

June/July/August 1987

American

FENCING



CAITLIN BILODEAUX

DAN AMERICAN FOIL CHAMPION

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CONTENTS

Editorial	4
Captain's Preliminary Report on the 10th Pan American Games <i>by Carl Borack</i>	5
Fencing in Paradise <i>by Ed Shè</i>	7
The Halt, The Lame and The Blind <i>an interview with Chaba Pallyghy by A. Axelrod</i>	8
Editor Waples Wins Swiss Fencing Championships <i>from USIA World</i>	9
The Enterprise World Cup Sabre Tournament — A Retrospective <i>by Joel Glucksman</i>	11
Coaches Corner <i>an interview with Emmanuil Kaidanov by A. Axelrod</i>	14
Bulletin Board	18
That's How They Direct in Europe! — A Correction	18
In Memoriam — Odon Niederkirchner	19
To The Editor	20
Officers' Corner	21
World Championship Preliminary Results	22
Epee Masters in Paris <i>by Chaba Pallyghy</i>	22
Observations at Lausanne World Championships <i>from "L'Equipe," translated by Mary Huddleson</i>	23
Results	25-27

On The Cover

*Caitlin Bilodeaux smiles with a victory sign which also symbolizes her two gold medals.
photo by Jeffrey Piety*



THE TENTH PAN AMERICAN GAMES — The Tenth Pan-American Games were held in the Convention Center adjacent to the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome. Attendance at all events was high and the non-fencing audiences were near unanimous in their expression of enjoyment at seeing fencing for the first time.

The games were a bitter-sweet experience for the U.S. fencers. The women fenced as a balanced team. Sharon Montplaisir, an anchor with her three victories, led the way to victory over the strong Cuban fencers. And Katy Bilodeaux put the icing on the cake for our women, as well as for herself by easily winning the Gold Medal—a fitting wedding present for herself and her husband-to-be!

For the men, no sweetness. They fought valiantly and hard. However, the Cuban men were more determined and pushed their way into first place with scores that were painfully close. (See the Captain's Preliminary Report on the next page).

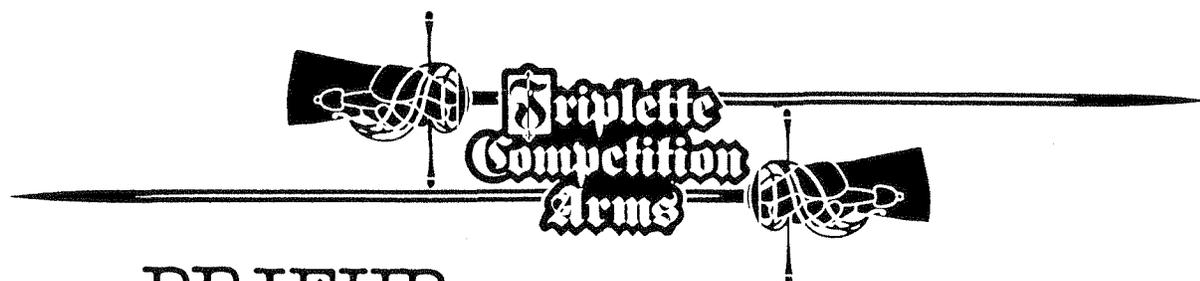
The audience response to the different weapons was both interesting and understandable. In the saber fencing, they found themselves constantly confused and ultimately amused by the frequent repetition of double hits, the tossing of a large disk which clattered loudly when it landed on the

metallic strip and the vagaries of priorities. (A system has been suggested in which priority is established at random before the fencers begin to fence, and must fence without knowing who has the priority! In the event of a double touch, the apriori decision on priority is revealed, the touch awarded, and new priority is again established on a random basis for the next double hit. Thus, the fencers never know who has the priority and hopefully will fence saber as it once was fenced!)

Nor could the strategy of the 10 meter rearward dash to the rear limit of the strip, after having fought to gain that distance, be explained to anyone's satisfaction.

The audience showed much more understanding and excitement in the foil and epee matches where the combatants stood their ground and fenced rather than constantly taking flight. Here was something they could follow as well as keep track of the score.

These events showed conclusively that fencing can be made interesting for audiences new to fencing. However, serious thought must be given to modifications in ground rules and penalties in order to demystify scoring procedures in the eyes of the less initiated.



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Katy Bilodeaux and Women's Team Sweep Pan-Am Gold Medals

by Carl Borack, Team Captain



The Women's Pan American Gold Winning Team — from left to right — M.J. O'Neill, Molly Sullivan, Caitlin Bilodeaux, team mascot Cassandra Pallaghy, Elaine Chervis, and Sharon Montplaisir.

Photo by M. Dasaro — camera courtesy of Canon; film and processing courtesy of Mike Tette of Eastman Kodak.

For the first time since 1955, an American women's foil fencer has won the Pan American Gold Medal. "Katy" Bilodeaux fenced magnificently as she became the first American women's foilist since Maxine Mitchell to win the Pan American Games event. Going from good to great, The American women's team, composed of Sharon Montplaisir, Elaine Chervis, Molly Sullivan, and M.J. O'Neill, joined Katy in adding a gold medal to their collections by defeating Cuba to win the foil team event. Over the two day event, The U.S. women defeated Argentina 9-3, and Mexico 9-2 in the preliminary rounds; soundly trounced Canada 9-1 in the semi-finals; and routed Cuba in a very exciting finals, 9-6.

Our women fenced superbly and operated as a team. They were focused, spirited, and clearly dominated the tournament. Each of them "pulled their weight" and won when they had to. Sharon Montplaisir led the team against the Cubans going undefeated and winning three. Elaine, M.J. and Katy each had two victories.

The 1200 in attendance at the finals were treated to a rare display of unity and strength as our women showed they

were the best in the Western Hemisphere. The last time an American women's team won a gold was 1971, at Cali, Colombia. Since then, the event has been dominated by the Cuban fencers.

In the individual event, "Katy" was clearly the best fencer in the field. She was seeded number one in the tableau of 16, where she defeated Reyes of El Salvador, 8-2, and Poirier of Canada, 8-2, to enter the finals.

Katy's first bout in the final was Poirier (once again), which she won 8-5. She then faced Estrada of Mexico who had defeated Rodriguez of Cuba, 10-9. Bilodeaux destroyed Estrada, 8-0. This set up the final bout with Phillion of Canada. Phillion had made the gold medal bout by defeating Karlena Sampson of El Salvador, 8-1, and Lourdes Lozano of Mexico, 8-2, in the tableau, and Lozano (once again) and Estrada of Cuba in the final.

The bout for the gold was fiercely contested. Katy prevailed as she stormed back from a 4-6 deficit and won 8-6. She is clearly the number one woman fencer we have at this time.

Sharon Montplaisir was the other American entry in the individual event and placed sixth. Sharon was seeded number one in the tableau. She won her first bout against Veronica Espinoza of Chile, 8-4. She then drew Caridad Estrada of Cuba and lost 8-4, putting her in the repechage bout with Eloisa Moraes of Brazil which she won, 8-1.

In the final, Sharon once again drew Estrada of Cuba. She lost the bout 8-5, the last touch being very controversial. Sharon's disappointment spurred her on in the team event where she compiled a record of ten victories and one defeat.

Since the women's fencing has been dominated by the Cubans for so long, it was a particularly sweet victory for all. Performing these victories in front of a hometown crowd was stimulating and motivating, and gave the victory an extra special touch.

All of us are very proud of their accomplishments. We were all touched by their spirit and the level of camaraderie they displayed. Each with their own unique styles, they outfenced their opponents. M.J. with sheer determination, Katy with panache, Elaine with a variety of touches from her repertoire and Sharon with her competitive intensity. While Molly Sullivan didn't get to fence in the final, she distinguished herself the previous day with an impressive 5 victories and one defeat. Having her in reserve was a terrific trump card that we didn't have the opportunity to play.

Katy Bilodeaux will be married by the time you read this article. She is marrying the fine Canadian saber fencer, Jean-Marie Banos, who won a bronze medal in the Pan American

saber event. Jean-Marie's brother, Jean-Paul, defeated Peter Westbrook, 12-11, to capture the Pan American individual saber title. (Because of deadlines, the complete Pan American and World Championship reports will appear in the next issue.) All of us wish Katy and Jean-Marie much success in their marriage. Our congratulations also go to Dr. Aladar Kogler who has worked hard in helping Katy reach her goals. In the five years he has worked with Katy, her game has progressed on a steady climb.

The following are the Pan American Results:

MEN'S EVENTS

Men's Foil Ind.	Men's Epee Ind.	Men's Saber Ind.
1. Betancourt, Cuba	Pedroso, Cuba	Banos, J-P, Can
2. Diaz, Cuba	Loyola, Cuba	Westbrook, USA
3. Marx, M., USA	Chouinard, Canada	Banos, J-M, Can
4. Turiace, Arg.	DiTella, Arg.	Laverdeza, Cuba
Men's Foil Team	Men's Epee Team	Men's Saber Team
1. Cuba	Cuba	Cuba
2. Canada	USA	USA
3. USA	Colombia	Canada
4. Argentina	Canada	Venezuela

WOMEN'S EVENTS

Women's Foil Ind.	Women's Epee Ind.	Women's Foil Team
1. Bilodeaux, USA	Esteri, Cuba	USA
2. Philion, Canada	Figuera, Cuba	Cuba
3. Estrada, C., Cuba	Bradford, USA	Mexico
4. Estrada, B., Mex.	Laguna, Chile	Canada

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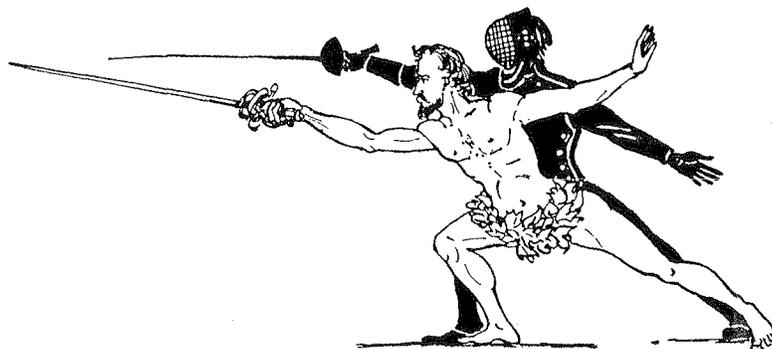
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Fencing In Paradise

by Ed Shè

Sunday. The plunking sound of the ukulele accompanies sibilant vocals, amplified by the nearby amphitheater in Kapiolani Park; a strain of Hawaiian music lilt through the ironwood trees. Waves lapping Waikiki beach keep time as tourists and residents alike splash in the clear, blue water and bask in the warm sunshine. A gentle offshore breeze wafts through an old, concrete, beachside pavilion. Within, sheltered by the shade and cooled by the breeze, masked figures in white clash in pairs, adding the sounds of ringing steel to the music of life.

This facility, the Queen's Surf Pavilion, just down the beach from Waikiki's hotels in the direction of famous Diamond Head, is one of the four locations for public fencing in Hawai'i. Every Sunday, from three to six p.m., fencers from all over O'ahu meet here to practice foil, épée and saber, pitting themselves against their fellows to improve their technique.

Those who know, also teach; one end of the pavilion is filled with novice fencers in shorts or sweat pants, holding borrowed foils and practicing their lunges and parries. There is never any fee for lessons; experienced fencers give them gladly, always eager for new and developing competition.

The Queen's Surf facility, and several others, are available with the cooperation of the City and County of Honolulu, through the courtesy of the Hawai'i Fencing Association, based in Honolulu. The HFA is composed of a core of formal members and a majority of associated members who take every opportunity to meet in fighting and fellowship. All the members work hard to ensure the continuation of fencing in Hawai'i, and all those who participate deserve mention for their dedicated efforts to support fencing activities in the islands.

