

American FENCING

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Sheilah Armstrong – Womens' Foil



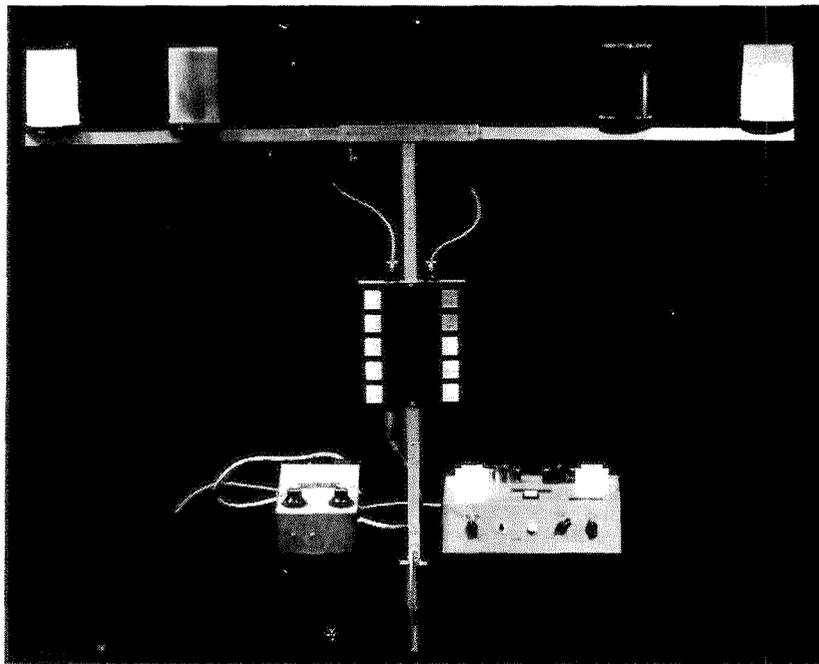
Michael Marx – Mens' Foil



Leonid Dervbinsky – Epee



Thomas Losonczy – Sabre



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Editor: Harriet King
Art Director: Patt Keefe
Business Manager: Eleanor Turney
Production Manager: Peter J. Kahn
Staff: Carl Borack, Steve Netburn, Nilo Otero
Policy Board: Irwin F. Bernstein, Chairman; Harriet King, Ralph Goldstein (Editor Emeritus), Howard Goodman, W.L. Osborn, Eleanor Turney

Send all contributions and correspondence to:
Harriet King
1250 Ellis #11
San Francisco, CA 94109
President: Irwin F. Bernstein
Secretary: Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706

Send all returns and changes of address to:
AFLA, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706

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ABOUT THE COVER

Pictured are our four national Sheilah Armstrong, (from California now a New Jerseyite) he finals five times. She works for tions." Michael Marx, a student land, Oregon, is also the U-1 Champion. Leonid Dervbink from Russia, is a newcomer to c lives in New York. Tom Losor U-20 Champion, repeated his v year. He lives in New York. Cor from *American Fencing* and its achievement.

From the President by Irwin Bernstein



Looking back over my first 12 months in office, I find that a large proportion of my time has been spent in the areas of international program management and AFLA liaison with the U.S. Olympic Committee. This is not too surprising when one realizes that the AFLA has dramatically accelerated its efforts towards establishing the USA as a contender for international medals and the USOC has just completed a painstaking restructuring which includes a much broadened role in amateur sports development at all levels. But in setting forth goals for the coming season, we must look beyond these ongoing functions to break new ground.

Fencing in the United States was defined as an "underdeveloped" sport in the recent "Report of the President's Commission on Olympic Sports." Symptoms of this are:

1. Lack of public awareness and interest.
2. Too few registered fencers.
3. Inadequate pool of world class competitors, coaches and officials.
4. Insufficient funds.

Since these problems are deeply rooted and interrelated, our attack on them must be vigorous and comprehensive. Among the steps I recommend for the 1977-78 season are:

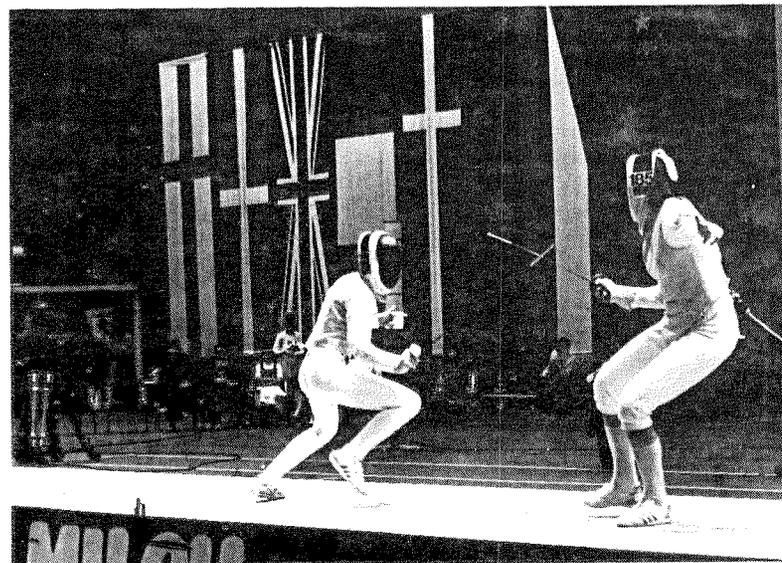
1. Produce new publicity media. For some time there have been plans for a documentary film to be shown in theatres as well as made available for exhibitions, etc. We must press forward with this as well as other projects.
2. Increase membership. There are many active fencers in school and college competition as well as many recreational fencers who are not members of the AFLA. Every person who really cares about fencing in the United States must strive to bring these fencers into the League.

In addition to the recruiting of existing fencers, we must create new ones. Our Junior Olympic Development Committee

has been charged with the responsibility for initiating and assisting in "grass-roots" projects to interest and give basic training to new fencers. The AFLA must be ready to support worthwhile projects with subsidies as well as advice.

3. Operate and expand the recently announced Fencing Development Program. We must be willing to support this program with funds and manpower so that the overall level of fencing in the country is raised. It is not enough to identify a few fencers with outstanding potential for international performance; we have always had that occasional good fortune. We must, through continuous training with the proper underlying theory, advance the overall average level of our fencers so that we can arrive at a multitude of internationalists from which teams can be selected. This same concept applies to coaches, officials and other cadre as well as competitors. In addition to training within the country, we must compete against other countries, especially where full teams are involved.
4. Obtain funds from outside the sport. The USOC has been increasingly effective in raising funds from individuals and corporations to support its expanding role. This has resulted in generous assistance to certain AFLA projects and has been a key factor in our international operations for several years. We must also raise our own funds, however, if we want to undertake the projects necessary to accomplish all of our objectives. We should initiate a temporary agreement with a professional sports promotion organization in order to generate funds from new sources while increasing the public's awareness of fencing. I think it's about time we tried something professionally, even at the risk of spending some money to initiate the project.

We have a healthy organization with many talented, effective volunteers. The climate in the country is increasingly favorable for amateur sports. The U.S. Olympic Committee has entered a new era in terms of the scope of its operations and resources in support of the National Sports Governing Bodies. If we have the initiative and energy and unity of purpose to do what so many of us know is needed, this season will be remembered as a turning point for the AFLA.



UNDER-19/UNDER-20: STATE OF CONFUSION

by Carla-Mae Richards

In the beginning there was a desperate need for a "youth" program and thus was created the Under-19 program — given the auspicious title of Junior Olympic program. The vacancy formed by the deletion of the Three-Weapon Team event at the National Championships was filled by the National Under-19 Championships events. A program was put together from various ideas to promote the Under-19 concept in divisions thru-out the country. As it sputtered and gasped to reach some semblance of an organized program there was the brilliant idea to have a tournament closer to the World Under-20 Championships. And thus was created the National Junior Olympic Championships — also known as the Under-20 Championships. So now we have a two-headed monster — Under-19 and Under-20 — to satisfy the age eligibility criteria of the World Under-20 Championships. With it came confusion galore in many divisions and their faltering Junior Olympic programs. And to add to the confusion we inaugurated two different qualifying systems for the two tournaments: sectional qualification to the

National Under-19 events and qualification to the Junior Olympic Championships.

Where is it written that the you (2) championships events to Under-20 Championships? Is tournaments — 8 months apart — representative of a selection system international youth tournament? A Junior Olympic tournament cause the National Under-19 event much too early to select a truly active and qualified team to a national event? Yet we hang onto Under-19 events even though they lack much of their significance in comparison to the strength of the Junior Olympic Championships. It is time for us to scrap old terms and introduce the new Junior Championships and Senior Championships.

The Under-19 Nationals usually have less entries in each event whereas the Junior Olympic Championships have from 50 to 70 entries. In addition,

of the greater value of the J.O. tournament for World Under-20 team selection has now been given by a new point system in which the J.O. results have one-third greater point value than the Under-19 results. And to separate the two tournaments even more it is now proposed that the format of the J.O.'s be changed to direct elimination to have the youngsters exposed and tested under the format used in the world tourney.

