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ON THE COVER

Maxine Mitchell, many times National Champion and Olympian, is shown wearing the Helsinki Olympic patch on the sleeve of a uniform which she has carried into many successful battles.



Back To The Future

There is a constantly recurring notion that once fencing reaches the point at which there is a demand for fencing clubs, clubs will grow throughout the country and ultimately reach that 'critical size' at which they can afford to hire qualified coaches. And, this being done, will begin to produce athletes capable of successful participation in world class competition.

The fact is that critical size has already been achieved in several cities of this nation, and that only a tiny fraction of students who are exposed to fencing remain with the sport in adult life. Virtually every member of our Olympic and World Championship teams has come from cities like Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New York, and San Francisco, and that the entire Women's Foil Team that went to the Helsinki Games 38 years ago (1952) came from Los Angeles. Of our four Olympic medalists, George C. Calnan and Joseph Levis came from Boston, and Albert Axelrod and Peter Westbrook from New York! These cities are well past critical size, and still cannot find the means to pay their coaches adequately. As is well known, most club coaches must hold several jobs if they are even to subsist.

The AAHPERD program is an excellent one and can be most helpful if and when implementing a realistic agenda.

A few concluding remarks—

The position of Editor is one which I did not seek. When Mary Huddleson invited me to take over the task, I considered the responsibility carefully, and accepted it as an opportunity to make a contribution to the sport I love and which has meant so much to me.

I have labored to make AMERICAN FENCING a publication of which the USFA can be proud. I believe my dedication to the sport is well known. I am also sure that my zeal has led me into occasional lapses of tact and moderation.

I note our president's encomium and his invitation to continue my participation in the American fencing scene.

This is my last entry as Editor. Our new editor is Bruce Milligan. I know, from the California Newsletter, that he will

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provide the membership with a lively, upbeat magazine, and I wish him success in his stated objective of returning the magazine to a bi-monthly format.

I am sure Bruce will continue the Editorship in the spirit in which it was established, and will continue to provide a forum for the membership in which discussion will be open and problems spotlighted. Good luck, Bruce.

* * * * *

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Notes On Maxine

by Mary Huddleson

"Pa-Da! . . . Pa-da-da-Da!" She gets up from her chair and assumes the en-garde position to demonstrate how to handle an opponent on the strip. A tall woman, well built, with gray to white hair, Maxine Mitchell dropped in on the last Pacific Coast Championships to see who's who in the recent fencing world. She likes to analyze the fencing actions and she loves to gossip and reminisce with old friends. She has retired from fencing after 41 years of active competition.

In her youth Maxine was "into" basketball and roller skate dancing. An older brother was fencing in the local YMCA in Los Angeles. A certain Mike McKee was instructor there. Maxine started in a huge class of about 40 people. She was a large, uncoordinated woman in her early twenties, using cast-off equipment, but the class was sympathetic and friendly. She fenced with McKee for 15 years.

In her first tournament she lost all her bouts and no one spoke to her. She returned to McKee's group determined to learn to fence. It was a good group for her, with leading fencers such as Maureen Fitz and Wilbur Calkins, and she found McKee an excellent teacher. "There was so much to learn!"

Her example of McKee's method of teaching makes one realize that it was not everyone's cup of tea, but it fired up the young Maxine McMasters. He would line her up against a wall and have the rest of the class line up and try to hit her; from this she learned to parry and riposte.

Under Mike McKee she fenced for the Cavaliers' Club for ten years and learned many different tactics for timing attacks. At the beginning of each season a new tactic would be practiced exclusively. Maxine can still demonstrate some of them: 1) "Get ready, fence!", she attacks immediately. 2) Take hold of the opponent's blade and the instant he releases, "Go!" or 3) Maintain absence of blade and when he attempts to take it, "Go!" For one month straight, she practiced nothing but quinte-seconde parries, based on some theories of the Italian, Barbasetti.

McKee has a heavy hand with a hard grip and was known as a rough fencer. He instilled in her a toughness which she retained throughout her fencing career.

She entered her first national championship in 1947 and took 5th place. She won her first national title in 1952 and with it gained a berth on the Olympic team for Helsinki along with Janice-Lee York and Polly Craus.

Told it would be in her best interest to "stay in New York and train for a few months before the Olympics," she wondered how to accomplish this with only \$10 dollars in her pocket. Jo and Lou Shaff generously came to her rescue and put her up at their home.

A new light dawned when she spent the month in lessons from Rene Pinchart, who introduced her to the finesse of the use of the hand and fingers.

It was a banner year for Jan and Maxine. Off they went to Helsinki. Giorgio Santelli and Rene Pinchart were the coaches. The U.S. ladies did very well. To quote team captain Miguel de Capriles (American Fencing, October 1952):

"Irene Camber of Italy, often beaten in the early rounds, dethroned the most durable women's champion in history by twice defeating the formidable Ilona Elek of Hungary by 4-3 scores. Karen Lachman of Denmark, rated as Elek's chief rival, fell victim to her usual final-round jitters, but salvaged a third place on the fence-off of a quadruple tie involving Janice-Lee York (U.S.A.),



Maxine Mitchell (right) and Sheila Armstrong (left), with Barbara Higgins of Panama, during the 1984 Olympic Games.

Photo by Mary Huddleson

Rene Garilhe (France) and Maxine Mitchell (U.S.A.), who finished in that order.

"Up to the three-quarter mark in the final, Elek seemed to have her third straight Olympic title within easy reach, as she led the field with 5 wins and no losses, and then the roof caved in: with the jury apparently unwilling to believe their own eyes, Mitchell scored ten hits in a row (getting credit for four) and Elek never came close. It was a tremendous battle and both women were 'finished' after it. Camber, who had lost to both York and Mitchell, caught Elek in the next bout and then beat her again in the fence-off for the championship; Mitchell missed a tie for first when she lost to Garilhe in her next bout, and then dropped all three of her bouts in the fence-off for third place. Meanwhile, York had recovered from her unexpected loss to Mitchell in the first bout of the final and also had a chance to tie for first; but she was beaten by Lachman. Thus it was that a single victory separated the top six girls (sic), and that the two American finalists finished fourth and sixth.

"Our three entries in this event produced the best results in the history of American women's fencing."

After winning the U.S. nationals in 1955, Maxine led the women foilists to excellent results in the Pan-American Games in Mexico. The American women captured 1st (Mitchell), 3rd (Eve Siegel), and 6th (Grace Acel) places. A rising 15 year old Mexican star, Pilar Roldan, gave Mitchell her only defeat, but herself lost three other bouts in the finals. The Mexicans were wild with anticipation, but had to settle for third place. (Roldan came back later in 1959 to win both our National Championship and the Pan-American and has always been held in high esteem by American fencers.)

That same year, 1955, a remarkable duet, Janice Romary and Maxine Mitchell, using "Madame Zero" as a third team member on the score sheets, won every bout fenced and captured the National Women's Team trophy. It was the first and only time that a team consisting of two members (instead of three), forfeiting two or three bouts in every match, won a national championship. The rules were subsequently changed so that no "short" teams could be entered. One wonders why?

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Notes On Maxine

(concluded)

Although she participated in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, an old tennis elbow immobilized her in the semi-finals. Jan York Romary, for the second time, took a frustrating 4th place.

The 1957 Nationals in Milwaukee were dominated by Janice Lee Romary. Her story has yet to be told. But Maxine, still suffering from her bad elbow, fenced the entire tournament with her "off" left hand and placed 6th in the finals.

Thereafter, according to Maxine, she and McKee had a falling out. "Mike kicked me out of the club." She joined the Los Angeles Athletic Club and gave up her job as draftsman to train for the 1960 Rome Olympics with Torao Mori, only to discover that Mori had gone to Japan to train the Japanese team. Her husband, Dorcie Mitchell, whom she had married in 1944, gave her lessons. "He sure made me work hard," she says.

Pilar Roldan dethroned Maxine in the 1959 Pan-American Games. Mitchell was second and third was Stella Sauer of Panama, an ebullient fencer, and long-time friend of many U.S. fencers.

Although a member of the 1960 Olympic team, Maxine did not fence in the event and the three American women who did were eliminated in the preliminaries. This was when Albert Axelrod distinguished himself by capturing the bronze medal in foil, the first U.S. individual medalist since 1932 and subsequently only equaled by Peter Westbrook, 3rd in saber in 1984.

A mastectomy in 1964 knocked her out of fencing for about a year. But she was soon back in her favorite sport, as chipper as ever. To prove the operation was "no big deal" she staged a tremendous comeback in the following years: placing 4th in the 1967 U.S. Nationals, she was a member of the 1967 Pan-American team, the 1967 World Championship team in Montreal, and the 1968 U.S. Olympic team in Mexico City.

Mitchell's last participation in the Olympics occurred in the 1984 Olympic Games, where she was the official coach for the one-woman Panamanian fencing team. Walking was painful, her hip bones were wearing out, but she marched around the entire Coliseum oval way for the Opening Ceremonies behind the Panamanian flag. She is a very determined lady.

She is full of memories of the "beautiful people" of past decades: Tibor Nylas and Joe de Capriles especially. She remembers well Helene Mayer, who livened up every party and who dominated women's fencing at the time. Helene always made her final touch with a flourish: an explosive attack, off with the mask, a shake of the hand, and a walk off the strip. "But, Helene, sometimes your attack doesn't arrive!"—"I know. It's my reputation. You go and make reputation too, and you see!"

Maxine thinks that timing and distance are the two hardest things to teach a fencer. Only after about four years of fencing did she herself realize that she had time to think of what to do and of what her opponent was going to do.

Nowadays, she says, there seems to be too much emphasis on athletics. "Everyone has to be an athlete," with jumping jacks and pushups and running around the track. Youngsters take many lessons and have little time to apply them. Fencers now seem to fence the same style, no matter how different their opponents. One sees the same attack and the same defense all the time.

Her observations on the old-time standard vs. the electric foil: In the Olympics and the World Championships the men

have overcome the difficulties of the electric foil, while the women have not. The women are still "jabbing and messing around" and, because of all the twists and turns, "we have to make new rules all the time." There have been few beautiful fencers since Sabelina. Probably the main reason for women not developing as fast as the men is that the former do not "stick with it" long enough. They have too many other distractions.

She offers some basic tactical advice:

MAX'S MAXIMS

- If you are winning, don't change your tactics.
- If you are losing, ask yourself "WHY am I getting hit?"
- Each motion should have a purpose. your feint must get a reaction from your opponent.
- If you want your opponent to attack, you don't have to back up.
- Fence different opponents in different ways. Don't use the same tactics for everyone.
- To get something from fencing, you have to give something to it in terms of hard work.
- You meet many nice people and make many friends, BUT, just remember that fencing isn't everything!

Forced to give up fencing because of problems with her hip, she turned to a sedentary occupation which required skillful hands: silver jewelry and lost wax sculpting.

"I played tennis once recently and nearly ruined my hip. So, no more tennis! I've been sculpting like crazy. Mainly Indian themes now. The first thing I wanted to do, when I started sculpting, was to make a fencer in clay, but the arms fell off. So I shifted to wax."

"I will soon have some pieces in a local gallery here, but I don't care whether I sell my work or not. People say, 'But Maxine, don't you want to be famous?' I tell them, 'I've already been famous and I don't care whether I am again or not.'"

When she shows up at a competition, her friends and admirers swarm and swirl around. Her ego is intact and she comes across in the same strong and friendly way which has carried her through several decades of the national and international fencing world.

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Fencing In State Games

by Irwin F. Bernstein

In February 1990, the National Congress of State Games was elected to membership in the U.S. Olympic Committee. This was a significant milestone in the progress of a movement that started in 1978 in New York State and has grown to where forty six states will hold 'olympic style' multi-sport games in 1990. There is considerable variation among the state games but they also share many things. One of these common things is the opportunity they provide to lesser-known sports in a favorable setting to enhance their image, heighten public awareness, and attract newcomers. A second is the opportunity for established athletes to enjoy a multi-sport experience in a friendly, supportive atmosphere as a stepping-stone to future, more intense competition. For both reasons, fencing has much to gain through its participation in state games and has been on the programs of many of the games since the first Empire State Games in 1978.

Fencing is one of the sports whose National Governing Body has been strongly supportive of state games since their inception. In 1988, the USFA formally appointed a State Games Committee in order to advise the various coordinators of fencing in their operations as well as to assist in establishing fencing in state games where they do not presently appear. Joining me on the committee are two other veterans who have also been involved in the state games of the earliest states to hold them: Jim Campoli (Florida) and Ralph Goldstein (New York). I am currently the President of the Garden State Games (New Jersey). An initial task was to survey the current state games fencing programs in order to develop data to guide the coordinators. Later in this article, we will present results from this survey.