There is little formal support for fencing in Hawai'i; only a few of the more elite high schools actually teach fencing, and there is currently no state-supported fencing nor any olympic-qualified facility available. Hopefully this will change when Governor John Waihe'e approves the construction of an olympic-style athletic facility at West Beach on O'ahu. Principals interested in the development of fencing in Hawai'i have been communicating closely with his office, hoping to upgrade the facilities of our isolated island state.

Within the last year, the HFA has sponsored both a foil tournament and an épée tournament, each held at one of the Honolulu area recreation centers. Tournaments are rare in Hawai'i because there are relatively few fencers compared to the mainland. This, however, does not deter the eagerness or dedication of those who participate, and although there were few surprises on the days of the tournaments when it came to handing out medals, the big surprise was in the numbers of people that turned out to compete. A saber tournament is planned for this summer.

In Hawai'i we have no fencing masters. A few well qualified individuals provide us all with lessons and adequate competition, but it is a welcome treat when visitors from the mainland or foreign countries come and test their skills with us. We are more than glad to share equipment with visitors in exchange for the opportunity to fence someone new, perhaps learning new skills or twists of technique to better our abilities.



Fence in Hawaii — Relax at Waikiki Beach

Currently, fencing takes place one day and four nights per week at four different facilities. The Hawaii Fencing Association is responsible for arranging Sunday afternoon fencing (three to six) at the Queen's Surf Pavilion near Waikiki Beach (across from Kapiolani Park and the Kodak Hula Show), as well as evening fencing at two of the other locations, on Monday and Wednesday nights every week.

Every Monday night, from six-thirty to eight-thirty, HFA fencers meet at the Kailua Recreation Center in Kailua, on the island's Windward side. Here again, fencing is in a covered pavilion, subject to the cooling breezes of the Hawaiian Trade Winds. Some of the highest ranked fencers in Hawai'i live on the Windward side and are sure to be found practicing here. On Wednesday nights, in Manoa Valley (famous for the University of Hawaii at Manoa), from seven to nine P.M., fencers gather at the Manoa Valley Recreation Center, and fence indoors in the annex to the gymnasium. The Manoa group is perhaps the most regular and most active, and the space available for fencing is almost always constantly in use. Of course, this does not deter us from inviting new people, a welcome rest between practice bouts will always free up a strip for the use of the next pair of fencers, and nobody is ever neglected in the constant round-robin of bouts.

Visitors and newcomers alike are invited to participate in all the activities of the Hawaii Fencing Association. Directions are readily available, as all of these places are well known to Hawaii residents. Just find your way to Kailua, Manoa or Queen's Surf Beach at the appropriate time and ask!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, in Hawaii Kai, another group, independent of the HFA, meets for fencing practice. They, too, are open to the public and warmly welcome new and visiting fencers. They meet from seven-thirty to nine-thirty at the Koko Head District Park, at 423 Kaunakani Street in Hawaii Kai.

We are always eager to meet new fencers of foil, épée and saber, and more than willing to offer the best of our skills in competition as well as good fellowship in the Hawaiian tradition of Aloha. When you come to Hawaii, don't let your fencing talents grow soft; come visit us, and fence with us.

The Halt, The Lame and The Blind

An interview with Chaba Pallaghy by A. Axelrod

It appears that a number of readers wrote, in response to the article "Love and Marriage, Parry and Riposte", to point out that a situation exists in which a riposte initiated after the "halt" is called must be allowed. Two rules were cited and melded into one to force a conclusion which is neither intended nor correct. This second interview with Chaba Pallaghy examines their premise, points out that the "halt" stops a phrase d'armes at the time it is called and that the previous article is correct.

AA Well, at least now we know that there are some readers out there. And not just fencers—lawyers as well.

CP That's good, Albie, and if they fight this hard on the fencing strip then they must be good fencers too! However, the premise that they make is based on two rules which are meant to control two different situations. Perhaps you ought to present their hypothesis for the readers before we go too far into this interview.

AA For the readers, then—their objections to the "supremacy" of the halt, if I may use that expression, are based on the combining of two rules.

- The first rule is Rule 39 which requires the President to call "halt" when the rear foot of a competitor reaches that competitor's warning line.
- The second rule is Rule 42 which states that, if having crossed the rear limit of the strip, the fencer who is attacked parries and makes an immediate riposte or makes a stop-hit or time hit such hit will be counted as valid.

CP Clearly, the objectors are epee or sabre fencers—these are the only weapons which use the end of the strip for the warning line.

Consider the following—in foil, the warning is called at the one meter line. This means that when the retreating fencer has retreated past the warning line, he is still fencing within the legal limits of the strip. If the action is tac-au-tac and the President does not call "halt" early enough and a riposte is initiated before or with the halt, then it is valid.

AA This was said in the earlier article. I don't see what you are leading to.

CP Well, in sabre and epee, because the end of the strip is used as the warning line, the retreating fencer must defend himself and fence even though he is now outside the abbreviated legal limits of the strip. And just as a phrase d'armes exists in foil while a fencer steps behind his warning line, the same situation exists for the fencer in a weapon which uses the rear limit for the warning line. They must be accorded enough distance behind the end of the strip so that they can fence and defend themselves without penalty. Of course, they can only do this the first time they go past the rear limit. Two meters is usually provided for reasons of safety and more is desirable if the strip is raised.

AA It seems, then, that the same rules regarding the halt when crossing a warning line in foil should apply to crossing the rear limit in the other weapons.

CP That is correct, and they do. For all practical purposes, the sabre and epee fencers may find themselves fencing from off the *end* of the strip. Rule 42 validates a touch registered by such a fencer, as distinct from a touch registered from outside the *lateral* boundaries of the strip.

AA I'm sure that no-one will argue that you can't hit from

outside the lateral boundary, although you can be hit when there.

CP Without question. What Rule 42 does is confirm that there is another two meters of "virtual" strip available for fencing. However, notice that not once does the word "halt" appear in Rule 42. Rule 42 says nothing about the "halt". In fact, if the dissenters were to read carefully, they would see that there is a "catch 22" written into Rule 42—I refer specifically to the reference Cf. 32, which sends the careful reader back to Rule 32. This Rule clearly establishes the authority of a President of Jury's "halt" which cuts off any phrase d'armes at the moment the halt is called, allowing only the action in progress.

AA Phrase-de-armes? How do you define the phrase d'armes?

CP That is what we call the fencing phrase. It consists of any sequence of actions between two fencers—an attack, a parry, a riposte, a counter-parry, a counter-riposte, a remise—any sequence that makes up a series of actions that end up with a hit or a break in action while the fencers plan the next series of actions. A typical phrase d'armes generally ends with a hit or is terminated at the point at which the President calls a halt. Once the halt is called, no action can be initiated.

AA That's certainly clear. Stated that way I see no possibility of ambiguity in understanding the authority and application of the halt. Yet, how does one explain the fact that the very people who study the rules so carefully to find loopholes which they may use to their advantage are, at the same time, so careless in rereading references to related and often qualifying rules?

CP I think that it goes back to the temperament of the fencer. The very aggressive competitor may feel that he should have been awarded a hit, for whatever the reason, and that the President was wrong in not allowing one. So off he goes to the rule book, and driven by anger, frustration and a sense of righteousness, tries to find a way to justify his position. The problem is that when one tries to justify an incorrect position simply because it suits one's strategy and/or temperament, then one's sense of logic becomes lamed and blindness to the validity of the opponents position sets in.

AA Blindness to what is just was specifically expressed by one of my clubmates, an "elite" fencer. What he said, even after acknowledging that an action initiated after the halt was invalid is, "If I am directing, and someone goes past the warning line and makes a parry and riposte after the halt, I will, if the riposte was well executed, say that it was with the halt and allow the touch".

CP It makes me sick to hear that. Some Presidents do take things into their own hands when directing. They are judgmental, reward what they like and punish what they don't instead of applying the rules uniformly to both competitors.

So this "clubmate" liked the well executed riposte! Anyone can make a beautiful riposte against a fencer who isn't fencing! Here is a perfect case of a President being blind to the fact that the very person being penalized is the fencer who obeyed his command.

AA The "halt" can be called for many reasons. It can be called if fencing is becoming dangerous, if one or both feet leave the edge of the strip, if the President sees a spectator

Editor Waples Wins Swiss Fencing Championships

from USIA World

On May 19, Debbie Waples won the Swiss Fencing Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, after 16 bouts against the country's strongest women fencers. She defeated former Swiss champion Andrea Piros of Zurich in the final.

In 1984, Waples was captain of the U.S. Women's Fencing Team at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The team finished sixth overall (the best result ever for a U.S. team), and Waples achieved the best individual result for the team. Waples also was selected to give the athletes' welcome speech to President Reagan prior to the opening ceremonies.

Waples originally came to Geneva to attend the Graduate Institute of International Studies to pursue a master's degree in international relations and to prepare for the 1984 Olympic



After speaking to President Reagan on behalf of all U.S. team members, Debbie Waples, center left, presents the official team pin collection to the president.

Games in Europe since fencing is primarily a European-dominated sport and most top world competitions are held there.

Waples has been working for USIS since September 1985. She is the editor of the U.S. mission's *Daily Bulletin* and coordinator of the Distribution and Records System. She was also part of the USIS team working on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in November 1985.

Waples has not decided whether she wants to train seriously for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. "I know what a great commitment it would mean. Participating in the Los Angeles games was a thrilling and unforgettable experience, but I'm not sure I want to make the same sacrifices to make the 1988 team. At this time in my life, there are many other priorities, but I won't say that it's not a possibility."



Placing the winning touch on former Swiss champion Andrea Piros, Debbie Waples, right, clinches the victory and wins the Swiss championships.

The Halt, The Lame and The Blind

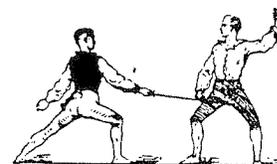
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walk across the rear of a strip. Whatever the reason, there was no questioning the applicability of the halt to the phrase *d'armes* when the fencing was on the legal strip limits. Yet, because Rule 42 establishes the availability of an additional two meters past the legal limit of the strip for epee and sabre, some fencers jump to the conclusion that the "halt" rules no longer apply!

CP Albie, perhaps these rules are being linked because they are so close to one another in the rules book. Perhaps the fencers want to keep a phrase going until there is a hit. Whatever the reason, there is no basis for continued fencing after a halt simply because one of the weapons was granted an additional distance for fencing in recognition of the fact that more distance is required. If the halt terminates fencing when you are fencing on the strip, why should it be different if one fencer leaves the end of the strip? If the same fencer went off the rear of the strip and the lateral boundary *simultaneously*, not even a riposte before the halt is valid.

Starting and stopping the bout does not change because the rear limit is used for the warning line.

AA I hope this second try does its job. You know, I'm beginning to appreciate what creative thinkers fencers can be!



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The Enterprise World Cup Sabre Tournament — A Retrospective

by Joel Glucksman

The 1987 World Class A Enterprise Press New York International Sabre Tournament has established itself as one of the major sabre tournaments in the world. The success of the first tournament clearly made its impression on the FIE, and this tournament, filled with Olympic medalists and top world cup point holders, demonstrates that the Enterprise Tournament has achieved the desired position of its sponsors in the fencing world. In this, the second year of their loyal and substantial sponsorship, Robert and Michael Hort of Enterprise Press, have seen the acceptance of this tournament as a major international and world cup event.

