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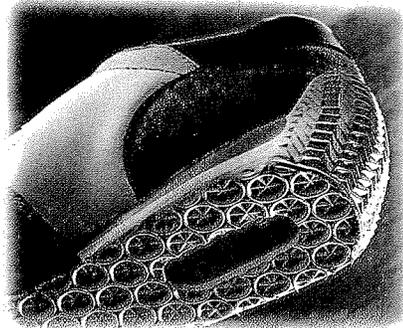
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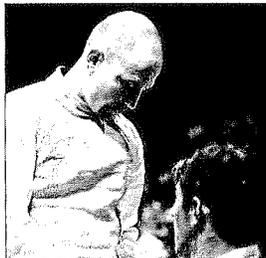
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American Fencing

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On the cover: Jane Hall shot an exuberant Suzie Paxton at the conclusion of her victory in Atlanta.

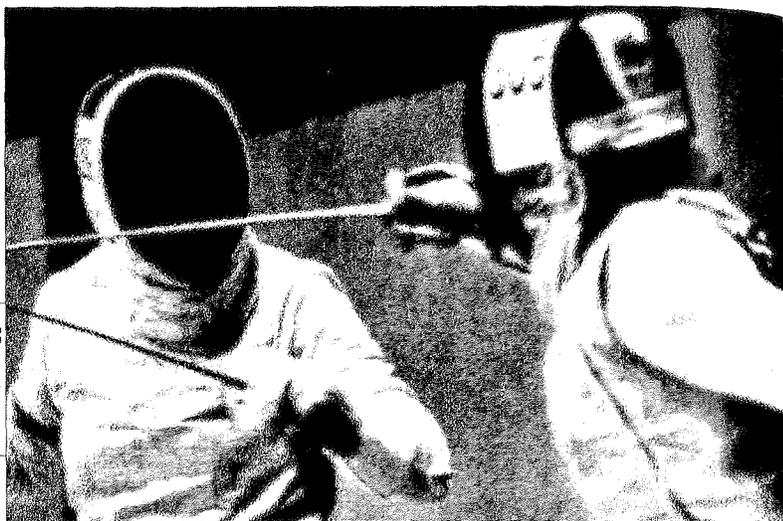
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Domestic Programs: A Worthy Partner to Elite Progress

It's not enough to simply state an Association's goals; you have to establish the environment in which those goals can be achieved.

BY DONALD W. ALPERSTEIN, USFA PRESIDENT



With one modification, this administration has re-embraced the Mission Statement and Goals that guided the USFA through the progress of the last quadrennium, and which we believe will serve us well during the current four-year cycle. That Mission Statement and those Goals were set forth at page 20 of last month's American Fencing. The Executive Committee recommended changing one of the Goals from "Expand Membership" to "Expand Membership and Enhance its Benefits," demonstrating our dedication to the interests of all members, regardless of the level at which they participate or compete. In September, the Board of Directors approved the

committee isn't functioning well, we need to know that in time to correct the problem. Only in this way can we, in the words of one of our Goals, "Make the USFA an effective and efficient organization."

Membership Has Its Benefits

We wanted to expand the Membership goal because we believe the USFA can better respond to the needs and desires of all members without impairing our international efforts. Indeed, we believe that a well-served membership will want to remain with the Association, bringing stability to our ranks and providing a solid foundation on

which to grow. As the benefits of membership attract new fencers and fencing families to the USFA, clubs will profit, local competitions will grow and promising competitors and volunteers will emerge. In other words, what is good for the members is good for the organization.

We are already working to "enhance the benefits" of membership. Soon, and at

Member benefits attract new fencers; clubs profit, local competitions grow, promising competitors and volunteers emerge.

administration's decision to readopt those principles with the suggested amendment, thus rededicating the USFA to their pursuit.

In order to focus our efforts on achieving the Goals, and as a means of measuring our success in doing so, the administration is implementing a policy designed to coordinate the efforts of our many committees, define what each is expected to accomplish and monitor their success. Every committee will be given defined tasks or, in some cases, asked to submit for approval by the Executive Committee a statement of what the committee intends to accomplish during the ensuing year and quadrennium. Three times each year, on a schedule coordinated with meetings of the Board of Directors, the committees will be required to report their activities, accomplishments and degree of success in performing those tasks.

We spend a great deal of money, not to mention valuable time and human resources, especially volunteer good will, on and through our committees. Most of what the organization accomplishes, or fails to accomplish, is a result of committee action or inaction. I feel very good about our committee leadership and membership, but if a

no extra cost, every member will have the opportunity to enroll in a dining club that provides significant discounts at restaurants in every major city in the country. The membership card is good at dining establishments of all types and price ranges. Not only is it usable in the member's home city, but every USFA national tournament confirmation will soon list all participating restaurants in the venue city, making travel to our competitions less financially burdensome.

Other benefits will follow. Anyone who has additional ideas for making USFA membership a more valuable and satisfying experience is encouraged to contact our Executive Director, Michael Massik, or any of your national officers.

Sports Science and Technology

Did you know that female athletes are up to eight times more likely than males to suffer injuries to the anterior cruciate ligament of the knee? Did you know that there are ways to prevent those injuries? Did you know that every sport and every athlete has an optimal balance and schedule for aerobic, anaerobic and strength training?

Did you know that fencing in this country lags far behind most other sports in determining the optimum training methods? Did you know that a light weight, portable and durable plastic fencing surface is under development? Does your coach know these things?

Exciting progress is occurring in the world of sports science and technology. The United States Olympic Committee is one of the best, if not the best, sports science resources in the world. The USFA has, so far, not been too successful at taking advantage of that resource. But that is beginning to change.

We are now working with USOC personnel to develop a working relationship between the USFA Sports Science and Technology Committee and the USOC Sport Science and Technology Division. For now, the project involves a review of the existing literature relevant to fencing and conferences to identify the special needs of our sport. Little systematic work has been done with fencing, so even the basic questions, like what factors contribute to safety and success, remain largely unanalysed. We need interested fencers and coaches to join these efforts, and those who wish to participate, and thereby be the first to benefit, need to speak up by contacting John Heil, chair of the Sports Science and Technology Committee, or Carla Mae Richards, the USFA's Director of Technical Programs.

I have a particular enthusiasm for sports science. Every fencer, from the club novice to the Olympian, wants to do his or her best. Along with coaching expertise, the systematic study and development of fencing's physical, mental and material attributes — i.e., science and technology — promises to help each fencer perform at the pinnacle of ability. During the next four years, we plan to make great progress on this front, and to make the new knowledge accessible to all of our coaches and competitors.

As we move forward with these and other projects, we need to hear from you, the members. We need your feedback, we need your ideas and we need your help. Volunteers, especially those willing to share professional expertise, are in very short supply. Drop us a line, or when you see USFA officers or committee chairs at meetings or in competition venues, introduce yourselves and tell us how we're doing, and how you can help us make the USFA a better organization.

An Open Letter to the Authors of Anonymous Letters

Dear Sirs or Madams:

In the years I have served the USFA as a national administrator, I have from time to time seen the anonymous letters you have sent to various members of our organization. Now that I am President, a few have been addressed to me. Over those years, the content of these letters hasn't changed much. Mostly, they accuse a [pick one or more of the following] National Office employee, administrator, referee, volunteer, tournament official, competitor, or committee of nefarious acts. Some of those accusations are quite petty. Some would indeed be serious, if the accusers would only identify themselves.

It was the policy of Steve Sobel's administration to ignore such letters. So, too, will it be mine. If you don't care enough or have enough conviction to identify yourself, we won't spend our valuable (and limited) time doing your dirty work. We will respond to all serious communications from those with legitimate concern and enough interest to provide their name and telephone number or address. But if you chose to remain anonymous, this is the first and last acknowledgement you will get from me.

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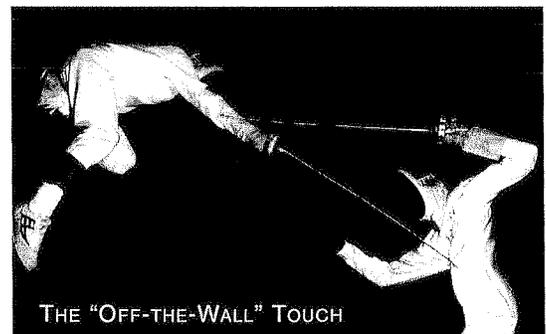
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More on the Calnan Legend

TO THE EDITOR,

I was delighted to read (Mr. Hurst's) article on George Calnan. Let me add a bit to your notes of what Henry Breckinridge had to say about him.

Henry Breckinridge was my uncle, and I have the privilege of many talks with him over the years. He had a story to tell about Calnan's performance at the Los Angeles Olympics. Calnan was very well conditioned, and the man favored to win, and who did eventually win, was somewhat older and the competition took a lot out of him. His supporters arranged to change the fencing rotation in the final pool, whereby Calnan had to fence a number of bouts in succession, while the European fencer (Italian or French, I don't recall) was allowed to rest while his supporters plied him with coffee with some alcoholic mix to revive his energies. When they met, Calnan had been overworked with the special rotation designed for the situation and (he) lost to the European.

When I was a young boy my Uncle Henry brought Calnan to visit us at our home near Lexington, Kentucky. We moved there in 1926, and lived in that house until it burned in 1931. So it had to be during that time, when I was between 9 and 14 (I'd guess around 10 or so). My father, who had been a fencer, dug out his long idle equipment and I recall the stamping of feet and ring of blades, but had little idea of what it was all about. I didn't get introduced to fencing until some nine years later. How I'd liked to have known what I was seeing.

Gus Heiss, whose record you can look up, told me that George Calnan was a very physically strong fencer, both explosive and with finesse. Little question that in his time he was the outstanding US fencer up to then.

You can add this to your files on George Calnan although I doubt that there will be occasion to do more than your interesting article in this summer's edition of *American Fencing*.

SCOTT D. BRECKINRIDGE
LEXINGTON, KY

Buzz Hurst replies: If my guess is correct, his great grandfather would have been John D. Breckinridge of Kentucky who ran against Abraham Lincoln for the presidency in 1860, having previously served as Vice President.

C'mon, What's It Gonna Take?

TO THE EDITOR

Like many Americans, I watched the 1996 Olympic Games out of patriotic duty to my country and (to see) Charles Barkley slam-dunk a basketball down the throat of some unfortunately Lithuanian. Unlike most Americans, however, I also watched in the vain hope that I'd get to see some first-class, Olympic-level fencing.

Sadly, this pipe dream of mine failed to materialize. Peter Westbrook & Co. did much better than expected, but I didn't see any fencing at all during the three week span that NBC preempted "Third Rock from the Sun." The closest I came was one viewing of an IBM commercial that showed two epee fencers discussing computer operating sys-

tems. I don't need to watch the Olympics for that; I can go to the Microsoft Fencing Club.

Instead NBC limited its extensive, almost 24-hour-a-day coverage to showing: women's team gymnastics (whose live events plus reruns accounted for nearly half of week one); dyed-in-the-wool, traditional sports like beach volleyball, in which American teams from Florida handily beat teams from (surprise!) the Ukraine; and Olympic flashbacks showing some of the Game's most memorable moments which, of course, pack more whallop than this year's live events.

For three weeks it went on like this. Bob Costas, NBC's Olympic anchor, and his team of announcers, Hannah Storm and John Tesh, spotlighted Americans winning medals in every event where NBC



Photo illustration by Harry Legatt

had television cameras, which incidentally was every event venue. Imagine the network's humiliation if Ann Marsh had beaten the tar out of Romania's Laura Badea for the gold medal.

Costas: Sorry to interrupt the taped delay showing of another strong USA finish in the 50-meter air rifle but we just received a flash bulletin. It seems Ann Marsh, an American competing on home turf in Atlanta has beaten a non-American for individual foil gold. Now, with a replay of the event, we go to John Tesh.

Tesh: Sorry, Bob. We don't have a crew set up at the fencing venue. Actually, until you mentioned it I didn't realize fencing was in the Olympics. Instead, here's a replay of the beach volleyball finals.

In the end our sport became a non-event in NBC's eyes. If we ask why fencing gets the perennial television blackout, I'll bet we'd hear the standard responses: too fast for spectators to keep up, non-fencers don't understand what's going on, and the uniforms make everyone look the same. Besides, fencing isn't even a real sport; it doesn't have a ball.

Fencing gets a bum rap from just about everyone in media. In mainstream entertainment the last person to represent our sport was Niles Crane, the uptight psychiatrist on "Frasier." I don't mind this attitude from most people. But after all the FIE and the USFA have done to improve the sport — names on uniforms, banning the fleche in saber, lexan masks — we've become more television friendly than

some of the season's new sitcoms. Still, it's not enough, NBC wants more.

What we need are some telegenic retired fencers to offer their services to NBC in the broadcasting booth. Every televised sport is announced by retired athletes (the glaring exception was "Entertainment Tonight" host and parttime pianist, John Tesh). We need Peter Westbrook or Sharon Monplaisir to don the blue blazer and cover the Games for NBC.

Think about it for a second. It could be the last piece needed to turn fencing into a televised sport. Before the rise of televised football, spectators had an impossible time following the action. If you look at old football footage, it looks like the same two black-and-white teams running the same plays over and over. Frank Gifford and John Madden took to the microphone and the game has never been more complicated. But, even though no one understands football, lots of people watch it.

I wonder if we could even talk some prominent ex-fencers into doing a beer commercial?

There you have it — the definitive plan for putting fencing on the airway in 2000.

ADAM RICHTER
SEATTLE, WA

There Is a Better Way

If you came away from viewing this summer's Olympic Games feeling warm and fuzzy, patriotic and yet a little empty, you're not alone. Fencing was not televised and neither was shooting, table tennis, badminton, or a variety of other sports. Although we did achieve excellent feature spots, we at the USFA understand that many of our fencers felt disappointed by the coverage.

We acknowledge that for sports such as fencing or team handball or field hockey it takes medals and interesting personalities to get coverage. (Witness the coverage archery received.)

Consider that the two pieces on fencing on NBC's Olympic coverage this year were both on six-time sabre Olympian (and '84 bronze medalist) Peter Westbrook. There were, however, many other very interesting stories on the team. To be fair, NBC Nightly News did a story on women's epee fencer Nhi Lan Le.

The USFA and other "small sports" (archery, badminton, boxing, fencing, field hockey, judo, modern pentathlon, shooting, table tennis, taekwondo, team handball, weightlifting) recognize the reality of Olympic coverage and have banded together to form **TUNE IN 2000** to encourage NBC to cover more sports during the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. We are starting now for 2000 because we want to give people a chance to communicate their feelings to NBC several times, if necessary. An early start also allows you, our members, to recruit family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. who feel the same to write to NBC. Include as many women as possible, since it seems women have a large impact on the Olympic television ratings.

We believe the general public wants to see more of sports they don't normally get to see. We also believe the general public wants to see stories about Olympians they can relate to, and we feel all sports offer these stories.

If you would like to participate in **TUNE IN 2000**, write a letter to NBC. Keep it to one page (remember the old 20-second rule for resumes?) Be positive! Tell them what you liked or enjoyed about their coverage. Tell them you want to see more of all of the sports

listed above. Send a copy of your letter to the USFA (**TUNE IN 2000**, U.S. Fencing, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80909, e-mail: USFencing@aol.com) so we can keep track of numbers.

Write to: Peter Diamond Senior Vice President, Programs, Olympics NBC Sports 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, N.Y. 10112

Kathleen Hurlie Senior Vice President, Olympic Planning NBC Sports 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, N.Y. 10112

David Neal Coordinating Producer, Olympics NBC Sports 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, N.Y. 10112

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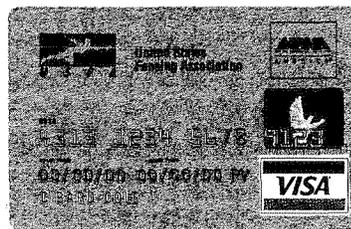
For those of you who are on line, NBC's web site for Olympic feedback is <http://www.olympics.nbc.com/bbs/index.html>.

The **TUNE IN 2000** program will continue throughout the quadrennial.

To Our Readers ...

On the following pages you'll see a record number (at least for this magazine) of photographs, color and black and white, from the 1996 Olympic Games, none of which would have been possible without the contributions from members around the country. A special thanks, then, to the photo corps of AMERICAN FENCING: Bob Block, Carl Borack, Jane Hall, Bob Largman, Bob MacFarland, Dave Micahnik, Suzie Paxton.

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Part Two of the Spring Thing

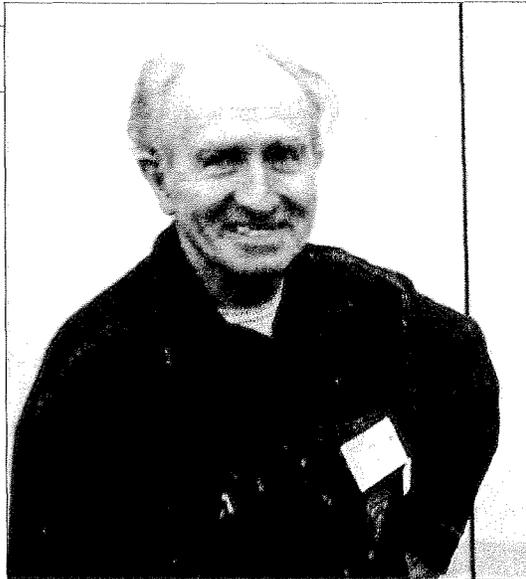
That oh-so-tiny curl of steel represents a Pandora's box of potential problems.

BY JOE BYRNES

Recently it was the foil spring that was the object of fascination. Well, so I'm exaggerating a bit; will "interest" do? Time, anyway, for fair play for the epee. Of the epee springs — and, yes, there are two normally: even in those models where you think there's only one, there's another that you can't see, or get at easily.

The pressure spring — in the "conventional" epee, that's the big spring — merely heaves the point back up under the test weight or the force of a touch. In this model, it has nothing to do with the electrical circuit, and you don't want it to get involved there, believe me, because if it does, you're shorted out and can never score a touch. In some other systems that have been devised, and have had some intermittent success, the spring that does the pressure job doubles in brass, so to speak and forms one side of the circuit to or from the tip proper. In these cases there will be another (concealed) spring usually buried somewhere in the tip, since, if you'll think about it, something has to take up the shock of the tip's closing at every touch.

presorted for a delicate touch. These are the epee equivalents to the foil springs that I mentioned in that recent article. You don't want to try to cut down on the (already limited) strength of one of these: it will fail like a wet noodle if you do. If you are not pleased with the strength of the pressure spring you've got, you can try working on it to soften it. Some people try heating them. It's easy to go too far and produce a very soggy noodle very quickly. It is possible if the strength is not too great, to try grinding a tiny bit off each end. You



Joe has demystified the technical side of fencing for four decades.

will note, and you probably won't need a magnifying glass, that the ends have already been ground flat, as a rule: that doesn't give you much leeway without cutting into the coil. Many fencers will cut into the coil, back a half turn or so; most who do this leave it at that, and thus have a spring that is jagged on the end. Not a good idea. If you take this route, try to curl that spiky end back into a semblance of flat. You will not be able to close the curl completely, but the closer you can come the better. And if you go this route, you don't

have to clip off so much. Furthermore, when you assemble the epee, do yourself a favor and put that cut end down in the barrel — it goes in first, please; don't leave it up at the top where it may work around

“It will be the rare pressure spring, coming right out of the little glassine envelope, that will satisfy any but the most novice fencer.”

These double-duty pressure springs may or may not be identical in size (length, diameter, etc.) to the conventional ones. The more exotic the system, the less likely it is that they will be the same. In such a case, all the advice that I gave in my article about the kinds, care, cure, prevention, etc. of foil springs (AMERICAN FENCING, Vol. 46, No. 2) will apply here as well.