The Committee's ongoing mission is to act as a clearing house for ideas, contact names, etc., so that all current and potential coordinators can benefit from the knowledge accumulated. As for the state games without fencing, it is up to the local fencers and division leaders to get it placed on their programs. Fencing does not require special facilities; our divisions already have the necessary equipment and officials, and we have a proven track record of conducting attractive, economical and efficient events in many of the state games. According to our data, the following twenty-one Summer Games do not have fencing on their programs: Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Idaho, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

The state games are an unparalleled opportunity to broaden fencing participation at the grass roots level and enhance the perspective of fencers below the elite level. Our Committee can advise and encourage, but only the initiative and energy of the fencers within those states (and some are among the most active) will determine whether we can maximize the opportunity.

SURVEY OF STATE GAMES FENCING

1. The survey was originally conducted in October 1988 with some supplementary questionnaires through December 1989. The data may relate to 1988, 1989, or plans for 1990 but probably does not vary significantly from year to year. We received responses from seventeen of the twenty-one states whose state games fencing coordinators were identified for us.

2. The following summary of responses should provide a

perspective on the current state games fencing programs.

A. Competitors are required to hold membership in the USFA in eight of the seventeen state games.

B. Regional trials or divisional qualification is employed in six states. In four of the six, there are four or six regions (applicable for all sports) while in the other two, there are divisional trials.

Three or four qualifiers from each unit is the most frequent rule.

C. All seventeen states hold Open Events in Men's Foil, Epee, and Saber, and Women's Foil, while twelve hold Open Events in Women's Epee and seven in Women's Saber. Of these, in two states, foil is mixed, and in two others all weapons are mixed.

D. There are separate Youth Events in twelve states with the following frequency by weapon; 12 Men's Foil, 11 Women's Foil, 9 Men's Epee, 9 Men's Saber, 2 Women's Epee, and 1 Women's Saber. The limits for youth vary a bit: four states define it as Interscholastic (grade twelve not completed) while seven use under 20 and one as under 15. Some states with Under-20 also hold lower age group events as well: two hold an Under-16 and two an Under-14.

E. Masters' events have not caught on, with only New Jersey and New York scheduling them. New Jersey schedules a full slate (Men's in three weapons and Women's Foil) but frequently cancelling most of them for lack of entries. New Jersey uses 40 as a minimum age.

F. There is a wide range on Individuals formats but eleven end up with finals of six to eight (seven from pools and four via direct elimination) while three use a round-robin for the finals.

G. There are team events in only five states. Three of them have club entries and one has divisional teams. All use a round-robin format with from three to six teams.

H. USFA rated officials were predominantly used in almost all state games. Fifteen of the seventeen states provide something to the officials and eleven give more than one item. The most frequent item is food (12), followed by shirt (11), cap (5), and jacket (4). Only two provide housing.

I. The state games are recognized by the divisions in all seventeen states and are listed in their schedules and newsletters.

J. Twelve fencing coordinators also hold current positions within the USFA.

The State Games Committee can be contacted by writing to me at 249 Eton Place, Westfield, NJ 07090.



Irwin F. Bernstein
Chairman, State Games Committee

No To The Editor

Dear Editor,

In the recent copy of American Fencing, I was rather shocked to see that the USFA rules governing Under-11 competition were so lightly regarded in the Cadet Circuit tournament in Los Angeles. As the father of two children under 11 who fence in both adult and cadet competitions, I have adhered strictly to the #2 blade policy, even against adults. Whether I liked this policy or not wasn't an issue. I have backed this because I assumed the rules were to be fairly enforced, and not capriciously enforced by local whim. I don't cheat on this rule in order to put my children on an equal footing, I do it because of the issue of safety for their opponent. (At least fencing used to regard fairness and sportsmanship as important.) I am glad to know that I need not spend the money on sending us to Los Angeles in the future, when the USFA-sanctioned events are going to be capriciously ordered to favor the locals. No wonder fencing in America has never left the horse and buggy era. Well, Phyllis, thanks for the warning.

With astonishment,
Todd Mathis

12th January 1990

Dear Editor,

In regard to the letter from Mrs. Samuel Cheris (Elaine), regarding the use of #2 blades for fencers under the age of 12.

Mrs. Cheris called the annual Youth Committee meeting at the Clarion Hotel in Denver, Colorado, following the Youth meet, held over the week-end of October 6, 1988. Present at the meeting were Mrs. Cheris, Chairman of the Youth Committee, Maestro Gene Gettler, owner and Fencing Master of the Atlanta Fencers Club, Georgia, Andrew Shaw, General Manager of the Westside Fencing Center, and Sheila M. Higgs-Coulthard, Secretary of the Arizona Division, all members of the Youth Committee at that time. Also present, as guests, were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hamilton.

Mrs. Cheris presented the concept of number 2 blade size for fencers under the age of 12, to be adopted immediately in the U.S.F.A. The vote was 3 to 1, against this idea, and it was suggested that the blade size for any age be left to the discretion of the Coach and fencer. Therefore, the concept of #2 blades and its implementation was never approved by the Youth Committee.

Yours sincerely,
Sheila M. Higgs-Coulthard

Editor's note:

The three committee members who voted "no" have since been replaced.

February 6, 1990

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my opposition to the recent ruling requiring young fencers to use the shorter 30 or 32 inch blades in Under-11 Youth Circuit events, instead of the regular 35 inch blade. Although I encourage many of my pupils to use the shorter blade in order to improve their hand speed and precision, some of the students prefer the 34 or 35 inch blade. Some pupils feel they have a disadvantage with the short blade, especially since they are often fencing older fencers with longer

lances as well as longer weapons. The decision as to which length blade should be used ought to be left up to the fencer and coach. Count me among those who are "pro choice."

Gene Gettler
Maitre d'Armes
Atlanta Fencers Club

Editor

American Fencing

Today while cleaning out some old records I came across an old issue of American Fencing—November 1969. I glanced through the pages and re-read an article by Dan Lyons. It crossed my mind that we have not learned anything in twenty years. His comments with regard to American fencers training was true then and it is still true.

I then at random selected another old issue—January 1971—and laughed as I re-read Marty Lang's article titled "Interview", and as you may have guessed, NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

I continued on, making an afternoon of it, and re-read several of the articles by Irwin Bernstein, when he was our esteemed leader. I then realized that there had been a great deal of changes. Many of the goals he proposed have been accomplished with regard to our organization, coaching and directing.

Yet, if we have a better organization, better directing, and better training of coaches, why don't we have better results? Back to the article by Dan Lyons.

All in all, it was a most interesting afternoon experience reviewing our recent past put together by our volunteer editors. I recommend going back and re-reading. It is not only educational, but enlightening and even inspirational.

Colleen Olney

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Election Time Again —

TO THE USFA MEMBERSHIP

As members of the USFA, we have a mandate: to promote and expand the sport of fencing. I am concerned that, unless we adopt a new approach **NOW**, we may be sacrificing our long-term goal for short-term luxuries.

After reports of sky-rocketing expenses at USFA headquarters last year, I made a special trip to Colorado Springs. What I found convinced me to seek the presidency again and to change the direction of the last six years. Our money is not being effectively used.

- Administrative costs are excessive, and funds have been unnecessarily spent for travel and accommodations.

- The cost of the Colorado Springs office of the USFA have risen steadily, uncurbed, so that for the first time 1989 finds the Colorado Springs office spending **MORE THAN IT COLLECTED IN DUES FROM ITS MEMBERS!**

The remainder of this communication to the membership will outline my platform for the coming term and, in the process, refute claims of the current president regarding the success of his administration.

EXPENSE CONTROL

At the latest USFA board meeting, the president stated that the administration has implemented budgetary controls to track all organizational expenses. He implied that the new system, reviewed by independent auditors guarantees the wise use of our funds. The truth is that auditors are hired only to check the METHOD of accounting, not the legitimacy or ethics of expenditures. We have no reassurance that our money has been well spent—and I contend that it has not.

How can we get control of our budget and expenses and make more effective use of our dollars?

1. **Cut expenses.** By reducing administrative costs, we can free up dollars that could be better spent. For example, some travel can be eliminated while costs for remaining trips are kept to a minimum. Discount airfares and hotel rates alone can make a big difference, especially in international travel.

2. **Strategically locate circuit events.** A committee should be appointed specifically to determine the most economical location for each event in order to minimize the burden of cost and extent of travel for fencers as well as support personnel.

3. **\$35,000 plus for the New York World Cup 'A' Saber Event**—A prestigious event, yes indeed! But should we continue to subsidize the European fencers who walk away with all the top points?

If the Europeans want the points—and they do—they should bear the expense of travel, just as we do. We could save a considerable amount of money and invest it where we need it the most—**DEVELOPMENT OF COACHES AND FENCERS.** What is important is that we have an 'A' World Cup event in our hemisphere to give our fencers an opportunity to win top points, top points that will help our fencers get better seeding when they travel to compete in European tournaments.

USFA FUTURE

I propose a cooperative program involving elementary and high schools with local fencing clubs. Limited instruction would be offered in schools, with more advanced coaching available through the clubs.

I am acutely aware of the reasons for limited school involvement:

1. Schools must acquire special insurance for students involved in fencing. The cost is sometimes prohibitive.
2. Space in schools is very limited. Since fencing does not pro-

duce revenue and is seasonal, it is often pre-empted by other sports or activities.

3. Most school fencing teachers are not experienced. Although some physical education teachers are skilled fencers, it often happens that youngsters are turned off by teachers who do not have the knowledge to create ENTHUSIASM for the sport.

I believe the USFA must step up promotion of fencing in both the elementary and high schools, with special emphasis on the recruitment of young people between the ages of 8 and 15.

Under this plan, only basic fencing instruction would take place in schools, with the students funneled to local clubs for instruction by masters and for access to facilities and equipment. It is important to remember that top fencers can only be developed in top facilities.

SPENDING PRIORITIES

By focusing on the future and limiting expenses, we will be able to target programs and facilities for maximum support. I propose the following considerations:

1. Concentrate on areas with the greatest potential for fencing development. Although we must and will support fencing in all parts of the country, **need** must be a determining factor in the size of a grant. This can be achieved without sacrificing support for "grass roots" programs.
2. As part of a master plan for discovering and training school-age fencers, I suggest a system of cash awards drawn from interest earned (approximately \$100,000 a year) on the Olympic windfall deposited in the United States Fencing Foundation.

Substantial support will be provided to:

- **Clubs** — money to be earmarked for equipment and instruction for young fencers, as well as school program development. Awards will be based on point system of results for junior and senior fencers.

- **Top Three Point Holders** — based on points awarded to the top eight places in circuit events and the nationals.

- **Fencing Coaches** — whose fencers are among the top point holders.

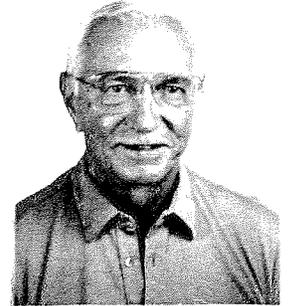
3. We can improve fencing quality while saving time and money by changing the method for qualifying to the Division I and Division II Nationals. Competitors should be required to qualify from "division" to "section" to "nationals" — with a maximum of 64 fencers per weapon. This will encourage meaningful competition at all levels of fencing in all parts of our nation.

4. We must be more selective in participating in international events and in the competitive programs leading to World Championships.

- Fully fund fencers, coaches, directors and armorers for the selected events, both junior and senior.

These are the basic points of my campaign platform: **SPEND WISELY, INVEST WISELY, AND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE.** Ours can be a healthy and valuable organization. I believe we can build on our existing foundation to include fencing clubs and enthusiasts in all parts of the United States.

Your vote for me will be the first step in the achievement of that goal.



Michel Mamlouk
Candidate

Michel A. Mamlouk

Officers' Council

by Samuel Cheris

The State of the USFA

In the previous issues, I have attempted to keep you abreast of what this administration has been doing to further the goals of American Fencing. I think it is equally important to bring the membership up to date on the changes we have brought to the internal operations of the USFA.

First, we have instituted fairly sophisticated budgetary controls and have been able to insure accountability for all dollars spent by the USFA. Years ago, the "Management" letters issued by the certified public accountant who audits our records and certifies to the accuracy of our statements, were long and detailed with failings of the USFA's accounting for its expenditures. That is no longer the case. Our auditor continues to make helpful suggestions, but no longer has reservations about the accuracy and completeness of our records and the statements we issue to the membership and the Board of Directors.

Second, we have begun revamping the data base on the USOC's new IBM AS/400 computer so that we may be able to operate more efficiently and assist members who need membership lists broken down by various parameters of age, locale, weapons fenced, etc.