The tournament was won by the Olympic champion Jean-Francois Lamour of France, who defeated young Robert Koscielniakowski of Poland, the victor of last year's electric final. 3rd place went to Olech of Poland who beat his teammate, Pigula. In the hard-fought eliminations 5 Americans (Bob Cottingham, 17th; Michael Lofton, 18th; Paul Friedberg, 26th; Steve Mormando, 29th; Peter Westbrook, 32nd) made the round of thirty-two.

The difference of placing between Cottingham and Lofton at the top and Mormando and Westbrook (the result of the original seeding) has put them in the lead for the two slots in the individual sabre at the Pan-Ams. There were also some clues to the fortunes of our sabre team there to be gleaned in the generally good showing of our top five overall; and specifically in Mormando's victory over Vidal, third man on the Cuban team and the less successful performance of the two weaker of the Cubans, while Laverdeza continued to do well, making the final.

Besides the outstanding level of competition, the International was distinguished by two innovations. One was the final, which featured sabreists tethered to reels like all other civilized fencers, deprived of the liberty to protect themselves by the laws of the jungle; the result being that the fencing improved and sabre fencing emerged in all its verifiable glory. This is the second year in which electrical equipment has been used in selected world cup finals, while in the normal hodgepodge, every other round of preliminary and elimination rounds is still done the old-fashioned way. As currently promised, the FIE has decreed that the 1988 Olympics will be run completely in the time-honored wild European way, and electricity will come into full play at the 1989 World Championships.

The other revolution was in the format. The traditional preliminaries of round-robin elimination and direct elimination with repechage from 32 were scrapped. In their place, the Brazilian system, a simpler and both more and less demanding format: two rounds of round robins for seeding in which no one is eliminated and then a tennis-like direct elimination from the total pool of 108 to the direct elimination final of 8. The beauty of the complex comings and goings of high pressure bouts and touches of even the earliest rounds was supplanted by a peculiar relaxed atmosphere as everyone would make it out of the rounds, regardless of results. However, the consequences of not socking away wins is that the fencer can end up with a bad seeding and, theoretically, a better chance to meet a tough opponent in the all-or-nothing eliminations that quickly follow. While this formula has been used in world cup epee for a couple of years, this was a first for sabre.



Jean-Francois Lamour of France, Olympic gold medallist, holds the William Morris Hart Trophy presented by Mme and M. Roland Boitelle

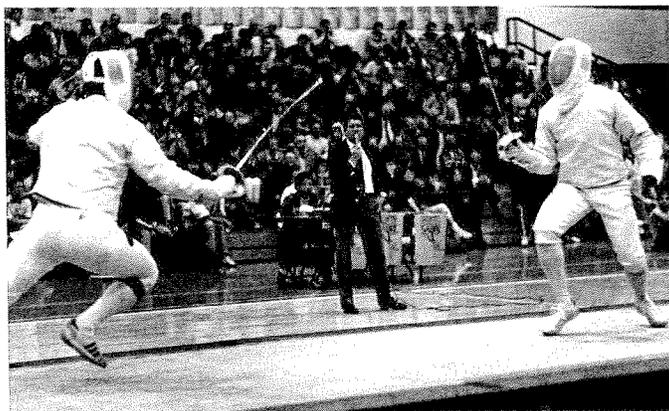
The advantage of this system is that it rewards those who put out to the extent of their abilities with a higher seeding, and provides strong incentives to fence as well as possible and without any thought of consideration for other members of a pool. This format gives the outsider fencer or nation a possible edge. If he has some good seeding rounds, where his result is less vulnerable, he may draw a good opponent for himself and a good quadrant and so make it further up the ladder with head-on bouts. With a few exceptions, this system has only isolated support among the top European nations and their fencers.

There are some drawbacks to this bit of progress. The first is a sense of lassitude that pervades the seeding rounds. Nothing so crucial as getting out of the round is at stake. Only the subtle, far-off future is critically affected. And nobody knows what that will be anyway. The sense of nothing much happening is increased by the fact that the rounds themselves take a long time to get through. The field does not shrink and there are two flights for the second as well as the first seeding round. On the first day of the individual it took eight hours to complete two rounds for 116 fencers. With a group any larger than the 116, there would be need for an enormous facility and a huge cadre of directors or a series of seeding rounds which would have three or more flights each.

Finally comes the psychological conflict between fencing for hours with no apparent result and then switching gear abruptly to the make-or-break of the first direct elimination bout. A tournament is no longer such a long term test of toughness. The competitive, eliminating part of the tournament is much shorter. It boils down to winning four direct elimination bouts to make the final; in some cases only three as some top seeds are given byes to fill out the tableau. The Brazilian format found favor in the eyes of those like Jean-Paul Banos (even during the preliminaries, a day before he made the electric finals) who liked the set-up because he could "be relaxed while fencing the early rounds and fresh for the direct elimination matches". And once again, most

Europeans complained that so little seemed to be demanded of them for the many hours and then that they should have to face losing so suddenly without a second chance.

In the seeding rounds, some of the top Americans seized the opportunity of the format to go all out, fenced like demons and made excellent seedings. Cottingham and Lofton got byes, were spared the first round of elimination for their excellent results in the seeding rounds and started in at the round of 64. Friedberg and Mormando were 26 and 30, respectively. Westbrook, keying realistically only to the testing of the direct elimination, pulled in at 34.



Electric saber — Tadeusz Pigula of Poland (left) and Jose Laverdeza of Cuba. Alex Orban, directing.

Nonetheless, two rounds into the eliminations and two rounds before the finals, the five top Americans fell off the ladder after winning two bouts (one in the case of Cottingham and Lofton). They had progressed to the round of 32. There they lost to Gedovari, Lamour, Ducheix, Marintechski and Laverdeza, four of whom would end up in the final. Cottingham, in the closest of the contests, lost 11-12 to Ducheix. In the next round, the last round before the final, another top rank of Granger-Veyron, Guichot and Daurelle of France, Scalzo and Marin of Italy, Marintchechki and Etropoliski of Bulgaria, and Becker of West Germany departed.

The battlefield was cleared for the final 8. NYU's Coles gymnasium was an underground palace, a first class modern facility that did America proud as the site for an international competition: a hollowed-out cathedral of sport with the central portion rising three stories unobstructed to banks of beneficent light, with galleries running around the sides, floor by floor, spectators and the curious gathering to soak in the panoramic view. The single silver strip gleamed on the American yellow basketball floor and the moveable bleachers drew up close like interested hills.

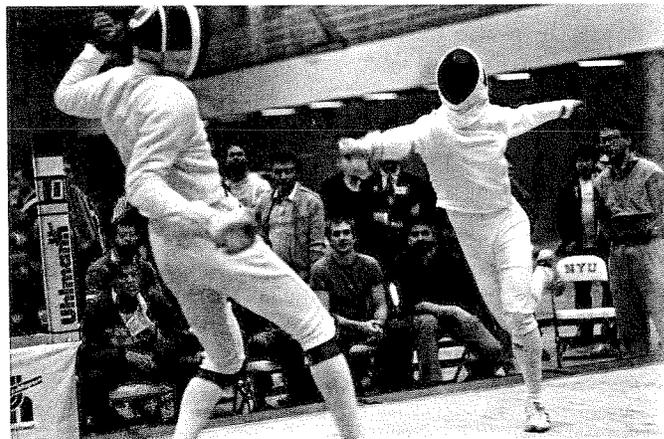
In the valley, prior to the combat, Roland Boitelle, president of the FIE, spoke graciously and deferentially about the fencers and fencing. He made it a point of pride that the fencers who had competed were among the best in the world and that they represented an extraordinary dedication of youth. He also paid tribute to sponsors, without whom, even in Europe, no major tournament can take place. There followed a demonstration of sabre, its rules and responses. Unfortunately, it was done with the electrical equipment which was on hand for the final. It deprived any new audience

of the pleasure and clarity of seeing a light go on when there was a touch and not seeing it when the defense was good, just as fencers, judges and audiences have always been deprived. Fortunately, for the competitors and the progress of the sport, it was used in the actual fencing.

The Uhlman system, one of four that are being tested by the FIE, performed very well after a long delay during which every bit of equipment had to be checked. The fault turned out to be in one of the jackets, which had a large dead spot and so prevented the registering of any valid touch.

The first eliminations saw the three Polish finalists defeat their opponents by good scores. Pigula beat Laverdeza of Cuba, 10-7; Koscielniakowski put down Ducheix of France, 10-7; and Olech hustled out Jean-Paul Banos of Canada, 10-6. The most exciting pairing pitted Lamour, the 1984 Gold Medalist, against Gedovari of Hungary. As in last year's electric final, their variety and control were entrancing and further enhanced by the watch-dog of the machine. As the nip and tuck battle rolled tensely toward the ten, one failing of the electrical apparatus made itself evident. Gedovari, under pressure going off the strip, was hit off-target by Lamour, who finally broke the distance. However no light went on because there is no off-target light in the sabre apparatus. This is the sole task remaining to the soon-to-be extinct judge. Reacting to the normal sabre situation, Gedovari hit Lamour and got a light. The director turned to the side judge who had a hard time concentrating on his new-fangled assignment and couldn't say yes or no. It was decided that there had been no off-target and Gedovari, stoutly insisting, was awarded the touch. This was almost the end for Lamour, but he rallied to make two touches in a row and ended the bout at 12-11.

Lamour went on to beat Olech, the hottest fencer on the international scene, by the large margin of 10-5 and then waited for the other two Poles, Koscielniakowski and Pigula, to melt down to one. Although the match between them was for the right to challenge for first place, it seemed oddly casual. Touches went one way and then the other with no increase in tension or showmanship. In the end Koscielniakowski, winner of last year's electric final, came out ahead on some sweet touches, such as are usually seen during relaxed free fencing at the club.



Peter Westbrook, right, scores against Jose Trejo of Cuba.

In the last bout Koscielniakowski showed occasional flashes, but Lamour was tougher and readier as he had been throughout the final and won, again by a large score, 10-5. The match had a funny parallel. Last year, it was Koscielniakowski who went up against Gedovari for first, just after Gedovari had gone through a similar war dance with his teammate Csongradi. Gedovari had come on lacklustre and was undone by cranking up too late and by the fact that all room for pleading and cajoling had been eliminated by the machine. Koscielniakowski was not as lethargic as Gedovari had been but he never reached his former heights. Lamour was outstanding.

The next morning, after the finish of the three day tournament and the morning after the party, I went to visit Olech and Koscielniakowski in the sportsmen-abroad hotel room, small and filled with beds, fencing bags, drying uniforms, tournament prizes, souvenirs of New York, and chairs from other rooms.

Janusz Olech rubbed the sleep from his eyes and swiveled on the bed to put his feet on the floor. He tunes in the English he learned in high school, a couple of years ago, and practices now whenever possible.

"This Brazilian is not good for us. We do not use this system in Europe. First day we fence 10 bout in 8 hour. First day very tired. Then too little tired. In direct elimination maybe you have opponent you do not like. One bout and finished. This is not fencing. You have repechage, another bout. You win and can win tournament."

He did admit that such a system might be easier for spectators. But he wasn't much concerned with them. Robert Koscielniakowski leaned against the wall in his t-shirt and towel, just coming out from shaving. He listened, bright-eyed, sharp-nosed and mustache bristling on a friendly face. Last year, the Enterprise Press was his first ever world cup final and then in the electric final his first win. Did you like this Brazilian?

He nodded slowly and smiled, "Yes, I like." Smiling with endorsement.

Janusz, winner of two other world cups this year and third in this one, said, "He is second. He likes." Robert continued to nod and smile.

Yes, he likes. That and electric sabre.

