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American FENCING

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About the Cover

The picture is of Tom

Mitchell of Battle Creek, Michigan

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Editor's Notes

by Emily Johnson

Fencers are a peripatetic lot. (So, look it up in the dictionary). They travel far and wide like so many Bedouins with their fencing bags across their shoulders plaintively wondering where they can fence.

We would like to publish a roster of all the Clubs in the United States in American Fencing - probably in the March-April 1979 issue, closing date for submission February 10, 1979. This will include Clubs that are not interested, for whatever reason, in strangers or beginners. Such Clubs should head their listing "For information only."

This listing should include the name and address of the Club, hours it is open and the name and phone number of someone to be contacted.

Please send your information in as soon as possible. We will sort it out geographically and publish revisions from time to time.

Next subject. We are delighted to print notices of the date place and time of major tournaments but PLEASE send the notices in on time. Two announcements of tournaments to be held in November were received the end of October. The September/October issue was on the presses and there is no point in publishing them in the November/December issue.

Also, we rarely have room to print entry forms for any competition except the National Competitions. So that gets cut out. Copies of lengthy press releases have to be cut down for reasons of space. If you don't want it cut limit yourself to the important information.

We like to polish results of the big competitions, also. Space is limited. If you send us a ten page dissertation on the tournament we don't have a choice. It has to be cut. So either cut it before you start or if there is some part of the general blurb that you feel is particularly important (i.e. Mrs. Ritchwitch donated the prizes) let us know. Also, sending it in eight months later means its a bit stale.

We love getting pictures. Please, PLEASE, PLEASE write the name of the fencers and the photographer on the back of the picture. As photographs get moved about the scraps of paper with the credits disappear into another dimension. So please keep

proper credits. And a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want them back.

We love getting articles. We particularly like articles that will help the many fencers who have inadequate or no coaching. Did you start a salle in your home town that has grown and succeeded? Tell us how you did it. Did you work up a good junior program or get the local schools to start fencing classes? Let us in your secrets. With pictures.

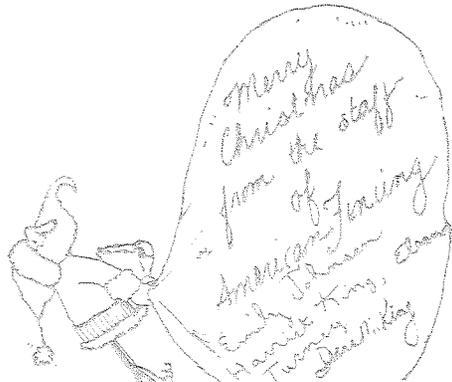
How about tactics? You coaches and you good fencers, give us the inside scoop. The more we help everyone improve the better for all of us.

Write us letters. Express your opinions. We will print those that are of general interest. But please type them.

Incidentally, much as I would like to answer all letters I find myself short on time. Letters asking me to send the names and addresses and telephone numbers of all fencers in New Jersey will be ignored. We put out a magazine not the encyclopedia of fencing.

Don't forget that self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your article back. If you can't write your own name and address how do you expect us to be able to do it.

The magazine is only as good as you, our contributors, make it. Remember your audience, mostly young, mostly enthusiastic, and mostly eager to learn. Send your pictures, articles and information along - if we can, we'll print them.



From the President

by Irwin Bernstein

Reviewing the results of the annual planning sessions of the AFLA Board of Directors and the Olympic Fencing Committee, one must be conscious of the quantum leap forward in fencing that has taken place in only a few years.

In the early 1970's, the AFLA Board examined carefully prepared budgets that were designed only to support our routine operations and were barely adequate for this purpose. Projects such as rules book printing required years of saving and the surplus carried forward from year to year was too small to cover unforeseen needs. There were good ideas for projects in international training, promotion, and coaches' development, but we had to rely solely on our ingenuity and initiative to find the means to execute them. As a result, little was done. The Fencing Games Committee, operating directly under the US Olympic Committee, received some limited funding for international development, which was usually used to subsidize the annual international tournament in New York. Since 1972, however, we have witnessed two revolutionary changes that have brought us to the present new era in American fencing.

The first revolution was self-made when the AFLA raised its dues rates, with almost the entire increase going into the national treasury. While recognizing the temporary hardship to some individuals and the risk of losing marginal members, the AFLA leadership, with the support of the membership, took the bold step.

Within one year, the benefits were clear. Although there was a small loss in number of members, there was an immediate increase in funds available for discretionary projects. We were able to provide partial funding for our teams in major international competitions. We were also able to bring the AFLA to more fencers around the country and to start thinking about bigger projects and long term objectives. That set the stage for the second phase of the revolution.

In the aftermath of the 1972 Olympics and the public concern about the nation's stature

on Olympic Sports" was established to survey the subject and make recommendations. Even as they did their research, the Olympic Committee was seizing the opportunity to reorganize itself and enlarge its membership to encourage and support the National Coaching Bodies (such as the AFLA) in their efforts to improve their sports. Unprecedented achievements by the USOC's members led to massive injections of development funds into the National Governing program. For the AFLA, the many emerging programs and the where they operate them, catapulted fencing into a new era.

As in the past, this column will review some of our programs in depth in future issues of the magazine. At this time we review the new programs initiated by the AFLA Board of Directors and the Olympic Fencing Committee in September. We should provide an indication of what we are heading for.

1. Retaining a consultant in the development area to prepare a long range plan, investigate outside sources of funds intended to provide a structure within which individual projects can be related to goals while attempting to obtain funds from new sources to operate them.

2. Coaching Clinics to bring the methodology developed by the National Coaching Staff to all of our nation's clubs and train new ones as well.

3. Establishment of a North American circuit by designating a series of events in Canada, and Mexico as worthy of participation by our elite fencers. This will be done in regular top level competition out overseas travel. Of equal importance this new concept takes hold, the circuit will grow in stature and stimulate growth in fencing in the areas around them. The program calls for travel subsidies to ranked members of the International who participate in the designated events.

4. Undertaking the production of audio tape cassettes to support the various aspects of fencer, coach and director

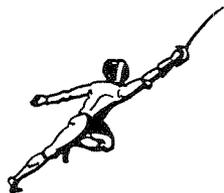
FROM THE PRESIDENT

5. Loans to Division for the purchase of scoring equipment. This is intended to aid growing Divisions to improve their main product (their competitions) in order to grow effectively.

6. Travel aid to Board members to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board. We have long tried to encourage personal participation by more members of the Board. This new step will provide tangible assistance to distant members.

It is an exciting prospect to anticipate the future benefits of these new programs, added to the others already in place, including the Monthly Regional Training Sessions, Junior Olympic Summer Camp in Squaw Valley, and Division projects under the Junior Olympic Youth Committee. The most satisfying aspect to me is the authorship of some of the new ideas. Rather than originating from any central authority, they have come from suggestions made over the years by coaches, fencers, and administrators. Fencers are THINKERS, and some are also

effective communicators. It is the constant process of exchanging ideas, challenging existing policies, adjusting to changing needs, and taking advantage of opportunities that is stimulating our progress, and we should all take pride in this. If we keep working together there is no limit to what we can accomplish for our sport in our time.