Third, we have added an internal public relations function in the person of Curtis Pires. Curtis will not only be doing national public relations for the elite athletes, but is also available to every club, division, section and member to assist with ideas and materials to enhance the image and public awareness of the sport.

We will continue to try to improve our operations anywhere we or you see a deficiency.

The Future of the USFA

On a totally different note, I wish to share with you the vision I and other members of my administration have for the future of fencing in America. I see this summer's addition of a program at the Coaches College for the training of physical education teachers as a turning point in our relationship with AAHPERD (American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance). AAHPERD devoted a full column of its journal to the announcement of this program and have expressed their interest in helping us in any way they can to further it. The USFA was receiving numerous calls from interested P.E. teachers within days of their journal being published. This addition of a whole new body of soon-to-be fencing enthusiasts will help broaden our base and bring fencing to the elementary and high schools that have historically been hard to reach. This new program along with the USFA's equipment loan/grant program, should allow us to make significant increases in the interscholastic programs in the next few years.

The introduction of fencing to thousands of new young fencers each year (each P.E. teacher would probably teach 100 students each school segment) will increase the demand for fencing clubs to take on those individuals who wish to go on beyond the basic course. This will allow clubs throughout the country to reach that critical size needed so they can afford to hire qualified coaches for their clubs. These club coaches can then increase the overall skill level of the members of their clubs and increase the level of competition in the Divisions, the Sections and, finally, the country. Obviously, this will take quite a number of years, but once the process begins and the momentum starts to build, we will once again be able to count the United States as one of the fencing powers of the world, not just in its elite, but in its broad-based recreational and interscholastic programs.

All of these fencers will increase the number of members of the USFA and the circulation of its publication(s). The number of people who will have at one time or another been part of a fencing program and who understand the basic rules of the game will turn fencing into one of the significant spectator sports of the United States. The efforts of the International Fencing Federation (FIE) to adopt rule changes to enhance the viewer appeal of fencing, in which I am involved as a member of an FIE committee, will complement this effort. This will then entice advertisers and sponsors to invest funds in a growing and vibrant sport, which will enable us to look back on 1989 when we raised only \$400,000 in contributions and wonder how we ever managed on less than \$4-\$5 million to run the varied programs of the USFA.

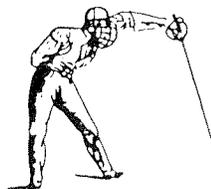
Only the future will show us how much of this vision will come true and how long it will take, but it will be an exciting and exhilarating journey. I hope you will give me your support and vote for president in the upcoming election, and give me the opportunity to continue the quest for that dream for our sport.

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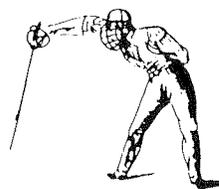
This issue marks the final issue for the current Editor. Bruce Milligan, of Foster City, California will become the next Editor with the next edition.

I would like to thank Albie Axelrod, our current Editor, for the hard work and dedication he has brought to a very difficult assignment. Albie has in this role, as he did as a competitor, thrown himself into the fray with all he had. As a bronze medalist at the 1960 Olympics, he is one of American fencing's heroes. I am certain he will continue to provide fencing with his leadership and counsel for years to come.

* * * * *



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OPEN INVITATION—

For the sixteenth consecutive year, Aaron Bell of the Tanner City Fencers Club cordially invites all fencers—living in, passing through, or vacationing in New England—to participate in informal outdoor fencing every Wednesday evening during July and August from Seven to Ten-thirty P.M. at his home, 52 Pickwick Road, Marblehead, Massachusetts.

There is an electric strip and a heated swimming pool. Wives, children and friends are welcome. There are free refreshments, courtesy of the Tanner City Fencing Club and NO fees or charges of any kind.

FENCING CLINICS AT SUMMER CAMPS

The USFA has funded a program that enables American Camping Association certified camps to be visited and given day-long fencing clinics.

The program began in order to promote fencing. The clinics expose youths to fencing in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Last summer, the program's first year, eighteen New England camps were visited. This gave approximately 800 children the opportunity to experience fencing. Clinics were generally conducted with groups ranging from eight to ten children for one to two hour sessions.

Currently the program is conducted in the New England States area. Anyone interested in participating in the "Camp Outreach" 1990 tour as a clinician please contact Diane

Knoblach. The address is: 63 Fulton St., Brentwood, NY 11717, and the telephone number is 516-273-1397.

LET'S HEAR FROM THE HACKERS

For those who have a computer—and who doesn't anymore—and a modem, and are also a subscriber of Compuserve; please remember to go to the user's directory and place "fencing" in your own interest category. I would like sometimes to maintain contact with some of my fellow "junkies", and I can use the "fencing" criteria to flag people to whom I would like to send an electronic memo. Especially some of the coaches, directors such as George Kolombatovich, or other fencers I haven't seen for a while.

Also, I think USFA should call and ask for information regarding going "on-line" with Compuserve. It has national access, avoids long distance charges, and USFA would receive a percentage of the on-line user fees from fencers and non-fencers. Those who would be interested in becoming a system operator (SYSOP) for fencing should call 1-800-848-8199, and let USFA know how it would work. The time may be near when one can just type "GO USFA", and get advice on a judgment call—or even access electronic updates on the latest USFA rules.

Maybe the other fencers can let me know their feelings on it.

Michael A. Bailey
Casper Fencing Club
Wyoming Division, USFA
Compuserve #71006,11

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(* Just kidding, Michael, no need to get your lawyers involved.)



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Interview

by Marty Lang

Q: Pardon me sir, but I'm the editor of the Long Island Newsletter and I wonder if I could ask you a few questions.

A: Oh, sort of like an interview, huh?

Q: Yes, sort of.

A: Shoot.

Q: Well, I see you at practically all the fencing tournaments—are you a coach or a former fencer?

A: No.

Q: Well, what brings you to all these events? After all, some of them run as much as 10 hours.

A: I once attended one in the Met. division that ran 13 hours.

Q: You haven't answered my question.

A: I'm a fencing father.

Q: Oh? What does that mean?

A: It means that the heart pounds, the palms are wet, the mouth is dry.

Q: Why do you do this?

A: Because my son's a fencer.

Q: You mean you're so emotionally involved it's as if you're participating?

A: Heck, no.

Q: What, then?

A: I'm watching and praying. . .

Q: For a victory for your son?

A: Oh, no. I'm praying that he doesn't bust a foil. Do you have any idea how much those things cost?

Q: Then you feel that fencing is an expensive sport?

A: And how! At least in high school he had team equipment. Now he had to pick a college that has no fencing team. Wow, does it cost!

Q: Well if it's only equipment expense that bugs you, it's really not too bad.

A: Oh yeah? How about the travel?

Q: What travel?

A: What travel? I'll tell you. Two years ago Los Angeles. Last

* * * * *



This flick went off! Huttenbach (right) having just taken the blade with a counter-quarte, finds Giasson's back.

photo by Albert Axelrod

year Miami. Last year London. This year Genoa. And all the little side trips.

Q: Side trips?

A: Yeah. The local stuff. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Connecticut, Massachusetts, etc., etc., etc.

Q: Your son must be quite a fencer. Do you enjoy seeing him fence?

A: Only when he wins.

Q: Is that often?

A: Not often enough.

Q: You sound as though you are really crazy about fencing.

A: Oh, I can either take it or leave it alone.

Q: Didn't I see you at the Nationals in Miami last year?

A: Yes.

Q: That's quite a distance to go for someone who can either take it or leave it.

A: Well, it was sort of a vacation.

Q: Are you going to the Nationals in Los Angeles this year?

A: Well, I might possibly be there while the Nationals are going on.

Q: C'mon now, admit that you are a fencing buff.

A: I guess I am.

Q: Well. I think that's great. Don't look so glum.

A: I just received some bad news.

Q: Oh?

A: Yes. I have another son in the infantry in Vietnam.

Q: Gee, I hope nothing is wrong.

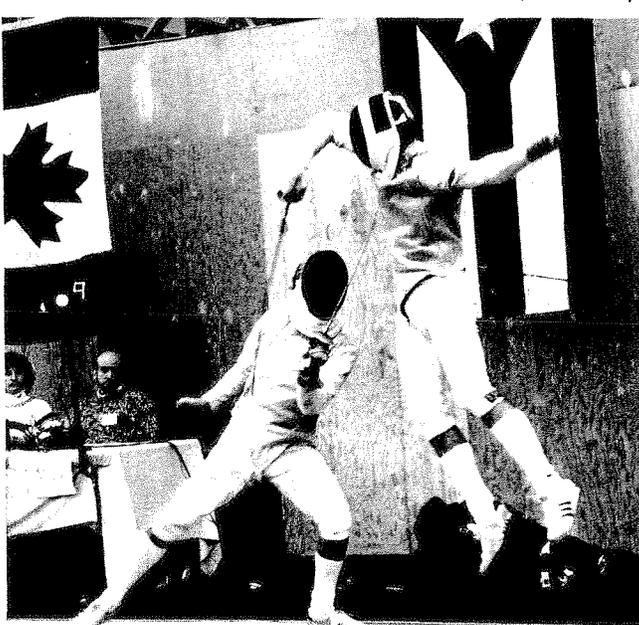
A: It couldn't be worse. He just wrote me that when he returns in six months he's going to take up fencing.

Q: Well, I think that's great!

A: It's not. He's a lefty. My other son is a righty. I don't even get the break of hand me downs. Now he's gonna want to travel—money, money, money, (walks off muttering).

Q: Thank for the interview, si. . .

* * * * *



This thrust finds the target! Michael Marx takes to the air and finds the back of Rocheleau (Canada).

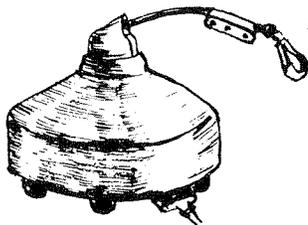
photo by Albert Axelrod



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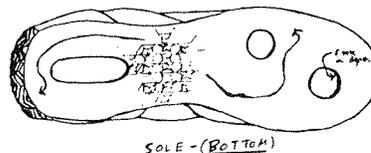
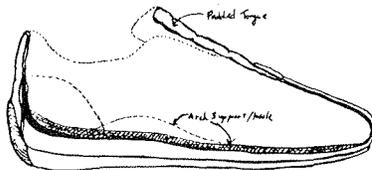
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Which Fencing Method Is Best?

by Michael A. D'Asaro

I read with great interest the report on the Women's Epee Clinic given by two German coaches at Colorado Springs. The two guest coaches explained in great detail their method of training epee fencers. It sounded like a very good method of training and, obviously, the excellent results of the West Germans attest to the effectiveness of their system. The most important and critical aspect of the "West German Formula" is summed up in the following three extracts:

"...a West German athlete training for the World Championships or the Olympics takes 6-7 lessons daily, *six days a week* (author's italics), for about four months before, and normally might have 2-4 lessons *daily* (author's italics). . ."

"...This rigorous schedule of training is followed by all, despite work conflicts, etc. They come to the club before work, during lunch, and after work, and before and after school. . ."

"...one must live fencing *every day* (author's italics). If we hope to do well internationally, this is the type of commitment we have to make. . ."

Other countries also do well in international competition and they also have excellent training programs. The underlying factor of these successful training programs is many hours of hard work by dedicated athletes. For some reason we American fencers fail to make the commitment. We expect every new foreign coach that comes to this country to do it for us. The greatest myth, though, is that participation in more international competition will improve our performance. What good is frequent participation in international competition if we are not properly prepared for these competitions? It only increases the number of competitions in which we demonstrate mediocre to poor performance. What about experience gained from these competitions? Experience is only of value if we learn from these lessons and apply them to our fencing and training. Our results show that we have not learned from our experience, and therefore, the experience is of no value. Do we really think that fencing one or two nights a week is really adequate preparation for world class competition? I have read many articles and spoken to many world class athletes in other sports about their training, and they all train at least four hours a day, six to seven days a week. These athletes also work or go to school.

American fencers and coaches don't think they can train four to five hours a day, six days a week. If American fencers and coaches don't want to train that hard, that's fine. They can still enjoy the beautiful sport of fencing and get a good workout. Our "best" fencers can still represent the United States and enjoy the experience of international competition. With our present training program we should be realistic and not really expect any medals. If medals and results at international competition is so important to us, then we must train accordingly. It doesn't matter which method we use as long as we have dedicated fencers who are willing to train hard for many long hours. To the critics out there who don't think long hours of hard work is the answer, I say, "let's give it a try"; this formula seems to work for other countries and sports, and we've tried all the easier and more convenient methods of training with little or no success. Why not give serious training a try?