<u>T. Pigula</u> Poland	<u>Pigula</u> (10-7)	
<u>J. Laverdesa</u> Cuba		<u>Koscielniakowski</u> (10-7)
<u>F. Ducieux</u> France	<u>Koscielniakowski</u> (10-7)	
<u>R. Koscielniakowski</u> Poland		<u>Lamour</u> (10-5)
<u>J. Olech</u> Poland	<u>Olech</u> (10-6)	
<u>J. Banos</u> Canada		<u>Lamour</u> (10-5)
<u>J. Lamour</u> France	<u>Lamour</u> (12-12)	
<u>I. Gedovari</u> Hungary		<u>Pigula</u> <u>Olech</u> (10-8)
	THIRD PL.	<u>Olech</u> (10-8)
		<u>Olech</u>

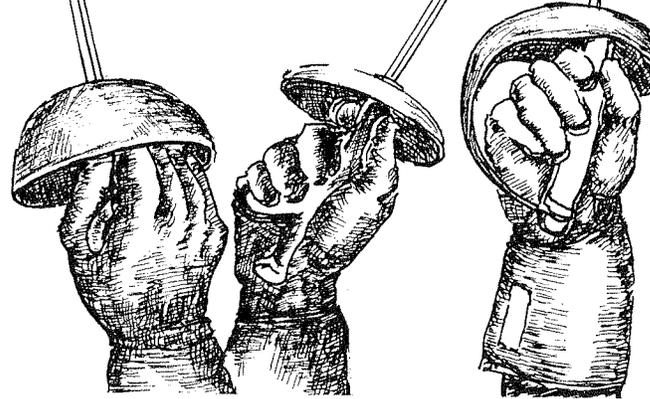
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An Interview with Emmanuil Kaidanov

by A. Axelrod

In conversations with Emmanuil Kaidanov, three areas, each of concern to the USFA and its fencers were discussed. They were:

- *The need for strengthening the relationship between the USFA and the NCAA systems in order to build stronger coaching colleges, enhance the image of fencing in the colleges and bring more fencers of college age into the USFA.*
- *Approaches to keeping college graduates, in the 20-25 age group, involved in fencing during the critical period in which they must establish themselves in their chosen careers.*
- *Suggestions for a change in the scheduling of the Under-19 tournament that will benefit both the competitor and the USFA.*

This issue will address only the first part of the discussions.



Emmanuil Kaidanov, Penn State Fencing Coach

"We are missing a whole segment of fencers in the age group of 20 to 25, and it is important to find a way to bring them back into fencing and involve them in the national program. We are missing people who have just graduated college. We have not paid attention to getting them back, and as a result, in my opinion, we are losing 90% of them. What is the reason our youth program is not developing as strongly as I would like to see? The primary reason is the lack of college coaching. It is not because of tradition—it is just a lack of coaching colleges. In this country it is possible to develop extremely strong fencing—I firmly believe in that. As soon as we have money, it doesn't matter what sport, water polo or volley ball, where historically we were very weak, when sponsors and money were found, they developed strong world championship and olympic championship teams.

In fencing, it looks like we are boiling in the same dish the same people, and stirring the same ideas. We are not exposing fencing effectively enough to attract attention to us. I understand that it isn't easy to attract attention if there are no results. We try to do our best by exploiting the results of a Peter Westbrook, but that is not enough.

Now let us return to our topic. This general topic was the kids of 18 to 21 in the colleges. They have an ideal chance to perfect their skills and gain experience in fencing because they have free coaching, free equipment and some have free travel. They have everything for which they will have to pay later. For four years we have an opportunity to build technique into those kids. Unfortunately, the seasons which exist in the NCAA and the USFA still are far apart. I have had many discussions with USFA administrations about ways in which the USFA can approach NCAA to help the NCAA and use the collegiate system for the best interests of the USFA.

The NCAA system has approximately 80 or 90 universities and colleges that have fencing as a varsity sport. This means that the sport is subsidized in the NCAA. They have professional coaches, they have free equipment, and in many colleges they have specialized fencing rooms and facilities, and money for trips and whatever the team may need."

"This is true, Emik, but on the other hand, we have private salles and clubs in which the dues are paid for by the members or their parents if they are younger fencers. Most of our fencers come from these clubs. Most strong college teams are strong because of the early experience and training ob-

tained in this 'private' system. Very few of our 'only college trained' fencers make a mark in the fencing world."

"That is also true, but that is precisely my point! The production of fencers comes from those clubs and to a lesser extent from the collegiate system. This is why we are losing the biggest possible body of fencers if compared to the number of clubs and number of coaches working in them. The number of clubs is much smaller than the number of varsity teams in the country and the number of coaches working in the universities. So we are losing more than half of the people in this age group."

"Are you suggesting that the USFA is responsible for losing this group of fencers? Or that the colleges and coaches are responsible for this?"

"Neither—I suggest that the USFA should find a way to contact the NCAA and make their efforts common—that the students be made members of the USFA and provide stimulus to their interest in continued fencing."

"Are you suggesting that the colleges pay their dues to the USFA, or that the coaches should actively induce their fencers to join the USFA?"

"I believe that's not the major problem—coaches have an active interest in having their students fence in USFA competition—it is an important source of experience for them. Right now the only motivation for fencing is closely determined by the collegiate system. There is no real tie between success in the USFA system and the Collegiate system. What I suggest is that we have to find a way to work with the coaches and convince them that the objective is for success in the USFA as well as the NCAA.

How, in the eyes of the athletic administration, can we raise the importance of performance in USFA competition? For example, we could make a tabulation of the best performance of college fencers in USFA competition and at the end of the season make awards and grant certificates to the presidents, athletic directors and coaches of these fencers. This will bring to the attention of the college administrations that members of their varsity have performed well outside the college environment—that they are performing well nationally and even fencing internationally on US national teams in World University Games. Somehow they must be made to understand that collegiate competition is not the only thing that exists for fencing."

"Are you suggesting that there should be a USFA-NCAA

liaison committee?"

"I think that that is an excellent idea. And also by having such a committee, it would be easier to maintain a good working relationship with the NCAA fencing committees."

"Who are these NCAA fencing committees—how many fencing committees are there?"

"Two committees, until recently—men's and women's—now they are united into one. I'm not sure if they have integrated yet, but right now they are not concerned in what is going on in the USFA, and there is no connection between the NCAA and USFA systems. It is necessary to improve communication between the two. This is very important for the fencing coaches and ultimately for fencing in general. For example, if one of Daladrier's fencers achieves 15 in one of the circuit events—and this is a great achievement for a college fencer—and if the USFA officially congratulates the college president and the athletic director for this result and confers a certificate of honoraria for their support of fencing in their institution and on the effectiveness of their athletics program for producing competitors of national and potentially international calibre—then the USFA will have increased the visibility of fencing in that institution. The USFA will have enhanced the reputation of the coaches in that institution, and it will have assured itself of a broader base from which to expect trained fencers.

And maybe the athletic director will say, 'Andre, you are doing a great job'—and 'Does he have a chance to make a US team?'"

"But why is this different from what happens now? For example, the Columbia coach will certainly inform his athletic director that two of his team members have made a national team."

"Of course, he will—but to the athletic director it is perfectly natural that a coach is proud of his pupils' achievements. All fathers are proud of their children. But it is different when a national governing body of a sport informs the university of their success in outside competition and acknowledges this achievement officially to the university officials. In this case, the coach is not 'blowing his own horn', as you say here.

At the end of the season, the USFA might even rank the results of collegiate fencers in USFA competitions and publish and distribute these rankings to the universities.

Eventually, some of them will think that 'we are ranked #1 or whatever in USFA system.' In the NCAA system, not all the team members are eligible to compete in the NCAA finals. The number of entries is limited. Some teams might have just one fencer in each weapon. Only three people can contribute to the results of a team, and the results do not reflect the depth of a team's quality. For example, one college, with three foreign trained fencers, one in each weapon, won the NCAA three years in a row. They had no strength in depth and if the NCAA were held using full teams they might not have won. That is not the point, however. Because of the way the system works, none of the other coaches could get recognition for their work. Athletic directors knew only that their coach did not produce a top team! A ranking of college fencers in circuit events would have shown that in national fencing there was real achievement, and that the coaches had done an excellent job. The publishing and distribution of a ranking like this will make coaches more sensitive to a new arena of combat. He may begin to encourage his fencers to participate in USFA division and circuit events. This can only serve to make college fencers more

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aware that there is a world of fencing outside college."

"In other words, what you are suggesting is that the tabulation of these kinds of rankings and the official award of a certificate of merit to the university officials would have the effect of making them aware of the fact that one of their programs is producing results that extend beyond the collegiate program and that this program is providing their students opportunities for success in programs that are national and potentially can extend into the international arena."

"Absolutely—nationally recognized—even 32—that is what is important. In basketball, for example, there are 200 teams nationally ranked—and they are all proud of their place. Penn State is not even in the list of 200 teams—so you can see what it means to be included in any national ranking list. The same situation exists for football, the same in other sports—why not in fencing?"

"Are coaches encouraging their team members to participate in divisional and circuit events now?"

"I don't think that they do—at least not many do. I can name four or five schools which do urge their team members to compete in the USFA system, but not the rest, not even during the collegiate season. Sometimes we tell our students to compete because they have an opportunity to make a junior team or get national points for the standing in the national level."

"Does the USFA send schedules to all colleges which have fencing programs?"

"I don't know. That is another thing the USFA can do to publicize the existence of another fencing system. I know that I get schedules because I ask the national office to send them to me personally, and I ask for them as soon as they are ready. Many coaches get schedules and post it on their bulletin boards, but I can't speak for the whole coaching body."

"This brings us back to your suggestion for a USFA-NCAA liaison committee."

"Exactly. A committee that is capable of representing the USFA. One that will contact the NCAA with the idea of helping the NCAA as well as getting recognition for their support. This would go far to make all college fencers aware that there is a fencing world outside the NCAA. Not only would our membership grow, but maybe more of our college fencers would continue to fence after graduation."

"Helping the NCAA?"

"Yes. Support the NCAA competitions by providing top directors for the NCAA competitions paid for by the USFA and by providing organizational support for the NCAA competitions."

"When there is an NCAA tournament, isn't there an NCAA budget for those directors? Why will there be a better relationship if the money comes out of the USFA budget?"

"I don't mean for the USFA to pay for all the directors, just a small cadre of top officials to show their good will by supporting the main NCAA tournaments. This is not being done now."

After all, the NCAA is not a faceless organization—there are people with enough understanding in sports, and people who would understand and appreciate support from the national governing body. I believe, that in their eyes the importance of fencing will be enhanced."

"But don't you think that a person like Mike DeCicco knows what has to be done in organizing a tournament? He's organized great tournaments and is very talented and experienced in doing this."

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"Oh, of course, he has organized superb tournaments—but there is always a shortage of people. The last national championship was organized by Mike DeCicco—superbly, superbly— everything was done for the kids. And everything was done with great love and attention to their needs. I was even happy to express my opinion to Michael. By the way, Michael was the first one, in my memory (not that my five years in this country is a 'long' memory) who, after the championships, sent letters to the presidents of the universities congratulating them on the achievements of their fencing teams. I believe that he took a tremendous step, and did an extremely clever thing by doing this. I don't know if letters went only to the three top teams—I believe he sent them to all the participating colleges—and it was terrific.

I received a note from my president in response to this note from Mike DeCicco. It was great! But why can't the USFA send letters like this. Like—'Congratulations: two of your fencers have made World University teams'—it doesn't matter that they are no longer attending—they may have graduated a year ago, but it is still a great honor to have a product of your athletic program on an international team. They should be awarded nice certificates—not just to the athletic director, but to the President. Why not? What's wrong with it? Why is the USFA afraid of it? Why should we always live and move on a low level? Can you imagine the effects of such publicity? We have twenty college members in the World University Games and many members of our college system in the Pan-American and Olympic Games. Do you realize how much good these letters to all these college presidents can do for the coaches, the USFA and the growth of fencing? Their achievements become something that is not

so easily passed over or forgotten by the colleges."

