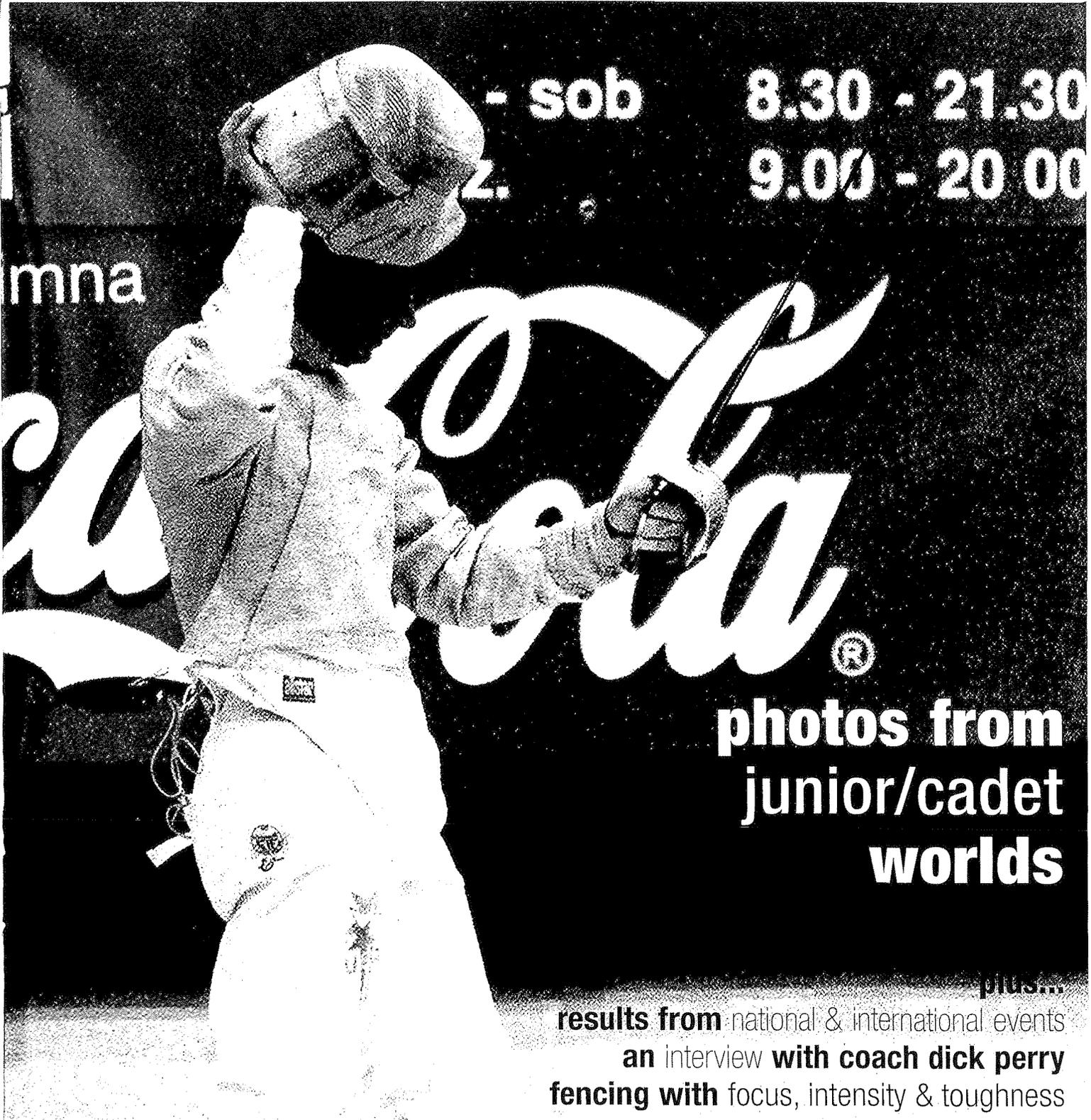


American FENCING

summer 2001



- sob 8.30 - 21.30
9.00 - 20.00

mna

**photos from
junior/cadet
worlds**

plus...
results from national & international events
an interview with coach dick perry
fencing with focus, intensity & toughness

American FENCING

Summer 2001 · Volume 51, Number 2

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- 14 special centerfold
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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

John Heil's view from Gdansk

- 21 WINNERS
DICK PERRY

This Michigan fencing coach lives his own game
by Sybil Hunter

DEPARTMENTS

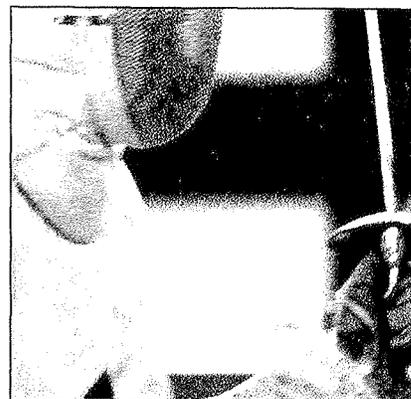
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World Championships, and the World Veterans Championship
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On the cover:

Jason Rogers, 17, of Los Angeles, Calif. Rogers is a member of the U.S. Junior Men's Sabre Team that took first place at the Junior/Cadet World Championships in Poland. Photo: John Heil.



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The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

The United States Fencing Association is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime, the international federation for fencing. The mission of the United States Fencing Association is to develop fencers to achieve international success and to administer and promote the sport in the United States.

The United States Fencing Association

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American Fencing

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 Miguel A. DeCapriles 1906-1981

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STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States
Fencing Association



Ties that Bind Us

This past December my coach, Michael D'Asaro, died. In my last letter to you, I spoke about the recent success we had had in Paris at the FIE Congress electing so many Americans to the various FIE commissions and to the executive committee. At that meeting, there was a dinner after the elections, held on a barge on the Seine River. I was sitting next to Dan DeChaine, our legendary armorer and FIE Semi Commission member, while we celebrated our victory. About mid-point through the dinner, I looked over at Dan and he was looking out at the river and the clear black night. He slowly turned back to me and said, "When I return to L.A., I am going to go visit Michael D'Asaro. He isn't doing very well now and I want to be sure and see him." Dan and I both looked at each other and in that moment remembered a lifetime of traveling to competitions, of experiencing the world together, and of sharing a love and friendship with the flamboyant genius and rebel that was Michael D'Asaro. We were in Paris together and our friend, Michael, was dying back in Los Angeles. Although we were in a public setting, we took our moment to feel our mutual anguish, release some tears, and remember this special man who changed a generation of fencing and fencers. Little did we know that within just a few days, Michael would finally lose his battle with a brain tumor. A day after returning from Paris, I received a phone call from Carla-Mae Richards, USFA director of technical programs, who informed me that Michael D'Asaro Jr. had called to tell her his father—and my coach—had died.

Michael D'Asaro coached an entire generation of Olympians, Pan American Games members, and collegiate champions, including Vinnie Bradford, Gay Jacobsen, Peter Schifrin, and Greg Massialas. He initiated new concepts of both physical and mental training in our sport. For example, the San Jose State University women's foil team (four-time National Collegiate Champions and three-time U.S. National Champions) was the first in the country to embark on years of sports psychology training. It was one of the first U.S. teams to utilize many now-common psychological techniques, such as desensitization and team building. Michael's approach to fencing also took his students on a journey into Eastern philosophy because he believed in a Zen approach to the sport of fencing. He believed, and so

we were taught, that the art of fencing was perfect. Humans are not, but if you train and perfect the art of fencing, getting the ego out of the way, winning would be a by-product of perfecting the art. Michael taught us to channel our passion into the perfecting of fencing technique (still, to this day, Gay Jacobsen is remembered for her beautiful, elegant, and successful technique!), and out of the emotional traps of trying to make our egos lead us. This was a unique approach and one that served us well as human beings developing in the turbulent times of the late '60s and early '70s. In addition, he trained an entire generation of individuals who are still giving back to fencing, including people such as Connie Yu, Scott Knies, Hope Konecny, and Christina Massialas. They give back with enormous generosity and sense of service to this sport. They know that fencing is a great vehicle for self-exploration and discovery—something Michael showed all of us by sharing his knowledge.

To me personally, Michael was my friend, a substitute father, and a great and passionate teacher. He always insisted that my schoolwork and education came first. He housed me when I was broke and first moved to California to train with him. He helped me enroll in college, cared about my grades, and loved me until the day he died. One of the important lessons Michael taught me on my fencing journey was about the interconnectedness or transgenerational ties created and enjoyed through fencing. D'Asaro's coach was Chaba Elthes, Peter Westbrook's coach as well. One time while I was in New York training as a young woman, Chaba Elthes was giving me a lesson, keeping me tuned up in preparation for a Junior World Championships. Chaba told me that it was easy for him to work with me because, he said, "You are my granddaughter." When I went back home to California to Michael, I asked Michael why

Chaba had called me his "granddaughter." Michael said that in fencing we were connected. We were connected because Chaba was his father in fencing, and now, I was Michael's daughter and thus, Chaba's granddaughter. The fencing lessons were similar and Michael was teaching me things that Chaba had taught to him. This notion of being generationally connected in fencing was something I never forgot. These generational connections are both direct and tangential—connecting administrators, referees, volunteers and fencers, generation after generation in our sport. At the heart, however, of all of these connections, is the relationship of the coach to his/her pupil. It can be one of the most powerful and binding forces in sport.

Last January, Michael's women's foil team went to pay him a final visit when the doctors told him he had only about three months to live. It wasn't true; he fought his cancer like he lived his life—with passion and humor. He lived approximately seven months longer than the doctors had projected. In Austin last summer at the Nationals, beating the odds, he came to see his fencing family, and although unknown to many, he came to say goodbye. Michael D'Asaro was an Olympian, a beloved coach, a teacher of teachers, a husband to Anharris Stokes, father to national sabrist Michael D'Asaro Jr., and spiritual father to many, many others in this sport. In his memory, I ask you to look at the family of fencing and see these ties, forgive each other our human foibles, and appreciate the gifts we do give each other. Like that moment in Paris, Dan DeChaine and I will cherish that encounter, adding it to our collective memory. With the dark river passing underneath us as we floated down the River Seine, we knew Michael was with us, sharing one more victory in American fencing together.

2001 SUMMER NATIONALS PHOTO CONTEST

If you took photographs at the Summer Nationals in Sacramento, CA, 7/3/01-7/11/01, get your film developed now because *American Fencing* and the Salle Aramis Fencing Photo of the Week is holding its second annual Summer Nationals Photo Contest.

Mail us your prints, negatives, slides or email digital images with the name of the photographer and how to contact you by Saturday, August 4, 2001, and the winner will receive a complete electric foil, sabre or epee or their choice. The winner may even make the cover of *American Fencing* magazine, like last year's winner.

Entry Deadline: **August 4, 2001**

Format: Prints, negatives, slides or digital images with name of photographer and contact information. Enter as many photos as you like.

Selection: The winner will be announced at <http://home.columbus.rr.com/salliearamis/> on Saturday, August 11, 2001.

Send to: Fencing Photo of the Week
7720 Riverside Dr.
Dublin, Ohio 43016
or email digital images to
slillard@columbus.rr.com

Please send a self addressed stamped envelop if you wish the print, slide or negative to be returned.

Meg Galipault

Editor

Dear Readers:

"Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength."

Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State of Mind* (1954)

It is easy these days—guided by such role models as professional athletes who are fined for bad behavior and who gladly pay up and do it again—to find a certain machismo in being rude. But anyone who has had to endure the antics of a spoiled brat knows how unbearably loathsome bad manners can be. The petulant athlete might get great joy out of arguing with the ref or picking fights with opponents, but for the rest of us who have to stand still and wait for the torrent to pass...well, it's a special kind of torture.

I never attended a finishing school, and I still get a little twitchy when faced with the daunting array of silverware at a formal dinner, but I know the basics: please, thank you, you're welcome, excuse me. I found myself attracted to fencing because of its centuries-old reputation for grace and good manners. So when I find myself on the strip with an opponent whose strategy is "when in doubt, pout," my joy goes out the window. If I wanted to hear arguing, I would have stayed at home and watched reruns of *All in the Family*.

Confrontation is a part of life, this is true. But so is learning. There is a studied grace to understanding when to confront a situation and when to step back, a wisdom in knowing when to take responsibility for your actions and when to question the judgement of others. And just as knowing *when* to respond demonstrates wisdom, *how* we react reflects our integrity. Civility—for all its seemingly outdated expression—remains, thankfully, the hallmark of a decent human being.

When you step onto the strip, think about the centuries of honor and dignity that came before, consider the purpose behind the salute, and then give something equally precious back to the sport: your best self.

Nice to look at, but...

I'd like to offer some constructive criticism on the Winter 2001 edition of *American Fencing*. While the article entitled "The Biomechanics of Sport Fencing," including the charts and diagrams following the article, were interesting, without having a Ph.D. in Biomechanics, the charts and diagrams meant absolutely nothing to me (and anyone else I've spoken to). I believe those pages in question could have been put to better use in expounding on the exercise program vaguely outlined in the article "Looking Fit on the Strip." Finding exercise programs specific toward fencing, especially programs used by our Olympians, are difficult to come by.

Again, while the Biomechanics charts and diagrams were interesting to look at, *American Fencing* magazine would have better served USFA members and other readers by giving more info on improving our fencing skills and abilities.

William J. Carey
Wyoming, Mich.

The Flick debate

I read Ron Hendrick's cheerleading letter for the flick [Spring 2001] and what the French used to call the *coup de deux vuelves*—the blow of two widows—if I remember the spelling correctly). That essentially is what modern day simultaneous attacks are. And that is what the coaches meant when they said "this is not what foil fencing was meant to be." Fencing used to be about swordsmanship and swords were meant to be weapons not point counters. Sure the kids thought the shot to the back was cool, and it is, but I'll bet that wasn't what got them into fencing in the first place. I'll bet it was seeing Antonio Banderas in *Zorro* dueling with the bad guys and giving penmanship lessons with his point. I'll bet further that you could graph membership increases in USFA with Hollywood releases of swashbucklers. How many "conservative" kids do we lose when they find out that fencing no longer resembles what they wanted to learn? Don't we care?

I am as much in favor of raising interest and attendance as Ron is, and am on record of trying to get the media to help, but I sure don't want the kind of fan excitement that would want to liven the game up by, say, getting rid of the *corps-a-corps* rule, or maybe by putting a little edge on the sabers (of course that might put a whole new emphasis on the parry). The Roman games were a great spectator sport. For that matter so is European football.

As for his "not a scientific survey," that was like asking Sosa and McGwire if the rabbit ball should be eliminated and the strike zone restored, or polling major league infielders to see if the shortstop should actually have to touch second base on a double play.

