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**FENCING**

**MAY/JUNE**  
Volume 33 No. 5



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MIGUEL A. deCAPRILES, 1906-1981

Editor: Mary T. Huddleson

Art Director: Diane King

Business Manager: Dwight Chew

Policy Board: Emily B. Johnson, Ralph Goldstein,  
(Editor Emeritus), William Latzko, Eleanor  
Turney, Dwight Chew, Mary Huddleson.

Send all contributions and correspondence to:

**AMERICAN FENCING**

2201 Bywood Drive  
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**USFA President:** Emily B. Johnson

**USFA Secretary:** Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis St.,  
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## TABLE OF CONTE

MAY/JUNE, 1982

Editorial .....	
Letters to the Editor .....	
From the President .....	by Emily Johnson
News Notes .....	
Results North American Circuit ..	
Electric Sabre at the Mardi Gras ..	by Chester Peyronnin
The Pittsburgh Pilot .....	
Feasibility Study .....	
The Anchor-Challenger .....	
Competition .....	by John McKee
En Garde On Guam .....	Cynthia Sajnovsky
Book Reviews .....	
"Fencing is for Me," "Foil Fenc ..	
"The Art of Fencing Three Wea ..	
From the Officials' Commission ..	by William Goering
Order Form for 1982 Rules Book ..	
In Memoriam, Leo Sobel .....	
Summer Camps, Workshops, .....	
Seminars .....	
U.S. Blademaking, the Impossible ..	
Dream .....	by Raoul Sudre
Technical Talks .....	by Joe Byrnes
Results .....	
NIWFA Championships, NCAA .....	
ionships, 1982 Pentathlon .....	
Poujardieu Open, All-Ohio Ch .....	
ships, No. Ohio Divisionals, Sal .....	
Open, Geoff Elder Open, Pea .....	
Open, So. Texas Open, Helen .....	
International Team.	

### On the Cover:

Winner in the "Still Life" category of a  
contest is once again Bruce Repko, who  
"One More Touch." Taken at the U-19 A  
1979 Jr. Olympics.

## EDITORIAL

If this issue of AMERICAN FENCING is late, we can only say: 1) Two of our advertisers were late in sending us their copy (but we love them just the same); 2) Our printers have suddenly moved 4 blocks away from their original address (and we found them again); and 3) Our art director just had a baby boy (Congratulations, Diane!).

This month's cover photo is one of our winners from last year's photo contest. Although there was no doubt among the judges as to the excellence of the photo, there was some doubt as to the category ("Still Life"??) in which it was eventually placed. Before we announce another photo contest we would appreciate hearing suggestions from photographers of fencing and those who view the photos. Should there be more or less categories? Which ones? What about professional photographers? Was enough time allowed to send in the entries? What kind, if any, of prizes might we offer? Caution: let us be practical.

As we face our biennial election of national officers, no matter what the outcome, it is evident that we do not lack for ideas for the future. In this issue we bring to your attention the rather painful conclusions of the Pittsburgh Pilot Feasibility Study, which was presented to your Board of Directors last June and about which we have heard very little. Because we are amateurs and do not devote all of our prime time and efforts to our favorite sport, it is sometimes difficult to keep abreast of the activities and opinions of fencers in other parts of the country. We attempt with this publication to serve as a vehicle of communication among ourselves, so that we can coordinate, rather than duplicate, our time and efforts. It is surprising how many fencers there are in this country and how little information many of them receive or impart to others.

To those contributors who send in their stories and photos we owe many thanks.

On the more positive side, we note the appearance of several new books on fencing which have been well received and are reviewed in this issue. Our new 1982 Fencing Rules book is now ready and can be ordered from our national office (see page 21). Irwin Bernstein has been responsible for its production and he is to be congratulated for getting the book out on schedule,

an unusual feat for most of us, but par for the course for Irwin!

—MTH

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I second the letter of David Scyster printed in the January/February issue of American Fencing. I have always notified members of the Capitol Hill Fencing Club that competition is not stressed. And that fencing solely for fun or recreation is as valid and worthy as the serious competitors.

In fact, it is sometimes more worthy. I have known competitors in fencing so serious as to be grim. And coaches who had no time or use for recreational fencers. I abhor this attitude. It has on occasion led to acrimonious division in fencing clubs and the loss to fencing of promising fencers.

As Mr. Scyster says fencing needs a broad base to have a solid foundation. The recreational fencer or occasional competitor will supply that broad base.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Shipman, N.F.C.A.A.

*continued page 6*

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## From the President

by Emily Johnson



Despite the weariness and disorientation that comes from flying from Indianapolis to San Francisco I can still wax enthusiastic about the plans and preparations for the 1982 Sports Festival. The Indiana Sports Corporation, the sponsors, care about all the sports not only the big ones. They are determined to make it the best Sports Festival ever. The local citizenry is being very supportive. The facilities are impressive.

Fencing, which will be staged in the large, modern Convention Center, will take place on July 25 and 26. The Festival itself starts Friday evening July 24 and continues through next week. If you are any place in the area I urge you to go and see our American athletes competing in the Pan-American and Olympic Sports.

While there we had a chance to ask officials of the Indiana Sports Corporation about the prospect of their sponsorship of major fencing tournaments there. They showed great interest — what a pleasant change from the usual "What do I get out of it?" reaction.

We were there for committee meetings and a meeting of the House of Delegates of the USOC. Representatives from the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee reported on the progress of the preparations for the 1984 Olympic Games. Essentially, all seems to be going well. The competition site for fencing will be the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach which is south of Los Angeles. The finals will be fenced on a stage. Tickets for all events will go on sale next year.

The LAOOC intends to make money on the Olympic Games and to turn over all profits to designated amateur sports groups in Los Angeles, the USOC and the National Governing Bodies. Everyone seems to believe that they will be successful, a major switch from what has happened in past Olympics. Let us hope so — it could be a boon for us.

We heard a great deal about the Olympic Coin Act. By the time you read this it

may have passed. At this time it is stalled in the House of Representatives. Assuming it does pass the coins should go on sale next year. The USOC gets one-half of net profits.

To change the subject — Maxwell "Max" Garret is the new president of the USFCA. What, you may ask, is the USFCA? It is the United States Fencing Coaches Association of America. They too have changed their name. Our two organizations work more closely together to promote fencing. The name change is symbolic.

Arrangements are continuing for the move of the secretarial office to the headquarters of the USOC, Colorado Springs. I have talked from time to time with officials of other Olympic Sports who have established headquarters there and their reactions range from the pleased to the ecstatic. Next year your renewal forms will come from our office there. There are many benefits to be derived from having our office there and we intend to take advantage of them all.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an order form for the new Rules Book. I urge you to fill it out and mail it in. You will be astonished at how much information it contains. Although the concept that rules must be broken or that you are too frigid in spirit to follow the rules has a certain emotional appeal, as a practical matter almost always lose after having wasted a lot of time if you don't follow the rules. The work of getting a new Rules Book in shape for printing is tedious, time consuming and uninteresting. Irwin Bernstein took charge of this project and it is now ready. We thank you for getting it done. The Rules Book will be in loose leaf form so that you can issue replacement pages instead of reprinting the entire book and issuing replacements. Now if we can only persuade F.I.E. to make fewer unnecessary changes . . . .

Last item: if you are going to fence at the European Competition please get in touch with Samuel Cheris, 2900 Energy Ce

717 Seventeenth St., Denver, CO. 80202. He is the Assistant Foreign Secretary in charge of entering U.S. fencers in foreign competitions. Also, please let him know as soon as possible if your plans change. The Europeans get unhappy with us if someone enters and is a no-show.

## Letters to the Editor (Continued)

Dear Editor:

Many oldtime USFA members don't bother to renew their memberships until the first tournament in which they are interested comes up. Often this can be pretty late in the season; and they feel shorted when they miss an issue or two of American Fencing. New members, especially beginners, are unlikely to join at the beginning of a season (which is administratively a fiscal year) unless their local division schedule has a tournament specifically for them at an early date. They, too, are shorted in the number of magazine issues they may receive in return for a year's dues. Few complain, but some feel miffed. Perhaps our organization is missing something. Since a subscription to American Fencing is part of a membership, shouldn't a year's dues buy a full year's membership and subscription from the date of payment regardless of our competitive season? It might lighten an administrative burden by spreading it throughout the year as well as, maybe, bring in a bit more coin from people who now decide to wait until next season. Perhaps this matter is worth exploring.