"You suggest that a liaison committee be formed to do this. This liaison committee would provide officials, help in the organization, provide these beautiful letters of commendation to the college presidents which is a real good pat on the back for the coaches there, perhaps improves job security for the coaches and even gets additional funding for their fencing programs, but none of this makes the member of the team join the USFA! I come back to saying that that's not the liaison committee's job. That's the job of the coach who is the role model and father image for the competitor, and it's the job of the USFCA to monitor this effort and see that it is done. They must become members while they are in the colleges, otherwise they will be lost to the USFA."

"This is very true—and I am sure that with more communication between the two systems, all these things can be achieved.

Now, about the next topic—what happens to so many college fencers after graduation? At this point in their lives, they must start to pay from their own pockets for lessons, for equipment and for travel at the very time that they must establish themselves in their careers. I understand that we do not have the financial means to solve this problem. I'm talking about the fact that we are paying no attention to those who can and would continue fencing—for them no camps, no competitions and no programs to bring them to the level where they can resume competing for national teams. Here, also, there is a way for such a committee to help. But maybe we wait for another time to talk about this problem?"

"Yes, Emik—that's a good idea."

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Honors to Dr. O'Brien of Letterman Fencers' Club

One of the mainstays of fencing on the West Coast is the Letterman Fencer's Club. Dr. William O'Brien has operated a club on the U.S. Army post at the Presidio of San Francisco for over thirty years. The army permits use of one of its gymnasiums for fencing on a regular basis as part of its community relations program. In addition, most of the competitions of the Northern California Division, and almost all of its championship events are routinely held at Letterman.

Dr. O'Brien began to teach fencing after many years as a champion fencer in the Northern California Division. Since retiring from his position as Chief Administrator of Letterman Army Medical Center in 1972, he has devoted himself almost full-time to the furtherance of the Letterman Fencers' Club. A list of current and former members reads like a list of Who's Who of West Coast fencing. It includes Gerard Esponda, Wayne Johnson, Heik Hambarzumian, Margo Miller, Don Roth, Stan Lekach, Roger Cox, Paul Soter, George Nonomura, Bill Matheson, Don Blayney, Carlos de Morelos, and Joe Manzano, to name a few. Dr. O'Brien is one of the few coaches in the United States who has developed fencers who became national champions in all three weapons. He has never charged any student for lessons.

The Letterman philosophy has been to make facilities for fencing available to as many fencers as possible as often as possible. A typical night at Letterman finds over 30 fencers present and at least four electric strips in use. Dr. O'Brien has also obtained use of facilities at the University of San Francisco for additional training. Fencing on the West Coast, and in the Bay Area in particular, owes a tremendous debt to Dr. O'Brien.

In recognition of his unstinting generosity and dedication, an award dinner for Dr. O'Brien was held at which his admirers awarded him the "Surprise Trophy", shown in the photograph below.



Photo by Gordon Clark

That's How They Direct In Europe! — A Correction

The interview, printed in Volume 38, Number 4, did not pick up one of George Kolombatovich's corrections to the original text, and inadvertently omitted a paragraph inserted by him.

What was printed in American Fencing was:

"In essence all correctly executed attacks, simple, direct or composed require that the arm be fully extended prior to the initiation of the lunge." (page 14, line 33, col. 2)

What George submitted was:

"In essence, all correctly executed attacks (simple, direct, or composed) require the extending of the arm."

Also, insert after "is not a law book." (page 14, line 24, column 2), "One must look at the prevalent interpretation. What is the consensus of the authorities, both nationally and internationally? Consensus: there is no threat until the opponent comes forward into distance. Consensus: Threatening distance is advance lunge (also flech and balestra lunge) distance. The advancing opponent may be extending but nothing matters unless there is a threat. No correct distance — no threat."

Note: Rule 233a.1 speaks of correct execution of attacks when the "straightening" of the arm precedes the initiation of the attack or lunge. Rule 233a.2 speaks of correct execution of composed attacks when the arm is "straightened" in the presentation of the first feint and not bent during successive actions of the attack.

Specific interpretations and briefings have been provided recently by the FIE to clarify Rule 233. Clearly, the current interpretation must be made available to the fencing membership, and will be done in another article at a later date. George Kolombatovich also expressed his intention to prepare a video tape on just this issue.

Note further, that this does not alter the right of way of a point placed in line before the start of the final action of an attack. If the point is placed in line in *response* to a lunge or an advance lunge with the extension of the arm starting at the advance, then because it is a response it could not have been completed prior to the start of the final action. The validity of an attack with a "straightening" arm executed from *within correct attack distance* was pointed out in the earlier article. The directing problem arises when an attacker starts the preparation of an attack from out of distance and the director perceives the preparation as the attack proper, ruling out correctly made attacks into a preparation and placements of points in line.

USFCA AWARDS

The United States Fencing Coaches Association has awarded its first two Regional Coach of the Year awards. By nomination of the Regional Vice Presidents of the Association and consensus of the Awards Committee, the recipients of the award are: Jeff Wolfe and Andre Deladrier. The Association congratulates the recipients for their efforts and results in fencing over the years.

The 1987 USFCA Collegiate Coach of the Year is Henry Harutunian of Yale and the Women's Collegiate Coach of the Year is Nikke Franke of Temple. Both will receive a sword at the Annual Coaches meeting prior to the 1988 NCAA championships.

Midwest High School Fencing Championships

Teams from the Great Lakes and Midwest Sections are invited to compete in the eighth Midwest High School Fencing Championships. This highly successful competition will draw over one hundred and fifty fencers from throughout the region.

The meet is held at St. Paul Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota on February 6, 1988. Five events are scheduled; MF, MS, ME, WF, and WE for high school fencers from schools and clubs. The format will be Brazilian with repechage, assuring every fencer at least eight bouts.

For details, please write Rich Jacobson, 1511 Sargent Ave., St. Paul, Minn., 55105 or call 612-825-9935.

In Memoriam

ODON NIEDERKIRCHNER

American fencing has been diminished by the death, on June 12, of Odon Niederkirchner, one of our most distinguished masters, at age 82.

Odon Niederkirchner began his career as a fencing master while serving in the Royal Hungarian Army, where he attained the rank of First Lieutenant. He graduated in 1928 from the Royal Hungarian Military Fencing Master's School in Budapest. In 1939, after the obligatory internship, he passed the Royal Hungarian Fencing Master's examination. At the time of his death he was one of the last surviving alumni of the program. In 1940, he was appointed fencing master and sports officer of the Hungarian VII Corps where he served through 1944, when he was called to active duty. He spent several months as a prisoner of war in Austria before being reunited with his family and remained in a displaced persons camp in West Germany until 1949. Finally, through the efforts of Dernell Every, then president of the AFLA, he and his family emigrated to the U.S.

On his arrival here, he was appointed a fencing master of both the New York Athletic Club and the New York Fencers Club. He remained at the latter until 1958, and flourished at the New York A.C. for 37 years, finally hanging his plastron in December 1986. He was concurrently fencing master of the New York Turnverein from 1951 to 1976.

He was also associated, for briefer periods, with Salle Santelli and the fencing programs of New York University and Barnard College. Maestro Niederkirchner also coached Stuyvesant High School on an informal basis for many years.

The maestro's most successful pupils included the following AFLA national champions: Ed Richards and Silvio Giolito, at foil; Abe Cohen and George Masin, at epee; and Dr. Tibor Nyilas, at sabre. Nearly a score of AFLA national championship teams resulted from his hand. Every U.S. Olympic team from 1952 to 1976 included one or more of his pupils



Maestro Odon Niederkirchner

Photo courtesy of Eloise Niederkirchner

— including eight in 1956. The AFLA formally recognized his contributions in 1975 by awarding him the Certificate of Merit.

The barrel-chested master's gregarious personality carried over to his pedagogy. He may best be remembered for his ability to take a beginner and train him from scratch, bestowing the same attention and patience on each neophyte that other masters reserved only for established fencers.

Maestro Niederkirchner is survived by his wife, Eloise, and two children by a previous marriage; a son, Joseph, of Frankfurt, West Germany; and a daughter, Mrs. Terez Lerner, of Flemington, N.J.

J. R. Tishman

Of the near dozen letters received by the editor in response to Fred Rhodes' article, some recognized it as an attempt, poor as it was, to invoke a facetious, tongue-in-cheek approach to induce more women to officiate. Others were more vehement in their anger at what they perceived to be patronizing and sexist.

There is no question but that an article that is sexist, racist or demeaning to any ethnic group should not be published. However, this article was neither conceived nor perceived in this light.

Most made an additional, and well taken, observation: that the editor need not have elected to publish it. Judging from their response, they may be right. Typical letters follow.

Dear Fred,

I know that in your article, "Why Women Can't Direct", you attempted 'tongue-in-cheek' humor. Unfortunately, it came out the 'foot-in-mouth' variety.

I have a friend who, like yourself is a dentist. She specializes in extractions and may be able to help you.

Just please, when you are in her chair, lie very still, and, above all, don't say a word!

Betty Santelli

Dear Editor:

Many people make irresponsible statements in our sport. You are under no obligation to repeat them. Mr. Rhodes' irresponsible article entitled "Why Women Can't Direct" is just such an example.

Abandoning the obvious argument against the tone of the article, the facts do not support the case. As of September 1986, according to the published list of National Directors, the percentage of women to men directors in the United States was roughly 19.31%. Twelve women appeared on the list for the first time. Women represented 33 of the 78 individuals receiving new or upgraded ratings, or 42.31%. The ratio of women to men directors in the Southeast is better than the national average, 29.17%.

An interesting mental exercise is to compare the number of women foil directors against the number of men foil directors. If you eliminate epee and sabre, sports in which women have not been encouraged to fence until recently, never mind direct, the numbers change again. Nationally, women comprise 30.53% of the foil directors. These numbers become even more significant when you realize that men outnumber women in our sport. I would say this is hardly an indication of disinterest or lack of commitment.

As a national officer, Mr. Rhodes made a gross error in judgement, as did you, in publishing this article.

Catherine Abramson
SE Section Chairman, USFA

Dear Albie,

Women as directors may be an area worthy of honest and serious study, but it was done a disservice by Fred Rhodes' article "Why Women Can't Direct" (May 1987). I don't know which is more offensive; the flat, categorical statements for which he claims "asking around" to be a sufficient defense, or the condescending language which reveals his low opinion of women and undeniable lack of tact.

Women and men fencers have worked together toward mutual benefit for many years but Rhodes' statements have hurt that coexistence. Many disenchanted or enraged women fencers will be less inclined to direct and some men fencers, biased by Rhodes' remarks, will be less likely to trust and accept the judgment of those women who do direct.

Whatever his intent (which is never made clear), nothing good will come from his irresponsible remarks. His words are all the more reprehensible because they come from someone charged, as he is, with the responsibility for national leadership.

Laurie Katz, Fencing Coach
Wellesley College, Class 4 director

Fred Rhodes Responds —

Dear Editor,

I recently wrote an article entitled "Why Women Can't Direct". While my intention was not malicious (the title should have been "Why Women *Won't* Direct"), I have received a strong and angry reaction. In my attempt to use a satirical, tongue-in-cheek approach to motivate more women to study for and take director examinations, I have offended many members of the USFA—in particular, the women and persons in the Eastern United States.

My references and generalizations of women as readers of "Harlequin Romances" were intended solely to caricature chauvinist attitudes and are not a reflection of my personal beliefs.