Jim Kelly
Cape Cod Fencers
East Sandwich, Mass.

American Fencing welcomes letters from readers. Please send your letter to: Attn: American Fencing Editor; United States Fencing Association; One Olympic Plaza; Colorado Springs CO 80909 or email to magoo@iwaynet.net. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and/or space. Letters must be signed (except those emailed, of course) and include a phone number and address.



MAITRE VINNIE BRADFORD AWARDED FENCING MASTERS DIPLOMA

In February, former Olympian Vinnie Bradford earned her Fencing Masters Diploma from the U.S. Fencing Coaches' Association (USFCA) and Academie d'Armes Internationale (AAI). Maitre Bradford is also a USFA Level 5 Coach from the Coaches College and is co-chair of the USFA Coaching Development Committee. She is the only female Fencing Master in the United States.

(Source: Jeremy Schmid, editor, *The Swordmaster*)

RICHARD C. STEERE: PASSING OF AN ERA

contributed by

Robert Black, NJ Division, USFA

We all look to heroes as mentors and role models and what better hero could any fencer have had than Olympian Richard C. Steere, retired U.S. Navy captain. Dick Steere, known to those close to him as "Cap'n Dick," earned a foil team bronze medal in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, along with his world famous teammate George Calnan, '29

Dick Steere, USNA '31, in "combat" garb as Veterans Division Foil Champion, U.S. Nationals Championships, in 1990 at age 80.



(who went down in the airship USS Akron in 1933).

Among Cap'n Dick's other major kudos was taking gold in the NYC Metropolitan Championships in 1951, akin then to winning the U.S. National Championship in foil. He last took gold in 1990 as U.S. veterans foil champion and stopped fencing shortly thereafter only because he was going blind.

Cap'n Dick was also a revered naval officer, named "Commander Houdini" by Gen. George S. Patton, also a fencer in his day, for correct forecasts of "Operation Torch" weather off the North Africa coast that were at odds with London and Washington. He also mentored midshipmen in fencing tactics and skills in the old McDonough Hall fencing loft at various times from the 1950s into the 1980s, as well as those he assisted at his salle. Many a younger challenger fell to his swift hand and keen eye, and to his sly-fox tactics.

As my *in loco parentis* father, he gave me my first fencing lesson in 1959 on the lanai of his quarters in Makalapa overlooking Pearl Harbor. That stood me in good stead as a successful USNA varsity fencer and launched me on my own fencing career that continues to this day as I enter my seventh decade.

He passed away in the evening of St. Patrick's Day at age 92.

Cap'n Dick received full military honors at the burial of his ashes in Arlington Cemetery on June 18th. An era has passed but a living memorial to his life, leadership, and fencing prowess is found not only in those he mentored but also in the annual Captain Richard Steere Tournament hosted by the Capital Division in Washington, D.C., in May.

(Note: Steere's *Washington Post* obituary can be found at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40237-2001Mar21.html)

ZAGUNIS, MEN'S SABRE TEAM SELECTED USOC ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) announced the April 2001 Athlete and Team of the Month Award winners on May 3, and U.S. fencers won two of the three awards.

Mariel Zagunis (Beaverton, Ore.), 16, was selected as the female athlete in recognition of her three gold medals at the Junior & Cadet World Fencing Championships in Gdansk, Poland.

The gold-medal-winning 2001 Junior Men's Sabre Team was selected for Team of the Month for its first-ever U.S. gold medal in a men's team event at a World Championships.

Zagunis was selected over women's ice hockey star Cammi Granato, who scored seven goals at the 2001 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship, and over tennis great Jennifer Capriati, who beat Martina Hingis to win the Family Circle Cup.

The U.S.O.C. Athlete of the Month honor is awarded through a vote of all of the U.S.O.C. member national governing sport bodies plus selected members of the media and collegiate representatives. Athletes of the Year are selected from the pool of monthly honorees at the end of the calendar year.

(Source: Cindy Bent, *USFA Media Contact*.)

2000 USFA YOUTH TOUR WINS GOLD—AND MORE GOLD

contributed by **Kate Hanna**

As in past years, the fourth annual USFA Youth Tour to Britain featured travel, learning experiences—and lots of medals. The group, led by head coach Andrea Lagan, once again impressed their British hosts with their skills and intelligence on the strip.

This was the biggest group yet to make the trip, and as a result, their presence in British youth fencing for one week in November 2000 was more dominating than ever. Without even pausing to overcome jetlag, the teams set out for a week of training, touring, and competition.

Immediately after arriving in London on Friday, November 17, the tour split into weapon squads and set out for a weekend's worth of competitions. Team epee and team sabre departed for Bath, in the south of England, to fence in the Leon Paul youth series. Some missed communication from tournament organizers meant that the epee team arrived at the venue Saturday morning with barely enough time to don jackets and

knickers (breeches, to the Brits) before being called to their strips. That didn't seem to faze the squad, however, and with the sabre team cheering them on, they managed to capture four medals. Aly Rush won the gold in under-13 girls epee, with teammate Trini Boehler right behind her with the bronze. In under-15 girls epee, Erin Falbaum also won bronze, and a third bronze was taken by Peter Watanabe in under-13 boys epee.

The next day, the sabre team had the chance to shine. The U.S. brought in two medals in under-13 girls sabre, with Adelia Loomis capturing the silver and Cece Berman taking bronze. The boys did just as well—Jon Kloepper won the gold in under-13 competition, and Will Randolph brought in the bronze. Matt Zich rounded out the medal count with a bronze in under-15 boys sabre.

While all this excitement was going on in Bath, team foil was having their own adventure in London. On Saturday, they assisted at the Eden Cup, a Junior Men's Foil World Cup. The British tournament organizers were pleased to see the young foilists, and put them straight to work timing and scorekeeping for the event. The team enjoyed their ringside seats for some fine fencing, and took the opportunity to cheer on the U.S. Junior fencers who were there to compete. Still, it was no substitute for fencing themselves. On Sunday, those who met the age requirements for the Leon Paul International Men's Foil competition had the chance to do just that. This event was held in conjunction with the World Cup to offer an extra day of fencing for the elite foilists who had traveled to Britain for the Eden Cup. Kevin Cho, Kristoff, Czinege, Ben Hochberg, and Chris Miller took the opportunity to fence with this high-level group of athletes. While none of them made the final eight, the experience they had fencing at that level brought its own rewards.

After an exciting weekend of fencing, the tour reunited at Holland House in the Kensington district of London to relax, unpack...and get ready to train. Before getting back to work, though, the group took Monday to see the sights of London and visit the Leon Paul equipment factory for a minor shopping spree.

It was all business on Tuesday, though, as the tour and their equipment bags boarded a train for Brentwood School in Essex. For all four years now, Brentwood has welcomed the U.S. tour to train with them for a full day of fencing. The fencers

met members of the Brentwood school team, which has a strong, winning tradition in British fencing. The U.S. athletes also took the chance to tour the school, and found out that even half a world away, cafeteria food is about the same!

Wednesday was a rest and travel day, as the tour undertook a trip that was new this time around—Edinburgh, Scotland. Many of the fencers took the opportunity of a six-hour train trip to catch up on rest and homework, knowing that an evening training session awaited them in Edinburgh.

Scottish fencing welcomed the group happily, and after depositing extra luggage in a gothic-style youth hostel, the team went off to different clubs in the Edinburgh area to fence. This was a more relaxed training session, and gave all of the U.S. fencers an evening to fence at a more leisurely pace.

Thursday was (American) Thanksgiving, and the tour took a bit of a holiday. After touring the historic city of Edinburgh, the group sat down to a traditional dinner of...pasta! Carefully laid plans for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner had to be canceled due to burst pipes at the restaurant, but everyone seemed quite thankful for a good meal after a day spent walking through Edinburgh's winding, hilly streets.

After a final day of sightseeing and training on Friday, it was once again time for the U.S. Youth Tour to see about adding a few more medals to the home-ward-bound collection. And they were more than up to the task. The Scottish Fencing Federation organized a team tournament for the Americans, who thought it only polite to give the tournament their best effort—winning the gold and silver team medals in foil, the gold and silver in sabre, and the gold medal in epee. At the presentation, the Scottish fencers gave a traditional three cheers for the tour, in appreciation for a fun and fast-paced day's fencing.

On the long trip back to London and then the United States on Sunday, the U.S. fencers had quite a bit to think about. They traveled hard and trained harder. They accepted a lot of responsibility for themselves, and proved equal to the tasks they undertook. And most importantly, they took the chance to fence with and get to know teammates from around the U.S., and fencers from all over Britain. It was a hectic week, but well worth it!

USFA YOUTH TOUR

2000 USFA TEAM MEMBERS

Cece Berman, Longmont, Colo.
 Matthew Sairio, St Paul, Minn.
 Aly Rush, Boulder, Colo.
 William Randolph, Lenexa, Kan.
 Erin Falbaum, Shreveport, La.
 Peter Watanabe, Alpharetta, Ga.
 Trini Boehler, Westminster, Colo.
 Jonathan Kloepper, Louisburg, Kan.
 Jack Harkey, Shreveport, La.
 Kristof Czinge, Morgantown, W.Va.
 Bryan Jackson, Roseville, Calif.
 Benjamin Hochberg, Morganville, N.J.
 William Meub, Rutland, Vt.
 Grant Hodges, Salina, Kan.
 Teddy Hodges, Salina, Kan.
 Adelia Loomis, Mountain Home, Idaho
 Kevin Cho, Cinnaminson, N.J.
 William Brady, Howell, Mich.
 Matthew Zich, New York, N.Y.
 Aliyah Snyder, Niceville, Fla.

2000 USFA YOUTH TOUR STAFF

HEAD COACH: Andrea Lagan, Northern Colorado Fencers, Boulder, Colo.

COACH: Kate Hanna, Twin Cities Fencing Club, St Paul, Minn.

COACH: James Odom, High Desert Fencers, Santa Fe, N.M.

COACH: Kelly Williams, Kansas Fencing Center, Lenexa, Kan.

COACH: Gia Kvaratskhelia, Kanza Fencing, Salina, Kan.

TRIP MANAGER: Karin Boehler, Westminster, Colo.

ARMORER: Scott Harkey, Shreveport, La.

CHAPERONE: Terry Harkey, Shreveport, La.

TEAM SUPPORT: Jane Doyle, Chicago, Ill.

TEAM SUPPORT: Boo and Melissa Hodges, Salina, Kan.

TEAM SUPPORT: Chris Miller, Salina, Kan.

NAC DIVISION II/III/VETERAN | Overland Park, KS, March 16-19

NOTE: # indicates a Vet-50 Fencer % indicates a Vet-60 Fencer

DIVISION II MEN'S ÉPÉE (72 Competitors)

1. Dembitz, Mark L (NEWENGLAND)
2. Exum, Travis H (WESTERN WA)
- 3.T Lindblom, Ian P (WEST-ROCK)
- 3.T Matchett, Barry A (ILLINOIS)
5. Boksay, Endre S (METRO NYC)
6. Ward, Carrington (ILLINOIS)
7. Marlin, Evan S (SO. TEXAS)
8. White, Jake H (NEBR-S.DAK)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S ÉPÉE (50 Competitors)

1. West, Jaimie R (PHILADELPH)
2. Fox, Paige (COLORADO)
- 3.T Schiller, Meryl A (WISCONSIN)
- 3.T Wu, Joy C (MARYLAND)
5. Dickinson, Amy E (NEWENGLAND)
6. Thompson, Jeanne M (ST. LOUIS)
7. Valestin, Wednesday (NEW JERSEY)
8. Graziano, Lisa D (COLORADO)

DIVISION III MEN'S ÉPÉE (95 Competitors)

1. Korb, Sam N (NEW JERSEY)
2. Bragg, Nathan E (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Lee, Michael C (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Rubrecht, Ward B (MINNESOTA)
5. Schibilia, Jesse A (NEW JERSEY)
6. Hill, Tom R (NEW MEXICO)
7. Boksay, Endre S (METRO NYC)
8. Heller, Paul D (S. JERSEY)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S ÉPÉE (58 Competitors)

1. Hall, Sarah A (NEBR-S.DAK)
2. Nacey, Marla (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Brinlee, Michelle E (NEVADA)
- 3.T Tomczak, Mika A (NEW JERSEY)
5. West, Jaimie R (PHILADELPH)
6. Kantor, Rachel M (NEWENGLAND)
7. Schneider, Brooke M (MICHIGAN)
8. Dominick, Christine (ILLINOIS)

VETERAN MEN'S ÉPÉE (64 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Goossens, Bruno J # (OREGON)
2. Cochrane Jr, Robert A # (GOLDCST FL)
- 3.T Reith, William E # (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Shalaurov, Alexander (N.CAROLINA)
5. Hicks, Terry R (OKLAHOMA)
6. Hicks, Randy G (OKLAHOMA)
7. Bentley, Jr., Frederick R % (KENTUCKY)
8. Schneider, Charles J (MICHIGAN)

VETERAN WOMEN'S ÉPÉE (19 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Ream, Jann L (IOWA)
2. Lauze MD, Karen P (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Kallus, Diane H # (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Micales, Jessie A (WISCONSIN)
5. Bedrosian, Patricia G # (SO. CALIF.)
6. Runyon, Cindy # (SAN BERNAR)

DIVISION II MEN'S FOIL (90 Competitors)

1. Schibilia, Jesse A (NEW JERSEY)
2. Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Georgia, Rich R (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T McCahey, Michael J. (ILLINOIS)
5. Laskov, Alexey (METRO NYC)
6. Peng, Christophe (NEW JERSEY)
7. Nikols, Matthew J (UTAH/S.IDA)
8. Bowden, Eric D (NEW JERSEY)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S FOIL (54 Competitors)

1. Kohn, Elizabeth (NEBR-S.DAK)
2. Emerson, Abigail C (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Aw, Justine M (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Hall, Sarah A (NEBR-S.DAK)
5. Pike, Julia R (GULFCST TX)
6. Frey, Cassandra (NEW JERSEY)
7. Bell-Greer, Lisa D (OREGON)
8. Kaneshige, Christina (NEW JERSEY)

DIVISION III MEN'S FOIL (67 Competitors)

1. Brooks, Ronald B (S. JERSEY)
2. Nacu, Robert I (INDIANA)
- 3.T Howell, Lloyd (SW OHIO)
- 3.T Sanchez, Jose J (SO. TEXAS)
5. Lauricella, Chris J (COLUMBUSOH)
6. Duane, Michael P (NEW JERSEY)
7. Yakimenko, Andrei (PHILADELPH)
8. Alger, Guillermo (NEWENGLAND)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S FOIL (60 Competitors)