Regards,  
Arthur W. Lane

## NEWS NOTES

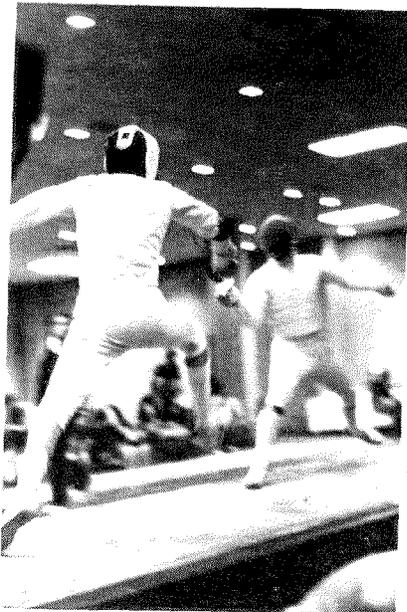
M. Giancarlo Brusati, President of the F.I.E., held a press conference at the European Championships last November in Foggia, Italy. According to ESCRIME, the official F.I.E. publication, he expressed his intention to take another look at the set-up of the international calendar. Noting that almost all the important competitions take place in the springtime, he found this concentration "unworthy of a modern sport such as fencing." He would prefer to see a three-period fencing season: in autumn (European Championships plus several Category A tournaments), in spring ("clas-

sical" trials), and in summer (World Championships).

On the subject of the current studies on the electric sabre, M. Brusati explained that experiments will be made at a certain number of tournaments this year, but "One thing is certain: no electric sabre at the Los Angeles Olympics — The rule must be adopted two years in advance and we are far from ready."

Dedication ceremonies for the Jose R. and Miguel de Capriles Fencing Salle were held on Saturday, April 3rd, at the Jerome S. Coles Sports and Recreation Center at New York University. The event was well attended by numerous law school and fencing acquaintances of Jose and Miguel. The handsome fencing room is well lighted and the walls are decorated with photos and posters of the de Capriles brothers, as well as with displays of the many medals and trophies they won. With L. Jay Oliva, Provost of the University, presiding, memorial tributes and reminiscences were given and a commemorative plaque was unveiled by Dorothy de Capriles, wife of Miguel, and John de Capriles, son of Jose.

*At the Cleveland Grand Prix Men's Sabre Final, Steve Renshaw (left) against an unidentified opponent. (Twila Kitchin photo)*



# RESULTS NORTH AMERICAN CIRCU

## MEN'S FOIL

Circuit #3: Chicagoland Open  
114 entries; March 27, 1982

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. M. McCahey      | 13. G. Massialas  |
| 2. M. Marx         | 14. L. Blair *    |
| 3. G. Nonomura     | 15. M. Snow       |
| 4. M. Smith        | 16. B. Giasson *  |
| 5. P. Mathis       | 17. J. Biebel     |
| 6. N. Rosario      | 18. J. Bonaccorda |
| 7. A. Flom         | 19. J. Powers     |
| 8. J. Tichacek     | 20. E. Wright     |
| 9. E. McNamara     | 21. E. Simon      |
| 10. P. Gerard      | 22. J. Bukantz    |
| 11. L. Rocheleau * | 23. E. Kaihatsu   |
| 12. D. Halstead    | 24. G. Mueller    |

## EPEE

Circuit #3: General Dynamics, Los Angeles  
85 entries; March 13, 1982

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. G. Masin          | 13. J. Elliott  |
| 2. G. Losey          | 14. V. McGovern |
| 3. T. Glass          | 15. C. Plasse * |
| 4. R. Hurme          | 16. W. Behrens  |
| 5T R. Nieman         | 17. C. Borack   |
| 5T L. Shelley        | 18. R. Stull    |
| 7. P. Schiffrin      | 19. R. Phelps   |
| 8. J. Peciak         | 20. J. Moreau   |
| 9. J.M. Chouillard * | 21. R. Frenson  |
| 10. R. Marx          | 22. P. Pesthy   |
| 11. L. Siegel        | 23. J. Cardyn * |
| 12. W. Johnson       | 24. M. McCaslin |

## SABRE

Circuit #3: Mardi Gras, New Orleans  
86 entries; Feb. 6, 1982

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. P. Westbrook | 13. M. Sullivan |
| 2. S. Lekach    | 14. F. Nagorney |
| 3. P. Reilly    | 15. S. Renshaw  |
| 4. P. Friedberg | 16. G. Chiang   |
| 5. S. Blum      | 17. B. Goering  |
| 6. E. Sukunda   | 18. W. Balk     |
| 7. J. Glucksman | 19. O. Ortega   |
| 8. A. Ovalles   | 20. B. Keane    |
| 9. M. Laviole   | 21. C. Trammell |
| 10. S. Normando | 22. R. Blum     |
| 11. E. House    | 23. D. Andrews  |
| 12. P. Ott      | 24. L. Melo     |

## SABRE

Circuit #4: Santelli  
48 entries

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. J. Glucksman   | 9. J.P. Banos *  |
| 2. S. Lekach      | 10. M. Lofton    |
| 3. P. Reilly      | 11. C. Gall      |
| 4. P. Westbrook   | 12. E. Secunda * |
| 5. J.M. Banos *   | 13. M. LaVoie *  |
| 6. E. House       | 14. F. Nagorney  |
| 7. G. Gonzales-R. | 15. S. Blum      |
| 8. C. Marcil *    | 16. W. Goering   |

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 17. M. Lazaris | 21. Y. Sohn      |
| 18. R. Maxwell | 22. P. Friedberg |
| 19. J. Tishman | 23. F. Morea     |
| 20. W. Yung    | 24. D. Anthony   |

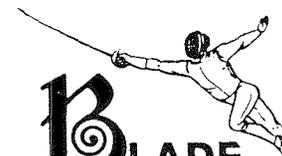
\* = Canadian fencers

## WOMEN'S FOIL

Circuit #3: Helene Mayer, San Fran  
78 contestants; March 20, 1982

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. V. Bradford   | 13. I. Ducharme * |
| 2. J. Poirier*   | 14. M. Heydt      |
| 3. M. Miller     | 15. G. Faikashazy |
| 4. D. Waples     | 16. S. Moriates   |
| 5. J. Ellingson  | 17. L. Piazza     |
| 6. J. Angelakis  | 18. S. Brown      |
| 7. L. LeBlanc *  | 19. M. Nagy       |
| 8. K. Bilodeau   | 20. S. Johnson    |
| 9. H. Konecny    | 21. E. Cheris     |
| 10. C. Wishart * | 22. J. Anderson   |
| 11. M. Philion * | 23. C. Mitchell   |
| 12. C. Handelman | 24. N. Latham     |

\* = Canadian fencer



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# ELECTRIC SABRE INTRODUCED AT MARDI GRAS TOURNAMENT

Chester Peyronnin  
Tulane University

The contestants at the Mardi Gras tournament, held in New Orleans on February 6, were treated to a special showing of the new man electric sabre equipment. This equipment, still in the experimental developmental stage, is one of three designs being considered for possible adoption on an international basis.

Basically the concept is to clothe each fencer in a full jacket, lame covered mask, glove with lame covered gauntlet all connected by a body cord which attaches to jacket and mask. The sabre has two special features for registering hits. The first is a shock contactor which closes upon a properly executed cut and allows a circuit to be completed through the blade to the jacket of the opponent. Point touches are registered by a contactor at the tip but in a newer model, also demonstrated, simply by wire exposed at the tip of a normally insulated sabre tip. This wire is insulated and connected in a groove in the blade. This circuit is completed by a simple touch.

The complete system requires a special sabre box which attaches to a normal scoring box to indicate lights the same as for other sabres. Cost of the equipment was the major topic of conversation but no figures were available, but it was obvious that they would be somewhat higher than for other sabres but probably not excessively high. The complete system was explained by Chester Peyronnin, one of the Tulane University participants. A demonstration match was then conducted using Karl Peyronnin of St. Martin High School and Jason Bodnick of St. Charles High School directed by Phil Oliver of New York. They demonstrated that all cuts scored, incidental contact glides did not score. Hits to the guard and light cuts on the leather covered finger portion of the glove did not score. Cuts to the head and light cuts scored but light incidental glides to the head did not score. It should be stated that the equipment worked very well in combination with only minor difficulties. It appeared that the spectators were impressed with the demonstration and the two participants, Junior Olympic medalists, reported no difficulty adjusting to the use. In all it was an

interesting presentation of an emerging equipment concept. Arrangements for the tournament were made by Eugene Hamori, director of the tournament.

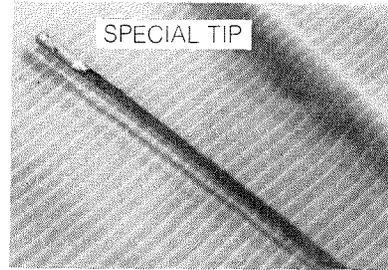
Sweeping the first three circuit events, Peter Westbrook assured himself of the North American Cup by winning the Mardi Gras Sabre Event. After easing past the early rounds of 86 competitors, Westbrook coasted through the direct elimination to the final bout 10:5, 10:5, 10:4, and 10:2. His final bout with hard-fighting Stan Lekach was fast paced and intense, ending in a 11:9 victory for Peter. Last year's Cup winner Phil Reilly prevailed over a poised Paul Friedberg 10:6 to take third place. An international flavor was predominant with fourteen entries from Canada, Mexico, and Venezuela; two of whom reached the finals, Eli Sukunda (Can.) and Alfredo Ovalles (Ven.). New Yorkers Steve Blum (5th) and Joel Glucksman (7th) rounded out this excellent final field.