If we fencers and coaches do not want to put in the maximum time and effort necessary to train seriously for international competition, then let's not waste our money and other resources on useless training plans and expensive fencing

trips to Europe. We should continue to send our "elite" fencers to the World Championships, Pan American Games and Olympic Games so that the United States will be represented at these prestigious events. Our fencers will still fence at the best of their abilities, exhibit their knowledge and love of the game, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and enjoy the worthwhile experience of competing in a world class competition. This is certainly a just reward for our fencers who have accumulated the most "points".

The money saved from realistic expenditures in our international program can fund other deserving grass roots and junior programs. The expansion and development of these grass roots and junior programs will reach a greater number of fencers, with a greater influence and benefit to more fencers in this country.

If, however, we as a fencing community feel that it is important to do well in international competitions, and the USOC continues to fund this venture, then it is our responsibility to devise and implement the most effective program possible. It is clear that the only way to improve our training program is to fund and support those fencers who are dedicated to training five to six hours a day six days a week. Obviously this requirement will reduce the number of contenders. But it will give us the right number of fencers who realistically have a chance to do well internationally.



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“If You Allow The Attack, You Have To Allow the Riposte.”

by George Kolombatovich

“Top 40” of myths about how we fence

culled and commented on by George Kolombatovich

The following (loosely transcribed) have all been heard at fencing competitions. Sometimes they've been said by fencers, sometimes by presidents of jury, sometimes by coaches, and sometimes by members of bout committees. Every item contains a common misconception about our rules. Every item contains something that is WRONG!

How many of these have you heard (said)? How many of these did you know were wrong?

1. Fencer: “You have to give me my riposte if you were going to give her her attack!”

- Rule 32 — Nothing may start after the halt. A “Halt” called during an attack or even during a parry means that the riposte came after the halt and is not allowed.

2. President of Jury: “Yes, she didn't start her action until after she was past you but she is entitled to one shot if you run past.”

- Rule 32 and 35 — When one fencer passes another, “Halt!” must be called. Any action that starts after the “Halt!” is never allowed. This does not include a riposte (or any action for that matter) that starts before the “Halt!” but arrives after the “Halt!”. Presidents must be careful not to call “Halt” too soon.

3. President of Jury: “You can fence with only one screw in your épée, but if you lose your point, you can't protest a touch against you.”

- Rule 732 — You must have two screws. No second screw requires a Card for improper equipment, and the weapon must be replaced.

4. Fencer: “What?!?! I can't lose a bout for a Card!”

- Rule 49 — Since we no longer have negative touches, any penalty except a Yellow Card can cause loss of bout.

5. Fencer: “Why are you confiscating my failed weapons? I want my friend to fix them since this one I'm using now is my last one.”

- Rule 21 — This is for the fencer's protection. The rule states: “. . . will be immediately confiscated. . .” At an épée circuit once, a fencer was given the penalties for four non-working weapons. It was subsequently discovered that the reel was intermittent and that nothing was wrong with the weapons. Since the weapons were under official control, the penalties could be removed.

6. Fencer: “I know I don't have a clip to hold my body cord in the weapon, but if it falls out, I won't protest.”

- Rule 712 — The absence of a “security device” requires a Card for improper equipment, and the weapon must be replaced or a “security device” must be quickly attached.

7. Fencer in strip 3: “Oh, my second weapon is over near strip 27 in my bag with my other stuff.”

- Rule 21 — The second weapon must be out of the bag at the side of the strip. You should not have to “leave the strip” to get your second weapon. This fencer gets a Card.

8. President of Jury: “I know his first and second lamé had some dead spots and his first body cord didn't work and his first and second weapon didn't support the weight and he had a hole in his breeches, but I can't even give him a Card since there

wasn't any official equipment inspection this morning.”

- Rule 21 — It doesn't matter if there was an “official” check or not. Cards must be given. This fencer lost his bout 5-0 before he even got on guard. Make sure your equipment works!

9. Fencer: “You gotta give me the touch! I hit her before I fell!”

- Rule 28 — Any action that results in a fall is a “no no” and any fall (even if you trip) requires a Card.

10. President of Jury: “You have a Yellow Card for closing.”

- Don't try to find the rule. Closing doesn't exist as something illegal in the rules. Rule 33 specifically states that fencing at close quarters is allowed. No Card.

11. President of Jury: “You have a Card for seeking the corps à corps.”

- Just like #9 above; no such rule and no Card. It used to be against the rules, but that was changed many, many years ago.

12. Bout Committee Chair: “It's OK for him to wear sweat pants; he's only a beginner and he won't get hurt. You know we really don't want to discourage beginners.”

- Rule 27, Part 3 — It just isn't allowed and he just might get hurt! While we don't want to discourage beginners, we certainly want to discourage doctors avoidably treating a fencer and lawyers suing an injured fencer's opponent, president of jury, bout committee, et cetera. This fencer should be allowed a few minutes to find the required pants and he should be Carded if he shows up on the strip so attired.

13. Fencer: “I went off the strip right here so I just go back one meter from this spot.”

- Rule 43 (Recently revised—but the concept has been this way forever—almost) — Your opponent advances one meter (in all three weapons) from his or her place on the strip when you went off. You can make a gift of a touch to your opponent this way. Example: Your opponent is standing about two and a half meters from your end line and you go off the side of the strip with both feet between your opponent and your end line, your opponent would be placed on guard one meter closer to your end line and you would have to be placed on guard off the strip which results in a touch for the opponent.

14. Fencer: “I have to fence again? Hey, we're double stripping and I just finished a bout. I get (take a number:) two/five/ten minutes.”

- Rule 518 and 553 — for a five touch pool bout it's three minutes and for an eight or ten touch direct elimination bout it's ten minutes that you're allowed between bouts. It is correct procedure for you to be called to fence earlier; if you don't want to take a time out — or if you want to take just part of it, that's OK (actually, it would be greatly appreciated by everyone if you don't delay a competition anymore than it very likely already is.)

15. Non-electrical Foil President of Jury: “Attack from the right; riposte from the left; counter riposte from the right. The attack?” Judge 1: “No.” Judge 2: “Off target.” President of Jury: “I vote yes so that's a doubtful touch. The riposte?” Judges 1 and 2: “No.” President of Jury: “The counter riposte?” Judges 1 and 2: “Yes.” President of Jury: “Touch for the right.”

- Rule 69 — See Note (5) on page 27 of the USFA Rules Book. Since the first two votes indicate “contact” on the attack,

“If You Allow The Attack, You Have To Allow the Riposte

(continued)

anything which occurs after must be annulled. The President's vote cannot overrule a “No” and an “Off-target.”

16. Fencer: “That’s my touch! I had an extended arm and my point was pointing right at him; he never even had an extended arm.”

- Rule 10 — There is no requirement for an extended arm to make an attack: only an extending arm.

17. Épée Fencer: “The score is 5-5; that’s a double defeat for us.”

- Rule 321 — Only time expiring with a tie score causes a double defeat. And never in a direct elimination bout.

18. Sabre Fencer: “Look; I had a point in line and immediately made the cut when he attacked. I was threatening the entire time so it’s my touch.”

- Rule 418 — “Point in line” and “cut” are two separate actions. In this case, the cut is a counter attack.

19. Bout Committee Chair at foil event: “No touch. I know it may have registered valid on her mask. Just annul the touch and have her change the mask.”

- Rule 722 — All foil masks must be insulated to insure touches on the mask do not register as valid. Touch should count. (If you’ve had a mask for a while, it is almost a sure thing that the insulation is chipped!)

20. Foil Fencer: “Please clip the alligator over here on the front of my jacket so the president can see it.”

- Rule 217 — The crocodile (a wide snouted creature, not a pointy one like the alligator) clip has to be clipped onto the back of the lamé on the sword-arm side.

21. President of Jury: “You lose. Time has expired. I know that no minute warning was given but all six minutes are up. I’m sorry but that’s the way it is.”

- Rule 45 — You must have a one minute warning. If none was given, the clock should now be set with one minute to go and the warning given and the fencing started again at that point.

22. Sabre Fencer: “Those presidents really gave it to me. My teacher told me that I have the attack as long as I have three things: my arm fully extended, the blade at less than 135°, and forward movement. All I heard was some garbage about carrying!”

- Rule 417 — The actual wording of the rule won’t help you that much, but — (Remember the rules book doesn’t even state which arm has to be extending when you attack!) The interpretation of what is a correct attack requires that the blade, in relation to the person wielding it — not to the person being attacked, be always moving forward. To “carry” the blade indicates that the blade is just being held out without the forward motion required for cutting.

23. President of Jury: “I can’t give you that touch. Your opponent stopped when she heard the other machine next to ours. It just wouldn’t be fair!”

- Rule 32 — Only “Halt!” stops the bout, not a phone ringing, some other scoring apparatus, the carillon at the church next door, the president’s electronic watch, a “Halt!” from a different strip, et cetera. This touch must be awarded.

24. Fencer (just after unhooking from the reel): “I protest!

That last touch should have been mine. I want the Bout Committee.”

- Rule 661 — If you don’t protest “immediately,” it is too late. If you unhook, leave the strip, or fence another touch, your protest may not even be discussed by the president or by the Bout Committee.

25. Sabre President of Jury: “Halt!” The attack was off-target. The valid counter attack cannot be awarded.”

- Rule 411 — It’s a new one. “A touch which arrives off the valid target is not counted; it does not stop the fencing phrase and does not annul subsequent touches.” The counter attacker here gets a point. (This is true for electric and non-electric sabre.)

26. Fencer: “I know I’ve a compound fracture in my leg and that my ankle is so badly sprained that my toes are pointing backwards but I want to keep fencing!”

- Rule 52 — If the doctor says “No more.” then it is no more.

27. Fencer: “Hey, yeah you, the timekeeper. How much time’s left?”

- Rule 46 — The interpretation (here’s that word again) is that only presidents of jury are to be asked. This insures that both fencers know what is going on, not just one. (Also, how about a little courtesy for our scorers and timekeepers!)

28. Fencer: “Excuse me, but I think you have to give him a Card. He displaced his target during that action.”

- Rule 35 — Displacing and ducking are allowed. Neither one is an illegal action. Covering is, however, not legal.

29. Foil Fencer: “How can that be called an attack? His guard was by his hip for the first half hour of the phrase! Okay, so I did try to parry those lousy feints and I didn’t start anything offensive until after he started extending but I still think I should be given the right of way.”

- All too often fencers see an action similar to this one and they think the president is giving the attack just for forward movement of the body. It is important to remember that at the end of all of the movements described here, one fencer started an attack and the other counter attacked. The analysis of the actions by the president will be “attack and counter attack” and nothing more. (To quote Bill Shipman: “If you’re parrying, the other guy is attacking.”)

30. Coach at Junior Olympics (Yes, I admit it, it was I.) to President of Jury during a bout: “Excuse me, please reconstruct that action. Wasn’t it the other way around?” (OK, maybe I don’t remember exactly what I said but the rumors of profanity are totally false!)

- Rule 611 and 661 — Only the fencer at an individual competition may protest or even talk to the president of jury. No one (that includes coaches, teammates, fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, et cetera), except the competitors and officials, is even allowed near the strip!

31. Épée President of Jury: “Why are you complaining? So what if the touch was after the corps à corps; this is épée.”

- Rule 34 — Yes, even in épée the bout gets stopped. “Halt!” must be called at corps à corps and, just like in foil or sabre, any action that starts after the corps à corps must not be allowed.

'If You Allow The Attack, You Have To Allow the Riposte

(concluded)

32. President of Jury: "Halt! Touch for your opponent! Your back foot was off the end of the strip and your front foot wasn't touching the strip. With one foot off the end, it isn't good enough to have your other foot just over the strip."

- Rule 39 — Interpretation is that crossing a limit, rear or side, requires both feet to be past the line. If you are in the middle of the strip and then jump straight up you obviously have not left the strip. (Frequently asked question at FIE examinations for presidents of jury: "How high is the strip?" Answer: Infinitely high.) Suggest to all fencers: Don't put the president in a situation where such a decision has to be made. In fact no competent President would say this.

33. Fencer: "I protest. You say she was on the strip when she hit me and I know she wasn't. Ask those other two fencers in the pool. They saw it."

- Rule 615 — The president may have been wrong but the decision is considered a matter of "fact" and cannot, therefore, be protested.

34. President of Jury: "Yes, I know that her arm was about 45° from her blade but her arm was straight and the blade was pointed right at you so that is a point in line."