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1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 13-22, 1978

By Connie, Latsko, Press Representative

The level of World Fencing is rising; there are more Champions than there are Medals.

The 1978 Championships, in Hamburg, West Germany, were the scene of this phenomenon. The finals of each individual weapon resulted in a fence-off to decide the superstar.

Men's Foil: The foil final was the first. An audience of about 2000 watched the local favorite, Harald Hein, cheering all the way. The defending champion, Alexander Romankow, USSR, went down in two bouts, as did Hein, Didier Flamont, France and Mihai Tiu, Roumania, resulting in a four-way fence-off. Didier won three bouts and the title. This first final was televised, as were all the finals. This caused some difficulty at the site. In order to televise the action, the traditional placement of the Director and the Judges was rearranged, placing them in less favorable viewing positions. This problem should be resolved, as complications arise if the Director cannot see all the actions.

The U.S. foil team worked very well. All team members survived the first round. Four of the five went to the third round. Nonna and Marx went into the round of 32. Nonna fenced Sougmagne, Belgium, in a strong bout, which the Belgian won with a brilliant touch for a score of 10:9. Marx went down to Godel, Poland, 10:5. The team also performed very well, easily defeating Sweden and Israel with the same scores the West German team had against these teams. In a hot contest with West Germany, we lost 11:5. The third seeded Italian team was forced to fence us in the direct elimination. We lost to Italy, 9:1.

Women's Foil: Another vocal local crowd watched Cornelia Hanish, West Germany fence her way into a four-way fence off, with Catarina Rascova, Czechoslovakia, Valentina Sidorova, USSR, and Pascal Trinquet, France. Sidorova won with three victories.

Among the U.S. women, Nikki Franke was the only one to reach the third round. The team was initially seeded 13 and had to fence Japan, seeded 12. This was initially seeded 13 and had to fence Japan, seeded 12. This was lost by a narrow score, 9:7. A

team.

Sabre: A rousing final, in which local Michele Maffei, Italy, would make a turned into a free for all and a five-way off with Viktor Krowpouskow, USSR Burzew, USSR, Maffei, Pal Gerevich, Hungary, and Viktor Bajenow, USSR. Krowkow won the title with three victory indicators than Burzew.

The U.S. sabre fencers lost Edgely in the first round. Peter Westbrook, Losonczy were eliminated in the round. Reilly and Lekach made the round of eliminations and dropped the team competition they showed stronger performance. The match with Russia, 9:4, reflects the impact of the bout with Bulgaria ended in a 8:8, with 56 hits each, requiring a fight. Peter Westbrook defeated Christov the match victory, giving the U.S. seventh place.

Epee: The conflict between Television Directing was made apparent at the final. The Director was placed with to an 'Open Clock'. The title bout Philippe Riboud, France, and Jablkowski, Poland was tied, timing out; Riboud made a good hit awarded. He was champion. This came that time had run out before. This erupted into a long protest. This was annulling the touch and a double. This put four men into a fence-off. A Pusch, W. Germany, Riboud, Hansson, Sweden, and Jablkowski made. Another happy local crowd watched achieve his third World Title with three victories in the fence-off.

The American contingent did well. Three fencers went into the third round. Peter Schiffrin, fencing very well, in the round of 32, seeded 9. He drew seeded 24, and lost to him 10:5. The team beat Denmark, 5:11, but lost to Hungary 15:1. In the direct elimination the Hungary 8:0, with two double defeats had the uncertain pleasure of fencing two teams that placed first and second.

The competitions were held in a new Sports Hall with 18 strips and 2 small



1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

halls were also used for practice sessions. Fencers from 31 nations competed. The Organizers had well-staffed committees for Bout, technical, organization, food service, press, opening and closing ceremonies and clean-up. The machines and strips were well tended and no time was lost due to breakdowns. Weapons control was careful and thorough.

Frederick Rhodes
 FENCERS' OUTFITTERS
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1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULT

USA RESULTS

Men's Foil: Individual (126 competitors)

Nonna	Round of 32	30th Place
Marx	Round of 32	32nd Place
Ashley	Third Round	Tied-39th Place
Hambarzumian	Third Round	48th Place
Gerard	Second Round	65th Place

Men's Foil: Team (24 teams)

First Round	USA 10	Sweden 6
	USA 14	Israel 2
	W.Ger. 11	USA 5

Direct Elimination	Italy 9	USA 1
Final Ranking	12th	

Women's Foil: Individual (105 Competitors)

Franke	Third Round	45th Place
D'Asaro	Second Round	54th Place
Waples	Second Round	62nd Place
Badders	First Round	
Senser	First Round	

Women's Foil: Team (19 Teams)

First Round	Japan 9	USA 7
	France 13	USA 9
Final Ranking	13th	

Sabre: Individual (82 Competitors)

Lekach	Third Round	22nd Place
Reilly	Third Round	24th Place
Westbrook	Second Round	Tied-26th Place
Lozonczy	Second Round	33rd Place
House	First Round	

Sabre: Team (14 Teams)

First Round	USA 12
	Hungary 13

Quarter Final Russia 9

Fifth Place Poland 9

Match

Seventh Place USA 8

Match Barrage Westbrook, USA d. Chri

Final Ranking Seventh Place

Epee: Individual (132 Competitors)

Schifrin Round of 32

Pesthy Third Round

Shelley Third Round

Niernan First Round

Matheson First Round

Epee: Team (25 Teams)

First Round USA 10

Russia 15

Eighth Final USA 0

Final Ranking 16th Place

RESULTS OF FINAL

Men's Foil: Individual

1. Flamont, Didier France
2. Normankov, Alexander Russia
3. Hein, Harold West Germany

Men's Foil: Team

1. Poland
2. France
3. Russia

Women's Foil: Individual

1. Siderova, Walentina Russia
2. Rascova, Catarina Czechoslovakia
3. Hanish, Cornelia West Germany

Women's Foil: Team

1. Russia
2. Poland
3. Rourmania

Sabre: Individual

1. Krowopuskow, Viktor Russia
2. Burzew, Michail Russia
3. Maffai, Michele Italy

Sabre: Team

1. Russia
2. Hungary
3. Italy

Epee: Individual

1. Pusch, Alexander West Germany
2. Riboud, Philippe France
3. Jacobson, Hans Sweden

Epee: Team

1. Hungary
2. Russia

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THE EYES DO NOT HAVE IT THE BLIND CAN ALSO FENCE

JOSEPH WAFFA, M.A.

Editors Note: This an extract of Mr. Waffa's article.

For further information please contact him directly at 7 Salamanca Ave, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134

Fencing is one of the many sports that can be taught to and enjoyed by blind persons, both male and female, from as young as it is possible to receive instruction to as old as it is possible to undertake the required positions and movements. A young seventy years of age may learn and enjoy the sport.

Fencing should be taught at the habilitation schools and the rehabilitation centers by a fencing master or a professional fencing instructor of many years of experience who preferably has familiarized himself with the remaining senses, other than sight.