What real need does the Under-19 Nationals serve in the actual selection of the team for the World Under-20's? Many youngsters will make a choice on financial basis to attend the J.O.'s rather than the Under-19 as the more important and critical tournament. Further, the youngsters are close to their peak fencing performance at the J.O.'s and not at the U-19's since the majority of these fencers in with school programs whose season ends in March.

Whereby did we get the concept of two point tournaments for selection to the World Under-20 team? Why from the senior program, of course! But the senior program was really only one basic tournament, the senior nationals, from which we pick our squad for the following year. Then, during the year, there are intra-squad point events to which in three out of four years the fencers are subsidized to some extent. Remember this system is not just to select fencers for international teams each year but the overall goal is to produce the best team possible to compete in the Olympics. That is its ultimate goal with the international events each year stepping stones for experience and growth of our fencers. The junior program serves two basic functions — field a team each year for the World Under-20 Championships and season the youth at their level for qualification to the International Squad. Do not misunderstand what I say here for the other facet of this program is to promote, encourage and stimulate youth programs thru-out the country. Without a broad base of young fencers we would not have a senior program to be concerned with.

In this quadrennial we have provided added experience opportunities for the youngsters by adding the first three finishers in the Under-19 Nationals and the Under-20's to the squad for the opportunity to compete in the squad events, if they so desire. So you say if we eliminate the Under-19 Nationals we have narrowed the opportunity for these fencers to participate on a senior level.

If there are two squad events a year, one set on the East Coast and one set on the West Coast how many of these U-19, U-20 fencers will, in fact, participate in the squad events and the J.O.'s?

It is essential to straighten out the so called Junior Olympic program once and for all. And a big step would be to have one National Junior Championships and thus just one Under-20 program. The Junior program would be for those fencers under 20 as of Jan. 1st of our fencing season. The new national development program is not limited to squad fencers only but will consider and actively seek promising young fencers to be included in the training and development program. Let us simplify the youth program so it can be handled more easily by the divisions and more manageable for divisions to publicize and attract beginning programs in the high schools in their area.

I therefore propose that we eliminate the Under-19 Nationals starting with the 1978 Nationals and rename the Junior Olympic program, the Junior program open to all fencers under 20 as of January 1st of the current fencing season. I also propose that the Junior Olympic Championships be renamed the National Junior Championships effective with the 1979 tournament.

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Ab Initio

by Edward F. Lucia

I was very much intrigued by Mr. Dernel Every's splendid article on the fencer's brain as a computer. What intrigued me the most was that it took Mr. Every almost fifty years, plus a stint of amateur teaching, to come to this conclusion. Mr. Every is, and has been for years, one of the most brilliant fencers in the United States. His technique and "doigte" is superb and he is a great strategist.

Why then this extraordinary hiatus in understanding a fact that every successful coach knows and understands at least intuitively, from the very first lesson given to his very first pupil? One answer may be that his coaches may have felt that too much introspection can inhibit a "conditioned response" because that is really what occurs when a properly trained fencer makes a "tac-au-tac" parry and riposte and scores long before he is aware of it, since we deal with fractions of a second in our noble sport.

The simile used by Mr. Every, that of programming a computer, is nothing more or less than implanting a series of "conditioned reflexes." This can, of course, include tactics as well as technique.

Before my teaching career abruptly ended in 1974, for many years my dependence was on the principles laid down by the great scientist Pavlov, and my thumb-worn text was "Conditioned Reflex Therapy" by Dr. Andrew Salter. It contains *all* the answers and I recommend it most highly to young amateurs and professionals alike.

I shall demonstrate two case histories from my own work book and apologize in advance if anyone takes exception to my facts. Because facts they are.

Case I: When I was "First Assistant" at the famous Salle Santelli at the Henry Hudson Hotel shortly after World War II, my one and only master, Giorgio Santelli, presented me with a pupil, "Mr. X", with the strange remark "See what you can do with him!" Mr. X had a marvelous potential but had yet to win his first National Championship. I knew him well, of course, and knew he had a tendency to tell the coach what to teach and how to teach. This was a trap that I was determined to avoid because I admired "Mr. X" intensely and was determined to make him a great champion if I possibly could.

Having been taught the class School by my great master Gior Italian foil, adjusted my wrist st nalled for a lunge. I saw in a there was nothing wrong with tack. It was in perfect distance, accurate. No problem there. I signal, parried four and ric counter-parry of four was a cc mare. The elbow was drawn body and the point swept to the later learned, was supposed to secreta" taught to him in his yo supposed to be a "universal closes the inside high line and t line at the same time. And be was conditioned.

I said nothing, set up the e made a disengage riposte int scored easily. "Do that again commanded. So I did. And then ing a single word of admonishr one-two riposte. My pupil's blac air violently to no avail. "What wrong?" "Eureka!" The "teacha had arrived!

The same drill was conducte son. In 1953 he won his first of m Championships. In 1958 at Championships in Philadelphi the finals and won his first fou liantly. We all thought we had World Foil Champion at hand. not to be. Mr. X succumbed to heat of the Palestra and collapse in his arm pits etc. but he had le minerals etc. and could not rega However the handwriting was. The same lesson continued, p practice, and in 1960 Mr. X car the Rome Olympics with out fir medal since 1932.

Today, even though he is of a and after many hospital visits furred, he is still high on the Oly list and may very well make the t in 1980. If he does — "Quien t

Case II: A certain young lad with great general athletic ability Kappa" and with very po technique asked to study with could accept criticism so that elbow which was now in full blr

unduly affected. Since there were also some psychological problems interfering with her game I studied every text I could find dealing with the problems of athletic competition. I only spoke a word here and there and some very foolish tactical mistakes began to evaporate; a great help in the technical conditioning process which proceeded apace. When my pupil asked "Eddie, what am I doing wrong?" the "teachable moment" had arrived — again.

The first National Championship was won and then it was necessary for Miss Y to be absent for over a year. Her fencing deteriorated because she still had not been completely "conditioned," so she returned for a year of daily lessons.

It took only a few weeks to clean up her technique and then the bouts began. When the command "last touch" was given, her game fell apart. I was now aware of the real nature of the problem. Pavlov to the rescue! I purchased a timing device that could be set from one second to 60 seconds. Automatically a loud "buzz" would sound when time ran out. The device was small enough to be held in my left hand.

"Problem, Miss Y," I said, "the bout is almost over. You are one touch behind and the clock will stop in exactly 30 seconds. Pret?" "Pret!!" she answered grimly. "Allez!" She charged like the Wagnerian Valkerie — out of time — out of distance and all over the place. Time ran out. There was nothing to say. This lesson was repeated day after day without let-up. Conditioning, conditioning, reflex, reflex until the time came when I called "Allez" and found myself plastered against the wall in mini-seconds. Pavlov again.

That year Miss Y entered 13 AFLA competitions and brought home 13 gold medals, including the National Championship. A feat unheard of! After that fateful year she went on to become "Champion of Champions". You see, she couldn't help herself. It became a conditioned reflex.



The United States Olympic Committee: Fulfilling a Vital Need By Steve Sobel

(The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the USOC of the AFLA.)

In prior years, the USOC had been referred to as the travel agent of the Olympic Team, a generalization based on one of its limited functions—to provide transportation, lodging, and logistical support for US teams at the Olympic and Pan American Games. Recently, a new dynamic USOC image has emerged, partly through the efforts of the National Governing Bodies (NGB) who are USOC members; partly from the work of the athletes in each Olympic sport serving as members of the USOC Athletes Advisory Council (AAC); partly as a result of public pressure created by the problems at the Munich and Montreal Olympiades, and by the President's Commission on Olympic Sports (PCOS).

The PCOS stated in its final report: "There are three basic modes of sports organization employed by successful sporting nations. In one, government is placed in control. In another, a non-governmental sports organization is in control. In the third no one is in control. Only the U.S. uses the third method. . . ."

Having considered, then, the profound need in American sport for coordination and direction, the Commission recommends the institution of a central sports organization for the United States."

Two important issues are created by this recommendation. First, the report never specifically stated that the CSO should be the USOC. Second, the Carter administration has made no comment concerning the recommendations of a Commission appointed during the Ford Administration. In this atmosphere, the USOC, a publicly chartered corporation has restructured itself along the lines of a central sports organization and has made major policy announcements for the benefit of all amateur sports in the United States. The results of this new USOC image are already having a major impact on the AFLA and fencing.

USOC Development Program:-
Approximately 9.2 million dollars, three

times the amount available in the current year. The amount available in the current year has been budgeted for "development" which has been broadly defined as beginning at the grass roots level with the selection of individuals to represent the US in the Olympic and Pan American Games. Furthermore, a greater emphasis is being placed on assisting underdeveloped sports."

AFLA Development Implementation Program:-
The current international squad plus a new point selection system already announced and widely approved by the AFLA and the AFLA, has become the national setup for new projects made possible by the additional USOC funding. The AFLA Coaching System announced prior to the Nationals, European events for the top 10 member nations, and national weekends planned for the second half of each month in the current season are a few examples.

