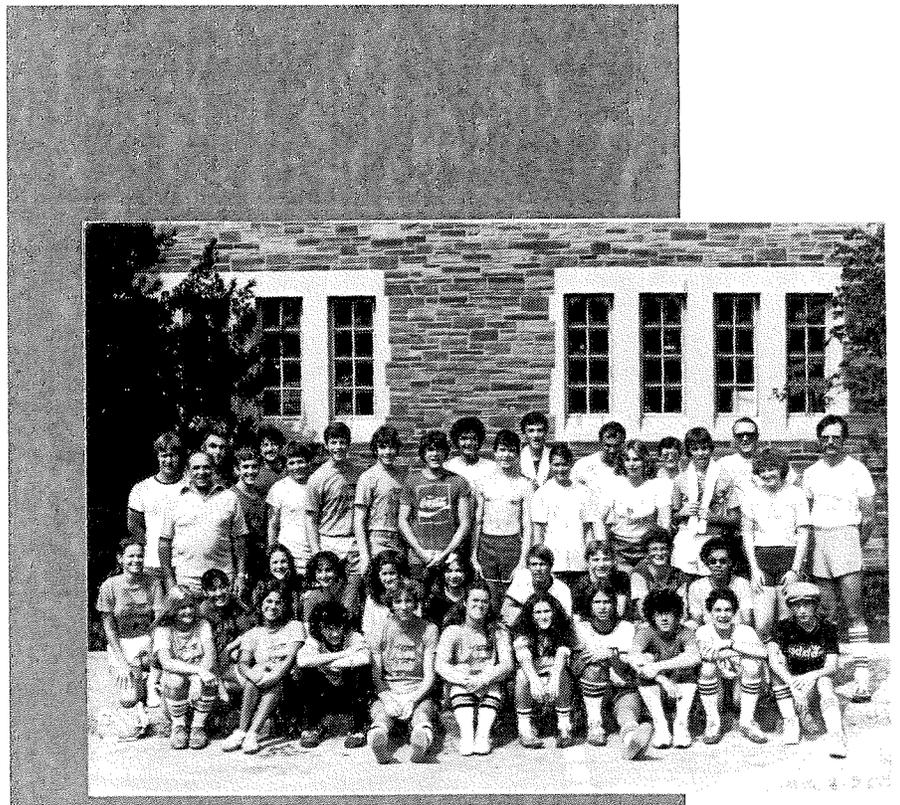


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NOV./DEC. 1980
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOV/DEC 1980

Editorial
From the President by Emily B. Johnson
Third Empire State Games	..... by Paul Anderson
1980 Jr. Olympic Summer Camp	..... Ithaca, N.Y.
Squaw Valley, California	..... D'Asaro & Zocca, Italy
Engravings in Steel, Part III	..... by Giorgio Santelli and Edward
Letters to the Editor	.....
National Point Standings	.....
1981 AFLA Jr. Olympic Champio	..... Information
Club Roster	.....
North America Circuit	..... by Carla Mae Richards
From the Officials Commission	..... by William Goering
Coming Attractions	.....
U.S. Participation in Argentina	..... Tournament
	..... by Chaba Pallaghy
Technical Talks	..... by Joe Byrnes
AFLA Directory 1980-81	.....

ABOUT THE COVER

**1980 AFLA J. O. Training Camp
University, Ithaca, N.Y.**

*Front row: Christa Weber, Cindy
Krauthamer, Craig Fowler, Sandra
Rachman, Christine Davies, Cha
Scott Jacobs, Mark Clark.*

*2nd row: Susan Kemball-Coo-
Cheng, Molly Sullivan, Sarah
Mindy Wichick, Randi Samet, Dr
Avery Goldstein, Alan Stein, Elliott
Standing: Ron Miller, Jean-Jacq
Tony Gillham, Chris Balestracci, S
Joseph Kirk, Matt Cooleen, Trc
Brian Keane, Charles Melch
Iacampo, Tim Gillman, Caitlin Biloc
Helmich, Chris Bosco, Lynne Anto
Mazure, Burton Moore, Kim Cu
Jim Fazekas.*

(For an account of their activities, see

Editorial

Last month your editor was in Japan, where fencing is not as big a sport as kendo, judo, or even naginata (if you don't know what the last named is, you had better brush up on your martial arts!). However, we managed to find some true and fine Japanese fencers and, among other things, handed them the new issue of Southern California's FENCING TIMES. They were entranced with the large front-page photo of Coach Heizaburo Okawa and we left them happily trying to parse out the rest of the voluminous paper when they knew very little English.

We are beginning to get queries as to whether the FENCING TIMES and Florida's FENCING NEWS are competing with the official AFLA AMERICAN FENCING. The publications are completely different in content and in aims.

AMERICAN FENCING, as the official organ of the AFLA, reaches all members of our organization at no extra charge. It is published bi-monthly and contains national news and opinions, but, more importantly, it carries articles, comments, and announcements from national officers and committee members on official policies, programs, rules changes, and other nation-wide information and reports.

More and more divisions are publishing their own newsletters, an activity which should be encouraged. The Southern California and Florida productions are more ambitious than the others in that they seek a wider readership by more frequent (monthly) and timely regional news. They charge for their subscriptions and give detailed regional news and results along with occasional local gossip and "scoops" on national and international events. Both productions are easy to read and full of information. They serve their purposes well and we welcome their appearance to help spread the word about the sport of fencing.

Your editor would like to receive newsletters from other divisions throughout the country, with the understanding that we may publish (with appropriate notation as to source) something from them which we think deserves a wider readership. Local newsletters should feel free to reprint (with

appropriate by-line) from AMERICAN FENCING. -MTH



PLUS ÇA CHANGE

"This is your publication.

Although it is not our purpose to incite a riot or cause undue strife, it is desirable that we inspire our readers to send us their thoughts on fencing problems. Thoughts that are usually confined to "bull sessions" and lost to posterity.

Undoubtedly many of you have excellent ideas on topics you would like to see discussed in lead articles of this magazine. Perhaps some of you are willing to submit such an article. We would appreciate your cooperation in making the magazine have greater interest. If you disagree with the thoughts expressed by some author, let us publish your views. All we ask is that your comments be signed, sincere, and non-vitriolic.— Joe R. deCapriles, Editor."

from AMERICAN FENCING, December, 1957

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From the President

by Emily Johnson

Time has a way of flitting by when you are wondering what that funny noise was. Suddenly it's time to collect my strewn about thoughts and write another column.

The fall meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 27 in San Francisco for the first time ever. Directors came from all over the country to attend. It was just great to see so many old friends here.

We had a lot to discuss and decide. The budget is always a problem, of course, because we are perennially short of money. Inflation adds to our woes. Postage goes up every day or two it seems. Printing costs more. Transportation costs ... You know what I mean. It's a part of all of our lives. With the number of fixed costs we have we have very little discretionary money. From the discretionary money however....

We appropriated the funds necessary to investigate the possibility of starting a fund raising campaign in Pittsburgh using a professional fund raiser. Why Pittsburgh? Because the fund raiser is a strongly motivated fencer and we felt that if we can't succeed there we might as well forget the subject temporarily on an organized national basis. This statement is not intended to discourage anyone from raising funds on their own. If you know anyone who would like to help an extremely worthwhile organization and sport financially, bless you. Have the check made out to the AFLA.