The same course and method of instruction given sighted beginners should be followed without any modifications so that full benefit may be derived from the course.

For effective fencing instruction the congenitally blind should be taught separately from the adventitiously blinded. This is because the congenitally blind, can neither visualize nor videate sensory experiences. The congenitally blind has to be shown manually the various fencing positions and movements through kinesthetic function. He will require more time and patience to understand the essence of the sport.

The partially sighted students who are considered legally blind must be occluded during fencing classes. This must be done under ophthalmological supervision to insure the stability and continuity of the partial sight. The inefficiency of the partial sight is detrimental to the correct application of the art of fencing as well as the effective training of the proper use of the remaining senses.

Beginner fencing classes for the adventitiously blinded and partially sighted may have a maximum of four students, while classes for the congenitally blind students should not exceed two participants. Advanced fencing classes for both categories may have a maximum of six fencers.

The instructor should first acquaint the beginner fencer with the foil, its various parts,

hand correctly through the use of the senses of touch feel and pressure. This is followed by teaching the various fencing positions such as the "at ease", the "attention", the "salute", and the "on guard".

After the students have mastered the various fencing positions, they should be taught the simple fencing movements.

Teaching fencing positions and simple movements of the defense and the offense usually takes around thirty hours of instruction, that is, one hour three times a week for ten weeks. After this beginner fencers may enjoy competing with each other. When the students are ready to cross blades, three problems will be presented. These are:

1. Control of the movements of the fencers in space (space perception or spatial orientation).
2. Locating the opponent.
3. Distance estimation of the opponent.

1. The problem of space perception is easily solved by having the students fence on a rubber fencing strip one meter wide and 18 meter long. All the lines on the strip should be painted with a thick white plastic paint one inch wide across the strip, causing them to be slightly raised so that they may be felt underfoot through touch sensation or by the tip of the blade which is the extension of the external kinesthetic touch sense. The fencers can, through a well developed sense of spatial orientation, go to the ends of the strip and feel their way with the tip of the blade and sensation underfoot to the "on guard" lines, stand at the "attention", salute each other, resume the position of "on guard" and at the command of "play" commence fencing in proper form and order. They can advance, retreat, defend, attack, act or react within the limitation of the strip without difficulties. The fencers can easily detect stepping off the strip through the touch sensation underfoot, and can go back on the strip utilizing their sense of turn and correcting their direction by running the point of the blade on the right then the left

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It is interesting to know that after a few weeks of fencing on the strip the fencers are able to fence without the use of the strip just as effectively. This is due to the constant training of the efficient use of the remaining senses, particularly the activities of the senses of hearing, touch and spatial orientation.

2. In locating the opponent, fencers come to the "on guard" lines 4 meters apart on the strip. When the command of "play" is given, they advance toward each other probing with the point of the blade. The movement of the point may be made horizontally at face level, or in circles, covering the width of the target area until the blades meet completing the contact and localization of the opponent.

In facing with or without the use of a fencing strip the position of the opponent is easily detected through contact and pressure of the blades. Advanced fencers should know when two right handed fencers are bouting and are engaged in the line of "four". If one fencer feels the pressure of his opponent's blade on the left side of his own, he can perceive that his opponent is directly in front of him. If he feels the pressure coming from underneath his own, then his opponent is to the right of him. If the pressure comes from

left of him. The same pressures and conditions are reversed when two left handed fencers are bouting. However, when a right handed fencer is crossing blade with a left handed opponent, the left handed fencer engages has right handed contact in the line of "six" while his opponent engages him in the line of "four". If a right handed fencer is crossing blade with a right handed fencer, he is then on the right of the right handed fencer. Pressure from the right-handed fencer indicates that the right-handed fencer is to the left of him.

3. The distance estimation follows the contact of the blades. Contacts of the blades at various parts may feel and sound the same to a sighted fencer. However, fencers learn to differentiate the sound and feelings of the parts of the blades in the distance between fencers is known to seven feet which is a reasonable fencing distance; middle of the distance establishes a distance of four feet. At this contact both fencers must be one step. Forte to forte contact places fencers too close and both must sit

The Blind Can Also Fence

Advanced fencers who have developed the perception of sound identification, discrimination and localization can locate and estimate the distance of their opponents without the necessity of the contact of the blades. Well trained blind fencers will be able to discriminate the sound of a "balestra" from other sounds around the fencing area; to differentiate between the sound of the "advance" and the "retreat"; between the voices of the instructor and fellow fencers; etc. They can fence as freely as sighted fencers.

Fencing classes should start with twenty minutes of group drilling in positions and movements. Frequent individual lessons should be given to all fencers. This should be followed by thirty minutes of bouting. One-half hour, three nights a week, homework assignments should be given to resident students or trainees. A sighted observer must be present during these practice assignments to supervise correct training and to prevent possible accidents.

Time spent in group drilling and homework assignments should include practice of the principle of "finger play" which is the

science of the maneuverability of the point of the blade by means of finger movements and control.

Some time should also be devoted to lunges toward a target, two inches in diameter and one-half inch thick made of sponge rubber, affixed to the wall at hip level. This is because blind fencers tend to raise the point of the blade too high. Fencers should learn to lunge for maximum reach in good form and balance. The correct position and distance from the target can be accomplished as follows:

1. An advanced fencer should be able to go to and locate his own target on the wall.
2. He should then place the point of his blade on the target, retreat until his fencing arm is fully extended with the blade and front foot in line with the point which is still on the target.
3. Bring the hind foot in the correct position of "attention".
4. Retreat three normal steps and resume the position of "on guard".
5. Extend the fencing arm and lunge keeping the hind foot flat on the floor.



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Feedback will assist the fencer in locating the target and correcting his distance and direction. In time he will be able to hit the target repeatedly and in good form.

Advanced fencers may participate in round-robin tournaments and team meets within their group, other schools, centers, fencing clubs, etc. Blind fencers may fence with sighted fencers only when the sighted fencers wear lightproof blindfolds. Partly sighted fencers who are considered legally blind must be occluded or blind-folded when fencing with totally blind fencers. However, to assist the partly sighted individuals to better use their remaining sight they should be permitted to fence, under close supervision and only with each other, without the use of the occluders.

Advanced fencers can and should be given the advanced simple and compound defensive movements. Before a fencer can be taught the "fleche", the instructor must be sure that the fencer can detect objects from a minimum distance of five feet, using the sense of object perception, in order that the attacking fencer can avoid running into the defending fencer. With training a fencer can detect his proximity to his opponent prior to the action of "inlighting".

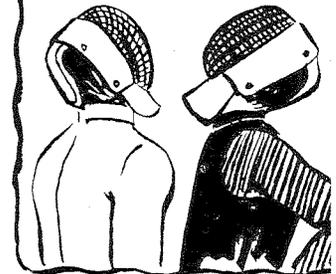
If at all possible, fencers should experience competition with the electric foil. The combination of the senses of touch, whether fair or off-target (foul), with the sense of hearing the sound emitted by the touch registering machine is valuable in training the use of the dual senses. The electric foil machine can be constructed to have four different sounds, a sound each for a fair touch and off-target touch for each of the fencers on the strip.

