the second experiment, the doctors measured the nicotine levels in the urine of volunteers who had undergone their usual exposure to tobacco smoke.

The investigators reported that small amounts of nicotine had been detected in the blood of about half of the non smokers after exposure to **normal amounts** of tobacco smoke. They also reported that nicotine was almost invariably present in the urine of non smokers.

The doctors interpreted the fact that the blood had relatively small amounts of nicotine as evidence that nicotine was excreted almost as fast as it was absorbed.

"This probably accounts for the absence of any obvious physiological effects in non smokers after exposure in a smoke filled room", the doctors concluded.

AFLA DIRECTORY CHANGES

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NCAA RULE

Rule 647 of the NCAA Fencing rules states: "If a fencer in a dual meet is injured to an extent that it is deemed unwise for him to continue fencing, he may be replaced in the lineup for that bout, and the bout begun over again, with the score of the bout in which the accident occurred being completely **voided**. The opposing team may also replace its fencer in the lineup for that bout under the substitution rules; Cf. 565.

ACKNOWLEDGING TOUCHES

Every competitor is free to acknowledge a touch received at the moment when receives it. But the jury is not bound this acknowledgment and may still deliberate on this touch. On the other hand, it is absolutely forbidden for the competitors make any gestures or remarks, except the permissible acknowledgment of a touch, that could influence the decision of the jury, or, after the Director's decision, to acknowledge a touch that has been awarded.

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U.S. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTED

The AFLA International Committee has selected the following persons to represent the U.S.A. at the 1975 World Fencing Championships to be held in Budapest:

Foil: Freeman, Hambarzumian, Cohen, Balingier, Lang.

Epee: Pesthy, Johnson, Lyons, Reith, Makler.

Sabre: Westbrook, Apostol, Orban, Lekach, Kaplan.

Women: Armstrong, O'Donnell, Orly, McCourt, King.

The Chief of Delegation will be Chaba Gall and Richard Gradkowski will be Team Manager. Should any of the above named decline to go, vacancies will be filled at the conclusion of the 1975 Nationals, based upon their point standing.



Women's Foil medalists in the Castello-Gasparilla tournament (from l. to r.) Kate Alexander, second; Sophie Trett, First; Ellen McFarland, third.

CASTELLO-GASPARILLA by Diana Williams

Indicators decided the day when a three way barrage failed to produce a winner on victories alone in the epee final of the Castello-Gasparilla Fencing Tournament at Tampa on February 1 and 2. Mark Forrest (Eastern Airlines) took the coveted Castello presentation sword home to Miami, while teammates Ron Brown and Jan Delaney (Fla. State U.) won the silver and bronze medals.

The Castello-Gasparilla, a memorial to the late Maestro Julio Martinez-Castello, who spent the last quarter century of his life in Tampa, is held each year as part of the City's Gasparilla Festival, named for Jose Gaspar, a pirate who terrorized the west coast of Florida in the late eighteenth century. As usual, the presentation swords for first place winners in each weapon drew most of the rated fencers in the state and produced some of the keenest competition yet seen in Florida.

Tony Lamorte (Miami-Dade Jr. Coll.), a talented young transplant from Connecticut, took first in foil. Tony later fenced in the epee competition.

Second and third place medals went to Darrell Bennett (Florida Fencers), and Bob Santillana (unattached).

In winning women's foil, Sophie Trett (NASA) became the first person to win first place in two different years. She plans to

cross this year's sword with 1973's over the mantelpiece. Both second place winner Kate Alexander (unattached) and third place winner Ellen McFarland, nee Rabe (Fla. State) lost to Sophie a single touch.

John McFarland (FSU), 1973 sabre winner, lost his bid for a repeat first as he went la belle with teammate Jan Delaney in the Tournament's other barrage. Jim Campoli, late of Battle Creek, Michigan, contented himself with a bronze medal.

Jack Espinosa, last pupil of Maestro Castello and a close friend of Hugo and James, presented the prizes to the winners on behalf of the Castello family.

The 1976 Castello-Gasparilla is tentatively set for February 7-8, the weekend before Tampa's famous Pirate Invasion, during the Florida State Fair.

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AMERICAN FENCING IN LIBRARIES

Does your library carry American Fencing magazine? Copies of American Fencing would be very useful to those people are researching fencing information, or may be doing studies on sports in general. If you are a physical education major or a fencer, it would perhaps be useful to have such a file of back copies, as well as the current issue available. Any library can obtain a subscription by contacting national secretary, **Irwin F. Bernstein, Eton Place, Westfield, New Jersey 07090**. A complete microfilm file of back copies of American Fencing can be obtained from **Xerox University Microfilms, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106**. We have printed many interesting articles from the past, and new members of the organization might enjoy going over them. Physical education majors may also be interested in the fact that Xerox films can also supply prints of particular articles of special interest.

INTERNATIONAL FENCING CAMP AND CLINICS

Summer 1975

- I. **June 18 to June 23:** Pre National Training Camp. Open to all ages and skill levels. National Qualifiers will be awarded. **San Diego, Cal. Fee \$125.00**
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FRENCH FENCING MASTER SCHOOL by Gerard Shaw

(Ed. Note: Gerard Shaw, who fenced seven years in the United States, graduated from the Ecole d'Esgrime of the Institut National des Sports in June 1974. He is the first foreigner to finish first in his class.)

A college teammate, Robert Handleman and I started our academic year at INS with two handicaps. We arrived the 3rd of November, approximately 6 weeks late, due to a mix-up at the French Embassy in New York. The second was our inability to converse well in French. We attended a language school every evening for 2 months in order to improve our understanding and expression. Incidentally, the language requirement is much stricter, according to Norman Campbell, who is now enrolled there.

The Institut National des Sports is located in the Bois de Vincennes on the eastern edge of Paris. The address is: 11 Avenue du Tremblay, Paris 12 France. The Director of the fencing school is Maitre Grisoni, who in 1964 coached the Japanese Olympic team. Resembling a sports-oriented college campus, it houses and feeds its students. The facilities are extensive; indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tracks, soccer fields, gyms, basketball and tennis courts, as well as the fencing salle. We lived in a dormitory room and took our meals in a dining hall.