We voted funds to help with clinics for coaches and juniors and others. These are projects dear to the hearts of many of us. We voted funds for the directors and officials commission to use to try to improve the level of directing in this country and for testing of directors.

Micki Conte gave us an enthusiastic pep talk about publicity. She recommended that we change the name of the AFLA to the U.S. Fencing Association or something similar. She pointed out that we have many professionals in our organization so that the word Amateur is a misnomer. Her prin-

cipal point was that Amateur League of America is a stuffy, (explain name and that we needed title instead. What do you think American Fencing and express ion.

The subject of a possible charity way one qualifies to the national forth a considerable amount (sioned oratory. We agreed that it be submitted to the entire meml the Board of Directors for a vote ballot. The ballots are currently k pared and will have long sir mailed by the time you read this.

The AFLA is now covered by li (health) insurance. In other words :sured against accidents caused b lligence. This insurance covers th als, the Sectionals and sanctio sional meets. (Sanctioned divisio are those officially sponsored by sions as opposed to privately s competitions). I am currently w the details with our insurance ag

Hopefully, this will all be resol the next few days. Full inform forms will be mailed to the divis retaries. Please do not ask for statement for a specific competit you really need it for a school or makes work for everyone if w process the paper unnecessarily with your secretary for full inform

We are also preparing forms who wish to be covered by our surance. Eligible Clubs must shc bership of a minimum of 15 AF bers and pay a registration fee. This registration is for the purpos ance only and has nothing to proposals to require that Club: members of the AFLA if they wi teams at the Nationals. We are some Clubs directly. The secreta Division will have forms.

Dues. This subject is a fencer costs approximately \$5.00 a year member to send that member a

and to take care of all the other costs of running the organization at the National level. You don't need a calculator to figure out that it costs all of us \$1.00 per year per student member and that we break even on the associate members. Inflation. What to do? Unfortunately there is only one answer.

The Board approved a change in the dues structure which is essentially as follows: There will be two classes of regular membership, junior and senior. The \$10.00 yearly junior membership will cover those who have not attained their 20th birthday by the commencement of the fiscal year (August 1). The senior membership is for those who are over 20. Associate dues will be \$10.00 a year. Supporting, Contributing and Class A memberships will continue. Life membership will be increased to \$300.00. The same proportionate reduction will remain in effect for three year memberships. The Divisions and sections will receive approximately the same share of the dues that they now receive. This dues change would go into effect on August 1, 1981. Those who have paid for three year membership before June, 1981 will not be affected by the dues change until their present membership expires. These proposed changes will be voted on at the annual meeting of the membership at the nationals next June.

We have to do it. We have been running a deficit budget for years and it is getting worse. In return for the dues increase we will not only be able to keep on functioning but we will try to give you more for your money. The liability insurance is only the first step.

The Olympic Fencing Committee meeting was held the following day. A brief summary of the minutes of that meeting was attached to the minutes of the September Board Meeting. If you want a copy of the full minutes please write directly to Eleanor Turney, National Secretary.

The response to the Coaches Questionnaire has been most gratifying. Many of those who filled in the form made valuable additional suggestions. The questionnaire with a compilation of the answers and a summary of the suggestions made will appear in the next issue of American Fencing.

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Our AFLA Counsel, Stephen B. Sobel, is the sole nominee of the Nominating Committee of the U.S. Olympic Committee to serve as Secretary of that august body for the next four years. Election is by the USOC House of Delegates at its meeting in January 1981. Nominees for President are William Simon; for 1st Vice-President, Jack Kelly. If elected, our sources tell us, this will be the first time a fencer has been an officer of the USOC since the turn of the century. Before serving as our counsel, Steve was President of the AFLA. We know him to be responsible, reasonable, careful, and fair-minded. He has doubtless gained the respect of other Olympic sports members and we wish him well.



NEW YORK HOLDS THIRD EMPIRE STATE GAMES

by Pau

Mr. Anderson, a member of the Westchester, N.Y. Division, has been working with fencing in the Empire State Games since

New York's answer to the Olympics, its Empire State Games, were held for the third time August 13-17, 1980 at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. Originally planned as an every-other-year event, the huge success of the first Games in 1978 automatically made it an annual affair, much to the delight of the approximately 5,500 athletes around the state who qualified for the final rounds there.

Operated by the State Office of Parks and Recreation, New York is divided into Six Regions, with qualifying rounds of 21 sports held in each region. About 75,000 athletes enter the qualifying rounds in the Open Division and the Scholastic Division (under 18 years of age). Small wonder that those who make it feel a certain amount of pride in being a member of a select group to be sent with all expenses paid to the finals. Win or lose, all competitors making the Syracuse trip get a colorful blue & gold sweat suit emblazoned with the Empire State Games logo to take home.

Little did Governor Carey realize the eventual outcome of a simple request to the Commission on Sports and Winter Olympics in 1975. He asked that the Commission recommend a program to develop recreational opportunities in the state, and encourage greater participation in athletic programs. The Empire State Games have become so popular that many other states have been studying its operation with an eye towards adopting the idea. Reportedly, Pennsylvania is ready to start its Keystone State Games in 1983.

After opening ceremonies Wednesday evening, four days of fencing competitions began. There were three qualifiers in each weapon from the six Regions. For the first time in fencing, this included the Scholastic Division's men and women's foil.

Men's Foil: The winners of the Gold and Silver medals were repeats of last year's Games, with Ed McNamara taking first, and Ed Wright, second. While last year required a fence-off for the same result, this year McNamara went undefeated in the finals.

1. McNamara (5-0); 2. Wright (4-1); 3. McCabe (3-2); 4. Friedman (1-4); 5. Mat

tox (1-4); 6. Battifarano (1-4).

Men's Sabre: Joe Marotta, who Gold last year, had to be satis Silver this year as Bob Figueroa t 1. Figueroa (4-1); 2. Marotta Mones (3-2); 4. Schlick (Mituniewicz (2-3); 6. Fazekas (1-

Men's Epee: George Masin re crown by going undefeated in round. Dervbinsky took second.

1. Masin (5-0); Dervbinsky (3-2) (3-2); 4. Hupp (2-3); 5. Mattox Rainford (0-5).

Women's Foil: A hard-fought f with many key 5-4 bouts. Sharor was undefeated in taking first p Magda Fabian placed second. F time in the Games there was a d third place.

1. Everson (5-0); 2. Fabian (3-2); tie) Sonnenfeld (3-2); Walbridge Piazza (1-4); 6. Wullenweber.

SCHOLASTIC DIVISION

Men's Foil: In a well-fought fi Douglas Ramirez was undefe placed first. Mike Lofton was se one loss, 5-4, to Ramirez.

1. Ramirez (5-0); 2. Lofton (4-1); (2-3) 4. Smith (2-3); 5. Viveros Palmer (1-4)

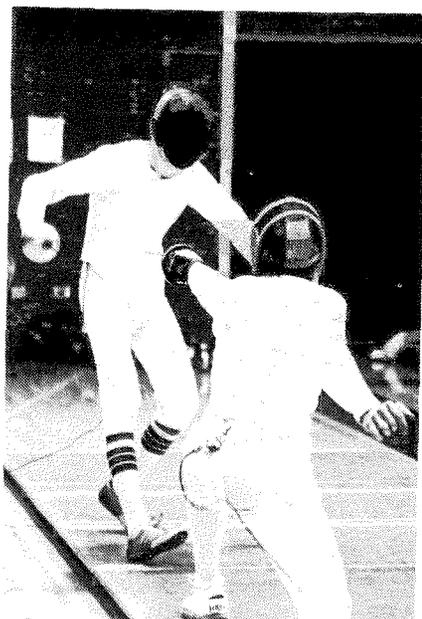
Women's Foil: Randi Samet Hope Meyer (4-1); 6. Deborah C 4. Sabrina Eaton (2-3); 5. Mind (1-4); 8. Carina Roque (0-5).