Sighted fencers allow their sense of sight to overpower and undermine the use of the other faculties of perception. Fencers who rely on their sight alone have discovered that in bouting, sight is sometimes deceiving. To develop sensory perception without the censoring use of sight, which will no doubt improve the teaching technique of the fencing instructors and develop better fencers, fencing instructors should occasionally blindfold themselves while giving fencing lessons, and while fencing with their blindfold students. They should also give their sighted fencers an occasional lesson with the fencers blindfold, and supervise frequent matches among blindfolded

It is hoped that this article will be all fencing instructors particularly gaged in the habilitation of the co blind or the rehabilitation of the ously blinded persons.



coach's corner



I WOULD SAY THAT'S O
TARGET

1979 JUNIOR OLYMPICS

Members of the J.O. committee of the New England Division are working hard to make this year's JO's the best one yet; efficient, economical, orderly, safe, and enjoyable. We have chosen Harvard University's Palmer Dixon Building as the site of the tournament, to be held February 17-19, 1979. Located about 20 minutes from Logan Airport and just a stone's throw from the famous Harvard Square in Cambridge, this facility will provide us with adequate space, flooring, and lighting. Twelve strips complete with electrical scoring equipment will be furnished by Zivkovic Modern Fencing Equipment Company.

Hotel accommodation is very expensive in and around Boston and we are pleased to be able to offer you special group rates at two hotels. Closest to the site is the Ramada Inn, a 15 minute walk, or a 4 minute ride.

The rates:

single \$16	triple \$20
double \$18	quad \$22

They required a deposit of one night's stay when you make the reservation. For those of

you who wish to stay in the heart of downtown Boston, the Copley Plaza, a 10 minute ride from the site, offers:

single \$22, 26, 30
doubles \$26, 30, 34

Neither hotel will guarantee reservations at the special rates after Feb. 1, 1979. Reservation cards should be available from division secretaries and/or chairmen by December 15th, or you simply send the following information on regular stationery to the hotel: name, address, arrival and departure dates, type of room preferred, group affiliation (J.O. Champs/AFLA). Remember the Feb. 1st deadline.

Any further questions can be directed to:

Laurie Katz (housing)
50 Burlington St.
Lexington, Mass. 02173

or

Marie Darna (hospitality)
24 Heather Rd.
Watertown, Mass. 02174

DATE: February 17, 18, 19, 1979 (Washington's Birthday Week-End)
PLACE: Palmer Dixon Building at Harvard University, Brighton, Mass.
LODGING: *Ramada Inn of Boston, 1234 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton, Mass. 02135. Phone: (617) 254-1234

QUALIFICATION: For the Under-20 events, each Division is permitted a minimum of two fencers per weapon. If the qualifying event has 12-20 fencers, 3 qualifying; for 21-30 fencers in the qualifying event, 4 qualifying; for 31 or more fencers, 5 qualifying. The number qualifying from each Division does not include automatic qualifiers.

For the Under 16 events, each division is allowed **only** two (2) fencers, not including automatic qualifiers still of age.

To be eligible for the Under -16 and/or Under-20 events fencer must be under 16 and/or under 20 years of age on 1 January 1979.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS: For the Under-20 events the first six finalists of the previous National Under-19 Nationals and the previous Junior Olympic Championships and all previous champions shall qualify automatically provided they are still of age.

For the Under-16 events the prior year's finalists in the event shall qualify automatically provided they are eligible by age.

CERTIFICATION: Immediately upon the completion of the Divisional qualifying competition, the Division secretary must submit the following information to: Eleanor Turney, AFLA Secretary, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706 AND to Carla-

1. The number of eligible fencers in the qualifying competition
2. The names of qualifiers and automatic qualifiers in order of the in the competition.
3. The names of alternates in order of their placing in each weapon. Division is allowed as many alternates as there are qualifiers (weapon).

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 1978 of a fencer can be accepted if this information is not submitted fencer's division.

A competitor may enter all events for which he is qualified. In case more events run concurrently, the fencer must bear the burden of bouts in rapid order when called.

SCHEDULE:

SAT., FEB. 17th:	SUN., FEB. 18th	MON: FEB.
8:30 A.M. U-20 E	8:30 A.M. U-20 WF	8:30 A.M.
11:00 A.M. U-16 WF	10:30 A.M. U-20 S	11:00 A.M.
1:00 P.M. U-16 S	12:00 P.M. U-16 MF	
7:00 P.M. AFLA Board Meeting*		

Entry Form: 1979 National Junior Olympic Champion

NAMES (PLEASE PRINT) DIVISION BIRTH DATE

STREET ADDRESS SECTION CLUB

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE AFLA MEMBERSHIP

CLASSIFICATION: J.O. FOIL...EPEE...SABRE...AFLA FOIL...EPEE...SABRE...

A. REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00

B. ENTRY FEES, UNDER-20 EVENTS	C. ENTRY FEES, UNDER-16 EVENTS
..... M. FOIL @ \$5.00 \$ M. FOIL @ \$5.00 \$
..... W. FOIL @ \$5.00 \$ W. FOIL @ \$5.00 \$
..... EPEE @ \$5.00 \$ EPEE @ \$5.00 \$
..... SABRE @ \$5.00 \$ SABRE @ \$5.00 \$