USOC Training Center Program:-
USOC has established a permanent center at Squaw Valley, California. The AFLA has announced plans for adopting training centers in other parts of the country. Current plans call for new centers to be located soon in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Louisiana, and at the winter site in Lake Placid, N.Y. Each National Training Center will serve the center for clinics, coaching, or other approved projects. The USOC training center is complete by the USOC with room, board and facilities provided at no charge to the athletes and their families.

AFLA Training Center Implementation Program:-
The AFLA has announced plans for completing the athletic facilities at Squaw Valley, and its relatively inconvenient location for many athletes. Nevertheless, the AFLA conducted the Olympic Training Camp there last year and the International Committee

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schedule other events in the future, such as coaches clinics, and squad training. Tentative plans are currently being formulated by the Colorado Division to host the 1979 AFLA Nationals at the Air Academy in conjunction with the Olympic Training Center to be established in Colorado Springs.

USOC Job Opportunity Program: The USOC is actively seeking to provide outstanding employment opportunities to Olympic athletes which would be conducive to their training needs. Numerous large corporations have already become a part of this announced program. The procedure is for the athlete to complete an information questionnaire and submit the form to the USOC. The USOC, after verifying the athletes credentials with the NGB arranges for job interviews with corporations. This program has been widely approved by athletes in all the Olympic sports.

AFLA Job Opportunity Implementation: The program has been announced in American Fencing and in a direct mailout to the International Squad. Many fencers already have job applications pending.

USOC Restructuring: The USOC has made major restructuring changes to enable

it to better serve amateur sports in the role of a central sports organization. It has reduced the size of its Executive Board to include one representative from each NGB, 20% athlete representation, the officers, and very few others. The policies of the Executive Board would then be implemented on a day to day basis by an even smaller administrative committee. Other constitutional changes included the athlete's Bill of Rights guaranteeing an athlete's right to compete, 20% athlete representation in the governing boards of the USOC and of each NGB, and binding arbitration to settle organizational disputes.

Although the AFLA has existed for many years without organizational disputes that have virtually divided other sports, the development of fencing in this country has nevertheless been severely limited due to inadequate funding and insufficient publicity to generate widespread public support. The ability of the newly restructured USOC to provide needed funds and its willingness to provide assistance will be most welcome to the AFLA and the NGB's of the other Olympic sports.

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SPENDING THAT \$20,000

In the May/June issue we asked for responses to the following question, "WHAT IF? Suppose the AFLA was given \$20,000 with no strings attached except that it was to be spent within the next year or two. How do you think it should be spent?" Below are replies to this question.

Regarding the proposed \$20,000 to be spent on fencing within the next two years:

It seems that the most pressing need today in American fencing is international exposure, not just for the top fencers, but for all fencers and their coaches. With this in mind, the money should be used to bring international experience to the largest audience possible.

The money should be used to bring the world championship teams and their coaches to as many top fencing competitions as possible. The competitions should be spread out geographically as well as chronologically, bringing two fencers and a coach to each competition. In conjunction with this, the guest coach and his fencers could conduct a coaching clinic.

Something like this could be arranged for the finalists in the world championships as well. This would guarantee that every major competition would have top flight international competitors.

Competitions like the Martini-Rossi, the Csiszar, the Pentathlon Open, the National Championships, the Olympic point meets, and many more throughout the country could be a valuable source of international experience for our best fencers as well as those with many years of development left.

Considering the state of American fencing, international exposure should not be reserved for those in their final years of competition, but should be a vehicle for upgrading the broadest possible base of competitors and coaches. It is imperative that coaches and competitors be able to remain current with the continually changing and developing competitive techniques of the world's top performers. To limit the availability of international exposure to a few fencers and coaches is a disservice to our sport.

Unfortunately, I cannot claim this as an original idea. Two of America's most successful sports, swimming and track, do this routinely, both in collegiate competition as well as in the hosting of international meets

throughout the country, open to a certain qualifying time.

Spending \$20,000 in this fashion guarantee an immediate improvement in level and quality of fencing throughout the country. Additionally, it would enable the most successful coaches for clinics, along with their fencers, to be filmed and studied.

And how long have we been denied the publicity and recognition by taking a local competition and turning it into an International Invitational with a World Champion and a few Olympic American and European) and fencing has a viable vehicle for needed publicity.

Ge
San Antonio

I propose the establishment of a Fencing Academy.

Does this sound like a worthwhile investment? Consider: facilities provided by a college with empty space and vacant gym facilities; an academy could only have a physical facility in the summer months.

Junior high and high school students could come up for a two week summer fencing and meet with master experienced (college level) fencers. If the \$20,000, this program might be charged for 1 year (possibly 2 if volunteers their time). If enough were reached, there would be a fencing instruction in high school tented at a publicizing fencing that benefit the sport for years.

Particularly, students in urban areas should be introduced to a sport which will benefit them all their lives.

Soccer is currently undergoing a surge in interest because of efforts to reach the young. International fencing is essential to the sport.

As president of the Peoria, Illinois "Heart of Illinois Fencing Club," which will, in time, affiliate with the AFLA, I would like to comment on the use of a potential \$20,000 "gift" to the AFLA.

Having had practically no contact with the AFLA or any of its sponsored functions (due to geographical factors), I can best comment on the needs of a young club and the growth of fencing in virgin territory.

With a small but growing membership of about 25, some equipment and a place to fence, we find that one of a young club's immediate needs is for the electrical scoring equipment and a number of metallic vests with which a club (ours for example) could: 1. bring "true" fencing to a part of the country which had never seen fencing before and 2. eventually sponsor tournaments. (The ability to sponsor tournaments is one AFLA requirement for a new chapter).

As we all know, the cost of fencing equipment is growing daily and a club with no school sponsorship, limited resources, and token membership dues (to attract as many people as possible) can hardly hope to provide its otherwise eager members with ample equipment.

Young people today just do not have the kind of money it takes to purchase entire outfits and the electrical accessories. This, in spite of the fact that the Peoria area has a sound economic base.

If the primary goal of the AFLA is to promote fencing throughout the country, then what better way to accomplish this than by parceling the \$20,000 to help foster fencing and fencing clubs in parts of the country where they have never "existed."

Apparently, the long term "decline" of fencing in areas where it should be thriving seems proof enough to me that new blood is desperately needed if fencing is to do more than just hold its own where it now exists. Let's send a little aid to the front or the war will not be won.

Leonard Arons
Peoria, Ill.

Assuming that the intent is to promote fencing for participants rather than spectators, the emphasis should be on increasing the spread of the sport. Since equipment, money, facilities, coaches, and directors are usually available in areas where the sport is already well established, one should look to the marginal areas or where groups

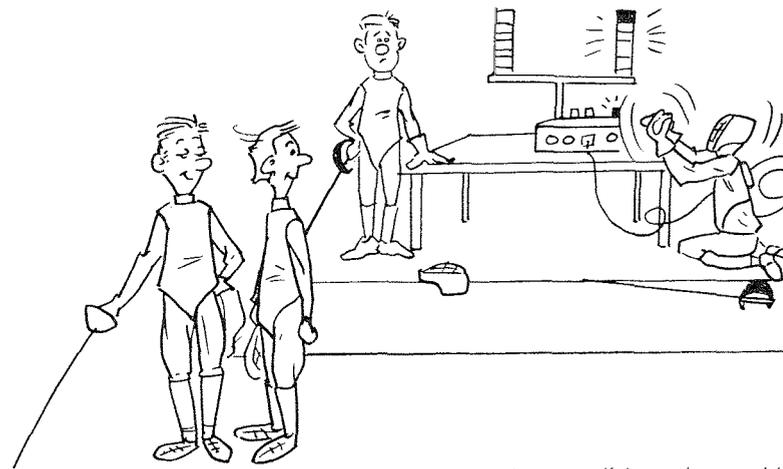
are having to struggle to survive.

As relatively few individuals are not connected with some group, I suggest you analyze the various divisions in respect to the number and types of organizations that enter competitors in AFLA meets (and the relative number of individuals for each weapon.) The following are a few items that could be tabulated:

1. Type of Sponsoring organization (college, high school, private, etc.)
2. Adequacy of facility for practice.
3. Frequency of practice sessions.
4. Availability of instructors (their training, background, etc.).
5. Instruction available in what weapons?
6. Source, type, and amount of financial aid or income.
7. Equipment (electrical and non-electrical) and uniforms owned by group.
8. Electrical scoring equipment owned by group.
9. Approximate number of AFLA meets per year entered by members of group.
10. Approximate number of other meets entered per year.
11. Number and types of meets held on local premises. (If none, why not?)
12. (etc.)