- There is no definition in the Rules Book as to what a "point in line" is. The FIE and the USFA's Fencing Officials Commission points (excuse the pun) out at every clinic on the rules that they give that the only thing that can be called a "point in line" is having a straight line from the shoulder to the point and the point threatening the adversary's target.

35. Fencer: "I can't believe that president. She gave that guy the right of way with the point in line even when he was advancing and retreating."

- Rule 233 and 418 — You have the right of way if you have a point in line until your opponent deflects your blade. Advance or retreat all you want — just keep a straight line from your shoulder to your point, keep your point aimed at valid target, and don't let the other guy deflect your blade.

36. President of Jury: "I'm going to have to give you a Card if you don't shake hands now. The score is "La Belle" and you are required by the rules to shake hands at "La Belle."

- This is an example of local custom, certainly not from anything in the rules. Many fencers would correctly take offense at someone trying to shake their hands and, thereby, disturb their concentration at such a critical time in the bout when the score is tied with only one touch to go. (This situation is not even called "la belle" in most of the world.) Customs do vary; USFA sabre fencers are often taken back when they fence people from other countries. The rest of the world does not shake hands when they change sides in the middle of a bout. This is certainly not rude. Rules and customs are not the same.

37. President of Jury: "Your parry was insufficient. The attack good."

- Just try to find the word "insufficient" in the Rules Book — it isn't there. You either made a parry or you didn't make a parry. It is sufficient to say that the "insufficient parry" just does not exist.

38. President of Jury: "That's a Red Card for covering. I know you were five meters apart when you touched your mask with your back hand but you did cover the target when you did it."

- Rule 30 — Once again, an interpretation. The question the president and the arm judge must ask themselves is whether or not the covering actually interfered with the opponent's ability to hit the target. If the fencers are not close enough to hit, covering didn't occur.

39. President of Jury: "Your point in line is not correct. She beat your blade and, even though she made a series of feints without any extension of her arm and you had immediately replaced your point in line after her beat, she had the right of way."

- Rule 10 requires one to continuously threaten to be attacking. Since the fencer who put her point in line was there before even one of the improperly executed "feints", the priority passes from the fencer making the beat to the fencer who established the point in line.

40. President of Jury: "I don't care if you have an FIE jacket; you have a Yellow Card for not having a plastron."

- FIE jackets already have the plastron included. No Card.

It may very well be true that someone loses at least one touch at every competition due to ignorance of the rules. Do not expect others to know the rules. Make it part of your learning to be a fencer; to learn the rules. A thorough knowledge of the rules can be even more important than a good parry in some situations.

Rules Books are available from the USFA National Office, 1750 East Boulder Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 — just send in \$15.00 (\$8.00 if you want it without the three ring binder) and you'll have your own book to study. The price includes shipping and handling. Changes in the rules will be sent to the membership through the National Newsletter.

Two other good sources of information:

1. Clinics put on by the Fencing Officials Commission, the FOC. Caution: All too often (despite the very best of intentions), wrong and outdated information is passed on to the unsuspecting by so-called "knowledgeable officials." Recently, an FIE rated president was quoted as saying at a Sectional Clinic that any forward motion should be considered the attack since that's the way they do it in Europe. Help stop such false propaganda from being disseminated. (Yes, just as in the United States, the bad presidents of jury in Europe call all forward motion attacks; the good ones do not.) Please — contact the FOC for clinics!

2. The FOC representative at all of the North American Circuits, the Junior Olympics, the National Championships, and at your Sectional Championships. They'll be glad to answer your questions.

The information given in this article has been approved by the Fencing Officials Commission's Committee on Publications.

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Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes

“My Flicks Don’t Go Off!”

I have heard that gripe, or a version of it, from a few of our foil and epee fencers off and on over the years. Fortunately, it hasn't come up too often, or I might have contemplated mayhem on a number of occasions. However, there have been a number of recent cases, so let me get a word or two in, as a pre-emptive strike, before this cancer spreads, again. There is really nothing new under the sun, I do believe; this gripe is not original, it just represents a rediscovery of an old ploy. The fencer complaining is usually arguing that there is something wrong with the equipment. Naturally, he (or she—I have known a few of the ladies—bless 'em—to talk this way) is convinced that the trouble has to be in the five-hundred or two-thousand dollar scoring machine, not, of course, in the foil or epee being used.

(I suppose we will start getting this story in saber now, and perhaps with more justice: the most successful saber machine manufacturer has concluded that there are actually few fast saber contacts that will not and cannot be registered with the saber rules as presently written. However, these are rare cases, and anyway the saber works on a different system; it is foil and epee that I am talking about here.)

To begin with, it is true that, infrequently—and it's not nearly so common an occurrence as your average paranoid competitor likes to think—a machine can go out of adjustment and take longer to register a touch. However, the top and bottom speeds permitted to scoring machines are specified in the FIE rules, and most of the manufacturers have had no trouble for years now in keeping their products within the generous ranges permitted. In fact, quite some years ago, with the advent of solid state techniques, it became necessary for some of the makers actually to slow down their most efficient brain-children, especially for foil, to prevent all sorts of unwanted off-target phenomena appearing at the drop of a hat, or more likely at the tug of a reel cord.

It is also true that now and again this trouble, or supposed trouble, can be traced to a very dirty point in the weapon, that has to stay open or closed a bit longer (relatively speaking—we are still talking about a few thousandths of a second here) to make the contact work properly; I have been able to document a case or two of that sort in my time.

What the fencers who talk this way don't seem to realize is that (this is my opinion, I admit, but I hope I am not alone in it) they have been trying subtly to pervert the rules of fencing—to their own advantage, of course.

Let's begin at the beginning: the touch itself. When I was learning the sport, it was still mostly a visual-judging era, and the fencers and the directors, and the judges (remember them?) were all made pretty aware early in their careers of what a touch was supposed to look like. Old-times will remember that a point landing on the flank, much less on the back, was not likely to be called, because nobody was going to be in the right location to see it and call it. In the absence of direct visual evidence, the case was doubtful at best: no touch. With the electrification, there came a change, inevitably. If a touch did land under the arm, or over the shoulder, the machine would catch it and show it. The machines also showed, at least some of the time, touches that angled in or even just slid by on the



Joe Byrnes and Apprentice

photo by Albert Axelrod

target, if they managed to grab enough of the lamé jacket to depress the point. Under the old visual rules, such a “touch”, like as not, would not have been awarded: grazing, or flat touches, etc., did not count. Thus the electrical scoring early on made a number of kinds of touches show up as “good” that a purist of the old school would never have called.

Then we came to the next step: trying to get a little advantage for yourself out of this development. Not happy with being able limited to having to put the point fair and square on the target, at the end of a blade on a straight thrust, some fencers began to look for additional ways to get the machine to go off. You could say they wanted it to go off in the worst way—and that's how some of them tried to make it happen. Some of them still do.

Here is where we get into a gray area. The straight touch is obviously OK; it always was. The slightly angulated touch was formerly awarded only some of the time; then it began to be awarded more often. At what point does the angle get too big? You still have to make the point switch open, and that is done most efficiently by hitting straight on. Are we to accept anything that the machine can be made to register? In practice, of course, that is just about what happens. But where are the limits? I remember, before the FIE imposed limits for blade flexibility, how certain foil fencers (the epee fencers didn't go in for this variation much—they had their own favorite stunts) would deliberately have their blades ground down near the tip, to make them extra flexible, in the hope of having the things curl in around a strong beat-parry, say, and take the opponent by surprise in the flank. At least a couple of high-placed foilists had to retool, in all senses, once the FIE flex tests came in.

Some of the old-time saber fencers also used to do the same thing: they would have their blades deliberately ground down, (in the larger of the two dimensions) immediately behind the tip to the point where it was no wonder that they would occasionally break off right there on a strong parry. The goal was the same: to create an extremely flexible tip that would snake around certain parries. If you have ever seen extremely fast stop-action photos of a saber bout, you know how extraordinary the “s”-curve bends can be in these blades—I mean the normal ones. I don't need to mention, I hope, that those ground down blades were potentially deadly dangerous—both in foil and saber. There's one of the reasons

'My Flicks Don't Go Off!'

(concluded)

for the FIE regulations that were eventually enacted governing minimum blade thickness.

Back to the latest version of the grand game.

Will someone please show me where in the rules a touch is defined as a "flick"? Since when has a "flick" any right to "go off"? The very term being used shows that it is a game with the machinery that they are talking about, not the conception of a touch that was held good for presumably some centuries. Admittedly the definition of a touch as set out in the rules (see Article 29) could be a little crisper; but I would respectfully submit that Article 29 does not say that a touch is just anything that a machine can somehow be made to show.

Historically, the touch came first. The machine was made to show that what was defined as a touch had really happened.

Trying to find ways to get the machine to "flick" things in for you is gamesmanship, not sportsmanship.

One of the most excessive of these claims that I ever encountered was once made, some years ago, by a fencer who subsequently learned better, even as he began to do better; that when he whacked his foil on the side of its point, it ought to score a touch! No. No way. What he did to his point barrels now and again you can imagine, I hope.

So, to revert to where we began this: for fencers who unfortunately have let themselves drift into this sort of ploy in their fencing, naturally it's the machine that is at fault; not themselves, not their technique, never their oh-so-carefully cultivated "flick." But no. "Your flicks didn't go off?" They're not supposed to. Sorry about that.

* * * * *



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USFA 1990 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Ron Hendricks

Final preparations are under way in Salt Lake City for the 1990 USFA National Championships. Members of the Utah-Southern Idaho Division are looking forward to hosting the country's top male and female fencers June 9-17.

The Division I and Division II events, plus the Senior and Under-19 competitions, will provide fencers of all levels a chance to earn a national title or simply experience the thrill of a national fencing tournament. More than 1000 athletes are expected to compete for the individual and team titles in foil, epee and saber.

"It is our goal to make every competitor feel like they are an important part of these nationals," says Ron Hendricks, co-chairman of the national competition. "We have worked hard to instill an atmosphere that reflects the competitive spirit and pride that USFA members take in their sport."

Hendricks, of the Wasatch Fencing Association, is working with Mark Stasinos, president of the Utah-Southern Idaho Division, in putting on the event.

VENUE

The Salt Palace Convention Center (home of the Utah Jazz and the Salt Lake Eagles) will serve as the venue for the nine-day championships.

Located in the heart of Salt Lake City, the air-conditioned venue contains 44,000 square feet of strip area with another 4,000 square feet set aside for registration and vendors. High quality mercury vapor lighting, plus homosote floor-covering under the 35 metallic fencing strips, make the Salt Palace an impressive venue.

Two major shopping malls, some 30 restaurants, eight movie theaters, Symphony Hall, and numerous night clubs (yes, you can get a drink in Utah), are within walking distance of the Salt Palace and the host hotel, Little America.

The Utah State Capitol, Hansen Planetarium, University of Utah, Trolley Square, Hogle Zoo, Lagoon Amusement Park, and Pioneer Trail State Park are within minutes of the host hotel. Visitors may also be interested in nearby Temple Square, world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons).

In addition, world-renowned ski resorts, such as Park City, Alta and Snowbird, are an hour away from downtown. In the summer, these resorts are entertaining centers, offering outdoor concerts, art exhibits, shopping, tram rides and even a giant alpine slide down one of the ski runs. The Great Salt Lake and Bonneville Flats are also attractions just outside the city you won't want to miss.

Yes, the Salt Lake City area offers you all this, plus a wide range of recreational activities. There's golf, tennis, swimming, water slides and even hiking in the nearby Wasatch Mountain Range.

Competitors will be provided with detailed information on what is available to do while staying in Salt Lake City and Utah.

HOST HOTEL

The Little America Hotel will provide you with more than a place to sleep. With spacious rooms adorned with fine furnishings, you will be hard-pressed to find a finer hotel anywhere. Within walking distance to the venue, Little America provides free transportation to and from the airport 24 hours a day. Of course, restaurants, lounges, weight rooms,

saunas, whirlpool and shops are all part of the Little America complex.

As host hotel, Little America's room prices are very competitive for USFA members and their guests. To place a reservation or find out more, call 1-800-453-9450.

HOST AIRLINE

Delta Airlines and Jensen Brown Travel are offering special rates which afford a 5% bonus off Delta's published round-trip rates within the United States, providing all rules and conditions of the airfare are met. If special fares do not coincide with your travel dates, a 40% discount off Delta's unrestricted round-trip coach rates will be offered. Seven days advance reservations and ticketing will be required.

To take advantage of either discount, call Jensen Brown travel at 1-800-445-6005 and ask for June or Holly. Be sure to tell them you are attending the USFA National Championships.