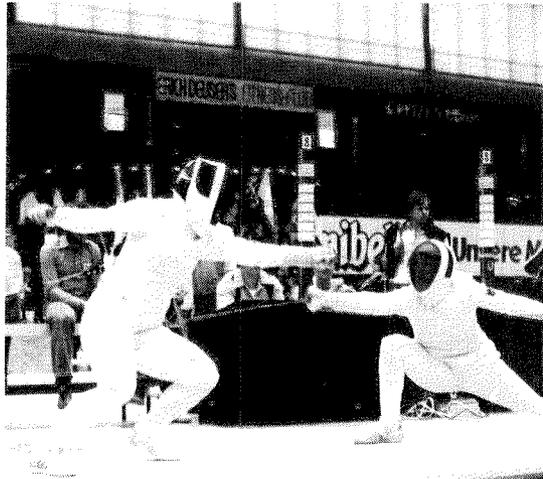
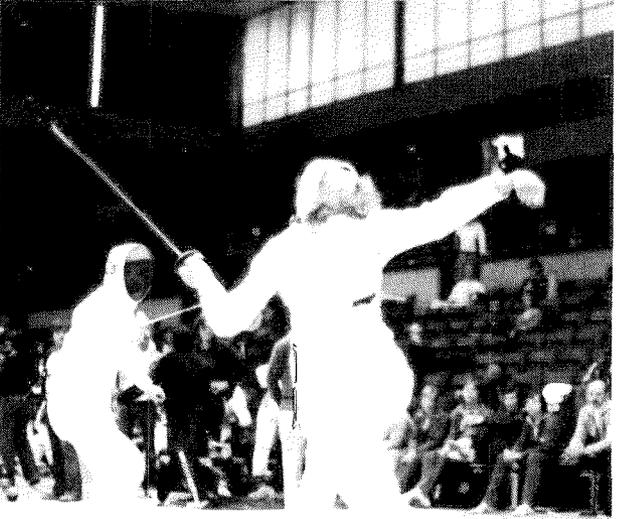
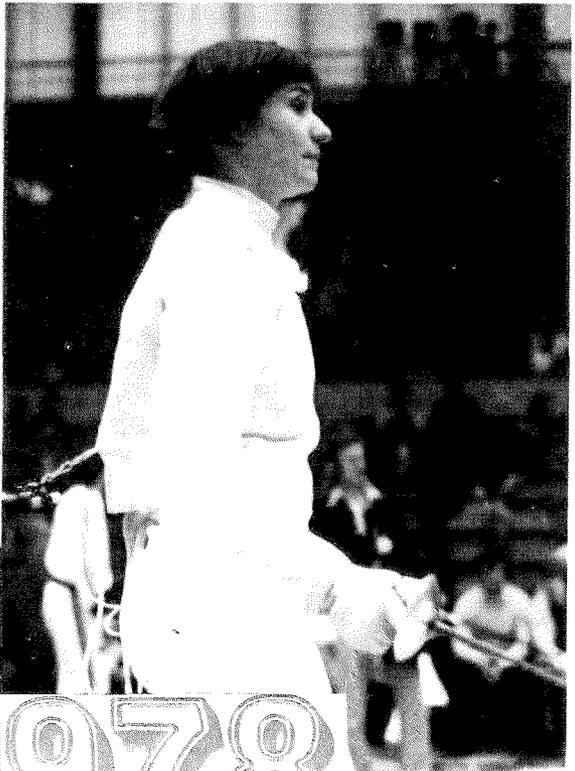
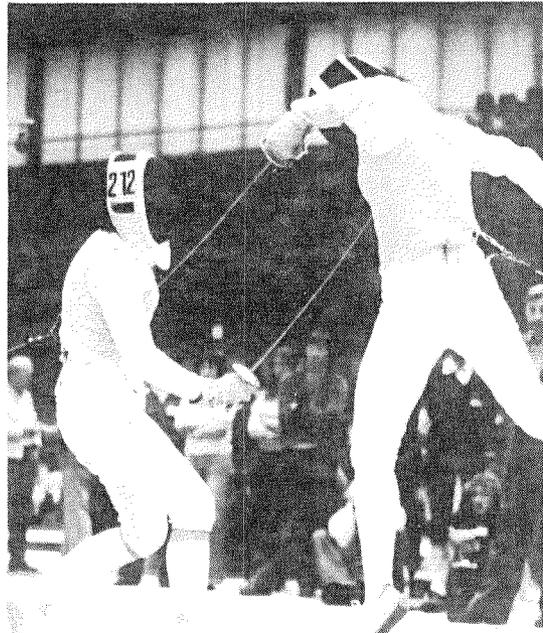
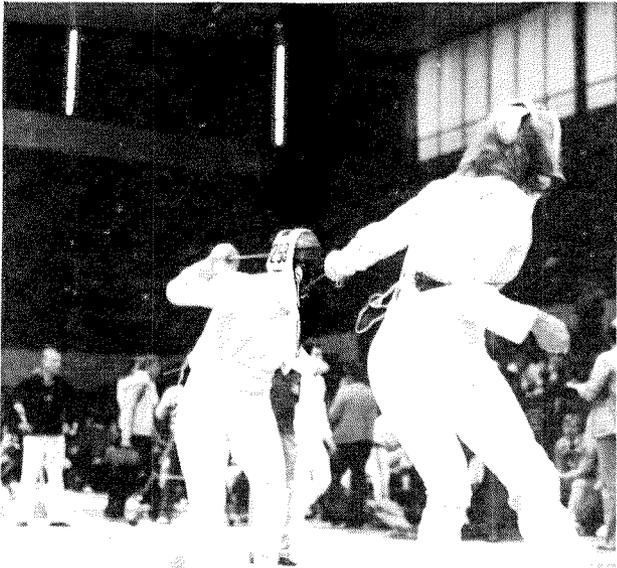
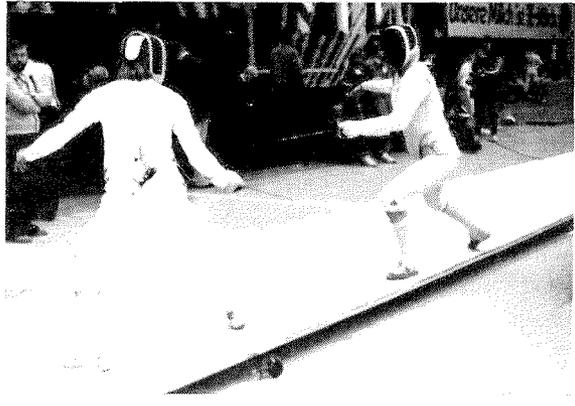
D. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:
Make Check or Money Order Payable to NE AFLA - JO. DO NOT SEND CASH
Check Manner of Qualification: Div....'78 U-19...'78 J.O....A

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 31, 1979 WITH STAMPED ADDRESSED LEGAL (LARGE) ENVELOPE, ENTRY FORM AND TOTAL FEES. MAIL TO: Carla-Mae Richards, 100 Longfellow Road, Newton, MA 02162. ALL REQUESTS FOR FUNDS, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO WITHDRAW, MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY AFTER THAT DATE, NO REFUND REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED.

"Upon entering these events under the auspices of the AFLA I agree to abide by the rules of the AFLA as published in the 1974 editio Rules and Manual, and amendments thereto. I enter at my own risk and release the AFLA and Harvard University and officials from The undersigned certifies that the individual for which this entry is submitted is duly qualified to enter the 1978 Junior Olympic Championships and the individual's 1978-1979 membership dues have been paid and that the individual's birthdate is as stated above."

Parent or Guardian's Signature for

Entrant's



1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

TECHNICAL TALKS



by Joe Byrnes

We haven't finished with our copper strips; in the fact we were really only getting ready to lay one out when we broke off last time.

Before you run any metal strip out for tapping down, you want to be sure there are no holes in it. If it's old, and wasn't checked and repaired at or after the last competition where it saw service (fat chance), you'll probably have work to do. New ones should be no problem, except that you'll doubtless be called upon to put the markings on a brand new one. If so, use a good meter rule, masking tape, cardboard or newspaper for screening and underlaying, a can of spray aluminum paint, and caution. Don't forget the underlay the areas where you're painting; and don't spray too thick a coat.

Back to the old strip with the holes, tears, rips, punctures, or whatever. Everything said here also applies to repairs that have to be made during a competition, of course. Begin by flattening the torn wires back to a semblance of their original state. If the strip is dirty, the area of the repair may require cleaning and additional flux to make the solder take. The solder to use to repair copper strips, by the way, is the wire-type, either solid or acid-core, in the 40/60 proportion. The more expensive rosin or plastic core electronic solders would be inefficient if used in this work. You will need a heavy soldering iron; a 100-watt model is on the small side for the job. Good results can be got from a propane torch, provided you know how to keep it lit and the precautions to be exercised in using it. You will need a largish piece of lightweight sheet aluminum or galvanized steel to slide in between the copper strip and whatever is underneath it. One of the reasons for the heavy soldering iron or torch is the fact that the strip itself, plus the protective plate, will act as a kind of heat sink, and drain away much of the heat you are trying to apply to a limited area.

