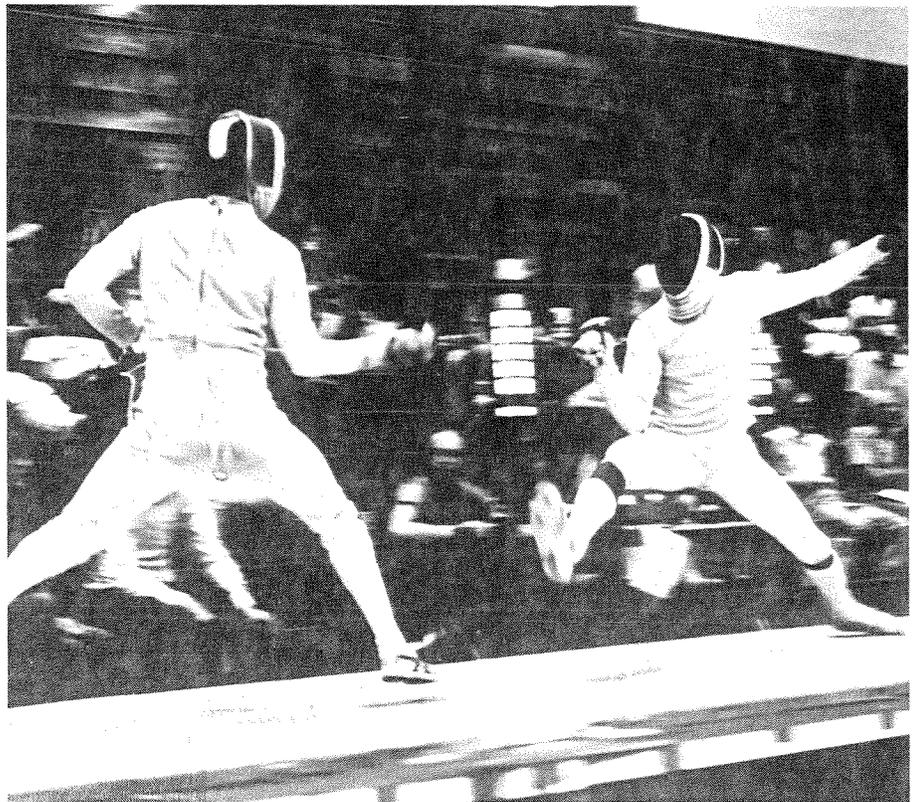


American
FENCING

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1982

Volume 34 No. 2



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(ISSN 002-8436)

Official publication of the
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Postmaster: Send all returns and changes of address to: USFA, 1750 East Bolder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

Second Class Postage
paid at Berkeley, CA 94704
and at additional mailing offices

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Dedicated to the memory of
JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969
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Editor: Mary T. Huddleson

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Oakland, CA 94602

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Published bi-monthly. Subscription for non-members of the USFA is \$7.50 in the U.S. and \$9.00 elsewhere. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the view of American Fencing or the USFA.

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE. Articles, results of competitions, letters to the Editor, photos and cartoons are cordially solicited. All manuscripts must be typewritten, double spaced, on one side of the paper only, with wide borders. Photos should be glossy finish and with a complete caption. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned unless submitted with a stamped self addressed envelope. No anonymous articles accepted.

DEADLINE FOR ISSUES

Issue Date	Closing Date	Mailing Date
	For Copy	
JAN/FEB	DEC 10	FEB 1
MAR/APR	FEB 10	APR 1
MAY/JUN	APR 10	JUN 1

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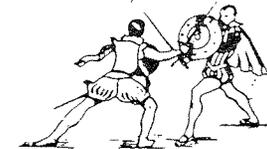
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On the cover

One of the many fine photos taken during the Men's Foil by Bruce Repko at the 1982 Championships. The fencers are not that must be Michael Marx in full left.

EDITORIAL

We are still in business. Thank you, Board of Directors!

Well over 100 readers expressed their opinions in our recent **Reader's Poll**. Forty-seven per cent of you prefer a bi-monthly magazine, 43% monthly, and 10% quarterly. You are cover-to-cover readers, interested in all types of articles, with a slight edge given to instructional and reference material. Running, swimming and tennis are your favorite "other" sports, followed by cycling, horseback riding, and skiing. Over 1/2 of the respondents are over 30 years of age with incomes between \$20,000 - \$50,000, while a significant 1/4 of the total reported incomes of less than \$10,000 as well as being under 30 years old.

Over 1/2 of the responses came from the Eastern seaboard, 20% from the Midwest, and the rest scattered in the South, the Rockies, and the West Coast.

Wonderful comments! "Larger format." "Joe Byrnes is great!" "Improve your articles, make more interesting." "Better photos and fewer typos!" "How about an index of past articles?" "I like the magazine! Re-

member the little guy who supports USFA!" "I enjoy your wonderful photography." "Results could be more timely." "Don't stick the label on the cover photo!" "Better photos — forget the fight shots." "Remember there are a lot of us out in the boonies who want to know what is going on." "You are improving." "Improve further."

Amen to it all. The responses have been helpful in plotting new directions for AMERICAN FENCING.

We call your attention to our **LETTERS** department, where two separate subjects of interest to our fencing world are vigorously discussed. We have no researchers or reporters-in-depth on our staff, so this is the best means we have to let our readers know that such a problem exists. These letters are written by knowledgeable persons, experts in their own fields. Their divergent opinions are shared by many and there are no simple solutions to the problems discussed.

If you don't see too well, even those of you who may not admit it, you may find encouragement and inspiration in Alysia Chadow's article on "Fencing With Partial Vision."

—MTH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHY VISTI?

On September 8, 1982, the Los Angeles Times published an article by Times staff writer Kenneth Reich, reporting that the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee accepted a Soviet offer of \$100,000 worth of free equipment to be used for the fencing events to be held at the Long Beach Convention center for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. According to the article, confirmed by "Ben Zivkovic of Zivkovic Modern Fencing Equipment", Fred Thorensen, owner of American Fencers Supply of San Francisco, (and) Carolyn Chesney, account manager for George Santelli, Inc. of New York City, the largest US fencing equipment company", none of them was given the opportunity to submit a bid.

We were advised by Mr. Zivkovic that the propaganda value of this coup is worth far more to the Russians than the so-called savings to the LAOOC. He further advised us that, given the opportunity, his company along with others would improve on the Russian bid with superior equipment. FIE approved and Olympic tested — all at the same cost to the LAOOC.

At this time of high unemployment and serious recession, with our government trying to promote U.S. business, shouldn't the U.S. fencing manufacturers be given this opportunity?

Ralph Goldstein, Editor Emeritus

RESPONSE OF THE LAOOC

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you and your readers the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee's (LAOOC's) reasons for the selection of Visti as the 1984 fencing equipment supplier.