VACATION OPPORTUNITIES

While you're in Utah, you might want to make a vacation of it. Utah is home to five national parks—Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Arches—six national forests, and 48 national parks. Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Canyon are also nearby. For water enthusiasts, there's Utah's spectacular Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge national recreation areas.

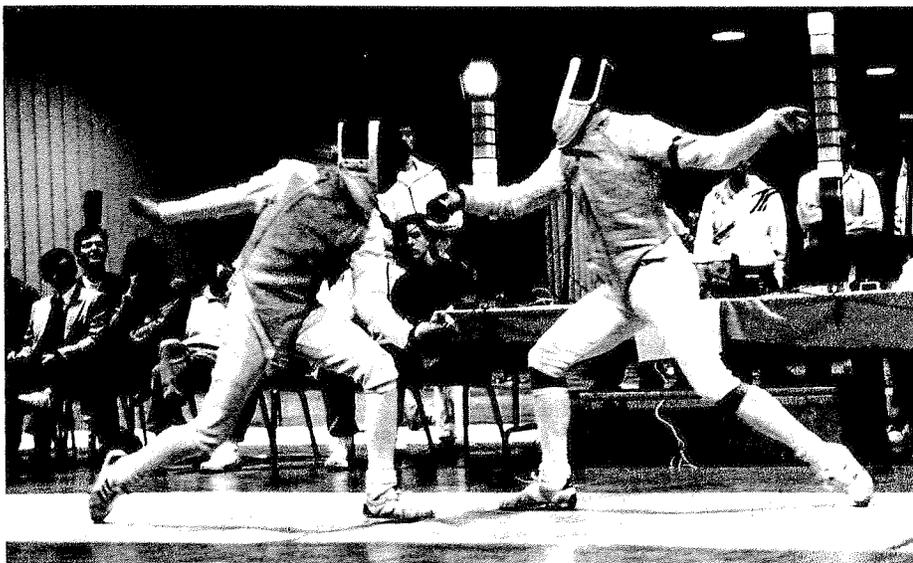
For information on everything from river rafting to the world's most breathtaking scenery, call the Utah Travel council at 1-800-541-4955.

FENCING VIDEO TAPES

	QTY
TRAINING WITH MICHAEL MARX \$15.00 _____ <i>Michael Marx's training procedure. Useful for developing fencers.</i>	
HOW TO WATCH A COMPETITION \$10.00 _____ <i>For all weapons. The right of way, and how to watch fencing. Good for spectators and local TV stations.</i>	
FENCING GAMES \$15.00 _____ <i>For clubs and schools. Describes and demonstrates 20 games of various types. Used for teaching beginner and intermediate fencers.</i>	
6-LESSON PLAN \$20.00 _____ <i>For PE teachers with class responsibilities and who are introducing fencing as a physical education unit or as a lifetime activities course.</i>	
FOOTWORK \$20.00 _____ <i>Basic footwork demonstrated.</i>	
EPEE FOR TWO \$20.00 _____ <i>Epee drills—offense and defense—from the simple to the compound. For all levels.</i>	
FOIL REPAIR \$20.00 _____ <i>A video prepared with Dan DeChaine to aid foilists in repairing foils.</i>	
EPEE REPAIR \$20.00 _____ <i>A video prepared with Dan DeChaine to aid epeeists in repairing epees.</i>	
SHIPPING AND HANDLING PER ORDER \$ 3.50 _____	
AMOUNT OF CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____	

COLLEEN OLNEY

2221 SE 117TH • PORTLAND, OR 97216



Pavese (left), finds the target with a thrust from the low line.

photo by Albert Axelrod

CIRCUIT RESULTS

NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT #1

December 9-10, 1989 Louisville, KY

Men's Foil—121 Entries

Gold medal match

Marx d. Pavese 10-5

Bronze medal match

Cohen d. Carter 10-6

Finals

Marx d. Cohen 10-1; Pavese d. Carter 10-7;

Marx d. Tichacek 10-0; Cohen d. Mufel 10-6;

Pavese d. Tremblay 10-4; Carter d. Yu 10-7.

Final Placements

1. Marx, Michael—Indiana
2. Pavese, Marc—Metro., NY
3. Cohen, Nathaniel—Metro., NY
4. Carter, Al—Philadelphia
5. Mufel, Edward—Cent. Penn.
6. Yu, Marty—Connecticut
7. Tichacek, Jack D.—New Jersey
8. Tremblay, Daniel—Canada
9. Littell, David—Philadelphia
10. Demarque, Jerome P.—Metro., NY
11. Fox, Frank Oliver—South Calif.
12. Longenbach, Zaddick—Metro., NY
13. Giasson, Benoit—Canada
14. Bukantz, Jeffrey—New Jersey
15. Chatel, Marc—Canada
16. De Morelos, Carlos—North Calif.
17. Bergeron, Nicholas—Canada
18. Apsimon, Paul—Canada
19. Weber, Alan E.—Philadelphia
20. Huttenbach, Joshua—Metro., NY
21. O'Donnell M.D., M.—New England
22. Atkins, Ben—Metro., NY
23. Torres, Javier—Mexico
24. Gillette, Steve—Illinois

December 9-10, 1989 Denver, Colorado

Men's Epee—125 Entries

Gold medal match

Cote d. Stull 10-6

Bronze medal match

Normile d. O'Neill 10-5

Finals

Cote d. O'Neill 10-8, Skillman 10-5;

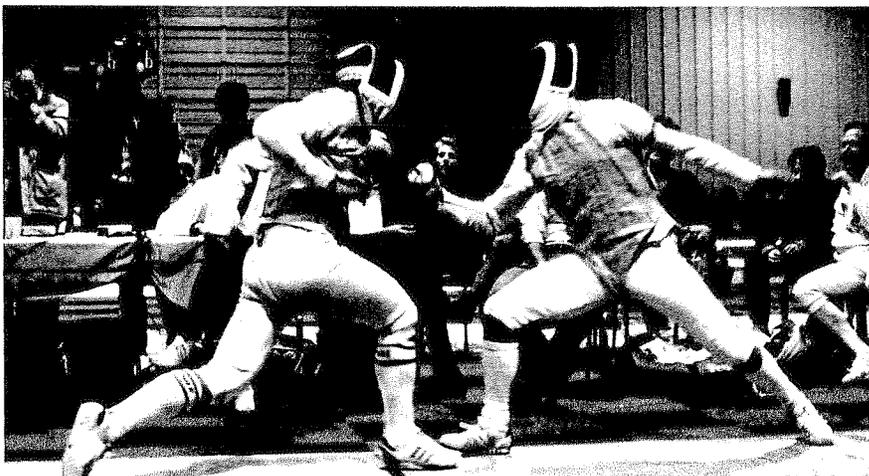
Stull d. Normile 12-11, Marx 10-8;

O'Neill d. Soter 10-5;

Normile d. Calderon 10-6.

Final Placements

1. Cote, Alain—Canada
2. Stull, Robert—South Texas
3. Normile, Jon—Metro., NY
4. O'Neill, James—Metro., NY
5. Marx, Robert—Oregon
6. Calderon, Eduardo—Mexico
7. Soter, Paul—North Calif.
8. Skillman, Peter—North Calif.
9. Nowosielski, Dan—Canada
10. Weems, Rodney Adrian—New Jersey
11. Phillips, Miles D.—Minnesota
12. Rush, Scott—Illinois
13. Vidor, Richard—North Calif.
14. Carpenter, James—Metro., NY
15. Thomas, William P.—South Texas
16. Ferman, David—St. Louis
17. Griffiths, Steven—New Jersey
18. Niemiec, Mark—Colorado



Nat Cohen (left), is pinned in his preparation by Michael Marx.

photo by Albert Axelrod

19. Desamours, Francois—Colorado
20. Gelnaw, William H.—South Calif.
21. t Lee, Brian M.—Metro., NY
21. t Socolof, Joseph D.—New Jersey
23. Yarrison, Robert C.—New England
24. Hirshon, Brad—Metro., NY

November 17, 1989 Martinsville, NJ

Men's Saber—99 Entries

Gold medal match

Mormando d. Westbrook 12-11

Bronze medal match

Friedberg, J. d. Plourde 11-9

Finals

Mormando d. Friedberg 12-11, Cox 10-6;

Westbrook d. Plourde 10-5, Stollman 10-6;

Friedberg d. Cottingham 10-7;

Plourde d. Banos, J-M. 10-7.

Final Placements

1. Mormando, Steve—Metro., NY
2. Westbrook, Peter—Metro., NY
3. Friedberg, John—Metro., NY
4. Plourde, Tony—Canada
5. Banos, Jean-Marie—Canada
6. Cottingham, Robert—New Jersey
7. Stollman, David—Michigan
8. Cox, David B.—Cent. Penn.
9. Banos, Jean-Paul—Canada
10. Gravel, Evens—Canada
11. Lofton, Michael—Metro., NY
12. Friedberg, Paul—Metro., NY
13. Reohr, Christopher—National
14. Capin, Bruce—Or.Cst., CA
15. Moriarty, Sean—Canada
16. Anthony Jr., Donald K.—Metro., NY
17. Cox Jr., Peter T.—New England
18. Rodriguez, Gerard—Metro., NY
19. Czaya, Waldek—Illinois
20. Valter, Daniel—Metro., NY
21. Mandell, David—Metro., NY
22. Dossmann, Matthew—Michigan
23. Deschenes, Bruno—Canada
24. Gonzalez—Rivas, George—Metro., NY

December 8-9, 1989 Louisville, KY

Women's Foil—66 Entries

Gold medal match

Bilodeaux d. O'Neill 8-5

Bronze medal match

Hall d. Marsh 8-4

Results

Finals

Bilodeaux d. Hall 8-4, Hervieu 8-4;
O'Neill d. Marsh 10-8, Aubin 8-2;
Marsh d. Monplaisir 8-6;
Hall d. Trambly 8-5.

Final Placements

1. Bilodeaux, Caitlin K.—Metro., NY
2. O'Neill, Mary Jane—New England
3. Hall, Jane P.—New England
4. Marsh, Ann—Michigan
5. Monplaisir, Sharon—Metro., NY
6. Trambly, Thalie—Canada
7. Hervieu, Marie-Francoise—Canada
8. Aubin, Renee—Canada
9. Angelakis, Jana M.—New England
10. Yu, Jennifer—Cent. Calif.
11. Lopez, Fabiano—Mexico
12. Lortie, Marie-Chantale—Canada
13. Hamori, Isabelle—Metro., NY
14. Chernyak, Olga—North Calif.
15. Bourdages, Helene—Canada
16. Zimmerman, Felicia—Western NY
17. Zapata, Josefa—Mexico
18. Moy, Tzu Ling West—Metro., NY
19. Piper, Heidi Macknight—Australia
20. Chouinard, Ysabele—Canada
21. Posthumus, Jennifer—Cent. Calif.
22. Metaxatos, Irene—Metro., NY
23. Marx, Suzanne Brown—Oregon
24. Hamel, Louise—Canada

December 9, 1989 Denver, Colorado

Women's Epee—65 Entries

Gold medal match

Schaeper d. Stone 8-5

Bronze medal match

Clark d. Littman 8-1

Finals

Schaeper d. Clark 8-6, Bannon 8-4;
Stone d. Littman 8-5, Lewis 8-4;
Clark d. Cheris 8-6;
Littman d. Holly 10-10.

Final Placements

1. Schaeper, Ute—W. Germany
2. Stone, Donna Lee—New Jersey
3. Clark, Laurel—North Calif.
4. Littman, Dr. Jane R.—Piedmont, SC
5. Holly, Madeleine C.—Metro., NY
6. Bannon, Margaret—Canada
7. Cheris, Elaine—Colorado
8. Lewis, Teresa R.—South Texas
9. Roldan, Lourdes—Mexico
10. Turpin, Barbara—Oregon
11. Duenas, Angelice—Mexico
12. Miller, Margo—South Calif.
13. Schlick, Gabriela—W. Germany
14. Krusen, Kathryn—North Calif.
15. Klinger, Anne—Oregon
16. Hayes-Arista, Ruth I.—West. Wash.
17. Frye, Mary Patricia—Michigan
18. Erdos, Elizabeth A.—North Calif.
19. Escanellas, Sasha—Puerto Rico
20. Reibman, Amy Ruth—New Jersey
21. Beegle, C.J.—West. Wash.
22. Thompson, Katherine M.—North Ohio
23. Adrian, Marlene—Illinois
24. Shereda, Maria—Colorado

NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUIT #2

January 13-14, 1990 Portland, Oregon

Men's Foil—122 Entries

Gold medal match

Giasson d. Marx 10-3



Katie Bilodeaux — again triumphant!
photo by Albert Axelrod

Bronze medal match

Rocheleau d. Huttenbach 12-11

Finals

Giasson d. Huttenbach 11-9, Carlay 10-7;
Marx d. Rocheleau 10-4, Waller 10-6;
Huttenbach d. Bravin 10-8;
Rocheleau d. Tichacek 10-8.