The fencing school is divided into two groups - first year and second year, with almost 15 students in each group. Two maitres lead each group. The program is very detailed. The emphasis is on learning how to give lessons with the three weapons, following a deliberate progression of alternating offensive and defensive moves. In addition we have classes in "theory" where we go over the definition, classification, and technique of every fencing action. This is covered very thoroughly. We have practical and theoretical classes in directing and discussions of the International Rules. We learn the working of the electrical machine, the blade, point, and through the use of schematic drawings, learn how to

diagnose a mechanical problem by its symptoms. Once a week we meet with a group of primary school children and for an hour we get experience giving a collective lesson. There is hardly an aspect of fencing that isn't studied or at least touched on. The atmosphere is relaxed. The day starts at 8:30 and is carefully planned to include practical as well as theoretical work. It ends at 4:30. Weekends are free, when there are usually important international competitions going on in Paris.

What have we gained? It would be impossible to describe here the tangible and intangible results of this complete immersion. The cost of the school is roughly \$100 per month which includes room, board, and tuition. Each year the school accepts 5 foreigners. The work is hard. Final exams that last a week are especially gruelling, covering all topics we've learned throughout the two years. I find it necessary to point out that INS is a school concerned with training people to become fencing masters. Anyone applying there should keep that in mind.

Robert Handleman is now working in San Francisco and I am presently a fencing master in New York City. American fencing desperately needs more well trained young maitres. Americans are not dumb when it comes to fencing. They work just about as hard as Europeans and they are just as talented. The past two years in Paris have shown me that it is a question of training.



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COMPETITIONS SHOULD NOT TORTURE FENCERS

by Gregory Belok

I would like to discuss a problem that affects all fencers who participate in competitions, especially the long drawn out kinds of competitions. The usual strategy of competition managers is to schedule all rounds for the same day. This is done regardless whether there are three rounds or six rounds. An example is the Csiszar Invitational Epee Tournament in Philadelphia each January which attracts an unusually large number of fencers (50 or more). This year it was organized into five rounds, all on the same day! We started late (9:30 A.M.) and by 2:30 P.M. had only finished the first round. The third round, where I got off, ended at 7 P.M.. In a way I was glad to stop fencing at that time because after being in the gym since 8 A.M., my enjoyment of the game was beginning to ebb. How many other fencers thought the same way? I do not know, but many good ones were eliminated when I was. Perhaps they would not have been eliminated, had the third round taken place in the middle of the afternoon.

Is it fair to ask a fencer to be mentally and physically alert for 12 to 15 hours at one time? Will he produce the same quality fencing of which he is capable, during the second 8 hours as he did during the first 8 hours? Does the ability to compete 15 hours straight prove the quality of a fencer? I say no. It is a mistake to subject fencers to such disregard when there are much better ways of managing tournaments. For example, the direct elimination method is almost never used in the United States, although competitions in Europe are frequently based on this method. When direct elimination is used in France, the first two preliminary rounds are scheduled as round-robin pools. Then there are direct elimination bouts of 10 touches, until the final pool, which would be fenced as a round-robin. Sometimes, the direct eliminations even go through to the final and a champion chosen on the basis of one 10 touch bout.

One may see a disadvantage of this method in the quick elimination of fencers

in the middle of the tournament. But it is not really an overwhelming problem because the fencers who come for practice will get enough in the first two rounds. After the second round, the better fencers are a majority and are usually interested "results" first and "practice" second.

If round-robin pools only are desired European tournament managers schedule a competition for two consecutive days. The first two preliminary rounds are fenced the afternoon of the first day and the last four rounds begin bright and early the next morning. There is usually no fencing past 6 o'clock on either afternoon.

A disadvantage of this method is the necessity to remain in a city for two days if one passes the preliminary rounds. But in larger competitions this is necessary anyway. Besides, after the second round, the fencing gets rough and fencers may prefer to start early in the day after a good night of rest. The final, too, will be fenced at an earlier time.

For the managers, directors, and other technical personnel, both the direct elimination method and two-day method are practical because one does not have to hang around the gym for long periods of time. Perhaps this is incentive for attracting more non-fencers to help with running the competition. Perhaps the speeding up of competitions may even help to make fencing more of a spectator sport.

Our competitions are getting larger each year. This is a good sign for American fencing, but we cannot ignore the additional burdens that are placed on fencers as managing personnel. For the organization of larger competitions we must consider various methods or face the possibility of retarding the potential growth of American fencing.

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The State University of New York Binghamton has an opening for a fencing instructor. Persons interested in this position should contact: **D. Henderson, Director, Physical Education and Athletic State University of N.Y., Binghamton, N. 13901.**

THE VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF ARMS:

(A Self-Help Approach To The Development Of Fencing Instructors)

by Capt. Walter G. Green III

One of the major problems in the development of the sport of fencing in the United States has been the lack of a sufficient cadre of knowledgeable novice level instructors. Our top level coaches are undoubtedly some of the finest in the world, but there is not a corresponding supporting cadre of high school and community coaches who are competent to develop the beginning fencer and to insure that the novice receives an absolutely solid grounding in the fundamental techniques of our sport. The beginner who is exposed to bad instruction will recognize this fact and will not continue with the sport, a factor which helps to contribute to our slow growth rate.

Typically the instructor in the average community club, high school program, and even in many college physical education programs fits one of two models. The first is the fencer who competed regularly on a college team. Because of this association with the sport the individual assumes the mantle of being a coach. However, during the college experience the "coach" was interested in one thing; winning bouts. The average fencer with this experience knows how to fence, but has only limited knowledge of the pedagogical techniques of our sport, usually based on a vague memory of what his coach did. In addition, such instructors rarely have any of the academic physical education background that is vital.

The second type of instructor presents in many ways a worse picture. The physical education major typically receives six weeks of group instruction in fencing as part of a multi-sports survey curriculum; this actually represents approximately eighteen hours of instruction at best. While this individual should have the knowledge of philosophy, sports medicine, conditioning theory, etc., the complete lack of any real knowledge or experience with the competitive sport more than offsets the value of the academic knowledge.

In 1972 the Virginia Division recognized

our lack of qualified fencing instructors and decided to take specific steps to help the average fencing instructor and to develop new instructors with basic competence. At first, we thought the answer was to import coaches to Virginia for clinics and to encourage as many of our instructors to attend extended clinics as possible. However, we moved away from this idea for several reasons. First, the economic situation is steadily worsening and the cost of importing instructors is out of all proportion to the good that can be gained from a one or two day clinic. Second, a clinic of the typical weekend model cannot adequately serve the needs of the novice instructor, especially if the clinics are concluded on a sporadic basis. The novice instructor needs regular theoretical instruction and regular practical supervision on a unified technical plan. Short clinics cannot meet this requirement. Finally, and unfortunately, most new instructors, especially the amateur at a small local club, cannot afford to attend clinics of the type run by Raoul Sudre or Penn State. I say unfortunately because these are excellent in every respect.