1. Emerson, Abigail C (NORTHEAST)
2. Sumner, Joelle A (LONG ISLAND)
- 3.T Abdikulova, Zoya (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Daniel, Vicki L (KANSAS)
5. Pike, Julia R (GULFCST TX)
6. Pillsbury, Dana M (METRO NYC)
7. Vogt, Suzanne E (PHILADELPH)
8. Schall, Anna L (NEW JERSEY)

VETERAN MEN'S FOIL (53 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Loper, James (GEORGIA)
2. Reith, William E # (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Hambarzumian, Heik # (NEVADA)
- 3.T Patterson, Jan M # (WESTERN WA)
5. McCahey, Michael J. (ILLINOIS)
6. Hayes, Harold C # (NORTH CA)
7. McCormick, Charles (R # (MT. VALLEY)
8. Fleming, J. Daniel (KANSAS)

VETERAN WOMEN'S FOIL (25 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Huey, Sharone A (METRO NYC)
2. Offerle, Judith A (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Bedrosian, Patricia G # (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Todd Heiner, Barbara C (WESTERN WA)
5. Gresham, Carolyn N (OKLAHOMA)
6. Loomis, Janet H (UTAH/S.IDA)

DIVISION II MEN'S SABER (74 Competitors)

1. Isaacs, Joshua A (MICHIGAN)
2. Bush, Joshua C (NEBR-S.DAK)
- 3.T Baum, Jeff D (KANSAS)
- 3.T LaValle, Michael P (METRO NYC)
5. Jakelsky, John F (COLUMBUSOH)
6. Peterson, Christophe (SO. CALIF.)
7. Duncan-Hay, Tyler H (KENTUCKY)
8. Gonzalez, Eric J (NEBR-S.DAK)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S SABER (48 Competitors)

1. Egan, Erin B (SO. CALIF.)
2. Foldi, Julia (KANSAS)
- 3.T Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Walsh, Sarah B (MARYLAND)
5. Cox, Susan D (GEORGIA)
6. Eyre, Jane E (S. JERSEY)
7. Zimmerly, Kate E (NEW JERSEY)
8. Aagesen, Sonja A (CENTRAL CA)

DIVISION III MEN'S SABER (51 Competitors)

1. LaValle, Michael P (METRO NYC)
2. Baum, Jeff D (KANSAS)
- 3.T Held, Jason M (COLORADO)
- 3.T Jones, Gregory A (WESTERN WA)
5. Gonzalez, Eric J (NEBR-S.DAK)
6. Lin, James Y (METRO NYC)
7. Herbert, Kenneth F (NEW JERSEY)
8. Guerinot, Timothy C (GULFCST TX)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S SABER (39 Competitors)

1. Lange, Michelle L (WISCONSIN)
2. Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Foldi, Julia (KANSAS)
- 3.T Wert, Sarah S (KANSAS)
5. Frey, Erin (NEW JERSEY)
6. Zimmerly, Kate E (NEW JERSEY)
7. Frey, Cassandra (NEW JERSEY)
8. Barroso, Audrey A (GEORGIA)

VETERAN MEN'S SABER (32 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Kovacs, Alexander # (METRO NYC)
2. Goering, William A % (COLORADO)
- 3.T Fleming, J. Daniel (KANSAS)
- 3.T Sexton III, Ray L # (SO. TEXAS)
5. Harper, Brian S # (GATEWAY FL)
6. Meagher, Roderick (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Lee, David G # (MT. VALLEY)
8. Harkleroad, David A (KANSAS)

VETERAN WOMEN'S SABER (9 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Eyre, Jane E (S. JERSEY)
2. Pestotnik, Sharol A (COLORADO)
- 3.T Hand-Mihalek, Louise A # (PHILA)
- 3.T Seymour, Sally E # (MT. VALLEY)
5. Berardi, Gladys B (NEW JERSEY)
6. Loomis, Janet H (UTAH/S.IDA)

7. Cloud, Christy J (MT. VALLEY)
8. Whisnant, Lela R # (SO. TEXAS)

7. Ehlers, Patricia # (CENTRAL CA)
8. Nowell, Linda C # (NORTH CA)

7. Turunc, Rosemary (PHILADELPH)
8. Ory, Arlene L # (NEW MEXICO)

WORLD CUP MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SABRE | Peabody, MA, March 30 - April 1

INDIVIDUAL MEN'S SABER (113 Competitors)

1. COVALIU, Mihai (ROMANIA)
2. FERJANCSIK, Domonkos (HUNGARY)
- 3.T CHARIKOV, Serguei (RUSSIA)
- 3.T TOUYA, Damien (FRANCE)
5. POZDNIAKOV, Stanislav (RUSSIA)
6. NEMCSIK, Zsolt (HUNGARY)
7. PILLET, Julien (FRANCE)
8. TOUYA, Gael (FRANCE)
9. FROSSINE, Alexei (RUSSIA)
10. SZNAJDER, Rafal (POLAND)
11. BAUER, Dennis (GERMANY)
12. KRAUS, Christian (GERMANY)
13. ZALOMIR, Florin (ROMANIA)
14. SEGUIN, Cedric (FRANCE)
15. GAZIN, Fabrice (FRANCE)
16. BOULOS, Michel (CANADA)
34. SMART, Keeth T (UNITED STATES)
- 37.T RAYNAUD, Herby (UNITED STATES)
42. SPENCER-EL, Akhnaten (UNITED STATES)
44. LASKER, Terrence (UNITED STATES)

INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S SABER (93 Competitors)

1. JEMAYEVA, Elena (AZERBAIJAN)
2. TOUYA, Anne-Lise (FRANCE)
- 3.T MAKEEVA, Natalia (RUSSIA)
- 3.T NETCHAEVA, Elena (RUSSIA)
5. BENAD, Sandra (GERMANY)
6. TOGNOLLI, Alessia (ITALY)
7. VIGNAUX, Pascale (FRANCE)
8. ANGELI, Francesca (ITALY)
9. CARRIER, Magali (FRANCE)
10. ZAGUNIS, Mariel L (UNITED STATES)
11. JACOBSON, Sada M (UNITED STATES)
12. DRAGHICI, Irina (ROMANIA)
13. BYRNE, Siobhan (IRELAND)
14. POUTEIL NOBLE, Eve (FRANCE)
15. BENITEZ, Alejandra (VENEZUELA)
16. JANEK, Agnieszka (POLAND)
28. CRANE, Christina E (UNITED STATES)
29. JACOBSON, Emily P (UNITED STATES)
31. GAILLARD, Amelia (UNITED STATES)
32. LE, Nhi Lan (UNITED STATES)
34. PURCELL, Caroline M (UNITED STATES)
36. OLDHAM COX, Jennifer K (UNITED STATES)
37. PROVIDENZA, Valerie C (UNITED STATES)
38. JEMAL, Alexis D (UNITED STATES)
42. TAM, Stephanie D (UNITED STATES)
43. STEYER, Meredith J (UNITED STATES)
44. DOUVILLE, Rebecca A (UNITED STATES)
45. MUSTILLI, Nicole (UNITED STATES)
46. BECKER, Christine J (UNITED STATES)
47. BOWEN, Sara E (UNITED STATES)
49. LATHAM, Christine N (UNITED STATES)
50. PARKER, Sarah J (UNITED STATES)

TEAM MEN'S SABER (11 Teams)

1. FRANCE
2. HUNGARY
3. ROMANIA
4. GERMANY
5. RUSSIA
6. BELARUS
7. POLAND
8. SPAIN
9. USA
10. CANADA
11. EL SALVADOR

TEAM WOMEN'S SABER (10 Teams)

1. FRANCE
2. ITALY
3. HUNGARY
4. USA
5. RUSSIA
6. ROMANIA
7. GREAT BRITAIN
8. CANADA
9. EL SALVADOR
10. PUERTO RICO



The New England Division would like to thank the following sponsors and volunteers for their tremendous efforts in running a successful 2001 World Cup Sabre Tournament

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VETERAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/NAC YOUTH/WHEELCHAIR I

Louisville, KY, March 30 - April 1

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(11 Competitors)

1. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
2. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
3. Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
4. Royal, Joey R (GEORGIA)
5. Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)
6. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
7. Collman, Peter D (GEORGIA)
8. Day Jr., Roy E (GEORGIA)

WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(6 Competitors)

1. Morel*, Sylvia (CANADA)
2. Gilmore, Susan E (OKLAHOMA)
3. Hickey, Carol A (GEORGIA)
4. Israel, Pat (CANADA)
5. Alexander, Kristine (GEORGIA)
6. Taurman, Lois (NATIONAL)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(74 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Hohensee, Douglas G (NORTHEAST)
2. Kenney, Clayton K (COLORADO)
- 3.T Ferrer, Alex R (N.CAROLINA)
- 3.T Miller, Daniel S (GEORGIA)
5. Rohrer, Noah (NEWENGLAND)
6. Vergalla, Michael D (NEW JERSEY)
7. Kenney, Duncan S (COLORADO)
8. Moody, Jimmy W (COLORADO)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(45 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
2. Schirtz, Alli M (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Kantor, Rachel M (NEWENGLAND)
5. Hughes, Kristen M (NEWENGLAND)
6. Cillo, Anna K (COLORADO)
7. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
8. Rush, Allison (COLORADO)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(39 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Kenney, Duncan S (COLORADO)
2. Balducci, Alexander (COLORADO)
- 3.T Cheris, Zachariah (COLORADO)
- 3.T Vallo, Alexander (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 5.T Gay, Sam R (SO. CALIF.)
- 5.T Napala, Evan T (CAPITOL)
7. French, Peter R.W. (SO. TEXAS)
8. Kubik, Steven J (SO. TEXAS)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(29 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)
2. Lee, Florence J (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T French, Kayley A (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
5. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
6. Boehler, Trini N (COLORADO)
7. Finkel, Tess O (METRO NYC)
8. Caven, Elaina M (WESTERN NY)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S FOIL

(6 Competitors)

1. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
2. Rodriguez, Mario (GULFCST TX)
3. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
4. Day Jr., Roy E (GEORGIA)
5. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
6. Cannarella, Frank (CANADA)
7. Royal, Joey R (GEORGIA)
8. Collman, Peter D (GEORGIA)

WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S FOIL

(6 Competitors)

1. Hickey, Carol A (GEORGIA)
2. Morel*, Sylvia (CANADA)
3. Gilmore, Susan E (OKLAHOMA)
4. Alexander, Kristine (GEORGIA)
5. Taurman, Lois (NATIONAL)
6. Israel, Pat (CANADA)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S FOIL

(111 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
2. Stauble, Andrew Co (KENTUCKY)
- 3.T Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Kantor, Michael S (CONNECTCUT)
5. Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
- 6.T Hennig, Tommy A (VIRGINIA)
- 6.T Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
8. Horanyi, Andras M (COLORADO)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S FOIL

(57 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
2. Rush, Allison (COLORADO)
- 3.T Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
5. Emerson, Abigail C (NORTHEAST)
6. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
7. Hancock, Katherine (NORTH CA)
8. Nott, Adrienne M (WESTERN NY)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL

(87 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
2. Hodges, Teddy H (KANSAS)
- 3.T Getz, Kurt A (WEST-ROCK)
- 3.T Vallo, Alexander (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Parkins, Benjamin B (GULFCST TX)
6. MacClaren, Robert J (WESTERN NY)
7. MacDonald, Brock M (WESTERN NY)
8. Kim, Isaac J (SO. CALIF.)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

(41 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
2. Ross, Nicole (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Goldfeder, Misha (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Lee, Florence J (CENTRAL CA)
5. Pensler, Arielle R (ILLINOIS)
- 6.T Ault-Klam, Sarah (VIRGINIA)
- 6.T Bratton, Meredith A (METRO NYC)
8. Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S SABER

(9 Competitors)

1. Rodriguez, Mario (GULFCST TX)
2. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
3. Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
4. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
5. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
6. Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S SABER

(66 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Diacou, Alexander (METRO NYC)
2. Baum, Jeff D (KANSAS)
- 3.T Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
5. Zagunis, Merrick H (OREGON)
6. Tracey, Douglass M (S. JERSEY)
- 7.T Liu, Joe C (GEORGIA)
- 7.T Randolph, William R (KANSAS)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S SABER

(25 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
2. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Schneider, Daria H (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
5. Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)
6. Jellison, Eva (NEWENGLAND)
7. Siebert, Lillian (KANSAS)
8. Barroso, Audrey A (GEORGIA)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER

(53 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
2. Rudnicki, Alexander (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Czaja, Michael (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Ochocki, Aleksander (NEW JERSEY)
5. Perelman, Mikhail (SO. CALIF.)
6. Stetsiv, Andrey (METRO NYC)
7. Kelly, Sean M (KENTUCKY)
8. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER

(19 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
2. Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Bartoszewicz, Ann (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
5. Bass, Molly M (NORTH TEX)
6. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)
7. Keltner, Mera H (OREGON)
8. Siebert, Lillian (KANSAS)

TOURNAMENT highlights

YOUTH-10 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(14 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
2. Culley, Matthew R (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Duncan, Christophe (COLORADO)
- 3.T Gable, Colin H (METRO NYC)
5. Picou, Romain O (CAPITOL)
6. Flockhart, Andrew B.S (CAPITOL)
7. Picou, Antonin R. (CAPITOL)
8. Boutris, Samuel (NORTH TEX)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(13 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Gilman, Rebecca C (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Barkley, Cleme W (TENNESSEE)
- 3.T Vongries, Alyssa L (MINNESOTA)
5. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)
6. Oliva, Andrea L (PHILADELPH)
7. Bassa, Francesca (GULFCST TX)
8. Bernstein, Kathryn E (COLORADO)

VETERAN 50-59 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(29 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Reith, William E (NORTH OHIO)
2. Chidel, Robert (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Calderon, Peter J (CAPITOL)
- 3.T Heller, Paul D (S. JERSEY)
5. Cherry, Alfred B (S. JERSEY)
6. Spielberg, Joel (S. JERSEY)
7. Flint, James E (PHILADELPH)
8. Harper, Brian S (GATEWAY FL)

VETERAN 50-59 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(9 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Kallus, Diane H (SO. TEXAS)
2. Runyon, Cindy (SAN BERNAR)
- 3.T Jordan, Marilynn (SAN BERNAR)
- 3.T Tipton, Sue Davis (NORTHEAST)
5. Bowden, Constance (NEW JERSEY)
6. Bedrosian, Patricia G (SO. CALIF.)
7. Ehlers, Patricia (CENTRAL CA)
8. Whisnant, Lela R (SO. TEXAS)