Final Placements

1. Giasson, Benoit—Canada
2. Marx, Michael—Indiana
3. Rocheleau, Luc—Canada
4. Huttenbach, Joshua—Metro., NY
5. Tichacek, Jack D.—New Jersey
6. Carlay, Al—Metro., NY
7. Waller, David D.—Canada
8. Bravin, Eric Nick—Southern Calif.
9. Bergeron, Nicolas—Canada

10. Mufel, Edward—Cent. Penn.
11. Carter, Al—Philadelphia
12. Chatel, Mark—Canada
13. Pavese, Marc—Metro., NY
14. Panizo, Alvaro—Peru
15. Madrid, Ivan—Metro., NY
16. Thliveris, Tom—New Jersey
17. Fox, Frank Oliver—Southern Calif.
18. Bowsby, Craig—Canada
19. Kwok, Wei-Tai—Central Calif.
20. Longenbach, Zaddick—Metro., NY
21. Atkins, Ben—Metro., NY
22. Bukantz, Jeffrey—New Jersey
23. Leary, Philip Adam—New Jersey
24. Trambly, Daniel—Canada

January 14-15, 1990 Portland, Oregon

Men's Epee—103 Entries

Gold medal match

Shong d. Carpenter 10-8

Bronze medal match

Marx d. Chouinard 10-4

Finals

Shong d. Marx 12-12, O'Neill 10-7;
Carpenter d. Chouinard 10-7, Stull 10-7;
Marx d. O'Loughlin 10-6;
Chouinard d. Cote 10-8.

Final Placements

1. Shong, Laurie—Canada
2. Carpenter, James—Metro., NY
3. Marx, Robert—Oregon
4. Chouinard, Nicolas—Canada
5. Stull, Robert—South Texas
6. Cote, Alain—Canada
7. O'Loughlin, Chris—Metro., NY
8. O'Neill, James—Metro., NY
9. Socolof, Joseph D.—New Jersey
10. Soter, Paul—Northern Calif.
11. Griffiths, Steven—New Jersey
12. Russell, Geoffrey B.—Cent. Penn.
13. Normile, Jon—Metro., NY
14. Gelnow, William H.—Southern Calif.
15. Bakonyi, Ron—Canada
16. Block, Claus Dieter—Northern Calif.
17. Masin, George G.—Metro., NY
18. Bloom, Tamir—Philadelphia
19. Soellner, Ian—Canada



Demarque (left) ducks under Giasson's attack and goes on to win 10-5.

photo by Albert Axelrod

Results

20. Kline, Sean—Minnesota
21. Weems, Rodney Adrian—New Jersey
22. Baxter, David C.—Metro., NY
23. Wahren, John—New Jersey
24. Brunning, John—Canada

January 15, 1990 Portland, Oregon

Men's Saber—61 Entries

Gold medal match

Banos, J.-M. d. Stollman 10-8

Bronze medal match

Gravel d. Plourde 10-8

Finals

Banos d. Gravel 10-8, Nowosielski 10-1;

Stollman d. Plourde 12-10, Capin 10-5;

Gravel d. Friedberg, J. 10-5;

Plourde d. Friedberg, P. 10-4.

Final Placements

1. Banos, Jean-Marie—Canada
2. Stollman, David—Michigan
3. Gravel, Evens—Canada
4. Plourde, Tony—Canada
5. Friedberg, John—Metro., NY
6. Nowosielski, Leszek—Canada
7. Capin, Bruce—Or. Cst., CA
8. Friedberg, Paul—Metro., NY
9. Lofton, Michael—Metro., NY
10. Maggio, Jonathan S.—Metro., NY
11. Reohr, Christopher—National
12. Ferretti, Vincent—Canada
13. D'Amico, Leonard—Central Calif.
14. Cottingham, Robert—New Jersey
15. Bizzarro, Martin—Canada
16. Rodriguez, Gerard—Metro., NY
17. Mandell, David—Metro., NY
18. Benedek, Miklos—Central Calif.
19. Anthony Jr., Donald K.—Metro., NY
20. Cox, David B.—Cent. Penn.
21. Tass, Atilio—Arizona
22. Randolph, Robert—Southern Calif.
23. Bardagi, Michael—Canada
24. Friedlich, Avi—San Diego

January 14-15, 1990 Portland, Oregon

Women's Foil—86 Entries

Gold medal match

Bilodeaux d. O'Neill 8-6

Bronze medal match

Angelakis d. Garcia 8-4

Finals

Bilodeaux d. Angelakis 8-4, McDaniel 8-4;

O'Neill d. Garcia 8-2, Monplaisir 8-2;

Angelakis d. Yu, J. 8-4;

Garcia d. Hall 8-3.

Final Placements

1. Bilodeaux, Caitlin K.—Metro., NY
2. O'Neill, Mary Jane—New England
3. Angelakis, Jana M.—New England
4. Garcia, Miranda—Cuba
5. Hall, Jane P.—New England
6. Yu, Jennifer—Central Calif.
7. Monplaisir, Sharon—Metro., NY
8. McDaniel, Rachel—Philadelphia
9. Delgado, Regla—Cuba
10. Hernandez, Barbara—Cuba
11. Hamori, Isabelle—Metro., NY
12. Wetterberg, Shelley—Canada
13. Sullivan, Molly—New England
14. Zimmerman, Felicia—Western NY
15. Hynes, Janice—New England
16. Lavigne, Sylvia—Canada
17. Posthumus, Jennifer—Central Calif.

18. Chernyak, Olga—Northern Calif.
19. Estrada, Caridad—Cuba
20. Marsh, Ann—Michigan
21. Clinton, Marjory—Western, NY
22. Tondu, Jennifer Louise—Northern Calif.
23. Martin, Margaret A.—Western NY
24. Piper, Heidi MacKnight—Indiana

January 13, 1990 Portland, Oregon

Women's Epee—65 Entries

Gold medal match

Turpin d. Haugh 8-6

Bronze medal match

Clark d. McClellan 8-0

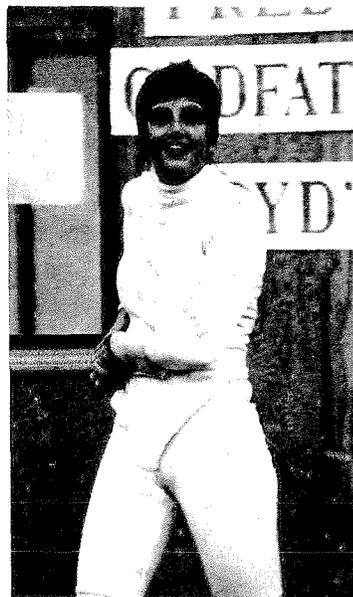
Finals

Turpin d. McClellan 10-8, Reibman 8-2;

Haugh d. Clark 8-5, Littman 8-6;8;

McClellan d. Chouinard 8-5

Clark d. Cornez 9-7



Barbara Turpin wins her first circuit event in the #2 NAC Women's Epee event.

photo by Albert Axelrod

Final Placements

1. Turpin, Barbara—Oregon
2. Haugh, Rachel—Indiana
3. Clark, Laurel E.—Northern Calif.
4. McClellan, Cathy—New England
5. Cornez, Sylvie—Canada
6. Littman, Dr. Jane R.—Piedmont, SC
7. Chouinard, Ysabelle—Canada
8. Reibman, Amy Ruth—New Jersey
9. Arata, Kimberly D.—Southern Calif.
10. O'Donnell, Judith B.—New England
11. Bannon, Margaret A.—Canada
12. Morrison, Veronica Smith—Capitol
13. Schlick, Gabriela—West Germany
14. Summers, Chanel-France J.—So. Calif.
15. Holly, Madeleine C.—Metro., NY
16. Gilbert, Jennifer E.—Northern Calif.
17. Norwood, Lori—South Texas
18. Klingler, Anne—Oregon
19. Dobloug, Lisa—Capitol
20. Adrian, Marlene—Illinois

21. Pillon, Caroline—Canada
22. Lewis, Teresa—South Texas
23. Rodriguez, Kerryn—South Texas
24. Delgado, Regla—Cuba

DIVISION RESULTS

COLUMBUS DIVISION

SALLE ARAMIS/COLUMBUS OPEN

January 13, 1990 Cooke Rec. Center

Men's Foil—22 Entries

1. Shearer, Michael—Salle Aramis
2. Adkins, Jerry—Indianapolis
3. Wilson, Thomas—Columbus FC
4. Leavitt, Chuck—Pittsburgh FC
5. Redella, Steve—Un. of Louisville
6. Moodey, Bill—Carnegie-Mellon Univ.

Women's Foil—7 Entries

1. Huey, Gina—Gamble-Nippert FC
2. Johnson, Cathy—Pittsburgh FC
3. Smith, Patty—Indianapolis FC
4. Curry, Devin—Miami Univ. FC
5. Cheney, Carolyn—Buckeye FC
6. Weaver, Karan—Salle Aramis

Mixed Epee—17 Entries

1. Gillman, Bruce—Salle Aramis
2. Adkins, Jerry—Indianapolis FC
3. Burley, Joseph—FS of Oakland Univ.
4. Decker, Thomas—FS of Oakland Univ.
5. Poole, Jim—Parksburgh YMCA
6. Hunker, Fred—Columbus FC

Mixed Saber—16 Entries

1. Morilak, Dann—Unattached
2. Scheuerman, Ron—Gamble-Nippert FC
3. Dressel, Todd—FS of Oakland Univ.
4. Tan, Paul—Unattached
5. Weaver, Ron—Salle Aramis
6. Gillman, Bruce—Salle Aramis

SOUTHERN INDIANA DIVISION

INDIANA FENCING CLUB OPEN "U" TOURNAMENT

November 18, 1989 Indianapolis, Ind.

Men's Foil—28 Entries

1. Blair, Ray—Salle Aramis
2. Grossman, Tim—Tri-State FC
3. Feustal, Elihu—Rose Hulman Univ.
4. Liebel, Tom—Cincinnati
5. Flaherty, Michael—Purdue
6. Geenan, Bob—Purdue

Women's Foil—8 Entries

1. Murphy, Kimberly—Purdue
2. Beard, Sanece B.—Indianapolis FC
3. McGinnis, Megan—Notre Dame
4. Deak, Ellen—Escrime du Lac
5. Peters, Susan—Indianapolis FC
6. Hagerty, Kerry—Tri-State FC

CIRCLE CITY OPEN

January 20, 1990

Men's Foil—20 Entries

1. Grossman, Tim A.—Tri-State
2. Roethele, Timothy—St. Francis
3. Wallace, Marcus—Indianapolis FC
4. Young, Steven K.—Unattached
5. Moon, Rich—Indianapolis FC
6. Feustel, Elihu—Rose Hulman Univ.