As part of our effort to provide some alternative, the Division founded a Virginia Academy Of Arms, and invitations were sent to all known individuals in the state who were teaching or coaching, to participate in the Academy's organization. Only a small number responded initially, but this has grown so that the Academy now has eleven members including three beginning instructors, all three of the active community club instructors, and the Division's two professionals. Membership is open to any individual who is actively teaching fencing, provided that he is sponsored by a current member and passes a written and practical test of his fencing knowledge.

The Academy's purpose is to help (1) improve the quality of coaching and (2) to help improve the quality of fencing. In the first case we concentrate on a self-help approach based on a free exchange of technical information about all aspects of instruction and coaching in the sport. Our specific program is based on:

(A). A regular program of seminars. Each of these day long gatherings are aimed at one specific area. For example; the January 1975 seminar deals with the selection and composition of conditioning programs. A committee of the Academy is responsible for coordinating the subject matter for the seminars to insure that each one logically becomes part of the instructor's education.

(B). A quarterly journal. This mimeographed publication is designed to encourage each member to become involved in writing his thoughts on any aspect of fencing so that the other members may criticize and evaluate them.

(C). An accreditation program. The Academy awards certificates as an Assistant Leader, Leader, and Advanced Leader. The first two are single weapon awards, and the last requires competency in all three weapons. The body of knowledge required at each level is based on the content of our proficiency award scheme and is evaluated by written, oral, and practical examination by a panel of three Academy members. This program helps to insure a basic level of knowledge among the accredited instructors and to give each individual a series of goals for his own education as a coach. We feel that an Assistant Leader is well qualified to handle absolute beginners in the mechanics of footwork, the weapon, the straight attack and simple parries. A Leader can teach simple blade work through indirect attacks, and has basic training in giving an individual lesson. Each candidate for examination must be sponsored by a member of the Academy who insures that the individual has received detailed technical training.

In the second case, (improving the quality of fencing), a proficiency program of four awards, Novice, Bronze, Silver, and Gold, has been developed for each weapon. All instructors are urged to use the progression established for the awards as a basis for teaching and to have their students regularly tested for the awards. Each level includes a written and practical test. The tests are given by a single examiner and are based on strict technical perfection of the

required movements. We have found that these awards are well received and that the average student can qualify in approximately eighteen months for all four.

To date we feel that our Virginia Academy Of Arms has given the amateur and professional coaches in our state a framework of mutual cooperation in improving the level of instruction offered our fencers. We feel that by creating an organized framework for the interchange of ideas we have given each instructor an opportunity to exchange information in an environment free from other distractions. We feel that our accreditation program is also valuable in giving instructors standards to work toward and in making them familiar with the examination process.

Other divisions might consider the ideas and adapt them to the particular needs of their areas and fencing population. Certainly the instructors produced under our system are not comparable to anything approaching the standard of a fencing master. However, they are competent to teach people in our sport and they will insure that each fencer will be taught according to an approved standard system. In some areas which have a number of already established masters such a training scheme could produce more advanced coaches.

If AFLA divisions utilize the coaching resources within their boundaries and add whatever organizational structure might prove most appropriate, they could make a definite contribution. Anyone desiring more information on the activities of the Virginia Academy Of Arms or having suggestions as to how this program could be improved is urged to contact me at No. 6 Ivy Lane, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.

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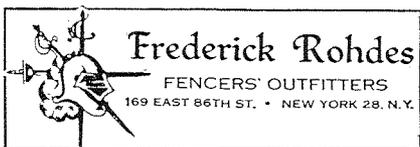
by Joseph Byrnes

Breathes there a bout committee member who does not dread the spectacle of a huge entry from one club or school? The rules (Article 526-add) talk of fencers from the same country and of the "same affiliation," and contemplate nothing bigger than a pool of 7, and maybe 4 of the same affiliation to a pool. (For AFLA use, by "affiliation" we chiefly mean people from the same division at National or Sectional championships, and, at lower levels of competition, club or teammates.)

What happens if you've got sets of teammates, or pools of 8 or 9? It can happen. Well, by paragraph b) you "may arrange a special bout order, endeavoring to depart as little as possible from the (usual) . . . with the aim of avoiding undue fatigue or excessive interruptions . . ." Lots of luck in your endeavoring. Can't you see yourself, with managers and captains breathing heavily over you, trying to juggle that numbers game?

Thanks to Carla Mae Richards, we can print here a number of already worked-out alternate bout orders. They won't cover all the (ugh) possibilities, but they can help. And also, thanks to Carla Mae's eagle eye, we can call your attention to an erroneous figure in the very last line of Article 526-add in the new rule book: right in the middle of the line, the pairing 7-5 occurs for the second time; it should be 7-3, as 7 and 5 have already met three bouts back. (Incidentally, that error appears in the original French text. It just goes to show how faithful a translation we have.)

The additional alternate bout orders, which are derived from originals in use by the French Federation, are given below, beginning with an alternate for the FIE alternate for 4 teammates in a pool of 6. Read down the columns, left to right, as usual.



Pool of 6
4 from A
A = 1, 2, 3, 4

Order of Bouts	
1-3	6-4
2-4	3-5
5-6	2-6
1-4	5-4
2-3	6-1
1-5	2-5
3-4	6-3
1-2	

Pool of 8
3 from A, 2 from B, 2 from C
A = 1, 2, 3; B = 5, 6; C = 7, 8

Order of Bouts			
7-8	5-8	7-1	8-2
5-6	3-1	3-6	3-4
1-2	2-7	2-5	6-7
8-4	4-5	1-4	1-8
7-5	1-6	8-6	5-3
2-3	3-8	7-3	6-2
6-4	4-2	5-1	4-7

Pool of 8
3 from A, 3 from B, 2 from C
A = 1, 2, 3; B = 4, 5, 6; C = 7, 8

Order of Bouts			
1-2	1-4	7-3	1-8
4-5	2-7	8-6	4-7
3-1	5-8	5-1	6-2
6-4	3-6	3-4	3-8
7-8	7-1	8-2	7-5
2-3	8-4	6-7	1-6
5-6	2-5	5-3	4-2

Pool of 8
4 from A, 4 from B
A = 1, 2, 3, 4; B = 5, 6, 7, 8

Order of Bouts			
5-8	4-2	7-1	5-3
6-7	7-8	2-5	8-2
1-4	5-6	3-6	4-7
2-3	3-4	1-8	5-1
7-5	1-2	4-5	6-2
8-6	3-8	2-7	7-3
3-1	6-4	1-6	8-4