Back to the conventional epee, and let's stay, for the moment, with the pressure spring. It will be the rare pressure spring, these days, coming right out of the little glassine envelope, that will satisfy any but the most novice fencer. I will admit that manufacturers have been supplying them rather stiff, not to say brutally stiff, for some years now. Of course, there are a few who, if you ask them (pretty please?) will sell you specially selected "competition grade" springs that are

and short into the contact spring. This sort of modification is perfectly legal, so long as your epee can still hold the weight.

Still, such fixes have tended to make some people very nervous. Those interested in amusing, not-so-ancient history may like to know that, not too many years ago, a very big international figure in the FIE's very high circles actually offered a seriously intended proposal to the FIE Congress to the effect that anybody submitting an epee on which there was evidence of modification of a spring, after it had left the factory, should be penalized. How the modification was to be determined, short of taking every epee apart before every bout, deponent saith not.

Now for the other spring. This is the little one, the tiny one, the one in the middle where it is supposed to stay — and you hope it does —

because if it drifts to the side and brushes against the pressure spring it will short out either permanently or (whoops, nasty surprise) intermittently. Because different manufacturers supply these things different, you will find that it pays to use German contact springs with German points, French with French points, Chinese with Chinese, Russian with Russian. Keep your epees ethnically cleansed, in other words. That is not to say that you might not get someone's nationalistic spring to work across the border, so to speak, on a kind of fencing green card, but I don't recommend it as a regular practice. If you can get it to screw on (and that is how they go on, no matter what it looks like), you may find that if it isn't the intended fit, it may drift and wobble. If it wobbles enough to brush against the larger pressure spring, in the middle of which it is sitting without very much clearance, remember, then you have grief.

The more usual grief with these little springs, of course, is the other sort of drift — when they start, ever so slightly, to back off that itty-bitty threaded stud on the rear of the point tip onto which they are screwed. One solution to this problem is to attach the spring permanently to those threads on the tiny stud. Ha!, you say, and Ho!, how do we accomplish that? It takes a steady hand and a bit of nerve. Once you have — and be sure that you have — the spring fully threaded on, even before you grind its end nice and flat for a perfect travel adjustment, you can convey to the threads on that little stud a teensy droplet of Crazy Glue. You do this, ideally, under a magnifying glass, using a small pin — the tip of said pin — to apply that droplet of glue.

Grinding the rear of the contact spring flat is the icing on the set-up cake: it gives you the desired precise travel adjustment, one that should, with any kind of luck, last you quite a while.

Front cover.



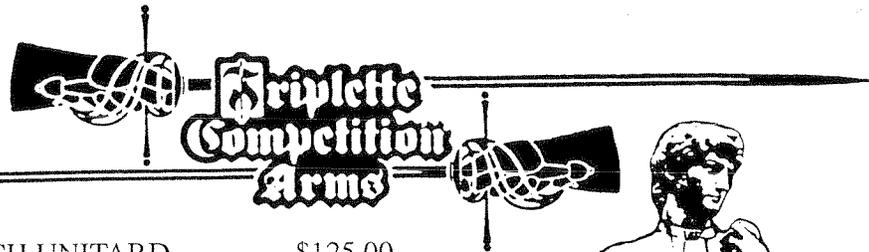
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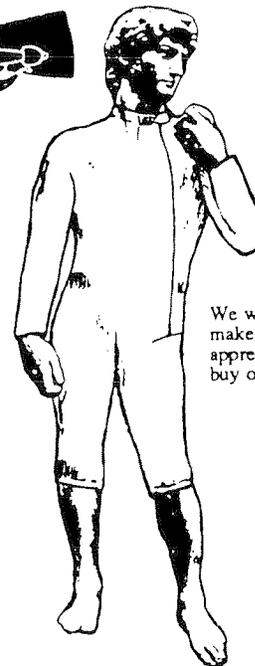
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Need Fencers? Make Some

What's an American fencer in Hong Kong to do when she has no one to fence?

BY INES G. WILSON

When my husband and I decided to take advantage of an opportunity to live in Hong Kong for a few years, I had all the usual concerns about moving, finding a new home, and, as an enthusiastic fencer, I was also anxious to see about continuing to enjoy my favorite sport! Returning from one of his earlier visits to Hong Kong, my husband brought back the address and telephone number of the Hong Kong Fencing Association (HKFA), so things were looking up for my fencing career.

We moved to Hong Kong about 16 months ago and the following is the saga of my fencing here.

Once we were settled in, I started to look into fencing clubs. I got in touch (ha!) with the HKFA — the only one I found. They were very nice and told me where they fence, so I got all my gear and went to check it out.

I found a typical club: rectangular, two strips and a lot of Chinese

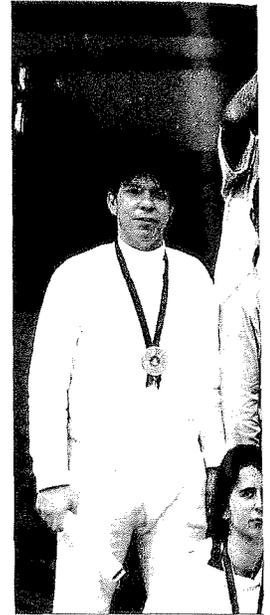
kids taking lessons. They were all obviously curious to see a *gweilo* (foreigner) fencer at their club.

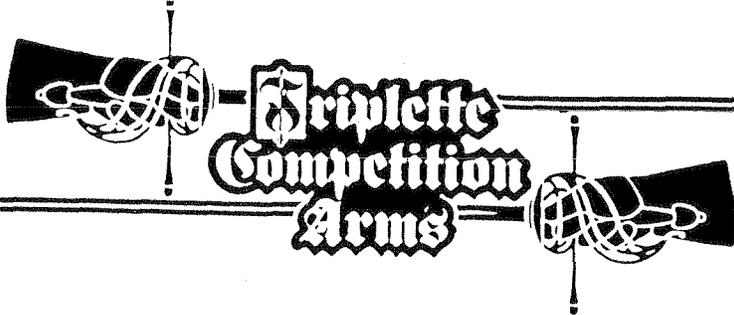
After a lot of struggling with the language — in clubs and associations where the majority of members are Chinese, Cantonese is the everyday language — I understood that classes go on all the time. If you just want to show up and fence, then Friday after 9:30 p.m. is the time!

For a recreational fencer, Friday after 9:30 is pretty "heavy duty." Working people (especially this senior fencer) want to start a weekend of R&R at that hour on a Friday evening, not haul gear around and start fencing.

Plus, what I saw at the club was just not for me: Lots of lunges and very intense drills that made me tired just watching. My knees have taken too many years of abuse to handle that kind of warm up. When you are a senior fencer you warm up vvvveerrrry carefully so nothing strains/pulls/tears/breaks; warming up with those kids could put me in the hospital!

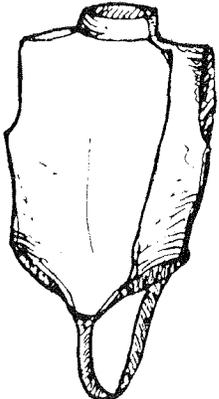
Next I checked out the free fencing: all male and very close-knit. Also not really for me. I came home discouraged, but I don't give up easily. I decided to place an ad in one of the local papers: "Any fencers out there? Do you want to have fun fencing once or





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twice a week? If so, give me a call."

No calls.

In the meantime, I became good friends with the Chinese members of HKFA at the South China Athletic Association (SCAA). The club



Ines Wilson, coach and correspondent, (1st row center) with her sallemates: Top row, left to right, Orazio Coco, Rob Bufacchi, Giuseppe Oliveri; Middle row, Steve Valentine, Takashi Muraoka, Hyam Bolandi, Jo Loney, Anne Sese; Bottom row, Alex Daintith, Ines, Linda Cawley.

secretary told me that it was very hard for her to explain much in English over the telephone. She asked if I would help, so that when people who did not speak Cantonese called about fencing, she could refer them to me. I needed to explain to them that classes were only offered in Cantonese and there were currently no other fencing alternatives in the area. That seemed good for HKFA and good for me, because it would give me access to others interested in fencing.

Before too long, I had heard from two epee fencers. I'm principally a foilist but also enjoy fencing epee. We joined the SCAA and I finally had a place to fence and two partners! We telephoned and emailed each other every week to arrange our fencing times (a lot of scheduling, a lot of work). When one of us was out of town it was terrible — no fencing at all.

After several months, I wanted more ... more people to fence (and maybe even a foilist or two) as well as a more regular fencing schedule. I told one of my epee buddies "If there are no more fencers here I'm going to have to make some!"

I started looking for a place to teach a beginners class. During this time I contacted both of my former coaches (foil and epee) in the US and they gave me a lots of encouragement and advice. Hong Kong is extremely crowded; space costs a fortune. Where do you find an affordable place for classes? I went everywhere, talked to everyone and explained my goals again and again.

By this time I was getting quite a few calls through the SCAA from people wanting to learn to fence. I let new callers know that I was planning an expanded fencing venture and invited them to join me when the dream became a reality.

I knew that the YMCA in Kowloon (on the mainland side of Victoria Harbor, opposite Hong Kong island) was offering a fencing course in Cantonese. An Italian who really wanted to learn how to fence registered and decided he would take his chances with the language problem. On the first day of class only he and a 12-year-old Chinese girl showed up. The class was canceled. He learned about

SCAA and called me.

I told him I had already been to the YMCA but they were not interested in my classes but, since he was so eager to learn and since I had a lot more names by this time, I decided to try again.

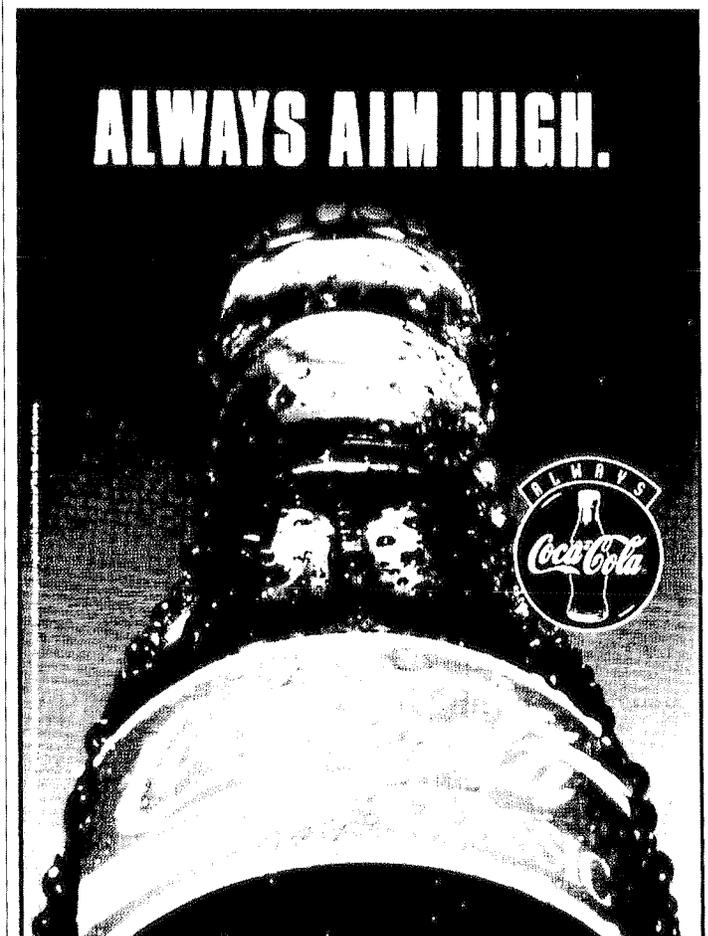
It was not easy. The YMCA classrooms were not available on good days and when they were available the hours were bad; their fencing equipment was in poor shape; and their administrators required a slew of paperwork.

After the completion of a lot of small, aggravating details, I finally started a class. The first adult beginners class was a mini-United Nations: American, Italian, British, Filipino, Japanese, and Chinese!

I needed more fencers to join the SCAA and now I have them! Four of my students have joined and now have their own electric equipment. With two additional drop-ins we've formed the unTouchables Fencing Club. We fence three days per week and the SCAA strips are dedicated to us during those times. We help each other a lot with fencing equipment, armoring, uniforms, etc. We are a great club: fencers and best buddies.

Our current goal is to find a place of our own. I'm confident that with everyone working on it we'll find what we need. You can fence anywhere as long as you put your mind to it!

If you happen to visit Hong Kong, drop by and fence with us. Call me at 852/2522-7426 or fax 852/2522-6352; if you prefer e-mail, you can reach me at 73317.3363@compuserve.com.



A Coach's Hopes and Expectations

A former Olympian offers wise words for fencers at every level of expertise.

BY DAVID LITTELL

Since retiring from competitive fencing I have turned my energies toward coaching juniors. I expected that this experience would require teaching fencing skills, strategy and motivation. But I had not anticipated that it would be hard for students to learn what it requires to be good at fencing, and what I hoped they would get out of the experience. I had been an athlete for so long that this stuff was just part of me. Over the years I have been struggling to find the words to explain to my students what I think learning fencing (and for that matter, any sport) is all about. Here it is.

I hope that you love fencing.

Please, please, please, do it because you enjoy it. There are so many sports and other activities out there to pursue. Do yourself, your coaches and your families a favor: pick activities that you really love. I've never met a parent who doesn't want that for their children. Also, I've never felt bad losing a student to another passion. I only feel bad losing a student to fear, lethargy or lack of commitment to

anything. In addition, if you look around, almost all the greatest athletes are the ones who simply love playing their sports.

Try as hard as you can to master the skills.

This for kids is often the hardest. Although it seems simple, it's really a complex idea. It requires that you appreciate several key concepts of sport. One is "it's not as easy as it looks." Each and every one of us is guilty of this one. Somehow, in the human experience, we think if you can do it, I can do it. The second concept is "mastery is in the details." Getting good is as simple as learning to master the skills. However, no matter how many times I say this, most students don't practice their lunges, extensions, disengages, footwork, and other fencing skills. I wish I could come up with other ways to say it, but the bottom line is this: learning requires more practice than you can imagine!

Appreciate how hard it is to master your sport.

Mastery is difficult. In fencing you have to master a million skills, put them together in some orderly fashion, develop strategies for different opponents and learn to do this under pressure. Then you have to start over at every new level of competition. Getting good is hard. Truly knowing this also means that when you do succeed you will enjoy it more. When you listen to athletes interviewed on TV, notice that the best athletes have a sense of humility about competition. They know that every time they go out there anything can happen. This respect for competition usually comes after losing and getting up and trying again. And when these athletes succeed, you can sense the appreciation (even awe) that they feel for their own performance. On the other hand, there are those athletes who get frustrated and quit. In my estimation, many of these never appreci-

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ated how hard it is to get good. They act defeated and as if they have a lack of self-confidence. They say things like, "I should be farther than I am," and "I can't believe how bad I am." When I hear this I don't hear a lack of confidence; I hear overconfidence. In most cases the reality is that you're right where you should be!

Clearly decide where fencing fits in your life.

This means figure out how important it is to you now, balancing your other interests and responsibilities. Doing so requires looking at the time available, your level of interest, and your goals. I primarily see the function of goals as helping you determine how much work you're going to do. So once you've picked your goals, forget about them and get down to work! Establishing priorities helps you get what you want and also helps you to enjoy the journey.

Become coachable.

This is easy for some and almost impossible for others. It requires the belief that you need help, the trust that the other person can offer it, and the willingness to diligently try to master what they have to offer. It seems to me that most fall down in the first category. For many different reasons, people have trouble opening themselves up to advice. Be it fear, embarrassment, bad experiences in other learning environments (like school) or overconfidence, opening up to advice and new ideas is hard. However, know that if you're going to be great, you have to learn to become coachable. At the same time, I don't think being coachable means blindly following the leader. You have to learn to be discriminating. At times, I am certain that you will have to reject some advice that doesn't work for you and that might not feel easy to do.

Make an honest, rigorous self-evaluation.

This means giving full weight to both the positive and the negative aspects of your game, your training program and your competitive demeanor. If you don't appreciate your strengths, two things might happen. One, you'll get depressed and discouraged. And two, and even more dangerous, you might throw away what you do best. Another trap here is that sometimes what seems to be a weakness is really a strength. For example, if your best move is your counterattack — it may not mean that it's time to start over. It may only mean that you need to figure out a better way to set up your counterattack. On the other hand, it's also important to be able to look at your weaknesses openly and honestly. If you don't you're doomed. Saying after every loss "I choked" isn't going to get you anywhere.

Learn to reach out for what you need.

Think big. Many people have a closed view of where to get help: the coach, the coach, the coach. You are at the center of your fencing. Not your coach. This is your activity and the coach, as well as the rest of the world, is full of tools that will help. Please try and stay in touch with the fact that fencing is yours and where you go with it is up to you. *Other life.* Part of thinking big means knowing that what is going on in your whole life can impact on your fencing. For me, those people in my life who support and value me for things other than fencing have been crucial to my athletic success. They helped me to keep fencing in balance and never to make it seem too important. Also, in many cases, the stuff that keeps us from getting good at fencing has to do with problems outside the sport. When I went to the

Olympics I met many athletes who were not problem free, but who had overcome personal problems in order to get there. *Keep your ears open.* If you listened carefully, everything that you need to know to become an Olympic athlete was said on television by the athletes during the recent Atlanta Olympic Games. *Be creative.* When you read biographies of athletes, you see that each had a unique road to the top. Many times they chose unusual and creative paths that fit their own personalities and experiences.

Practice good sportpersonship.

This is not easy, and I have carefully chosen the word "practice." It also means that if you fail, you apologize immediately. Still, I'm



Photo illustration by Harry Legatt

not sure that I say this enough to my students; it really means a great deal to me. One of the hardest parts of being a good sport in a one-on-one sport is appreciating your opponent's efforts. It's easy to be miserable about your own failing, but it truly is important for you to say to your opponent, "Congratulations on your performance; today you were the better fencer." And the fact is, it's true!

Try to try to win until the last touch.

All you can do is try. As easy as that sounds, it is almost impossible. Almost all athletic contests are over before the end. Most of the time one of the athletes has quit well before that. It's so hard; yet so simple: try to win this touch, then after that try to score the next one.

Fencers and their parents often ask me if I think that they can make an Olympic team. This question is unanswerable, especially in a sport that has so many paths to success. However, my best response is "I believe that it will be a valuable experience for you to pursue a goal of making the Olympic team." Because doing so means that you will learn along the way how to improve and how to pursue a goal, regardless of whether you make the team or not. This lesson (which also can be learned by those pursuing much less lofty goals) is something that you will have for the rest of your life in your other pursuits. If you reach for success in this way, I, as the coach will be completely, totally and absolutely satisfied, even if you lose 5-0.

Best European Referees vs Best US Referees: How Do We Compare?

Just how true is that often heard judgement:
"They don't call them that way in Europe."

BY GEORGE KOLOMBATOVICH

For many years in the US, one statement has been made repeatedly about how fencing referees call actions in the US: "They don't call them that way in Europe." It is safe to say that this is simply not true for our top referees. All one has to look at is the extensive use of USFA referees in the finals of the 1996 Olympics. (Gerrie Baumgart, Jeffery Bukantz, Emik Kaidanov, George Kolombatovich, Marcos Luchetti, and Russell Wilson all refereed in the finals!) If the correct calls were not being made, the FIE would not have assigned our referees to such high levels. Our referees would also not have received so many compliments from the Europeans — winners and losers — for the excellence of their work. This is not the first time either; our referees have been used extensively in the finals of international competitions for years.

It is important to understand that the two main differences between "good referees" and other referees are that the good referees make fewer errors and that they are more consistent in their analysis of similar actions. This is as true in the US as it is in Europe or any other part of the world. Yes, our best referees do not call the actions the same way as many referees seen in the beginning bouts of international competitions or even national competitions. Our best referees call the actions the same as the best referees from any part of the world. As in any competition in any sport, many referees used in the early rounds are simply not as good as the referees used at the end of the competition.