VETERAN 60 & OVER MEN'S ÉPÉE

(17 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Elliott, Joseph A (SO. CALIF.)
2. Micahnik, David M (PHILADELPH)
- 3.T Baldwin, Robert C (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Campe, Kazimieras (CAPITOL)
5. Kocsy, Alexander (PHILADELPH)
6. Zakov, Alexander (METRO NYC)
7. Miernik, Marcel (WEST-ROCK)
8. Gibbs, Michael R (VIRGINIA)

VETERAN 60 & OVER WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(5 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Dobloug, Lisa (CAPITOL)
2. Annavedder, Mary E (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Anderson, Ruth (ST. LOUIS)
- 3.T Obermiller, Nadine M (WESTERN PA)
5. Malet'a, Dr. Melba (LOUISIANA)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL

(48 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Ryo, Miyake
2. Bentley III, Frederick (KENTUCKY)
- 3.T Anderson, Ben (NORTH CA)
- 3.T DeSmet, Ariel A (OREGON)
5. Pensler, Alexander (ILLINOIS)
6. Brady, Adrian J (OREGON)
7. Hodges, Grant T (KANSAS)
8. Jones, Stephen C (WISCONSIN)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

(28 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Coates, Megan E (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Etholm, Alexandra (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T McDermott, Catherine (GULFCST TX)
5. Hirschfeld, Rebecca C (METRO NYC)
6. Sarkisov, Radmila A (MICHIGAN)
7. Oliva, Andrea L (PHILADELPH)
8. Hartman, Grace T (MINNESOTA)

VETERAN 50-59 MEN'S FOIL

(21 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Reith, William E (NORTH OHIO)
2. Patterson, Jan M (WESTERN WA)
- 3.T Bessey, Paul (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Pitt, David E (METRO NYC)
- 5.T King, Ronald F (LOUISIANA)
- 5.T Sessions, Adrian A (CENTRAL CA)
7. Hayes, Harold C (NORTH CA)
8. Matthews, John (AK-LA-MISS)

VETERAN 50-59 WOMEN'S FOIL

(10 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Bedrosian, Patricia G (SO. CALIF.)
2. Kallus, Diane H (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Ehlers, Patricia (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Nowell, Linda C (NORTH CA)
5. Graham, Bettie J (CAPITOL)
6. Ory, Arlene L (NEW MEXICO)
7. Gruys, Lorraine G (NEW MEXICO)
8. Brynildsen, Karen (METRO NYC)

VETERAN 60 & OVER MEN'S FOIL

(14 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Elliott, Joseph A (SO. CALIF.)
2. Callao, Maximo J (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 3.T Marmer, Daniel (CONNECTICUT)
- 3.T Yakabe, Harry M (CAPITOL)
5. Miernik, Marcel (WEST-ROCK)
6. Poujardieu Jr, J Gerard (SO. TEXAS)
7. Fiducia, Gene (S. JERSEY)
8. Sady, Edward L (VIRGINIA)

VETERAN 60 & OVER WOMEN'S FOIL

(3 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Anderson, Ruth (ST. LOUIS)
2. Obermiller, Nadine M (WESTERN PA)
3. Malet'a, Dr. Melba (LOUISIANA)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER

(28 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
2. Douville, Michael C (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Kagi, Patrick P (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Kolasa, Thomas M (S. JERSEY)
5. Ochocki, Aleksander (NEW JERSEY)
6. Thompson, Bobby B (OREGON)
7. Reid, Leonon J (MT. VALLEY)
8. Shirmohammadi, Bardya (VIRGINIA)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER

(17 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)
2. Vloka, Caroline N (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Cichomski, Joanna (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Rudnicki, Marie H (NEW JERSEY)
5. Park, Casey M (KENTUCKY)
6. Aksamit, Monica (NEW JERSEY)
7. Stone, Elizabeth (ILLINOIS)
8. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)

VETERAN 50-59 MEN'S SABER

(15 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Kovacs, Alexander (METRO NYC)
2. Harper, Brian S (GATEWAY FL)
- 3.T Baker, Keith L (VIRGINIA)
- 3.T Volkman, Rudy (GEORGIA)
5. Sexton III, Ray L (SO. TEXAS)
6. Morrow, Wynard (We (WESTERN PA)
7. Chidel, Robert (ILLINOIS)
8. Stone, Frederick (N.CAROLINA)

VETERAN 50-59 WOMEN'S SABER

(5 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Nicolau, Doty D.D. (ALABAMA)
2. Jordan, Marilynn (SAN BERNAR)
- 3.T Brynildsen, Karen (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Daves, Linda A (OKLAHOMA)
5. Ory, Arlene L (NEW MEXICO)

VETERAN 60 & OVER MEN'S SABER

(9 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Goering, William A (COLORADO)
2. Campoli, James A (CENTRAL FL)
- 3.T Hall, William N (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Schlick Jr, Dr. Calver (WEST-ROCK)
5. Alexander, Dean (GOLDCST FL)
6. Spector, Herb (ALABAMA)
7. Folgner, Claus-Pete (HARRISBURG)
8. Senior, Samuel P (OREGON)

REPORT FROM JUNIOR & CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS | Gdansk, Poland, April 9 - 16 | special USFA Media report from Cindy Bent

In a mere eight days, the United States earned an astonishing nine medals at the Junior & Cadet World Championships in Gdansk, Poland—more than at any World Championships ever.

U.S. fencers earned four gold medals, three silver, and two bronze. Sabrist Mariel Zagunis (16, Portland, Ore.) earned three World Championship titles alone: Gold in Under-17, Under-20, and Team Women's Sabre. Zagunis, pictured above (courtesy David Sapery), may be the first fencer ever to win three gold medals at one Championships.



Zagunis is now the United States' only four-time World Champion—in addition to the titles she won this week, she was also a member of the U.S. squad that won the 2000 Women's Sabre World Championships last July.

At Junior & Cadet Worlds this year, U. S. fencers earned more sabre medals than any other country—eight out of a possible 22. The French team had the next highest total, with five. The team gold won by the U.S. Junior Men's Sabre Team is also the first men's World Championship team title ever earned by the United States.

The U.S. juniors also made strong showings in women's foil (one bronze medal, two top-8 finishes, and fifth place in the team event) and the majority of the U.S. fencers earned at least top-32 finishes, despite their relative youth. Many of the U.S. juniors and cadets still have several years to compete in their age brackets.

The ever-improving performances of all the squads are a reflection of an increasing U.S. commitment to achievement in the international fencing arena. The United States is rapidly gaining international recognition through its international medal performances—in 1992, Felicia Zimmermann won the first World Championship medal since 1975. U.S. fencers since then earned two medals in '94, one in '95 and '96, three in '97, two in '98, and five in '99.

On pages 14-15 of this *American Fencing* issue, a special pictorial from the event is featured. Below are selected U.S. results (including age and hometown). For a complete results listing, please visit www.usfa.org.

CADET (UNDER-17) WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

1. BRANZA Ana Maria ROM
2. VIGNARD Berenice FRA
3. LARSSON Sofie SWE
3. MARTY Lorraine SUI
5. JUNG Hyo-Jung KOR
6. IORDAOHIOIU Loredana ROM
7. BIRTHELMER Elke GER
8. KLEINBERGER Sandra AUT
20. JAMES Kamara (16, Jamaica, N.Y.)
38. MCGLADE Jasmine (15, Littleton, Colo.)
55. LEIGHTON Eleanor (16, Mishawaka, Ind.)

CADET (UNDER-17) WOMEN'S FOIL

1. NIKICHINA Victoria RUS
2. BLOCH-UJLAKI Virgine FRA
3. BERTA Adrienn HUN
3. KRYCZALO Katarzyna POL
5. CAMMILLETI Marta ITA
6. WUTZ Carolin GER
7. LEAHY Jacqueline (16, Aurora, Colo./Rochester, N.Y.)
8. ZACKE Martina GER
17. LUITJEN Cassidy (16, San Antonio, Texas)
23. CROSS Emily (14, New York, N.Y.)

CADET (UNDER-17) WOMEN'S SABRE

1. ZAGUNIS Mariel (16, Portland, Ore.)
2. NEDACHKOUVSKA Daryi UKR
3. PERRUS Leonore FRA
3. VERGNE Carole FRA
5. GEROGACZ Weronika HUN
6. HIERZMANN Davina GER
7. BYRNE Siobhan IRL
8. KOWALCZYK Reka HUN
9. GAILLARD Amelia (17, Atlanta, Ga.)
17. JACOBSON Emily (15, Fayetteville, Ga.)

CADET (UNDER-17) MEN'S ÉPÉE

1. GRUMIER Gauthier FRA
2. TICHKO Alexey UKR
3. LUDWIKOWSKI Sascha GER
3. VOGNA Stefano ITA
5. RAZAFINDRANALY Eric FRA
6. SBARCIA Alin ROM
7. TOLKACHTEV Denis RUS
8. SPUSTA Martin SVK
16. VERIGAN William (16, Wyckoff, N.J.)
29. ROSE Julian (16, Bronx, N.Y.)
66. LEE Martin (17, Saratoga, Calif.)

CADET (UNDER-17) MEN'S FOIL

1. CASSARA Andrea ITA
2. PIETRUSIAK Krzysztof POL
3. BORST Sebastiaan NED
3. GRIDNEV Igor RUS
5. HALSTED Laurence GBR
6. SEDOV Artem RUS
7. MAROTTA Luca ITA
8. MANDES Łukasz POL
15. PERRY Cameron (16, Boulder, Colo.)
24. WOODHOUSE Enoch (15, Boston, Mass.)
44. CARTER Jonathan (16, New York, N.Y.)

CADET (UNDER-17) MEN'S SABRE

1. MARTIN Clement FRA
2. HAGAMEN Timothy (16, New York, N.Y.)
3. SHTURBABIN Oleg UKR
3. PALASZ Patryk POL
5. OFFROY Mathieu FRA
6. MOKRETSOV Ilia RUS
7. HRYTSAYEV Konstantin UKR
8. NAGY Zsolt HUN
9. MOMTSELIDZE Mike (17, Columbus, Ohio)
14. GHATTAS Patrick (16, Portland, Ore.)

JUNIOR (UNDER-20) WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

1. OSYCZKA Patricia GER
2. HEIDEMANN Britta GER

TOURNAMENT highlights

3. LI Na CHN
3. ZHONG Wei Peng CHN
5. SIVKOVA Anna RUS
6. LAMPKOWSKA Monika POL
7. MARTINEZ Maria VEN
8. CHOUTOVA Liubov RUS
20. STEVENS Arlene (20, Fairport, N.Y./St. John's Univ.)
63. MCGLADE Jasmine (15, Littleton, Colo.)
89. JAMES Kamara (16, Jamaica, N.Y.)

JUNIOR (UNDER-20) WOMEN'S FOIL

1. WOJTKOWIAK Malgorzata POL
2. VARGA Gabriella HUN
3. AMENT Andrea USA (18, Gates Mills, Ohio)
3. GRUCHALA Sylwia POL
5. KRYCZALO Alicja POL
6. WAIBEL Claudia AUT
7. ZIMMERMANN Iris USA (19, Rush, N.Y./Stanford Univ.)
8. KHAKIMOVA Julia RUS
31. CROSS Emily USA (14, New York, N.Y.)

JUNIOR (UNDER-20) WOMEN'S SABRE

1. ZAGUNIS Mariel (16, Portland, Ore.)
2. JACOBSON Sada (18, Atlanta, Ga./Yale University)
3. TAN Xue CHN
3. TOUYA Anna Lise FRA
5. GORST Elizaveta RUS
6. GAILLARD Amelia (17, Atlanta, Ga.)
7. NEDACHKOLIVSKA Daryi UKR
8. JOUKOVA Margarita RUS

JUNIOR (UNDER-20) MEN'S ÉPÉE

1. PFEIFFER Jens GER
2. WANG Lei CHN
3. BOUZAIID Alexandre FRA
3. KHVOROST Maxim UKR
5. STEFFEN Benjamin SUI
6. FALCINI Giacomo ITA
7. BERAN Jiri CZE
8. MOTYKA Tomasz POL
23. MATTERN Cody (20, Tigard, Ore.)
29. THOMPSON Soren (19, San Diego, Calif./Princeton Univ.)
48. VIVIANI Jansson (20, Haworth, N.J./Univ. of Notre Dame)

JUNIOR (UNDER-20) MEN'S FOIL

1. WESSELS Andre GER
2. LE PECHOUX Erwan FRA
3. CHOI Byung-Chul KOR
3. ZHU Jun CHN
5. SCHLOSSER Roland AUT
6. KHALED Husham CAN
7. BEHR Dominik GER
8. NASSIBOULINE Rouslan RUS
38. SINKIN Gabriel (17, Rochester, N.Y.)
39. GERBERMAN Steven (17, Missouri City, Texas)
48. COHEN Yale (20, Houston, Texas/Univ. of Pennsylvania)

JUNIOR (UNDER-20) MEN'S SABRE

1. DECSI Tamas HUN
2. LEE Ivan USA (19, New York, N.Y./ St. John's Univ.)
3. GUIDI Giacomo ITA
3. PARKER Colin USA (18, Fayetteville, Ga./Ohio State Univ.)
5. BAUER Steven GER
6. SHKALIKOV Serhiy UKR
7. IAKIMENKO Alexei RUS
8. BEDEL Simon FRA
14. ROGERS Jason (17, Los Angeles, Calif.)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE TEAM

- 1 FRA
- 2 ROM
- 3 CHN
- 4 GER
21. USA (Kamara James, Jamaica, N.Y.; Eleanor Leighton, Mishawaka, Ind.; Jasmine McGlade, Littleton, Colo.; Arlene Stevens, Fairport, N.Y.)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM

1. POL
2. RUS
3. GER
4. CHN
5. USA (Andrea Ament, Gates Mills, Ohio; Emily Cross, New York, N.Y.; Jacqueline Leahy, Aurora, Colo.; Iris Zimmermann, Rush, N.Y.)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABRE TEAM

1. USA (Mariel Zagunis, Portland, Ore.; Sada Jacobson, Atlanta, Ga.; Amelia Gaillard, Atlanta, Ga.; Emily Jacobson, Atlanta, Ga.)
2. RUS
3. POL
4. FRA

JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE TEAM

1. ITA
2. POL
3. GER
4. FRA
9. USA (Cody Mattern, Tigard, Ore.; Soren Thompson, San Diego, Calif.; William Verigan, Wyckoff, N.J.; Jansson Viviani, Haworth, N.J.)