Pool of 8
4 from A, 3 from B
A = 1, 2, 3, 4; B = 5, 6, 7

Order of Bouts			
5-6	5-8	2-7	1-8
1-2	1-4	3-8	5-3
3-4	8-6	1-6	4-7
7-5	2-3	2-5	8-2
3-1	7-8	8-4	3-6
4-2	5-1	7-3	7-1
6-7	6-4	6-2	4-5

Pool of 9
3 from A
A = 1, 2, 3

Order of Bouts			
2-3	4-9	5-1	4-2
6-7	7-1	4-7	9-1
4-5	3-6	6-9	7-8
3-1	9-5	3-8	5-6
8-9	8-4	2-5	3-4
1-2	2-7	1-4	2-9
7-3	1-6	9-7	1-8
5-8	9-3	8-6	7-5
6-2	8-2	5-3	6-4

Pool of 9
3 from A, 3 from B, 3 from C
A = 1, 2, 3; B = 4, 5, 6; C = 7, 8, 9

Order of Bouts			
1-2	7-1	4-7	1-4
4-5	4-2	1-8	8-6
7-8	3-6	6-2	7-5
3-1	5-8	5-3	2-9
6-4	4-9	9-1	3-4
9-7	1-6	8-4	5-1
2-3	2-7	6-7	6-9
5-6	3-8	2-5	8-2
8-9	9-5	9-3	7-3

Pool of 9
4 from A, 3 from B, 2 from C
A = 1, 2, 3, 4; B = 5, 6, 7; C = 8, 9

Order of Bouts			
5-6	3-4	8-2	9-1
3-1	5-8	9-5	2-7
4-2	6-9	7-3	8-6
7-5	7-1	8-4	9-3
2-3	2-5	5-1	4-7
1-4	3-6	6-2	1-8
8-9	7-8	9-7	5-3
6-7	4-9	3-8	2-9
1-2	1-6	4-5	6-4

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Technical Talks

by
Joseph Byrnes



The FIE, at the big international events, keeps a benevolent eye on things, and, at the "official" events (Olympics and World Championships, both senior and junior), is in charge of the actual inspections. Some months later, there will appear a report, listing what was chiefly wrong with the electrical and other equipment inspected this time. Every report, it seems, finds that people have become slack in certain areas. A couple of items that have been stressed by FIE inspection reports bear on things we see, probably too frequently, here at home, so here goes.

By Article 25/5 of the Rules, a crossbar extending beyond the rim of the guard is specifically prohibited. That is generally thought of as applying to Italian foils only; and by now one would think that the manufacturers would produce Italian guards that conformed. That isn't always the case, though, or else an awful lot of ancient guards are still in use. It is not sufficient just to tape up the protruding tips, either; get 'em off there. This rule is now and again invoked to apply to top or bottom prongs on shaped handles, as well, but ordinarily these would project only if the handle were bent off at a pronounced angle from the blade. As I see it, right now this is a gray area, one in which we may yet see some rule for foil, as there is, in effect, for epee.

In epee, the latest deviation that has been shot down (and extensively reported) is violation of Article 310, as regards the "tilt back" of the guard. People have been doing this for years, more or less, of course, and have been fencing in some pretty big competitions with weapons so assembled. But the FIE is tightening up its enforcement. What happens is that the fencer whose epee guard is already at the maximum overall depth allowed (5.5cm.) has

no leeway permitted him: his guard must be at right angles to the direct line of the blade, in order to keep within the specification. See figure 1 on page 47 of the Rule Book, 1974 edition, where the illustration is of a guard which has a depth (at right angles) less than the maximum 5.5 cm. Thus it can be legally angled on the blade, since its rear edge can still be kept at or within the 5.5 cm. range. If, however, that guard came from the manufacturer already as deep as it was allowed to be, it could only be mounted four-square, otherwise the rear edge would fall behind the 5.5 figure and (unless you were using a short blade) behind the other no-no figure: not more than 95.5 from the tip.

The illustration for the old 1970 Rule Book (printed in England) tried to make this clear by redrawing the FIE diagrams; the situation was not helped by the labeling, though. At any rate, if you have one of those 1970 editions around, the top two drawings of epees on page 52 illustrated the way a full-depth guard locks you into a four-square mount, and the little drawing (center right) showed what you could **not** do (it is labeled "irregular," meaning not cricket, of course).

The only way one can really prove this condition (anybody can be pretty sure of it by eye alone) is with an official FIE test jig (gabarit"), see page 19 of the 1974 edition. And how many of those do we have around?

That last remark is not to suggest that we should ignore a rule. We do need more of these formal test jigs around the country. After all, if someone comes to rely on a weapon rigged in a way which is not acceptable, as he goes higher in competition he may be adversely affected. It's obviously better that he be doing it the right way from the beginning. That's not to mention any questions of fair play or equity among fencers!



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The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein:

As a college student majoring in special education, who also happens to be a fencer, I found Louis Cotton's article, "Special Students Fencing Class", in your January/February 1975 Issue, which concerned teaching fencing to the handicapped, very interesting.

I would be interested in setting up a similar program in the future (after I have completed, or sooner, if possible) and would sincerely appreciate your informing me of Mr. Cotton's mailing address so that I may contact him concerning methods, materials, special problems, etc.

Since commitments to my studies and employment have prevented me from being an active fencer, your magazine is a much appreciated commodity for keeping me informed of the latest news of the sport.

Sincerely,
Paul Bauer
3433 Virgin Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein:

I received the January-February issue of American Fencing for 1975 and noticed your article on "To the Point". The publication is not mysterious to those of us that know of its origin and growth but to you it may seem strange it being printed in Washington D.C. and yet being a Western Washington Division Newsletter. The explanation of this is that our present Division Chairman, William Kullman, is a pilot for Northwest Orient Airlines whose many trips take him to Washington D.C. It seems that where Bill goes he either finds friends of fencing or promoters fencing to people he meets so that they become interested in it and are willing to donate or to assist him in the promotion of fencing as a lifetime sport. The idea for the Division Newsletter was Bill's as is the format, content and

advertisements. The cost of the Newsletter is defrayed in part by the many contributors that he has sought out. And the typing is done mainly by Bill and the Division Secretary. Bill has spent considerable time, effort and money in promoting fencing in the State of Washington, especially in the Division and then the Junior Olympic Program. Results of his efforts are being seen now in the results of increased membership interest enthusiasm and development of a fine Junior Olympic Program.

Bill's interest has continued for a long time and fencing in '75 and '76 in the Western Washington Division will certainly be a reflection and credit to Bill.

Very truly yours,
Kenyon E. Luce
Western Washington Division
Tacoma, Wash.