During the Spring of 1982, our staff contacted International Fencing Federation (FIE) approved equipment manufacturers to advise them of our intent to select 1984 fencing equipment and that we would very much like to receive their offer.

In the course of those contacts, we indicated to the potential suppliers that they should put forth in writing to the Organizing Committee their best offer -- based on what equipment amount and quality was provided in previous Olympic fencing competitions.

Additionally, we indicated that an offer could be anything from the lowest price to free of charge -- it was up to the manufacturers to submit their bid.

Although firm written specifications were not distributed by the LAOOC -- functions were offered telephonically to the interested potential manufacturers.

Subsequently, the LAOOC received several varied offers including the one offering the Organizing Committee free of charge during the Games. Ultimately, the LAOOC determined that the best offer and we accepted.

Concerning the use of foreign equipment for the 1984 Olympic Games, we would like to point out that virtually all of our sponsors, suppliers and licensor are American and our intent is to meet the standard where possible. It should be noted that there are currently no FIE approved American manufacturers -- with a few exceptions on the FIE commended list.

Additionally, as the first prize for the organized Olympic Games, without taxpayer dollars, we must at all times provide quality equipment, meeting International Federation criteria at the best price to the Organizing Committee.

We know that the selection and equipment will prove an excellent choice for the 1984 Olympic fencers.

We hope this information clarifies the choice of Visti.

*-Charles
Vice President
Los Angeles
Organizing*

COACHING IS THE KEY

American fencers have entered a very important season. The next two years are going to be exciting and also difficult for the athletes, coaches, and administrators. Three international events in the next two years: Pan-American Games, World Games, and Los Angeles makes it all. This is why every fencer going to be taken by the newly formed administration has to be carefully selected and in the right direction.

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There are many problems in American fencing which have to be solved. But one problem needs to be solved first of all. We do not have quality coaches able to work successfully with large numbers of talented young people. The last World Championships in Rome supports my statement. I do not think the performance of the U.S. Team was ever so bad. We lost because we made too many fundamental errors, such as poor footwork, bad distance, arms falling behind legs, poor point control, etc. If balance is important in boxing, basketball, baseball, gymnastics, hockey, soccer, etc., so it is in fencing. Another example in support of my statement can be seen in the countries where fencing is heavily sponsored by the government but educational programs for the coaches do not exist: Argentina, Venezuela, Chili, England, Japan, the Arab countries, and, to some extent, Canada..... Performance of their fencers is not better than ours. Only in those countries where the initial approach was to educate coaches is fencing blooming. Such as: China, Cuba, and East Germany. A few years ago, we made an effort to create an atmosphere of cooperation and education of all professional coaches in this country. By all means that was a successful attempt. We had regularly scheduled meetings, we were openly discussing our problems, we were presenting different ideas, from theory to practice we were trying new ways of teaching. We agreed on many things. As a result of this work we wrote and published a manual — Ways of Teaching Fundamental Technique in Foil and Sabre.....

A new administration was elected..... Our program was terminated at the time when we expected results to appear. What was the reason to stop the work of so many people? Nobody has a clear answer to this question.We waited for new ideas to appear. For a whole year, we did not see or hear anything. The second year gave us the Portland Project. If I were a fencer who already graduated from college and was without family or business responsibilities, I would go to this program because the more time for fencing I have, the better I am going to be. But as a coach, I would dread running the project because our job needs contacts, exchange of views and experience, not isolation.

In the article in AMERICAN FENCING (July/August 1982) our ex-president states

that Portland "will give them a chance to win a Gold Medal in the Olympics." I do not want to ask Ms. Johnson which Olympics does she mean: 1984, 1988, or...2000, but I want to tell her that in Rome our fencers were hit 60-70% of the time on preparation.

Two-three years ago we were trying to improve American fencing. Today our goal should be a different one. Today we must take American fencing from the zero level to where it once was with Albert Axelrod, Danny Bukantz, Harold Goldsmith, Nat Lubel, Maria Cerra Tishman, Helena Dow, and many more! I hope our newly elected president and members of the committees understand the importance of the coaching problem we are facing.

— Semyon Pinkhasov
Coach, N.Y. Fencers Club
Coach-designate
1983 Pan-American Games

MS. JOHNSON REPLIES

Since most of our top coaches met regularly for years until the middle of 1980 and if "Good Coaching is the Key to Success," I fail to understand why they did not produce fencers whose results made a difference in the 1981 and 1982 World Championships.

Of course, good coaching is very important. But so is intensive training by talented athletes.

Last year we started the "Portland Project" as a pilot program primarily for male foilists, with several women and epeeists involved. It was patterned after the training camps held in the top fencing countries in Europe, with daily lessons and rigorous physical conditioning for about six months, then six weeks of training and competition in Europe thereafter. This cost the USFA less than \$20,000. If this program was successful we intended to offer similar programs in other weapons. First you get the "bugs" worked out. We felt it would take about two years before we could be sure if it was working. Our current national champions in men's and women's foil took part in the program as did Robert Marx, second in epee. They did well in European competition. Others showed dramatic improvement in our national championships.

We will never know if this program would have worked because the present administration has refused to support it. We know that we have not been successful without it.

I don't blame some fencers for being un-

willing to spend a year or two of their lives in intensive fencing training. But if they are not willing to do this why should they feel entitled to receive the same benefits from the USFA as those who will?

Mr. Pinkhasov is entitled to his opinions, although why he, a professional coach, should find me culpable because our fencers were hit on the preparation is beyond me.

His statement that we are starting from zero is insulting to everyone who has volunteered his or her time, knowledge, and ideas over the years to maintain and improve the USFA. When he picks up his new Rules Book and goes to a Circuit Event, does he really believe he is going into nothing? Does he really think we should return to the days when most of the fencing was on the east and west coasts, when we had a membership of about 2,000, when all the national championships were held in New York and when our funds for programs and travel were virtually nonexistent?

The new administration is entitled to establish its own priorities. This is not intended as a criticism but is simply a parry-riposte, which is what you do when you are attacked.

Emily B. Johnson
Past President, USFA

IN MEMORIAM JOHN V. GROMBACH

BY Jeffrey Tishman

John V. Grombach (Brig. Gen. N.Y.N.G.), former secretary-general of the FIE and a prominent athlete, administrator, and author in many sports, died July 29 in Newton, N.J. He was 81.

General Grombach began his athletic career at the U.S. Military Academy, where he won the intercollegiate heavyweight boxing championship in 1923. He was named the following year to the U.S. Olympic Team for the Paris Games.

Recognizing that boxing did not offer long term athletic fulfillment, General Grombach shortly thereafter began to fence. In 1929, he placed second in the national outdoor epee individual and was a nationally ranked fencer as late as 1945. He continued to fence in the nationals

periodically until 1962, when he, with Jose deCapriles and Leo formed a composite epee team called "old guard." He was a member of York Athletic Club for more than 10 years.