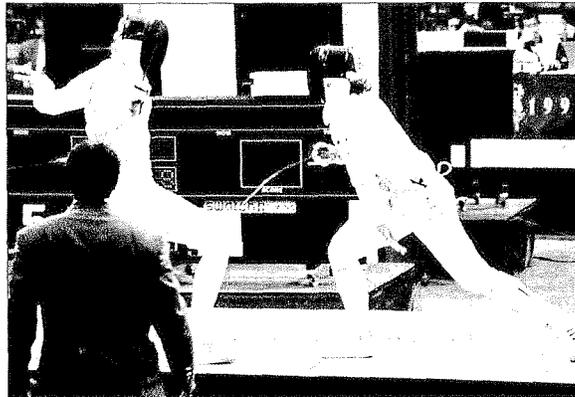
When people say "They don't call them that way in Europe," they are most often speaking about a comparison of the European referees seen in the early rounds of our sport's European World Cups and even the World Championships, and the American referees seen in the early rounds of our National Tournaments. One of the more common errors made by referees in calling right-of-way is in rewarding the wrong fencer in attack versus counterattack situations as follows:

1. Giving priority to the fast counterattack into the correctly executed attack
2. Giving priority to the preparation by calling it an attack when the opponent correctly attacks into the preparation.

Both are wrong. One of the main differences between many European and US referees seen in the early rounds of competitions is that the "not that good" US referee will be more likely to incorrectly award the touch as in #1 while the "not that good" European referee will be more likely to award the touch as in #2. This is the main reason one will hear about what "they" call in Europe.

Another reason for comments about differences between European and American referees is the frequency of the issuance of those yellow, red, and black cards. It is true that a fencer is more likely to receive a warning for an offense from a US referee than from most European referees, but that gap is closing. All one had to have as proof that the gap is closing was to have seen how two top European referees handled an important Men's Foil Team match at the Olympic Games. Each of the two teams competing had one known complainer. This time the yellow cards came out at the very first (and the slightest) instance of an attempt by each of these two fencers to influence the referee, delay the bout, psyche out the opponent, et cetera — and the entire match went smoothly.

Why have referees in the US been seen to be more strict in the applications of penalties? Most importantly, referees are instructed to correctly apply penalties primarily because it is correct to apply



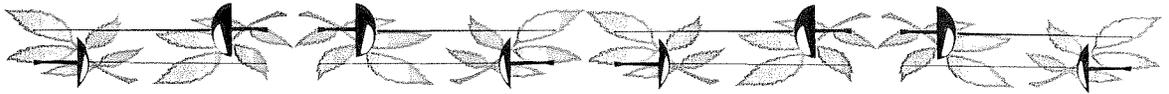
Such is the fate of the Olympic Games referee: featured in nearly every photo, but only from the back.

the rules. Penalties are also applied strictly in the US because so many of us have previously seen the penalties applied in such indiscriminate manners toward our fencers internationally.

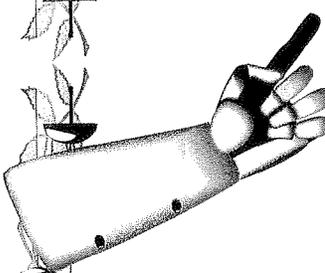
An example is the fencer who regularly covers target with the unarmed hand. She or he will be unnecessarily distracted if assesseurs are called for a bout. I saw a foil bout in Europe where the fencer from the host country regularly reversed the shoulder and also covered target; that fencer never received a warning. Approximately six red cards should have been issued. The other fencer (from the Western Hemisphere) covered once and immediately saw the yellow card. This fencer then thought a touch had been scored and turned around. A red card was instantly shown. As the fencer from the host country told the opponent after the bout: "What can you expect, we are in my country." Our US fencers need to be prepared for the possibility of seeing the cards come out whenever they fence; it is certainly better if they get used to it here in the US.

What can our up-and-coming US referees do to help all our fencers improve? Watch the high rated referees. See how they make the calls. The developing referee should compare what he or she would have called to what the more experienced referee called. After a bout, ask the more experienced referee why he or she called an action a particular way. Then try to apply what you have learned. The Rules Book should, of course, be thoroughly learned. Developing referee should get a National Rating and then go to National Tournaments.

Becoming a top level referee is much like becoming a top level fencer. It takes training, correct practice and patience. Contact the Fencing Officials Commission for further information. Our sport needs good referees. And remember, understand the natural frustration of competitors. Referees in all sports are unrealistically expected to be perfect when they start their careers - and then improve.



What Coach Forgot to Mention

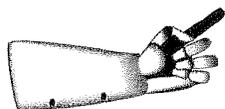


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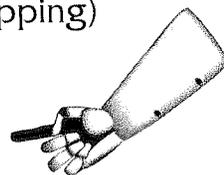


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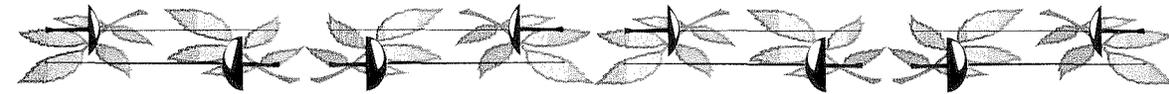
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On the Trail of the Baron

The first American to carry the Olympic torch on its long journey to Atlanta was a fencer!

BY ROBERT H. BLOCK

“**A**nd what is your sport?” asked the sports journalist from Denmark as we stood on a veranda of the International Olympic Academy outside the town of Olympia in the heart of the Peloponnese. “Fencing,” said I. “Ah, yes,” he replied, deftly turning the conversation to soccer.

His indifference to fencing did not surprise me: whenever the question was posed during my previous visits to this special place in Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games, the reaction was the same. This seemed particularly odd because the majority of people attending meetings at the Academy were Europeans and frequently from countries that are world powers in fencing. I was puzzled by this blasé attitude toward “their sport.” At least the average American, upon discovering that you are a fencer, can usually be counted on to ask a few questions about fencing and perhaps make some inane remark about Zorro or D’Artagnan!

Here I was in the cradle of Olympism and one of the original sports of the modern Games seemed to be a



non-subject. What made this even more disturbing was the fact that not a quarter of a mile from me, located in a place of honor on the grounds of the Olympic Academy, was a marble monument in which was entombed the heart of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympic Games. The irony of it all was that Baron de Coubertin was a fencer.

That irony was especially poignant during my 1988 visit to the old International Olympic Committee Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Baron’s 19th-century study was recreated in one corner of the museum and various personal items once belonging to him were displayed amid the Victorian furnishings. Immediately, I noticed a pair of well-used fencing foils on the wall.

Today, a large oil painting of the Baron in a fencing jacket holding a mask and saber with his right hand and the reins of a rearing stallion in the other hangs in the

new Olympic museum in Lausanne. This romanticized portrait is the only known depiction of the Baron in sporting attire of any sort. The man who 100 years ago created what has become the greatest celebration of sport on the planet was, without question, one of us.

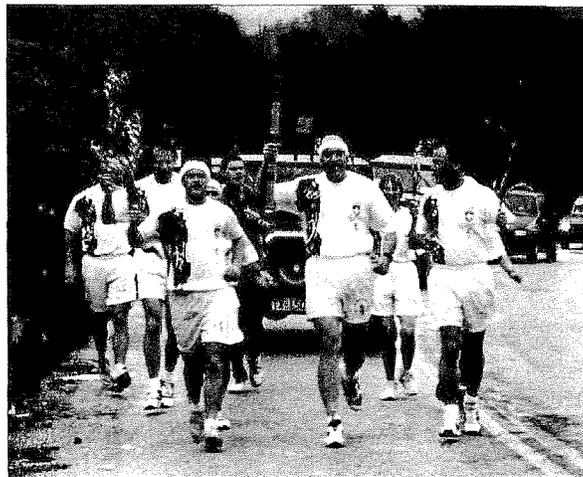
During the summer of 1995 the Hellenic Olympic committee invited the International Olympic Academy Alumni Association to return to Greece in the spring of 1996 to run in the Olympic torch relay. For most of us it was a once in a lifetime opportunity not to be missed. We were informed that our group would be responsible for running 15 kilometers high up in the Taigetos Mountains west of Sparta. A little map research revealed that our course was about a mile above sea level and would cross the crest of the mountain range. Since I live in Colorado, fence with the Mile High Fencing Club and also enjoy jogging, I wasn't overly concerned about the altitude. By spring everything seemed to be falling into place.

Then I began to think of the fencing vacuum that I encountered whenever I visited the homeland of the Olympics. It just didn't seem right, considering the Baron's own sporting proclivity and the rich tradition of Olympic fencing, so I decided that I would do what I could as an ambassador for my sport during the torch relay. I contacted the USFA office and obtained permission to represent American fencing during the relay and at whatever official functions my group was invited to attend in Greece. Armed with a packet of USFA pins, I was ready to go on the trail of the Baron.

rounded by a dried laurel wreath, some ribbons and an Olympic medal. The man in the photograph was Leonidas Pyrgos, a professional fencer. On April 7, 1896, Pyrgos won the masters foil competition over Jean Perronnet of France and earned the distinction of becoming the first Greek Olympic champion in more than 1500 years. Two days later another Greek, Ioannis Georgiadis, won the first Olympic saber competition. The Baron must have followed these developments in his sport rather closely and, I would guess, almost certainly attended some of the competition. I could sense the fencing history around me as I strolled through the Zappeion and gave a USFA pin to a helpful policeman who immediately pinned it to the lapel of his uniform.

Upon returning to my hotel in the Plaka section of Athens I found the beginning of the next link to fencing. Waiting for me at the hotel desk was an envelope from the American Embassy. Inside was an invitation

On the second day of the relay, high in the Taigetos Mountains of Greece, Bob Block runs with the



torch flanked by Ian Brittain (left) from England and Jorg Brokamp from Germany.

“The man who 100 years ago created what has become the greatest celebration of sport on the planet was, without question, one of us.”

The trail began in Athens in late April when I went for a training run with a friend to the Panathenaic Stadium that was built for the 1896 Olympic Games. Our route back from the stadium through the National Gardens took us by a sprawling beige-colored building called the Zappeion, the site of the first Olympic fencing competition in 1896. (The competition was held outdoors in the central courtyard on an elevated piste.) We wandered through the Zappeion trying to imagine what the atmosphere was like 100 years ago when Olympic blades were first drawn.

At the entrance to the Zappeion's main exhibition hall was a special display. There in a large glass case was an old photograph of a mustachioed fencer sur-

to attend a reception that evening at the residence of Tom Niles, the U.S. Ambassador to Greece. The reception was in honor of Billy Payne and his staff from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games who were also in town for the torch relay ceremonies. I arrived with my friends early in the evening and, wearing my blue blazer with a USFA patch sewn on the left breast pocket, went through a reception line where I was greeted by Ambassador Niles and Billy Payne.

The ground floor of the Ambassador's residence gradually filled with Americans and Greeks who were in some way involved with sports and the Olympic movement. A Greek woman made her way over to me

continued on following page

I stood on the grassy banks of the ancient stadium in Olympia and watched the lighting of the Olympic flame.

through the crowd and said "Oh, I see by the emblem on your jacket that you are with fencing." She was Rena Tobler, the director of public relations for the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens and also the editor of a recently published book on the hotel's role as the headquarters for the International Olympic Committee during the 1896 Games. After telling me that fencing was included in her book and promising to give me a copy, she said I must meet someone on the other side of the room who was also a fencer. That individual turned out to be Emmanuel Katsiadakis, President of the Greek fencing association and 1st Vice President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee. Before the reception ended I presented him with a piece of my fencing currency, a USFA pin, and for posterity had a friend take our photograph.

There in the Ambassador's living room I found people interested in fencing and able to discuss the sport.

These personal encounters related to fencing, so contrary to my previous experiences in Greece, had to be directly connected to the influence of the Baron. After all, wasn't he the preeminent guest registered at the Hotel Grand Bretagne in Athens during that momentous springtime of the Olympic revival in 1896?

Two days later I was in Olympia standing with thousands of other people on the grassy banks of the ancient stadium watching the lighting of the Olympic flame and the accompanying ceremonies. I watched the first

runner leave the ancient stadium carrying the Olympic torch and felt a special thrill in all that was unfolding before me because I knew that within 24 hours high up in the Taigetos Mountains I would play my part in relaying the flame to Atlanta. Standing there among the ruins of ancient Olympia, I also realized that it happened to be my birthday and that I couldn't have asked for a more memorable way of celebrating it.

The following morning began pleasantly enough as we loaded onto a bus for the three-hour ride up to our relay point in the Taigetos. As soon as we climbed up out of the fertile river valley in which Olympia is situated we encountered fog and rain. The weather became increasingly dismal as the bus wound up the narrow, twisting mountain road through the rural landscape of the southern Peloponnese. But even the weather couldn't dampen our spirits. In a few hours all of us would fulfill our quest: running as Olympic torchbearers.

Conversation was lively and animated between the prospective torchbearers from dozens of different countries on the bus. Eventually I found myself in a discussion with Yolanda, a young Spanish physical education student. After I answered the inevitable question concerning my sport, I was shocked when she replied that fencing was one of the three sports she had chosen for her practical examinations toward her degree and that she especially liked *èpèè*. Happily, I handed Yolanda a USFA pin. In my meager Spanish and her tentative English we discussed the joy of fencing as the rain and wind buffeted our bus. This had to be the hand of the Baron again, for I had finally discovered someone in the alumni group with an affinity for fencing.

The group reached the relay spot at the appointed time and began its leg of the torch relay through a driving rain. No spectators lined the road in such weather and in that remote region of the mountains. Only the slow moving cavalcade of torch relay offi-

cial and the police escort following behind us witnessed our mountain run. We finished tired, wet and generally bedraggled, but also thrilled that we now had formed a new bond as Olympic torchbearers.

I don't know if any Greek fencers carried the torch in the 24 hours before it was passed to my group. So I'll credit my Spanish friend Yolanda with being the first fencer to carry the Olympic flame on its journey to Atlanta, because she ran with it before I did. However, since my group included the first foreign torchbearers in Greece, I'm proud to say that I was the first American fencer to carry the flame on its way to Atlanta.

The trail of the Baron did not end in those mountains for me. In August I went to Atlanta and enjoyed watching the centennial counterpart to the fencing competition that began outdoors in the courtyard of the Zappeion so many years ago. This was a fitting end to my odyssey. I had discovered



Emmanuel Katsiadakis (left), president of the Greek Fencing Association, and Block at the US Ambassador's reception in Athens.

that I wasn't, after all, a stranger in a strange land. Fencing and an interest in the sport existed, I just hadn't known where to look. Fortunately for fencers everywhere, as long as the spirit of de Coubertin is part of the Olympic Games so will be our sport.

On the road again, Block represented the US as a competitor in the Veterans' competition held in Germany this past October.

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1996 Olympic Team Report



Above: Sabremen Thomas Strazlkowski, Peter Cox, Peter Westbrook. Below: Nick Bravin with Katie Couric. Bottom: Women's Foil Squad Marsh, Zimmermann, Paxton with Coach Leach. Photos by Carl Borack.

BY CARL BORACK, OLYMPIC TEAM CAPTAIN

The US Olympic Fencing Team came into the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games with high hopes and expectations. Following a World Cup Season that included finalists in nearly every weapon (only saber escaped the call to finals) the US had eyes on a long shot, breakthrough medal. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Still, the Atlanta Games did provide positive results for the US fencers which included Ann Marsh taking 7th place in the Women's Foil Individual event, the best individual Olympic result the US has had since Peter Westbrook's bronze in 1984.

Fencing shared the Georgia World Congress Center with weightlifting, wres-

ting, team handball, and judo. The fencing site was divided into two areas, one housing the prelim and direct elimination strips and the other the finals strip. The prelims/DE room held eight strips and seated approximately 1,500 people. The finals area accommodated 3,500 spectators and offered the most unique and complete television display ever assembled. Unfortunately, American viewers were not able to enjoy the extraordinary television coverage that was provided to the worldwide TV audience. Two large video walls provided the audience with instant replay and "rail cameras" tracked the action as never before.

Atlanta was not ready for the onslaught of an Olympics; the organizational blunders have been well documented in the media. After the first week of competition everything seemed to be running better (or we had become numb to the experience); however, the fencing events were contested during the first six days so the mistakes and mismanagement impacted the day-to-day, minute-to-minute handling of our team.

In spite of the problems, there is much to be said for performing in front of the home town crowd; the US audience provided terrific support for our athletes and we are very grateful for their spirit and encouragement. Many ACOG volunteers -- including Mike de Cicco, Irwin Bernstein, Mark Stasinis, Christine Collins, George Masin, and Katy Kowalski -- were particularly important to our efforts and they have the gratitude of our entire team.

Atlanta boasted a number of firsts: The first time women's epee was an Olympic event; the first three-person team utilizing the relay format; the first time the direct elimination format was used from the very first bout; the first time without the use of an alternate in the team event; the first time a very compressed competition schedule pushed ten events into six days.

Seeding for individual events was based solely on World Cup Point standings. For the team event the seeding included the Olympic result.

The competitive environment for all the Olympians was very stressful emotionally and psychologically, but not physically, because the format used did not produce a lot of fencing. In order to hit TV target start times for European broadcast, the FIE designed a



competition that was efficient and expedient, but did not necessarily produce the match-ups that we had hoped would culminate a very long World Cup season. On the other hand, there were a tremendous number of 15-14 and 15-13 touch bouts that were exciting and provided compelling viewing to the spectators and heart attacks to the coaches. The team events were equally nerve racking with one touch determining the difference in numerous instances including our own.

DAY ONE - Men's Epee Individual

The results of the Men's Epee event sent a wake up call to all the top ranked fencers in the other weapons; none of the Top 16 earned an Olympic medal. Russian, Alexander Beketov entered the tournament ranked

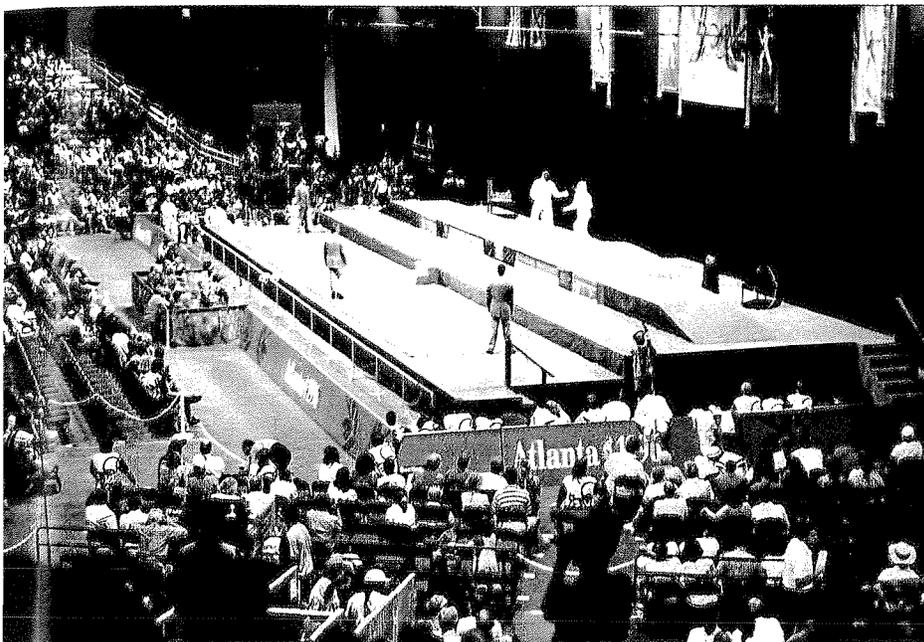


Photo: Carl Borack

21 and went home with a gold medal after an exciting 15-14 victory over Ivan Trevejo Perez of Cuba. Gesa Imre of Hungary defeated his countryman, Ivan Kovacs, 15-9 to win the bronze.

There were 45 competitors in Men's Epee. The US entrants were Jim Carpenter, Michael Marx, and Tamir Bloom. Carpenter entered the tournament seeded 23. During the World Cup season he had very strong results including making the finals of Heidenheim, the premier epee tournament. Michael Marx was seeded 30. He also had some solid results which included two World Cup finals. Tamir Bloom was seeded 37. Tamir had come on strong in the end of the season.