The Editor
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein:

I would like to add my opinions regarding the new sabre regulations, but decency forbids my using that language which I would consider appropriate to the subject in any public forum. I will, however, comment on the article by Richard Gradkowski entitled "Don't Panic, or: How to Understand And Enjoy The New Sabre Regulations" of the January/February issue. Mister Gradkowski states:

"Now, if a simultaneous attack occurs, the fencer without the priority receives a penalty touch. It doesn't matter how his 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."

If this is indeed the spirit behind the new regulation, then I find an inconsistency in Mr. Gradkowski's "table of possibilities". In this table, Fencer A has the priority, and another simultaneous action occurs. If both A and B fencers hit off target, a penalty touch is scored against fencer B because she/he (there may someday be large scale women's and non-sexist sabre tournaments —

hence the doubled pronoun) participated in a simultaneous action when the priority was Fencer A's. If both fencers miss, as in Case 3, Fencer B will also receive a penalty touch for the same reason. But if Fencer A misses and Fencer B lands off target, no touch is awarded as explained in Case 7. In this I find the inconsistency. Fencer B is still at fault for participating in a simultaneous action after the assignment of priority to Fencer A, and so Fencer B should be penalized as he/she was in Case 3. Now if one changes Case 3 to make it consistent with Case 7, instead of making Case 7 consistent by a change with Case 3, the spirit of the rules is violated. Note that the spirit of the regulation holds as is stated on page 5 of the article "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." This argument of course follows from Case 3 — if both miss, and then one or the other or both fencers remise, the remise is disallowed because a point has already been scored by the simultaneous miss-action of the two fencers, and only one point may be awarded per action. Therefore, it is Case 3 that must be the example of fidelity to the spirit of the new regulation, and Case 7 as it stands in that article, is inconsistent and must be changed to remain logically within the new rule.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to "mouth off" to someone regarding the "heads-or-tails" sabre-priority system. I like to see the entire matter dropped, but if it must be so I do hope that the officials restore some logic to their system.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph D'Alessandro
Philadelphia, Penn.

(Ed. Note: Mr. D'Alessandro brings up an interesting point. Readers should understand that we don't make the rules; we just report them. The purpose of our article was simply to help our readers apply the rules. We might suggest that, in response to Mr. D'Alessandro's comment that, in Case 7, while B did participate in a double action, at least he hit something, hence the mitigation of his possible penalization.)

The Editor,
American Fencing
Dear Mr. Goldstein:

With reference to Mr. Gradkowski's article on the new simultaneous attack rule in sabre, in the translation sent to me by Dr. Byrnes it says, "For the application of this rule, simultaneous attacks in which:

"Both fencers hit each other (either valid or invalid) or neither fencer hits the other, must be counted in calculating the required **two successive decisions.**"

(Note the reference to the initial two successive actions).

"On the other hand, a decision of simultaneous attack in which only one fencer is touched will not be used in the calculation."

Should we assume that this also applies to the situation where one fencer has priority (case 8 in the article), or should perhaps the interpretation be that once priority has been decided, irrespective of where or if A hits, B is counted as hit for simply having been a party to a simultaneous action. If case 8 does apply, then what do you do if A misses and there is a triple abstention on B's action? (or the reverse)

With regards to the time running out having established that the bout cannot end until both fencers have had the benefit of the priority presumably the bout would continue until the second 'valid hit' had been scored. But what happens if application of this rule brings the score to 5-5, time run out, and then one fencer receives a penalty (say, for removing his mask)?

As Mr. Gradkowski says, the mere existence of the rule seems to have a deterrent effect and fencers tend to avoid repetitive simultaneous attacks in order not to invoke the rule. However, I have noticed that it brings about some interesting strategy. A "strong" fencer can provoke two simultaneous attacks and then by making it clear that he is quite happy to go for a third one he can sometimes intimidate his opponent into going onto the defensive.

Note also that the rule does not prohibit the fencer without the priority from attacking, it only penalizes him if the action is read as simultaneous. B (without the priority) sensing that A will want to attack

but will not want to rush at him and risk doing something rash, can move off the line towards A very quickly when the word "fence" is called. A, not wishing to give up the right to attack and knowing that he will come out ahead as long as it's read as simultaneous, can be induced into a hasty counter attack, leaving himself open to a second-intention action by B. Etc., etc., etc.

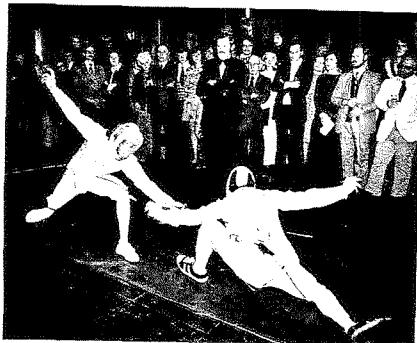
I agree that it is an "artificial" rule, but anything that improves the situation of the last few years is worth trying. I think the thing to remember is that the rules have always been set up to determine not only the winner and loser, but also the 'manner' of fencing.

I have been disappointed to find that none of the college teams we have met so far this year have been willing to use the rule. I think this is the old 'head in the sand' routine, and very short-sighted.

As a final note, I agree with Mr. Gradkowski, the foil fencers can stop smirking. It was reported that the FIE expressed concern at some of the foil styles and requested that the "covering arm" rule and "corps-a-corps" rule be applied more strictly.

Sincerely,
Anthony Gillham
 Madison, Wisconsin

(Ed. Note: One of the basic laws of fencing theory is to touch without being touched. Thus Case 8 is simply a classical case of this law and any fencer who touches without being touched is entitled to score. The situation where a doubtful touch is scored (the abstentions of Mr. Gillham's example) is not specifically covered in the new rules. However Rule 69/5 states: "A touch of doubtful materiality is never counted to the disadvantage of the fencer who may have received it; . . .". We may therefore hypothesize that; if A has the priority but misses, and B makes a doubtful touch, the Director must simply replace both fencers on guard. If B had the priority, we could award the penalty touch against A. If both fencers made doubtful touches, regardless of who had the priority, the Director would have to replace them on guard, without any award.)



New Orleans Champ Ted Cotton (1) and Louisiana Champ Larry Ward fence during the reception held at the Mardi Gras Fencing Tournament in New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS MARDI GRAS TOURNAMENT by Chris Trammell and Eugene Hamori

The Second Annual Mardi Gras Fencing Tournament, February 8-9, sponsored by the New Orleans Fencers Club and the University of New Orleans, drew a field of 17 epeeists and 39 foilists eager to meet 1974 National Champion Heik Hambarzumian and attend the fencing clinic conducted by Maestro Lajos Csizsar and Dr. Eugene Hamori.