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL TEAM

- 1 GER
- 2 FRA
- 3 KOR
- 4 CAN
15. USA (Yale Cohen, Houston, Texas; Steven Gerberman, Missouri City, Texas; Gabriel Sinkin, Rochester, N.Y.; Jeremy Sinkin, Rochester, N.Y.)

JUNIOR MEN'S SABRE TEAM

1. USA (Ivan Lee, New York, N.Y.; Colin Parker, Fayetteville, Ga.; Jason Rogers, Los Angeles, Calif.; Tim Hagamen, New York, N.Y.)
2. FRA
- 3 UKR
- 4 GER

NAC DIVISION I | Reno, NV, April 27 - 29

DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE

(109 Competitors - top 48 earn points)

1. Hansen, Eric J (NORTH CA)
2. Bakos *, Tarsch (CANADA)
- 3.T Lyons, Michael J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T O'Loughlin, Chris S (METRO NYC)
5. Hardy *, Simon (CANADA)
6. Martinez, Frank (Mic (MT. VALLEY))

DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL

(123 Competitors - top 48 earn points)

1. Dupree, Jedediah (METRO NYC)
2. Khaled *, Husham (CANADA)
- 3.T Kellner, Dan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Shaker, Maged (OKLAHOMA)
5. Chang, Timothy (CENTRAL CA)
6. Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLAND)

DIVISION I MEN'S SABER

(72 Competitors - top 48 earn points)

1. Raynaud, Herby (METRO NYC)
2. Crompton, Andre (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Lasker, Terrence L (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Spencer-El, Akhnaten (METRO NYC)
5. Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
6. Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)

7. Dragonetti, Walter E (NORTH OHIO)
8. Castillo, Alejandro (SO. CALIF.)

7. Abdikulov ***, Bakhyt J (ILLINOIS)
8. Eriksen, Kevin S (NORTHEAST)

- 7.T Morehouse, Timothy F (METRO NYC)
- 7.T Trimble, Mario T (METRO NYC)

DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(58 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

1. James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
2. Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Burke, Jessica B (CENTRAL PA)
- 3.T Lisagor, Jessica A (CENTRAL CA)
5. Spilman, Elisabeth (SO. CALIF.)
6. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
7. Schirtz, Alli M (WESTERN NY)
8. Zimmermann, Felicia T (WESTERN NY)

DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL

(46 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

1. Zimmermann, Felicia T (WESTERN NY)
2. Leahy, Jacqueline (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Marsh, Ann E (WESTERN NY)
5. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
6. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
7. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
8. Anguelova-Atanassov*, Anna I (OREGON)

DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER

(50 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

1. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
2. Sassine*, Sandra (CANADA)
- 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Mustilli, Nicole (NATIONAL)
6. Becker, Christine (OREGON)
7. Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
8. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)

REPORT FROM WORLD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS | Martinique, May 10 -

13 | special USFA Media report from Cindy Bent

U.S. fencers continue to collect medals around the world. Three U.S. competitors won bronze medals at the 2001 World Veterans Championships in Martinique, May 10-13, 2001.

William Goering (Colorado Springs, Colo.) earned his bronze in the 60-and-older Men's Sabre. Goering defeated Germany's Charly Esser, the German National Veteran's Champion, 10-6 to advance to the medal round. He then lost his bid to reach the final to Jurgen Kelm, also of Germany, 8-10.

William Reith (Cleveland Heights, Ohio) earned his bronze in the 50-59 Men's Épée. Reith defeated Frigyes Lasetzky of Hungary 10-6 before losing to Lars Scharppf of Sweden 10-5.

Wang Yung earned the bronze in the 50-59 Men's Sabre. Yung defeated Robert Galland of France 10-9 in the round

of 8 before losing to the top seed of the competition, Britain's Robert Cohen, 10-7.

This is the fourth World Veteran's Championships hosted by the Fédération Internationale d'Esgrime (international fencing federation). A veteran's men's épée demonstration event was held at the 1997 World Championships in Capetown, South Africa. Women's foil was added to the program and the competitions became official championship events in 1998. The championships expanded to five weapons in 1999: men's foil, women's foil, men's épée, women's épée and men's sabre.

Nineteen countries and more than 200 athletes competed in this year's championships.

For complete details, visit the USFA web site at www.usfa.org.

WORLD CUP WOMEN'S FOIL | Rochester, NY, June 16 - 18

INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S FOIL (97 Competitors)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. BAU, Sabine (GERMANY) | 65. AUSTIN, Anne E (UNITED STATES) |
| 2. WUILLEME, Adeline (FRANCE) | 66. JONES, Melanie (UNITED STATES) |
| 3.T SCARLAT, Roxana (ROMANIA) | 67. MARSH, Ann (UNITED STATES) |
| 3.T TRILLINI, Giovanna (ITALY) | 68. SMITH, Julie (UNITED STATES) |
| 5. GRUCHALA, Sylwia (POLAND) | 70. ALFORD, April C (UNITED STATES) |
| 6. SCHIEL, Gesine (GERMANY) | 72. RUSH, Allison (UNITED STATES) |
| 7. LELEIKO, Olga (UKRAINE) | 74. THOMPSON, Metta (UNITED STATES) |
| 8. GUTERMUTH, Martina (GERMANY) | 78. BENT, Cynthia (UNITED STATES) |
| 9. SCHREK WEBER, Monika (GERMANY) | 83. PILLSBURY, Dana M (UNITED STATES) |
| 10. BOJKO, Svetlana (RUSSIA) | 84. GONZALEZ, Larissa L (UNITED STATES) |
| 11. LANTOS, Gabriella (HUNGARY) | 85. KOEHLER, Kelly A (UNITED STATES) |
| 12. VARGA, Katalin (HUNGARY) | 86.T COX, Susan D (UNITED STATES) |
| 13. WOJTKOWIAK, Malgorzat (POLAND) | 86.T DONOHUE, Carol (UNITED STATES) |
| 14. VASSILEVA, Liudmila (UKRAINE) | 88. THORNE, Tracey (UNITED STATES) |
| 15. SMART, Erinn (UNITED STATES) | 89. WILLETTE, Doris E (UNITED STATES) |
| 16. COUZI-DI MAR, Camille (FRANCE) | 92. SACHS, Elif Z (UNITED STATES) |
| 43. AMENT, Andrea (UNITED STATES) | 93. KOTLAN, Dely J (UNITED STATES) |
| 52. CROSS, Emily R (UNITED STATES) | 94.T FALCON, Janet (UNITED STATES) |
| 53. THOMPSON, Hannah (UNITED STATES) | 94.T SELTZER, Eve M (UNITED STATES) |
| 59. LEAHY, Jacqueline (UNITED STATES) | 94.T WANG, Natalie (UNITED STATES) |
| | 97. TRAN, Duy-An (UNITED STATES) |

TEAM WOMEN'S FOIL

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. ITALY | 4. GERMANY | 7. USA | 10. CANADA |
| 2. POLAND | 5. RUSSIA | 8. FRANCE | |
| 3. ROMANIA | 6. HUNGARY | 9. UKRAINE | |



▲ Tim Hagaman (r.) vs. Mokretsov

▲ Tim Hagamen (r.) vs. Mokretsov of Russia for top 8, Cadet Men's Sabre

▼ Ivan Lee



▲ Buckie Leach with Iris Zimmermann during practice session



◀ Arkady Burdan congratulations sabrist Sada Jacobson after she made it into the final round

Poland...

The Junior/Cadet World Championships April 9 - 16, 2001

Photos by John Heil



▲ Mariel Zagunis after Cadet Women's Sabre gold win

▼ Gdansk, Poland

▼ The U.S. Team

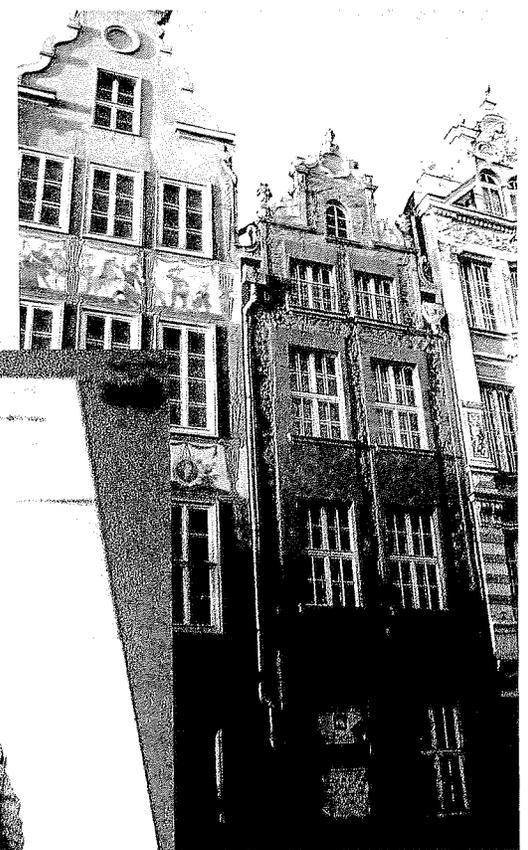


In the arena of
 human life
 the honours and rewards
 fall to those who
 show their good qualities
 in action.

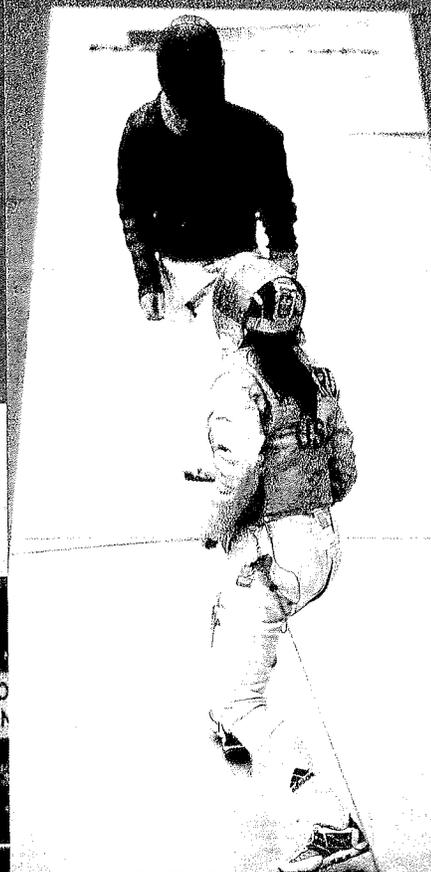
Aristotle
Nicomachean Ethics (4th c. B.C.E.)



▲ Ivan Lee vs. Desci (HUN) for the gold in Junior Men's Sabre



▲ Gdansk



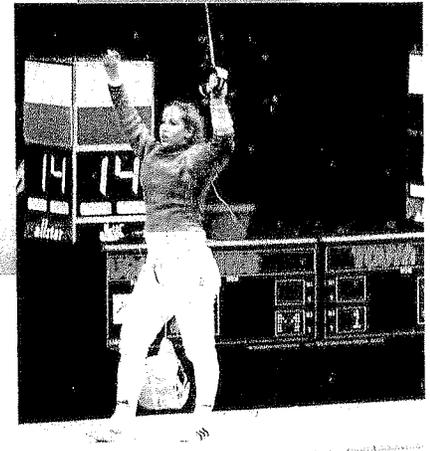
▲ Mariel Zagunis vs. Amelia Gaillard for top 4, Junior Women's Sabre

▼ Andrea Ament fencing for the Junior Women's Foil bronze



▼ Gdansk

▼ Zagunis's victory over Touya (FRA)



▼ Jasmine McGlade (r), Junior Women's Epee



DUCT TAPE DOs and DON'Ts

by Joe Byrnes

Duct tape. Not *duck*—though there is or was a brand that used that moniker. As fencers we all see a lot of duct tape, mostly under foot, where the ordinary citizen would not really expect to find it. (For the totally oblivious, or very rank beginners, it's that silvery, or grayish, stuff that holds down the edges of our "copper" strips.) It can also hold together the shipping boxes that your machines and reels travel in, of course, if you aren't fussy—and it can even make an emergency fix to the torn edge of a fencer's shoe. All hail our invincible duct tape. In its place. And within its limits, of course.

Some surfaces do not react kindly to the adhesive, which, even in the better quality tape, can be aggressive. Even for holding down copper, it needs to be applied with caution. Usually, the cheaper the tape, the less friendly. We have encountered venues in which the owners, very properly, flatly refuse to permit the stuff to be used. In such areas, if you must tape directly, a considerably more expensive alternative is required: the theatrical stagehand's standby, "gaffer's tape," used in large quantities in live theater, movie and TV studios, rock band stagings, and so forth. The notable floor-and-wall-etc.-friendly quality of its adhesive is the secret of its popularity—and its cost.

Occasionally, with a lot of effort—and it does take effort and time—fencing organizers endeavor to protect a rather tender floor from the rigors of duct tape by first putting down an edge path of wide painter's masking tape, or some comparable milder stuff. The adhesive on good-quality masking tape is normally much less likely to damage a floor, and the duct tape can adhere to it successfully most of the time. Whether the combined cost of having to buy and carefully apply *two* varieties of tape represents a saving over a sin-

gle layer of gaffer's tape I leave to your purchasing agent and whatever deal can be made. Where I have seen this effort go off the rails is when the edge of a strip starts curling up in the middle of a bout, and a quick re-taping is imperiously demanded by the referee and is then damaged by someone who doesn't understand the rationale for the double tape. What can result is wicked adhesive residue just where you didn't want it and had tried oh-so-hard to avoid it. The best laid plans...

These observations apply pretty much equally to all floors: wooden, carpeted, or composition. If you are going to be taping stuff to any floor, it is always a good idea to try out what you propose to use off in a corner someplace where it won't be too obvious if everything doesn't come off quite as you would like. It is also worth remembering that the longer almost any tape stays glued in place, the more likely it will be to misbehave on being peeled up.

Since protecting a floor, especially from the "sandpaper" effect of copper strips rubbing on it, is also important, normally something needs to be put down beneath the copper: simple builder's red roofing paper or a comparable light-weight stuff is about the minimum. Carpet underlayment, rag or foam, has often been used. Too soft an underlayer, however, makes the footing for fencing a bit soggy, so to speak, and, almost worse, lets the copper be more readily holed or torn by points that hit it. Closer to ideal, as a protector of floors and as a base to tape to, is a surface made up of sheets of usually (four-by-eight foot) plywood or pressed wood, or comparable material. Itself taped or clipped together, it allows copper to be taped on top of it without any glue reaching the actual floor. This approach will cost more, naturally.