General Grombach held the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army and brigadier general in the 69th N.Y. National Guard while on active service in 1928 to pursue a successful business career in a number of enterprises. He was recalled to active service in 1939 and spent WW II in the armed forces. Among his many decorations were the Legion of Merit.

At various times, he was a member of the U.S. Olympic Committees in boxing, and the modern pentathlon.

His administrative accomplishments culminated in his being named a brigadier general of the International Federation when Miguel deCapriles was elected to the presidency in 1961. With Jose deCapriles as deputy-president and Leo Nunes as treasurer, they formed an all-American quadrumvirate that led the world in international fencing until 1962.

General Grombach was a prolific author. Among his works are: "Touch of Glory" (1942), "The Saga of Sock" (1942), "The Story of Boxing," and "The Great Leap" (1980). His best known work, "The Cavalcade of Sports," (1956) remained in print for more than a century. The entire royalties of this book were generously donated by Grombach to the U.S. Olympic Committee. By the early 1970's this was estimated to be over \$250,000. He was also a major contributor to AMERICAN FENCING magazine.

The General was buried at West Point. He is survived by his wife, the former Lohinecz, to whom all fencers express deep sympathy.

As we go to press, we receive melancholy news of the death of Seija, popular and long time member of Princeton University. We will have a special issue about Mr. Seija in a later issue.

NATIONAL NEWS

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The USFA Board of Directors took a major step forward in the reorganization of our national association at its annual meeting in September in Washington, D.C. when it approved the establishment of two new executive (paid!) positions: Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. These positions were recommended to the Board by the Executive Committee and at the strong behest of our new president, Michel Mamlouk. Carla-Mae Richards was appointed interim exec. while the search goes on for permanent director. Anne Whiting, who resides in Colorado Springs and has assisted other sports at the USOC Training Center, was appointed Administrative Assistant. The top position carries a salary of \$22,500 a year.

After enduring the perils of Pauline, in and out of the budget, AMERICAN FENCING is alive and well with an allotted \$23,500 for the usual six times a year publication.

A new, probationary division, Nebraska, was approved for the Rocky Mountain Section. Welcome, Nebraska!

The Olympic Fencing Committee reported that it has appointed Jack Keane as Director of National Training.

The Board defeated by roll call vote a proposal to ease the rules on mixed competitions. The proposal would have allowed classifications to be earned if all other rules for classification were met. At present, no classifications may be earned in a mixed competition.

The president described the controversial decision of the Los Angeles Organizing Committee to accept the offer of fencing equipment made by a Soviet firm for use at the 1984 Olympics. Information on the performance of the equipment is scanty. There is little information on the details of the offer. The USFA president was not consulted about the negotiations prior to acceptance of the offer and has requested information from the LAOOC and from Mr. Brusati, president of FIE.

NEW SABRE RULE

In a major reinterpretation of the "simultaneous" situation in sabre, the FIE is requiring a new rule, effective as of January 1,

1983. The US Fencing Officials Commission has decided to make the rule effective as of December 1, 1982 so that all Circuit events will be run under the same rules for the season.

The major change is this: Once the fencers have completed one cycle of the priority — i.e.: the priority situation is over — the next simultaneous action will bring an immediate flip of the coin to establish priority again.

Under the old rule, after the priority situation was completed, the fencers had to make two simultaneous actions back to back, receive a warning, then execute another simultaneous action, then flip the coin and priority would be awarded. This is no longer the case.

In essence then, after the President has awarded priority once in the bout according to the old rule, it requires only one more simultaneous action again to bring about the coin flip and the new award of priority.

THE USFA MOVES TO COLORADO SPRINGS

The USFA Board has created the position of a full time paid Executive Director with a salary of \$22,500. In August 1982 we opened our permanent headquarters office at the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) complex in Colorado Springs, Colorado joining more than a dozen other sports who now have their permanent offices there, most of whom have also established the position of Executive Director. By this means, our organization is adopting a more professional manner in the administration of our sport.

The USFA office is open five days a week, ready to respond to any requests from the USFA membership, to process memberships, maintain multi-level records, and provide a steady flow of information to all parts of the country. Anne Whiting at headquarters office is our new Administrative Assistant who brings to fencing many years of experience with sports organizations and the USOC.

According to the job description, the Executive Director serves as the Chief Administrative official of the USFA. In this

capacity the Executive Director shall promote the USFA in order to solicit more members and to attract the media to publicize the sport. The Director is to provide services to our National Officers and committees as well as to local divisions. According to Carla Mae Richards, veteran member of the Olympic Fencing Committee who was named interim Executive Director for this fiscal year, "Underlying the tasks of the Executive Director and the National office is the goal of enhancing the image of fencing to attract increased revenue so that projects dormant in the wings can come forth and stimulate the grassroots development and international performance."

Applications Sought

The USFA Executive Committee is soliciting applications for Executive Director so that a final decision may be made during the fiscal year. Applicants should send their resumes and correspond directly to the USFA President, Michel Mamlouk, 1127 - 15th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 296-8820.

Any persons needing assistance from the National office (membership, rules book, brochures, etc.) should write or call National headquarters: USFA, 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909; (303) 632-5551.

USFA JR. OLYMPIC TRAINING CAMP

Thirty-two young fencers, six coaches, and two manager/chaperons came from all over the country for a week of intensive training last summer at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. All of the campers had qualified to attend through their placement at the J.O. Championships last February.

From wake-up at 6 A.M. until late afternoon, the youngsters had a full program of stretching, running, drills, and lessons. The coaches and fencers worked hard. The objective was not to change everyone's fencing style, but to work on correcting errors, improve and smooth out that style, and show the fencers how to work on their own fencing to improve it. In the five training days available, a lot was done to achieve the objective, and all the coaches expressed the hope that the fencers will continue the program after they get home. To assist in this, a work booklet, containing information on conditioning,

weight training, equipment maintenance and analysis of the attack and the etc., was given to each person dance.

Our coaches were Yves Auriol, J. Ron Miller, Ed Richards, Denise C and Tony Gillham, who conducted National camp with such success: campers said it was not long and

Burt

Manager, National J

CADRE SELECTED FOR 1983 PAN AMERICAN G

The Olympic Fencing Committee announced the following selections to accompany our 1983 Pan American to Caracas, Venezuela:

Captain: Jack Keane (Alt., John Manager: John Nonna (Alt., M samis)

Armorer: Dan DeChaine (Alt., J Coaches: Csaba Eithes, Henr nian, Semyon Pinkhasov (1st Alt Kolombatovich)

Designated officials by the Commission are Al Davis and Will ing.

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NEW YORK HOLDS FIFTH EMPIRE STATE GAMES

by Paul Anderson

If you can't participate in the real Olympic Games, try to interest the Governor and Head of Parks and Recreation of your State in providing a reasonable facsimile.