Sidelights: The success of th at Syracuse University is on reasons why the National Sports held in Colorado Springs the times, will shift to Syracuse in . Another drawing card will be th completed domed Stadium with capacity of over 50,000 which will for the Games next August.

... As State Chairman for Fc the Games, Ralph Goldstein h hard to get the best facilities for petitions. Dernel Every has bee assistant and both will be ba next year. Also giving a great bc sport throughout the state have

six regional directors: Al Kwartler, Dick Gradkowski, Paula Wichick, Jay Bourne, Cliff Mosher and Fred Eaton. Coaches this year from the various regions included Julia Jones-Pugliese, Patricia Eaton, Tom Tripiciano, Mel Wichick and Jo Shaff. . . . Humorous note in the University's newspaper for the benefit of the competitors was stated in a seriously worded section headed: "No Weapons In Dorms." It said that, "If you're in archery, fencing or shooting, you must register and store your weapons at the SU security office, and pick them up between 7 and 9 AM each day before competitions. Return them after competitions each day." Never did find out how many fencers complied with this rule.

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Official Photo. Empire State Games, August 1980. Hupp (rt.) against unidentified opponent.

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1980 JUNIOR OLYMPIC SUMMER CAMPS

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NEW YORK

by Burton E. Moore III, Manager

Based on the comments from fencers and coaches, and my own somewhat biased opinion, the first Eastern Area Junior Olympic Training Camp was extremely successful.

Arrival day was Friday, 1 August 1980, and the get-together that evening found 32 fencers, 7 coaches, and a manager present. Fourteen of the campers qualified from the J.O. Championships, 11 from the N.A.S. Junior Championships, and 7 were locally recommended.

There were 18 boys and 14 girls, broken down by age as follows: three 18 year-olds, four 17 year-olds, nine 16 year-olds, nine 15 year olds, six 14 year-olds, and one 13 year-old, a rather young group over-all. By weapon, there were 5 epeeists, 5 sabreurs, 8 men's foil, plus the 14 girls, of course.

Maitre Jean-Jacque Gillet was the Head Coach, Ron Miller, Steve Cook, and Lynne Antonelli were the Coaches, and Tony Gilham, Jim Fazekas, and John Helmich were the Assistant Coaches. These seven did a splendid job of running the training sessions, working together on conditioning, drills lessons, etc. Special mention must be made of Maitre Gillet, who determined what training would be done when, and by whom, and organized each day so that it ran smoothly. He received information from the other coaches, of course, but the final co-ordination of the work-outs was up to him. He also did much of the administrative organizing prior to the camp, since he was at Cornell already.

My Assistant Manager was Patricia Charles who was of great assistance. Having so many girls in attendance made it imperative that there be a woman on the Staff, and Pat made a fine "Den-Mother" for them. Trying to keep track of 32 youngsters, at curfew time in the evening, at running time early in the morning, or at training or lecture times in between, is not easy, but Pat did an excellent job. Which of the boys will forget her "wake up call" on

the internal phone system at 6:00 heartfelt thanks to her.

The Conference Office at t Campus Union, where we were was very co-operative and undere as far as the peculiar needs c were concerned. For example, th a special early breakfast for us o since the Cafeteria was not sch open until a 10:30 brunch. The C Office also prepared the I.D. Cards, and provided one of the assist in checking in the camp housed us in one wing of a Dorrng six Suites, each with two dr two single rooms and a bathroom rangement led to some crowding residents of a suite had to be at place at the same time, but learned to adjust, and there were problems with being places on ti

A typical day: up at 6:00 A.M. for the managers, thanks to a every room!); stretching and w 6:15, a two-mile or so run over t hills and around Beebe Lake; br 7:00; catch the Campus buss training site, and start warm-up single-and double-line drills, ir group-instruction set-up until 1 swim in the Teagle Hall pool until lowed by a lunch break until 2:0 dividual lessons and supervise lasted until about 4:30; supper at an evening lecture period, startii P.M. lasting 1½ - 2 hours. Lectu included a session with the equipment, a tape of the 1976 Ol Final (with comments and dis "How to Survive a Competition psychology, nutrition, conditioni ment trouble shooting etc., and one scheduled every evening. A "in the suite by 10:15, lights out was more or less observed, after the early wake-up and har training began to take physical e

A partial change in the sche place on the 4th day: once the was completed, we played volle timate Frisbie, or basketball, anc noon was free of all training

much-needed break, and everyone returned to work with renewed energy: the 90°+ heat, with 80%+ humidity, had taken its toll by that time.

On Saturday, 9 August, competitions were held in all weapons. They finished about 1:00 P.M., and everyone went to a State Park on Cayuga Lake for a picnic. A fair amount of shaving cream managed to get used up somehow, but a special shaving cream pie, destined for one of the coaches, failed to be delivered properly. The picnic ended with some modest awards for the competitors, and an original song written, produced, and performed by several of the fencers. It was based on the first names of the Staff and Coaches (Jean-Jacques (Gillet) gave them some trouble), was humorous (painfully so at times), and was much appreciated by the "honorees" and the other campers.

Sunday morning saw everyone packing, checking out, and saying good-bye to new friends and old.

In summary: to repeat the first paragraph of this Report: the overwhelming opinion is that the Camp was a huge success. The problems that arise when you get 41 people working and living in close proximity were almost all minor, and none were serious enough to warrant sending anyone home. The fact that none of the Critique Sheets had any negative comments concerning the value of the program, and that no one stated they **didn't** want to come again, supports the idea of these Camps. They **should be continued**, and expanded, if possible.

SQUAW VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

by John Nonomura, Director

The fourth Annual Squaw Valley JO Fencing Camp was held from August 9-19, 1980. We were again the guests for the U.S. Olympic Training Center at Squaw Valley. The Center sits chalet-like on the floor of an alpine valley, at 6,500 feet altitude. It is surrounded by a crown of peaks 6-8,000 feet higher. It's a congenial and exhilarating place to work out, away from the distraction of cities.

41 young fencers attended. There were 11 registered staff members: 3 Fencing Masters (National Coaches), 4 assistant coaches, and 4 management and administrative staff. Five guest lecturers traveled

and found accommodations at their own expense to provide the evening lectures and demonstrations.

Training facilities and environs were excellent. All the fencers provided their own transportation to the area; the Training Center received them at their different points of arrival; transportation on site was provided by the Center. The Training Center provided at no charge excellent food in quantity, lodging, meeting rooms, extensive medical care, and arranged for gymnasium facilities. Thanks to the support of the Truckee school board and the local Junior High School's principal we were allowed free use of an excellent full size gym and classroom bays.

The goals of the camp were to mold training habits and stimulate enthusiasm for the fencing season to follow. We are all agreed that the camp was successful and fun! By training's end the only consistent criticism of the program was that it did not last longer; this, despite an exhausted staff.