One place you do not want to use duct tape, *please*, is for the end of your foil blades, or anywhere near your electrical circuitry or moving parts. That has to do with the awful gunky stickiness of the glue, especially once it starts to soften as a result of heat or for whatever cause. Trying to get it off, when you have to—and you will—is a real pain. I recently found a sadly misguided attempt at making duct tape work where it can't, in a Paul model reel. The problem was that the reel, although reading OK from one end to another for electrical resistance, wouldn't take up; it wouldn't pull out either; the cable didn't want to move. On taking it all apart, I discovered that a fan of duct tape had decided that a generous application of the stuff was just what was needed to keep the individual spring packs firmly together. Now, I approve of a bit of tape in that function and have used it that way myself—but never duct tape. As might have been expected, eventually the cheap duct tape adhesive had partly dissolved and the tape had bunched up and was completely preventing the spring packs from budging. Removing the lumps of tape residue and cleaning up the mess took quite a while, and used up a good part of a can of solvent, since the yucky glue had managed to work itself into all sorts of places. 'Nuff said.

(Postscript: Since I first wrote this column, some months ago, the USFA has started using high-quality black gaffer's tape to hold down the strips at its NAC events. The improvements—especially in the reduction of re-taping and elimination of messy residues—have been great. Way to go, gang. 'Nuff said, again.)



STARTING LATE & CATCHING UP FAST: THE VETERAN BEGINNER

by Delia Marshall Turner

From the *Grayblade*, aka Bob Block: *This issue we are indeed fortunate in having a guest columnist come forth to contribute a piece on veteran fencing. Delia Turner, a member of the Fencing Academy of Philadelphia, a member of the USFA Veterans Committee, a novelist, teacher, mother, and accomplished saber fencer, considers a subject that, to my knowledge, has been almost completely overlooked: the true beginner functioning in the world of veteran fencing. Settle back with the Grayblade as we contemplate Delia's tale...*

"You're new, totally and completely new. No prior training, no experience, no knowledge of the sport gained from a life and culture centered around the sport. Oh, and you are at least two decades behind your competition." The speaker, William Palumbo, is a member of a growing group of fencers who might seem a contradiction in terms: the "veteran beginner."

These are fencers who belong to the over-40 fencing category of "veteran," yet only began fencing a short while ago, unlike the many veterans who have spent decades practicing the sport. They come from all over the country and they start for all kinds of reasons. Some pick it up because their children are doing it, others have always wanted to fence, and others take a class on a whim and get hooked. Whatever the reason, they have begun this lifetime sport at a time when many of them already have a lifetime of experience at other things.

Curious about their motivations and what makes them special, I interviewed veteran beginners from all over the country, in person and via e-mail.

Their responses were often funny, always to the point, and reflective. They have put a great deal of thought into what they are doing.

I asked what is it that makes them different from the other veterans. Many of them found that question humorous. "I'm lunchmeat," jokes Jim Troyer, who began fencing about a year after his young son and daughter took up the sport.

Paolo Damiani, who also took up the sport as a "fencing parent," agrees. "The difference between the veterans who started in high school or college and me is that they beat me regularly, and I don't beat them very often."

However, beginners who belong to the veteran age group have the advantage that they are not held back by over-attachment to the past. They do not miss the fleche in sabre, for instance, because they never encountered it, and the flick is simply part of the foilist's normal repertoire to them. Also, compared to the experienced veterans, "it is still all very new and fresh to me," says John Trojanowski, who has been fencing for over five years now. Other veterans remember the old days, he says, but "I do not worry as much about how it 'used to be.'"

They told me that beginning fencing requires some unlearning that more experienced veterans don't have to worry about. "I have habits I need to override from other sports," says Kathleen Gray, who has been fencing for about a year.

"You haven't trained your muscles like they did when they were younger, so that makes it tougher than if I were somebody just picking it back up," agrees Terry Oliva.

However, other veteran beginners start out without that disadvantage because they have never competed.

The benefits of being a veteran beginner: time, experience in other sports, an ability to concentrate, and a knowledge of how to learn.

Linda Le Resche not only had never fenced before, she never participated in *any* competitive sport. "I grew up in a time when girls' participation in sports was limited and, more importantly, competition (inside and outside of sports) was regarded as 'unfeminine.' So, in addition to learning how to fence and improving my general level of fitness, I am doing the psychological work of learning how to be competitive." She and her coach had laid out a plan for this process and she is working methodically towards the goal, despite a busy schedule.

What are the positive aspects of being older when you start? They told me the younger beginners they see are more resilient and learn more quickly, but these mature beginners find they have some unexpected advantages over the "kids": time, experience in other sports, an ability to concentrate, and a knowledge of how to learn. And, as Palumbo jokes, "I'm nastier and meaner. I can also threaten to spank them. Sometimes when I'm really feeling mean, I'll threaten to trip them with my walker."

Most find they have to put more conscious thought into what they are

doing than young fencers do. However, the older fencer is more patient. "My kids get mad at themselves," says Troyer. "I know that I'm probably going to fail the first 40 times I try it, but I know if I practice it enough I'll be able to do it."

A common concern for veteran beginners is how to train without getting injured. Oliva says, "After I pulled a hamstring, I went to my doctor and said, 'You won't believe I have a sports injury at my age.' My doctor said, 'You're not 20 any more.' And he was the one who had told me to get the

exercise! The body is not as forgiving as it is with the younger fencers."

It can be frustrating trying to work out a training routine that will bring improvement without overstressing the body, and there is not a lot of good advice around to help. Palumbo says, "All I know at this point is that whatever I'm doing isn't working very well. My arm aches, my legs sometimes ache. I didn't used to ever ache so this is new to me. Any material written on the subject of fencing geezers usually is full of massively useless suggestions such as 'don't overdo it.' What does this mean?"

Gray agrees about the importance of being careful: As a mature beginner, "If you get hurt you might never get past the beginner phase," she warns.

Without exception, every one of these athletes feels it is worth the effort. Fencing, they agree, is a wonderful sport that demands hard work but rewards effort, and one in which a mature

athlete is not automatically at a disadvantage. As Oliva succinctly put it, "Fencing is an elegant sport. It combines finesse, mental elements, elements of ballet, there's an art to it. And I can do it, where other sports I couldn't."

Trojanowski sums it up: "For me, fencing is a kind of escape from everything else that intrudes on our lives. For that moment, on piste, there is only myself and my opponent. It makes for a very pure experience. It is at once adversarial and intimate. It is simple. More than anything, however, in my experience, it is the overwhelming amount of good sportsmanship, respect, overall friendliness I have encountered. The same guy that tried like crazy to beat you, and to whom you did the same, jumps up to help you wire you up for the next bout or offers a tip on your opponent."

Delia Marshall Turner began fencing in her early 40s, competes in women's sabre, and is now training for her entry into the next age category.



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BUILDING FENCING STAMINA

By David B. Statt, M.S., C.S.C.S.

The ability to maintain all that strength and power we have discussed in past issues of *American Fencing* is highly dependent on endurance capabilities. More specifically, anaerobic and aerobic endurance are key components of a fencing conditioning program. The fencer's ability to maintain a powerful lunge, quick advance, and fast hand action during a bout relies heavily on stamina. And the fencer can think better and be a more effective strategist if he or she is not winded. A typical bout lasts five to 15 touches, with each touch lasting from a few seconds to as long as a minute and with a few seconds of rest between each touch. An average bout is 20 minutes, and most competitions require multiple bouts per day. The energy systems utilized in fencing are about 90 percent phosphagen/lactic acid and 10 percent lactic acid/oxidative. The former is considered to be more anaerobic and the latter more aerobic. It would seem by this statistic then that fencing is predominantly anaerobic. However, over the course of a bout, and with multiple bouts per day in some tournaments, fencing does require an aerobic component as well. Let's look at these two endurance systems more closely.

Anaerobic endurance requires phosphocreatine and carbohydrates for fuel. They are used quickly to supply energy for powerful movements such as those in fencing. The waste product of carbohydrate usage is lactic acid and this makes muscles burn when doing intense exercise. Needless to say, it also interferes with the ability to maintain power. The ability to maintain anaerobic power over time is very important to a fencer's success. See the chart at right for a sample training program.

This program can be done with any mode of exercise. It works well with running, biking, and using a stairmaster. It follows closely a fencing bout and is challenging. "Hard" intensity should be about 85 percent of the heart rate reserve method. To determine this, subtract your age from 220. Take this number and subtract your resting heart rate and then multiply the percent you want to train at—in this case .85. Then add your resting heart rate back in.

Example: A 34-year-old with a resting heart rate of 60.

$$\begin{aligned} 220 - 34 &= 186 \\ 186 - 60 &= 126 \\ 126 \times .85 &= 107 \\ 107 + 60 &= 167 \end{aligned}$$

167 is 85 percent of max heart rate, and for this program the individual should be above 167.

An anaerobic training program should mimic the demands of a bout as closely as possible. Here is a sample program used by some members of the U.S. Women's foil team:

Warmup 5 minutes
 :10 seconds hard intensity
 :30 easy
 :20 hard
 :40 easy
 :30 hard
 :60 easy
 :10 hard
 :30 easy
 :20 hard
 :40 easy
 :30 hard
 :60 easy
 :10 hard
 :30 easy
 :20 hard
 :40 easy
 :30 hard
 :60 easy
 Cool down 5 minutes

Total time 20 minutes

Taking the pulse on the wrist or neck area is best. "Hard" is basically near maximal effort. "Easy" should be close to a cool-down pace just to catch your breath. The program should be done two times per week.

Aerobic endurance is not as important as anaerobic endurance but should not be ignored. It uses fats as a fuel source and sustains activities for long durations. Fencing over time has an aerobic component associated with it and a sound aerobic base will help performance and recovery from bouts and workouts. Using a variety of methods to train—such as running, biking, squash, floor hockey etc. that are continuous in nature—is effective for improving aerobic conditioning. Workouts should last at least 30 minutes, and the intensity should be challenging but you should be able to talk without being out of breath. If talking is difficult, decrease the level of intensity. More specifically, your target heart rate, using the heart rate reserve method mentioned

above, should be between 60 and 85 percent. Aerobic training should be done about twice a week.

Strength, power, and anaerobic and aerobic endurance are all key components to a well-balanced, fencing-specific conditioning program. However, do not forget to stretch. It is important to do this after you are warmed up and include not only static stretching but some dynamic stretches as well.

The schedule at right is an example of how to organize all of the conditioning components that we have discussed in the current and past articles. The schedule can be adapted, depending on the fencer's need or emphasis on specific areas. If the fencer is weak in one component, then he or she can do more of that component and less in the areas that they are proficient in. It's all about individuality. This program includes all of the components for building the complete fencer.

Dave Statt is the exercise physiologist/certified strength coach for Mid-Town Athletic Club in Rochester, NY.

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DICK PERRY

living his own game

by Sybil Hunter

“I don’t coach fencing, I coach people. I help them learn their own game.” Such is the philosophy of Dick Perry—coach, fencer, entrepreneur, retired teacher, and World War II veteran.

Perry first began fencing in January of 1934 at the age of 13. Two years later, he accepted a job at Deerhorn Summer Camp for boys in Rhineland, Wis. Starting out as junior counselor and assistant fencing coach, “I beat the guy who was supposed to be in charge so they moved him somewhere else and gave the fencing job to me,” Perry said with a chuckle.

He also taught fencing at Camp BrynAfon, the associated girls camp. “There was a counselor there named Becky Bloomer,” said Perry, “who 10 years later became Mrs. Gerald Ford. We knew each other as friends.”

By his fifth year at the camp Perry taught riding, sailing, canoeing, riflery and the two sports he is still active in, swimming and fencing.

From there he coached and fenced with the Highland Park Junior College (HPJC) team, teaching, fencing and leading the team at Highland Park High School as well. “The class for Highland Park High School was conducted late in the afternoon and the team practiced in the same room,” Perry said. “It was like being a ring master at the circus.”

“Things operated pretty much the same way as they do now, with many volunteer coaches,” Perry said. “In my case they compensated me with tuition and books, which during the Depression was absolutely priceless.”

Perry then transferred to Columbia University, and joined the fencing team. “That’s where I met Giorgio Santelli,” said Perry. “From him I learned a lot of what I think a coach should do and the manner in which they should do things.”

“My experience as both a competitor and coach is that from an early start in the game I had the ability to think and react at high speeds,” said Perry. “I used that ability a great deal during the two years I served in Europe...more than I realized.”

In September 1941, after graduating from Columbia, “I was accepted to Harvard Business School,” Perry said, “and Pearl Harbor came before Christmas.”

Within two weeks of his graduation from Harvard Business School, Perry found himself on active duty with the 9th Battalion of the Air Force.

“I never thought of fencing during the war; I was so involved with the whole thing I had neither the time nor occasion to think of it. The price of making a mistake was pretty high.”

During Officer Candidate School (OCS), Perry wrote a letter to Winnie, a woman he dated back home. “I wrote her a four-page letter and in the last part I proposed to her,” Perry said. “I received the answer by mail. She said, ‘yes.’”

“Before I left I told her, ‘The next time I see you I’m going to have gold bars on my shoulder,’ and five months later, by golly, I was right. I came out of OCS as a second lieutenant,” said Perry.

“While in OCS I received a telegram from a friend, recently discharged from the Navy, asking me to be the best man in his wedding. I put that telegram in my pocket,” Perry said. “The next time I took it out I was in London.” He was given six hours to tie up loose ends then was dispatched to England; Perry suddenly found his fencing career on hold.

When in England, Perry witnessed London’s infamous blinding fogs—residents found their way home only by counting the exact number of steps before each turn on the way. He also attended St. Paul’s church in London. “During the war the services were held below the church in the crypt. I used to go to church and sit next to Sir Christopher Wren—the architect of St. Paul’s.”

Said Perry, “I participated in combat air operations as a fighter controller.” His function was to maintain radio communication between the ground and the fighter pilot. “It was rather dicey at times.”

Perry said that prior to World War II, the Royal Air Force insisted that fighter pilots in training take fencing lessons. “Fencing is simply one-on-one combat,” Perry said. “All fencing is, is an organized fight.” During his time in Europe, Perry happened on three opportunities to fence at the London Fencing Club. Operated by Leon Paul, the club kept fencing alive during the war. “It was great fun. With fencers from half a dozen European countries, it was a great social experience.”

“Most of us fenced [using] borrowed equipment,” Perry said. “I fenced in GI shoes. It really does slow down your footwork. We just accepted these things; you just do the best with what you’ve got.”

While at the club, he fenced a member of the Belgian Olympic team. “I beat him in a foil bout. It was a laugh for both of us.” The club was a welcome relief from the daily tensions of war.

In February 1945, a month before reassignment, Perry attended a special concert at Royal Albert Hall in London. “During a Brahms’s symphony, a bomb went off a half mile away so we got some percussion in the performance that wasn’t in the score,” Perry said. “No one in the auditorium even stirred.”