The fifth Empire State Games were held last August 11-15th at the same location as the previous four . . . the University of Syracuse. The University has ideal facilities for all sports, and the City of Syracuse offers some of its high school gymnasiums and tracks if needed.

Since the first New York Games in 1978, Florida started its Sunshine State Games in 1981; Pennsylvania began its Keystone State Games in August of this year; and representatives of Massachusetts and Maryland were at this year's New York Games to get more information on its operation.

For purposes of the Games, New York is divided into six regions, and each holds qualifying rounds in all sports. In fencing, three qualifiers are selected in each weapon, providing for a final of 18 fencers in Syracuse. For the finalists, by the way, it is an all expenses paid trip to and from Syracuse along with room and board, plus a blue and gold sweat suit.

The 1982 Empire State Games results:

Men's Foil:

1. Ed Wright, Yonkers, N.Y. 5-0
2. Demetros Valsamis, New York, N.Y. 3-2
3. Ed McNamara, Huntington, Long Island, 2-3
4. Bruce Milligan, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 2-3
5. Kevin Page, Lindenhurst, Long Island, 2-3
6. Anthony Leach, Rochester, N.Y. 1-4

Women's Foil:

1. Peggy Walbridge, Ithaca, N.Y. 4-1 (Fence-off)
2. Sharon Monplaisir, New York, N.Y. 4-1
3. Lisa Piazza, Brentwood, Long Island 3-2
4. Michelle Verhave, Larchmont, N.Y. 3-2
5. Puck Wullenweber, Elmira, N.Y. 1-4
6. Diana Mendley, Bronxville, N.Y. 0-5

Men's Epee:

1. George Masin, New York, N.Y. 4-1 (Fence-off)
2. Bob Hupp, Rochester, N.Y. 4-1
3. Ranjit Bhinder, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 3-2
4. Cal Schlick, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 1-4
5. Van Wolosin, Middle Island, Long Is. 1-4
6. Mark Sullivan, Rochester, N.Y. 0-5

Men's Sabre:

1. Stephen Blum, New York, N.Y. 5-0
2. George Gonzales-Rivas, New York, 4-1
3. Chaba Gall, White Plains, N.Y., 3-2
4. Barry Pariser, Newburgh, N.Y. 2-3

5. Cal Schlick, Mararoneck, N.Y. 1-4
6. Herb Mones, Selden, Long Island, 0-5

Boys Foil (Scholastic)

1. Juan Delia, Brentwood, Long Island 4-1
2. David Corta, Centereach, Long Island 3-2
3. James Cawley, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 3-2
4. Peter Chin, New York, N.Y. 2-3
5. Gregory St. Clair, Huntington Station, L.I. 2-3
6. Mathew Dalbey, Mararoneck, N.Y. 1-4

Girls Foil (Scholastic)

1. Mindy Wichlick, Huntington Station, L.I. 5-0
2. Cindy Schelling, Brentwood, Long Island, 3-2
3. Anne Harbison, New York, N.Y. 3-2
4. Susie Lord, Larchmont, N.Y. 2-3
5. Jean Yee, Long Island City, N.Y. 2-3
6. Helen Bird, Fairport, N.Y. 0-5

Sidelights:

An Oath of Officials was given at the opening ceremonies. The person selected for this function by the Director of the Games was Dernel Every, former 3-time National Foil Champion and a member of four Olympic

Teams. . . and at 76 still very much an active fencer. When the announcer had finished his introduction listing these accomplishments, all 5,700 competitors, who had been sitting in the middle of the field following their march-in, were on their feet cheering lustily.

Under the floodlights at this outdoor stadium with at least 5,000 spectators, and covered by Public Television beamed all around the state, it was a big — and loud — night for Fencing.

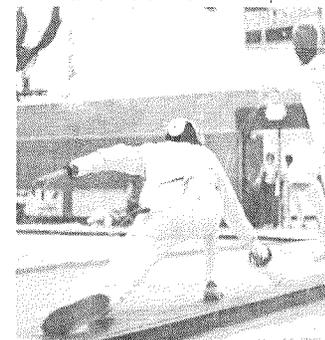
Ralph Goldstein, Chairman of Fencing was assisted by Dernel Every and the managers from the six Regions. They were: Al Kwartler, Richard Gradkowski, Paula Wichick, Cliff Mosher, Fred Eaton III, and Tom Close. Marilyn Masiero and Zelda Morley managed all of the competitions.

Ed Wright, who had placed second in 1979 and 1980, and third in 1981, came away with the Gold Medal this year in a 5-0 final round. Steven Blum also was undefeated in winning first place in sabre. There were two fence-offs for first place. George Masin ended his final round in epee with a 4-1 won-loss record, as did Bob Hupp. Masin's loss was to Hupp by a score of 5-2. In the fence-off

George turned it around complete feated Hupp by a score of 5-1.

The other fence-off was in Women when Peggy Walbridge defeated Monplaisir by a score of 5-3. Mind who won the Gold Medal in the Girl tic foil was undefeated in the pre the semi-finals and the finals for a bouts won with no losses.

George Masin (right) and Ranjit Bhinder the final round at the N.Y. Empire State Games.



The epee finalist stood in order of their finish: George Masin in a fence-off with Bob Hupp, 2. Ranjit Bhinder; 4. Cal Schlick; 5. Van Wolosin; 6. Mark Sullivan. Both photos by Paul Anderson.





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FENCING AND FAIRPLAY

by Chris Weber

Peasant lad and noblewoman alike gasp as the brave hero seems outmatched and doomed to death. But with a feint and flourish his foil finds its mark, felling the evil courtier.

No, this isn't a remake of **The Three Musketeers**. The crowd in 16th century garb are the performers and patrons of the 20th annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Agoura, California. They've just witnessed the demonstration of theatrical fencing at the Faire's swordsmanship booth.

The flashy theatrical fencing attracts spectators, but the Faire stresses participation. For a few dollars Faire goers receive an actual lesson in Olympic style foil.

The Templars Fencing Club of Downey, California sponsors this unusual introduction to the sport and art of fencing. Robert Budemeyer and Suzanne Gobbi lead shifts of fourteen instructors in coaching 100-150 students a day during the six weekends of this spring event.

The half hour lesson includes the use of foil, jacket and a mask, all supplied by the Templars. A three phase approach is the

basis for instruction. Fundamentals of stance, movement and simple parries and thrusts are covered with three to four students in a short group session. Then the new fencers go one-on-one with an instructor to practice what they've learned. Finally they move to the strip itself for a five touch match with yet another member of the club.

For many this is their first taste of fencing. Typical reactions are enthusiastic: "Lots of fun," "...Exciting," "...Tiring," "...I'd like to take lessons."