The first day of training began at 6 am and ran intensely until about 9 pm. Curfew was always 10 pm and lights were out by 10:30 pm. The first day's 2 mile run was won by a barely-14 year old girl. The daily work-out at the gym systematically progressed through warm-up, flexibility, agility-games, footwork, drills private lessons, and competition; until the gala party. The daily schedule was varied by manipulation of the wake-up time, running requirements (distance, sprint, hills, etc.), training segment changes, insertion of active relaxation periods, and lectures.

Burn-out. A number of the fencers came to this camp immediately after attending an intensive private fencing clinic. Burn-out was evident after several days because of the incidence of the injuries; incapacitating colds and flu were more frequent. We recommend that attending consecutive camps be discouraged. Also candidates for burn-out were our Co-head Fencing Masters who had just finished an intense Coaches Clinic and had to begin this camp with no day-off.

All staff members were given rotated mornings-off before it was needed; this avoided burn-out and was much appreciated by those who thought it unnecessary initially. The result was a more alert and energetic staff. The kids were given

periodic evenings off and one entire day off at mid-cycle for mountain river rafting and relaxation. Because they were getting hurt so much, the 13 year olds were often given additional time to sleep-in.

The major problem for everyone was the difficulty in managing a group containing 13 to 18 year old youths. We confirmed what we had suspected in our first camp four years ago: 13 year old fencers can neither work as hard nor as long, they are much smaller and easily overpowered. They consequently have most of the injuries and get seriously injured. They are socially unprepared for 18 year olds and their own social development makes them vulnerable. Because scheduling and physical demands had to be adjusted for the welfare of the 13 year olds, the older youths (14-18) complained that they were not achieving their limits.

On the other end of the age scale the 18 year olds were both assets and borderline discipline annoyances. We were thankful for their good intentions and initiative which we did not discourage; nevertheless, they are on the threshold of independent living, nearer the age of rebellion, and submit to group discipline least well.

The recommendation of the staff is that "in a fencing camp nately comprised of 14, 15, 16 ar olds, the 13 year olds do not enough and the 18 year olds are pendent."

We believe that training can under the auspices of the AFL/Olympic Committee provide an goal for young fencers to strive qualify for. Because of the inc group needs of children, adoles young adults, we recommend the camps be sponsored for 10 to olds, 14 to 17 year olds and 18 olds.

In conclusion, I'd like to repeat of one fencer, "Let's do it s'more **D'ASARO AND ZOCCA, IT,** (From FENCING TIMES, Sept. 1980)

How did you spend your summer? A few So Cal fencers went to camps and the intensity and effort the camps varied greatly. Here report.

Most of the So Cal fencers went to Squaw Valley Camp. Run by the Coast Section, the camp has got open to only the elite juniors. (top

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section), to three different camps where almost any junior can attend.

Now that the camp has opened up to other fencers it doesn't emphasize working intensely with other top fencers, but rather has evolved into a general camp where physical conditioning is stressed (some say overstressed), and coordination and simple fencing drills are the major part of the program. There were also lectures on physiology, history of swords and safety and injuries. The 10-day program has 7 days of actual training and on the off-day everyone went river rafting.

There were 42 kids in all and 8 from Southern California. Everyone's first comment is "the food was great", and despite the emphasis on getting into shape, almost everyone gained weight.

The one-week D'Asaro workshop at San Jose State University was open to all ages and at a much more advanced level than Squaw Valley. Mike showed the value of running in fencing training; which is not in running long distances but rather doing fast sprints, hopping and running backwards. He no longer tells his team to run because too many people fell in love with running and ended up joining the track team.

Only about an hour was spent on conditioning. Mike showed **how** to train. Little time was spent on doing the training itself. He also taught how to give and take a lesson so you can practice a move over and over again with someone else serving as lunging pad instead of your coach. Gay D'Asaro and Vincent Senser joined Mike on talks about competitive fencing, and Charles Selberg, coach at UC Santa Cruz, talked about the 9 levels of fencing, a way to see your progress and understand how offense, defense and preparation interrelate.

There wasn't much fencing during the day, mostly learning in a lecture-seminar atmosphere. In the evening there was free fencing and you could apply everything you learned. Everyone received a lesson, but there wasn't any training from taking private lessons. Sixty fencers attended the first week and about 20 for both week-long sessions.

The training camp at Zocca, Italy is the headquarters for junior camps in fencing and tennis. Peter Marcus, U-16 trophy winner from So Cal was the only American there. Peter spent 4 weeks at Zocca, and 2

weeks were spent training with the Italian Junior National Team. It was an intensive experience, with 8 hours a day of fencing, fencing and more fencing.

Peter says the fencing was exceptionally good. The Italians' quickness and ability to move up and down the strip was superb. They kept their distance extremely well and as soon as they were within fleching distance they would attack. Their whole style of fencing was very, very aggressive.

The program had no running or lectures. It was just fencing. In the morning they did stretching and gymnastic exercises for about an hour. Then they had a 30 min private lesson, mostly emphasizing distance. When you weren't taking a lesson you either practiced specific moves, or watched and learned from other people's experiences.

In the afternoon it was half an hour of more stretching, and then free bouting for four hours. When you got tired you'd leave the strip and immediately get in line for a free strip. By the time there was one available you'd have rested enough. No one ever sat down.

Twice a week they held a competition so you could check your progress. At first Peter made very few touches, but by the end he would win an occasional bout.

The last Friday of the camp they had a competition with the finals held in the town square at night. They placed a raised metallic strip in the middle of the square, aimed a few spotlights and the townspeople filled the square. Great atmosphere for a fencing final.

One of the winners of the competition may become the next Dal Zotto, so here are the names: 1st — Bottari, 2nd — Bacchi, 3rd — DeSantis, and 15 year old Omeri was 4th. Omeri is the U-16 Italian Champion and was the youngest fencer at the camp. Watch out for this one, a junior world champ for sure, maybe more.

The 4th week Peter was there, he participated in a one-week camp which was similar to Squaw Valley, a general camp program open to everyone, and afterwards there was a local U-16 meet with Italians and other Europeans. Peter took 2nd. He says he made great improvements after this intense experience and looks forward to going again next year.

Editor's Note: A Junior Training Camp was also held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs Colorado but, to

ENGRAVINGS IN STEEL

by Giorgio Santelli and Ed

PART III THE BALESTRA

Before describing the mechanics of the balestra, let us explain why it is important to have the knowledge of this particular aspect of footwork in your repertory.

The rhythm of the balestra consists of one tempo and a quarter, instead of the two tempo beat of the ordinary advance lunge. The balestra is therefore much faster. The advance lunge, even when most speedily executed, has a definite tempo break between the advance itself and the lunge. Although there is also a tempo break in the balestra, it is minimal. The very fluidity of the motion causes increased speed, and when properly performed it is the fastest way to make simple direct attacks from out of lunging distance. Consequently, the straight beat point, beat disengage point, beat coupe point, and a variety of other simple attacks made from out of distance are best performed with the balestra.

Now that we have explained why you should learn the balestra, let's try to tell you how. As invaluable as it is, it's interesting to note that not many books deal with this phase of footwork. Perhaps because its description is not easily articulated.