All three fencers won their first bout: Carpenter defeating Juan Paz Dupriez of Colombia 15-11; Marx over James Ransom of Canada, 15-9; and Tamir Bloom winning over formidable Olivier Jacquet of Switzerland 15-13. In the round of 32, Carpenter lost to Mauricio Rivas of Colombia, 15-9; Marx was outmatched against an excellent epeeist, Ivan Kovacs

Inside the Atlanta Olympics

by Bill Goering

You have heard the results of the Atlanta Olympic Games fencing events. What you haven't heard is the inside story on how those events were staged. Here is some of it by an employee of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

From the outside the ACOG organization looked okay. A "Sports" core group ran events with their international federations, and "Functional Area" (FA) support groups helped. From the inside there were major flaws. Each FA with its own budget was independent of Sports, and there were over 20 of them. Can you imagine negotiating for services with 20 departments without lines of authority or budget control? It was time-consuming and frustrating. And, the

efficiencies expected from a centralized organization were not realized, because each sport had specific seating, logistic, space and technology needs.

In spite of the organizational barriers, the venues and staff were ready to open the Games. I attribute this small miracle to staff commitment, and it is evidence for my theory that any organization structure will work if participants are committed to it.

A separate "organization" issue was that the Bout Committee does not run the Olympic fencing events. Instead, they are directed by a team of Producer, Officials and Field-of-Play Coordinators, and Results personnel, who have trained together for weeks. The Bout Committee oversees their work and resolves protests.

The Schedule

We had to fit ten fencing events into six days, the same time block used for World Championships. We scheduled one event on the first and third days and two on each of the other four. Without

other constraints we would have scheduled morning, afternoon and evening sessions, but the FIE demanded that finals start at 3pm each day so that live television broadcasts would reach Europe in prime viewing time. Thus on two-weapon days we fenced two preliminaries from 8am to about 2pm without a break, and started the double final at 3pm.

Fencers and team captains accepted this schedule, but spectators voted with their feet. Few could sit through six-hour sessions, so seats full of enthusiastic spectators early in a session were empty before it ended. This was especially disappointing for medal ceremonies participants. The long sessions also meant that the second final started well after midnight in Europe.

The Venue

Imagine a 100,000 square foot hall with 30 feet to the nearest overhead truss; that was Georgia World Congress Center space we had for fencing. "No problem," you say. Well, I beg to differ.

It was impossible to imagine the demands for space at the outset. We started with spectators and designed two areas for them separated by heavy curtains hung from trusses. The preliminary area had arena seating for 2500 to watch six strips; the finals area had theater seating for 3000 to watch one strip on a four foot high stage 80 by 35 feet. For the athletes we designed the Back-

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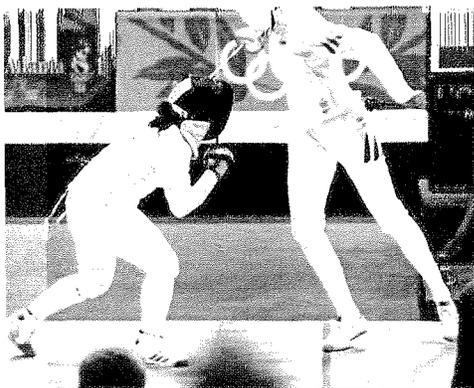


Photo: Bob Largman

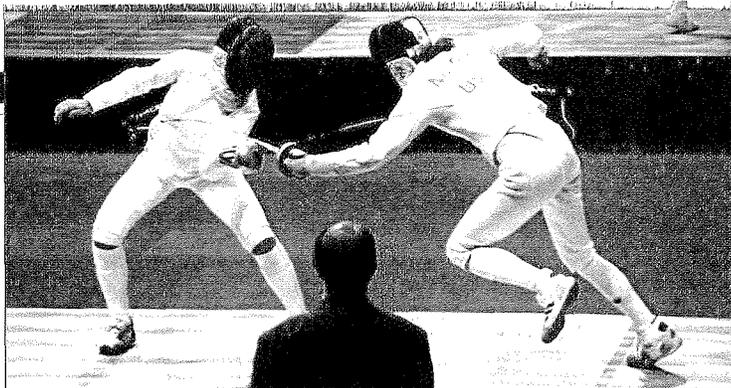


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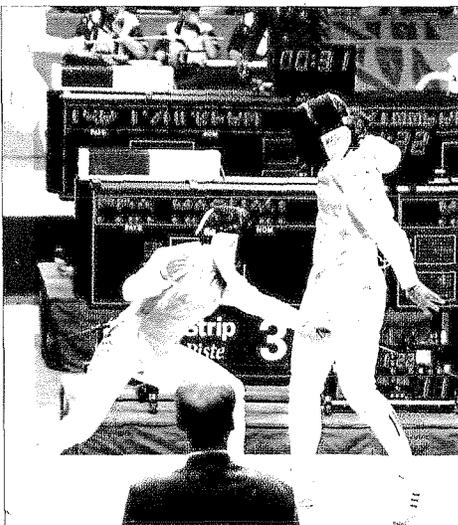
Photo: Carl Borack

occasions this past season. Leslie drew Michele Wolf of Switzerland and defeated her in a very close match, 15-14. Nhi Lan drew Hee-Jeong Kim of Korea and lost 15-13. Elaine lost to Laura Chiesa of Italy, 15-13. In the round of 32, Leslie drew Maarika Vosu of Estonia and won another hard fought bout 15-13 advancing her to the round of 16 where she encountered Jung-Sun Ko of Korea. Ms. Ko prevailed with a 15-12 victory. Leslie finished 16.

Day Two - Men's Individual Sabre

Chelsea Clinton was in attendance to watch the sabre action: 43 entries with the Russian men expected to dominate the weapon. To no surprise they did with Stanislav Pozdnyakov defeating Sergey Sharikov, 15-12 for the gold medal. Frenchman Damien Touya defeated Jozsef Navarrete of Hungary 15-7 for the bronze.

For the US, the Senior sabre squad had not achieved the World Cup results of the other weapons. Entering the competition, Peter Cox had the best seed at 28,



of Hungary, 15-6; Bloom drew Robert Leroux of France (second in last year's World Championships) and lost 15-9. While our disappointment was great, the bodies of the top epeeists were strewn around the room as upsets were the order of the day. It would have been nice for one of those upsets to have been ours, but the guys still had the team event left to showcase their talent.

Day Two - Women's Individual Epee

Women's Epee did not contain the surprises experienced the day before. There were 48 entrants in the competition with the Hungarians and French as the favorites. Laura Flessel of France was seeded

third in the tournament but went back to France with a gold medal by defeating her teammate Valerie Barlois, 15-12. Unfortunately, when country mates fence, the audience can't get into the bout the way they can when a good rivalry exists. Gyoengyi Szalay Horvathne of Hungary, defeated Margherita Zalaffi of Italy 15-13 for the bronze medal.

The US was represented by Leslie Marx seeded 23, Nhi Lan Le seeded 33, and Elaine Cheris seeded 35. Leslie had medaled in a World Cup and Elaine and Nhi Lan had significant World Cup results on a number of

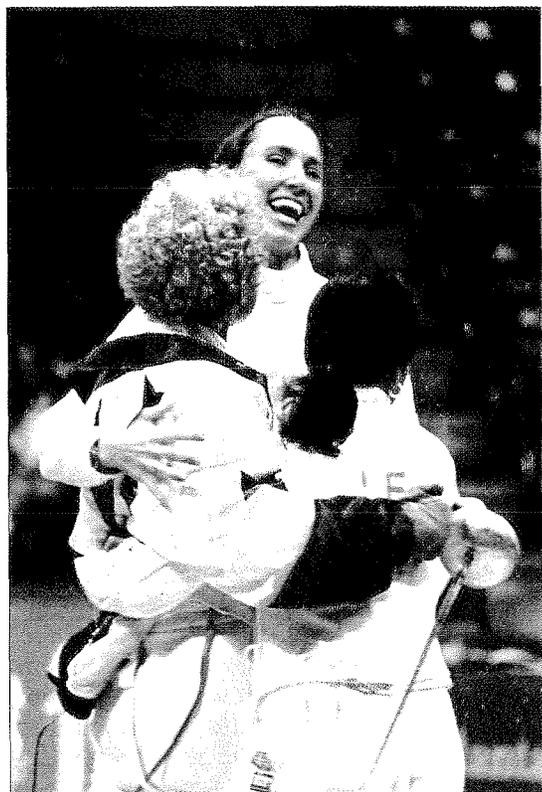


Photo: Bob MacFarland

Leslie Marx with teammates Cheris and Le after their team win over Korea.

Photos top: Left, Nhi Le closes for the touch. Next, Leslie Marx (right) launches the fleche. Center Dick Shultz, USOC Executive Director, joined by Olympians. Bottom: Ann Marsh avoids the touch and counters on target.

Thomas Strzalkowski 34, and veteran war-horse Peter Westbrook, 37. Cox drew a Korean, Hyo Kun Lee for his first bout, and won 15-9; Strzalkowski lost to Jean Marie Banos of Canada, 15-11; and Pete Westbrook was beaten 15-8 by James Williams of Great Britain. In the round of 32, Cox drew German, Felix Becker, and put up a good fight but succumbed 15-12. Cox ended in 28th place, Strzalkowski 34, Westbrook 37.

DAY THREE - Women's Individual Foil

The Italian team entered these Olympic Games as the favorite to win a majority of the medals, but they were shut out of the first three events and the signs of tension and strain had started to appear on their faces. But not for long. They started to get well very quickly in the foil events.

In Women's Foil, Italians Valentina Vezzali and Giovanna Trillini entered the tournament seeded one and two; they came out of the tournament with a second and third place. Laura Badea of Romania was the gold medal winner and she did so by beating the best in the world. In the final of four, she defeated Trillini 15-14, and then for the gold medal winning 15-10 over Vezzali.

This was a day we had looked forward to, because our women foilists had a strong World Cup season. Ann Marsh entered the tournament ranked 11th in the world, the highest ranking ever for an American fencer. During the year she made the finals in three "A" World Cups and was a consistent competitor all season. Felicia Zimmermann who was seeded 21 in Atlanta, had a strong season which included a World Cup final as well as medals in two strong "B" tournaments. Suzie Paxton was seeded 32 after a season which included three top-24's at World Cups.

Because of her ranking all season, Ann was used to the format of fencing direct elimination from the start. (In World Cup competition, the top-16 are excluded from the first day of competition which includes a first round pool for seeding and then direct elimination to 48. On the second day, the top-16 are placed at the top of a direct elimination tableau of 64.) Other than Ann, our athletes are inexperienced at this format so the Olympic Games' format was doubly difficult.

Inside the Atlanta Olympics, cont.

of-the-House enclosed with temporary "Gem-Walls" with nine warm-up strips, massage, medical, athlete lounges and showers. For the staff we put offices and armory in the same area and added Referee's lounge, Bout Committee and Technical Delegates offices.

"Enough," you say; not likely! Where do athletes stage and check their weapons before entering the field-of-play? Where do the press, television, sound system, lighting and video-wall personnel sit and work and set up equipment? Where is the staff lounge? Where do the scoring equipment vendors store their spares and shipping crates and sit during the fencing? Where does Ceremonies iron the flags before medal presentations? Where do photographers work? An army of space eaters all.

There were as many or more logistic questions. How wide should spectator and athlete access aisles be? How does press get to the Mixed Zones (interview areas)? Where do the field-of-play monitors sit? How many ushers will there be? How many Athlete Escorts do we need, and how will they identify their foreign athletes?

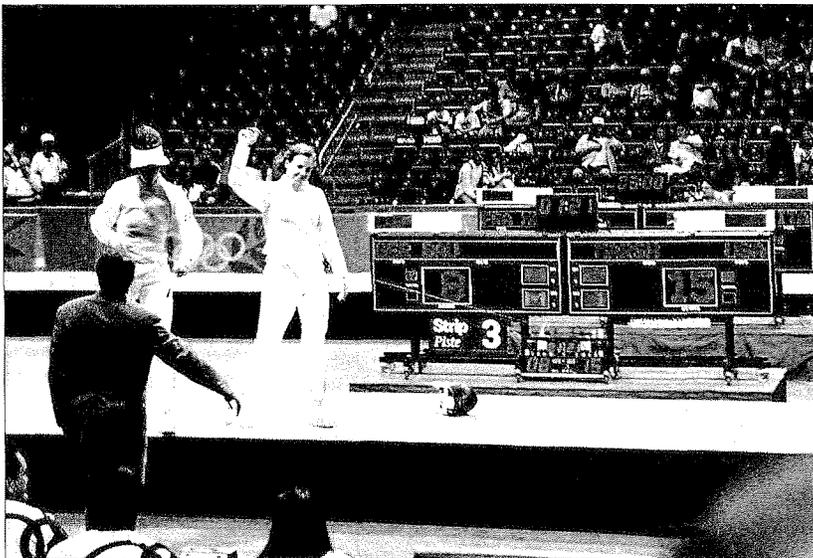
Remember, all this had to be designed into an empty hall. It would have been much easier in an arena already configured for sports events, but we designed and built an arena, plus a theater and all the offices and support systems into an open space from the ground up. We then trained 150 of the world's greatest volunteers to operate it.

I modestly conclude that for amateurs we did a pretty good job. The finals venue was our pride. Almost every seat had a good view of the strip. The production was excellent; the video wall instant replay was a real winner. Almost every touch was shown in slow motion immediately after the action. Fencing events were sold out months before the Games, but we had no-shows at every final, and no method to fill those seats with people waiting at the door.

The preliminary area was good, but could have been improved. The field-of-play met our objectives for an area free of personnel and the individual scoreboards were excellent. However, the video walls were not large enough to display the direct elimination table, and spectator and athlete access aisles should have been wider. Given the schedule eight strips would have been more comfortable, but fortunately we had no major delays or breakdowns.

The Back-of-the-House was crowded; we needed more offices and those we had were too close to the warm-up strips. Space for team gear was limited. Some teams used the warm-up strips for training. We originally had both warm-up and training strips in the competition venue, but because of space constraints had to settle for a training site 15 miles away.

The best evidence I have for our success are comments of fencers, team leaders and referees who have seen many tournaments. They were almost awed by the finals layout and the video wall instant replay. They also liked the clean look of the preliminary area. They (and especially the referees) liked Escorts leading them to the field-of-play, and the pre-strip weapons control procedure. Since we met the needs of the most important players, the mistakes we made seem less important, and on top of that we did put on a good show.



The scoreboard says it all: Marsh defeats Bau 15 - 8.

In the first round, Ann and Felicia enjoyed byes, Suzie drew Mi-Kyung Chun of Korea and gained a lead, only to succumb 15-14. In the round of 32, Felicia drew Israeli Lydia Hatuel Zuckerman, seeded 12, a difficult fencer. Hatuel is a fighter and Felicia lost 15-12.

Ann drew Clothilde Magnan of France (daughter of the French Foilist/Olympic Champion, Jean Claude Magnan) and quickly dispatched her opponent 15-9. In the round of 16, Ann drew German Sabine Bau whom she had a history of beating. Bau was seeded 8th in the tournament. Ann soundly beat her, 15-8. In the round of eight, she drew the number one seed, Valentina Vezzali. After being down seven touches, Ann fought back hard but lost. Her seventh place finish is a milestone for American fencing.

DAY THREE - Men's Individual Foil

There were 45 entries in men's foil and the superb Cuban foilists were expected to be in the medal hunt, but it proved not to be their day as Alessandro Puccini of Italy defeated Lionel Plumenail of France, 15-12, for the gold medal. Frenchman Frankck Boidin defeated German Wolfgang Wienand, 15-11 for the bronze medal. By the end of the third day of fencing, France had already accumulated four Olympic medals.

The US Foilists, Cliff Bayer, Peter Devine and Nick Bravin were seeded 26, 32, and 35 respectively. Over the last two years, each of them have beaten some of the world's best, with a number of World Cup top-16 and -32's to their credit. Cliff had also made the final eight in the Havana World Cup, so we hoped that on a

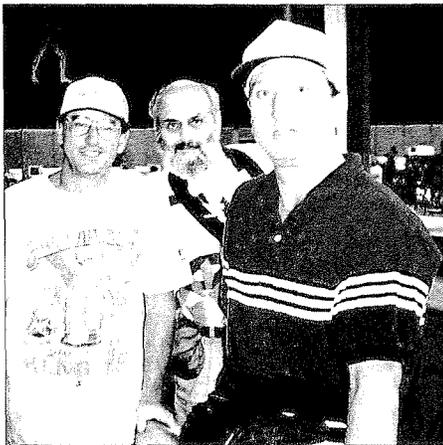


Photo: William Mindel

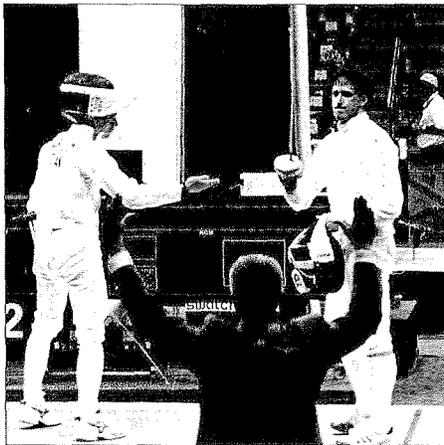


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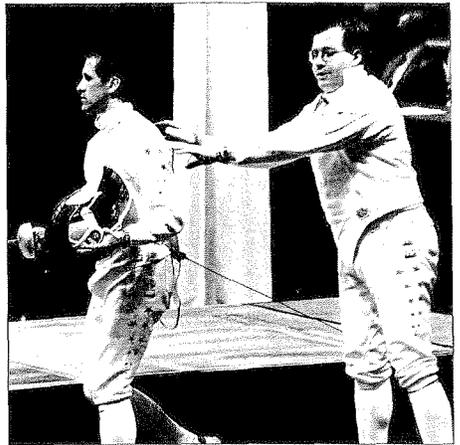


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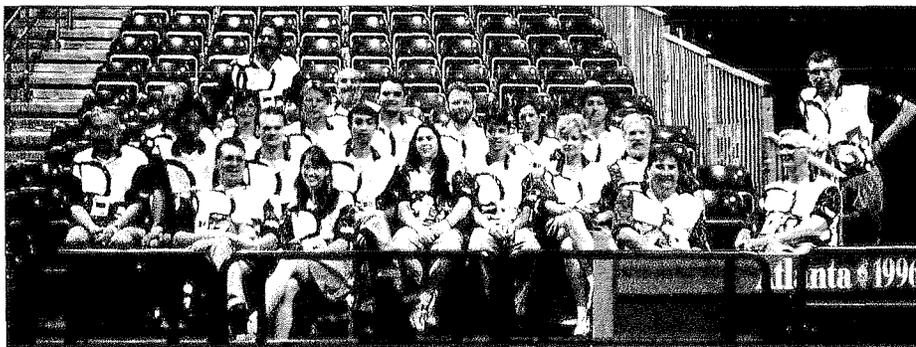
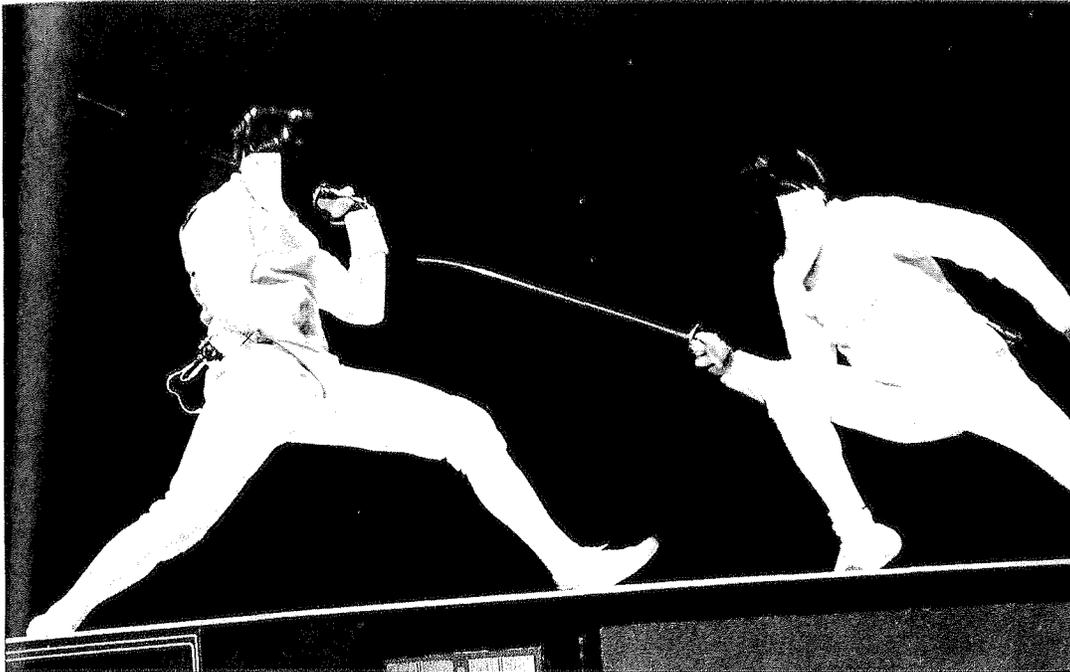


Photo: Dave Micahnik



Photo: Bob Largman

Hundreds of small personal vignettes are woven into the fabric of the 96 Olympic Games: Top left: Robert Wolfson (left) and Jack Tichacek (right) started fencing at Penn in 1974, Dave Micahnik's (center) first year as head coach. Micahnik now coaches Olympian Tamir Bloom. Wolfson and Tichacek (and photographer William Mindel) comprise three of the six fencers employed by JB Hanauer & Co., all of whom were in Atlanta. Eric Rosenberg, Jeff Bukantz (who refereed a final) and Mitch Dorfman also participated. Top center: Michael Marx defeats Canada's Ransom in his fifth appearance (second weapon) in the Olympic Games. Top right: Jim Carpenter (right), the emotional bulwark of the team, sends Marx into battle in Men's Team Epee. Lower left: Just some of the many volunteers who came from all over the country to work solely for the glory of the sport. Lower right: our youngest National Champion, Cliff Bayer, also our youngest Olympian.