Others relish the unexpected chance to practice their favorite sport. One visitor had, he said, fenced "a little". Only after he demolished the best fencer on the shift did his instructors discover he was the captain of the Stanford University varsity team. Other "students" included fencers from Cal State Long Beach, Golden State College, and El Camino Junior College.

Costuming is also a bit out of the ordinary. The Templars wear special Renaissance style fencing jackets. Faire goers' garb ranges from bawdy wench and



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Brothers Grimm princess to Tolkien wizard and Elizabethan lord. According to Ms. Gobbi, "You meet a lot of crazy people."

The seventy-five member Templars Club meets weekly throughout the year at the Downey Recreation Center as well as sponsoring demonstrations at other parks and libraries. In its ninth year, the group also offers classes in fencing through Cerritos College.

They look forward to their sixth year at the Faire next spring. After all, where else can you skip off between matches and sip stout ale while watching Shakespeare?

JUNIOR ESSAY CONTEST

WIN CASH PRIZES

All you have to do is to write in handwriting in 300 words or less pic: "Why I Like Fencing." Sign your age and address on the back of the mail it to AMERICAN FENCING CONTEST, 2201 Bywood Drive, Oe 94602, before February 1st, 1983

Conditions of contest: You UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE before 1, 1983. The essay must be in YC WORDS and in your own handwriting one entry per person.

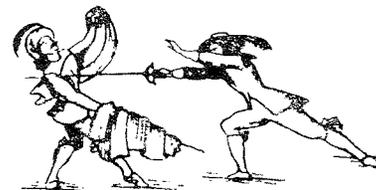
Winners will be announced at Olympics Championships. You do to be there to win. Because this is a your writing ability (and not your prowess), it does not affect your status in fencing to win one of these WHY do you like fencing?

Send in your entry soon!

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2nd Prize: \$15.00

3rd & 4th Prizes: \$10.00



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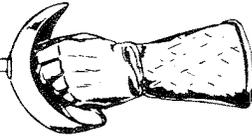
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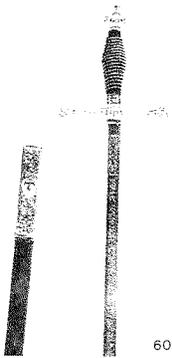
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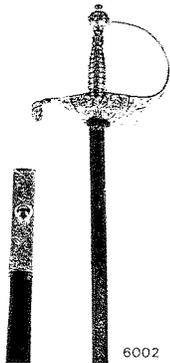
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Battle Axe. 28" long. Silver steel. \$16.95



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Rapier with sheath 37" long. Gold with silver, steel engraved blade. \$44.95



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Rapier with sheath 35" long. Gold with silver, steel engraved blade. \$44.95



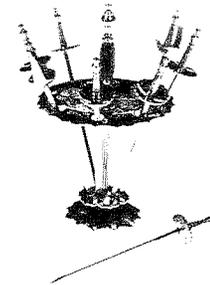
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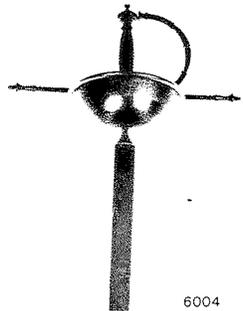
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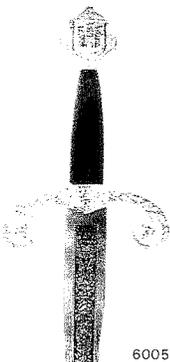
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Sword letter opener. 5" long. Gold engraved. \$3.95



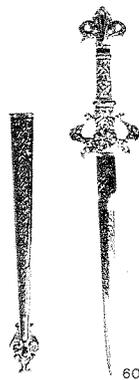
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Set of 8 4" long sword with holder. Gold engrave \$7.95



6004
Dueling sword. 42" long. Engraved, steel guard and blade. \$49.95



6005
Broadsword 41" long. Gold with silver, steel engraved blade. \$44.95



6006
Dagger with sheath. 10" long. Gold with silver, gold, steel engraved blade. \$24.95



7001
Gold \$3.40



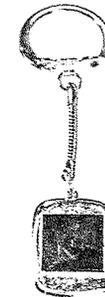
7002
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7003
\$2.40



7004
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ENTRY FORM

1983 USFA JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Name (please print) _____			Birth day _____
Address _____			Telephone # _____
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	USFA Membership # _____
Club _____	Division _____	Section _____	
Hometown Newspaper _____			

1. **ENTRY** Please circle all events you wish to enter. Also mark Qual Rank and Weapons Classification.

Qual Rank	Qual Rank	Weapons Classification
U-20 M.Foil _____	U-16 M.Foil _____	M. Foil _____
U-20 W.Foil _____	U-16 W.Foil _____	W.Foil _____
U-20 Epee _____	U-16 Epee _____	Epee _____
U-20 Sabre _____	U-16 Sabre _____	Sabre _____

2. **FEES:** Total No. Events Circled _____ X \$7.50 = \$ _____ + \$10 = \$ _____

The Registration Fee for every fencer in the JO's is \$10. Please do not send cash. Make check payable to: Central Florida Division/USFA

ENTRY DEADLINE IS JANUARY 22

Send entry and fees to Jim Campoli, 313 East Shore Drive, Oldsmar, FL 33557. Include self-addressed stamped business (long) envelop with entry.

3. Upon entering these events under the auspices of the United States Fencing Association, I agree to abide by the rules of the USFA as currently published. I enter at my own risk and release the USFA, its Central Florida Division, and tournament officials from any liability. The undersigned certifies that the individual for which this entry is submitted is duly qualified to enter the 1983 Junior Olympics, and the individual's birthday is as stated above and the individual is a member of the USFA for the 1982-83 season.

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____

Fencers Signature _____

Director's: if you're coming too, let us know your weapon rating and when you are available to officiate.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Weapon and Classification _____
 Day and Time Available _____

FUN AND GAMES: There will be that too, at the 1983 JOs. Complete details in your entry packet, along with the answers to such questions as "How do I get to Disney World and EPCOT?" and "Can I really go to the beach?"

1983 USFA JUNIOR OLYMPIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: February 19-20-21, 1983

Place: Jefferson High School, Tampa, Florida

Headquarters: The Holiday Inn Airport Convention Center, (across the street from ment site). Accomodations: \$58 single or double, Holiday Inn "Kids policy. Make reservations directly with hotel (813) 879-4800. Tell them fencing.

Schedule: Board of Directors Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 19, 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, Feb. 19	Sunday, Feb. 20	Monday, Feb.
8 A.M. U-20 MF	8 A.M. U-20 WF	8 A.M. U-16
9:30 A.M. U-16 MS	9:30 A.M. U-16 ME	9:30 A.M. U-16
11 A.M. U-16 WF	11 A.M. U-20 MS	

Weapons Check: Friday, Feb. 18, 3-5 P.M. and 7-9 P.M. at Holiday Inn Airport; and a High School 45 minutes prior to each event.