The balestra is often called the jump-forward lunge, but it is not quite that. There is a split second when the forward foot precedes the rear one, but it is such a tiny moment that it would almost appear that both feet had left the ground simultaneously. But the forward foot does lead. It steps out vigorously, but not as in the lunge because in the balestra you want to land on the toes and ball of the front foot, not the heel.

Once the momentum has begun, the rear foot quickly catches up and it seems as if both feet arrive on the floor together, and both on the balls of the feet. When the rear foot has landed, you find yourself momentarily in en garde with both heels off the floor. Because you want to cover as much ground as possible with the balestra, at the completion of the forward "jumping" movement, your feet will have landed farther apart than is usual. Then you lunge. You lunge as far and as deep as you can

given this not too perfect position vice that is. With the distance va actual competition, your lunge need be so long.)

It is important to remember that lunge begins your rear foot must let us recapitulate:

Forward foot reaches out (toes in) high on the ball of the foot. follows quickly, landing on ball. Rear foot slams down hard on its rear leg kicks off forward leg into lunge. All this is done in one continuous flowing motion. Try to visualize springing at its prey. Try not to be kangaroo, hopping about aimlessly. We discard the fact that the balestra is the quickest method of launching an attack from out of lunging distance because of its significance in that it has to be the best leg-conditioning exercise.

Incorporate the balestra in your practice. Assuming you never learn to perform a balestra perfectly, you will be building strength and speed. As you do learn to perform it perfectly, you will learn the proper inter-action of the hand, arm and choice of time, you will be very fast.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

As Treasurer of the Long Island Chapter of the AFLA and Chairman of the School Committee of the NFAA as high school coach of a high school fencing team, I am dedicated to the advancement of your people in sport.

I am now trying to compile information on all the high schools in the area

1981 AFLA JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

ENTRY FORM 1981 AFLA JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATE: February 14, 15, & 16, 1981 (Washington's Birthday Weekend)
PLACE: Stouffer's Inn On The Square, 24 Public Sq., Cleveland, Ohio 44113
LODGING: Stouffer's Inn On The Square (See important Registration Notice on Page-19)

SCHEDULE:

SAT 2/14		SUN 2/15		MON 2/16	
8 AM	U-20 MF	8 AM	U-20 WF	8 AM	U-20 ME
11 AM	U-16-ME	11 AM	U-16 MF	11 AM	U-16 WF
1 PM	U-16 MS	1 PM	U-20 MS		

WEAPONS CHECK: Friday evening 6 PM to 8:30 PM and 45 minutes before starting time.

QUALIFICATION: For U-20 events, each division is permitted a minimum of two fencers per weapon. If the qualifying event has 12-20 fencers, 3 qualify; for 21-30 fencers in the qualifying event, 4 qualify; for 31 or more fencers, 5 qualify. The number qualifying from each division does not include automatic qualifiers. The number of qualifiers for each U-16 is the same as for the U-20 events. Automatic qualifiers do not count in this number.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for the U-20 and/or the U-16 events the fencer must be under 16 or under 20 years of age on January 1, 1981.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS: For the U-20 events the first six finalists of the previous U-19 National Championships and the previous Junior Olympic Championships and all previous championships shall qualify automatically provided they are still qualified by age. For the U-16 events the prior years finalists in the event shall qualify automatically provided they are eligible by age.

CERTIFICATION: Immediately upon the completion of the Divisional qualifying competition the Divisional Secretary MUST submit the followings information to: Eleanor Turney, AFLA Secretary 601 Curtis St. Albany, CA 94706 AND to Dan McCormick c/o Edward Arthur P. O. Box 18027 Cleveland Hts. Ohio 44118:

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

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS INFORMATION IS JANUARY 13, 1981.

ENTRY: \$5 per weapon, plus \$10 registration fee, mail to: Dan McCormick c/o Edward Arthur P.O.Box 18027 Cleveland Hts. Ohio 44118 - include a self addressed stamped envelope for your entry confirmation DEADLINE JANUARY 24, 1981. Withdraw notification by February 1. Competitors may enter all events for which they are qualified. In case of two or more events running concurrently, the fencer must bear the burden of fencing bouts in each weapon in rapid order when called.

Name (please print) _____ Division _____ Birth Date _____
 Address _____ Section _____ Club _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____ Telephone _____ AFLA Member _____
 Classification: J.O. Foil _____, Epee _____, Sabre _____, AFLA Foil _____, Epee _____ re _____

PLEASE CHECK THE MANNER OF QUALIFICATION

Div. Qualifier _____, '80 U-19 _____,
 '80 J.O. _____, Auto _____

U-20

U-16

Men's foil _____ \$5.00 Men's Foil _____
 Women's Foil _____ \$5.00 Women's Foil _____
 Epee _____ \$5.00 Epee _____
 Sabre _____ \$5.00 Sabre _____

REGISTRATION FEE (for every fencer in the J.O.'s) \$10.00

Total Amount enclosed: \$ _____ DO NOT SEND CASH

Make Check payable to the Northern Ohio Division-AFLA

All entries must be received by January 24 1981 with a stamped, self-address size envelope and include completed form and proper fees. Mail to: Dan McCormick c/o Edward Arthur P. O. Box 18027, Cleveland Hts. Ohio 44118. If it is necessary to withdraw, the request for refund must be received by February 1, for a refund.

"Upon entering these events under the auspices of the AFLA I agree to abide by the AFLA as published in the 1974 edition of "Fencing Rules and Manual" and amendments thereto. I enter at my own risk and release the AFLA and officials from any liability. I undersigned certifies that the individual for which this entry is submitted is duly qualified to enter the 1981 Junior Olympic Championships and the individual's birthday is as shown above and the individual is a member of the AFLA for 80-81 fencing season.

 Fencer's signature

 Parent or Guardian's signature

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3009	A.F.L.A. Rules Books	2.95
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33	Women's (3) weapon jacket - padded duck - velcro - lighter - more comfortable - durable	30.95
5153	Matching knickers	19.95
62	Safety plastron - underarm protector	8.95
55	Suspenders for knickers - adjustable	2.50
3536	Practice jacket - padded duck - back zip	22.95
3940	Metallic jacket - back zip	40.95
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705	Leather grips - foil or sabre	3.50
704	Pistol grip handle - aluminum (Belgian - American - German or Italian)	6.95
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802	Sabre pommel	.99
203	Pistol grip pommel	.79
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\$100.00 to ----	2 percent



Stouffer's Inn, 24 Public Square,
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Subject: Hotel Registration at Stouffer's Inn on the Square.

Due to the large discount being given by the Hotel to fencers in the National Junior Olympic Championship necessary that fencers make their own hotel reservations well in advance of the tournament. The Hotel two week cut-off date for discount registration. If you make your registration after Feb. 1, 1981, you will be regular Hotel rate which is about double the rate extended to you. The tournament is being held at the hotel from the airport to the hotel is a direct route from the airport Rapid Transit Terminal to Public Square which is adjacent to the Hotel. The Hotel has a new Atrium which means bring your swimming suit, and pool. Equipment Prizes are being given to all Finalists So far Companies committing to these awards are: Fencer Renaissance Fencing Equipment, Ltd., Sudre Fencing Equipment Co., and Zivkovic Modern Fencing Equipment. Please be sure to send in your hotel registration form as soon as you decide you are attending the tournament you can always cancel. Also avoid duplicating your hotel registration.