The Venezuelan National Team combined with the other foreign entries, 11 A-ranked US fencers, and 20 other rated Americans yielded many displays of well fenced bouts. Several of our top rated Juniors, sponsored by Santelli, did well with Brian Keane finishing 20th, fourteenth among Americans. Ralph Zimmerman and Chaba Pallaghy presided over some of our best officials including Bob Foxcroft, Dr. Eugene Hamori, and Jack Keane. Twice World Silver Medalist Dr. John Kalmar conducted the final bout with clear, decisive calls.

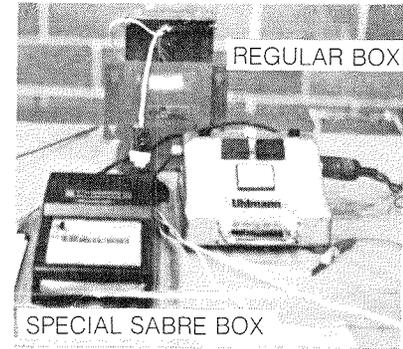
Venezuela overwhelmed the foil events by placing four fencers in each final. Oliveras dominated the men's fencing with his closest opposition from American Bill Oliver (2nd) and Jesse Brown (5th). Tracy Hurley won a three way barrage with two Venezuelans for first in the women's event with young Isabel Hamori placing sixth.

On an overall basis, the tournament was a great success. The competition, which had come under fire last year for being the smallest circuit event, became the largest sabre event held on the circuit and had the greatest number of foreign entries. Chris

## MARDI GRAS TOURNAMENT — ELECTRIC SABRE



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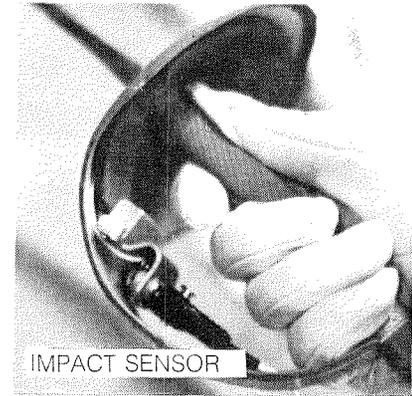


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KARL PEYRONNIN

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PHOTOS BY C. PEYRONNIN

Trammell, Dr. William T. Cotton, Martin Johnsen, and Dr. Eugene Hamori formed the organizing committee of the Mardi Gras Fencing Tournament which is sponsored by the New Orleans Fencers Club and the Tulane University Fencing Club.

**WOMEN'S FOIL (24 entries)**

1. Hurley, Houston\*
2. Perez, Venezuela\*
3. Requena, Venezuela\*
4. De Suarez, Venezuela#
5. De Agreda, Venezuela#
6. Hamori, Isabelle, NOFC#

**MEN'S FOIL (34 entries)**

1. Oliveros, Venezuela
2. Oliver, Colorado
3. Gomez, Venezuela
4. Quintero, Venezuela
- 5-6. Bizot, Venezuela
- 5-6. Brown, Mississippi

\* fence-off for first place  
# tie with 1 victory each



Caitlin Bilodeau, 1982 U-20 Women's Foil Champion and one of our outstanding Junior fencers. (Burke-Triolo photo)

**CORRECTION**

Our apologies to Mrs. Lili Ettinger, who has pointed out to us that, in our March/April issue, the article on Curtis Ettinger carried the wrong date in the sub-head. The dates for Mr. Ettinger should read 1901 - 1982.

# THE PITTSBURGH PILOT FEASIBILITY STUDY

A definitive study on possibilities for major fund raising by our organization was received with little fanfare by the Board of Directors. Although the reaction may be understandable because of the rather negative aspects of the report, we think that members of the USFA should be aware of the facts and findings of the study.

John P. Capurso, a professional fundraiser, was retained by the AFLA to conduct the pilot study to determine the feasibility of mounting an initial campaign in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If a program could be devised to secure private funds for a proposed fencing development program in the area (so the thinking went), then this program could be expanded into other fencing areas in the U.S. under a 10 year national plan which could cost up to \$400,000 a year.

Mr. Capurso began his study in October, 1980 and completed it in June, 1981. Copies of his complete report are available to all divisions from our USFA secretarial office. We cite here only a brief summary of some of his sobering findings and recommendations, as we think they are applicable to most of our fencing communities.

The avowed primary purpose of the study was to "determine the attitudes of community leaders toward the sport of fencing," as these would be the individuals capable of influencing investment in any proposed funding campaign. A total of 33 corporate, foundation, and civic leaders were interviewed in depth. The list is impressive and the interviewees held responsible positions in their organizations.

*Some of their general opinions on fencing:*  
"I know it's an Olympic sport, but nothing else."

"It's a sport requiring excellent conditioning and reflexes. However, it has narrow interest. Won't replace Monday Night Football."

"I think it is a great sport, but there are a lot of other great sports: some 20 or 30 of them."

"My first reaction is that fencing is an activity of the 12th, 13th, and 14th Centuries and is something that only a few people are interested in."

"I took one semester of fencing in college

many years ago, then promptly forgave me it has low visibility."

"Classy sport of high individual and dedication by participants."

"Public sees it as esoteric, elitist, out sport."

"I've only seen it on TV while watching Olympics, but I wouldn't walk across street to watch it."

"Fantastic ... I have friends who live in New York."

*To the question, "How would you improve fencing's public image?"*

"79% of the interviewees thought 'people are generally unaware' of the sport. 70% of those questioned were indifferent to the proposed fencing development program or thought it unimportant. Their responses ranged from personal reservation to rejection."

"The youth development aspect of strong competition, and it seems that fencing is not one of the stronger approaches to the youth development problem."

"I'm pessimistic about the ability of fencers to put any program together. Former fencer, and I've seen several attempts at promoting the sport fail."

"When you put this program against other vital community programs that need funding, it doesn't have a very high priority."

*Some comments on the receptivity of the community to a funding campaign:*

"You could look for support only from interested individuals and corporate key people are involved in fencing. In the next two years, we have an enormous number of capital campaigns, and the cutbacks that are anticipated will have a big challenge. Perhaps we could offer a challenge grant or a gift, that would help."

"I think there is going to be an enormous draw on private foundations, because of federal cutbacks, and I don't think that close to organizations now in need of funds to support the fencing program. Individuals ... those who want to see sport progress ... are going to be a source of support. Corporations and some key reps involved in fencing are

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ort. I think the fund-raising should be  
l to some event."

Interested individuals are the key to suc-  
cess. If you are counting on corporations  
and foundations, I don't think it will fly."

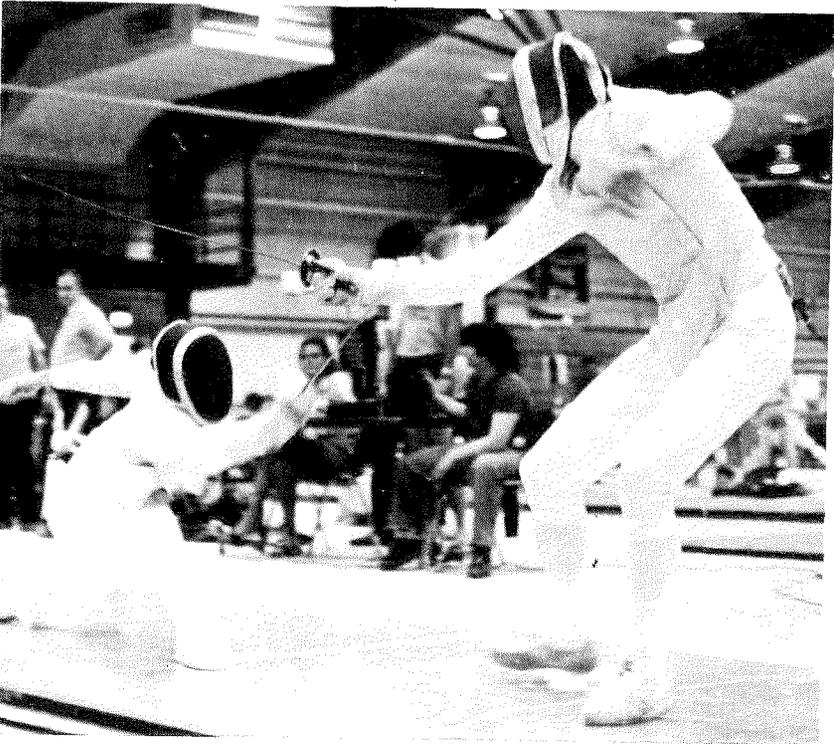
"I don't think family foundations would  
support it with a 10-foot pole, except those  
of individuals of the foundation have a  
special interest. At the corporate level there  
must be a policy established to  
handle this kind of request, and that means  
we would have to have a category to cover  
it, which I doubt they have. Individuals,  
however, have a passion for it, would be the  
logical supporters."