To improve the quality and quantity of participation, I might suggest the following after the above inventory has been made:

1. Form small teams of two or three members from outside the division to visit the groups. Depending on the organization, it
 - (A) might discuss problems and possible solutions with members and possibly the sponsoring institution as well.
 - (B) might put on a short demonstration (i.e. between halves of a basketball game if at a college.)
 - (C) might hold a Saturday clinic — 1½ hours for each weapon and, if desired, one for directors and/or coaches.
2. If lack of electrical scoring equipment is hindering or preventing participation in home or away meets, assistance in obtaining same may be the single most important item in getting more fencers into more competitions, particularly AFLA. Bulk purchase of quality, but inexpensive scoring machines and reels by the AFLA should reduce costs and



"I told you that electrifying sabre wouldn't

enable clubs to obtain one machine and two reels under terms such as:

- (A) yearly rental with amount to depend upon the groups financial set-up and with rental to be applied toward purchase by group.
 - (B) additional credit of \$10.00 towards purchase price for every day used in an AFLA meet.
 - (C) no restriction as to use in other meets — benefit to the AFLA is by increasing fencing activity in the area.
 - (D) equipment to remain property of AFLA until completely paid off.
3. Sponsor many clinics for fencers, coaches, and/or directors preferably of about 5 or 6 days duration during the summer. These should be scattered throughout the country and emphasis should be on keeping costs to a minimum, particularly housing, travel, and registration fees. Many colleges have various types of clinics or camps on their campus and make dorm rooms available at low cost. The local club could help in making arrangements.

Arthur J. Bush
Bowling Green, Kentucky

It would probably sit in a bank for months stretching into years while the debate raged.

But since it's only hypothetical, we reflect any interest while we yammer I'd split it. Maybe five thousand to the wonderful development program lined by Mr. Bernstein in the *American Fencing*.

The other fifteen thousand, in should be divided among the mainly for the purchase of new. We all start out in local competition where we end up, right? Anxieties are not exactly burdened cash. Copper strips, machine-reurs, paid directors) are abusive, and you can never have too the division does have an over-equipment, they could allocate to a worthy cause such as travel & major events for promising children (especially young ones). If they were given the money to admit selves, I think they would make use of it.

The criteria for splitting the money the divisions could be the numbers that each has. This isn't fair places with the most people are already. So maybe the divisions fewest members should get the shares, with the stipulation that is used for publicity.

Renny Christof
Cent

If the A.F.L.A. was given \$20,000 with no strings attached for unrestricted use, I would:

1. Send it back to the donor and ask for a million dollars. In one year, \$20,000 would vanish. Whereas the interest a million dollars would earn *annually* would be triple the original amount. With that money, I would sponsor study trips to Europe for U.S. fencers and provide for travel expenses for our best fencers to the major competitions so that our best fencers and not just the richest can go.

Or

2. If not willing to part with \$20,000, I would bank it in an effort to add to it with other grants to build up a \$1,000,000.00 foundation. The A.F.L.A. could have its own sustaining fund drive and become completely endowed with its own foundation.

John Wright
Golden, Colorado

It is easy to spend \$20,000 on fencing. Why not bid for the World Championships? After the World Championships invite various teams; Russia, Italy, France, to travel to various fencing centers in the United States for open competition using the \$20,000 as their expenses.

How would this benefit?

1) Publicity. Each fencing area involved could utilize media to publicize fencing and use the competition as the public front-runner to develop programs.

2) The average recreation fencer. Those who might never have an opportunity to compete in or view top competitors will also gain from the experience.

3) International Squad. Our International Squad could travel with the various teams as hosts or guides. They would also have the opportunity to compete with the foreign fencers.

This, of course, means the teams in women's foil, men's foil, epee and sabre. There are several variables. The sabre teams could travel to the south, then to eastern areas. The epee may want to go through Texas, the mid-west, or the east coast. The foil could travel the west coast, mid-west, and the east coast. By chartered bus of course — what better and cheaper way to see the United States.

Colleen Olney
Portland, Oregon

I suggest that it be used for the promotion of fencing. A promotor may be hired for the following purposes.

1. Solicit contributions from businesses (local and national) for supporting major competitions in the U.S.
2. Make advertising agencies aware of the sport and the availability of national champions for their use in ads.
3. Contact national newspapers, sports magazines, and TV networks with regular and up-to-date results of major fencing tournaments.
4. Place advertisements in national newspapers and magazines to solicit funds for the olympic and other national fencing teams.

If the A.F.L.A. plans to use my suggestions, I know the person who is currently performing these functions for the national skiing association. Perhaps she would be willing to help fencing.

Greg Belok
New Jersey

After reading Mr. Bernstein's article regarding the formation and training of a national team, I noticed that one very important area was left untouched: MONEY!!!! The ideas mentioned in his article are very sound, but also very expensive. The A.F.L.A. is now in the process of fielding teams for international competitions, but has little or no money to increase the support for these teams. All too often, it is left up to the individual fencer to raise the major part of the funds and only a very few fencers can raise the money. Often, we don't send the best fencers to international competitions — only those who can afford it.

I would like to suggest that the A.F.L.A. look outside the normal sources of its revenue and look to the business areas of our nation for the financial backing. A car company backs our U.S. Ski Team; a brewery a series of amateur basketball competitions; local businesses sponsor every sport from Pop Warner Football to Little League Baseball.

Why isn't there an organized program, directed by the A.F.L.A., to help raise the money that our fencers so desperately need? If steps are not taken soon, any plans that we begin to lay will not be able to carry their own weight and will fall flat.

Dan A. Badders
Orange Coast Division



SOME HELPFUL HINTS FOR DIRECTING FOIL THAT YOU WON'T FIND IN ANY RULE BOOK

by
Harriet King

The Rules Book is the foundation of your knowledge for directing foil. But experience provides the practical basis for successfully controlling and expediting a bout. Following is a distillation of some tips that may help you find a shortcut to a successful directing career.

1. Stand far enough back from the strip so that you can see the movement of both fencers' bodies. Ideally, this should be about six feet, though in a crowded room, you may never have that much space.
2. Always move up and down the strip with the fencers. Otherwise, you'll be out of position to make a decision. In electric foil, keep the machine visible between the fencers. At the end of the strip you may have an extreme angle of view to accomplish that, but it is quite necessary. It's the only way, for example, that you will be able to tell whether a direct attack arrived right away or immediately after the parry.
3. Watch the fencers' blades directly and everything else out of the corner of your eye. In electric foil, it means you see the lights of the machine peripherally while you're watching the action. Without

watching the blades, you can't initiate the action. Many fencers feint to draw a reaction; the body won't tell you when you've made an attack.

4. Announce your decision firmly. Do not permit the fencers to argue. This doesn't mean you have to snarl. It does mean that you must be about and that the fencers must know your decision, right or wrong (in your opinion).
5. If there are two lights on an action for the fencers. (i.e. 1 on the left makes an attack parried. The riposte misses and the remise of the attack is good. 2 on the right). If you do this, you are doing three things: you sort out the action for your own mind, you let the fencers know what you saw the whole thing and some clues as to how you interpret the action in the rules and you give the fencers a chance to follow the action.
6. In analyzing the action in your mind, the first thing you ask is "Who made the attack?" Then you ask "Was there a meeting of the blades?" If there was a beat or a parry? If it was a direct attack, was there an immediate hit? If it was a riposte, was there an immediate riposte?

THE FLYING FOIL TIPS

by Dan DeChaine

- more to the action than that, you continue to ask yourself what happened.
7. Let the action continue just as long as there is no body contact and as long as both fencers have control of their blades. Some fencers are good in the in-fighting and stopping the bout too soon will penalize them.
 8. Learn the rules. Do you know what the rules are for calling time in a bout? Or what you do about a fencer who hits another with his body a) without scoring a hit or b) after scoring a hit? Or about a fencer who puts his or her arm in front of good target? Or what happens when a fencer goes off the side of the strip while defending himself on the meter line? Or the amount of time out allowed an injured fencer? All of these could be decisive in a bout.
 9. Practice directing in your school or club. It's the only way to learn—and your clubmates will benefit just as much as you. There you will learn what you can and cannot see in a bout, where your own weaknesses and strengths are and how to control a bout. And you'll be able to do it all without pressure.
 10. Don't refuse to direct at a competition when you feel you are qualified to direct. The more you officiate, the better you'll be. And directing also improves your own fencing. If you've never been able to understand why a director won't ever call a certain action in your favor, just watch someone else execute it when you have to decide. Believe me, you learn in a hurry how to make the director see it.
 11. In non-electric foil, always use four judges when possible. Keep the less experienced judges on your side of the strip so that you can observe how well they understand and follow the action (and can be in a position to overrule them if necessary).
 12. In non-electric foil, always poll the judges on a particular action before you announce your decision.
 13. In non-electric foil, make sure the judges stay to the rear of the fencers on whose side they're standing. Otherwise, they're out of position to see the action and to give a correct answer to you. They're also in your way.
 14. Keep current on how the rules are being interpreted. Like the law, interpretations

change over a period of time. Watch the top rated directors as often as you can.