One Person

\$36.00 Single

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1BR 2 BR

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Please Print

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last first

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____
day of week month date

Departure Date _____
day of week month date

Please Reserve _____ room(s) for _____ person(s).

ADDITIONS TO OUR FENCING CLUB ROSTER

ARIZONA DIVISION

Glendale Cavaliers Fencing Club
Rose Lane Park, 51st Ave. & Marlette
Glendale, Arizona
Contact: Larry Messerly, Fencing Coach,
Parks & Rec. Dept., 931-5585

WESTCHESTER DIVISION

Dr. Telegdy's School for Fencing
White Plains, N.Y. 10605 YM-Y
Mid-Westchester, Scarsdale, N.Y.
Contact: Dr. Georg Telegdy, 300
Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. 10601

NEVADA DIVISION

Salle d'Escrime Iacovelli
644 Donner Drive
Reno, Nevada 89509
Contact: John Iacovelli, Coach,
(702) 322-9518

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Fencers Club of Marin & College of I
Rutherford Ave., San Anselmo, Ca
tact: Joseph A. Rios, Coach, 457-4

CONNECTICUT DIVISION

Fairfield County Fencers Club
Ludlowe H. S., Fairfield, CT
Coach: Witold Woyda
Contact: Burton Moore: 203/227/0350
Write to: 8 Pin Oak Lane
Westport, CT 06880

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

Sala dell' Orso, f.c., has now changed
name to Shadow Fencers Club, N
City 10012. Boris Nanikashvili, Coach
767-7809.

MARYLAND

St. Mary's Fencing Club Contact:
Douglas Wright, Coach; St. Mary's College
of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

NORTHERN OHIO FENCING CLUB

merly Lorain County F.C.) meets M
& Thursdays from 7 pm to 10 pm
Amherst High School. Contact: Erv
ell, P. O. Box 293, Amherst, Ohio
(614) 222-2272

NORTH AMERICA CIRCUIT

by Carla-Mae Richards, Vice-Chairman OLYMPIC FENCING COMMITTEE

The AFLA Olympic Fencing Committee is inaugurating this season a "North American Circuit" of fencing events through-out the country that will provide all fencers an opportunity to earn "National" points. There are four(4) events in each weapon designated as "Circuit" events. Points will be awarded to the top third of the entry field but no further than 24th place. The maximum amount of points (i.e., first place) awarded at each circuit event is 100, with the best three of the four events used for each fencer's total circuit point record. To this circuit point total will be added the points earned at the last Nationals plus any points earned at FIE "A" tournaments held between the end of the last circuit and the current circuit season. The resulting standings will be used for selection of the team for the World Championships.

All circuit events are open to bona fide competitive members of the AFLA and fencers with current FIE membership. The organizers of each circuit event may hold a qualifying round prior to the circuit event for fencers without "National" points to maintain a reasonable size of the entry field for the circuit event. Fencers with points will normally qualify directly to the circuit event; they still MUST FILE A TIMELY ENTRY as prescribed by the organizers of the event; if a timely entry is not filed properly that fencer will not be allowed to fence.

Each circuit event will be conducted according to current FIE rules as modified by the AFLA Directors Commission, where necessary. The current FIE rules for major competition are: two or more preliminary rounds of which the last two rounds must have equal pools (i.e., same number of fencers in each pool within each round) leading to direct elimination with re-charge of 32 or 16 fencers. The seeding for the direct elimination ladder is based on the combined indicators of the last two rounds. Bouts are fenced to 10 touches (time limit of 12 minutes) for men and 8 touches (time limit of 10 minutes) for women. The top eight(8) fencers from the direct elimination round will fence in a direct elimination final without repechage. See

special rules apply to the final of 8: fencers must have a two-touch margin to win the bout or fence to a maximum of 15 (or 12) in men's bouts and 12 (or 10) in women's bouts (time limit remains the same). The touch limit of 15 or 12 (and 12 or 10) is currently in dispute but will be resolved prior to the first circuit event. The detailed rules for the final will be distributed to the organizers of the circuit events.

To start this season the Olympic Fencing Committee has decided that the point standings will be on the following basis: one-half(1/2) of the points earned at the 1980 squad trials plus the points earned at the 1980 Nationals (which had a maximum value of 100 points for 1st place). The policy of the OFC is that points would not be awarded retroactively, i.e., when a new point system is instituted at the beginning of a season, that new system will not be applicable to events held in the previous season.

For the 1980-1981 season the point system that will be in effect is: each circuit event has a maximum value of 100 points for 1st place; the U.S. Nationals, FIE "A" tournaments and World Championship have a maximum value of 200 points for 1st place. Since three of four circuit events will count for a fencer's point total - a fencer can earn a maximum of 300 points by competing in the circuit events.

The top ten(10) fencers in the point standings will be eligible for funding to each circuit event equal to 75% of the 60-day excursion air fare to the tournament. This travel subsidy will be issued after the event is held to those eligible for the subsidy and who competed in the event. Fencers in the top ten in each weapon at the start of the season will be eligible for funding to the first two(2) circuit events in their weapon. After the second circuit event in each weapon, points will be recomputed in the following manner: points from the 1980 squad trials will be dropped; point totals then equal points from the 1980 Nationals plus the higher points from ONE of the first two circuit events plus any points earned at FIE "A" events held by the conclusion of the second event. The revised point totals will determine the top ten

POINT TABLE FOR CIRCUITS

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1	100	9	60	17	17
2	92	10	56	18	16
3	88	11	52	19	15
4	84	12	48	20	14
5	80	13	40	21	13
6	76	14	38	22	12
7	72	15	36	23	11
8	68	16	34	24	10

fencers in each weapon eligible for funding to the next two circuit events.

At the completion of all circuit events the point totals will be computed as follows: points earned at the preceding National Championships plus points from the best three of four circuit events plus points earned at FIE "A" events between the end of last season's circuit and the end of the current season's circuit. The new point standings will be used to select the team members for the forthcoming World Championships. The selection of a team for a major international event must be done AT LEAST 30 days prior to the International event. Thus, for the 1981 World Championships, team selection will be

done in May.

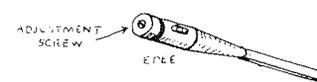
The AFLA Medical Commission by Dr. Marius Valsamis, will superintending control at all circuit events, competing in a circuit event must with the rules of this Medical Commission for "doping" control. Any fencer competing will be subject to discipline by the AFLA Board of Directors.

A detailed circuit manual is being prepared which will enable Divisions to understand the criteria for a circuit event. The circuit event 1981-1982 season will be finalized June Board of Directors' meeting. Divisions can better plan their schedule.

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FROM THE OFFICIALS COMMISSION

The article for this issue of AMERICAN FENCING was to be a discussion of the changes in the penalty system that are to go into effect on 1 January 1981 for all FIE tournaments. At the deadline for this issue, it was premature to present such an article because the system is still being adjusted and the Rulesbook draft is not yet final. Even after it is printed, some adjustment will occur after experimentation in Europe. The Commission will inform the AFLA on these changes and make recommendations for their adoption. The Commission will recommend to the AFLA that the new penalty rules **not** be adopted in the U.S., at least until after the 1981 Nationals. Our international fencers will be instructed on them because they will compete under them in world championship and other international tournaments.