Eligibility: The Junior Olympic National Championships are open to members of States Fencing Association who have qualified through their resp sions in accordance with the rules of the USFA. The number of que each division for both U-16 and U-20 events is based on the number (the qualifying round (not including automatic qualifiers) according to ing formula: qualifying round 1-11 entries, two qualifiers: 12-20, three 21-30, four qualifiers; 31 or more, five qualifiers. The number of all- event per division equals the number of qualifiers.

Age Requirement: All fencers in the qualifying rounds must be under 16 or under 20 y depending on the event, as of January 1, 1983. Persons turning 16 or 20 on Jan. 1, 1983 are ineligible.

Automatic Automatic qualifiers may enter without qualifying from their divisio they still meet the age requirements. Automatic qualifiers for U-20 ev first six finalists in that event at the '82 JOs, members of the '82 U.S. Team, all other previous Jr. National champions on either an U-19 basis. Automatic qualifiers for U-16 events are the U-16 finalists at th they still meet the age requirement.

Certification: All fencers in the qualifying rounds must be members of the USFA. A the JOs will be certified by the USFA National Secretary before being

To Enter: Fill out the entry form on the next page. Send it along with registratio fees to: Jim Campoli, 313 East Shore Drive, Oldsmar, FL 33557. Ent \$10 registration and \$7.50 per event. Make checks payable to Central Florida Division /USFA. Enclose a stamped self-addressed business (long size) envelope for firmation and additional tournament information. DEADLINE FOR ENT 22, 1983. Deadline for withdrawal notification for full refund is Jan. 29. accepted will be notified beginning Jan. 24. Competitors may enter al which they have qualified, however, in case of two or more ever concurrently, the fencer bears the burden of choosing one or the fencing bouts in each weapon in rapid order when called.

Note to Division Secretaries: Immediately upon completion of the divisional JO qualifying event, submit the following inf BOTH Eleanor Turney, 601 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706 AND to the United States Fencing / 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909: (1) the number of eligible fencers in the competition, NOT including automatic qualifiers; (2) the names of qualifiers and automatics in c placing in the competition along with their weapons classification; (3) the names of alternates their placing. (Each division is allowed as many alternates as there are qualifiers.) ALL the abo tion must be provided for each event before any entries can be accepted from your division. C for this information to both Eleanor Turney and USFA National office is Jan. 15, 1983.

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REGIONAL NEWS

FIRST SANTELLI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP RECEIVES ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

The fencers were disciplined and the electrical equipment functioned smoothly as 42 boys and girls from the Metropolitan, New Jersey, Connecticut, New England, and Long Island Divisions competed for trophies donated by Betty Santelli. Sponsor Miklos Bartha, fencing master at the Santelli School of Fencing where the meet was held, declared that the level of fencing was "generally very good for these age levels. The fencers showed good aggressive competitive spirit with attacks and well executed parries and ripostes."

Electric equipment was used for all events. For the 7-8-9 and the 10-11 year categories special small handles, light-guards, and #4 blade foils were provided.

Results: Girls, 12-13 yrs. (4 entries)

1. Erika Forbes, TCFC (J. Pechinsky)
2. Jill Tobia, BFC (T. Boutsikaris)
3. Ildiko Szedo, HAAC (F. Farkas)
4. Janet Rossman, BHS (J. Wolfe)

Boys, 12-13 yrs. (14 entries)

1. Alan Weber, S. Tanya (T. Adamovich)
2. Josh Huttenbach, Santelli (J. Shaw)
3. Mark Kent, FCFC (W. Wojda)
4. Alex Chvany, DHFC (D. Rodgers)
5. David Leviton, HAAC (F. Farkas)
6. Arpad Marsh, HAAC (F. Farkas)

Boys and Girls, 10-11 yrs. (12 entries)

1. Ben Atkins, Santelli (M. Bartha)
2. Tim Rawls, TCFC (J. Pechinsky)
3. Alex Marsh, HAAC (F. Farkas)
4. Jill Tobia, BFC (T. Boutsikaris)
5. Sean Bohary, Santelli (J. Shaw)
6. Whitney McNamara, Santelli (J. Shaw)

Boys and Girls, 7-8-9 yrs. (12 entries)

1. Jesse Furman, Santelli (J. Shaw)
2. Josh Heitler, Santelli (J. Shaw)
3. Erica Szedo, HAAC (F. Farkas)
4. Alec Rogers, Santelli (J. Shaw)
5. Cyrus Weinberger, Santelli (J. Shaw)
6. Peter HiggsCoul, TCFC (J. Pechinsky)

(Editor's note: Our thanks to Maitre Bartha, who sent in the above report, for also including the names of the fencing masters of the fencers.)

FENCING WITH PARTIAL VISION

by Alys B. Chadow



It's not as difficult for a partially sighted person to engage in the sport of fencing as one might imagine. My own story of this endeavor will bear me out on this point.

I think it's necessary to give some background on my tale. I am partially sighted and have been so since the age of sixteen when the discovery of a brain tumor at the back of my head crushed my optic nerves, causing a nearly total loss of vision in my left eye and a partial loss of vision in my right. As one could easily imagine, a sport such as fencing could hardly be considered an appropriate one for someone with a disability such as mine, but to my mind it was a challenge well worth the taking.

Last fall, during my senior year at SUNY Stony Brook, I became intrigued with the idea of learning how to fence. Naturally, friends and family tried desperately to dissuade me from this scheme on the grounds that it was "unsafe," "a danger to my vision," and "an unfit sport for a disabled person."

DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME

My determination was far greater than their fears, however, and I was soon free of the problem of overly cautious friends.

My next problem was finding the facilities in which to fence. This was not so difficult, however, since Stony Brook had its own fencing club, and it was around the first week of September that I was able to make the acquaintance of its president. I not only wanted to familiarize myself with the club, but as well familiarize the club with my particular needs and desires.

While my inclusion into the club was a rapid and very welcome one, there still remained one major problem: How was I going to learn to fence? A totally sighted person has no problem in this endeavor because he can see what he is doing. A totally blind person also has no problem in this particular matter because the blind are taught to fence in a completely different way from the sighted. My being in that gray area between

the two meant more individualized which also meant that inclusive school's fencing class was virtually

ble. However, all was not lost. The club's advisor, as well as the course and the president and two or three people helped me learn to fence.

One such person was the club's Hungarian-born three weapon master, an interesting blend of good humor and work. He treated me like a total individual in his lessons, drilling parries, advances, and lunges, just as anybody else. His attitude was a help for the last thing I was looking for: a ride due to my eyesight.

Another club member important was the president's younger brother, a cellent fencer in his own right and understanding human being as consistently engaging me in free-fight developed my newly acquired fence and sharpened my technique.