15. Never be afraid to ask a top director how certain rules should be interpreted. After all, you may be directing for him or her some day and they'd like to make sure you know—just as much as you want to know.
16. Learn some elementary electrical foil trouble shooting so that if there's a problem with a quick solution, you can solve it and keep the competition moving.
17. Do enough directing to start believing in yourself. There are times when your internal feeling says an action should be called a certain way and your brain says it should be called another way. When you direct enough, you'll know when and where to believe your internal feelings as opposed to your eye and vice versa.

NOTICE

The AFLA International Committee has requested applications from persons interested in cadre positions on the 1978 US teams in the World Championships and Under-20 World Championships. Applications, accompanied by relevant information on background and experience, should be sent to the Secretary of the AFLA International Committee, Carla-Mae Richards, 100 Longfellow Rd., Newton, MA 02162. In order to initiate cadre selection early, applications are requested by Dec. 1, 1977 for the Under-20 and by Mar. 1, 1978 for the senior world championships.

POSITION AVAILABLE:

The position of Asst. Coach-Armorer of the varsity fencing team at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. will become available commencing May/June, 1978. Applicants *must* be on active duty within the Dept. of the Army or be willing to enlist or reenlist to active duty status, if qualified by applicable Army Regs. Assignment to this position does *not* incur loss of amateur status as recognized by the NCAA, AAU and USOC.

Send complete background and competitive fencing resumes to:

John F. Myrden
Asst. Fencing Coach
ODIA, USMA
West Point, N.Y. 10996

Down the strip you go. You make a flawless beat-disengage and as you lunge, the white light goes on! You hit dead center on the target and nothing more happens. Just that lousy white light.

You check your foil tip. It's gone! Just when you had your opponent completely at your mercy, your foil tip went sailing across the room and did you in. A rare occurrence? Not on your life! This happens so frequently that it is a problem to every foil fencer. Fortunately, the situation is one that can easily be remedied. Usually the cause is easy to spot and is directly related to the type of tip used.

place. Now give it at least 1 more put it in to a proper depth. Note its position. Now remove it and recess with the other screw.

When both screws are now at their proper depth in the barrel fence secure in the knowledge that it is safe for a long time. Repeat this with each foil at least 3 times a session if you fence a lot.

Now let's look at one of the "vintage" tips, most commonly seen in Uhlmann points, as well as in the Dynamo and some Hungarian

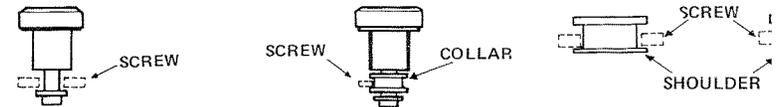


FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

FIGURE 3

Let's look at the 3 basic foil tip configurations, starting with the flange-retention style, seen these days in the English as well as some Italian, Japanese and Hungarian points. In this type, the tip is confined in the barrel simply by two tiny screws which project far enough into the barrel to act as stops or cleats to hold in the tip. (see figure 1) What usually causes these tips to go flying is *either* a wearing or "stripping" of the threads on the retention screws, *or* the wearing of the end of the screw *inside the barrel*, caused by its rubbing against the flange of the tip. When the threads are stripped, the screws can slip far enough out of the barrel to allow the tip to shoot out, and likewise, when the end of the screw is worn down, out goes the tip.

Check your tip screws frequently and replace any that are loose or worn. If the screws seem good, remove one completely. Then slowly remove the other screw 1/4 turn at a time. (Keep your hand over the end of the blade so as not to lose the tip). When the tip finally pops out, replace the tip and adjust the screw so that it just barely holds the tip in

points. In this type of tip, the screw into the barrel presses against the flange around a collar which is retained at the base of the tip. (see figure 2) This type of Uhlmann tip was frequent sailing out of its barrel because of (but common) manufacturing defects being a very thin shoulder at the collar. Frequently this shoulder would wear away (see figure 3) and away went the latest Uhlmann tips with the thin shoulder seem to have done away with this due to a slightly different configuration of the collar. The Hungarian and Soviet tips rarely, if ever, to exhibit this defect.

To correct this situation (if you have older Uhlmann tips) takes a little bit of small soldering iron. Note that the collar in place is screw the shaft and then soldered in place. To remove the tip by the crown, quickly heat the tip until it melts, and using a haemostat nose pliers, carefully (and quickly) remove the flange. Then simply remove the collar, putting the thick side to the rear, and replace the flange and

re-solder it in place. Voila! If you have worked carefully, you now have a tip better than new. (see Figure 4) Of course, you should *always* check that your tip screws are in tightly.

Now for a third cause of zinging tips, we turn to the French-style points, those with a collar containing 2 screwholes. What happens with these, most often, is that the flange which holds the collar in place seems to have a tendency to come unscrewed from the shaft, thus letting the tip go sailing. This is easy to fix. One method is to crimp the threaded back portion of the flange *while* it is screwed in place, and then to add a bit of solder to the rear, a la Uhlmann tips. This works most of the time. A more sure method though, is to set the point on its crown, with the flange-end up, and using a center-punch and a small hammer, (and with the flange screwed in place) swage the end of the shaft, causing it to flare out, thus locking the flange in place. (see Figure 5).

Regardless of which of these two methods you use, a drop of solder at the rear of the flange is always a good insurance policy.

These tricks should allow you to take care of 99.9% of all flying tips. And remember, if you do these things *before* the tips pop out, they won't pop out! Good luck.

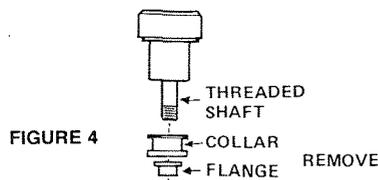
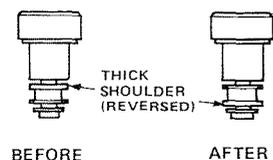
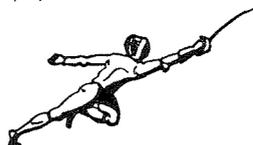


FIGURE 4

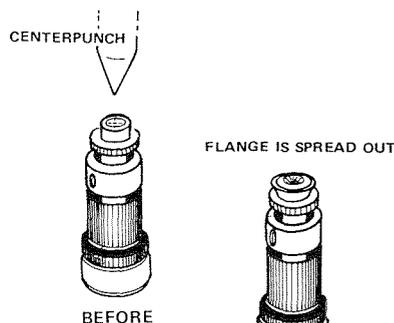


FIGURE 5

NCAA RULE MODIFICATION

by Muriel Bower, Chairwoman, NCAA Fencing Committee

The NCAA Fencing Committee modified the rule concerning withdrawal of a fencer at its annual meeting which was held in Portland, Oregon in June.

NCAA 537 should be replaced with the following:
WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPETITION:

NCAA Championships:

- In a final round of 12 or more, if a fencer withdraws because of illness or injury, or other reasons beyond his control, all of his earned team points will be retained. His bouts won in the final round shall determine his final ranking. The withdrawing fencer shall lose any ties for placement that would regularly be determined by indicators. The official score will show 5-0 victories over the withdrawing fencer for all other finalists, regardless of whether or not they have fenced him and regardless of whether or not they were defeated by him.
- In final, or other rounds, consisting of less than 12 fencers, FIE 533ff shall apply.

A Letter to the AFLA International Committee Members

from Nikki Franke

This letter is in reference to the trip that several women took to the Gazzera Cup competition in Germany from April 22nd to April 25th of this year. The AFLA's participation in this venture on a matching funds basis was not only needed but definitely appreciated. I personally found the trip very rewarding and truly a learning experience. And I'd like to thank the AFLA for the opportunity of going to Germany to compete, for without their assistance I would not have been able to make the trip.

There are two major purposes to my letter. First of all I want to make the committee aware of the inequities that have occurred regarding the information about the Germany Trip and then secondly, I'd like to make several recommendations that might make things easier for all those involved in future trips of this type.

First of all, at the Squad Competition in January the entire squad was informed that the Germans had extended an invitation to the U.S. to have 3 fencers and an official participate in the Gazzera Cup competition. At this time the top point earners were asked if they were interested in going. Following this, on March 4th, a letter was sent by Jack Keane to the top point holders giving them further information on the trip and asking them to notify him within two weeks of the planned departure date if they wanted to go. In this letter, *for the first time*, we were also informed that if we did not want to go to this particular competition the AFLA would cover half of the cost for any tournament we wished to enter. But emphasized here again was the fact that (and I quote) "*of importance, the invitation for this competition is for three fencers and one official.*" This sentence was underlined in the letter itself. Following this was another letter that told us of an idea of Gay D'Asaro to travel to a number of competitions while we were in Europe if we were interested. These are the only communications made to the women athletes as a whole. Therefore, this is the information that most of us had. Certain individuals were given quite different information. They were told that even if three fencers and an official

went that there would be money I that they would definitely get a their air fare back, even if it wasn't. As the alternate athletes represent been at every committee meeting one before this trip and if the committee policy was to reimburse everyone ten I was totally unaware of it. But that this was not decided on or discussed any committee meeting I attended.