To the contrary, my record of service in behalf of Women's Fencing and Directing is worthy of note and includes:

- Offering the 1st Women's Epee and Sabre Team events to be held in conjunction with a National Championship.
- Deliberately inviting Women Presidents-of-Jury to the Chicago North American Circuit events.
- Increasing the quality and diversity of the Chicago North American Circuit events by inviting top foreign competitors to the Women's foil field.
- Encouraging top women athletes to train in epee for the purposes of improving the chances for international success in the future.
- Conducting seminars, administering written and practical directing examinations, both at the Divisional and Sectional level.

Clearly, my writing skills need improvement, my choice of metaphor ill-chosen and the mis-reading of my intent totally unpredicted. To those who were offended, I can only apologize and offer assurances that my devotion to fencing and service to the USFA—both men and women members—remains absolute.

Fred G. Rhodes

Officers' Corner

by Lewis Siegel and Carl Borack

Welcome to the new fencing season. If you haven't already renewed your membership in the USFA, now is the time. If you do not have the materials mailed from the National Office, clip the coupon from American Fencing and mail it now. Last season the USFA shattered all previous membership records with over 8,500 members. Fencing is definitely growing in the United States and with the Olympics scheduled for September 1988 in Seoul, Korea we expect this year to be the biggest yet.

The National Championships in Phoenix, Arizona were a huge success. With the support and sponsorship of Robert Simonds, and the unflagging efforts of Sheila Higgs-Coulthard, John Higgs-Coulthard, and Skip Shurtz, Phoenix set a standard against which all future National Fencing Championships will be judged. From a magnificent fencing facility for the early rounds to a hotel ballroom black tie final everything worked well.

The International Fencing Federation (the FIE) has accepted bids from the USFA to host the 1988 World Under-20 Fencing Championships and the 1989 Senior World Fencing Championships. The World Under-20 Fencing Championships will be held at Notre Dame University From April 1-4, 1988. The USFA has tentatively accepted a bid from Indianapolis (site of the 1987 Pan American Games) to host the Senior World Fencing Championships during the summer of 1989. The 1989 World Fencing Championships will be the first to have a Women's Epee event (both team and individual events will be held).

These World Championships together with the Enterprise

Press Saber World Cup "A" event held each year in New York should solidify the position of the United States as an international fencing center. There may be more. The USFA is discussing with the Russian Fencing Federation the possibility of the Russian saber team attending the 1988 Enterprise Press tournament; and the USFA is negotiating with potential sponsors to host the 1988 FIE Masters Saber event. The FIE Masters event is limited to 8 of the top fencers in the World and features prize money paid to the fencing federation of each fencer's country.

The last issue of American Fencing contained an article on women and directing which created a stir (see letters to the editor in this issue). The article does not represent the views of this administration, the USFA or the Fencing Officials Commission. The USFA has always been a leader in creating opportunities for women in fencing. The USFA led the way for women's epee to become a Pan American event, an Olympic Sports Festival event and a World Fencing Championship event. The USFA Fencing Officials Commission vigorously promotes women as directors and encourages their use nationally and internationally.

The underlying purpose of the article was to encourage or prod more people into officiating. We wholly support that purpose. The USFA needs more directors—men and women. This fencing season make a point of helping with the directing at tournaments, and taking the test to obtain an officials' rating or to increase your current officials' rating. You may find that it will help your own fencing. We know it will help the USFA.

Best of Luck in this season's fencing.



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World Championship Preliminary Results

The complete captain's report will be in the next issue. Top performance was turned in by Peter Westbrook, who was seeded third in the tableau of 32 and came in 14. Also notable

in their fencing were Kate Bilodeaux who was 29 and Steve Trevor who was 32.

Men's Foil Individual

1. Gey (ALF)
2. Behr (ALF)
3. Cervi (ITA)
4. Carmi (ISR)
5. Numa (ITA)
6. Schreck (ALF)
7. Ersek (HON)
8. Weissenborn (RDA)

Men's Epee Individual

1. Fischer (ALF)
2. Chouvalov (URS)
3. Loyola (Cuba)
4. Mazzoni (ITA)
5. Reznitchenko (URS)
6. Poffet (SUI)
7. Pantano (ITA)
8. Srecki (FRA)

Men's Saber Individuals

1. Lamour (FRA)
2. Nebald (HON)
3. Koscielniakowski (POL)
4. Koriajkin (URS)
5. Gedovari (HON)
6. Pogosov (URS)
7. Csongradi (HON)
8. Scalzo (ITA)

Women's Foil Individuals

1. Tufan (ROM)
2. Funkenhauser (ALF)
3. Luan (CHI)
4. Lazar (ROM)
5. Gondolfi (ITA)
6. Janosi (HON)
7. Vaccaroni (ITA)
8. Velitchko (URS)

Men's Foil Team

1. West Germany (ALF)
2. France
3. Hungary
4. USSR

Men's Epee Team

1. USSR
2. West Germany (ALF)
3. France
4. Cuba

Men's Sabre Team

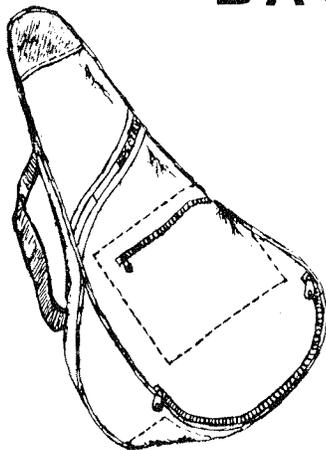
1. USSR
2. Bulgaria
3. France
4. West Germany (ALF)

Women's Foil Team

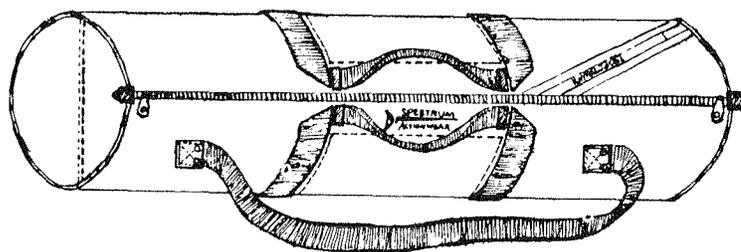
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4. West Germany (ALF)

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Observations at the Lausanne World Championships

from "L'Equipe", by Stefan L'Hermite
and translated by Mary Huddleson

In his white suit, elegantly striped in yellow and blue, he watches. Elegant and wise. Calm and composed. Forty years ago he was the world champion.

Today, Christian d'Oriola, usually so authoritative, is more inclined to carp. "All this really doesn't inspire me very much," he whispers in a low voice.

Mathias Gey is crouched over, his fists clenched in joy. And his animal cry resounds.

Christian d'Oriola can't get over it. What to day after such a bizarre final. He has never seen such a thing.

Two hours earlier, Christian d'Oriola, unwaveringly accompanied by Kate, pointed out the winner—"It's the one with the light blue stockings." Blue stockings? Those of Mauro Numa, the Olympic champion, who had the honor of being the first fencer to step on the strip in an officially colored costume. A small error (but not such a big deal in this crazy final): they had to use black. In the black stockings is Mathias Behr, the rock fan.

At the beginning of the bout, the big German crucified the Italian (6-1). "Numa is not very agile. But he will make up for it. He likes to come from behind." As soon said as done: the bambino catches up (5-6).

"His parry-ripostes are murderous. He has found his game." Temporarily. Behr is bent, but not broken: 6-6, 7-7, 8-8 at one minute to fence. "Numa can't seem to contain him. But, with one minute left, he is always the one to get the last touch." Not this time. Behr even slipped in the last two touches.

"Now Ersek is favored to win." Wrong again. The orange stockings (Ersek) will not get beyond the quarter final! Because of the yellow stockings of an Israeli, the first child of David to reach the finals of a senior world championship (this is crazier than Perrier!) Here is Carmi, 27 years old, a former member of the fencing club at Bonn, who presents himself as a former world junior champion. "It's strange, the tricks he plays. Ersek, however, should not have any problems with this nice boy." But Carmi (ranked only three times in a tableau of 32 in the World Cup) is irresistible. And remains so (10-6).

"Now I'm not going to say anything more," mutters Christian d'Oriola. The early tendencies of the third quarter do not prove him wrong. Mathias Gey (navy blue stockings) is led (0-4) by a (reputedly) second blade: Ingo Weissenborn, an East German (white stockings). "He is a veritable rubber ball. He moves like a saber fencer. But I think that the German steamroller will finally crush him," Well said: 4-4, 6-4, 8-5, 9-7, 12-10. The gods of fencing began to sober up.

So it is without incident that Federico Cervi (red stockings) repulses Elrick Schreck (green stockings) 10-7. A temporary calm spot.

Let us pass to the semi-finals. Carmi burns his wings against Gey (10-7) and Cervi is worn out by Behr (10-8). Even if they have used their back arms like shields (which has cost each of them two negative touches), the two Mathiases arrive at the portals of the grand finale.

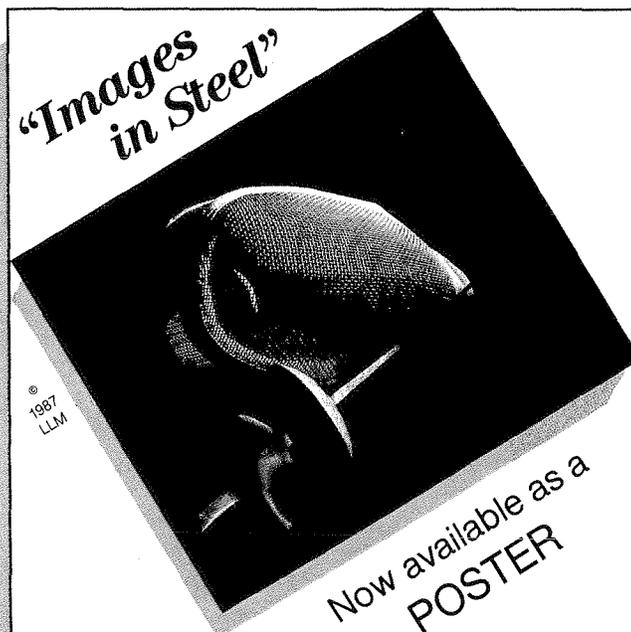
In reality, it did not take place. We see in its place a practice training match from the salle of Tauberbischofsheim.

"In the salle, Gey (27 years) usually fences against a 32 year old," comments Christian d'Oriola. "Here he will find a rejuvenated man."

The impression does not last long. At 0-2, Behr, who has, of course, placed his "celebrissime touche" behind his head, is as light as he was in 1976 at the time of his Olympic team title. But after one minute and some flying dust, Gey puts the old fellow in his place (5-2). And there is no pause in the exchanges that for ten minutes (it was difficult to keep track of the marches from one end of the piste to the other) scarcely changed the score. Gey, the tenacious one, was more hungry: 7-2, 7-4, 9-4, 9-5, 10-5. He let out a cry of joy and fell into the arms of his training companion.

Christian d'Oriola is circumspect. But he finally says something: "Gey applied himself more. Considering his career, he deserves the title. But, for my part, I like fencers who show some inspiration. He will never undertake anything a little daring."

FINAL TABLEAU OF 8: Behr (ALF) d. Numa (ITA), 10-8; Carmi (ISR) d. Ersek (HON), 10-6; Gey (ALF) d. Weissenborn (RDA), 12-10; Cervi (ITA) d. Schreck, 10-7.



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Epee Masters in Paris

by Chaba Pallaghy

The second Masters Tournament was held on June 5, at the Sports Palace in Paris, during the 1987 FIE Congress, taking place at the Conference Center in Versailles, France.