The club's faculty advisor and president were instrumental in my early training. They taught me basic steps on a one-to-one basis. Each week one or two would drill me in advances and retreats, widely known how important a fencer's work can be, and someone in my club was the last one to be the exception to the rule.

Once my footwork was down pat, the next step was to put a weapon in my hand and have me face an opponent. Learning to fence the foil was easy enough. It was not so difficult when another fencer was coming at me. I don't focus on objects quickly, but I learned to get around this by developing my "sixth sense", by substituting my eyesight a kind of instinct for when the blade was going to strike. I attributed a particular technique to a club member

was later to become a good friend. His idea was that since I was still able to see (1) my opponent's white jacket and (2) the tip of the blade itself, I would have some idea of when it was coming at me. Because I have learned to fence in this manner, I have been able to build up a strong defence for myself.

Tournaments were undoubtedly the best experience I had in terms of my growth as a fencer. In my first tournament, I placed sixteenth out of twenty-two people, which I feel frankly to be quite an accomplishment. In a meet with another club, my team took second place, although this was certainly no thanks to me. In my third tournament, I began to feel that I had improved. I became more aggressive, attacking more often and becoming, as a result, less predictable on the strip. In the last tournament in which I fenced, I worried not at all about being attacked, initiating many attacks, and placing fourteenth out of nineteen.

OBSTACLES REMAIN

While the picture I have painted here is a fairly rosy one, there are still some problems. For one thing, I have a difficult time seeing the very tips of the blades which are darkly colored. A brighter color on the tips, such as fluorescent orange, would greatly help my fencing.

I also don't fare well in poorly lit rooms at night, when my vision tends to be at its worst. I have taken the former problem to the United States Association of Blind Athletes, but after hearing of some of the difficulties I have encountered, they too tried to dissuade me from the sport, although they are "looking into the problem." I still haven't brought this to the attention of the USFA, but I intend to make that a future project. After all, how many partially sighted people do you know who are able to fence?

For those of you in my position who think they might like to try fencing, I heartily encourage you, but I offer some words of advice:

1. Don't allow ANYONE to dissuade you. (Their negative and discouraging reactions will only add to your determination.)
2. Get yourself into a club, not a class course. You need the attention that an instructor, no matter how understanding, simply can't give. He has too many other students to worry about.
3. Make sure you have your doctor's OK before becoming a swashbuckler. Partial vi-

sion may be the result of a chronic illness, such as diabetes, which does not make it the best idea in the world to take up fencing.

4. Develop your own special technique. It could be like the one I use, or it could be something totally different. Whatever it is, tailor it to your own needs.

5. Fence with fully sighted people as much as possible. You'll not only learn from them they'll also learn from you.

These are only the most basic of guidelines. You should also take into account the flexibility of the coach, the availability of equipment, and other such things.

But there is no reason in the world why a person with partial vision can't learn to be a recreational or even a competitive fencer. After all, if this one can do it, anyone can.

REGIONAL NEWS

LARGE CROWD DRAWS BIRMINGHAM TOURNEY

The 1982 Birmingham Fencing Championship ran all day on three strips set up in a protected display area in the large Century Plaza Mall in Birmingham, Alabama. An estimated 12,000 spectators enjoyed all or parts of the day's competitions. The fencers took turns explaining the actions on a P.A. system and handing out 2,000 free flyers explaining the sport.

The meet was sponsored by the one year old Birmingham Fencers Club and drew competitors from several Alabama cities as well as from out of state. Trophies were awarded for three places in every event and all competitors came away with a nice souvenir mug. In addition, the novice competitors each received a fencing medallion.

Coach Dino Jovaras, who has introduced hundreds of Birminghamians to fencing, did not compete, but was very much present all day directing, and supplying electric equipment to more than a dozen novices.

Winners in each division were as follows:

MEN'S OPEN FOIL: 1: Herb Spector, BFC; 2: Bill Engell, New England FC; 3: Joe Dabbs, Huntsville.

WOMEN'S OPEN FOIL: 1: Carol Gertz, Ft. McClellan; 2: Regina Kellenberger, Tuscaloosa; 3: D. D. Nicolau, BFC.

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MEN'S OPEN SABRE: 1. Herb Spector, 2. Joe Dabbs; 3. James Fitzpatrick, BFC.

WOMEN'S OPEN SABRE: 1. Carol Gertz; 2. D. D. Nicolau; 3: Rigena Kellenberger.

NOVICE FOIL MIXED: 1. Hugh Butler, BFC; 2. Gordon Reynolds, BUAB; 3. Alan Tidwell, BFC; 4. Paul Chramer, BUAB.

BULLETIN BOARD

PORTLAND PROJECT STILL A FLOAT

by Colleen Olney
In the last issue of AMERICAN FENCING we indicated that we were planning for a second year of training in Portland, even though we did not know if any money would be available from U.S., Olympic funds which are dispursed through the USFA. Well, the worst has happened. In September we recieved the sad news that there were not enough USOC funds for our Portland Project. However, plans for use of some of the

USFO funds cover similar asptained in the proposed Portlar budget, such as a training trip and funds set aside for lessons senior and junior fencers.

I called the individuals and c who had pledged financial suppportland Project and gave them of the loss of Olympic financ tance. They all agreed, and one even pledged more, to continu port the project. Therefore, IT AFLOAT. And the name has beer to: U.S. Fencing Center.

There are seven fencers trair with an eighth one arriving sho train daily and are working members support the policie USFA. We intend to send month to supporters of the project. I interested, contact Colleen Olr SE 117th, Portland Oregon 97216

SUMMER FENCING C

A SUMMER FENCING CAMP w mid-July in Cleveland Heights, O soreed by the Parks and Rec. Dep

Alcazar Fencing Club. The five day program attracted Junior champions as well as beginning young fencers. A similar camp is slated for next year.

Alcazar is also sponsoring its second annual CHRISTMAS TRAINING CAMP FROM December 17 to 31; cost is \$25, with housing available for \$25 extra. Fencers must supply their own bedding and meals. For further information, contact Wm. Reith, Alcazar FC, 13457 Cedar Rd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118.

AMERICAN FENCERS SUPPLY SPONSORS BLADE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR J.O. FINALISTS

If the rising cost of replacing broken fencing blades is beginning to discourage our top Junior fencers, they should take heart. A San Francisco company, American Fencers Supply, has announced a system of "Blade Support" in which it will help to replace broken blades of the 1983 National Jr. Olympic

finalists in all four weapons to the following extent:

- Under-16 National Championships
 1st place — 10 blades per year
 2nd place — 50% discount on 10 blades
 3rd place — 50% discount on 10 blades
 4th thru 8th place — 30% discount on 10 blades
- Under-20 National Championships
 1st place — 75% discount on 10 blades
 2nd place — 50% discount on 10 blades
 3rd place — 50% discount on 10 blades
 4th thru 8th place — 30% discount on 10 blades

Details will be announced later.