Left: Men's foil final featured furious action. Below: Bravin scores a winning touch against Venezuela. Bottom: Leslie Marx high-fives husband Michael after defeating Estonia's Vosu in the second round of women's epee.

spectacular day we just might sneak in a result behind the fencing powers. It was not to be. Peter Devine drew Haibin Wang of China and lost 15-12. Cliff Bayer drew Ukrainian, Oleksiv Bryzgalov, losing 15-11. Bravin drew Adam Krzesinski of Poland, and in a nerve-wracking, topsy turvy bout lost 15-14.

DAY FOUR - Men's Epee Team

With the individual events over, we still felt confident that good team results were within our grasp and we set out upon the task. The new three-fencer team format is a wonderful addition to our sport. It is an incredibly exciting way to showcase fencing in a team setting. It also makes it a true team sport with a new set of tactics and strategy embracing the fencing. Throughout all the rounds of the Olympic team events in all the weapons, close scores were the order of the day.

The US Men's Epee Team was seeded eighth and drew the dangerous Korean team ranked ninth. Korea has been a major force over the last few years and was going to be a very strong test for our guys. With this new team format, the nature of epee, and the talents and styles of our team, managing the clock was a key ingredient to victory. The last bout of the hard fought match fell to Tamir Bloom who needed to protect a four-touch lead 38-34 which he did by scoring seven touches and providing a 45-41 victory putting the US into the final eight. This seasoned group of veterans, managed the clock and the tactics very well. Carpenter was a great team leader, Marx a knowledgeable veteran, and Tamir an emerging stal-

The US next drew the number one seed,

Italy, and most people expressed their condolences to me before the match began. Italy is a powerhouse and they believe in themselves and back it up with results. They are products of the best financed fencing program in the world and their epeeists had been shut out of the Individual medals. They were hungry and serious. The US was ready for a fight and each bout was a war with the lead changing five times.

Bloom once again inherited the last bout with Italy leading by only one touch, 28-27. His opponent, Sandro Cuomo was the number two ranked fencer in the world. It was a wonderful, gut-wrenching seesaw

battle that ended in a tie at 34-34 at the end of regulation. "Priority" was given to Italy, so Tamir had one minute to score a touch. Oh, but for a parry riposte that went awry, we would have been in the medal round with a one touch upset over the number one seed. But, it was not to be as Cuomo scored. The US lost 45-44. Tamir scored seven touches in his bout with Cuomo, while being hit six times. His total for the match was 18 touches scored against 16 received. Carpenter scored six touches and received five; Marx scored 10 and received 13.

Needless to say, this was a devastating

defeat. So close, but yet so far... The loss took the wind out of our sails but we had to right our ship quickly to fence the number five seeded Estonia who had just lost to Germany. Once again we were in for a battle and once again Tamir found himself in the last bout, this time with a one touch lead at 36-35. Tamir scored eight touches, but his opponent scored 10 as the US lost another

Photo: Jane Hall

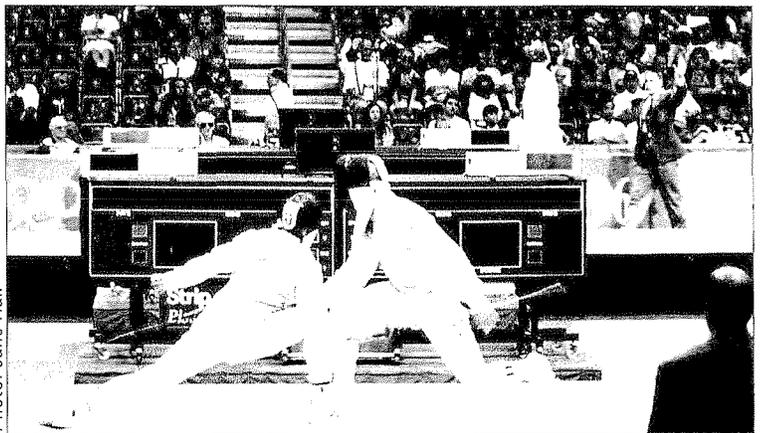
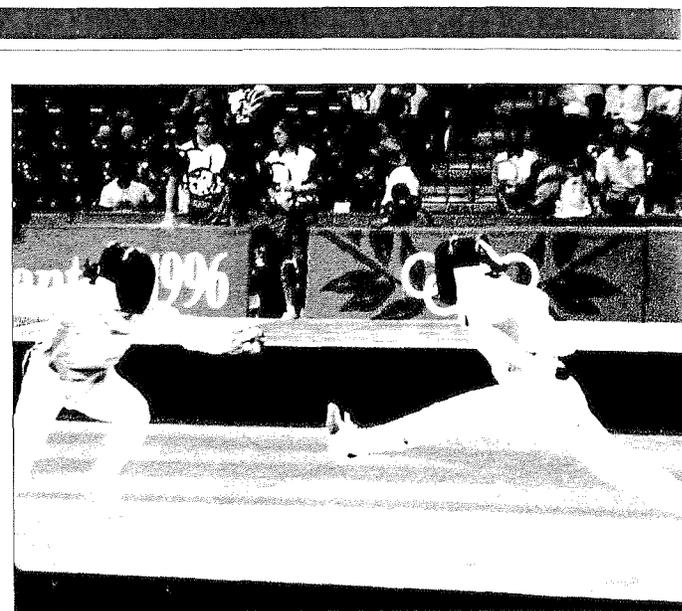
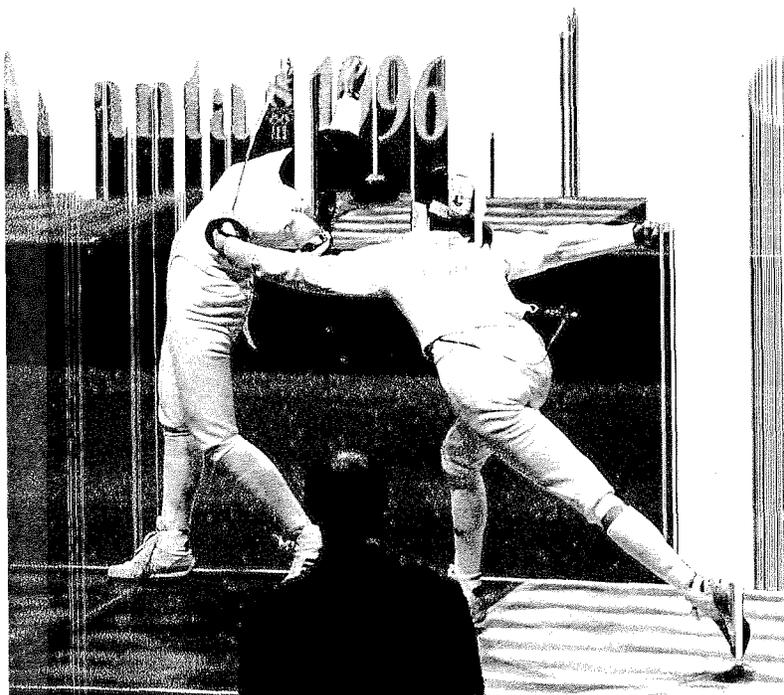


Photo: Bob MacFarland



Pundits referred to the 96 Games as the Women's Games. Judging from these photos, the appellation is appropriate. Top left: Marx's opponent tries unsuccessfully to avoid her touch. Top right: Susie Paxton launches a ferocious attack. Below: Gotcha! Ann Marsh scores a decisive touch against Korea. All photos: Bob Largman.

heartbreaker by one touch, 45-44. Kaido Kaaberma destroyed us with 27 hits scored, 14 received.

After the second gut-wrenching defeat in a row, it was very hard to get up for Spain in the battle for 7th & 8th. The US succumbed 45-32. The US Men's Epee Team gave a terrific performance and came achingly close to a major upset. Their 8th place finish is a very positive result and they deserve our congratulations

for a job well done. Jim Carpenter and Michael Marx are retiring, and Tamir Bloom is off to medical school. Hopefully, we can find the kind of team fencer that Jim Carpenter proved to be. He was a real spark, tactician, and leader.

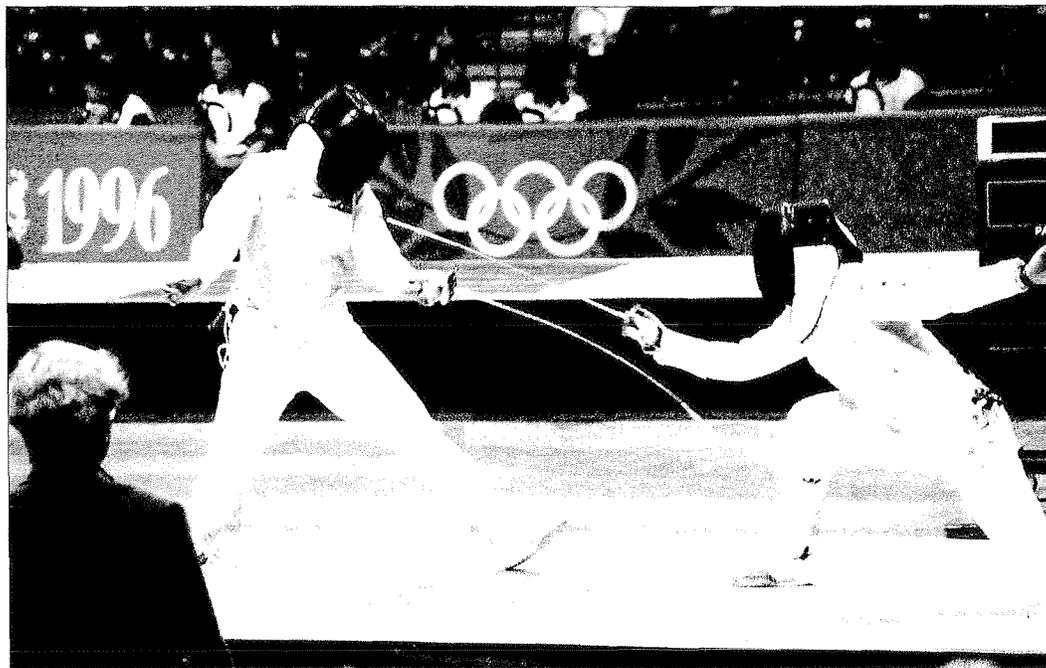
Italy went from their close match with the US to another heart stopper with the Germans once again winning 45-44 with time expiring. Italy then went on to fence Russia for the gold medal winning 45-43. France

defeated Germany 45-42 for the bronze. Italy won three team matches by a total of four

used the clock very well in this match.

The victory over Korea placed us in the

round of eight against the number one seed, Hungary. The match was not close as Hungary took an early lead and didn't let go, the final score being 45-25. Next, the US drew Estonia, a loser to Italy and seeded fifth in the competition. After four bouts the US led 19-16; after eight bouts they trailed 40-36 leaving Leslie to have to make up a four touch



touches and the Olympic gold.

DAY FIVE - Women's Team Epee

The US Women's Epee Team was seeded 8th and drew the strong Korean team seeded 9th. Korea had eliminated us from the World Championships the previous year. The anchor spot for this team was assigned to Leslie Marx and she entered the last bout with the scored tied at 17-17 when she left the US had won 45-44. Like the men's team, the women

deficit against Oksana Jermakova, a formidable foe. The final score, Estonia 45 - US 38. In the next match against number three seed Germany, the US held a 11-10 lead, when Nhi Lan Le was injured. Because of the ridiculous substitution rule (or should I say non-substitution rule) we had to put an injured athlete on the strip to stand and take abuse. Nhi Lan was a real trooper standing there in pain with a major knee injury and still managing to score touches. But this was

sheer insanity. (The FIE allows a substitution in case of injury, but only in the subsequent match.) So Ms. Le took the abuse to keep her team in the hunt, but to no avail as Germany prevailed 45-37.

France defeated Italy 45-33 for the Gold, Russia defeated Hungary 45-44 for the bronze. Russia and France were having a very good Games.

DAY FIVE - Team Sabre

Seeded 10th the US drew 7th ranked Romania to make the round of eight. This was a beatable but certainly favored team and they maintained a lead from the first bout and never relinquished it, defeating the US 45-40. This was Peter Westbrook's last Olympic Games or so he says. (He said the same thing in '88 and '92). He was unhappy with his result in the individual competition and he entered his event a very determined man.

In the loser's bracket to determine 9th and 10th, the US drew Korea and won 45-32. Westbrook had 15 hits scored with 11 hits received; Cox had 15 hits scored with nine hits received; Strzalkowski had 15 hits scored with 12 hits received. The US then fenced Canada, their traditional rival from the north. Obviously, these athletes know each other well so every encounter is a close one. Peter Westbrook drew the last bout and faced a 40-33 deficit against his long time rival J.M. Banos. This was Peter's last bout in the Olympic Games, his sixth Olympic Game, and he wanted to go out a winner. Always the showman, Peter set upon his task, reached into his memory bank and put his faith in the hand and technique that Csaba Elthes gave him and proceeded to score 12 touches to defeat Canada 45-43. A fitting Olympic finish for a proud Olympian. Peter Westbrook is certainly one of the USFA's great treasures and a wonderful role model for our kids to follow.

Russia pummeled Hungary 45-25 for the gold medal. Italy defeated Poland 45-37 for the bronze.

DAY SIX - Women's Team Foil

Our women's foil team trained and competed hard all season long and they were as committed as any team the US has ever fielded.

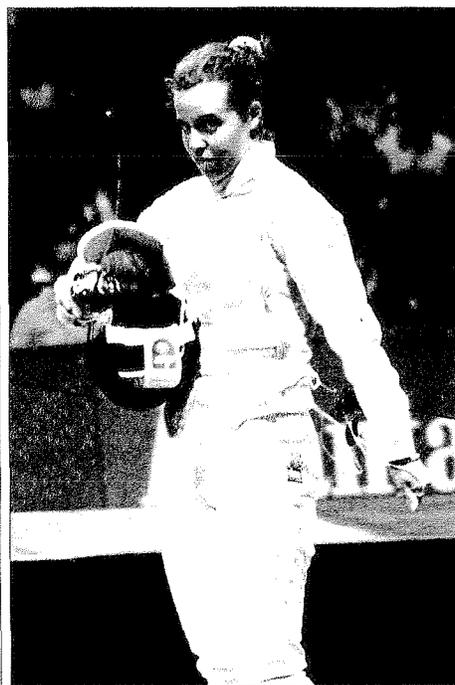
After the unsatisfying individual results the 7th ranked US team entered this event hungry, but nervous about their opponent,

to Ann Marsh's nine touches. After six bouts we were behind 30-25. Ann came into her last bout with the US losing 33-29 and promptly scored 11 touches to her opponent's five, bringing the score to 40-38. Unfortunately Poland rallied, final score 45-44.

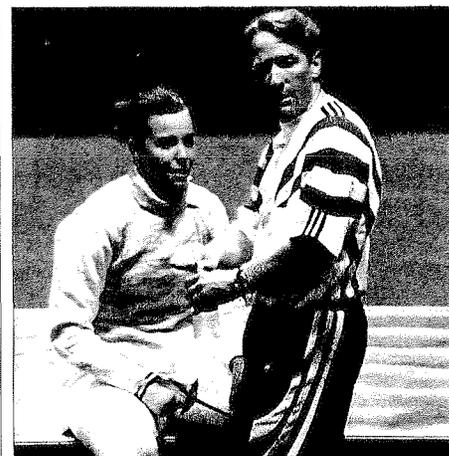
In the loser's bracket we drew Argentina and crushed them 45-12 drawing Israel to fight for 9th place. Our team and their coach



Photos: Left (by Bob Largman). Suddenly it was over 45-44. Below, left (by Bob Block): Ann Marsh prepares to undo Bau. Below, right (by Bob MacFarland): Buckie consults with Ann during the one-minute break.



Poland — 10th ranked, but quirky and dangerous. The match started positively with Felicia taking a 4-0 lead, only to turn quickly ominous as her opponent roared back 5-4. After three bouts we were ahead 15-12 thanks



entered this match emotionally drained. From the third bout Israel maintained the lead winning 45-39, the US finishing in 10th place.

The number one seeded Italian team defeated China 45-29, Hungary 45-26, and Romania in the gold medal match 45-33. Germany defeated Hungary 45-42 for the bronze. It was the only medal that the powerful German squad won at the Games.

DAY SIX - Men's Team Foil

Cuba has been a dominate force in men's foil fencing for the last five years and were

The Manager's Report

by Sherry Posthumus

The cadre for an Olympic or Pan American team is a group of professionals that is chosen for its fencing expertise and specific skills. Each member of the group is a volunteer who gives up vacation time or takes unpaid leave from his or her job.

As manager of the 1996 Olympic Team, I had a very easy time. This group was exceptionally pleasant and genuinely appreciative of any small favor bestowed upon them. The volunteers at the fencing venue went above and beyond the call of duty to make certain that the American team was well cared for. If we ever forgot to acknowledge our gratitude to any volunteer, please accept a big "thank you" from me on behalf of the entire team.

It is important that I publicly thank those individuals and groups who spent many long hours making the US team their first priority. Team Captain Carl Borack spent endless hours asking for donations to fund our training camp. Without his effort the training camp could not have taken place. A special thanks goes to our armorer Carl Oberg who worked around the clock to service our weapons and gear. Only his roommates remember the steady hum of the grinding wheel for three consecutive nights. Our trainer Dawn Kurihara, provided by the USOC, worked many long evenings in massage therapy and devoted all her daytime hours to taping extremities. John Heil, sport psychologist, drove to Columbia, South Carolina, to help with the stresses of it all. Our coaches and personal coaches worked very hard to put the best trained fencers in the country

on the strip. The team needed sparring partners to fine tune its skills and there was no shortage of fencers, willing to pay their own expenses, and accept our invitation. The Columbia Organizing Committee spent two years preparing for our arrival and tried to accommodate us wherever possible. Sometimes we take all of these individuals for granted and forget to just say thank you!