You have probably seen, and fenced upon, copper strips with solder repairs that can be felt rising up underfoot; they often look little shiny silver igloos, bubbled above the

of solder patch. Quite apart from the fact that they often have a weak bond with the mesh beneath, they are too easily ripped open again by the fencers' feet or the points of the weapons, especially the epees. The way to get the solder down into the hole where it will do the most good is to heat area of the edges of the hole first, before applying the solder. When the mesh has been heated for a while (it takes experience to learn how long the while should be), apply the solder at the tip of the iron or of the flame of the torch, and when the shiny bead forms on top of the hole, quickly press down on the hot solder with a piece of wood (an 8" length of 2 x 4 is ideal) or even with the sole of your shoe. I prefer the sole-of-the-shoe technique myself. If you slap the wood or the shoe down fast, make sure there's nobody around to be injured by a bit of hot solder squirting off sideways. The resultant patch will be gray, not shiny, in appearance, but don't worry. If the mesh was hot enough the bond will be good, because the solder will be down in and around the broken mesh, which is where you want it, not up on top.

That technique, in single applications, will work for small holes and tears. For bigger rips, several inches long and often L-shaped, pretty much the same approach will work, provided the mesh can be brought back together without a gap between the ripped edges. In this sort of job, start the soldering at one end; tack it down; jump to the other end and ditto; then leapfrog around, gradually filling in the tear, always giving the last spot you worked on a chance to cool down and stabilize before you spot solder right next to it.

For really big rips, when the edges of the tear can't be made to meet, or the tear extends perhaps almost all the way across the strip, you need a patch. A piece of scrap copper, at least the length of the rip and extending about an inch on either side, will have to be located under the gash, which can then be soldered as described for the medium sized tears: spot solder at six-inch or one-foot in-

it can be done. When strips rip up that badly, however, the question has to be asked: how long can it last now, and is this repair worth the effort?

Remember that you are using acid-core or acid-fluxed solder; you need that strength because of the dirty condition of the cleanest fencing strip, but the acid will tend to leave a blackish, sticky residue. If you use additional flux, it can be even worse. You will wipe up whatever appears above the strip, of course, but not much will appear there. It will be concentrated underneath, and, unless the protective paper or form rubber or whatever is in place and thick enough, that acid residue will work through and stain the floor beneath. Go easy on the extra fluxing, in any case.

One quick way of making little (and even one-inch or so) repairs is to use a special tape, which I believe is still available, although pretty expensive. It's a 3-M product, known as "Scotch Electrical Tape, No. X-1181," and is described as "copper foil with conducting pressure sensitive adhesive." That says it all. It comes in rolls in various widths (the 1" and 2" are convenient) and is easy to work with. Rather than shut down a strip or hold up a bout while a solder crew sets up to fix a little puncture, you just press the broken wires back into place,

cut a piece of the X-1181 big enough to cover the spot affected, peel off its back and step smooth it out with your foot. It's a charm. If, a few hours or days later, the fencers' feet have worked the patch loose, it can always be repeated, much like a soldering job, assuming that you have the time to get around to a permanent repair. Next time: stretching 'em, etc.

USA To Host World Under 20

The AFLA is proud to announce that it will host the World Under 20 Championships at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana on April 12-16, 1979. An effort is being made to schedule clinics and seminars for officials and coaches in connection with the tournament. More details will be published in future issues of *A FENCING*.

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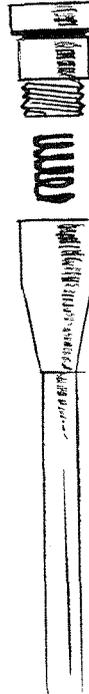
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RESUME OF SANCTIONS APPLIED IN FUNCTION OF THE INFRACTION COMMIT

Translated by Rob Handelman

FOR THE BOUT				S/
#	TYPE OF INFRACTION	1st	2nd	
1	Purposely crossing the lateral limits. 33-44-638	1	3	
2	Abusively provoking or prolonging stops in the combat. 48-639	1	3	
3	Covering or protecting valid surface in Foil. 30-640/2	1	2 or 4	
4	Seize some part of the electrical equipment. 30-640/3	1	2 or 4	
5	Turn the back to the adversary during the combat. 35-638-640 bis	1 + 2	2 + 4	
6	Looking for corps a corps in Foil and Sabre. 244-412-641	1	3	
7	Removing the mask before the decision of the Director. 28-641-bis	1	2 or 4	
8	Trying to favor the adversary. 607-643	1	5	
9	Profiting from a collision with the adversary. 607-643	1	5	
10	Abandoning a match by leaving the strip. 32/4-654	1	3	
11	Infraction against discipline - refusing to obey the director. 657-602-609	1	3	
12	Weapons that do not function. 604-657	1	3	

FOR THE POOL, MATCHES OF DIRECT ELIMINATION TEAM MATCHES					S/
#	TYPE OF INFRACTION	1st	2nd	Folk	
21	Irregular use of the hand or non weapon arm. 30-640/1	1 + 2	2 + 3		
22	Disloyal or incorrect combat. 28-605-642	1	5		
23	Violent act, disorganized game, abnormal footwork, dangerous actions. 28-645/1	1	3		
24	Provoking the corps a corps with intentional brutality. 645/2	1	5		
25	Fleche jostling the adversary. 645/3	1	2		
26	Vindictive act. 645/4	1 or 5	5		
27	Fencers material not conforming: a) Could occur from combat but observed upon presentation on the strip. 21A, A2-648/3 b) Could not occur from the combat. 21-648/4 c) Could occur from a fraud. 648/5 d) Occurs from a proven fraud. 21C 648/6	1	3		
28	Placing a non insulated part of the weapon on the metallic vest in Foil.	2	2 + 4		
29	Non presentation on time. 604-654	2 + 3	5		
30	Intentionally making a touch by placing the point outside the adversary in Foil and Epee. 230-325	5	-		
		2	2 + 3		
		1	3		
		1 + 2	2 + 3		

- CODE OF SANCTIONS**
- Warning
 - Annulment of the touch given.
 - Penalization of a touch that can cause the loss of the bout
 - Penalization of a touch can not cause the loss of the bout.

Official Strips and Equipment of the:

1976 Olympic Games - Montreal, Canada
1977 Modern Pentathlon World Championship-San Antonio, Texas
1978 Balkan Games-Split, Yugoslavia
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

I have been away from fencing for many years. I used to fence quite a lot when I was in high school, and every chance I'd get, I'd go to watch the "real" fencers fence. I remember Joe and Mike de Capriles, Peter Myer, Warren Dow, Dernel Every, and lots of others. They were really something to see.