The competition opened in front of approximately 3,000 spectators, excellent for a holiday weekend in France. The 8 fencers were introduced under ceremonious circumstances, with appropriate pageantry for the important event. The fencing was shown simultaneously on a giant television screen with the French Television Network also broadcasting the event.

The first match brought the confrontation of the West German Arnd Schmitt, the top point holder and winner of the previous masters held at Tauberbischofsheim, against the reigning world champion Phillippe Riboud of France.

His prestigious title notwithstanding, Arnd Schmitt disposed of the reigning world champion smoothly and securely with superior fencing, by a 2-0 score.

The next bout confronted the 4th place J.M. Chouinard of Canada against 5th place T. Gerull of West Germany. After close combat, Gerull prevailed with two 5-4 scores, thereby dousing the hopes of the North American Continent for a possible championship.

The semi-finals brought a clear victory of the superior fencing masters champion Arnd Schmitt against his countryman in two bouts.

The next encounter pitted the youngest member of the competition, in the person of Stefano Pantano, against the oldest, the 37 year old Volker Fischer of West Germany. Pantano's victory against the higher ranked and more experienced Pusch has given him wings, and he made short order of his older opponent.

The final match opposed the defending champion against the young Italian. The youngster's enthusiasm and spirit, however, did not prove sufficient against the superior Schmidt who clearly and securely defeated his opponent by the scores of 5-3 in two bouts. Schmidt therefore defended his recently earned Masters Championship, being the first fencer in the short history of the tournament to do so.

The competition was well organized with the fencer's federations winning the following prizes: 100,000 French Francs for 1st place; 80,000ff for 2nd; 60,000ff for 3rd; 40,000ff for 4th and 10,000ff each for 5th through 8th place, together with medals and numerous trophies donated by the sponsors and organizers.

The success of the competition indicated that the sport can attract substantial interest in this format. The level of fencing was good, interesting to watch and some nicely prepared well executed actions could be observed by the enthusiasts. I would like to note here that I served in the 3 member Bout Committee at this masters together with Madame Katerinska of Bulgaria and Mr. Bazarevits, a newly elected honorary member from the Soviet Union.

Based on the success of this tournament, I sincerely hope that we, in the United States, will be able to organize one of these events in the not-too-distant future.

FINAL RESULTS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Schmitt, A. ALF | 5. Pusch, A. ALF |
| 2. Pantano, S. ITA | 6. Borrmann, E. ALF |
| 3. Fischer, V. ALF | 7. Chouinard, J.M. CAN |
| 4. Gerull, T. ALF | 8. Riboud, P. FRA |

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Results

RESULTS OF THE 1987 NATIONAL DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Foil — 82 Entries

1. Marx, Michael—Salle Auriol
2. Mendoza, Saul G.—Letterman Fencers Club
3. Lewison, Peter—Fencers Club
4. Massialas, Gregoy—Halberstadt Fencers
5. Tichacek, Jack D.—Fencers Club
6. Hambarzumian, Heik—Letterman Fencers Club
7. Fox, Frank Oliver—Mori Fencing Academy
8. Gerard, Pascal A.—Salle Auriol
9. Schmidt, Paul Eric—Unattached
10. Littel, David—Salle Csizar
11. Demarque, Jerome P.—Yale University
12. O'Donnell M.D., M.—Boston Fencing Club
13. Gargiulo, Terrence L.—Boston Fencing Club
14. Bukantz, Jeffrey—Fencers Club
15. Bloomer, William
16. Cohen, Nathaniel—Fencers Club



Michael Marx, National Foil Champion, holds his trophy close. Photo by A. Axelrod

Men's Epee — 86 Entries

1. Glass, Timothy C.—Bayou City Blades
2. O'Neill, James—Tanner City Fencers
3. Trevor, Stephen—New York Athletic Club
4. Siegel, Lewis W.—Fencers Club
5. Moreau, John A.—Salle Cinco
6. Black, Claus Dieter—Halberstadt Fencers
7. Shelly, Lee—Salle Santelli, NJ
8. Nieman, Robert L.—USMPDA
9. Stull, Robert—US Modern Pentathlon Assoc.
10. Marx, Robert—Salle Auriol
11. Melcher, James L.—Fencers Club
12. Salem, Abdel Monem—Salle Csizar
13. Flint, James E.—Bucks County Aca. of Fencing
14. Uribe, August O.—En Garde FC, Ariz.
15. Cain II, Harvey S.—Salle Cinco
16. Elliott, Joseph A.—Mori Fencing Academy

Men's Sabre — 62 Entries

1. Mormando, Steve—Fencers Club
2. Westbrook, Peter—Fencers Club
3. House, Edgar Jay—New York Athletic Club
4. Friedberg, Paul—New York Athletic Club
5. Cottingham, Robert—Fencers Club
6. Pleskun, Igor—New York Athletic Club
7. Lofton, Michael—Fencers Club
8. Beneduk, Miklos—KHIP-FM
9. Keane, Brian G.—New York Athletic Club
10. Gonzalez-Rivas, George—New York AC
11. D'Asaro II, Michael—New York Athletic Club
12. Hayes, Joseph—The Fencing Center
13. Rodriguez, Gerard—Fencers Club
14. Pinkus, Larry—Richmond Fencing Club
15. Goering, William A.—Fencing Ac. of Mich.
16. Brand, Peter A.—Tanner City Fencers

Women's Foil — 82 Entries

1. Bilodeaux, Caitlin K.—Fencers Club
2. O'Neill, Mary Jane—Tanner City Fencers
3. Monplaisir, Sharon—Fencers Club
4. Cheri, Elaine—Cheyenne Fencing Society
5. Sullivan, Molly—Tanner City Fencers
6. McClellan, Cathy—Tanner City Fencers
7. Stone, Donna Lee—Salle Santelli, NJ
8. Yu, Jessica—Unattached
9. Miller, Margo—Unattached
10. Hamori, Christine—New Orleans Fencers Club
11. Turpin, Barbara—Salle Auriol
12. Yu, Jennifer—The Fencing Center
13. Hayes, Rachael—Salle Csizar
14. Hall, Jane P.—Tanner City Fencers
15. Rossman, Gail—Unattached
16. Clark, Laurel—Halberstadt Fencers

Women's Epee — 65 Entries

1. Stone, Donna Lee—Salle Santelli, NJ
2. Szabunia, Margaret—Salle Csizar
3. Brown, Xandy—Salle Gascon
4. Moss, Tamara—Fencers Club
5. Adrian, Marlene—Tanner City Fencers
6. Maskell, Laura—Salle Auriol
7. McClellan, Cathy—Tanner City Fencers
8. Turpin, Barbara—Salle Auriol
9. O'Donnell, Judith B.—Boston Fencing Club
10. Gilbert, Jennifer E.—Halberstadt Fencers
11. Erdos, Elizabeth A.—Halberstadt Fencers
12. Wylie, Dorshka—Charles River Fencers
13. Lewis, Kathryn C.—Salle Csizar
14. Clark, Laurel—Halberstadt Fencers
15. Bradford, Vincent—Un. of Tex./Austin FC
16. Klinger, Anne—Salle Auriol



Steve Mormando, National Saber Champion, stands triumphant! Photo by A. Axelrod

NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Foil Team — 30 Entries

- 1st Fencers Club
— Metropolitan Division
J. Bukantz, E. Rosenberg, J. Tichacek, P. Lewison, P. Bennett
- 2nd Halberstadt Fencers Club
— Northern California Division
G. Massialas, G. Nonamura, N. Mattox, D. Hinton, P. Burchard
- 3rd Connecticut Division Composite
P. Schmidt, W. Martin Bloomer, J. Demarque, O. Foellmer, M. Yu
- 4th Salle Auriol
— Oregon Division
R. Marx, P. Gerard, M. Marx, P. Desgeorges, R. Mantzer

Men's Epee Team — 28 Entries

- 1st New York Athletic Club
— Metropolitan Division
H. Farley, S. Trevor, G. Masin, E. Bianchi, J. Normile
Coach — A. Kogler
- 2nd U.S. Modern Pentathlon
— South Texas Division
J. Moreau, C. Michaels, R. Stull, R. Hurme, R. Nieman
Coach — J. Peziak
- 3rd Salle Santelli
— New Jersey
K. Swick, J. Gryzmski, S. Griffiths, L. Shelley, S. Rush
Coach — J. Gryzmski
- 4th Salle Csizar
— Philadelphia Division
D. Goodman, D. Hervas, C. O'Loughlin, A. Salem, R. Watrall
Coach — L. Csizar

Men's Sabre Team — 10 Entries

- 1st Fencers Club
— Metropolitan Division
S. Mormando, P. Westbrook, M. Lofton, R. Cottingham, G. Rodriguez
Coaches — C. Elthes, A. Kogler
- 2nd New York Athletic Club
— Metropolitan Division
E. House, P. Friedberg, B. Keane, M. D'Asaro, G. Gonzales-Rivas
Coach — C. Elthes
- 3rd Great Lakes Fencing
— Illinois Division
D. Koser, B. Burget, L. Warshaw, W. Lubinec, M. Ansani
Coach — J. Steplowski

Results

4th Salle Csizar

— Philadelphia Division
D. Anthony, D. Stollman, A. Bullock,
E. Kaihatsu, E. Dew
Coach — L. Csizar

Women's Foil Team — 21 Entries

1st Tanner City Fencers Club
— New England Division
C. McClellan, J. Hall, M. Sullivan,
J. Hynes, M. J. O'Neill
Coach — J. Pechinsky

2nd Fencers Club, Inc.
— Metropolitan Division
C. Bilodeaux, M. Verhave, P. Medina,
S. Monplaisir, T. Ling Moy
Coaches — A. Kogler & S. Pinkhasov

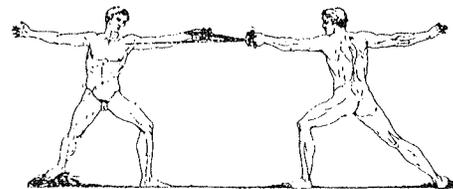
3rd Salle Santelli, New Jersey
— New Jersey Division
D. Stone, D. Cinotti, D. Piccinino,
I. Hayes, J. Weitzman
Coach — J. Gryzmski

4th Salle Csizar
— Philadelphia Division
D. Aitken, K. Lewis, M. Kosch,
Coach — L. Csizar

2nd Salle Auriol
— Oregon Division
A. Klinger, L. Maskell, B. Turpin,
T. Goodnight, T. Kent

3rd New Jersey Division Composite
D. Stone, J. Zester, J. Foster,
D. Pratschler, L. Campi
Coach — J. Gryzmski

4th U.S. Modern Pentathlon
— South Texas Division
K. Dunlop, L. Skomski, T. Lewis,
T. Kelly
Coach — J. Peziak



Men's Epee — 124 Entries

1. Carpenter, James—Unattached
2. Sisniega, Ivar—Tucson Fencers Club
3. Varney, Douglas—Manhattan Fencing
4. Niemann, Karl—North Colorado FC
5. Arenberg, Jeff—M. I. T.
6. Hirvonen, Iiro—Unattached
7. Lane, David—Southwest Tex. Fencing Soc.
8. Charlick, Daniel—Alcazar Fencing Club
9. Christie, Mark K.—Un. of Cal./San Diego
10. Hervas, Dedrick M.—Salle Csizar
11. Dudinski, Douglas—Unattached
12. Oliver, William—North Colorado FC
13. Johanes, Zhon—Brigham Young University
14. Cunningham, Richard—Kansas City FC
15. Dahlquist, Scott J.—Minnesota Sword
16. Proud, James S.—Unattached