On the eve of the competition a reception was held at the elegant Grand Hall of the New Orleans International House. During this occasion challenge matches were fenced among Heik Hambarzumian, Robert Hurley (Houston, Texas), Ted Cotton (NOFC) and Larry Ward (Baton Rouge, La.). Bob Hurley, however, managed to beat Hambarzumian in a demonstration epee bout.

Next year the Mardi Gras Tournament will have sabre and women's foil events and will be held on the 28th and 29th of February.

RESULTS:

Foil: 1. H. Hambarzumian (San Francisco, Ca.); 2. J. Myrden, (U.S. Army); 3. T. Cotton, (NOFC); 4. D. Dubos (Lafayette, La.); 4. R. Hurley (Houston, Texas); 6. L. Ward (LSU, Baton Rouge).
Epee: 1. L. Cotton (S. Texas); 2. R. Hurley (Houston, Texas); 3. D. Dubos (Lafayette, La.); 4. L. Ward, (LSU, Baton Rouge); 5. L. Goldwaite (Ft. Worth, Texas); 6. J. Myrden (U.S. Army).

WESTERN NEW YORK

by Larry Roth

On April 6, four men and three women met in a division scheduled competition in the fencing room of R.I.T. This was the first mixed event held in the division, and in view of the current interest among women fencers in such events, (not to mention among men) the results may prove of interest. In order of place are: Art Plouffe (6-0), John Bourne (5-1), Larry Roth (4-2), Jack O'Donnell (3-3); Ildiko Mandy 2-4), Anne O'Donnell 1-5), Suzanne Connett (0-6). From the results and the number of entries, it appears at first glance that mixed fencing events are not practicable; however, such is not the case.

Asked how they felt about fencing men, after the meet, all of the women agreed they didn't mind, and would do so again. Anne O'Donnell said "It helps. I don't mind . . . I would prefer to have the opportunity more often." Ildiko Mandy found it was "Good practice." "I don't mind," said Suzanne Connett, "To me, I would rather do

something like this than fence t women who show up all the time. sick of fencing the same people c over again."

All things considered, mixed fe not an unreasonable development. T factor against the women, in this c the difference in competitive ex between the women and the men. mixed events should help rectify th the women agreed that it would he improve the level of their own fer and give them a chance to fence often. While the initial competit limited in size by the weather, enough to make similar events lik on that basis alone, can be consi success.

SPITZER MEMORIAL

The annual Spitzer Memorial con for young fencers will be held t in Israel on June 30. Interested should contact Chaba M. Pallaghy

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25th WIFCC CHAMPIONSHIP by Gerard Biagini

Twenty-two colleges and universities competed in this year's Western Intercollegiate Fencing Conference Meet which was held at California State University at Chico.

Individual

Foil: 1. Newland, Air Force; 2. Marx, Portland State; 3. Grose, Stanford.

Epee: 1. Marx, Portland State; 2. Jones, UC Berkeley; 3. Christman, CSU Fullerton.

Sabre: 1. Halstead, CSU San Diego; 2. Shelton, UC Los Angeles; 3. McHugh, Air Force.

Team

Foil: 1. Stanford University; 2. Portland State; 3. Air Force Academy.

Epee: 1. CSU Fullerton; 2. Portland State; 3. CSU Northridge.

Sabre: 1. Air Force Academy; 2. CSU Fullerton; 3. UC Los Angeles.

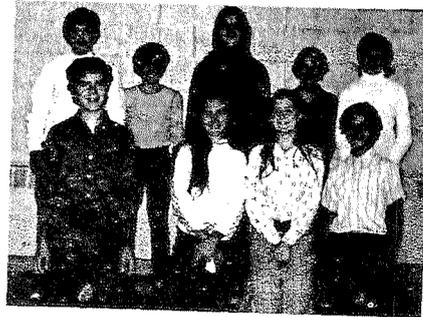


photo by Boepple

Fencing Club finalists in the Hackettstown tournament (from l. to r.) David Kietrys (winner), Brian Pilkington, Brad Eckroth, Kathy Iacampo, Kathy Grogan, Stacey Grogan, Susan Wyss, Ray Bosques, Jennifer McHugh.

HACKETTSTOWN MEET

by Todd Boepple

The Hackettstown Recreation Department has sponsored a recreation fencing program for the past three years that is open to boys and girls in the fourth through eighth grades and high school girls.

Over seventy-five boys and girls participated in this program this year. The programs are from eight to twelve weeks long and consist of learning the basic fundamentals of fencing, proper sportsmanship, along with team and individual competitions.

This year we had our own individual recreation tournament for the Hackettstown members and the winners are looking forward to entering the Under-14's this year.

"This sword of mine shall give them instant way where they shall rest forever"

Act V, Scene II
King Lear

— culled by Lou Shaff

SOUTHWEST TEXAS FOIL

by Lewis J. Smith

The first open fencing competition ever held in San Marcos, Texas under the auspices of the AFLA South Texas Division was conducted on February 22, in the Aqua Sports Center at Southwest Texas State University. The competition was sponsored by the University's newly formed Fencing Club, and entries included fencers from the Trinity Fencing Club in San Antonio and the University of Texas at Austin, as well as the host school. A total of fifty-one fencers participated.

The novice men's foil produced the most exciting final; Bill Sharkey of the Southwest Texas State University Fencing Club defeated Tinker Murray in the only barrage of the day to gain first place.

Look for this foil competition to be offered in the Spring and Autumn in the future. Write to Lewis Smith, SWTSU, Dept. HPE, Hines Gym, San Marcos Texas 78666.

RESULTS:

Foil: 1. Bennett, Trinity (7-0); 2. Tate, SWT (5-2); 3. Marsch, Trinity (5-2); 4. Billing, Trinity (4-3); 5. Hardin, SWTSU (2-5); 6. W. SWTSU (2-5); 7. Thesis, SWTSU (2-5); 8. Clain, SWTSU (1-6).

Women's Foil: 1. Kouterick, UT (4-0); 2. Willia, UT (3-1); 3. Taylor, SWTSU (2-2); 4. F. SWTSU (1-3); 5. Peters, SWTSU (0-4).

Novice Foil: 1. Sharkey, SWTSU (4-1); 2. Mur, SWTSU (4-1); 3. Mathys, SWTSU (3-2); Fleming, SWTSU (2-3); 5. Draker, SWTSU (2-6. Daily, SWTSU (0-5). barrage: Sharkey feated Murray 5-3.