*Ed Wright's responses to the query. "Would  
your organization give to a campaign for this  
(ing) development program?"*

o. There is no apparent general com-  
munity good to be gained by the program."

o. This program is not within the sphere  
of interest of our company's foundation.  
However, we do have a program to support  
the entire U.S. Olympic effort."

*Ed McNamara (left) lunges against Ed Wright in the 1981  
National Foil Championships. (Neil Butterklee photo)*



"No. I would have a difficult time telling our  
stockholders that we jumped into this pro-  
gram because it helps a small group rather  
than an activity that is more broad based."

"No. For us, we do not support that kind of  
activity. We support the Olympic Committee,  
but we don't support this. The next thing you  
know, we'd be asked to support fly fisher-  
men. This is the shareholders' money, and  
we would have to justify the benefit to them.  
For me, this falls on dead ears."

"Perhaps, but modest. For us to support  
fencing, it would have to be for a facility, not  
operation."

*Asked, "Would you personally give to a  
campaign for this program?"*

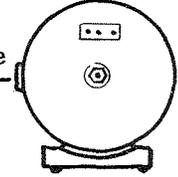
The overwhelming response was, "No."  
Similarly, the answer to working on a cam-  
paign was "no," and to accepting a leader-  
ship position on a campaign, a unanimous  
"no," nor could anyone identify a possible  
campaign leader, with sufficient clout to get  
the job done.

The study concludes with some rather

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straight-forward findings:

"A campaign in Pittsburgh should not be  
mounted until a significant amount of addi-  
tional cultivation and promotional work is  
successfully completed ... This activity  
should require little or no funding. What the  
program needs is a burning desire, on the  
part of the division's members and officers,  
to advance and expand the understanding  
of the sport ...

"The findings of this study clearly point to  
a lack of understanding by the general pub-  
lic of the value of the sport and the nature of  
the growing fencing movement. Fencers are  
primarily responsible for perpetuating this  
non-image or, at best, misconceived image,  
and fencers are the only ones who can turn it  
around. It is understood that the problem is  
not unique to Pittsburgh.

"Nationally it is recommended that the of-  
ficers and members of the board assume a  
more aggressive posture regarding the de-  
velopment of a coordinated plan of promo-  
tion as follows:

\* Pursue the cultivation of national sports  
publications, with the intent of securing  
meaningful, accurate, and positive ex-  
posure;

\* Request all members of the league to

work diligently to uncover any pro-  
minent personalities who may have be-  
come "closet fencers", and to rep-  
resent those findings to the national office  
through appropriate channels;

\* Capitalize on the innovative North Am-  
erican Fencing Circuit as a springboard  
for promotion by requiring hosting divi-  
sions to set aside a portion of their budget  
to promote these special athletic events  
by requiring hosting divisions to seek  
publications for the events that afford  
maximum exposure, and by requesting hosting  
divisions to make admission to the event  
a paying endeavor (... if it is free, it can  
be worth much);

\* Prepare and offer to all fencing coach-  
es, school athletic directors, and  
fencing club officers, the league's pro-  
posed Master Plan for Development,  
accompanied by a request for their advi-  
sory assistance, and involvement (the of-  
ficers of the league and its divisions can  
not, and should not, mount and coor-  
dinate a national master plan; the help  
of all professionals is mandatory)."

*(Editor's note: Any Comment*

# THE ANCHOR-CHALLENGER COMPETITION

by John C. McKee

ing coaches are forever trying to find ways to stimulate interest in competition within the club and in the competition by the U.S.F.A. As usual, a cross develops. The good competitive soon sift to the top and the mediocre to the bottom.

The problem is how to encourage mediocre fencers to become better fencers. And to bring the beginning into the same competitions without tiring them.

So called "Anchor-Challenger" tournaments are the answer to these problems. An interesting system to fence and provide fun aspect of the game. It works

good, competitive fencers are ranked as seniors or fencers. Those who have completed club tournaments but never at an event are ranked as Intermediates. Intermediates good enough to enter a club event are ranked as Juniors. To begin an event are no "bouts won" or "bouts lost" type of tournament. Simply touches scored against him. Bouts may be fenced until one opponent has three (or four, five, six, etc. what is desired) touches scored against him. The object being, of course, that the fencer with the lowest amount of touches against him (or her) wins the event. Men and women together.

The score sheet is arranged with the seniors at the top, the intermediates in the middle and the beginners at the lower end. This is a tournament of stamina as well as skill, the fencer in the number one spot must fence everyone else (seniors and challengers) until he is through with number two. Then number two becomes number one and fences everyone else until he is through. Number one, in the meantime, fences everyone else until number one is finished, then number two is finished, then number two is finished, etc.

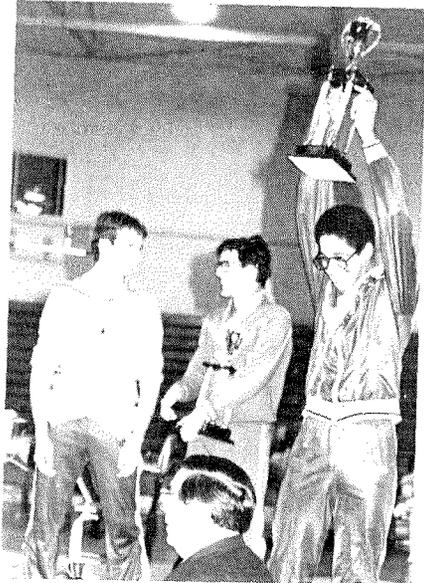
This is a "handicap" tournament where seniors are scored ahead of time against juniors. The intermediates record a 2 touches everytime they hit their seniors and the juniors record three

touches each time they hit. The senior fencer has the option of winning his bouts without allowing either the intermediates or juniors to score on him. Something he cannot do in a handicap event. On the other hand the lower classified fencers can win if they can hit. They try much harder this way and the seniors try equally hard to keep from getting hit.

As can be seen by the score sheet, it is much easier to understand and operate than the conventional one. Even the newest fencer can easily add touches across until the end of the tournament.

Finally, the senior fencers have to demonstrate some sort of stamina to fence all their bouts without stopping. The lower classified fencers have some of this but not enough to become too tiresome. Everyone has a chance and it is the only event where a beginner could win. It is not apt to happen but it could if seniors got careless.

U-20 National Men's Foil trophy winners: from right to left: Nestor Rosario, Demetrius Valsamis, Dan Miller. (Burke-Triolo photo)



NAME	#	TOUCHES AGAINST	TOTAL	PLACE
	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	6			
	7			
	8			
	9			
	10			
	11			
	12			

ANCHOR CHALLENGERS	ORDER OF BOUTS											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
	7	8	9	10	11	12						
	8	9	10	11	12							
	9	10	11	12								
	10	11	12									
	11	12										
	12											

SCORE VALUE:  
 SENIOR FENCERS SCORE 1 TOUCH AGAINST.  
 INTERMEDIATE FENCERS SCORE 2 TOUCHES AGAINST.  
 JUNIOR FENCERS SCORE 3 TOUCHES AGAINST.  
 BOUT VALUE:  
 WHEN ONE FENCER HAS BEEN TOUCHED THE NUMBER OF TIMES INDICATED BY THE CROSSED NUMBER, THE BOUT IS OVER (CROSS ONE)

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

## HOW TO SCORE

EVERY TIME THE FENCER GETS HIT SCORE THE TOUCH IN COLUMN MARKED "TOUCHES AGAINST". SCORE THEM IN GROUPS OF FIVE LIKE THIS:

|||| |

THE FENCER WITH THE LEAST TOUCHES AGAINST IS 1st, SECOND LEAST, 2nd ETC.

## BOUT SEQUENCE

AS EACH BOUT IS COMPLETED AGAINST THE ANCHOR FENCER, SCORE A LINE, DIAGONALLY, THROUGH THE CHALLENGER WITH WHOM THE BOUT WAS FOUGHT, LIKE THIS: Z X A B





Mike Asheman



Ed Richards, directing



Shelly Berman



Herb Kaverl

# NEW ENGLAND FOIL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

(All photos by Visually Salines)

February 7, 1982

## EN GARDE ON GUAM

Fencing is alive and well on the tropical island of Guam! Although it is a relatively new sport to be introduced to this U.S. Territory, there has been much interest and curiosity on the part of the community.