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Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes

As I remarked in my last, the kind of thread-wrapped insulation found on commercially available wire sets is very friendly to most kinds of glue. That is one of their advantages. In fact, the converse is also pretty much true; I don't know of any ordinary glue that reacts badly with the thread-type wrapped insulations. However, various plastic insulations often seem to fight glue. Unfortunately, wire-wrap ("Kynar") is one of these. Incidentally, some glues have been known to start dissolving laqueur insulation; therefore, when you have such a wire, better try a bit of your glue on the end first to see what happens.

The flexibility of the wire you are using is also a factor. Be alert that the wire-wrap types seem to stretch more easily than most. However, since they don't stretch back (they are not elastic, just ductile), you may find that they will readily "bubble up" out of the groove, fighting the glue, and leaving you wondering where all that extra wire came from. If the extrusion of wire gets too bad, there's nothing for it but stripping it out and re-wiring again, of course.

One detail of assembly that can contribute to popping wires, in my experience, is putting too big a bend in the blade while the glue is drying. I have seen illustrations that suggest that you should put a bend in the blade as deep as you probably ever expect to see it flexed in a bout. No. Definitely not. A very moderate amount of bend will do, thank you. In fact, one prominent university coach has assured me that in all the years he has been wiring blades he has never bothered to bend the blades at all while the glue is drying. Most people would be inclined to call that bending over in the wrong direction, or something of the sort, I think. However, the basic idea is not too far off: less bend gives fewer problems than too much bend.

I hope it doesn't need to be said, but trying to glue a wire down to a rusty, dirty, greasy blade is a waste of time. Clean it thoroughly. Get all the old glue out of the groove. Solvents, grinders (very small hand-held models), short lengths of hack saw blade used as scrapers — all these can be useful. One way or another, get it squeaky clean.

All sorts of glues have been tried over the years, in a search for the elusive perfect blade adhesive. Probably there isn't any

such thing. Anyway, I have space to mention a very few, worth mentioning one reason or another. Factory as from this country at least, favor the epoxies, but if you don't have an oven, or at least a bank of infrared that's not for you. Regular epoxy is used, of course, though they can't work with. An old favorite of a twenty-five years ago was "Pliobond" still available, and stays reasonable and survives for a few years before it goes out. Though some people still like it only to discourage you from using it. For one thing, it smells awful; worse, the world's greatest pain to try to get it out of the groove if you have to re-wire. Probably you are the only person who will ever deal with that blade again, so I don't bring it to me, please. (The one that comes on Russian blades, quite a different formula, is apparently a very different formula; anybody who has tried to strip out one of those will know I am talking about.)

The ordinary transparent "household" sold under the "Duco" and "Krazy Glue" trademarks, work very well in some circumstances. They dry pretty fast, but I don't recommend trying a full wiring of any of the "Crazy Glue" types of cyanoacrylates. They simply dry too fast, and are dangerous: you can wind up glue on your blade alongside your wire. I use them only for quick tack-down repairs — that's popping out, where they work long as you are careful. And never use them unless you have the proper solvent or acetone, or at least nail polish remover on hand in case of a slip.

Recently, some rewirers have been using silicone formulas in place of more traditional glues. These are the types sold as silicone glue as well as caulking. Caulking alone seems to be a messier. In any case, this material has a tendency to come on in quantity when you wipe away, and eventuate in the excess. I prefer it for epoxies, when that's what I'm wiring, and what's around for glue.

Excess of any kind in glue is a real problem. A little glue goes a long way. Run it into the groove of the blade, set some on itself, force the wire down into the groove, wipe off the excess. Pull the wire down tang, take a coil or so around the tang,

sure that the wire is really all the way down into the groove. Let it dry. Wipe the top of the blade clean before the glue has dried. If necessary scrape the blade with a sharp knife or razor blade, to be sure you haven't left a layer of transparent (glue) insulation on the metal to create off-targets.

Some people have asked if it's OK to mount a foil blade with the groove on the bottom. A few years ago, I saw a statement

claiming that the Russians "invented" that type of mount. Could be, but I know I assembled a foil that way in 1963 for a member of our Pan Am team. Even with the latest (just announced) specifications for how the thumb must relate to the edges of the blade, it looks as though there's no provision in the rules to forbid that kind of mounting. Whether there's any advantage to it, I would not guess.

NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT INFORMATION

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries MUST BE POSTMARKED TEN (10) DAYS prior to the circuit event. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED — Exception: Some circuit (##) hosts may establish a penalty fee for the entries with a later postmark. Absolutely no entries will be accepted the day of the event. Entry forms may be obtained from USFA, 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909 or from responsible person listed below.

ENTRY FEES: Wherever possible the entry fee is shown with the address to which entry

is to be sent. At all Sabre events AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$10 must be paid; this is a deposit fee that will be returned when fencer remains one round beyond the round in which he is eliminated.

MEMBERSHIP: ALL FENCERS MUST BE PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE USFA or other recognized fencing federation. A current membership card must be shown at the time of registration. No fencer will be allowed to fence if this requirement is not met.

ENTRY DATA: SPRING, 1983

EVENT # & NAME DATE	ENTRY FEE SITE	PAYABLE TO TIME	SEND ENTRY TO
#3 Helene Mayer WF Mar. 12	\$20 College of San Mateo	No. Cal. Div. USFA 8 A.M.	Wally Oliver, 419 Laurel Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025
#3 General Dynamics E Mar. 19	\$20	8 A.M.	Cas Bonk, 1442 Ashland Ave., Claremont, CA 91711
#3 ChicagoLand MF Mar. 26	\$20 Univ. Ill. @ Chic. Circle	Ill. Div., USFA 8 A.M.	Fred Rhodes, 458 W. Briar Pl., Chicago, IL 60657
#4 Governor-General S Apr. 9,10 OR Santelli S Apr. 10			Federation d'Escrire du Quebec, 1415 est, rue Jarry, Montreal, H2E 2Z7
#4 Cherry Blossom E Apr. 16	\$20 George Mason University	Capitol Div. 8 A.M.	James Booth, 14028 Dav Road, Rockville, MD 20850
#4 Cherry Blossom MF Apr. 17			
#4 Csiszar WF David Micahnik, Univ. Penn., D.I.A., Apr. 23	\$20 Univ. Penn.	D. Micahnik 8 A.M.	Weightman Hall, E7, Phila., PA 19104
#4 Sabre Circuit Event pending final decision. The Jan/Feb. issue of American Fencing will publish final status. Persons wishing early notice, write to USFA, 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.			
*TIME = Close of registration for event. No fencer allowed to fence after time specified. Event starts ½ hour later.			
*** #4 WF circuit event is a special two-day event with 2nd day = D.E. of final 24.			
Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (#10) with entry for confirmation & additional tournament information.			

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