Dernel Every never seemed to like me; I never knew why. Maybe it was because I used to stare so intently at him when he fenced. But you really had to watch him intently because when an opening developed—POW—came his lunge and if you weren't watching closely, you missed it. He was like a crouching leopard, leaning in, always ready and, as I said, POW!

I fenced against him once in an open competition. He beat me 5-0. But, he never got a chance to lunge; no sir, I did, five times. My coach at the time said that he was proud of my lunges. He said they were almost "ideal." That is, as my arm was extending, my front foot kicked up (we had some trouble with that; I said it kicked out, but he pointed

was leading the motion forward, I was kicking UP. We compromised on "up and out.") That brought my body motion forward to the point where by straightening my rear leg and throwing my rear arm down hard (in supination) the heel of my front foot landed and my front leg took over the propelling force again and pulled my body forward to the point where my knee was directly over my ankle. That's when Dernel Every hit me with his riposte, five times; twice in the same spot, causing a small tear in my jacket. He never liked me.

This Spring I read about some International Championships to be held at the New York A. C., and I decided to go down and see what fencing is like these days. I spent an interesting weekend, and I also saw Dernel Every. He was standing and talking to Pete Tishman, Danny Bukantz and Nat Lubell. I said hello as I walked by. Pete and Danny said, "Hi, how are you," they're real good guys. Nat smiled; he didn't seem to remember me. Dernel Every just nodded. He didn't seem to remember me, but you could tell he didn't like me. The fencing was also very disappointing.

Sincerely,

RULE CHANGES-SABRE TOUCH

by J

Numerous changes to the rules, many of a mostly procedural or minor sort, have been enacted by the FIE since the updated supplement to our American rule book appeared in September 1976. We will shortly be issuing all of these in one fashion or another, but for the moment your attention is called to one in particular.

This change, enacted this year, and perhaps not so minor, is evidently intended to clear the way for an electrical scoring system for sabre (although nobody seems to be saying so officially). It does away with one element in the definition of a sabre touch that has long been one of the potential stumbling-blocks to any electrification: namely, the traditional incorrectness of a "flat" hit.

It is no secret to experienced sabre fencers, or at least to those experienced in the highest levels of competition in recent years, that a "flat" is very rarely called these days. It is more likely to be asserted at local club or regional competitions, with veterans of quite some years ago participating or officiating. In effect, then, the definition is being brought into line with actual present-day international practice.

What has been done is this: The whole text of FIE Article 409, describing the "Manner of Making Touches" in sabre has been subtly altered, as follows:

409 The sabre is a weapon for thrusting, cutting, or counter-cutting (see 29).

a) Touches made by any part of the fore edge, of the flat, or of the back edge of the blade, are called "cuts," except those made by the forward third of the back of the blade which are called "counter-cuts" (back-edge cuts); touches made with the point are so called. All these actions are counted as touches.

b) Actions with the point gliding over the valid target or with the fore or back edge brushing the opponent's body (thrusters that pass) do not count as touches.

c) Cuts through the steel, i.e., those which at the same time touch the valid surface and the opponent's sabre, are valid whenever the fore edge, back edge, or point arrives clearly on the

Note particularly the addition ("the flat" in paragraph a); that is away with the old prohibition aging. Though this change may cause choleric reactions among sabre suspects that there will be no upheaval in the general style of sabre fencing as any change in the lessons given to fencers. As noted above, people haven't been saying much about flat hits lately in competition. In fact, the prohibition largely historical, relating to the War I type of sabre blade. With the light-bladed sabre, it is not as easy—easy to be sure that a cut is "flat." If you want to know how the original justification, take a look at the century fencing sabre blade, find one. In those days, except weren't sharp, they weren't so far from a cavalryman—the kind who rode not in an armored car—wore at least a true flat hit with that width of blade would have only stung an opponent whereas the modern fencing blades edges to be sharpened, would slice a bit. Thus there is a logical change, even from the theoretic.

The strong reason for the change has to be as a preparation for sabre. Most of the sabre scoring systems which have been proposed so far have been demonstrated in the last few years—seem by and by work by turning the whole blade in a long heavy wire, which carries a current, like the insulated wire in a foil or epee. If any part of such a "wire" to touch the opponent's lamé jacket, sabre fencers will wear lamé jackets (few other things), a current flow in one way of the jacket and its lead to the machine, and behold: a touch.

It is also no secret to the International Olympic Committee putting pressure on the FIE to get a new scoring system for sabre. For fencers, it doubtless seems a peculiar and behind-the-times thing of the three weapons have a new scoring system. There are those who doubtless feel that reducing the

Rule Changes - Sabre Touches

scoring would be all to the good. Anyway, there it is.

Incidentally, one other variation seems to be implied, in one form or another, by any sabre system proposed so far. What is affected will be the off-target (trop bas) touch, either it will be eliminated, or, as I suspect is more likely, sabre may still require a couple of judges, whose functions might be presumably delimited to calling low hits (which wouldn't show on the machine), and perhaps to giving advice on whether a cut was with-the-steel or a whipover. That problem arises because so far it seems nobody has figured out an efficient system for showing off-targets. The design of a sabre machine is going to be sufficiently complicated by the need to show both directly valid touches and those that are either with-the-steel or whipovers. The director, alone or with assistance, would have to decide the latter point.

There's work still to be done, evidently, but steps are being taken. Don't expect an elec-

Sala dell'Orso, f. c.

Training for Competition

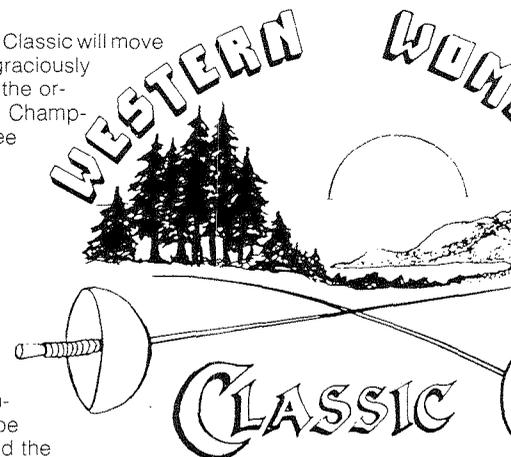
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trical sabre tomorrow, however. It took (with a World War in between) about a quarter of a century for electrical foil to follow electrical epee. But let's see: electrical epee was used in an Olympics for the first time in 1936; electrical foil in the 1956 Olympics; people who like neatness in figures might say electrical sabre is overdue.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The 1979 Western Women's Classic will move from California to Colorado, graciously invited and co-sponsored by the organizers of the 1979 National Championships. The WWC Committee stresses that this tournament is an adjunct to, not part of, the Nationals. All AFLA rules concerning proper clothing and equipment will be enforced. Any woman interested in epee and sabre is invited to participate. Start practicing **now** by taking lessons and entering your division's epee and sabre tournaments. The epee event will be held 22 June at 8:30 a.m., and the sabre event on 23 June at the same time. Prizes will be donated by American Fencers San Francisco, and champion's rings are to be handcrafted by Maxine Mitchell. All en receive a T-shirt with the WWC logo designed by Lynne Antoinelli.