It is at the University of Guam that I have been conducting recreational courses in foil fencing since January 1980. The Physical Education Department offers scuba diving, martial arts, a variety of dance courses, as well as the more traditional departmental offerings, and I was delighted in being instrumental in having fencing added to the curriculum. It was an exciting prospect and a challenge to start a program that is personally very rewarding! A predecessor some years hence had supplied the University with fourteen masks and fourteen French foils, which I found covered in layers of rust. My classroom was to be the dance studio; a small room with a raised wooden floor and full mirrors. Since the University did not have any strips or plastrons, some creative ideas were necessary to start the fencing program. I felt some kind of strip area should be defined for my beginning fencers for their bouts and tournaments. I discovered that lawn chair webbing, which can be purchased in long rolls, serves the purpose well, is durable and reusable, and does not damage floors.

I place the burden of protective clothing upon each of the students. It's quite a challenge to find gloves and padding in the tropics! The first class is always fun: gloves are usually of the garden variety, while padding runs the gamut from umpire pads, military fatigue jackets, to baby mattress pads. Another challenge is the maintenance of equipment in the humid climate: foils seem to rust overnight. I find that by having class members rub down foils and masks with a light coat of lubricating oil each week, a definite improvement has been seen.

My fencing students on Guam are physically active, and many have had training in martial arts. Quick reflexes and an understanding of sports etiquette is apparent. (Often the courteous final handshake is accompanied by a respectful bow). I have taught beginning fencers from Guam, the Phillipines, Korea, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, the U.S. mainland, and the outer is-

lands of the Trust Territory. The twelve to eighteen students enrolled each semester not only have fun fencing, but learning the standard French terminology. I provide the students with a text written by myself, which includes: fencing fundamentals, terminology, special fencing exercises, essential bout rules, scoring procedures, and USFA information. A practical balance of group workouts, individual lessons, demonstrations and practice bouts is emphasized in each class. Two tournaments are held each semester; the second tournament is open to the public in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Students have also enthusiastically participated in the University's Charter Day festivities by giving demonstrations. Since the courses are for recreation, not competition, I like to encourage enjoyment, discipline, and individuality. My own coach, Dan Edwards of the St. Louis Division always encouraged me to do my best and his patience and concern have not been forgotten.

To be honest, publicity is never a problem on Guam. My fencing classes, tournaments and demonstrations are given excellent coverage by the Pacific Daily News as well as the University's student paper. Cable TV and KUAM-TV also produce a surprising amount of video coverage and sports "close-ups". The tournaments are held from noon to 2:00 p.m. during the week so that the public can attend on lunch breaks. We average sixty to seventy in attendance for each tournament.

Guam is nearly 32 miles long, 7 miles wide, about 1500 miles southeast of Japan, and surrounded by the blue waters of the Pacific and the Phillipine Sea. But despite its compact size and its unique location in the Pacific, fencing is flourishing. What we lack in equipment, we make up for in enthusiasm! Maybe one day fencing will even be included in the South Pacific Games!

*Cynthia Bellinger Sajnovsky, Assistant Professor of Music, and her husband Bob, Associate Professor of Art, both teach at the University of Guam and live aboard their 42' sailing yacht POKOJ in Apra Harbor.*

## BOOK REVIEWS

### FENCING IS FOR ME

*Reviewed by William Reith*

**Fencing is For Me**, is a part of a children's sports series. Sport For Me.

Published by Lerner Publications, Co. of Minneapolis. The author of the fencing book is Art Thomas, a writer and drama teacher in Cleveland, Ohio. The photographer is Julia Sheehan-Burke, a fencer at the Alcazar Fencing Club in Cleveland Hts., Ohio where the story takes place.

The storyline follows a young student, Kevin, from his introduction to fencing, after seeing a play with a duelling scene, to the fencing club for lessons. He meets his instructor, Bill, and makes new friends with Wilbur and Peter. Kevin learns about the equipment, safety, rules, and training procedures for fencers. He learns the basics: En garde, advance, retreat, lunge, parrys, and ripostes. Kevin spends a long time practicing the fencing skills and mentally concentrating on the exercises. He trains by running and working with weights to condition himself for fencing.

After several months of training and practicing, Kevin decides to fence in a local tournament. He learns about the use of the electrical equipment, and prepares for the competition. Kevin fences well at the meet, winning one match and losing the rest, but improving and learning with each match. He is determined to keep on fencing, because it is fun and exciting. Making new friends at the tournament is a key feature in stimulating the desire to do well and develop his fencing skills.

The book is 46 pages long with sharp eye-catching photos with one photo for each of the large typed paragraphs in the book. It is geared for the young students to introduce them to the Sport of Fencing. There is a glossary of fencing terms and the book is Muscle Bound for long and lasting use.

The book is sold mainly to school libraries, but is also available through all bookstores. It goes to Physical Education Departments as well. It is a perfect gift for all Junior Fencers, and it is a must for all Junior Development Programs, as it is clear, and portrays the rigors and fun of fencing to the Junior Participant.

**Fencing is For Me** sells for \$5.95, and can be ordered through:  
Lerner Publications Co.  
241 First Ave No.  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

### FOIL FENCING

*by Maxwell Garret and Mary Poulson  
(Reviewed by Ed Zeisig)*

The new work "**Foil Fencing: Safety, Operations and Responsibility for the 1980's**" by Maxwell R. Garret and Mary Heinecke Poulson has the quality of serving as a fencing primer for beginners as well as serving as a depth coaching aid for even experienced coaches.

Its technique of using the "Concept" to explain in detail the parry subject being considered, followed by "Learning Experience" which outlines to put the "Concept" into use, and adding "Highlights" which tests the individual's mastery of the material provides a complete course of training which can be quite easily adapted for a beginning fencer. The book cannot replace an experienced coach, but it does serve as an excellent substitute for a beginner who does not have coaching available.

In addition to the basics of foil fencing, the book covers a multitude of other subjects, a knowledge of which is essential to every competitive fencer. They include fencing rules, officiating, maintenance, selection of equipment, running conditions, safety factors and elements of liability. The chapter on the role of the referee and the one on maintaining electrical equipment are particularly valuable for fencers just beginning competition. However, the book is a complete manual for use by all persons actively involved in foil fencing or competitive fencing.

The book has been published by Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, PA.

*continued next page*

## THE ART OF FENCING THREE WEAPONS: FOIL, EPEE, SABRE

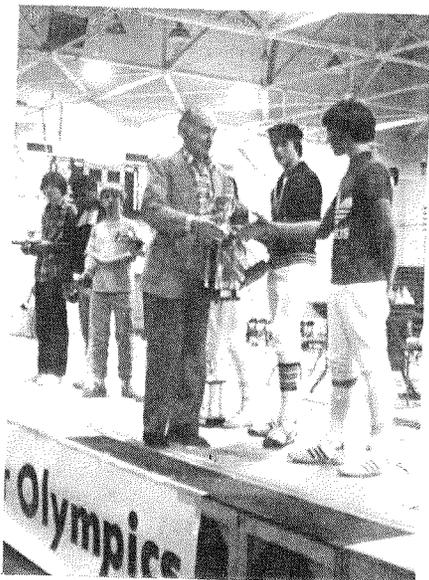
by Jules Campos  
(Reviewed by Ralph Goldstein)

You've heard of the Joy of Cooking and the Joy of Sex, well, this book should have been titled "The Joy of Fencing." It is a remarkable book written by a fencer, teacher, musician, banker, brilliant, man. It is sheer delight to read—from the heartfelt acknowledgements to the fascinating conclusion:

"My illustrious teacher, Maitre Jules Maugenet of the 'Association d'Escrime Jean Louis', of Montpellier, France who taught me the purest and most beautiful French art of fencing in foil (fleuret) and epee; for bestowing on me the great honor of helping him in the training of Olympic champions and champions of France," and to "the great Florentine fencing masters Baldassarre Prucker and Ugo Pignotti who taught me the art of fencing with the sabre, of which they were the most pure apostles," and to his "friend the great master Giorgio Santelli, who allowed me to teach fencing for several years in his famous Salle d'Armes Santelli of New York" and to "Maitre Pinchard of the Fencers Club of New York where I have taught with joy" and to others ---

Yes, it is a joyful experience to read on in the first chapter the "History of Fencing" from the first weapons invented by man to the story of Master "Jean Louis", "The father of the French Method"—about how Napoleon and Josephine helped Jean Louis after his twelve successful duels to found that famous salle d'armes and added his name to the list of those to be nominated "Officer of the Legion of Honour"—and how the original Jean Louis Diploma of "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur" was presented to Jules Campos by Maitre Michel Alaux (the last of the teachers of the Association Jean Louis in Montpellier) with a note reading: "in recognition of your devotion to the method of the Master and to the great art of fencing". A photo of this "Diplome de la Legion d'Honneur" is included.

The book is soft cover, about 8½ by 11



Distinguished coach Chaba Elthes presents first place trophy to 1982 U-16 Sabre Champion Kevin Small. (AF staff photo)

inches in size and almost ¼ inch in thickness made up of 220 pages, of good stock, full of excellent drawings of fencers in action and numerous sketches demonstrating details of lessons, targets, rules, etc..

In the introduction, Jules states: "While it is intended to serve primarily as a guide for fencing teachers, it is also useful to pupils, even beginners, as well as to international champions and to any who aspire to the profession of teaching fencing." I agree wholeheartedly.