I am not against this type of policy the committee's policy, but I str that to institute this policy without *all* of the athletes in the top tier improper. For one or two individual told this privately while the rest going by information that has been to us in writing by the AFLA just Especially when people who v make the trip but knew that thr above them in points were going make the trip because they were formed that they would be reim their air fare to some extent.

I see the committee trying to do and I see the idea of this trip as be in the right direction, and yet it ences such as this that make anc athletes suspicious of the committ decisions. If one person is inform thing, everyone must be informed trust in the committee and the Natic ing Staff will deteriorate.

The second thing I wanted to r this letter was what I felt might helpful suggestions for the future, i continues to support this type of ti that this was the first time a trip su had been attempted and therefore were bound to be made and probl bound to arise. But some of these, be fairly easily taken care of so t future they don't occur. First of al wishing to make a trip of this type told to notify the AFLA at least 3 to advance of the planned depart They must also be told exactly v AFLA to contact and who is in arrangements for the trip. Also, if

Continued

TECHNICAL TALKS

by Joe Byrnes



There was an accident in the fencing hall at the Olympics last year up in Montreal. In fact, for all I know, there may have been dozens of accidents, but I mean one in particular, one that didn't get any publicity at the time — and just as well. In fact, I've talked to people who were there, who never knew it happened. But happen it did, and it has given the FIE officials a bit of a scare and will undoubtedly stiffen their approach to safety regulations as regards masks.

It seems that one of the finalists in the women's individual had her mask penetrated by her opponent's blade. This sort of thing occurs rarely enough, thank goodness, and we would assume that for it to happen the blade would have to break, leaving a sharp and small enough point to work into a weak patch of the mesh and open it up. In this Olympic case, however, the whole flat safety point ploughed right through. Luckily, whatever benign spirit watches over fencers steered the blade at an angle and the fencer escaped with a scratch on the temple. Judging by the photographs of the mask that I have seen, the penetration was about at the level of the left eyebrow. I would not want to have been inside that mask.

There are some interesting points about this failure. First of all, the mask (of European manufacture) was practically brand new; like much of the equipment used at the Olympics, it had been first put into service just a few days before. Second, it had to have passed the "FIE punch test" — which it did, though apparently not very robustly. Thereafter, a very rapid deterioration must have set in. The photographs show a surface that looks as though somebody had been using it to practice chipping geological samples. It looks pretty battered for something used a few days. The point of the break-through is at the bottom of a deep concave depression that may have been caused by the thrust that broke through or perhaps by an earlier one. It is a big depression, but, I'm sorry to say, no bigger than some I've seen on masks people blithely carry onto the fencing strip.

Of course, this was a foil mask; in fact, it was one of those lightly built models, in which the aim of cutting down on the weight took precedence over considerations of maximum safety. What is more, the close-up photographs show that it was constructed of "single crimp" mesh. The FIE has now come to realize, judging by the committee report on the case, that "double crimp" mesh is safer. In single crimp mesh, only the wires running in one direction are woven with a wavy effect around those meeting them at right angles. In the double crimp style, every wire is so shaped and the mesh is woven tighter together.

The strength and hence safety of a mask made of metallic mesh is a result of a combination of factors: the thickness and hardness of the original wire used to weave the mesh, plus the closeness of the weave and the style of its crimping, less any weakness induced by the shaping of the mask, plus the strength of the tin to steel bond created when the mask is hot-tin-dipped after shaping, as required by the rules. For an international style foil mask, there will even be a little additional strength from the epoxy or other enameling applied overall for electrical insulation. Then you have to consider the effects of wear and tear as it is used.

A couple of years ago, the FIE realized that the strength or hardness of the wire wasn't part of the specification, and in any case would be difficult to determine for a made-up mask, without destructive testing. Thus the present "punch test," which is supposed to be universally applied, come next year. One can question the absolute effectiveness of this present test, of course, particularly in the light of the Montreal incident. However, when you think about it, what that incident really shows is that a piece of equipment that checks out OK on one day, may not be in such A-1 shape a week, or even a few days, later. There's nothing new about that. I predict, though, that at international events, at least for some time, any mask that even looks lightweight or battered will be given a super strict inspection.

allstar

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Interestingly, this FIE mesh test uses the same tester, with the same force applied, for foil, epee, and saber masks alike. Now it is no secret that masks for the latter two weapons have almost always been made rather heavier than those for foil. One has to wonder if maybe a stronger test isn't necessary for epee and saber masks? On the other hand, it may very well be that the stiff electri-

cal foil blade really doesn't hit more than an epee blade these days.

This whole discussion ought to lead to one thing: check your mask frequently. Here's a bit of advice for any woman up an epee or saber for the first time: get a new (heavier) mask when you do. It goes for the rest of the uniform too.

Continued from Page 19

air fares quoted in mailings must be made at least fourteen days in advance the athletes must be told so that they can make the arrangements in time to get the reduced air fare.

Secondly, an official must be sent with a team whenever possible, and if not someone must be designated as Team Captain so that someone is in charge and can be depended on to give not only us but also the foreign officials any information that is needed.

Thirdly, the athletes must be told of the exact location of a competition beforehand so that they don't get to a foreign country where they don't speak the language and don't know where to go.

Finally, the foreign federation must be informed of the time and place of the arrival. Also, when a number of fencers have been invited and more than that number intend to go, the federation must be either ahead of time, or by the time she's arrived, of exactly which fencers there in response to the invitation are there on their own.

If these things can be accomplished that this type of trip can be very beneficial. It's enough for the fencer to worry about fencing without having to worry whether or not she's in the right city at the competition is, what time it starts one a.m. the night before the competition starts.



AN INTERVIEW WITH MIKE D'ASARO
PART III

by Roger Van Waters

Teaching beginners is like teaching Martians. They know nothing, absolutely nothing. What they know comes from swashbuckling movies, but there haven't even been too many of these. That's the challenge, but it takes a lot out of me.

Q: Do you enjoy it?

A: It's not so much the enthusiasm I enjoy — it's breaking down people's illusions of what they think it's all about. The non-athletes can't believe the work. They're not taking the sport as a sport. They're fantasizing themselves as some D'Artagnan character.

Q: The athletes?

A: The athletes, too, can't believe it's as much work as it is and I enjoy breaking down that illusion, also. That's the interesting part. But it's not so interesting that I can't believe my time isn't better spent elsewhere.

Q: What's the alternative?

A: I have students in my beginning classes who are professionals at teaching tennis or judo. They teach at recreational cen-

ters or clubs. The tennis players who teach are pretty good, but they have no name, no reputation, no ranking. They have not clawed to the top. Yet, for a hundred member class, they make two dollars a head per session. And that's for mediocre teaching. It's a similar situation in judo, only with fewer people and higher fees. If Jimmy Connors gave lessons, what could he charge?

Q: I'll agree it's unfair, but it's just an illustration of the circular nature of the problems we face. Tennis and golf pros make a ton of money from giving lessons even though they're not world champions. But they have a base, a lot of promotion, and a lot of successful people who participate.

A: I have seen many successful people in fencing, and I would bet that fencers have a higher median income than most sports participants.

Q: Would you back amateurs with your money?

A: Time is money and I already give that. But to answer your question, no. This stresses the importance of professional, effective promoters.

Q: You've given your time?

A: Sure. None of the Olympic coaches got paid for their time. From 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day without pay is a rough way to make a living.

Q: The first question other fencers ask me when they find out who I've worked with is, "What do they charge?" I know many people who pay ten dollars for a one-hour group lesson in tennis, when the teacher is not even world class or even a national class professional. It's the same for golf.

A: Non-athletes are definitely not used to paying for athletic advice and those involved in country clubs have more or less constant reinforcement to pick up the games you mentioned.

Q: For all that my association with you has provided me, I'm a bit surprised by that

attitude. Parents are willing piano lessons, tennis lessons, fencing lessons.

A: Exactly. That's why we must sport to the parents, either through the kids. Parents will buy tennis lessons, tennis racquets, clothes. They'll pay for ski lift tickets, apparel and lessons. They show the kids good fencing, they show them someplace to fence, they turn it on.

Q: Please follow that up in context of your earlier remarks.

A: People who teach have a responsibility to teach people to teach, in teaching people to fence.

Gay: Haven't you been talking about a school to develop teaching people?

A: Yes, but even before you call it an academy, you must have teaching people how to teach.

Q: Is there a difference between how to teach athletics in general, how to fence, and how to teach fencing?

A: Very definitely yes.

Q: In other words, if you're a good teacher and a genius at teaching, you work at learning how to teach.

A: Being a good fencer and teaching well involves two entirely different consciousnesses. I have spent a great deal of my life learning good fencing. When the opportunity came, I had to learn how (and I'm still learning). I'm still learning to teach fencing. I'm still learning to teach fencing. I'm still learning to teach fencing. I'm still learning to teach fencing.

It's much like in the Bahá'í Faith with the exchange between Krishna and Adjuna, the prince. A warrior all of his life . . . wealth and spirituality, but no spiritual role. Finally he is put in a position and Krishna tells him to learn. He says that he doesn't know how to

though it would seem a natural role. It's very similar. These things must be learned.