The big news in the AFLA this year is the advent of the North American Circuit events. These tournaments are high level contests (four in each event) that along with the U.S. Nationals will provide results from which our international teams will be selected. The Fencing Officials Commission will recommend jury presidents for these events, and a representative of the Commission will be present at each event to evaluate the officials and make a report to the Commission. These events will provide excellent opportunities for officials to demonstrate their capabilities in high level competitive situations. The officials interested in earning higher ratings must make plans to attend these events and officiate at every opportunity. The Commission has instituted a new rating procedure that requires application to the Commission (see form below). Officials must report their recent assignments before being accepted for examination. Circuit event experience will be weighted heavily in these decisions.

The Class 2 Rules Exam is being given its final review prior to publication. A series of 200 exam questions with correct answers will be available for all to examine and study. At the written exam at the sectionals, 50 of these questions will be selected in a multiple choice format. The Commission expects this "open book" exam to be

more effective in familiarizing all officials with the rules than the previous closed book exam.

All rated officials in the United States will be soon receiving or may have already received a questionnaire on their experience and frequency at level assignments. The Commission requests that each official return this questionnaire as soon as possible so that a more precise listing of officials may be compiled and used to assign officials for the circuit events and other national tournaments.

The Commission is aware that many clinics for officials are given throughout the country each year, and would be happy to assist in this effort. The guidelines and an outline are available for distribution now and a more complete manual for these clinics will be available shortly. If you need help in preparing a directors' clinic, please write to Charles Thompson, 1115 Belvedere Drive, Hanahan, SC 25410 for assistance.

By William Goering, Chairman

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Get their start
And coaches get
Results

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APPLICATION FOR OFFICIALS RATING

Application for Class 2 and Class 3 ratings must be made directly to the Fencing Commission on this or similar form one month prior to the testing event (Sectionals for Class 2, National Championships for Class 3).

The Commission will then notify applicants of acceptability for examination which will primarily be on the level of recent assignments shown in the Resume.

		RATING APPLIED FOR ()	
NAME: _____		Foil	2 3
ADDRESS: _____		Epee	2 3
PHONE: _____ (DAYS)		Sabre	2 3
_____ (EVENINGS)		AFLA Number: _____	
		Division: _____	
		Section: _____	

Current Rating	Where and When Earned			Examiner	
Foil					
Epee					
Sabre					
Resume					
Tournament and Type	Date	Weapon	Rounds* (Circle)	Bouts Officiated	Tou Ch
			p q s f		

*p = preliminary
q = quarter final
s = semi-final
f = final

Indicate direct elimination rounds
with "DE"

Submit to:
Charles Thompson
1115 Belvedere
Hanahan, S.C.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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I certify that the statements made by me above are complete.

(Signed) Eleanor Turney
Business

COMING ATTRACTIONS

METRO DIVISION'S MICHAEL ALAUX GRAND OPEN this year will be done in two parts in order to accommodate the designated North American Circuit portion of the tournament. This is the Men's Foil and Women's Foil. Part I will be fenced December 13 and 14, 1980. Women's Foil- Saturday, December 13 at 8:30 AM, and Men's Foil- Sunday, December 14 at 8:30 AM at Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, N.Y.C.

Part II will be December 27 and December 28, 1980, and will have Men's Sabre and Men's Epee and will introduce L'AFFAIRE D'HONNEUR Women's Epee and Sabre tournaments. The events are as follows- Saturday, December 27 at 8:30 AM Women's Epee, and Men's Sabre at 10:30 AM. Sunday, December 28 at 8:30 AM Men's Epee, and at 11:30 AM Women's Sabre at Hunter College. Registration fee is \$8. plus \$3. for each weapon fenced. Pre-registration fee is \$5. plus \$3. for each weapon fenced. Make checks payable to Metropolitan Division AFLA, send to Bout Committee Chairwomen Ruby V. Watson, 111 - 3rd Avenue Apt. 9G, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10003.

COLORADO INVITATIONAL SCHEDULE

February 7 & 8; U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. Sponsored by the Pikes Peak Fencing League.

Weapons Check: Friday, February 6, 7-9 PM, and check-in & weapons check 1/2 hour prior to each event.

Saturday: Men's Foil: 8 AM
Women's Sabre: 10:30 AM
Women's Foil: 1 PM

Sunday: Men's Epee: 8 AM
Men's Sabre: 10:30 AM
Women's Epee: 1:30 PM

Special housing rates and transportation information available upon request. For more information call:

Lynn & Debbie Moyer 303 471-0526
Rod & Kathy Goodall 303 471-7950

The Northern Ohio Division announces that its **5th Annual Cleveland Grand Prix** will be held on November 28-29-30, 1980, at Hollendenm House, E. 6th and Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Entry fees are \$10 per weapon for adults, \$8 per weapon for Juniors, \$20 for three events. There is a \$5 late fee for entries after Nov. 16th.

Schedule:

Friday 8:30 am Men's Foil
12:00 noon Men's Sabre
2:00 pm Women's Epee

Saturday 8:30 am Women's Foil
11:30 am Men's Foil/Epee

Sunday 8:30 am Men's Epee
11:30 am Women's Foil/Epee

For further details, contact William Reith, Box 18027, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

The Louisiana Division will hold a North American Circuit Sabre Event, the **1981 Mardi Gras Tournament**, On February 7th in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tournament will be sabre only with Sunday free for visitors to enjoy the city. Send entry fee with name, address, and classification to: Mr. Martin Johnson, 2901 Laurel Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 568-7284. Entry will be \$15 and must be received by Feb. 2nd, 1981. Brochures with complete details of the tournament will be sent to entrants with confirmation of entry.

U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ARGENTINA TOURNAMENT

By Chaba M. Pallaghy, Chief of Mission
In response to an invitation issued by the Argentina Fencing Federation, the A.F.L.A., with the support of the United States Olympic Committee, sent 3 fencers to the above tournament, Jana Angelakis, Peter Westbrook, and Stanley Lekach.

The competition was well organized and successful. Participating countries, beside the host Argentineans, were Chile, Uruguay, France, Italy, and the United States. There were two weapons fenced: ladies' foil and sabre. Participation was limited to 24 fencers in each weapon. The

format of the tournament was round robin after the first 2 rounds, and an 8-man final direct elimination to be fenced in accordance with the new rules to go into effect January 1, 1981. The field was mixed in strength. The competition in ladies' foil was won by Pasquale Trinquet, the present Olympic champion from France. Jana Angelakis took second. On her way to the final bout, she defeated Italy's Clara Mocchi and Argentina's Alice Benko. The final bout was eventful, the Olympic champion taking a 6-2 lead, with Jana putting on a strong effort, tying the score at 6. The next 2 touches, however, indicated the champion's greater experience.

It is commendable, however, that Jana gave the champion a strong bout, and her victory over the present #1 Italian lady fencer, Mocchi, is significant.