Results

Women's Foil—6 Entries

1. Brown, Myriah—Escrime du Lac
2. Beard, Sanece Dee-Indianapolis Fc
3. McGinnis, Megan—Escrime du Lac
4. Schrock, Melanie—St. Francis
5. Deak, Ellen—Escrime du Lac
6. Rollings, Michelle—Indianapolis FC

Women's Foil—42 Entries

1. Benford, Maria
2. Hovanyi, Christie
3. Baker, Sarah
4. Wagner, Jeanne
5. Lichten, Judith
6. Haas, Patty

Women's Epee—8 Competitors

1. Frye, Mary
2. Thompson, Jeanne
3. Berweiler, June
4. Saunders, Jenny
5. Arenson, Jennifer
6. Zeilman, Carla

ILLINOIS DIVISION

REMEYIK OPEN

October 28-29, 1989 Northwestern Univ., IL

Men's Foil—67 Entries

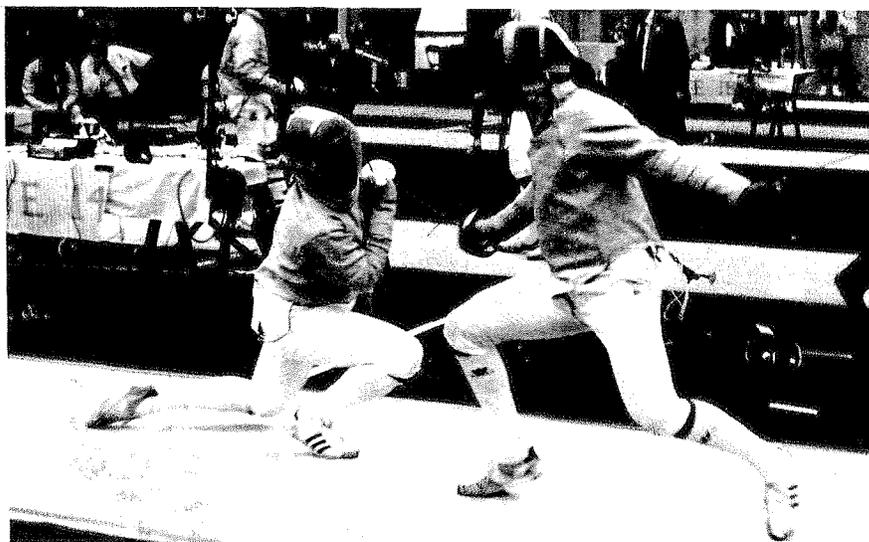
1. Biebel, Joseph
2. Simmons, Paul
3. Gillette, Steven
4. Prilusky, Mike
5. Kaihatsu, Ed
6. Mueller, Greg

Men's Epee—40 Entries

1. Gilman, Tim
2. Rush, Scott
3. Varney, Doug
4. Vargas, Colby
5. Nieberding, Bill
6. Ferman, David

Men's Saber—38 Entries

1. Waldek, Czaja
2. Burget, Brad
3. Warshaw, Larry
4. Sautter, Andreas
5. Koser, Don
6. Niewiaroski, Rick



Christopher Reohr (left) parries the counter-attack to the head and continues for a successful riposte against Don Anthony.

photo by Albert Axelrod

NATIONAL SABER AND FOIL TRAINING CAMP

June 24 to July 1, 1990 For Men and Women, Ages 15 and Older

Director: Francisco Martin

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Coaches: **Emmanuil G. Kaidanov**

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Wes Glon

- U.S. Coach for World Championship Teams, 1989-1990

Yuri Rabinovic

- Coach of members of Junior World Championship Teams

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FEES: \$375.00 Residential; \$305.00 Commuter. Fees include room/board and all superbly equipped recreational facilities of the exclusive Masters School campus, 40 miles north of Manhattan.

For an application and a brochure with all necessary information, detach the form below and mail to: Wieslaw Glon, 2126 N. Oak Lane, State College, PA 16803. Telephone: (814) 863-0237 (day) or (814) 234-3829 (eve).

NAME _____ AGE: _____ SEX: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Please indicate which group you prefer to work with: NOVICE _____ INTERMEDIATE _____ ADVANCED: _____

Results

COLLEGIATE RESULTS

USFA COLLEGIATE OPEN

In spite of cold, snow and sleet, this event was the best attended collegiate event, ever. Penn State hosted 23 teams from all over the country.

21 teams took part in men's foil and women's foil competitions and 18 teams fenced for saber and epee titles.

The format of the tournament was mixed. First, there were pools of three teams, fencing each other. Then all teams were placed in a table of direct elimination of 32, with determination of all places.

This format allowed each team to fence from 5 to 7 meets.

The tournament was well organized, well run, and promises to become an increasingly important event.

January 19-20, 1990 State College, PA

Men's Foil Team—21 Teams

1. Notre Dame
2. Columbia
3. Penn State
4. Brandeis
5. Notre Dame J.V.
6. OSU
7. Duke
8. Northwestern
9. Penn State J.V.
10. Cornell
11. North Carolina
12. North Carolina J.V.

Men's Epee Team—18 Teams

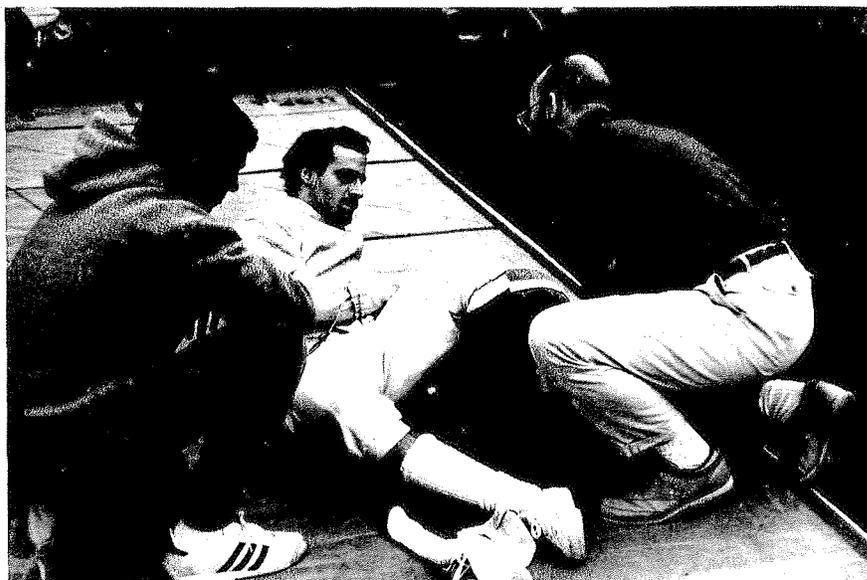
1. Notre Dame
2. Brandeis
3. Columbia
4. Penn State
5. Univ. of Penn.
6. N.C. State
7. Duke
8. Ohio State
9. Northwestern
10. Johns Hopkins
11. Cornell
12. Haverford

Men's Saber Team—18 Teams

1. Columbia
2. Penn State
3. Notre Dame
4. Notre Dame J.V.
5. Univ. of Penn.
6. Ohio State
7. North Carolina
8. Cal State (Long Beach)
9. Penn State J.V.
10. Cornell
11. Cleveland State
12. Northwestern

Women's Foil Team—21 Teams

1. Notre Dame
2. Temple
3. Columbia
4. Penn State
5. Univ. of Penn.
6. Ohio State
7. Temple J.V.
8. Northwestern



John Friedberg receives medical attention from Peter Harmer of Portland.
photo by Albert Axelrod

9. Univ. of Penn. J.V.
10. William Patterson
11. North Carolina
12. Cleveland State

1989 NEW ENGLAND WIFC/IFC TOURNAMENT

November 5, 1989 MIT, Cambridge, MA

Men's Foil—25 Entries

1. Monsefi, Amir—Brandeis
2. Hutton, Dave—Boston Un.
3. Hong, James—Trinity

Mixed Epee—16 Entries

1. Keeley, Mike—Fairfield
2. Chin, Ed—MIT
3. Finger, Carl—Brandeis

Men's Saber—23 Entries

1. Barnett, Brendon—Brown
2. Govatzidekis, George—Brown
3. Milgram, Daniel—Un. of Mass.

Women's Varsity Foil—14 Entries

1. Cheng, Alice—MIT
2. Armstrong, Laura—MIT
3. Crinklaw, Dawn—Wellesley

Women's Novice Foil—22 Entries

1. Bening, Ann Marie—Wellesley
2. Benis, Kveta—Wellesley
3. Zielenski, Susie—Wellesley

HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

February 3, 1990 Abilene Christian Un.

Men's Foil—20 Entries

1. Girard, Mike—St. Mark's

2. Miller, Mark—St. Mark's
3. Abbondanzio, David—St. Mark's

Men's Epee—9 Entries

1. Girard, Mike—St. Mark's
2. Fanning, Martin—St. Mark's
3. Dunn, Kelly—Jim Ned H.S.

Men's Saber—10 Entries

1. Dunn, Kelly—Jim Ned H.S.
2. Faulkner, Brant—Jim Ned H.S.
3. Pennington, Scott—Jim Ned H.S.

NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 28-29, 1990 New Jersey

Boy's Foil—67 Entries

1. Gearhart, Andy—Rochester FC
2. Fernandes, Jerome—St. Benedict's
3. Sewhan, Kim—Masters/Ramapo HS

Boy's Epee—47 Entries

1. Murphy, Ronald—Columbia HS
2. Clinton, Tad—Rochester FC
3. Krahling, Jim—Hackettstown HS

Boy's Saber—36 Entries

1. Kimberlin, Brian—Master/Ramapo HS
2. Rupp, Gregory—No. Hunteron HS
3. Curtis, Davis—Pingry HS

Girl's Foil—104 Entries

1. Zimmerman, Felicia—Rochester FC
2. Super, Margaret—Penn State Club
3. Murray, Jennifer—Salle Santelli, NY

CORRECTION

On page 27 of Vol. 41, No. 1, "Empire State Games", first two places are:

1. Mones, Herbert—Long Island
2. Magliore, Rothchild—New York

Results

1989 NATIONAL SENIOR RESULTS

The USAF extends a sincere apology to the senior fencers for the delayed reporting of these results. They were late in preparation and have only just been forwarded to the Editor.

Carla-Mae R.

MEN'S FOIL

- 40-45**
1. Scranton, Robert—Ark-La-Miss
 2. Rios, Joseph—Mt. Valley
 3. Jones, A. Lanier—Gateway, Fl.

- 45-50**
1. Sexton, Ray—So. Texas
 2. Arroyo, Rolando—Arizona
 3. Khinoy, Stephan—Metro., NY

- 50-55**
1. Lewis, Maurice—Harrisburg
 2. Duran, Gerardo—Central Florida
 3. Bengé, Donald—So. California

- 55-60**
1. Peredo, Alfred—Westchester
 2. Gotthardt, William—So. Jersey

- 60-65**
1. Fiducia, Gene—So. Jersey
 2. Zack, Stanley—Western NY
 3. Stein, Bernard—Gold Coast

- 65-70**
1. Canvin, James—Piedmont, SC
 2. Specter, N. Herbert—Alabama
 3. McFarland, Edward—Gold Coast

- 70 and Older**
1. Steere, Richard—Capitol
 2. Noble, F. Pierce—Ark-La-Miss
 3. Appling, Donald—Hawaii

Super Final

1. Peredo, Alfred—Westchester
2. Canvin, James—Piedmont, Sc
3. Bengé, Donald—So. California

MEN'S EPEE

- 40-45**
1. Spielberg, Joel—So. Jersey
 2. Decker, Thomas—Michigan
 3. Low, Charles—New England

- 45-50**
1. Flynn, John—Capitol
 2. Sexton, Ray—So. Texas
 3. Khinoy, Stephan—Metro., NY

- 50-55**
1. Von Oppen, Dieter—Illinois
 2. Lewis, Maurice—Harrisburg
 3. Campe, Kazimieres—Capitol

- 55-60**
1. Bengé, David—So. California
 2. Fisher, David—Gold Coast
 3. Gotthardt, William—So. Jersey

- 60-65**
1. Zack, Stanley—Western NY
 2. Baugh, Hale—Cent. Florida

- 65 and Older**
1. Robinson, Earl—Louisiana
 2. Specter, N. Herbert—Alabama
 3. Appling, Donald—Hawaii

Super Final

1. Von Oppen, Dieter—Illinois
2. Zack, Stanley—Western NY
3. Robinson, Earl—Louisiana

MEN'S SABER

- 40-45**
1. Rowley, Kirk—Central Florida
 2. Werre, Steven—West. Washington
 3. De Ravel, Pierre—Metro., NY

- 45-50**
1. Szerenyi, Laszlo—Gold Coast
 2. Arroyo, Orlando—Arizona
 3. Sexton, Ray—So. Texas

- 50-55**
1. Kramer, Martin—So. Indiana
 2. Dillard, John—Kansas

- 55-60**
1. Alexander, Dean—Gold Coast
 2. Peredo, Alfred—Westchester

- 60-65**
1. Campoli, James—Cent. Florida
- 65-70**
1. Specter, N. Herbert—Alabama
 2. Stein, Bernard—Gold Coast

- 70-75**
1. Rayser, V. Fred—San Bernardino, CA

- 75 and Older**
1. Appling, Donald—Hawaii
 2. Farkas, Frank—New Jersey

Super Final

1. Campoli, James—Central Florida
2. Alexander, Dean—Gold Coasts
3. Szerenyi, Laszlo—Gold Coast

WOMEN'S FOIL

- 40-45**
1. Alexander, Kate—Gold Coast
 2. Penrod, Marilyn—Virginia
 3. Harris, Sandra—Virginia

- 50-55**
1. Abrahams, Terry—Central Florida
 2. Adler, Priscilla—Gold Coast

- 59 and Older**
1. Trett, Sophie—Central Florida
 2. Scanlon, Jane—New Jersey

Super Final

1. Trett, Sophie—Central Florida
2. Abrahams, Terry—Central Florida
3. Alexander, Kate—Gold Coast

WOMEN'S EPEE

1. Trett, Sophie—Central Florida
2. Annavedder, Mary—So. California
3. Harris, Sandra—Virginia

WOMEN'S SABER

1. Harris, Sandra—Virginia

* * * * *

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