Q: Are you consistent with your own philosophy? Are you teaching any coaches right now?

A: I'm developing a good master right now, and he's already as good as most coaches. Instead of training in combat he trains in giving lessons. I demonstrate teaching techniques and I answer questions.

I teach a little of the way my coach taught me, but I learn a little from everybody, people as good, better, or worse, from the Olympics, etc., etc. . . . It's a continual process, and it should be. But it could be speeded up.

Q: Is it possible to be a great coach without having been a top-notch fencer?

A: Nationally and internationally, most good coaches were also good fencers. But not all good fencers make good masters. That's an important point. Besides, what is your definition of a good master?

Q: It's based on the success of his fencers.

A: There are many levels. A good high school coach — if he's good at his level then he's a good master. All he has to do is give basic technique and even more importantly, his feeling and love for the game, and he has done his job.

Q: Could you take a beginner, or no fencer at all, and turn him into a top-notch coach without him having fenced competitively?

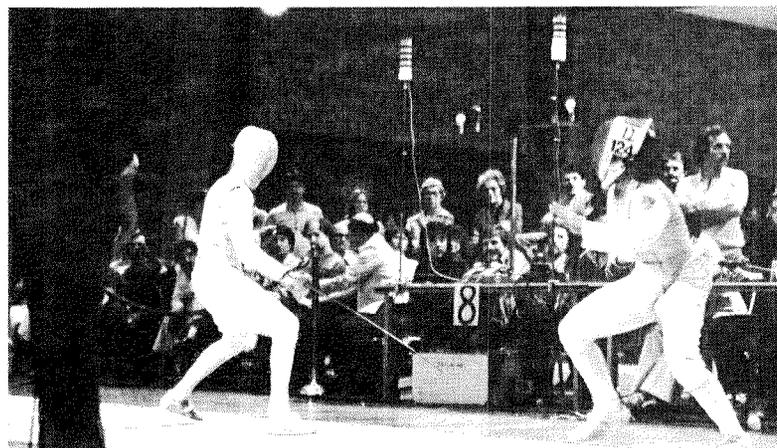
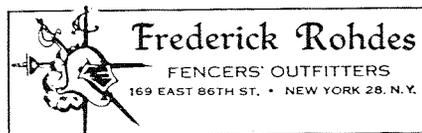
A: Top-notch at what level?

Q: The highest level?

A: What's the highest level?

Q: The Olympics.

A: No, not unless he's competed at that level himself. Look at the Russians, French, Italians — all have been there themselves, and most have won.



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON J.O. TOURNAMENTS 1977-1978 Rev. Lawrence Calhoun

Please let me know as soon as possible about any J.O. tournaments your division, section or individual is scheduling this season. The following are tournaments we know of at this time.

The Gauntlet, in Michigan, is for all age groups and weapons. This is usually held the 2nd or 3rd week in November. Contact the chairman of the Michigan Division or ask your divisional secretary. The J.O. Championships will be in Houston February 18-20, 1978. Qualification is through the division.

The Oregon division hosts a junior meet with competitors from Canada, France and the United States. Contact Mrs. Coleen Olney, 2221 SE 117, Portland, Ore. 97216.

The New York/New Jersey divisions hold meets in the spring. Contact the divisional chairmen.

The Nicholas Cup will be held in Covina, Cal on May 6-7. This is an international meet. An announcement will be made in a later issue of American Fencing.

In addition there will be Olympic Squad training sessions held in several regions of the country on a number of weekends. A few juniors who have been training hard and show promise will be permitted to join the squad members. Check with your divisional secretary.

Please send information about up coming junior meets to me, Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.

GULF COAST DIVISION TO HOST 1978 JUNIOR OLYMPIC

The 1978 Jr. Olympic Championships will be held on February 18, 19, and 20 in Houston, Texas. Hosting the event will be the Gulf Coast Division of Texas. Plans to date are the best ever are in full swing, reports Reed Divisional chairman.

Houston has the advantage of a large arena located between East and West. Reed expects a larger-than-ever turnout for this Texas sized event.

The Gulf Coast is looking forward to coming the Junior Olympic Championships.



CSISZAR EPEE AND WOMEN'S FOIL

The Csiszar Tournament Women's Foil this year for the first time will be fenced on Dec. 10, 1977 in Philadelphia. Sencen's Foil on Dec. 11, 1977. Send information to David Michanik, Weightman Hall, Philadelphia, Penn., 19104.

NIWFA

The National Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships will be held on March 30 and 31 and April 1, 1978 in Philadelphia, Penn.

COMPETITION RESULTS

8th Annual Senior Olympics

Los Angeles Athletic Club

JUNIOR PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

62 entries:

UN 19 EPEE

1. Ranes, Salle Auriol, Oregon
2. Mitchell, Salle Auriol, Oregon
3. Barbour, CSUF, Sala de Esgrima, Orange Coast

UN 16 EPEE

1. P. Cain, Unatt., N. Cal.
2. T. Cain, Unatt., N. Cal.
3. Rice, S. Cal.

UN 19 SABER

1. Thomas, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
2. Frieder, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
3. Morrow, N. Cal.

UN 16 SABER

1. K. Mooney, Covina, S. Cal.
2. Farmer, N. Cal.
3. P. Cain, N. Cal.

UN 19 MEN'S FOIL

1. Thomas, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
2. Vioor, N. Cal.
3. Mooney, Covina, S. Cal.

UN 16 BOY'S FOIL

1. Mooney, Covina, S. Cal.
2. Miller, Oregon
3. Calkins, 49ers, Orange Coast

UN 14 BOY'S FOIL

1. Calkins, 49ers, Orange Coast
2. Bruce, Oregon
3. Mooney, Covina, S. Cal.

UN 19 WOMEN'S FOIL

1. Foote, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
2. Ellingson, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
3. Metkus, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.

UN 16 GIRL'S FOIL

1. Des Georges, Salle Auriol, Oregon
2. Metkus, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
3. Fong, Hacberstadt, N. Cal.

UN 14 GIRL'S FOIL

1. Metkus, L.A.A.C., S. Cal.
2. Daniels, CSUF Sala de Esgrima, Orange Coast
3. Stefani, S. Cal.

FOIL

35-39	1st	William Harwood	Highland, C
45-49	1st	Tony Zombolas	Chicago, IL
	2nd	Andy Rivera	Los Angeles
	3rd	Joseph Steiner	Torrance, C
50-54	1st	Daniel Marmer	Rockville, C
	2nd	Robert Coleman	Anaheim, C
	3rd	Richard Guest	Anaheim, C
55-59	1st	Joseph Brodeth	New York, I
	2nd	George Willis	Chesterlanc
	3rd	Robert Crawford	Los Angeles
60-64	1st	Aaron Bell	Marblehead
75-79	1st	Steve Barden	South Pasa

WOMEN'S FOIL

45-49	1st	Jerri Pattee	Long Beach
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EPEE

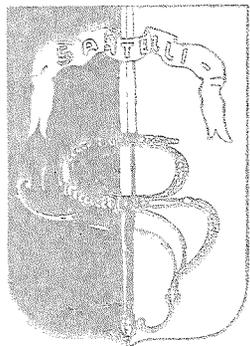
35-39	1st	William Harwood	Highland, C
45-49	1st	Nikolai Kariagin	Chatsworth,
	2nd	Joseph Steiner	Torrance, C
	3rd	Luis Garcia	Anaheim, C
50-54	1st	Richard Guest	Anaheim, C
	2nd	Robert Coleman	Anaheim, C
	3rd	Jewett Pattee	Long Beach
55-59	1st	Le Roy Jones	Cleveland H
	2nd	George Willis	Chesterlanc
	3rd	Joseph Brodeth	New York, N
60-64	1st	Fred Rayser	Los Angeles
	2nd	Aaron Bell	Marblehead
75-79	1st	Steve Barden	South Pasac

WOMEN'S EPEE

45-49	1st	Jerri Pattee	Long Beach
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SABRE

45-49	1st	Nikolai Kariagin	Chatsworth,
	2nd	Joseph Steiner	Torrance, C
50-54	1st	Robert Colman	Anaheim, C
	2nd	Richard Guest	Anaheim, C
	3rd	Jewett Pattee	Long Beach
55-59	1st	Werner Kirchner	Arcadia, CA
	2nd	Robert Crawford	Los Angeles
	3rd	Herbert Spector	Silver Spring
60-64	1st	Fred Rayser	Los Angeles
	2nd	Victor Abel	Sacramento
	3rd	Aaron Bell	Marbelhead
75-79	1st	Steve Barden	South Pasac



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Background statue of the late Huey P. Long on the Capitol Grounds. Skyline of Baton Rouge's downtown area.

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS FENCING WEEK

On May 4, 1977 Governor Edwin Edwards of Louisiana proclaimed June 1-7 fencing week in the state of Louisiana by signing a proclamation at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

To celebrate, the three Capitol City Fencing Clubs: LSU Fencing Club, Baton Rouge Fencing Club and the Baton Rouge High School Fencing Club organized the 1st Annual Governor's Open. This event was held at the new LSU field house on Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5th, with a field of 30 entries from six states.