The 1979 Helene Mayer International Tournament

The event has been held for 26 years in the San Francisco area and was first designated as "International" in 1978. Originally started in memory of the famous Olympic and World champion, who lived in the area for many years before her death in 1953, this women's foil meet has generally attracted the strongest of American women competitors. Last year's finalists included Sue Badders, Gay D'Asaro (1978 national champion), Vincent Senser, Debbie Waples, and Stacey Johnson, all ranked among the top 10 in our country.

With greater financial backing U.S. Olympic Committee and much notice to foreign fencing associations Helene Mayer promises to include increasingly more foreign competitors, especially those from the Pacific Basin, although welcome. The Canadians say they again in 1979. Other foreign countries being invited, with a good chance that of them will come.

So circle the date on your newspaper calendar:

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH, 1979
The Helene Mayer International
Municipal Auditorium Arena
Oakland, California, U.S.A.

For further information, contact either

Mary Huddleson, Organizer
2201 Bywood Drive
Oakland, California 94602

OR

Emily Johnson, Bout Committee
1250 Ellis Street, #11
San Francisco, California 94109

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COMMING ATTRACTIONS Gasparilla Fencing Tournament

1978 will mark the fourth Gasparilla Fencing Tournament. As in the past three years, this will take place at the Countryside Mall, Clearwater, on February 3rd and 4th.

This event has increased in size and strength of competition each year. Trophies are sword replicas donated by the Costello Fencing Co.

This is an opportunity to participate in a tournament that draws the general public in interest and as spectators. During the 1978 tournament an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 people saw the fencing competitions during the 2-day event.

For a complete fencing social week end be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend the first week end in February, the 3rd and 4th.

For further information write to Jim Campoli, 313 E. Shore Drive, Oldsmar, Fla. 33557; or phone (813) 855-3112.

1979 Colorado Invitational

The 1979 Colorado Invitational will again be held on the grounds of the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo. Located approximately 50 miles south of Denver, just off I-25, it is within easy access of airports and hotels. We're sure that this will be the biggest and best Colorado Invitational ever.

For more information please contact: David R. Staup, 5561 Xapary St., Denver, Colorado, 80239 or Call Area Code (303) 371-5926



SQUAW VALLEY

by Mary H.

For the second successive summer, the Pacific Coast Section sponsored a Junior Olympic training camp at the Squaw Valley Olympic Training Center. For nine days in August forty-five fencers, aged 14 to 18, were guests of the U.S. Olympic Committee at the high Sierra training camp near Lake Tahoe in California. The AFLA and the Pacific Coast Section provided funds for six coaches two lecturers and four student coaches. Most of the youngsters were from the Pacific Coast Section (California Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) along with seven outstanding "Easterners" from the National Junior Olympic Championships who managed to make the long trek to the rather remote site.

Early morning calisthenics and a one to three mile run, ordered by head coach Yves Auriol, proved to be a tough new exercise for some, while others took it in stride. Dormitory style living and cafeteria style dining were the order of the day. The food was so delicious that nearly everyone gained weight. Daily classwork drills and fencing were all done at a local Truckee school gymnasium.

We were fortunate to have two Eastern coaches who adapted well to Western Denise O'Connor and Ed Richards as Alex Beguinot from Oregon; Handelman and Arthur Lane from California in addition to Maitre Auriol. Even were given by the provocative Lansford and a reminiscing Maxine

Our one "free" half-day was spent by the majority of the group paddling down the rapids of the Merced River in rubber rafts. On the last night, Collen Olney ran a party and talent show which brought some unusual and hitherto unknown of our fencers. At the end of the session the coaches and staff staggered home exhausted, while the fencers clamored for more.



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RESULTS

Sebastiani Fencing Academy Opens in Houston

Saturday, September 16, 1978 was the official inauguration of the Sebastiani Fencing Academy in Houston. The Salle has been in operation since May 1, 1978 but the official opening was chosen to coincide with the start of the new fencing season. The first Sebastiani Epee Invitational was scheduled to begin at 12:00 noon. The competition was a success — not less than 200-250 spectators and guest attended between noon and 9:00 p.m. and the level of competition was excellent this early in the season.

During a four-way barrage for first place, Tim Glass had to fence his best in impose his game on a strong Joe Elliott and end up the winner of the competition.

Results:

- 1st Tim Glass, Sebastiani Fencing Academy
 2nd Joe Elliott, Sebastiani Fencing Academy

- 3rd Robert Hurley, Sebastiani Fencing Academy
 4th Russell Carver, Dallas
 5th Colin Abrams, Oakland
 6th Bruce Markovich, Military Member at Large

Fencing at the First Empire State Games

The First Empire State Games were held at Syracuse University August 16th-20th, 1978. The fencing event was conducted in the main gymnasium of Onondaga Community College, about six miles from Syracuse University.

- | Women's Foil | | Epee | |
|--------------|-----------------|------|----------------|
| 1 | V. Harrington | 1 | Arnold Messing |
| 2 | Stacey Moriates | 2 | George Masin |
| 3 | Tracey Burton | 3 | James Teese |
| 4 | Joan Kowalwski | 4 | Michael Corona |
| 5 | Pat Dopierala | 5 | Glen Moore |
| 6 | Diane Reckling | 6 | Dan Rainford |

Sabre

- 1 Ken Fox
 2 Ed McNamara
 3 Cal Schlick
 4 Joe Marotta
 5 Don Watson
 6 John McMahon

Men's Foil

- 1 Dan Rainford
 2 D. Valsamis
 3 Mark Auricchio
 4 Ron Mason
 5 Frank Dinces
 6 Henry Dopierala

Request for Application

The Olympic Fencing Committee has requested applications from persons interested in cadre positions on the 1979 Team in the World Under 20 Championships. Applications, accompanied by relevant background information should be sent to the Secretary of the Olympic Fencing Committee, Carla-Mae Richards, Longfellow Road, Newton, MA 02162. Applications should be received by Jan 1979.

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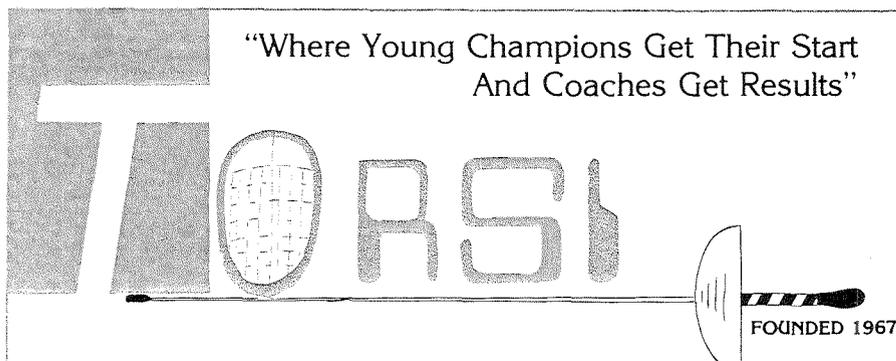
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