There were the usual Olympic problems with transportation, housing and logistics. Free Chicken McNuggets from McDonalds became our mainstay because it was such a long trek to the dining facility. There were only two real concerns which I noted for



Dave Micahnik shot this photo of Atlanta Stadium, site of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

expected to walk away with a handful of medals. They were shut out of the individual but expected to roar back in the team and were seeded number one. They started out by beating a formidable Korean team 45-34 and then faced Russia which had come off a 45-43 victory over Hungary. In another heart stopper, Tucker of Cuba entered the last bout with a five touch deficit and scored nine touches only to have his opponent Dimitri Shevchenko score five touches preserving

the lead and delivering another one touch victory 45-44. Russia went on to fence Poland for the gold medal. Poland had defeated Germany 45-44 and Austria 45-36 to make the gold medal round. Russia took the gold with a 45-40 score, Cuba took the bronze with a 45-28 victory over Austria.

The US was seeded 10th and drew Austria ranked 7th. Our guys knew the Austrian fencers very well, not to mention the fact that they had trained with us in our South Carolina training camp prior to the Games. The US knew Austria would be tough; they truly believed they could beat them, but everyone had to have a good day. Austria took a lead from the first bout and never relinquished it handily defeating the US 45-32.

In the matches for 9th and 10th, the US first drew Venezuela and defeated them 45-35. The People's Republic of China was next up. China is the kind of team that could end up in the medal round and you wouldn't be surprised and always give our guys a fight. This time was no exception. Bravin entered the last bout down 40-29 and scored 13 touches, but his opponent only needed five, which he got, China 45 - US 42. The US finished 10th.

There are a number of thank you's. First of all, to Michael Massik, Carla Mae Richards, and the national office, without whom

Sherry and I would not have been able to solve the myriad of problems we faced. To the coaches, Zoran Tulum, Aladar Kogler, Buckie Leach, Wes Glon, Yefim Litvan, and Simon Gershon. To the personal coaches for their cooperation and support. To Carl Oberg for a job very well done.

To Michael Tarascio, Jane Littmann, and

Val Sheeley for their great help and assistance with the South Carolina training camp.

A very special thank you to Sherry Posthumus who is the best team manager the US has ever had.

Congratulations to our officials who were used on numerous occasions during the Olympics including Jeff Bukantz, George Kolombatovich and Gerrie Baumgart who directed Gold Medal Finals.

Manager's Report, cont.

future consideration by the USFA and the manager-to-be in Sydney. These are the replacement athlete and the training camp prior to the Games.

"Replacement athlete" is the new name given to the team alternate. This individual cannot replace an athlete in the individual events, only during the team competition. The replacement athlete is not recognized by the USOC, receives no USOC apparel, in fact must be transported, housed and fed at the expense of the NGB (the USFA). In Atlanta, each replacement athlete was registered with ACOG to ensure that on the day of the team event, the athlete would be credentialed to enter the venue and warm-up with the other members of the team.

The team did all that was possible to ensure that replacement fencers felt they were a part of the group. The USFA outfitted them with Adidas bags and apparel and with fencing gear provided by Blade Equipment Company, equal to what the team received. They were included in parties, dinners, photo shoots and all workouts. In our South Carolina training camp, we had no problem making them feel good about being with us. However, our arrival in Atlanta painted a different picture. The hotel for our replacement athletes and two extra coaches was a minimum one hour commute by MARTA and shuttle bus to the venue. The subway system in Atlanta was so overcrowded that they made New York subways at 5 pm look empty.

Replacement athletes were very interested in seeing the daily fencing competition and finals but, since they were uncredentialed and without tickets they could not get into the venue. They were willing to buy a ticket; there was not a ticket to be had. Michael Massik and I spent many hours scheming to get fencers, parents and family into a venue which had many unoccupied seats. To make

matters worse, ACOG mistakenly erased all US replacement athletes from the records and therefore it was impossible to get any of them credentialed to enter the venue on the day of the team event. Without a ticket or a credential it was impossible to get by security checks stationed one-quarter mile from the front of the venue. Massik, coaches, armorers, captain and manager wheeled and dealt to get our replacement athletes into the venue. Is this any way to make someone feel a part of the team? Hopefully the IOC will review and revise this policy. If we plan on taking a fourth member to Sydney, that person must be treated as a full team member. Sara Walsh, Donna Stone, Chris O'Loughlin, Mike D'Asaro, Jr. and Sean McClain need to be commended for the way they made themselves available to the team and persevered in spite of some very rough moments in Atlanta.

For the past three Olympic Games we have insisted on a training camp prior to the competition. It meant locating a venue outside of the Olympic city and far away from the maddening crowds. Most teams tried to stay clear of the Village just prior to competition. It was crowded, hectic and noisy. The pressures of family, spouses and friends dissipated when the team was training in South Carolina. Arrival in Atlanta brought a change in focus for so many athletes. Carl Borack has captained the last three Olympic teams. Each time he took criticism for spending funds to train outside of the Village. As a manager it would have been much easier to stay within the confines of the USOC where food, water, transportation and housing were provided. However, for the emotional well-being of a team it was far better to get away from it all.

Sydney, Australia, is a long way from home. The organization needs to be preparing for training camp now: setting up a site, logistics and working on specific donations and fund-raisers for this excursion. It may seem silly to start this project four years out but I can guarantee that the USOC is already working on their needs in Sydney. We should be thinking about ours!

I have had the privilege of managing many teams over the years because of Stacey Johnson's foresight and I want to publicly thank her. It has been a great experience for me and I am grateful to those who have put their faith in my ability to manage a team.



Photo: Carl Borack

Special thank yous to former Olympians Bob Dow and Paul Apostol, Barbra Streisand, Seymour Grubman, Marc Ganis, Robert Kamen, Ronnie Koenig and the St. Louis Rams (Georgia Frontiere, Stan Kronke, John Shaw) for their financial contributions.

It is my sincere pleasure to work with the young fencers we have today. They share the passion and the desire and have the potential to make the United States a major fencing power.

That @#%! USFA

In the last issue we discussed the importance of running the USFA as a business. Now let's look at who's actually running it.

BY MICHAEL MASSIK, USFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you are new to fencing, or if you have been around long enough that you still refer to the USFA as the "league," or if you are anywhere in between, you most likely have had a reason to say "that darn USFA." Who is the USFA? How do things get done? Read on....

Who Is the USFA?

Although there are an estimated 150,000 people fencing in the United States, the USFA had about 10,000 members in the membership year ending July 31, 1996. These 10,000 members are divided among

eight membership categories: Senior Competitive, Junior Competitive, Veteran Competitive, Life, Family, Fence For Fun, Coach, and Associate. The distribution of members within these categories is shown in Figure 1. As you can see, the Senior Competitive category is the largest, and contains slightly more members than the Junior Competitive membership category. Five years ago, a similar graph would show a far wider gap between the Senior and Junior Competitive categories. This illustrates both the tremendous growth and rate of growth that the USFA has experienced in our Junior/Cadet/Youth ranks. If this trend continues, an historic event will occur at the end of this membership year. At that time, we anticipate that the Junior Competitive segment will be the largest of our membership.

To further illustrate this fact, Figure 2 shows the distribution of USFA members by age. Once again, this graph shows the dramatic shift toward youth in our organization. An interesting sidelight is that our youngest member (Monet Moreau) is 4 months old, and our most senior members (Albert Vogt and Col. F.R. Weber) are over 90 years old.

Why You Should Join the USFA?

The best reason to join the USFA is that your membership provides you with the right to compete in USFA sanctioned tournaments, including Division competitions. As a bonus to your membership, you also receive AMERICAN FENCING Magazine, the USFA National Newsletter, athlete insurance, periodic informational mailings, travel and equipment discounts, and you become a member of the USFA family of friends and fencers. Join now if you are not a member already! If you are a member, give this article to those in your club that are not members!

Where Do Your Membership Dollars Go?

As we discussed in Part 1 of this series, the mem-

Figure 1

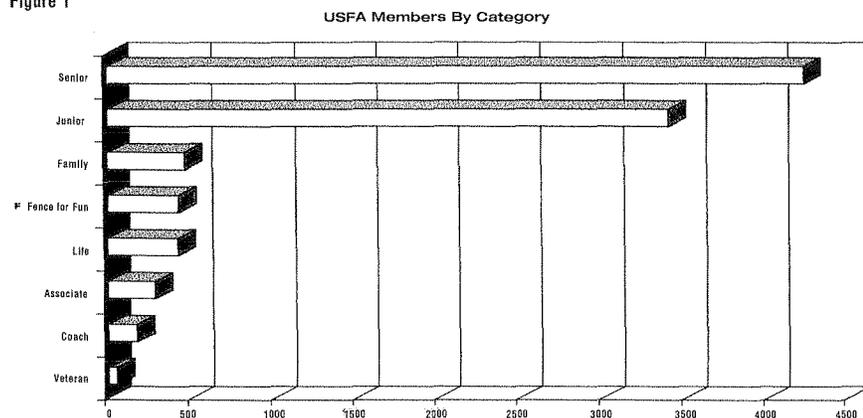
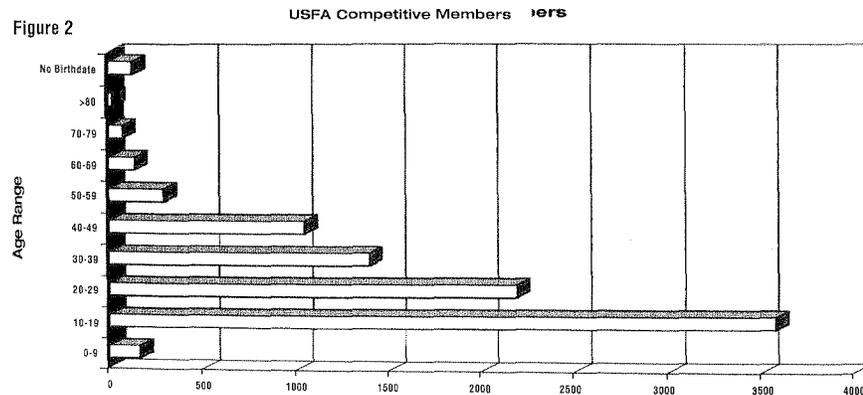


Figure 2



bership fee from each of these 10,000 USFA members contributes about 18% of the total USFA revenue. The table below shows where your membership dollars go. As you can see, the bulk of your membership dollar goes directly back to you and your Division/Section. Finally, please remember that the most important benefit of your USFA membership, the right to compete in USFA sanctioned tournaments, is an intangible and not included.

	Senior Comp.	Junior Comp.	Coach/Assoc.
Member Dues	\$35.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Magazine/Newsletter	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Rebate To Member's Div.	\$6.00	\$2.00	\$4.50
Rebate To Member's Sec.	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Mailing (minimum 2/year)	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
USFA Net (Dues - Benefits)	\$4.50	-\$5.50	-\$6.00

So, Who's in Charge?

There are two main groups charged with getting things done in the USFA — administrative volunteers and paid staff. Both groups have a tremendous commitment to the sport. The responsibilities of these two groups can be defined thusly: the volunteer administration (led by the USFA Board of Directors) defines the Association's Mission Statement, goals and guidelines, while the staff implements the programs established as a result of decisions made by the volunteer administration. Because we are all part of the same fencing family, and because we all have a commitment to improving the sport, the lines of distinction between the two groups can blur. However, there is one constant: volunteers dedicate thousands of hours each year to USFA business without monetary compensation while the staff works for a (not-for-profit) salary. Well, maybe two constants: the USFA could not exist without both.

On a National level the volunteer component includes Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Members.

The Board Of Directors

The Board of Directors of the USFA is charged with managing the USFA. That's a pretty big order, but it's softened by the fact that many day-to-day decisions are made by the staff and the Executive Committee. The Board, which votes on policy matters at its three annual meetings, oversees it all. The Board of Directors (currently numbering 147 voting members) is comprised of representatives from each Division and Section (more on that later), as well as additional members.

The Board meets three times each year, once in the fall and again at the Junior Olympics and the Nationals. During those meetings, the Board votes on specific items that have been included on the agenda, like the budget, actions by the Executive Committee and changes in USFA policies and procedures. Any member of the USFA can request that their Board representative submit an item for discussion or vote. Do you know who your Board of Directors representatives are? If not, find out. Do you know when and how the Board of Directors members are selected in your Division? You should. If you believe that your representatives to the Board of Directors are not responsive to the needs of your Division, use your vote at the Divisional meeting to make a change in representation. In the ultimate scheme of things, each member of the USFA has a very real voice in the operation of the organization.

(If you haven't read the USFA Operations Manual or our bylaws, you really should. It won't be like reading the latest Tom Clancy novel, but you will end up more knowledgeable. Together with the USFA Rule Book — another "must read" — the Operations Manual specifies how the USFA is run.)

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee acts for the Board on matters that come up between Board meetings. The Executive Committee is composed of the USFA National Officers, additional committee members appointed by the President, and several advisors (who participate with voice but no vote). Between Board meetings, the EC meets by teleconference and covers a wide range of topics. The current Executive Committee is listed below; photos of the Officers appear to the right.

Donald Alperstein, President
Edwin (Buzz) Hurst, Vice President
Sherry Posthumus, Vice President
Ralph Zimmerman, Vice President
Bob Prifrel, Treasurer
Andy Gearhart, Secretary
Additional Members:
George Kolombatovich, Linda Levin,
Jack Tichacek
Advisors:
Irvin Bernstein, Chaba Pallaghy,
General Counsel

Please, the next time that you see any one of these people, thank them for the huge amount of time, energy and money that they are devoting to improving fencing in the

Continued on following page

USFA OFFICERS 1996 - 2000



Donald Alperstein, President



Edwin (Buzz) Hurst, Vice President



Sherry Posthumus, Vice President



Ralph Zimmerman, Vice President



Bob Prifrel, Treasurer



Andy Gearhart, Secretary



President Donald Alperstein's inaugural Board of Directors meeting in Colorado Springs.

United States. They are in for a long journey with few rewards.

More Volunteers

Another group of volunteers that receives few rewards (and less recognition) are the committee members and chairs who have chosen to give their expertise in specific areas in order to help the USFA in its quest for excellence. Committees can always use additional help. If you have the time, energy and experience, volunteer! You'll enjoy it! Here's a list of current Committee chairs:

- American Fencing Policy Board - Candi MacConaugha
- Athlete Advisory Group (To be elected)
- Budget - Bob Prifrel
- Bylaw Review - Lew Siegel
- Clubs, Divisions & Sections (To be named)
- Coaches - Bob Largman
- Collegiate/Scholastic Fencing - Mike DeCicco
- Fencing Officials Commission - Chaba Pallaghy
- FIE Task Force - Chaba Pallaghy
- General Counsel (To be named)
- Grants and Development - Katherine Marchand
- Hall of Fame - Arnie Messing & Steve Khinoy
- Honors - Jack Keane
- Information Systems Coordinator - David Sapery
- International - George Kolombatovich
- Medical Group - Brian Martin
- Numeric Rating Task Force - Terrence Gargiulo
- Official Historian - Andy Shaw
- Operations Manual Review - Nancy Anderson
- Parents - Terrence Gargiulo
- Sport Science & Technology - John Heil
- State Games - Irwin Bernstein
- Summer Nationals Convention - Nancy Anderson
- Task Force to Restructure the Board - Lew Siegel
- Tournament - Mark Stasinos
- Representative to USOC AAC - Peter Westbrook
- Representative to USOC Board - Stacey Johnson
- Veterans - Jim Campoli
- Wheelchair - Kevin Delahanty & Ann Ezzell

Women's Saber - Diane Dominguez Youth - Andrea Lagan

Like other Association volunteers, our referees, bout committee members and armorers who work at National events receive scant recognition for the work they do. These individuals devote their vacation time and weekends to ensure that we can hold National tournaments. In exchange for their efforts (which can easily last 12 hours each day), these individuals are given a roommate, travel expenses, lunch, and a per diem of \$40. This is not a profession, rather it is a labor of love (or addiction). These individuals serve because they want to and because they are desperately needed. They most certainly deserve a kind word or a thank you after each bout.

The National Office

The home office of the USFA is an office,

but it is not big! The seven-member staff of the USFA is based at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Our duties are divided into athlete support, business services, membership services, tournament services and general administration. This is a lot of work for only seven people.

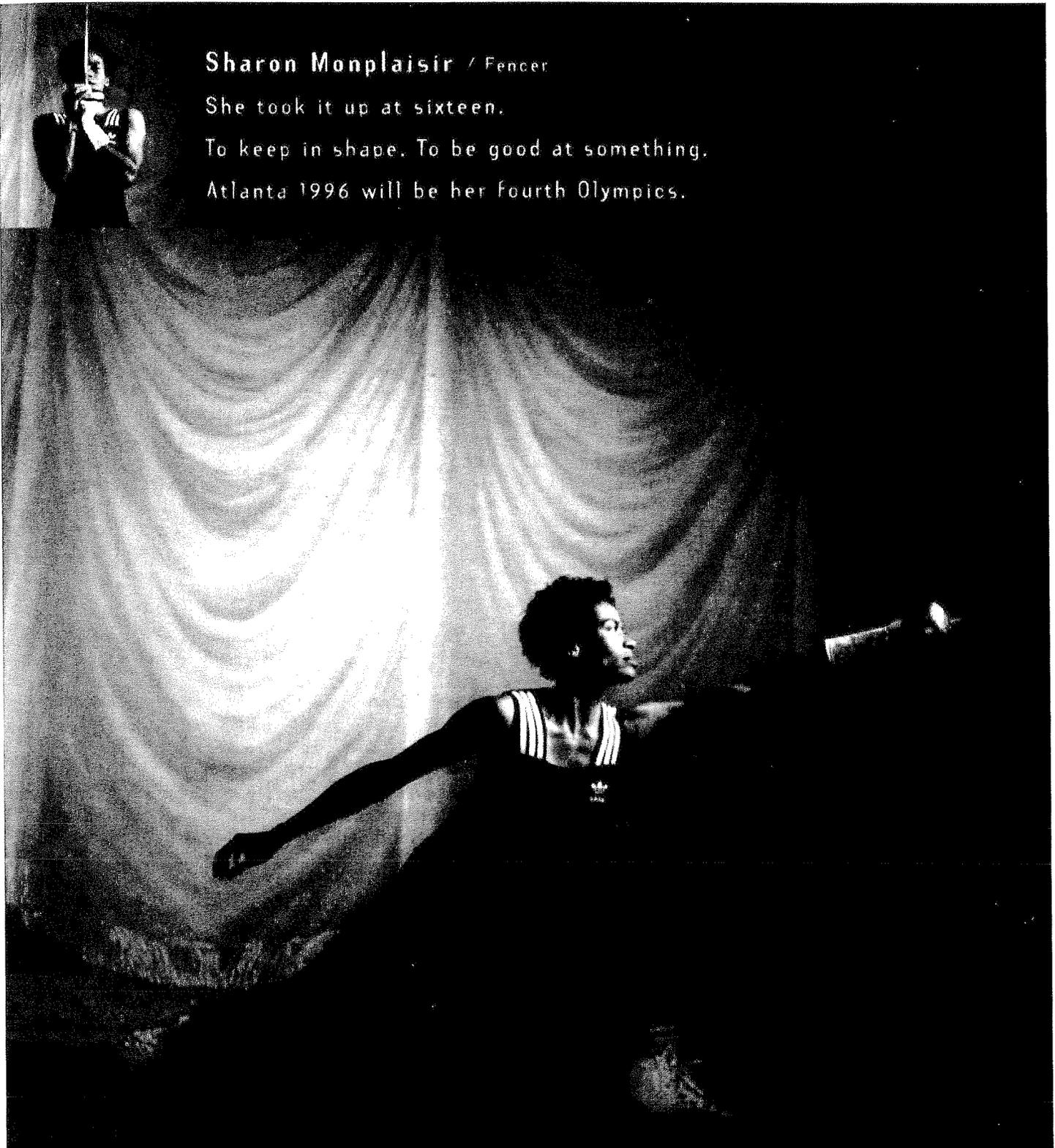
During the fencing season, we receive 200 to 400 telephone calls each working day. These calls range from "where can I learn to fence?" (if your club is not a USFA Member Club, we can't help these people find you), to media requests, to sponsorship discussions, and many more. Because we receive so many calls each day, chances are high that your call will be answered by our voice mail system. This is because somebody else is already talking to us, and the lines are busy. The phone mail system that we use is donated to the USFA by AT&T.