The printing is crystal clear—as is every detail in the 28 chapters on foil, 11 on epee and 14 on sabre.

This book should be in the library of every fencer—amateur and professional. It may be obtained from its author:

Jules Campos  
P.O. Box 87  
Scarsdale, New York 10583



## FROM THE OFFICIALS' COMMISSION

by William Goering, Chai

At the Chicagoland Circuit Event and later at the Under-20 World Championships in Buenos Aires the interpretations of two foil rules were clarified by several top officials. The first has to do with Article 222 Extension of the Valid Surface, which states that "Touches arriving on a part of the body classified as invalid are counted as valid when by an abnormal position, the fencer has substituted this invalid surface for a valid surface".

The interpretation of what constitutes substitution raises problems for officials especially if the fencer squats or ducks and is hit on the mask. The current interpretation in these cases is that if the fencer squats down and keeps his head (and mask) vertical, no abnormal position has been taken, and therefore no touch may be awarded if the off target, mask hit is registered. If, however, the fencer lowers the head forward such that he protects part of his lame' with his mask, an abnormal position has been taken and an off-target, mask hit may be counted as valid because of Article 222. Note that Article 222 applies to hits on the unarmed hand that covers the

valid target and although related, it is the same as covering or protecting valid surface with the unarmed hand. latter offense calls for warnings and penalties (Articles 30 and 640) if no touch scored on the covering arm.

The second clarification regards the Aside from the question of whether the is established before the onset of an opponent's attack, the interpretation of a position constitutes a line is left to the president. The current practice is to very strict on this and accept only the tended arm straight from the shoulder without any breaking of the wrist. For the point must threaten continuously wide derobements or other blade movements are construed as abandonment of the line. In the final analysis it is up to fencer to convince the jury president the position is a correct line, and presidents must avoid giving priority to margin positions.

U.S. officials should adopt these interpretations so that our judging is correct and uniform.

### ORDER FORM FOR 1982 FENCING RULES BOOK

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the **1982 Fencing Rules Book** for \$5.00 + 75¢ handling and mailing. Enclosed is a check or money order payable to **USFA** in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please send the rules book(s) to: PLEASE PRINT

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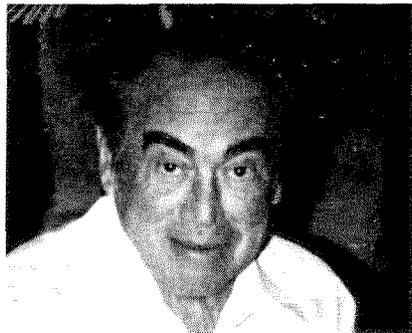
Rules books will be sent by fourth-class mail.  
Send order form with check or money order to:  
United States Fencing Association (USFA)  
601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706

## IN MEMORIAM LEO SOBEL

Leo Sobel, the treasurer of the AFLA from 1955 to 1969, died in Hollywood, Florida, on January 23. Mr. Sobel, although never a fencer, became interested in fencing in 1948 when his son Stephen took up the sport at Riverdale School and later Columbia University. Mr. Sobel was an enthusiastic spectator at his son's meets and even travelled to the 1954 NCAA Championships in Chicago, where Steve won the sabre championship.

In the early 1950's, Mr. Sobel served as treasurer of the Metropolitan Division of the AFLA, and in 1955, assumed the post of national treasurer. In the latter capacity, his financial policies and accounting techniques contributed greatly to the establishment of fiscal stability for the league during its period of greatest growth, under the presidency of Norman Lewis. In all, Mr. Sobel was treasurer under five AFLA presidents: Jose R. deCapriles, Donald M. Thompson, Dr. Paul Makler, Norman Lewis, and Alan M. Ruben.

Before leaving office in 1969, Sobel achieved for the League a long sought after goal of tax exemption.



Mr. Sobel also frequently assisted at the collegiate level and is credited with originating the composite scoresheet used for many years at the IFA Championships.

Professionally, Mr. Sobel was a corporate auditor for the Internal Revenue Service thirty years. When he retired to Florida in 1969, he taught tax planning at a community college there.

In 1964, Mr. Sobel was elected an Honorary Life Member of the AFLA by unanimous vote of the Board of Governors of the league. In 1972, his son, Steve, was elected president of the AFLA, following a long period of administration in the New Jersey Division.

## SEMINAR FOR FENCING COACHES

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The family's interest in fencing continued in Mr. Sobel's grand-daughter, Lori Sobel, who was second in the AIAW Championships in 1981 for the University of Pennsylvania and is presently in medical school.

## SUMMER CAMPS, WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

**Training Seminars** at Snowmass, Colorado: June 13 - June 20; June 20 - June 27; June 27 - July 4. Contact: Sebastiani FA, 3708 Main St., Houston, TX 77002.

**USFA JUNIOR OLYMPIC NATIONAL CAMP.** August 8 - 15 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Priority given to top 16 in National U-20 events. Contact: Burton Moore, 8 Pin Oak Lane, Westport, CT 06880.

**USFA Junior Olympic Section Camps**  
**Midwest Section:** (2 camps) July 3 - 10 at the University of Wisconsin Park Side and August 1 - 6 at Ohio State University. Contact: Colleen Olney, 2221 SE 117th, Portland, OR 97216.

**North Atlantic Section:** July 30 - August 8 at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Contact: Burton Moore, 8 Pin Oak Lane, Westport, CT 06880.

**Pacific Coast Section:** August 8 - 15 at Stanford University, California. Contact: Colleen Olney, 2221 SE 117th, Portland, OR 97216.

**Southwest Section:** July 22 - 25 at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. Contact: Marietta Towry, 9406 Hihedge Drive, Dallas TX 75238.

**Southeast Section:** at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. Ron Miller, Manager. Contact: Colleen Olney, 2221 SE 117th, Portland, OR 97216.

**Mid Atlantic Section:** at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. David Micahnik, Manager. Contact: Colleen Olney (above).

**Training Camp and Teaching Program,** for boys and girls from 9 years and up young and older adults, teachers and coaches. Day camp or live-in camp at Drew University, Madison, N.J., July 11-23, July 11-16, July 18-23. Contact: A John Geraci, 279 E. Northfield Rd., Livingston, N.J. 07039

**Summer Camp** in Santa Barbara, California:

July 4-17 and July 18-31. Board, housing, and social events provided. Contact: Mark L. Berger, 1521 Laguna Street, Suite #105, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

**Open House,** Wednesday eves., 7:30 — 10:30 P.M. from June 30 to Sept. 1, at Marblehead, Massachusetts home of Aaron Bell, 52 Pickwick Rd. Electric strip and heated swimming pool.

**Summer Sports Camps** for ages 10-18 years at University of California, San Diego, in La Jolla, Calif. July 11-16, Aug. 1-6, Aug. 8-13, Aug. 15-20, Aug. 22-27. Contact UCSD Summer Camps, % Intercollegiate Athletics C-017, La Jolla, CA 92093.

**Seminar for Fencing Coaches.** August 27, 28, 29 at Case Western Reserve, Ohio. Contact: Salle Kadar, 7127 Brecksville Rd. Independence, Ohio 44131. See ad on page 22.

**International Coaches Clinic & Fencers Camp.** August 8-14, Manhattan College N.Y. Contact: S. Bardakh, 2067 Broadway Rm. 54, N.Y., N.Y. 10023. See ad on page 31.

*Next bout, on the strip, preparing to fence. Dian Russell at the 1982 D'Asaro Open Circuit. (B. Oliver photo)*



# U.S. BLADEMAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Journal: The Fencing News; Vol 1 Number 10, June 1980

by Raoul Sudre

think it is important for the U.S. fencing community to stop dreaming about such things as manufacturing blades in America. The technology and mechanics involved in the process of blade making is such that American-made product will be competitive with its European counterpart. It takes 82 different manipulations to convert a small piece of metal into a fencing blade. These are done by hand and the skills necessary to shape the metal alone require approximately 10 years of apprenticeship to attain. The disposition of the metal and how it is treated is a secret jealously guarded by each European manufacturer.

This is not to say that blades cannot be made by other than the predominant European manufacturers; the Russian, Polish and Hungarian fencing communities manufacture their own blades.

However, they buy an average of 200,000 blades each year from Prieur for their top fencers to use.

An American outfit in Chicago attempted to manufacture blades shortly before and during World War II. At that time the cost of these blades was approximately double that of their European counterparts and their quality was horrendous.

Without wanting to be pessimistic regarding the chances of success of an American manufacturer, I would also like to mention that the world's foremost manufacturer of fencing blades, Osstyn, has been unable to successfully mechanize the blade making process. Prior to being taken over by Prieur a year ago, Osstyn had the best German blade manufacturer's machine which was designed to eliminate 50 percent of the manual blade making processes. This machine, which was designed at a cost of \$1 million, has not, to this day, been able to be fine tuned to do the task which it was designed to do.