He was transferred after 10 months in England. “I drove a Jeep 6000 miles in various parts of Germany as an Intelligence Investigator.”

One afternoon he and his contemporaries found themselves in the German mountains. “This little village was about as safe as you could be during the war,” he said. They passed a little Lutheran church built of stone, centuries old. Taking a brief rest from the road, they entered it. One lieutenant “walked over to the organ and started playing Bach’s *Fugue in C Minor*,” Perry said, “so I started pumping the organ as he played. The preacher came and stood silently in the door, mouth open and didn’t say a word.” When the music finished the preacher enthusiastically ran over to shake hands praising the impromptu concert.

“Being in a war is the worst possible experience anyone could ever know.” When it finally ended, Perry returned home

to Michigan where he and his fiancée soon wed. Perry and his wife Winnie raised three sons. Now married 56 years, he is a grandfather of eight.

"When I returned to Detroit, I was hired, almost by accident at Highland Park Junior College part-time as a German instructor because of the sudden influx of service men on the GI Bill," Perry explained. "I spoke their language and we understood each other."

Once back he jumped right in where he left off, restarting successful fencing teams at both HPJC and Highland Park High School. From that point on, Perry's accomplishments grew: coaching at the Grosse Pointe club; starting a team using the engineering lab at the University of Michigan Dearborn; working with Al Kunzmann as associate coach at the University of Detroit (U of D); researching the four-minute bout time limits with Bob Kaplan (which were later picked up by the AFLA); becoming head coach at U of D, and then assistant coach again until he left the university in 2000; and coaching the Canadian Pan American women's foil and men's sabre teams in 1971. Presently, Perry teaches private lessons, coaching on an individual basis.

Perry is particularly proud of two accomplishments in his career: "One is I was one of the founding members of the United States Fencing Coaches Association;" however, "the most exciting moment was when U of D won the NCAA championship in March of 1972. We were kinda like David among the Goliaths."

Respect for Perry's coaching ability comes easy for his students. "We had a good rhythm when we worked," said Tyrone Simmons, University of Detroit alumni, Pan Am competitor and 1972 Olympic foil fencer. "We wouldn't say a word. We were bodies in motion, just in sync."

PERRY:

"If it isn't fun, then
find something else
that is."

Tracie Wallis, a fencer Perry coached at Roeper High School remarked, "He is very supportive. He gives you all the lessons you need for the strip and for life. You can count on him as both a friend and coach."

Perry said the best part of fencing is "a sizable number of friends all over the world," including many other coaches, contemporaries, and fencers who influenced his fencing

career—people such as, Giorgio Santelli; Dale DeTuscan who helped develop fencing in Detroit; Hugo Costello, NYC coach and equipment company owner; the DeCapriles brothers; Manyert Kadar and John SzentKiralyi (of Cleveland); Mac Garrett (Penn State); Istavon Danoshi; Walter Lanford, who started fencing at Notre Dame; Mike DeCicco (Notre Dame), Dan Cantillon (1968 Olympic epee team member), and Tyrone Simmons, to name a few.

Well-known for his sense of humor, Perry—who calls himself "the Old Man"—likes to make jokes during practice. Following a stray point he might ask, "Did you get her?," while looking up and around. When the fencer inquires, "Who?," Perry responds, "Why, the Flying Nun." Other fencers find themselves inadvertently fencing with Harvey the (invisible) Rabbit. Again when the point strays from target, Perry simply turns to slowly look behind on one side, then the other, asking, "Is he behind me again?"

"I'm involved in the game for fun," explained Perry. "If it isn't fun, then find something else that is."

Sybil Hunter is an avid writer, artist, and fencer. Sybil, her husband Chris, and their two poodles, Mozart and Stanzie, reside in Michigan where Sybil is pursuing a second degree in secondary education.



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THE FENCER'S EDGE

Focus, Intensity, Toughness

by Dale G. Pease, John Heil, Jay Lee & Lee Branum-Martin

The higher the level of competition, the more important the mental game becomes. To be in the "Zone," the fencer must learn to control momentum—you need the ability to create and maintain positive momentum, as well as the ability to halt and reverse negative momentum. Shifts in mental state and in momentum inevitably occur as the bout unfolds and they happen for a variety of reasons—winning or losing an important touch; unexpected strategy changes by an opponent; a supportive or hostile audience; or calls by the director, to name a few.

To better understand how psychological momentum changes during a bout, we conducted a research study with six top-ranked women foil fencers. These fencers' bouts were videotaped during a North American Cup (NAC) event. The next day, as they reviewed the video of their bouts, the women discussed their mental states and shifts in momentum. As you would expect, we found that two individuals could experience a very similar event and have totally different thoughts and feelings—and that these thoughts and feelings influenced performance. By looking for the mindset that led each fencer to perform her best, and by comparing the mental game of the fencers with the best results with that of the fencers who were less successful, three critical mental skills were identified: focus, intensity, and toughness.

FOCUS— "FENCING TOUCH-TO-TOUCH"

Between touches, fencers need to be able to think "tactically" (analyzing the previous point and developing strategies for winning the next one), then shift to "thinking in the moment"

(restarting the bout with a clear and open mind). The mindset of the top fencers at their best showed four qualities that define "focus." First, the top fencers showed strong tactical thinking. Second, and most importantly, as the bout restarted, they were better able to devote *full attention* to what was about to happen next, while remaining *ready* to react to their opponents' actions. Third, they were effective at limiting thinking to either "tactics" or "thinking in the moment" (able to resist distractions). Fourth, they recognized when they needed to make a psychological adjustment, and once having done so, were able to refocus. One fencer described this overall feeling as "fencing touch-to-touch." She said, "I am never aware of the score when I am fencing well—I never pay attention to (the) score. Well, I do, but it is very trivial. I fence for every touch, so I want to refocus for the next touch and not let it get away from me."

In contrast to the "thinking in the moment" during a point exchange, one of the less experienced fencers reported thinking, "Well, I [have] to win this bout, or I [won't] move up to the next round." While it was true that she had to win in order to advance, her focus was not on the process of winning touches. At the same time she felt increased anxiety, which was probably the result of the additional pressure she was placing on herself by being so focused on bout outcome. She also reported a loss of confidence at this point in the bout. Overall, this describes a negative spiral—worry, not

being ready to "think in the moment," poor performance, decreased confidence, worse performance.

As a general rule, the less successful fencers had a more difficult time both: (1) *limiting* their thoughts to either "tactics" or "thinking in the moment" and, (2) *shifting* their

top fencers are better able to devote full attention to what is about to happen next, while remaining ready to react to their opponents' actions

thoughts from "tactics" to "thinking in the moment" as the bout restarted after each touch. That is, they had a more difficult time fencing "from touch-to-touch." They more often reported thinking ahead to how they might feel about winning or losing the bout, or future tournament concerns (e.g., their next opponent), or even how they might be viewed by others. In most cases this kind of thinking increased performance problems. This "thinking in the future" undermines the ability to focus "in the moment," and often placed additional stress on the fencer by leading them to worry about an outcome that hasn't happened—which, ironically, becomes more likely because of the worry.

An important aspect of "thinking in the moment" is based on the research of Apter, a psychologist, who suggests that "thinking in the moment" often produces a "protective frame." This protec-

tive frame is directly related to the fencer's confidence and generally results in the athlete experiencing pleasant feelings (a hallmark of being on the "Zone"), regardless of the pressure. An example of this was provided by one of the most successful fencers after she lost an important point in a close final round. She had consistently reported fencing instinctively or "in the moment."

Fencer: [Opponent name] hit me this time...It was a really nice touch for her. It was unexpected. I really didn't think she would [try] something like that.

Interviewer: How did you feel about her?

Fencer: I was like, fine. OK, that was a good touch.

It is obvious that the fencer's confidence had not been shaken by the loss of the point, and that she had put it behind her.

INTENSITY— "AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED"

Intensity is the degree to which one feels worked up and emotionally involved. As a positive force, intensity is *being worked up the right amount* and *being emotionally involved with the right idea*. The intensity level may be too high, too low, or the right amount. For example, sometimes in pool bouts fencers may be sluggish, showing a level of intensity that is too low for competition. This low level of intensity undermines performance and usually leads the fencer into a negative emotional state.

However, it is more common for the level of intensity to be so high it is uncomfortable, sometimes leaving the fencer feeling overwhelmed. This could very well have happened to the fencer described above who lost an important touch, but it didn't. Why? There are mental training methods to enable the fencer to reduce the intensity—but she did not need to use them in this situation. Ultimately, it is the *idea* that comes with the feeling of intensity that is the key to whether it is a positive or a negative force. Intensity is like a wild horse—if you can learn how to control

it, it can take you where you want to go; but there is a very real risk that it may throw you, and leave you short of your goals. When the next action is seen as an "opportunity for success," the fencer can turn the intensity into the positive energy of excitement. In other words, performance is closely related to whether the action about to occur in the bout is seen as a challenge (excitement) or a threat (anxiety).

Of course, learning to control intensity takes constant work. It begins simply with focus. To the extent that fencers report being "in the moment," feelings of anxiety and other negative emotions were reported less. The more successful fencers, upon encountering negative thoughts or feelings (such as, a questionable call by the director), were able to return to "in the moment" thinking, and to look at the next touch as an opportunity to score. (There are specific mental training techniques on refocusing to help with this.) Less successful fencers did not recover as quickly to the "in the moment" thinking, instead struggling with feelings of anxiety about bout outcome or other concerns. At its worst, this leads to an increasing negative momentum, which leaves the fencer feeling as if she were under a cloud of threat.

Strong fencers can sense fear in their opponents, perhaps becoming more perceptive from the experience of confronting the same feelings in themselves. The following example was given by one of the top fencers when observing her opponent as the bout was to begin:

"I am pretty confident with [name of fencer] because she comes on the strip scared. For me, I like it when my opponent comes out scared—that gives me the upper hand. Because when you are scared you won't hit as well, you won't fence as well, you won't think as

well because you let yourself think, 'I'm scared.'"

Successful fencers learn to be comfortable with the high levels of intensity. This, in turn, relates to mental toughness.

TOUGHNESS— "STAYING ON THE EDGE"

Coaches often speak of the importance of an athlete feeling tough, strong, and in control of events. This means being willing to stay on the edge of tension, and striving to move through fear to excitement. Toughness applies equally to how the fencer sees herself and to how she regards her opponent. For the fencers in this study, toughness was clearly linked to success. One of the top fencers reported:

"...I changed my tactics for this touch because I wanted to hit on a straight lunge. No matter what else happened, I just wanted to hit her on a straight lunge. [I was thinking] I wanted it to be like...TOUGH. I want it to be like, 'I don't care...I am going to fence you hard. I'm going to beat the crap out of you. I don't want you to feel good.'"

The better fencers often relied on a similar thought pattern as a means of

the tougher fencers are thinking "let's get it done" and finish the bout by aggressively fencing the next touch

increasing intensity to the level that she thought she needed to be successful. One of the least experienced fencers in this group often wavered, even when she was fencing less skilled opponents. For example, she reported:

"...I am thinking, oh my God, I am fencing [name of fencer]. I am getting beat horribly and I am looking stupid so it is like, who is watching, let's see, [name of observer] is watching who is, like, the nicest guy."

This is an example of self-sympathy (and a loss of toughness) being experienced during a bout. In another bout this fencer again wavers on toughness. Ahead 4-0 in a five-point pool bout, she loses the next touch and thinks:

"...my gosh, she got a touch. What if she starts coming back, but I was thinking that this usually happens when you are up 4-0—they always get a touch, and I am thinking, 'I hope that I don't fall apart and totally throw the bout away.'"

In contrast, the "tougher" fencers would be thinking "let's get it done," and finish the bout by aggressively fencing the next touch.

The feeling of toughness can be eroded by any of a variety of circumstances. During a DE bout, one of the stronger fencers describes the feeling of toughness starting to slip away as she reacted to the crowd cheering against her: "Why does everyone want to beat us? Why is it so important to

beat us? When you are on top, [why do] people want to beat you?" She was reflecting on the unkind image some people reportedly had about some of the top fencers. But within seconds she reversed her thinking triggered by the following thought, "When I wanted to make the Olympic team...all I could think about was I wanted to beat the top people. I just wanted to crush 'em. Give them all I've got." This thought refocused her on winning. Feelings of strength and domination quickly returned and the momentum of the bout shifted her way.

This example also shows how quickly states of mind can change in competition. If this fencer had continued to worry about how others felt, her performance would have declined. Instead, she was able to seize the moment and fuel her desire to win by recapturing a sense of toughness.

SUMMARY

The top fencers showed stronger focus, more resilience in managing emotional intensity, and more resourcefulness in maintaining mental toughness. For developing fencers it is important to:

1. Control focus by moving from "tactical thinking" between points to

fencing instinctively or "in the moment" once the bout begins.

2. Adjust intensity to the right level, and perceive the upcoming action as a challenge rather than a threat.

3. Establish mental "toughness" by persistently striving for strength, control, and the desire to dominate the opponent.

Note: This research project was funded by the United States Olympic Committee with support from the United States Fencing Association. The researchers want to thank the six elite women foil fencers who participated in this study. A more extensive report of results will be available through the USFA web site.

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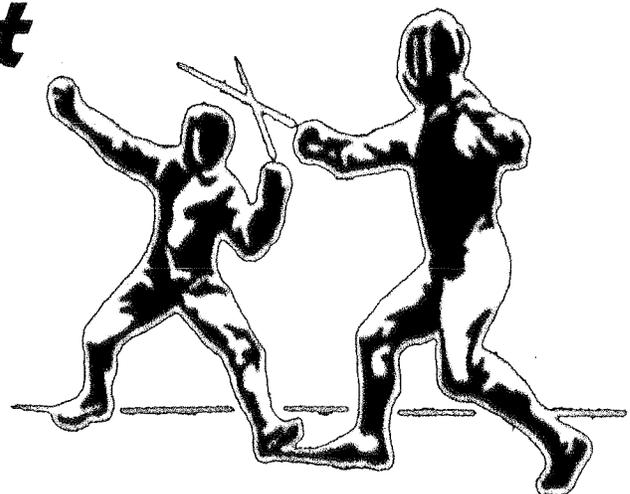
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PICK YOUR SPOT: When NOT to argue with the ref

referee Jeff Bukantz offers a few priceless tips on when to bite one's tongue

It has always been in vogue to criticize the referee. After all, it is easier for any fencer, coach, or parent to blame the ref than to give credit to a victorious opponent or actually accept the blame for losing a bout. This is human nature, and nothing is going to change it.