Division and Section chairs, additional Division directors, and Presidential appointments constitute the voting members of the Board.



At the Board meeting in September, Executive Director Michael Massik introduced the staff: (left to right) Linda Fera, Robert Dumcum, Shawn Shippneck, Mark Tibault and Beth Lee. Carla Mae Richards, Director of Technical Programs, is just out of the frame.



Sharon Monplaisir / Fencer

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Atlanta 1996 will be her fourth Olympics.

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Test Profiling: Measuring Mental Skills

Psychological profiling offers the athlete a set of hypotheses for evaluation.

BY DR. JOHN HEIL

Measurement is at the heart of sport where competitive excellence is quantified exhaustively and in exquisite detail. Efforts at measuring mental skills linked to successful performance can be traced to the beginnings of sport psychology and the pioneering work of Coleman Griffith. He consulted widely with coaches and athletes including legendary Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne as he worked to understand and measure the mental abilities that enabled athletes to perform at the highest level of their sport. As sport psychology developed in the 1960's and 1970's, psychological measurement played a central role, but often was embroiled in controversy. Because mental abilities are not as easily gauged as time or distance, devising methods for their measurement proved to be a formidable task. By the 1990's, sport psychology came into its own as a specialized sport science. Years of research and practice have identified mental skills linked to successful performance and lead to the development of psychological test profiling for measuring these skills. The *Directory of Psychological Tests in Sport and Exercise Science*, published in 1990 (by Ostrow), lists 175 tests including measurements of anxiety and imagery, group cohesion and confidence, leadership and motivation.

Psychological test profiling relies heavily on the use of self-administered paper and pencil tests. These tests are specifically designed for athletes and focus on sport performance—unlike testing used in clinical psychology which assesses mental and emotional problems. Psychological test profiling offers a useful set of hypotheses (educated guesses) which the athlete can then evaluate based on personal impression, as well as feedback from coaches and others.

Once mental strengths and areas in need of improvement are identified, mental training programs to further enhance skills can be developed.

Within the last year, psychology test profiling has been made available to elite fencers and has met with positive response. As it is the goal of the Sport Science and Technology Committee to serve the USFA broadly, Sport Psychology Test Profiling is now being made available to the general membership. This sport psychology service offers a concise, affordable, and time efficient opportunity for fencers who want to take a careful look at the mental aspects of their game. This program has been designed to suit our large and geographically dispersed organization by relying heavily on communication by phone and mail. The services are provided by sport psychologists in the newly formed USFA Sport Science Network. This includes selected professionals with special interest in fencing who are willing to provide services on a pro bono basis.



John Heil offered his professional services to U.S. Fencing's '96 Olympic Team.

Sport Psychology Test Profiling Protocol

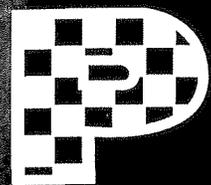
A four step procedure is outlined below:

1. Once the fencer expresses interest, the process begins with a brief interview (usually by phone) with the sport psychologist. The purpose and procedure of the testing are reviewed. There will also be discussion with the fencer about his or her fencing background and competitive goals, as well as, prior experience with sport psychology.
2. The testing is mailed to the fencer, completed, and returned for scoring.
3. The sport psychologist will then review the results of the Sport Psychology Test Profiling with the fencer (again, usually by phone). This is designed to serve as a springboard to discussion about personal strengths that can be refined, as well as aspects of the fencer's mental game that need improvement.
4. Following this brief consultation with the athlete, the sport psychologist will create a report (typically 1-2 pages in length) which provides an overview of the Sport Psychology Test Profiling and a brief set of recommendations. The fencers will be directed to selected sport psychology resources (books, audiocassettes, CD ROM products) to help them continue to work independently on the development of their mental skills.

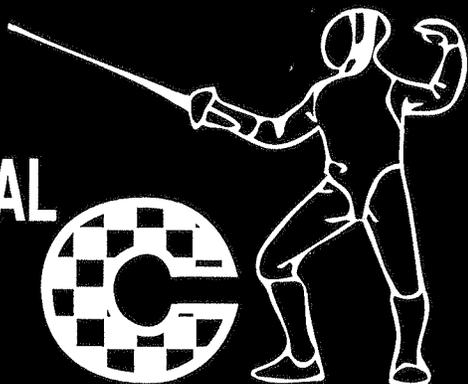
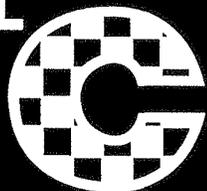
The Sport Psychology consultation report is held in a confidential file. No one has access to it without the fencer's permission. The fencers are encouraged to share the results of testing with their coaches and others who may help them contribute to their performance. It is in this way that the hypotheses generated by testing, and recommendations offered for skill development are best assessed and implemented. Of course, this is ultimately at the fencer's discretion.

Sport Psychology Testing Profiling is offered on a discounted basis to USFA members in good standing. The fees paid for testing will go directly to the USFA to support sport science programs.

For more information, contact Dr. John Heil at the Department of Psychological Medicine, Lewis-Gale Clinic, Inc., 4910 Valley View Boulevard, Roanoke, Virginia, 24012; 540-265-1605 (phone) & 540-366-7353 (fax).



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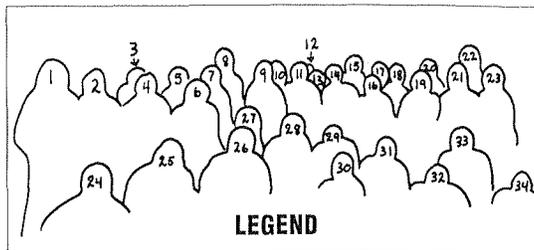
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| 9. Dave Weisenfeld | 23. Christine Haskell |
| 10. ??? | 24. Sharon C. Kaliouby |
| 11. Dave Blake | 25. Heather Whitefield |
| 12. Amr Kaliouby | 26. Chris Jennings |
| 13. Paul Harris | 27. Kim Ayers |
| 14. Matthew O'Brien | 28. Joe Pechinsky |
| 15. Scott Bozek | 29. Ariana Klinkov |
| 16. Sally Pechinsky | 30. Jeff Brown |
| 17. Ed Mullarkey | 31. Jana Angelakis |
| 18. Jim Mullarkey | 32. Jason Sachs |
| 19. Sherry M. Mitchell | 33. Jane Hall |
| 20. Jack Mullarkey | 34. Elif Sachs |

Olympians Celebrate Pechinsky's Induction to USFA Hall of Fame

In typical fashion, Joe Pechinsky neglected telling his students at the Tanner City Fencers Club of his induction into the USFA's Hall of Fame until after the ceremony, which was held during the 1996 National Championships in Cincinnati. Unwilling to let the honor pass without due notice, the Club held a surprise celebration, commemorating the event and the very special man who built junior fencing in Massachusetts.

Held at the home of Jane Hall's parents, Bob and Pat Hall, the hook to get Pechinsky to the party was that it was to celebrate Jane's retirement from competitive fencing. Saturday, August 24, found more than 100 fencers, family and friends assembled to reaffirm Pechinsky's Hall of Fame honor.

All five Pechinsky Olympians attended. Niece Sally Pechinsky came from Cape Cod with her husband, Ed Ballinger. Jana Angelakis drove in from New York. Molly Sullivan Sliney and Mary Jane O'Neill came from Boston. The biggest surprise was Scott Bozek

1. Molly Sullivan Sliney
2. Brendan O'Brine
3. Pam Santin
4. Aaron Bell
5. Janice Hynes
6. Evelyn Vozella

who flew in from Washington, D.C. The mayor of the City of Peabody presented Pechinsky with a plaque, thanking him for his many years as head of the Peabody Recreation Department's Junior Fencing Program which enables children from the North Shore to try fencing free of charge. The Tanner City Fencers Club presented him with a scrapbook which included photographs and newspaper articles dating back to the late 1960s in addition to letters from well-wishers, one of which recounted wonderful memories of fencing between the firetrucks at Engine #7 where Pechinsky was a Peabody firefighter.

Few know that Pechinsky has never charged for lessons. All of his time is donated. Because of this incredible generosity, many people who would never have been able to afford the sport are now National Champions, National Team Members, NCAA All Americans and Olympians. And our sport is forever richer.

RESULTS

NORTH AMERICA CUP ROCKFORD, IL OCT. 4 - 7

Men's Epee

1. Zajitski, Hairton, Estonia
2. Hentea, Julian, New Jersey
3. Thompson, Tristram, Nat
3. Atkins, Ben, Metro. NYC
5. Tausig, Justin, National
6. Moreau, John, South Texas
7. Greenhouse, Rashaan, Met
8. Brine, Andrew, Canada

Men's Foil

1. Bayer, Cliff, Metro. NYC
2. Longenbach, Zaddick, Met
3. Brouillet, Mathieu, Canada
3. Borin, James, Connecticut
5. Devine, Peter, Metro. NYC
6. Kellner, Dan, Metro. NYC
7. Kaihatsu, Ed, Illinois
8. Hamza, Maher, Gulf CstTX

Men's Sabre

1. Skarbonkiewicz, Adam, Ore
2. Lasker, Terrence, Kansas
3. Summers, Jeremy, Kansas
3. Lapointe, Fredrick, Canada
5. Summers, Timothy, Kansas
6. Lilov, Serge, New Jersey
7. Strzalkowski, Thomas, Ore
8. Boulos, Michel, Canada

Women's Epee

1. Marx, Leslie, Western NY
2. Burke, Jessica, Western NY
3. Miller, Margo, So. Calif.
3. Cathey, Sarah, Minnesota
5. Krol, Magda, Canada
6. Obenchain, Janel, No. Calif.
7. Maskell MD, Laura, Oregon
8. Blanks, Heather, WestNY

Women's Foil

1. Luan, Jujie, Canada
2. Zimmermann, Iris, WestNY
3. Walsh, Sara, Indiana
3. Smart, Erinn, Metro. NYC
5. De Bruin, Monique, Oregon

6. Krol, Magda, Canada
7. Jennings, Susan, WestNY
8. Surdu, Lavinia, Canada

Women's Sabre

1. Williams, Kelly, Kansas
2. Bartholomew, Sue, Minn
3. Mustilli, Nicole, Indiana
3. Latham, Christine, Kansas
5. Solomon, Sara, New Eng
6. Mustilli, Marisa, New Jersey
7. Turner, Delia, Philadelphia
8. Cummins, Judith, Met

U-20 Men's Epee

1. Shams, Ryan, North TX
2. Kelsey, Seth, Oregon
3. St. Francis, John, Colorado
3. Rostal, Scott, Minnesota
5. Stanford, Tim, Canada
6. Acerra, Marco, New Jersey
7. Giroux, Gabriel, Canada
8. Danubuis, Razuan, Sweden

U-20 Men's Foil

1. Wood, Alex, Western NY
2. Griffin, Ayo, Metro. NYC
3. Dupree, Jedediah, Met
3. Fisher, Joseph, Indiana
5. Lidow, David, Central PA
6. Keckley-Stauffer, Joshua, Central CA
7. Cohen, David, Gulf Cst, TX
8. Hervieu, Thomas, Canada

U-20 Men's Sabre

1. Lasker, Terence, Kansas
2. Spencer-El, Akhnaten, Metro. NYC
3. Summers, Jeremy, Kansas
3. Lapointe, Fredrick, Canada
5. Smart, Keeth, Metro. NYC
6. LaValle III, Luke, Met
7. Crane, Robert, Georgia
8. Hassoun, Marc-Olive, Can

U-20 Women's

1. Ament, Andrea, No. Ohio
2. Krol, Magda, Canada

3. Rudkin, Kate, Colorado
3. Burke, Jessica, Western NY
5. Mann, Elizabeth, Colorado
6. Coley, Kari, Philadelphia
7. Cavan, Kathryn, Metro. NY
8. Pelletier, Marie-Eve, Canada

U-20 Women's Foil

1. Zimmermann, Iris, WestNY
2. Smart, Erinn, Metro. NYC
3. Breden, Ute, Western NY
3. Jennings, Susan, WestNY
5. Krol, Magda, Canada
6. Sassine, Sandra, Canada
7. Ament, Andrea, No. Ohio
8. Cavan, Kathryn, Metro. NYC

U-20 Women's Sabre

1. Mustilli, Marisa, NJ
2. Goellner, Natasha, Kansas
3. Findley, Chloe, Kansas
3. Caffarel, Tara, Hud-Berks
5. Russo, Ariel, Hudn-Berks
6. Rupert, Eva, Connecticut
7. Gaudette, Katherine, Illinois

Where to Fence When You're on the Road

The internet has been responsible for a number of good things recently. One of the best, we think, was a suggestion from a USFA member who told of a summer spent traveling around the country on business. He reported that he would have taken his fencing bag with him if he had known where clubs were located in other cities but, since he didn't, he spent the summer away from the strip. He suggested that we print the list of US member clubs by state, along with a contact number for more information. What a great idea! If your club is not listed, it's because its not a member club.

Alaska

Eagle River Fencing Club, Chris Cushman, Eagle River, AK, (907) 694-6968
North Star Fencing Club, Arturo Frizzera, Fairbanks, AK, (907) 457-5391

Alabama

Huntsville Fencing Club, Elaine Katsaros, Huntsville, AL, (205) 837-6152

Arkansas

Fayetteville Fencing Club, E. Scott Sutton, Fayetteville, AR, (501) 521-3025
North Arkansas Fencing Club, William Horrell, Kingston, AR, (501) 665-2823
Arkansas Fencers Club, Robert Scranton, Little Rock, AR, (501) 663-6267
Little Rock Steel Company, Mary Freeman, Little Rock, AR, (501) 753-7967
Texarkana Fencing Club, Curtis Richard Garner, Texarkana, AR, (501) 772-4947

Arizona

Southwest Fencing Club Inc., Linda Jordan, Phoenix, AZ, (602) 435-2740
Scottsdale C.C. Falcons, Skip Shurtz, Scottsdale, AZ, (602) 949-1226

California

Pacific Fencing Club, Harold Hayes, Alameda, CA, (510) 814-1800
Swordplay, Tim Weske, Burbank, CA, (818) 566-1777
Salle Saufen, Karl Christie, Calabasas, CA, (805) 275-5194
Salle Gascon, Andrew Shaw, Culver City, CA, (310) 204-2688
Laguna Beach Fencing Academy, Jon Carter, Laguna Beach, CA, (714) 497-895
The Fencing Center, Connie Yu, Los Altos Hills, CA, (408) 298-8230
Salle Couturier, Al Couturier, Los Angeles, CA, (310) 477-7364
Seahawks, Randy Ball, Los Angeles, CA, (310) 449-1444
Vampire Fencing Club, Terence Buchinsky, Los Angeles, CA, (310) 820-9479
Cavaliers Of California, Angela Wells, Malibu, CA, (310) 262-3690
Salle Bronzo NCFCA, Tom Bronzo, McKinleyville, CA, (707) 839-0947
La Sala D'Arme, Frank Lurz, Mill Valley, CA, (415) 389-8311
Monterey Peninsula Fencers' Cl, Milton H. Bank, Monterey, CA, (408) 373-6496
Redlands Fencing Center, Calif, Marianne Kamber, Redlands, CA, (909) 792-3183
Salle Forte, Mary Kelly, Riverside, CA, (909) 792-5172
Capitol Fencing Center, George Beily, Sacramento, CA, (916) 455-7665
Cabrillo Academy of the Sword, Edwin Hurst, San Diego, CA, (619) 584-2478
San Diego School Of Fencing, M.J. Longval, San Diego, CA, (619) 265-8570
Spartak, Dmitriy Guy, San Diego, CA, (619) 487-1595
American Swordplay, Lawrence Homulos, San Francisco, CA, (916) 974-3905
Halberstadt Fencers Club, Kathy Krusen, San Francisco, CA, (415) 863-3838
Letterman Fencers Club, Gerald Esponda, San Francisco, CA, (415) 221-1749
U. Of San Francisco FC, Raul Pomares, San Francisco, CA, (415) 334-2785
La Cote d'Esgrime, Eric McDonald, San Luis Obispo, CA, (805) 542-9802
Falcon Fencing Club California, c/o Janet Kiniry, San Marino, CA, (310) 477-2780
Sonoma County Fencing, Michael T Pacheco, Santa Rosa, CA, (707) 325-0221
Masque Der Fer, Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, Sherman Oaks, CA, (818) 501-2355
Stanford Fencing Club, Lisa Posthumus, Stanford, CA, (415) 725-0733

Colorado

Northern Colorado Fencers, Gary Copeland, Boulder, CO, (303) 443-6557
Pikes Peak Fencing League, Rod Goodall, Colorado Springs, CO, (719) 471-7950
Fort Collins Fencers, Ian MacRae, Ft. Collins, CO, (970) 491-7820
Mile High Fencing Center, Frank Adler, Littleton, CO, (303) 979-7676
Montrose Lunge Lizards Fencing, John Kissinger, Montrose, CO, (970) 249-6636
Falcon Fencing Club, MAJ LaBlanc, USAFA, CO, (719) 333-3429

Connecticut

Candlewood Fencing Center, Tom Cicciarone, Danbury, CT, (203) 264-2823

Florida

Ft. Myers Fencing Club, Michelle Prettyman-Neely, Ft. Myers, FL, (941) 418-0252
Santa Fe Community College FC, Bob Lightner, Gainesville, FL, (352) 395-5423
Knight Blades, Cheryl Serafini, Indian Harbor Beach, FL, (407) 779-9958
Florida Atlantic Fencing Club, Robert Cochrane, Lake Worth, FL, (561) 641-5199
Miami Fencing Club, David Berriman, Miami, FL, (305) 255-9183
Orlando Fencing Club, Jim Burcham, Orlando, FL, (407) 275-6630
En Garde Fencers, Kirk Rowley, Palm Harbor, FL, (813) 784-2916
Broward CFC, William Becker, Pembroke Pines, FL, (954) 921-6562
Florida Acad. of Stage Combat, Alex Daye, Pembroke Pines, FL, (305) 438-3423
Ocala Fencing Club, Tom Stewart, Sparr, FL, (352) 591-2852
Tampa's Fencing Academy, Gerardo Duran, Tampa, FL, (813) 885-3645

Georgia

Shepherd Spinal Center FC, Stacy Green, Atlanta, GA, (404) 350-7787
Ragnarok, Don Hilton, Bonaire, GA, (912) 755-3439
Fayette Fencing Acad C.F.F., Wolfgang Finck, Fayetteville, GA, (770) 461-3809

Idaho

Salle of Boise, Christine Tondrick, Boise, ID, (208) 336-1740

Illinois

Fox Valley Fencing Club, Rudy Timmerman, Aurora, IL, (708) 851-0952
Chicago Fencing Club, Diana Unger, Chicago, IL, (773) 685-2677
Fencing 2000 Academy, c/o Diane Dominguez, Chicago, IL, (312) 879-0430
Northshore Fencing Academy, Tim Glass, Deerfield, IL, (708) 537-4968
Falcon Fencers, Dee Grice, Marissa, IL, (618) 256-3024
Illinois Fencers Club, Thomas Slota, Oak Lawn, IL, (312) 243-4300
Rockford Fencing Club, Edward Eggleston, Rockford, IL, (815) 399-7055