Men's Sabre — 80 Entries

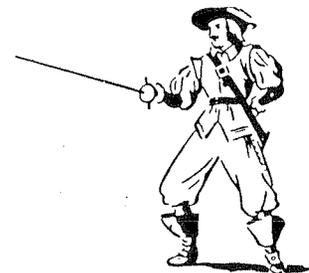
1. Cox, David B.—Concord Carlisle FC
2. Ciemins, Peter—Alcazar Fencing Club
3. Strzalkowski, Tomasz—Richmond Fencing Club
4. Warshaw, Larry—Great Lakes Fencing Assoc.
5. Chung, Sung—Masters Fencing Academy
6. Burget, Brad—Great Lakes Fencing Assoc.
7. Lewis, David G.—Spokane Fencers Unlimited
8. Sarosi, Garreth A.—Bayou City Blades
9. Surdi, Guy Mario—Fencers Club
10. Ansani, Michael—Great Lakes Fencing Assoc.
11. Kuzma, David—Masters Fencing Academy
12. Wroth, Thomas—Masters Fencing Academy
13. Helewa, Kevin—Unattached
14. Ende, Jack—Boston Fencing Club
15. Krasowitz, Jason—Penn State Fencing
16. Mousmoules, Byron—San Diego Fencers Club

Women's Foil — 106 Entries

1. Pratschler, Darlene E.—Salle Bradakh
2. Piccinino, Denise—Salle Santelli, NJ
3. Prokop, Jeannine—Northwestern Univ.
4. Clinton, Marijoy—Rochester Fencing
5. Raimondo, Norina—Bucks County Ac. of Fenc.
6. Illyes, Eva-Maria—Salle Santelli, NJ
7. Campbell, Kristine Ann—Atlanta Fencers Club
8. Marcus, Claudia—Los Angeles Athletic Club
9. Echacarría, Maria—Minnesota Sword
10. Manges, Amee—Fencers Club
11. Posthumus, Lisa—Salle Calvert
12. Posthumus, Jennifer—Salle Calvert
13. Isenberg, Sarah—Tanner City Fencers
14. Weitzman, Judith—Salle Santelli, NJ
15. Malmstrom, Terra Ann—Northern Colorado FC
16. Jones, Melanie—The Cleveland Fencers Club

Women's Epee — 55 Entries

1. Selig, Sharon T.—Stockton State College
2. Lederer-Tass, Natalia—Salle Bankuti
3. Pratschler, Darlene E.—Salle Bardakh
4. Lewis, Terry—US Modern Pentathlon Assoc.
5. Askins, Leith—Un. of Tex./Austin FC
6. Hartman, Kathy—Salle Gascon
7. Reibman, Amy Dunham—Atlanta Fencers Club
8. Barry, Nora L.—Bucks County Acad. of Fencing
9. Guzenske, Susan—Unattached
10. Chaplinsky, Sharon—Bucks County Ac. of Fenc.
11. Raimondo, Norina—Bucks County Ac. of Fenc.
12. Woodruff, Sherry J.—Cheyenne Fencing Society
13. Rodriguez, Kerry—Un. of Tex./Austin FC
14. Prokop, Jeannine—Northwestern Univ.
15. Serafini, Cheryl—Salle Bankuti
16. Collinge, Amy C.—Bucks County Ac. of Fenc.



RESULTS OF THE 1987 NATIONAL UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Foil — 64 Entries

1. Yorukoglu, Murat—Atlanta Fencers Club
2. Huttenbach, Joshua—Salle Bardakh
3. Gargiulo, Terrence L.—Boston Fencers Club
4. Russel, Geoffrey B.—Salle Gascon
5. Kent, Marc—New York Athletic Club
6. Skrabonja, Randall G.—Masters Fenc. Ac.
7. Weber, Alan E.—Salle Bardakh
8. Bases, Daniel—Fencers Club
9. Yu, Marty—Unattached
10. Carter, Al—Salle Gascon
11. Bravin, Nicky—Salle Gascon
12. Flaschka, Walter Blair—Mid Valley AC
13. Leary, Philip Adam—Masters Fencing Academy
14. Clark, Joel—Unattached
15. Flores, Stephen—Salle Calvert
16. Atkins, Ben—New York Athletic Club



Armorer's at work —

Photo by A. Axelrod

RESULTS OF THE 1987 NATIONAL DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Foil — 139 Entries

1. Feldman, Adam—Salle Csizar
2. Bravin, Nicky—Salle Gascon
3. Johanson, Zhon—Brigham Young University
4. Rothman, Daniel—En Garde Fencing Club, Ariz.
5. Rolando, Doc—Masters Fencing Academy
6. Rayot, Ron—Masters Fencing Academy
7. Cotton, Derek W.—Salle Gascon
8. Flores, Stephen—Salle Calvert
9. Patchen, Peter—Pikes Peak Fencers
10. Skrabonja, Randall G.—Masters Fenc. Ac.
11. El-Asha, Mike M.—49er Fencers
12. Foellmer, Oliver—Unattached
13. Grandbois, Peter—Un. of Colorado FC
14. Bullock IV, Andrew J.—Salle Csizar
15. Rosario, Jose—Horizon Fencing
16. Hudson, Franklin P.—Trans-Texas FC

Results

Men's Epee — 54 Entries

1. Johnson, Anthony T.—Minnesota Excalibur
2. Marsh, James Arpad—Hungarian Am. AC
3. Andresen, Matthew—Carolina Fencers
4. Tausig, Justin David—Salle Santelli, NJ
5. Schwartz, Michael—Salle Auriol
6. Steward, Bernard—Unattached
7. Thompson, Spenser—Salle Gascon
8. Szarka, Peter—Masters Fencing Academy
9. Engdahl, Christopher—Studio of Am. Fenc.
10. Patton, Eric D.—Studio of American Fencing
11. Rush, Scott—Salle Santelli, NJ
12. Charlick, Daniel—Alcazar Fencing Club
13. Kline, Sean—Minnesota Excalibur
14. Herries, Josh—Cheyenne Fencing Society
15. Lowenfish, Anders F.—Masters Fenc. Ac.
16. Ritter, Nathan—Ferndale Fencing

Men's Sabre — 36 Entries

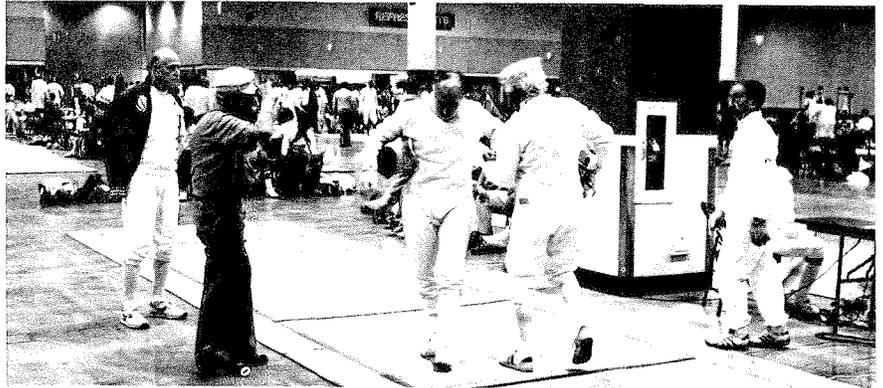
1. Mandell, David—Unattached
2. Cox, David B.—Concord Carlisle FC
3. Stollman, David—Fencing Ac. of Mich.
4. Chung, Sung—Masters Fencing Academy
5. Ceimins, Peter—Alcazar Fencing Club
6. Rhines, Jared—Masters Fencing Academy
7. Talioferro, James D.—Masters Fenc. Ac.
8. Cilio, Todd—Masters Fencing Academy
9. Faroudja, Nicolas—Unattached
10. Strzalkowski, Tomasz—Richmond Fencing Club
11. Maggio, Jonathan S.—St. Luke's
12. Bager, Cristian E.—Masters Fencing Academy
13. D'Amico, Leonard—Salle Calvert
14. Wroth, Thomas—Masters Fencing Academy
15. Sarosi, Garreth A.—Bayou City Blades
16. Haegle, Scott—Masters Fencing Academy

Women's Foil — 45 Entries

1. Barreda, Anne Marie—Tanner City Fencers
2. Posthumus, Jennifer—Salle Calvert
3. Marsh, Ann—Roeper
4. Campbell, Kristine Ann—Atlanta Fencers Club
5. Moy, Tzu Ling West—Fencers Club
6. Clinton, Marijoy—Rochester Fencing
7. Jones, Melanie—The Cleveland Fencers Club
8. Posthumus, Lisa—Salle Calvert
9. Isenberg, Sarah—Tanner City Fencers
10. Kedoin, Yvonne—Unattached
11. Batson, Aleizha—Benedictine Fencers
12. Zester, Jennifer—Salle Santelli, NJ
13. Wyss, Sarah—Boston Fencing Club
14. Manges, Ameer—Fencers Club
15. Tobia, Jill—Fencers Club
16. Summers, Chanel-France—Salle Gascon

Women's Epee — 13 Entries

1. Kosch, Michelle—Salle Csizar
2. Zester, Jennifer—Salle Santelli, NJ
3. Summers, Chanel-France—Salle Gascon
4. Goodnight, Tracy—Salle Auriol
5. Kent, Tara Luanna—Salle Auriol
6. Kedoin, Yvonne—Unattached
7. Judd, Katherine—The Fencing Center
8. Obenchain, Janel—Wayzata High Fencing
9. Rodriguez, Kerry—Un. of Tex./Austin FC
10. Kelly, Tarra—Salle Cinco
11. Campi, Lisa Michele—Unattached
12. Wollock, Amy—Masters Fencing Academy
13. Behm, Brenda—En Garde Fencing Club, Ariz.



A senior sabre fencing match — Ralph Goldstein directs.

Photo by A. Axelrod

The Senior Olympic Finals

The first senior olympics sanctioned by the United States Fencing Association was held in conjunction with the U.S. National Fencing Championships in Phoenix, Arizona. It was also the first tournament with 76 competing in the three (3) weapons for both men and women.

The results of the super finals are as follows:

Men's Foil — 23 entries

1. Maximo Callao—Boise, Idaho
2. Anthony Zombolas—Hinsdale, IL
3. Alexander Rivera—Los Angeles, CA
4. Capt. Richard Steere—McLean, VA

Men's Sabre — 14 entries

1. Martin Kramer—Indianapolis, IN
2. George Sarosi—Wisconsin USFA Div.
3. David Kosow—Monrovia, CA
4. Stephen Khinoy—Staten Island, NY

Women's Sabre — 4 entries

1. Barbara Marsh—Concord, MA
2. Charlotte Remenyik—Columbus, OH
3. Carol Deas—St. Louis, MO
4. Linda Woo—Honolulu, HI

Preparations are now underway for the 2nd Annual Senior Olympics for June 1988 to be held in Chicago. All fencers 40 and older are encouraged to participate. Registration forms are to be sent to each Division from the USFA headquarters. Individuals wishing further information are encouraged to contact this writer or the USFA office in Colorado Springs.

Men's Epee — 20 entries

1. Paul Scott—Woodland Hills, CA
2. Stanley Zack—Rochester, NY
3. Salvatore Manzo—Houston, TX
4. Donald Bengé—Burbank, CA

Women's Foil — 8 entries

1. Anne Klinger—Oregon USFA Div.
2. Laurie Katz—Lexington, MA
3. Charlotte Remenyik—Columbus, OH
4. Jane Scanlon—Highland Park, NJ

Women's Epee — 7 entries

1. Marlene Adrian—Champaign, IL
2. Cynthia Runyon—San Bernadino, CA
3. Anne Klinger—Oregon USFA Div.