Other further problem facing manufacturers is the fact that the master craftsmen who are experts in the art of making blades are slowly going away and, because the work is so demanding, very few workers are willing to pick up the trade. A 300 percent increase in pay over the past four years still has not

encouraged new apprenticeships.

We can send a man to the moon; if the fencing business had similar funds to the NASA program, no doubt some fantastic things could be done. However, I do not believe that the 8,000 or so members of the AFLA could provide sufficient finance to support the research and technology necessary to bring about these miracles.

So, indeed, the future is bleak. I do not see any future break in the upward trend of prices. I feel that probably the FIE will have to establish new rules and regulations to make it possible for the manufacturers to supply fencers at lower cost.

Economies of scale are also at the root of the problem. The less you buy, the more it costs. The smaller the market, the less consideration it receives.

The U.S. market is so insignificant that we cannot command much attention to our grievances. One fencing club in Moscow alone has more fencers registered than the entire AFLA roster. Weakening U.S. buyers further is the tendency to limit orders to blades and few other items. The wholesalers will always favor countries and distributors who buy their total line of equipment over spot buyers.

It is quite wrong to say that manufacturers limit their production to a certain number of blades a year when, at the present rate, even working overtime, they are not able to fulfill the world demand for blades.

I can foresee in the not so distant future, a situation where blades will be sold to importers on a quota system such that if you are to buy X amount of blades, you will have to buy an equivalent amount of other equipment from the same manufacturer.

When this happens, these costs will be passed on to the consumer then we will really be in trouble. At this point we will have to turn to golf as a cheap way of getting our exercise and entertainment.

## TECHNICAL TALKS

by Joe Byrnes



In the early days of electrical foil, the Germans called it the "Schwitz-Effekt." In plain English: sweat and the problems it creates in fencing. In those days, what they were usually talking about was the unhappy experience of certain (mostly foil) fencers of getting mildly shocked by the machines. The old relay-operated models could let off neat little discharges from their capacitors that would really zap some fencers — some of the time. Usually it wouldn't happen until the competition had been running for quite a while.

It can still happen today, of course, when one of those old machines is still in service, and the right conditions exist. Even back in the old days, however, the solution was plain enough: the fencer changed the glove on the sword hand for a dry one. To feel the shock, the fencer had to be connected somewhere to the ground return of the circuit, through a low resistance path. The handle is the logical connection. Shrewd observers early noted that not all fencers were affected; the shocks were almost always reserved for those who used all-metal handles, and even then not all of those fencers were jolted. Further observation always showed that the fencers feeling the effect were sweating up a storm and that their uniforms and gloves were really wet.

Since they couldn't train themselves to stop sweating — something not medically recommended, I gather — fencers who experienced this trouble learned to carry extra gloves.

These days, with mostly solid-state scoring machinery, we don't hear much about fencers suffering these unpleasant zaps. The problem with sweat today centers on the possibility in foil that the electrical jacket can be grounded to the foil by a sweaty leakage path. When that happens, a low resistance path is created, usually around the edge of the electrical jacket, down the sweat-soaked (and surprisingly conductive) sleeve of the regular jacket, onto the glove and thus onto the metal handle of the foil. Amusingly, the effect on the electrical circuits (a sharply reduced electrical resistance, instead of near infinity) depends on the kind of grip the

fencer has on the handle. A classically light grip ("hold it like a little bird") would require an awful lot of sweat to reduce the resistance enough to cause this sort of trouble. But there is also the kind of cramp-inducing death grip favored by many (most?) of those who rely on what the old-timers contemptuously used to call "orthoopedic" handles. That kind of grip can easily drop the resistance, metallic jacket-to-foil, of a heavily sweating fencer to well below the 250 ohms that the machines are designed to survive.

The result: the opponent's valid touches, or some of them, will not be shown on the machine. In effect, although only innocently sweating as the result of honest athletic toil, the fencer is getting the same result as if the blade or guard of the foil were larcenously laid onto the electrical jacket, as prohibited by Article 230 of the rules.

The FIE adopted the notorious "yellow lamp" machines about five years ago (we saw them first at the World Championships at Hamburg in 1978) to smoke out this problem. Those early versions have been improved, and a half a dozen manufacturers now are making them. And naturally, this being fencing, they are already semi-obsolete. As the latest rule book still reads (and it may be making its appearance in this country about the time that this article appears), the lighting and locking of a yellow lamp against a fencer accompanied by a buzzer was to be interpreted as a possible basis for a warning. By action of the 1981 FIE Congress, that sort of signal, as of 1 January 1982 in fact, is to be read just like a red or green light: i.e., as a valid touch. That solution keeps all those expensive (and are they ever) machines from being completely obsolete.

From now on, however, the FIE wants a new foil machine built — one that can register valid touches even when the "grounded" condition exists. In effect, instead of the jacket becoming a part of the guard, the guard will become a part of the jacket, and if you are holding your foil onto yourself, or sweating up a storm (or if the reel has developed a short circuit) and you are hit on the metallic

jacket, or on the guard, or even on the side of the blade, the red or green light will go on and you are hit. And certainly, in the case of someone deliberately grounding, it serves you right. The fanciest machines will still have the yellow lamps, but only as indicators of potential trouble (useful for finding, say, a defective reel).

In the interim, and for all the competitions that will be fenced for years to come with older machines, what can be done to monitor the problem caused by the sweating fencer?

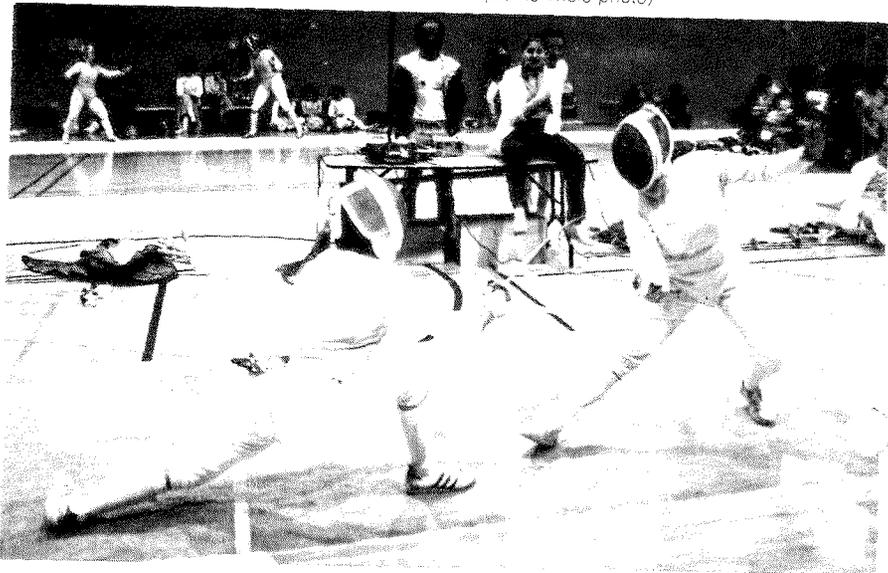
First, all directors should be aware that these problems can happen. They will not normally happen in the opening round or often in the second; they will happen almost exclusively with all-metal handles. All plastic handles, or the leather or braid over plastic or wood types of handles are fairly free of the problem. Incidentally, the FIE rules do not require the total insulation of an all-metal foil handle — see articles 211(b) and 721; they do absolutely forbid covering an epee handle (article 25/3). Maybe the rule should be re-written, but it hasn't been so far. Taping up a metal handle is an emergency sort of proceeding at best, even with a so-called waterproof tape, and the strangeness that the new surface can give to the grip may be awkward for the fencer. The sort of plastic dip insulation that some manufacturers already apply to their handles is a very good

approach, and such coating materials can be obtained at well-stocked hardware stores; some types can be painted on as well as applied by dunking. All-plastic handles are available, but do terrible things to the balance of a foil, in my view. Fencers who can afford it and wouldn't mind the bother might even like to experiment with a surgical rubber glove inside the fencing glove. That approach might not absolutely cure the "grounding out" of touches; but for the fencer who occasionally gets shocked, it would surely do the trick. (I am only half kidding.)

Directors, from the second round on, can make a point of seeing that the fencers are squeezing their handles when exchanging the valid touch test before a bout. If the problem shows, start by changing the glove. The regular fencing jacket (that wet sleeve would be the next to go, if things are real bad. The metallic jacket, so long as its lining is intact, is the least of the contributors to the problem.

If officials keep their eyes open, the difficulties can be much reduced, maybe even eliminated. Of course, if fencing competitions didn't drag on for hours on end, the problem wouldn't arise in the first place, but then it just wouldn't be fencing, would it?