Indiana

Schererville Fencers Club, Aly Kabil, Crown Point, IN, (219) 769-3903
Culver Academies, Douglas Crane, Culver, IN, (219) 842-3311
Esgrime Du Lac, Jack Pratt, Granger, IN, (219) 256-0111
Purdue University, Heather Anderson, West Lafayette, IN, (317) 494-3110

Kansas

Johnson County Comm. College F, John Dillard, Lawrence, KS, (913) 865-5502
Lawrence Fencing Club, Elise Clement, Lawrence, KS, (913) 832-1978
Coyote Fencing Club, Gia Kvaratskhei, Salina, KS, (913) 452-9640
Central/CSCA Fencing Club, Vitali Nazlymov, Shawnee, KS, (816) 536-549
Wichita Fencing Academy, Ted Hootman, Wichita, KS, (316) 265-6700

Louisiana

New Orleans Fencing Acad., Dr. Eugene Hamori, New Orleans, LA, (504) 87-7359
St. George's Youth, Carlos Ochoa, New Orleans, LA, (504) 891-5509

Massachusetts

Cape Cod Fencers, Jim Kelly, E. Sandwich, MA, (508) 888-5083
Boston Fencing Club, Syd Fadner, Watertown, MA, (617) 926-3450

Maryland

Chesapeake Fencing Club, Ray Gordon, Baltimore, MD, (410) 532-7445
Chevy Chase Fencing Club, Raymond Finkleman, Damascus, MD, (301) 774-7777
Montgomery County FC, Raymond Finkleman, Damascus, MD, (301) 774-7777
Salle Palasz, Dick Oles, Pasadena, MD, (410) 516-7481
Tri-Weapon Boys Club, Dick Oles, Pasadena, MD, (410) 516-7481
D.C. Fencers Club, Marie Petit-Michel, Silver Spring, MD, (301) 961-5335

Maine

Down East School of Fencing, John Krauss, Bucksport, ME, (207) 469-8936

Michigan

Tri Blade Fencing Academy, Craig Smith, Battle Creek, MI, (616) 968-202
Sybil Works Inc., Christopher Hunter, Canton, MI, (313) 397-5529
Great Lakes Sword Club, Kim Rahl, Eaton Rapids, MI, (517) 663-5032
Bloomfield Hills Fencing, Jon Zelkowski, Ferndale, MI, (810) 544-0739
W. Michigan Fencing Acad., Mike Nemecek, Grand Rapids, MI, (616) 868-6494
Salle A'mazoo FC, Vandana Slatter, Kalamazoo, MI, (616) 383-2887

Minnesota

U. Of Minnesota/Minneapolis, Christine Mitzuk, Minneapolis, MN, (612) 625-6017
Minnesota Sword Club, Rich Jacobson, St. Paul, MN, (612) 699-1425
Twin Cities Fencing Club, Roberto Sobalvarro, St. Paul, MN, (612) 225-1990

Missouri

Ladue - Highland Fencing Club, Karen Allman, Bridgeton, MO, (314) 918-0939

North Carolina

Salle du Village, John Wollerton, Bayboro, NC, (919) 745-3790

Winston-Salem Fencing Club, Bob Coley, Clemmons, NC, (910) 764-8700

Delta H Fencers, Linda Marsh, Greensboro, NC, (910) 886-5181

Nebraska

Omaha Fencing Club, Melanie Chun, Omaha, NE, (402) 554-0977

New Hampshire

Seacoast Fencing Club, Chris Pullo, Henniker, NH, (603) 428-7040

New Jersey

St. Anselm's Abbey School, Shelley Remaly, 127 Anthony Rd., NJ, (908) 537-6789

Modified Academy Of Fencing, Frank Carnevale, Bergenfield, NJ, (201) 385-7619

Hungarian American AC, Jan Leviton, East Brunswick, NJ, (908) 821-9371

Salle Santelli - New Jersey, Jerzy Grzymyski, Englewood, NJ, (201) 871-3946

Ace of Blades, Marianne Pratschler, Hackettstown, NJ, (908) 852-3771

Lilov Fencing Academy, Vladimir Lilov, Maplewood, NJ, (201) 763-9583

Olympus Fencers Club, Litvan Yefim, Millburn, NJ, (201) 376-4853

Salle D'armes Montclair, James Powers, Montclair, NJ, (201) 746-4389

Colonial Fencers, Robert Largin, Morristown, NJ, (908) 699-7956

Masters Fencing Academy, David Andersen, Pompton Lakes, NJ, (201) 835-2283

New Jersey Fencing Center, Stanislav Bardakh, Vauxhall, NJ, (908) 687-4438

En Garde FC, Augustine De La Llave, West Orange, NJ, (201) 736-2446

New Mexico

St. Michael's Fencing Club, Rob Madril, Santa Fe, NM, (505) 983-7353

Nevada

Las Vegas Fencers Club, John Mudd, Las Vegas, NV, (702) 736-1489

Reno Silver Blades, John Springgate, Reno, NV, (702) 323-8881

New York

Brentwood Fencing Club, Jean Stagg, Bay Shore, NY, (516) 434-2207

Onondaga Fencers Club, Karl Gaverson, East Syracuse, NY, (315) 463-1761

Long Island Swordsmen, Donald Wright, Freeport, NY, (516) 794-3355

Foiled Again!, Gloria-Ann Coffman, Geneva, NY, (315) 789-9060

Crown Schoole Of Defence, Adam Adrian Crown, Ithaca, NY, (607) 277-3262

Fulton Montgomery C.C., Michael McDarby, Johnstown, NY, (518) 762-4651

Knights of Siena FA-NY, Alan Blakeborough, Mechanicville, NY, (518) 664-7845

Fencers Club Inc., Jeff Bukantz, New York, NY, (212) 874-9800

Metropolis Fencing Inc, Zaddick Longenbach, New York, NY, (212) 463-8044

Peter Westbrook Foundation, Peter Westbrook, New York, NY, (212) 459-4538

PS 9 Chess Renaissance Aftersc, Jeanne Martin, New York, NY, (212) 787-1200

Salle Bardakh, Stanislav Bardakh, New York, NY, (212) 620-0114

Hewlett-Woodmere Fencing Club, Bruce Gillman, Oceanside, NY, (516) 766-3048

Rochester Fencing Centre Inc., Sue Clinton, Rochester, NY, (716) 654-6047

Stony Brook Fencing Club, Leon Moy, Runkonkoma, NY, (516) 588-3956

Salle Dumas Fencing Academy, Ron Mason, Valley Cottage, NY, (212) 459-6044

Westchester Fencers Club, Jim Bernitt, Yorktown Heights, NY, (914) 962-7278

Ohio

Kiraly Fencing Academy, Ernest Kiraly, Akron, OH, (216) 836-0850

Kent State University Fencing, Jeff Hudson, Chagrin Falls, OH, (216) 543-7254

Cincinnati Fencing Club, Duane Orlemann, Cincinnati, OH, (513) 961-5681

Alcazar Fencing Club, William Reith, Cleveland Heights, OH, (216) 381-0669

Columbus Fencers Club, Charles Simonian, Columbus, OH, (614) 488-0572

On Target Fencing Team, Tom Nagy, North Ridgeville, OH, (216) 327-0808

Oklahoma

Redlands FC, Jerry Benson, Oklahoma City, OK, (405) 947-2521

Redlands Fencing Center, Jerry Benson, Oklahoma City, OK, (405) 947-2521

Tulsa Fencing Club, Roger VanDenhende, Tulsa, OK, (918) 743-9596

Oregon

High Desert Fencing Club, Linda Wanless, Bend, OR, (541) 317-0372

Oregon Episcopal School Fencin, Grant Farr, Portland, OR, (503) 725-5467

Salle Auriol, Suzanne Marx, Portland, OR, (503) 645-8485

Pennsylvania

Hershey Fencers, Edward R. Kane, Jr., Ashland, PA, (717) 531-6711

Fencing at the Lebanon YMCA, Gary Rusen, Lebanon, PA, (717) 273-4015

Bucks County Academy of Fencin, Mark Holbrow, New Hope, PA, (215) 862-5365

Circle d'Escrime School of Fen, Roberta Harding, Perkasie, PA, (215) 257-6808

Fencing Academy Of Phila, Mark Masters, Philadelphia, PA, (215) 382-0293

En Garde Fencing Club, A. C.F. Murphy, Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 836-5100

Fencing For Fun (FFF), Joseph Odom, Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 687-0648

Sabre Master Studio, Frank Foley/Jewart School, Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 766-2493

The Fencing Exchange, John Proctor, Scranton, PA, (717) 969-1224

Penn State Fencing Club, Wieslaw Glon, State College, PA, (814) 863-3576

Summit Sport Fencing, Wieslaw Glon, State College, PA, (814) 863-7466

Rhode Island

Island Fencing Academy L.L.C., Elizabeth Brett, Portsmouth, RI, (508) 730-1380

Woonsocket Fencing Club, Morris Laurie, Woonsocket, RI, (401) 762-0523

South Carolina

Aiken Fencing Club, Don Sinkola, Aiken, SC, (803) 648-3047

South Dakota

Low Country Fencers, James Lawrence, Charleston, SC, (803) 875-0612

U. Of South Dakota Fencing Clb, Brian Begley, Vermillion, SD, (605) 624-6718

Tennessee

Sterling Fencing Society, Virginia Carrel, Germantown, TN, (901) 753-2050

Texas

Salle Lagardere/Austin F C, Eric Mallet, Austin, TX, (512) 834-7701

Texas Fencing Academy, Ray Parker, Austin, TX, (512) 443-8221

Spindletop Cavaliers, Hazel Power, Beaumont, TX, (409) 866-6546

Texas Excalibur, Marietta Towry, El Paso, TX, (915) 581-7667

Windsor Blades, Ed Koons, El Paso, TX, (915) 755-6259

The Fencing Factory, C.H. Morris, Harlingen, TX, (201) 412-1314

Bayou City Fencing Academy, Louise Lepie, Houston, TX, (713) 666-1662

Clear Lake Fencer's Club, Michael Mergens, Houston, TX, (713) 486-0724

Lone Star Fencing Center, Kathryn Lewis-Salem, Irving, TX, (214) 252-6207

Texas Friends of International, Kathryn Lewis-Salem, Irving, TX, (214) 252-6207

Lubbock Fencing Club, Ruth Rechsteiner, Lubbock, TX, (806) 794-1286

Salle Poujardieu, J. Gerard Poujardieu, San Antonio, TX, (210) 656-0206

South Houston High Fencing Club, Jerry Dunaway, Webster, TX, (713) 944-2450

Utah

Salle d'Escrime - Utah, Julie Smith, Orem, UT, (801) 221-9854

Virginia

Fencers/Interschol. Locs., Stuart McCausland, Chesapeake, VA, (757) 482-7126

Fairfax Fencers, Tom Jobson, Fairfax, VA, (703) 352-2642

Virginia Academy of Fencing, Alexandre Ryjik, Fairfax, VA, (703) 803-0160

Chester Knight, Karl Przystawik, Richmond, VA, (804) 275-0539

Hillside Cavaliers, Kael Sherrard, Bellevue, WA, (206) 649-9388

Washington

Fleur De Lys, Diana Rodenberg, Seattle, WA, (206) 782-2101

Wallingford Rod And Foil, Stephen Colton, Seattle, WA, (206) 632-7974

Wisconsin

Durendal Fencing Club, Jessie Micales, Madison, WI, (608) 255-5337

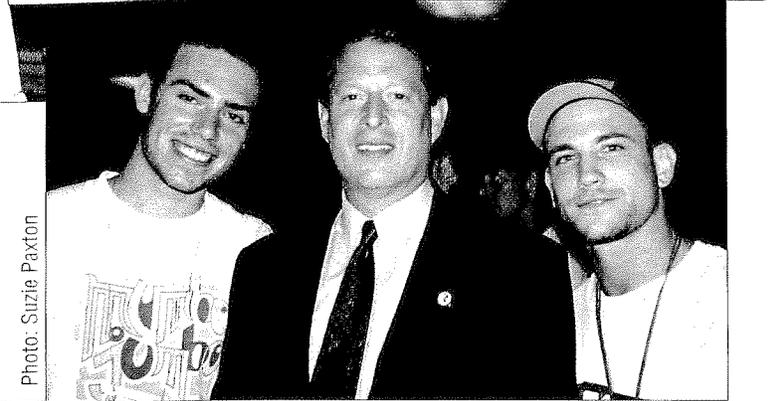
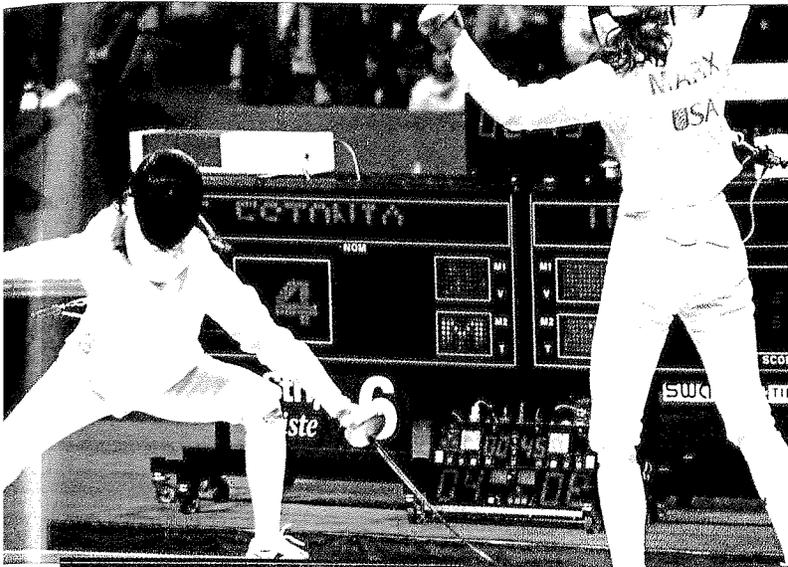
West Virginia

West Virginia University Fencing, Eric Mohl, Morgantown, WV, (304) 292-1567

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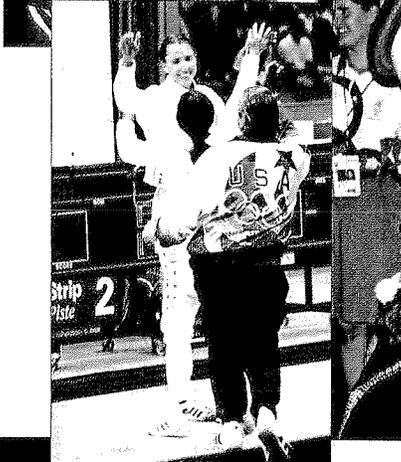


Photos: Above left, Leslie leaves her opponent in a lunge while she's already celebrating her touch. Above right, Suzie delivers a touch to the back. Left: Peter Cox autographs a fan's t-shirt.

Photo: Suzie Paxton



Photo: M. MacClaren



Above: VP Gore with Devine (left) and Bravin. Far left: Team victory in Women's Epee. Left: Suzie with mascot Izzy. Lower left: Peter Westbrook ... he says it's his last Olympics ... we'll see. Below: Peter Devine steps up to the attack.

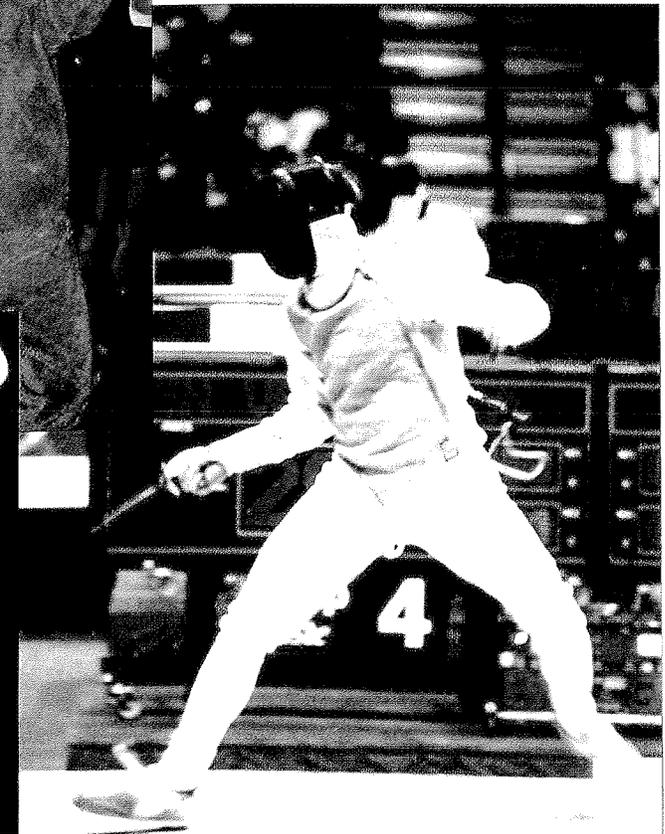


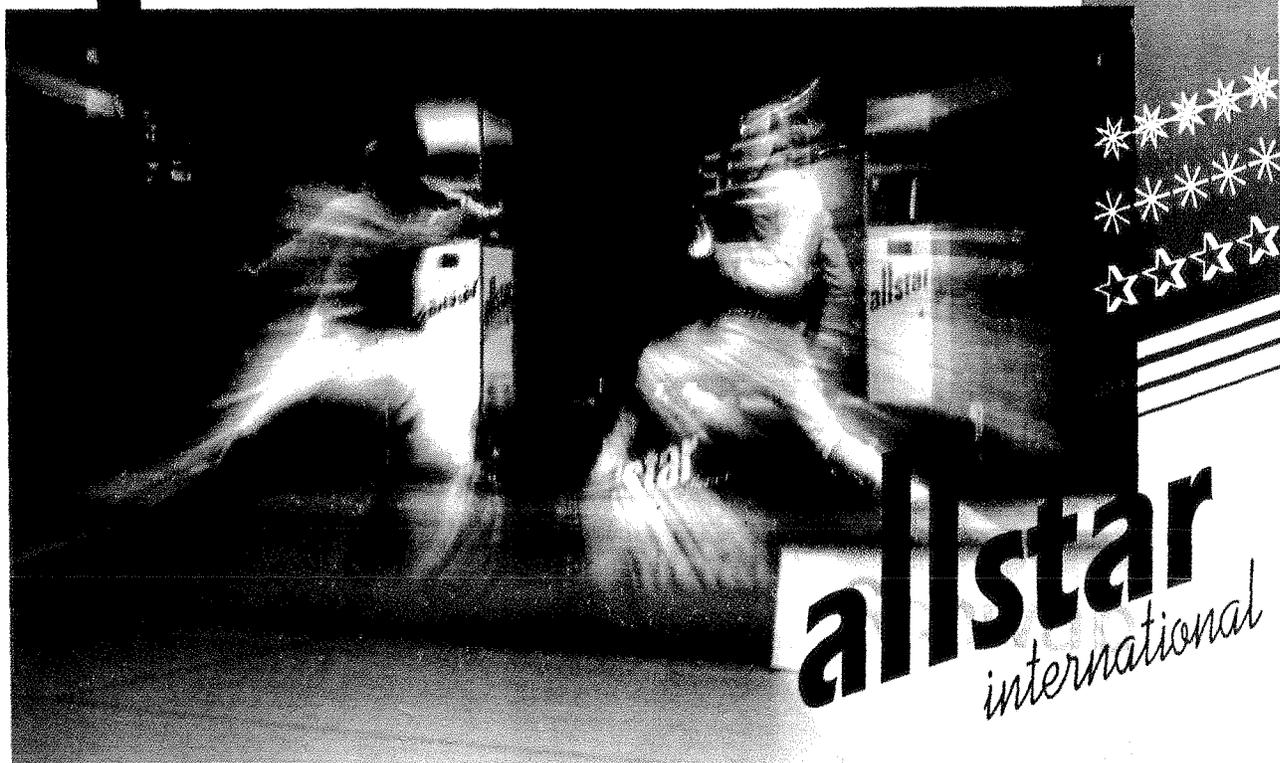
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