Novice Women's Foil: 1. Gillis, SWTSU (7-1) Lane, SWTSU (6-2); 3. Blucher, SWTSU (4-4. Williams, SWTSU (5-3); 5. Donley, SW (5-3); 6. Broughton, SWTSU (3-5); 7. Zimr man, SWTSU (2-6); 8. Blacknull, UT (2-6) Cossey, SWTSU (0-8).

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"SWORDS FOR STRENGTH"

by Dee Falato

The New Jersey Division has joined in the fight against the baffling disease known as Multiple Sclerosis — "the crippler of young adults". M.S. usually strikes young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30, and causes permanent disability and sometimes death in what should be the most productive years of their lives.

On Sunday, June 8th, in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School gym, an event called **SWORDS FOR STRENGTH** — a New Jersey State invitational men and woman's Foil Competition sponsored by the A.F.L.A. was held to benefit the youth leadership council of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. To educate our young fencers and others to the symptoms of this disabling disease, M.S. chapters provided information through various media. Guest speakers were Mr. Steve Sobel, Marty Lombardo, National Youth Director for M.S., and Mr. Thatcher Stretlong from the National M.S. Advisory Council.

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JOHNS HOPKINS MIDDLE ATLANTIC VICTOR

by Roger F. Jones

Johns Hopkins University, coached by Richard Oles, captured first place in every team event, on the way to their third consecutive three-weapon championship at the Middle Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Conference tournament, held March 1, 1975, at Haverford College. The clean sweep of team events was only the second in the 24-year history of the meet, and was nearly matched in the individual titles, where the Blue Jays won two out of three. The outstanding individual of the tournament was Hopkins' star John Roberts, whose 12-0 record gave him his second straight MACFC sabre championship — both times undefeated, another conference record.

Roberts' teammate, Frank Burton, was a close second at 11-1, and Greg Hasyn, Temple, placed third in the sabre with 8-4.

Both Hopkins epeeists tied for first with 11-1 marks, with Timothy Rodgers winning the fence-off over teammate Tom Slota (who was also a silver medalist in '74). Eric Sun, Muhlenberg, was third at 9-3.

Clyde Ofner, Temple, improved on his '74 foil runner-up position by tying for first at 10-2, and then defeating Steve Block, Lafayette, in the fenceoff for the title. The foil event was extremely close and hard-fought, as Mark Pleatman, Haverford, won third on indicators over Hopkins' Bruce Livingston. Livingston, silver medalist in sabre in '74, had changed to foil for this meet.

Paul Primamore, Drew University, was named Coach of the Year. Haverford College's team won the voting to receive the Franklin D. Jones Sportmanship Award.

RESULTS

TEAM	FOIL	EPEE	SABRE	TOTAL
Johns Hopkins	16	20	23	59
Stevens	12	16	15	43
Temple	15	12	15	42
Muhlenberg	13	16	11	40
Lafayette	13	6	9	28
Haverford	14	10	2	26
Drew	1	4	9	14

AMERICAN FENCING

THE END OF THE LINE

by Roland G. Asselin

The question of interpretation of "point in line" has been debated in the American fencing world now for some few years and this interpretation frequently varied, depending upon the point of view of the Jury President.

I suggested in my original article called "What's My Line?" that the matter be taken up by the International Fencing Federation for a final and universal ruling. The Judges' Committee of the International Fencing Federation has now ruled unanimously, as follows:

Articles 223/1 and 418/1 reaffirm the fundamental priority of the "line." Else these articles do not specify in any format that the fencer who is in "line" will lose the right of way, accorded by this position, should there be an advance or retreat, which then should be contrary to the conventions, because the right of way should only be accorded to the fencer in "line" if immobile on the strip.

Consequently, when a fencer is in "line" according to the definitions of article 233/1 and 418/1 the priority of the "line" should always be respected in the analysis of the fencing action and there should not be a different interpretation given when the fencer who is in "line" **advances, retreats** or stays **motionless** on the strip.

Only a beat or taking of the blade or displacement by the opponent supercedes the right of way given to a fencer by the "line." The Committee requests that the Congress issue an affirmative note to the federations in order to assure uniformity of this interpretation.

I trust that this will settle the matter once and for all and that all officials will adhere strictly to the ruling.

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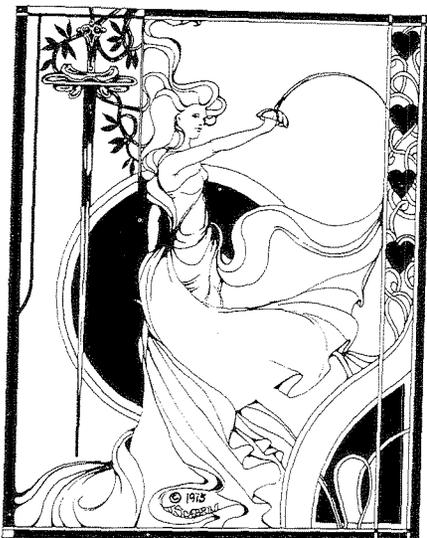
NIWFA CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESULTS

1. San Jose State University	99	
2. William Paterson College	97	
3. Brooklyn College	96	
4. Penn State University	88	
5. Montclair State College	78	
6. California State-Fullerton	75	
7. Lehman College	66	
8. University of North Carolina	65	
9. Buffalo State	64	
10. Hunter College	63	.1134
11. Madison College	63	.0927
12. Trenton State College	62	
13. Barnard College	57	.0764
14. John Hopkins University	57	.0168
15. Ohio State University	56	
16. University of Arizona	54	
17. Pratt University	51	
18. Longwood College	49	
19. C.C.N.Y.	47	.8506
20. S.U.C. at Brockport	47	.8309
21. University of Pennsylvania	45	
22. Colgate University	44	
23. Pace University	35	
24. Temple University	33	
25. Fairleigh Dickinson-Teaneck	32	
26. Jersey City State College	29	
27. Indiana University of Penn.	29	
28. St. Johns University	25	
29. N.Y.U.	18	

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Vincent Hurley		
San Jose State	7-1	
2. Mrs. Virginia Bleamaster		
Cal State-Fullerton	6-2	
3. Mrs. Gay D'asaro		
San Jose State	5-3	1.474
4. Ann Marie Williams		
Brooklyn College	5-3	1.400
5. Jeannine Lynch		
Wm. Paterson	4-4	1.150
6. Stacy Johnson		
San Jose State	4-4	.900
7. Iza Farkas		
Wm. Paterson	3-5	.875
3. Rosemary Filk		
Buffalo State	1-7	.321
3. Debbie Porter		
Wm. Paterson	1-7	.233



An impression of "womens' fencing" done in the style of Aubrey Breadsley by Janet Scabrini of the Pratt Institute. Janet is a member of the Pratt team which participated in the NIWFA Championships and is preparing for a career as an illustrator. Interested parties may contact her at 215 Willoughby Ave., Bklyn., N.Y. 11205.