In sabre, both our sabre fencers progressed without any major difficulties to the final. Of the two, Lekach had the better day. He was undefeated and was ranked second only by one touch to Italy's Dalla-Barba. In the direct elimination final, both fencers had Argentinean opponents. Westbrook won by a score of 10-8 against Mendez, while Lekach defeated the Argentinean champion, Remete, by a 10-4 score. Westbrook's next opponent was Dalla-Barba, who he was leading by a score of 9-4; however, Dalla-Barba not only tied him, but went ahead 10-9, then, on a priority case, went ahead 11-9. On completion of the sequence, Westbrook scored. Due to the fact that according to the new rules, there had to be a 2 touch difference in the bout, they continued fencing. Westbrook eventually prevailed by a score of 14-12, reaching the final. Lekach's next opponent was the French Lamour. Stanley started out very well, taking a 7-4 lead, and for a short time we had a vision of an all-American final. Unfortunately, however, Lamour's greater International experience prevailed and he won by a score of 10-8. This brought a Lamour/Westbrook final. Originally, Westbrook led, but Lamour never let him get away too far. Towards the end of the bout, Lamour took the lead and Westbrook tried to catch up. The final bout score was 10-8 in favor of Lamour. He won deservedly. Westbrook had somewhat of an off day. The third place bout was fenced between Lekach and Dalla-Barba. Here again Lekach was leading 7-4, to

lose once again 10-8. The competition be considered a success, both from a point of view of results, as well as experience we gained. The bout indicate that our fencers are not accustomed to the 10 touch bouts; therefore, it did not know how to handle the when they had a substantial lead let the opponent get away too far to play catch up. It is my opinion that experience in the competitive field under similar circumstances could have better results. I wish to commend fencers participating for their dedication and cooperation throughout the their exceptional behavior.

The reception by the Argentineans was excellent. We were treated royally.

Results: WOMEN'S FOIL 1) Trinquet, France; 2) Angela Sirigilla, Argentina; 4) Mocchi, Italy; 5) Giancola, Argentina; 6) Alarcos, Chile; 7) Parrone, Argentina; 8) Benko, Argentina.

MEN'S SABRE:
1) Lamour, France; 2) Westbrook, USA; 3) Dalla-Barba, Argentina; 4) Lekach, USA; 5) Mendez, Argentina; 6) Gomez, Chile; 7) Moyano, Argentina.

ATTENTION ALL AFLA DIVISIONS!

Divisional officers and meet organizers are reminded that, at a meeting on February 1, 1980, the AFLA Board of Directors decided that the 1981 National Championships will have teams of FOUR fencers (4 plus alternate). The three medalist teams from the previous year are automatic qualification number of teams to qualify from each division will be: 1 qualifier for 1-5 team; 2 divisional qualifying meet; 2 qualifiers for 10 or more teams. There will be no divisional site teams allowed.

At the same meeting, the Board of Directors also determined that the format for the 1981 Championships will be the same as that used in the current (1981) Championships. This will probably include a tableau comprising 2 round robin for seeding, followed by direct elimination with repechage to a final of 8 fencers. The final round (of 8) would be direct elimination WITHOUT repechage.

Divisions are encouraged to plan local competitions accordingly, so that their fencers are familiar with the circumstances.

Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



I didn't have to wonder too long about the subject for this column. If I titled these pieces, I'd call it "Abuse of the Scoring Machine." That can come in various forms.

As I'm writing this, perched on a shelf across the room is one of our New Jersey Division scoring machines. It is almost our oldest survivor, a good twenty-two years old, probably older. It's amusing to reflect that it is actually older than many—perhaps most—of the fencers whose bouts it scores these days. At least, it was scoring them until recently. Apparently it got dropped. (Someone must have dropped it, but we'll keep the phrase in the neutral passive, as is polite when nobody wants to point a finger.) Doubtless the dropping was an accident; if somebody were deliberately trying to smash it, much more could have been done, I'm sure. Anyway, it looks a mess. The whole of the lamp housings will have to be replaced. That's assuming, first, that replacements can be found; if not, they would have to be custom crafted for a baby that old. That's also assuming that the guts of the machine have not been so fouled up as to be hopeless. I haven't had the heart to open it up yet, so I don't know.

It's an old friend, this one. Those lamp housings were a remodeling (modernization) job I did on it over a dozen years ago. The built-in power supply is also something I put into it more recently. Ditto the auto-resetter. All that work may make it seem that maybe the old thing was worn out anyway, so why get excited? Well, that machine was far from worn out. In fact, apart from the remodeling jobs, I almost never had to look at it. It was one of the most reliable pieces of equipment in the Division. A dozen or more later models have come and gone, broken down or worn out, since we got that one, and it was still plowing on—a regular old faithful.

Maybe it will make a comeback. We'll see.

However, its condition is not what I want to stress here, but rather the cause of it. Considering the cost of machines these

days, everybody ought to make a point of taking care of them. Don't drop them. Don't throw them around. Don't stack them precariously in corners, or cram them into car trunks and crush them with slamming the lid. Do store boxed, preferably in foam or plastic padding. Do pick up pieces that fall off and tape them or otherwise fasten them to the case so that they can be put back. Do report loose handles, bulbs, covers, dials, knobs, switches, etc., so they can be put right at once. A stitch in time saves nine.

The same advice goes for reels, even for the humble floor cables, and for all the rest of whatever equipment your division, school, or club owns.

Don't abuse equipment yourself, and don't let others do so.

There are other kinds of abuse, too, more exotic, perhaps. No, I don't mean overt cheating. The one obvious example I have in mind is the bad habit of looking at the machine when you think you've hit your opponent. We have all heard the anxious teammate or coach yelling advice: "don't look at the machine." I mention this fault because I have seen three young fencers in the last few months who were all suffering from really exaggerated cases of machine watching. With two of them it has become so bad that their attacks were actually falling short because of the way their heads twisted to look for the light, even as they were starting out into the lunge. Fencers who can't cure themselves of that fault had better learn another trick: retreat to the end of the strip and then attack. That way the machine will at least be out ahead and to the side and not behind them.

In the cases I observed, I have reason to believe that the deep-seated habit had been developed in long hours of practice with the machine in the salle. Granted that practice with the scoring machine is a good thing, up to a point, and for reasons that should be obvious. Nevertheless, there is always the possibility of too much of a good thing. Anyway, that's a problem

for the fencers and for their fencing masters, not for the technicians, so I'll let it rest for now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont.

(Continued from p. 14)

in one of the local AFLA Divisions. While I was directing the final round of the meet, an unfortunate--and avoidable--accident occurred.

There had been an unusually large number of displays of temper that day--possibly due to the hot, muggy, smoggy weather of the preceding several days or perhaps to out-of-practice fencers not fencing quite up to their usual standard after a summer layoff--whatever the reason, masks were flying, weapons were being violently struck against the floors and walls, fencers were uttering many less-than-polite words and phrases, etc.

At the conclusion of the fourth or fifth bout in the final, the fencer who had lost violently swiped his weapon across the piste, turned, and stomped off the strip muttering disquietedly. I noticed that he had broken the electric tip of the weapon, and as I moved to stop him and point this out, a fencer who had been sitting well to the

side of the strip stood up and began ing profusely from a cut just above where he had been struck by the barrel. After some first aid, he was off to the nearest medical center stitched up; this, of course, forced drop out of the final.

This sort of accident would be under any circumstances, but the injured fencer was a foreigner participating in his first meet in this perhaps made it worse.

I feel that fencers in this count been entirely too free with, and I have been entirely too lenient with unsportsmanlike displays of temper. I know from personal experience this sort of behavior is not tolerated least some, and probably most, European fencing communities. I know that in the future I will deal harshly with any such plays that occur while I am directing. I sincerely hope that this unfortunate incident and my letter will go a long way toward eliminating incidents of this type in American fencing.

Si
Phil

Secretary, Central California

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