Women's Foil was captured by Donna Basinger, Piedmont Division - South Carolina; second, Janet Large, USL; third, Chris Lusk, LSU; fourth, Doris Kallies, BRFC; fifth, Delta Kuzinski, BRHSFC; sixth, Carol Campagna, Unat., N.O.

Open Foil was also captured by Donna Basinger. Second, Don Koetting, USL; Third, Ron Campagna, Unat., n.o.; Fourth,

Charles Thompson, Piedmont Division FC; Fifth, Harry Kallies, BRFC; Sixth, Rene Navarra, USL.

Epee: First, Ron Campagna, New Orleans, Unat.; Second, Barry Ancelot, USL; Third, Harry Kallies, BRFC; Fourth, Earl Robinson, UNO; Fifth, Ben Price, LSU; Sixth, Clarence McCraw, University of Houston.

Sabre: First, Chris Trammell, UNO; Second, Gary Danna, UNO; Third, Charles Thompson, Piedmont Division; Fourth, C. McGraw, University of Houston; Fifth, Ken Hogan, University of Houston; Sixth, Ted Sieadous, Unat., La.

Vice Mayor Ernest Skillman of Baton Rouge presented the awards to the victors at the awards banquet. A multitude of contestants said that this event was one of the outstanding events of the year.

Baton Rougeans are looking forward to making this annual event one of the major fencing events in the South.

1977 WESTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING CONFERENCE

Seventeen institutions competed in the 27th Western Intercollegiate Fencing Championships held at San Francisco State University on March 4, 5, and 6. San won the sabre team title for the second year in a row while David Shelton of UCL fully defended his sabre individual crown. Brothers became champions for the history of this Conference. Robert Marx regained his epee title of 1975 while his brother Michael won the foil title. California State University, Fullerton regained the title lost last year to the perennially powerful Air Force Academy. The following are the winners for the entire Conference Championships.

TEAM EVENTS

FOIL

- 1 Portland State U.
- 2 San Jose State U.
- 3 U. of Arizona

EPEE

- 1 Stanford U.
- 2 California State U., Fullerton
- 3 Portland State U.

SABRE

- 1 San Jose State U.
- 2 U.S. Air Force Academy
- 3 California State U., Fullerton

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (All-Western)

FOIL

- 1 Michael Marx PSU
- 2 Brian Byrd UA
- 3 Robert Marx PSU

EPEE

- 1 Robert Marx PSU
- 2 Bruce Jugan CSUF
- 3 Charles Alexander SDSU

SABRE

- 1 David Shelton UCLA
- 2 Michael Green SJSU
- 3 Jason Coleman SJSU

MOST OUTSTANDING FENCER . . . Bruce Jugan of California State U., Fullerton
. . . California State U., Fullerton

WESTERN WOMEN'S CLASSIC

The second annual Western Women's Classic, sponsored by the department of Intercollegiate Athletics at UC Berkeley, was held on that campus 9-10 July. Thirteen fenced on Saturday, and Mary Jo Kavanaugh successfully defended her title, defeated in the final round. On Sunday, the sabre title was also reclaimed by last year's out of a field of 16 sabreurs. Connie Louie was undefeated for the entire tournament.

EPEE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mary Jo Kavanaugh-----LAMC | 2. Jan Meyerson-----H |
| 3. Renny Duvall-----Unattached | 4. Lynne Antonelli-----U |
| 5. Eleanor Turney-----Halberstadt | 6. Kathy Aanestad-----H |

SABRE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Connie Louie-----Halberstadt | 2. Jan Meyerson-----H |
| 3. Kathy Aanestad-----Halberstadt | 4. Mary Land-----Four |
| 5. Julie Selberg-----Four Freedoms | 6. Dolores Hong-----H |

Ft. Sam Pre-Nationals Competition by George Nelson

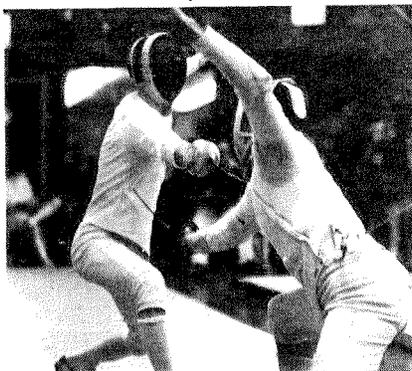
A Pre-Nationals fencing competition was held June 4-5, 1977 at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas; cosponsored by the Hacienda Recreation Center and the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Training Center. In addition to Texas fencers, there were competitors from Notre Dame University, and also West Germany and Mexico, for a total of 54 entries. The results were:

Epee (after a barrage)

1. Rod Marin, Hedgehog Club, San Antonio
2. Dwayne Blakeley, Itinerant Fencing & Chowder Society, Dallas
3. Bill Matheson, U.S. Army, San Antonio
4. Lou Cotton, Hedgehog Club, San Antonio
5. Paul Hentschel, West Germany
6. Greg Losey, USMPTC, San Antonio

Women's Foil

1. Mayme Cherry, San Antonio Fencing Society
- Lee Dillman, Dad's Club, Houston
3. Micki Conte, San Antonio Fencing Society
4. Carol Uretsky, San Antonio Fencing Society
5. Allison Colquhoun, Dad's Club, Houston
6. Nat England, University of Texas, Austin
7. Kim Jones, Dad's Club, Houston
8. Susan Huseman, Itinerant Fencing & Chowder Society, Dallas



Bill Matheson (left) and Lou Cotton (right).
-photo by Nelson

Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiates Won by College of William & Mary

The 26th Annual Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association (MACFA) Championship Tournament, held at George Mason Univ. this past February, was won by the Indians of the College of William & Mary. John Hopkins Univ. and Temple Univ. tied for 2nd and 3rd in the field of ten member colleges. Stevens Tech, which also showed balance in all three weapons, placed 4th.

TEAM RESULTS

	FOIL	EPEE	SABRE	TOTAL
Tri-Weapon Boys' Club	9	8	6	23
Frostburg Fencers	1	3	8	12
Mercersburg Academy	3	5	4	12
Murry Woods Musketeers	5	2	0	7

Augusta Military Academy did not compete in tournament

INDIVIDUAL FINALS

SABRE	1-FRIEDBERG P., TW (5/0)	2-OGDEN, FF ((4/1)	3-CRAWLEY, FF (3/2)	4-FRIEDBERG J., TW (2/3)	5-CORDTS T., FF (1/4)	6-SAMSON, MA (0/5)
FOIL	1-WHEADEN, TW (5/0)	2-MURRAY D., MW (4/1)	3-OLSON A., TW (3/2)	4-FLEISHMAN, TW (2/3)	5-JABLON B., FF (1/4)	6-HEY-WORTH, MA (0/5)
EPEE	1-MELKKO, TW (5/0)	2-VAULS, TW (4/1)	3-MOKRYTZKI, MW (3/2)	4-5, EX AEQUO-HENLEY, MA & CORDTS J; FF (1/4)	6-BAUMGARDNER, MA (1/4,-12)	
GIRLS	1-BOHN C., SP (3/0)	2-VAN UUM, MA (2/1)	3-ARCHIBALD, MA (1/2)	4-FULTON, MA (0/3)		

International Tourney scheduled for '78.

Squad Trial Dates changed

The New York International tournament, which was cancelled last year, has been rescheduled for April 7, 8 and 9, 1978.

To give International Squad members the opportunity to compete in it, the January trials, originally scheduled for the East Coast, will be held in California, with the exception of sabre.

The April trials will be held April 15 and 16 on the East Coast. Eligible fencers will receive further information by mail.

Second Annual CLEVELAND GRAND PRIX November 25, 26, 27, 1977

Friday 25	Men's Foil Sabre, John Stomfay-Stitz Sabre Trophy
Saturday 27	Men's Gilman (Foil and Epee) Women's Foil Invitational
Sunday 27	Women's Gilman (Foil and Epee) Madi Dodds Men's Epee Four Select Teams in Four Weapon Team

The Gilman is a 20 year old event fenced with both foil and epee for both men and women. The preliminary rounds will be held at 9 and 11 a.m. The pool system and direct with repechage will be used. The Cleveland Grand Prix is sponsored by the Nor division of the A. F. L. A. and with the support of contributors.

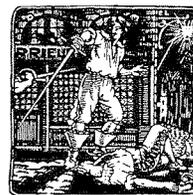
		Finalists for 1976 Gilman	
Tim Glass	USA	Fabio Dal Zotto	Italy
Lee Shelley	USA	Gil Pezza	Italy
		Gregory Benko	Australia
		Risto Hurme	
		Bill Reith	

For entry contact: William Reith, c/o William Arthur Inc., P.O. Box 18027, Cleveland He 44118

Site of tournament: Bond Court Hotel, St. Clair Avenue at East Sixth Street, Cleveland 44114

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