*Can you identify these two young ladies? Taken at the 1982 U-20 Women's Foil Junior Olympics. (Burke-Triola photo)*



## RESULTS

### NIWFA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Fifty-fourth Annual NIWFA Championships were held on Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28, 1982 at William Paterson College. Yale University won the team title with 61 victories and 7 defeats. Second was Temple University with a record of 58 V/ 10 D; third was Cornell University with a record of 53 V/ 15 D; fourth was St. John's University with a record of 48 V/ 20 D. Eighteen teams competed in the championship.

The results of the individual competition were:

1. Andrea Metkus, Yale University 4/1 (fenceoff 5/4)
2. Sharon Monplaisir, Hunter College 4/1
3. Tracy Burton, Barnard College 3/2 +6
4. Lisa Piazza, Barnard College 3/2 +3
5. Sharon Sobers, St. John's University 1/4
6. Randi Samet, St. John's University 0/5

Other schools participating were: U States Naval Academy, Northwestern University, William Paterson College, Ba College, Wellesley College, Fairleigh Dickinson University - Teaneck, Seton Hall University, Hunter College, Jersey City College, Carnegie-Mellon Unive Montclair State College, New York University, SUNY-Purchase, and Pratt Unive

### NCAA RESULTS

*March 18-20, 1982, South Bend, Indiana*

#### Men's Foil

1. A. Flom, GMU
2. V. Altschul, Columbia
3. M. Snow, Ill.

#### Epee

1. P. Schifrin, S. Jose
2. J. Thomas, Clemson
3. E. Bianchi, Wayne St.

#### Sabre

1. N. Hick, Wayne St.
2. J. Friedberg, N. Car.
3. C. Lefon, Navy

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### Team Results

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wayne State  | 5T Princeton      |
| 2. Clemson      | 7. Notre Dame     |
| 3. Pennsylvania | 8. Penn State     |
| 4. Columbia     | 9T Yale           |
| 5T Harvard      | 9T North Carolina |

### Women's Foil

March 25-27, 1982, San Jose, California

- J. Ellington, SJS
- R. Bottergan, CSUN
- G. Faikachazy, Wayne S.

### Team Results

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wayne State       | 5. CSU Northridge |
| 2. San Jose State    | 6. Notre Dame     |
| 3. Ohio State        | 7. Stevens Inst.  |
| 4. U. of N. Carolina | 8. Clemson        |

### 1982 Pentathlon Open

by George Nelson

The 1982 Pentathlon Open, twentieth annual epee meet, was fenced on January 23-24 at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. Greg Losey, USMP, won the Saturday, North

American Circuit event, placed fifth on Sunday, for overall first place award. Salle Sebastiani won two second places: David Adams on Saturday, and Tim Glass was defeated by Paul Pesthy, NYAC, on Sunday. In the separate ladies event, Tracey Hurley, Salle Sebastiani was first on Saturday, Stacey Johnson won on Sunday and was the overall ladies champion. The two-day meet offered a worthy training opportunity for the top U.S. epeeists attending the meet, and also for the Mexican team which came at the last minute.

### Men's Results

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday (Circuit) | Sunday (non-circuit) |
| 1. Greg Losey      | 1. Paul Pesthy       |
| 2. David Adams     | 2. Tim Glass         |
| 3. Lee Shelley     | 3. Peter Schiffrin   |
| 4. Robert Marx     | 4. Robert Nieman     |

### Overall

- Losey
- Pesthy
- Shelley
- Nieman

### Ladies Epee Results

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday            | Sunday              |
| 1. Tracey Hurley    | 1. Stacey Johnson   |
| 2. Vincent Bradford | 2. Janet Simpson    |
| 3. Stacey Johnson   | 3. Vincent Bradford |
| 4. Lee Ann Skomski  | 4. Pernelli Schwa   |

### Overall

- Johnson
- Bradford
- Simpson
- Skomski/Schwa

## SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION POUJARDIEU OPEN

January 23-24, 1982

### Mixed Foil (40)

- K. Woodward, SWTFS
- H. Williams, TTFC
- O. Barrera, TTFC

### Sabre (17)

- Anderson, TTFC
- H. Williams, TTFC
- R. Nordlicht, TTFC

### Women's Foil (16)

- H. Valkavich, Tr.U.
- M. Runkle, SWTFS
- M. McCarthy, SFA

### Epee (15)

- K. Hogan, SFA
- E. Falt, DFC
- H. Jenniches, TTFC

## ALL-OHIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 20, 1982

### Women's Epee

- J. Sheehan-Burke, Alc.
- F. Turner, Alcazar
- A. Ezzell, Alc.

### Men's Foil

- W. Wheeler, Alc.
- W. Reith, Alc.
- D. McCormick

### Sabre

- Joe Fazekas, Alc.
- A. Radivoyevitch, Kadar
- J. Martin, Cin. FC

### Women's Foil

- J. Sheehan-Burke, Alc.
- A. Ezzell, Alc.
- M. Jones, PORC

### Men's Epee

- W. Reith, Alc.
- S. Aitali, Ohio St.
- K. Hunter, Alc.

### Under-14 Jr. Foil

- W. Derrick, Alc.
- M. Jones, PORC
- B. Freeman, Alc.

## NORTHERN OHIO DIVISIONALS

April 2 & 3, 1982

### Women's Epee (5)

- A. Ezzell, Alc.
- J. Sheehan-Burke, Alc.
- L. Erdos, Kadar

### Men's Foil (18)

- W. Wheeler, Alc.
- D. McCormick, Alc.
- T. Williams, Alc.

### Women's Foil (10)

- L. Erdos, Kadar
- A. Ezzell, Alc.
- S. Kass, Kadar

## SALLE AURIOL OPEN

3 January 1982, Portland, Oregon

- M. Marx, Auriol
- N. Campbell, Czisar
- M. Van der Velden, Silverst.
- M. Conyde, Canada
- P. Des Georges, Auriol
- N. Rosario, Horizon
- A. Klinger, Auriol
- D. Miller, Auriol

## GEOFF ELDER OPEN

Georgia Southern College, Jan. 23-24, 1982

### Men's Foil

- S. Dunlap, AFC
- C. Thompson, PFC
- M. Wood, AFC

### Men's Epee

- M. Wood, AFC
- K. Brooks, AFC
- A. Mulford, Geo. S.

### Women's Foil

- J. Littmann, PFC
- B. Weltman, Augusta
- J. McKee, AFC

### Men's Uncl. Foil

- W. Freund, Geo. S.
- W. Branch, Geo. S.
- R. Ori, Palmetto

### Men's Sabre

- R. Volkman, AFC
- C. Thompson, PFC
- F. French, Geo. S.



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## PEACH STATE OPEN

March 13, 1982

### Women's Sabre

1. J. Littmann, PFC
2. Hasty, AFC
3. Wilson, AFC

### Men's Sabre

1. M. Wasserman, Clemson
2. N. Braff, AFC
3. R. Volkman, AFC

### Women's Epee

1. J. Littmann, PFC
2. E. Reinhardt, Vandy
3. J. Nicoll, Alb.

### Men's Foil

1. M. Smith, AFC
2. M. Gross, AFC
3. M. O'Donnell, Duke

### Men's Epee

1. J. Thomas, Clemson
2. W. Shuford, Clemson
3. D. Dubois, AFC

### Women's Foil

1. D. Basinger, AFC
2. J. Littmann, PFC
3. J. Wilson, AFC

## SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION BOBCAT OPEN

Feb. 13-14, 1982

### Men's Foil (33)

1. E. Compton, TSU
2. L. Bleamaster, S. Esg.
3. K. Rossenfuss, Sebast.

### Women's Foil (13)

1. T. Hurley, Sebast.
2. M. Runkle, SWTSU
3. B. Fox, SWTSU

### Epee (25)

1. R. Hurley, Sebast.
2. C. Michaels, USMPT
3. J. Nolan, UT

### Sabre (15)

1. C. McCraw, Sebast.
2. T. Outwin, Sebast.
3. H. Williams, TTFC

## TEAM MATCH

Jan. 29, 1982, Texas A&M Univ.

A direct confrontation among thirteen teams produced some exciting fencing during the single day Gulf Coast Match competi-

tion. Helen Valkavich in women's foil went undefeated all day to lead the Trans-Texas FC team. The Trans-Texas FC (9-0) emerged as team victor over the Sebastiani FA of Houston (8-1), while Southwest Texas State FS (6-3) captured third place in the close, hard-fought match.

## SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION UNCLASSIFIED TOURNAMENT

Feb. 20-21, 1982

### Men's Foil (23)

1. A. Skopik, T A&M

### Women's Foil (18)

1. C. Tremonte, SFA

### Sabre (18)

- P. Ramos

### Epee (20)

1. K. Woodward, SWTSU



The happy top trio of the 1982 U-20 Sabre Olympics. From right to left: Michael Lofsell Wilson, Doug Powell. (Burke-Triolo)

## HELENE MAYER INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, San Francisco, Me 1982.

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3. R.A. Canada (Cogliati, Wishart, Dufour)
4. San Jose State (Ellingson, Clarman, Kay)

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