COACH OF THE YEAR

The Giorgio Santelli award for NIWFA Coach of the Year has been presented to Denise O'Connor and Mike Dasaro jointly for the performance of their teams in the 1975 NIWFA Championships. Mike's San Jose State team took the first place medal in their very first participation in this tournament and Denise's Brooklyn College girls came in third.



MARBLEHEAD FENCING

All fencers in the New England area are cordially invited to participate in outdoor fencing (weather permitting) at the home of Aaron J. Bell, 52 Picwick Road, Marblehead, Mass., every Wednesday evening from 7:30, during the summer months.

HEIK HAMBARZUMIAN U.S. FOIL CHAMPION

By Mary Huddleson

Although an auslander was heard to refer to him as "a nice young man with an unpronounceable name" Heik Hambarzumian has been a familiar figure in San Francisco fencing circles for some years. The new (and now defending) national men's foil champion, born in Germany of Armenian parentage, came to this country in 1959 at the age of 10 and has lived in San Francisco since then.

He first picked up a foil at his local high school and, although he also enjoys playing tennis and soccer, fencing has been his passion since that time. At the University of San Francisco he came under the tutelage of Dr. William G. O'Brien, who also coaches at Letterman Army Medical Center. With this happy relationship (for Dr. O'Brien has been the mentor of many aspiring young fencers) Heik began to make his presence felt in collegiate and AFLA competitions.

Like all dedicated young American fencers, Heik has had to cope with lack of financial backing from organizations and government. He worked his way through college by playing the accordion and piano in his own dance band.

In 1973 he participated in the world University Games in Moscow and spent most of the year, competing and practicing in France. In 1974 he won the Pacific Coast Sectional and U.S. National Foil titles and as a result, was invited to compete in the International Champions Tournament in South Africa, where he took a credible sixth place.

The good news for American fencing that Heik plans to go back to Paris to get his Masters Diploma (in fencing, of course) and then return to this country to teach his favorite sport.

QUICKIE QUIZ

May a woman fencer wear long trowse in competition? (See Art. 215, page 37, the 1974 Rules Book).

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1975 NATIONALS SCHEDULE

- Sat. June 21 — 8:30 AM Foil (to QF)
5:00 PM Director's Clinic
7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- Sun. June 22 — 8:30 AM Sabre (to QF)
5:00 PM Foil (SF & F)
- Mon. June 23 — 8:30 AM Foil Team
5:00 PM Sabre (SF & F)
- Tue. June 24 — 8:30 AM Women's Foil (to QF)
1:00 PM Sabre Team
8:30 PM Annual General Meeting
- Wed. June 25 — 8:30 AM Epee (to QF)
5:00 PM Women's Foil (SF & F)
- Thu. June 26 — 8:30 AM Women's Team
11:00 AM U-19 Foil
5:00 AM Epee (SF & F)
- Fri. June 27 — 8:30 AM Epee Team
11:00 AM U-19 Sabre
2:00 PM Masters Competition
7:00 PM Fencing Clinic
- Sat. June 28 — 8:30 AM U-19 Women's Foil
10:00 AM U-19 Epee
10:30 AM Senior Olympics, Foil & Epee
8:30 PM Gala Night
- Sun. June 29 — 11:00 AM Senior Olympics
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**BLUE RIDGE FENCING
by Al Rose**

The 1975 Blue Ridge Fencing Coence Championships, hosted by Merburg Academy, were dominated by Fburg Fencers in an unprecedented sv of all team and individual titles. The l of fencing was high, with seven fencer the tournament having won a total of national medals (including two chamships) over the past three years in United States Under-16 Championship

RESULTS

1. Frostburg Fencers (Md.) 25;
2. Murry Woods Musketeers (Pittsburg);
3. Tri-Weapon Club (Baltimore) 19;
4. Mercersburg Academy (Pa.) 13;
5. Augusta Military Academy (Va.) 13.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- Sabre:** 1. Paul, Cordts, Frostburg; 2. Olsen, Frostburg; 3. Dan Riley, Fburg.
- Epee:** 1. Sam Redick, Frostburg; 2. Nizinski, Frostburg; 3. John Snyder, cenburg.
- Foil:** 1. Dean Rose, Frostburg; 2. Wheaden, Tri-Weapon; 3. Matt H Murry Woods.

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AMERICAN FENCING

NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE
by Eugene R. Williams

With twelve colleges and 72 fencers competing, the 23rd Annual New England Intercollegiate Fencing Tournament was held March 1, 1975 at Campion Hall, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass. with Ms. Lillian Aylward as hostess coach, Eric Sollee, Tournament director, and Steve Chalmers, armorer. M.I.T. made a clean sweep to take the Elde Trophy.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

SABRE: 1. C.D. Part, M.I.T.; 2. S. Bourgeois, Southeastern Mass. University; 3. G. Bowe, Holy Cross; 4. M. Farber, Trinity College.

FOIL: 1. R. Reimer, M.I.T.; 2. S. Holland, Holy Cross; 3. A. Sterling, M.I.T. 4. S. Strenger, Brandeis University.

EPEE: 1. H. Farley, M.I.T.; 2. R. Manning, Brown University; 3. K. Ellis, Brandeis University; 4. Price, Norwich University.

TEAM RESULTS

PLACE	COLLEGE	EPEE	FOIL	SABRE	TOTAL
1.	M.I.T.	17	18	19	54
2.	Brandeis Univ.	11	17	13	41
3.	Holy Cross	11	20	9	40
4.	Southeastern Mass.	15	12	12	39
5.	Brown Univ.	14	10	13	37
5.	Trinity College	16	8	13	37
7.	Norwich Univ.	6	12	15	33
8.	Dartmouth College	15	11	5	31
9.	Worcester Polytech	9	12	6	27
10.	Fairfield Univ.	8	6	8	22
11.	Boston College	5	2	11	18
12.	Northeastern Univ.	5	4	8	17



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Yale
CCNY

Epee: 1. R. H
3. L. Shell
N.Y.U.; 5. J.
N.Y.U.

Foil: 1. J. Tieh
3. M. Smith
Mathis, Rut

Sabre: 1. T. I
N.Y.U.; 3. E.
ton; 5. M. B