Referees have the ultimate thankless job. They take time off from work, spend countless weekends away from their families, receive a negligible per diem, and work three to four days from morning until night with limited rest.

Each referee walks into the gym expected to be perfect, or nearly perfect, and on a regular basis walks out that night having been accused, in multiple languages, of being incompetent or unscrupulous.

Even though experienced referees generally accept this mistreatment, they inevitably have thresholds for the abuse. Testing that boiling point can be detrimental to your fencing. As someone who is uniquely qualified to discuss this topic—having been both a referee for 25 years and, as a generation of U.S. referees can attest, one of the most infamous tormentors of referees as a competitor—I feel it is long overdue to give some advice to the fencers. This is primarily for the benefit of the athletes, and secondarily for the coaches and parents. Any improvement to the overall environment at the strip that makes the referee's life easier, while welcomed with open arms, is purely incidental.

Before getting started, let me give you a few examples of counter-productive behavior by fencers.

Example 1: At a recent NAC, a teenage female foilist, who regularly earns points, questioned nearly every call I made. This youngster argued on everything from calls made in her favor on one-light actions (more on this poor

tactic later) to the actual time left in the bout. To make matters worse, her coach played the role of enabler, as he complained about actions I was calling consistently, yet neglected to advise his young and impressionable student to adapt and change her game.

Example 2: At the last JO's, a member of our Junior National Team, after being told on a call that went against him, "You got one close blade meeting earlier, but he controlled this one," responded by accusing me of "making up for the previous mistake." This same fencer, at the very next competition, started taunting me by questioning calls that went in his favor, with a smirk on his face no less.

Example 3: At the NCAA's, a two-time champion, in spite of having had the benefit of seeing my refereeing style for a mind-boggling 17 bouts during the two-day event, continued to argue over the very same action right up until that 17th bout. He came this close to having a black card prevent his potential "threepeat," as his behavior digressed from questioning calls to what bordered on unsportsmanlike conduct.

Example 4: Without a doubt, the most egregious misbehavior I recently encountered occurred at, believe it or not, a "friendly" challenge match at the New York Fencers Club between a group of old-timers and some youth fencers. During this match, a veteran champion started arguing calls against an opponent who was only *ten years old*. I bit my tongue, smiled incredulously at this embarrassing display, and let it go. He relentlessly persisted to complain on every single call. Within a few actions, he was complaining about the 10-year-old "turning her back shoulder." When I didn't call it on a subsequent action, this ex-champion, after my halt, brutally hit the young girl full force on her back. Unbelievable! As Popeye always

said, "I takes all I can takes, and I can't takes no more!" I had no choice but to start giving penalty touches, which illustrated how—even in an innocuous event like this—given enough provocation, referees have a boiling point.

Example 5: The great Stefano Cerioni, the 1988 Olympic Foil Champion (and world famous ref-baiter), met his Waterloo when he received a one-year suspension from international competition for committing a vulgar gesture on the finals strip at the 1986 World Championships in Bulgaria. Even the best in the world can be victims of their own bad behavior.

All five fencers, in one way or another, attempted to bait the referee. Not only did they expend energy in the wrong direction, they each ran the risk of antagonizing the referee. And, based on the fact that the referee was not going to change the calls, there was no tangible benefit at the end of the rainbow.

As a former John McEnroe-like competitor, let me share this following bit of wisdom: When you are on the strip, it is your job to do whatever it takes to emerge victorious. If that includes trying to intimidate the referee, so be it. However, you better know your audience, as there are three distinctly different types of referees. The first type is easily influenced and might succumb to persistent complaining. (Of course, this type of referee is most likely to make mistakes when the atmosphere becomes over-pressured.) The second type remains unfazed by whatever is thrown at him or her, and keeps a calm demeanor while making the same calls. While it is politically incorrect to say so, there is, indeed, a third type of referee: the referee who becomes agitated by the constant razzing, and subconsciously or consciously looks to draw the line in

the sand a lot quicker. Making that referee's life miserable could be hazardous to your health.

It is important for fencers to build a positive reputation within the refereeing community. One of our very best fencers has done exactly the opposite. While no referee will intentionally go out to "get" this antagonistic fencer, it doesn't bode well for him that during his bouts, referees around his strip will wager friendly bets on how many calls this fencer will question or complain about during the bout. Certainly, the fencer's habit of complaining becomes akin to crying wolf—it falls on deaf ears.

It is important for every fencer to pick his/her battles. If you complain all the time, the impact is diminished. If you do it judiciously, that will increase your chances of having the ref listen to your beef, and possibly be swayed by it on future calls. If you do it respectfully, it might even pay dividends. Never lose sight of the fact that the purpose of complaining is to potentially influence future calls, so make your point without poisoning the atmosphere over the current call, which won't be changed anyway. Remember, you catch more bees with honey than with vinegar.

On the other hand, fencers have to recognize who the hot-headed, trigger-fingered, rabbit-eared refs are, and exercise whatever self-control is necessary to leave that strip unscathed. If you start to battle with one of these refs, you will lose. Period. Your job is to win the bout, not to play King of the Hill with the ref. Treat these refs with respect, but do not go overboard by patronizing them. Pick your spots very carefully, or you will receive more cards than calls.

Fence the referee. Yes, I know that cliché sounds like fingernails on a chalkboard, but the best fencers are the ones who use this tactic to their advantage. Refereeing, by definition, is a subjective act. If you know a certain referee doesn't give your line, don't use it! This is not rocket science. If you know a ref won't fall for your sneaky slow, almost second-intention attack, clean it up right away. Don't continue to bang your head against the

wall. You will not change the calls, and will suffer the double-whammy of having antagonized the referee.

I hesitate to be presumptuous by telling any coach how to coach, or parent how parent, but it is important for me to deviate in this case. You are doing your student/child a major disservice if you don't follow the aforementioned advice. By allowing young fencers to blame the referees for their losses, you encourage an adversarial attitude. Additionally, it shifts the fencer's focus from "what do I need to do differently to win" to "I don't make any mistakes, I just get cheated." That type of reinforced mindset is downright counter-productive, as the young fencer needs to be guided in the proper direction.

Never question a referee after a description of an action when only one light appears. This is a huge mistake! The referee is giving you the benefit of describing what he/she saw, in spite of having the option of simply saying "one light." This referee has taken the risk of describing the action so you will know what the call will be when there are two lights on. You can silently disagree, put it in the memory bank (fence the ref!), but never go to war on these calls. Some referees believe they should prevent unnecessary controversy by just saying "one light" or "touch" on a one-light action...do you want that referee on your strip?

Don't ever "stare down" the referee. Whatever route you choose to take, this one represents the ultimate dead-end. There is a foilist from New York who employed this losing tactic regularly. It was not in the fencer's best interest that his trademark antagonistic antic was the topic of discussion among many of the top referees.

Unacceptable behavior comes in all shapes and sizes. While much of it falls into the gray area, the refs know it when they see it. You can push the envelope—I know I did. However, you probably won't benefit in the short term, and you've created bad will for the long term.

While I've covered the proper way to treat the referees, what do you do when a referee, in your opinion, just doesn't have it? While it is invaluable

to recognize who the best refs are—and accept that they, too, will make mistakes—fencers should be alert enough to know when a ref is struggling, and what to do about it. Of course, you can always ask the FOC representative to have the ref observed. This generally accomplishes little, as the FOC rep will only replace that referee if "the wheels have fallen off," and it is clear that the majority of the fencers on that strip have lost confidence in the ref.

If you choose this route, it probably isn't prudent to make the request unless you are convinced that numerous errors have occurred. This is not to suggest that the refereeing community protects its own at all costs. It is, however, another example of the importance of picking your spots.

The productive way to deal with the weak ref is to immediately figure out what he/she calls, and use that to your advantage. If the ref is completely inconsistent, try your best to make your actions as clean and clear as possible, and don't freak out unless the ref has totally lost control. It is in this extreme case where asking for an observer, such as an FOC representative, has the best chance at bearing fruit.

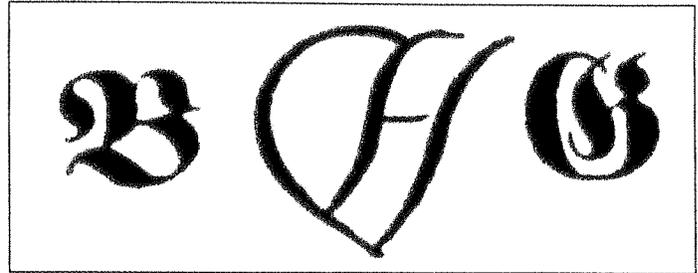
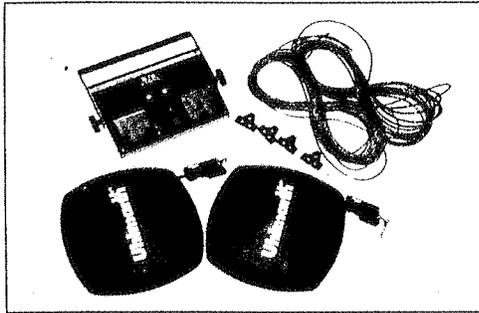
Of course, every fencer has at least one referee who they just can't stand and don't feel comfortable fencing under. I certainly had mine. It is well within your rights to request the FOC rep to keep you away from that ref, although nothing is guaranteed. Once again, picking your spots will enhance your chances.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. In future issues, I'll try to throw in regular tidbits with regard to treating the referees in a manner that will be invaluable to your success.

In conclusion, always remember that refereeing is, by nature, subjective. All referees strive to be correct and consistent. Treat them with respect, and they will do the same. It is just as easy to develop a good reputation as a bad one, and a good reputation is priceless.

Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC Rules Subcommittee and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission.

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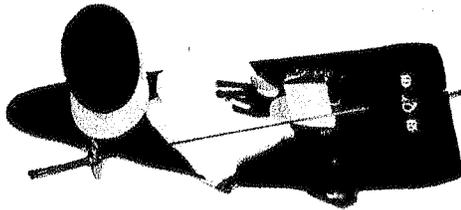


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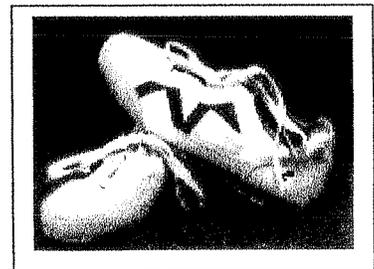


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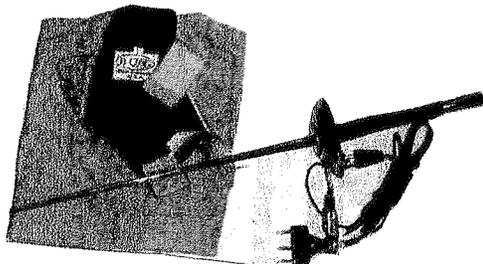
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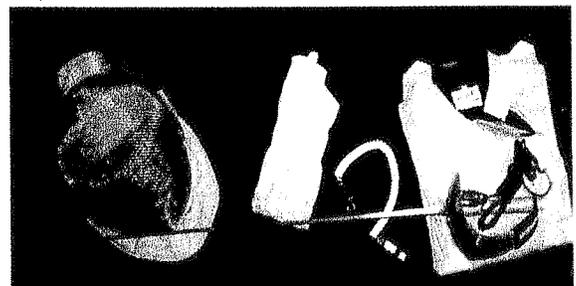
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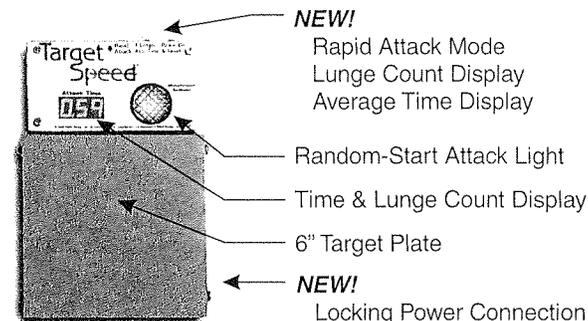


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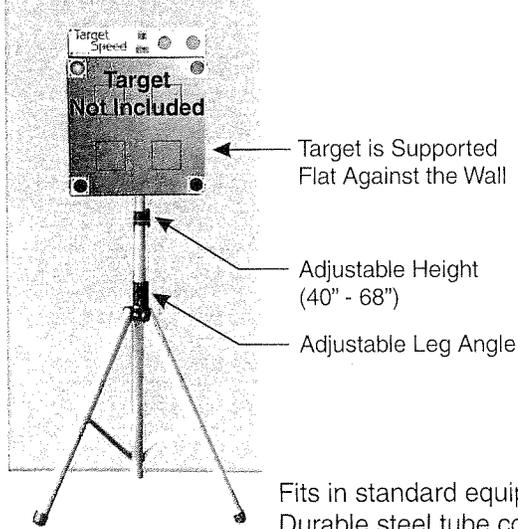
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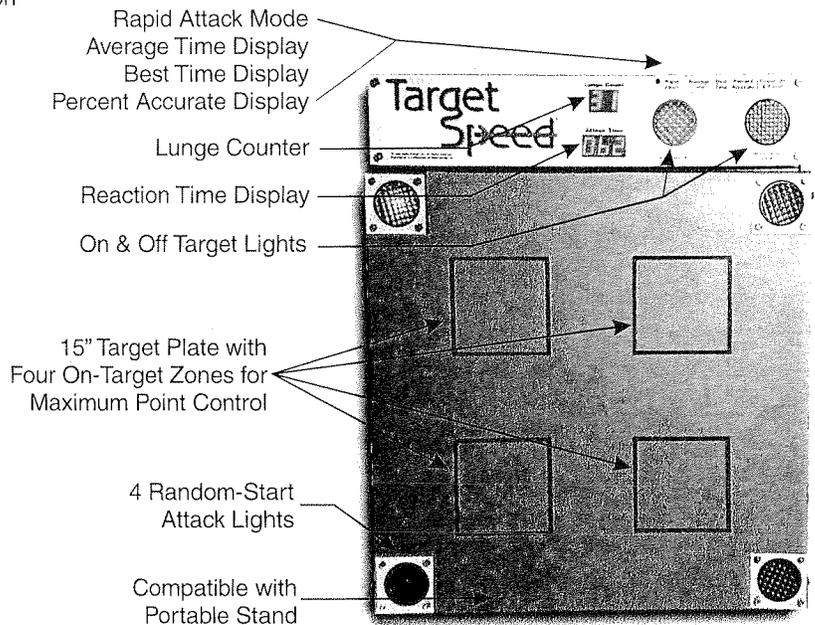
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