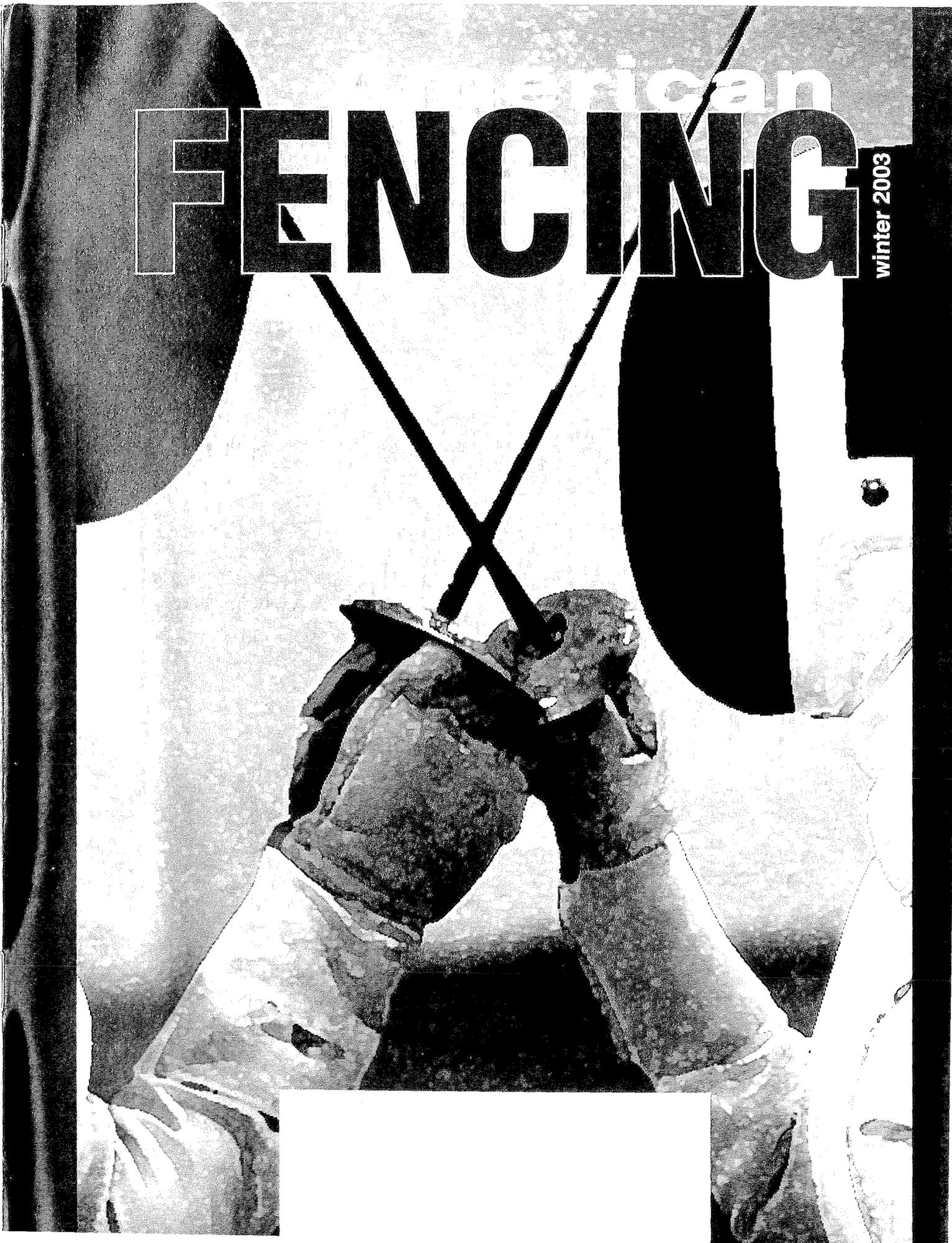


American FENCING

winter 2003



American FENCING

Winter 2003 · Volume 52, Number 4

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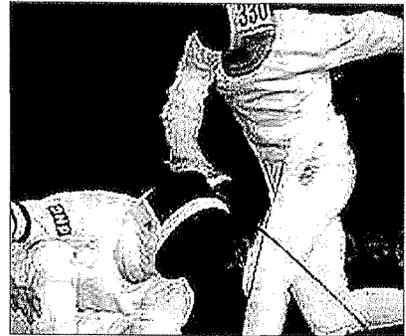
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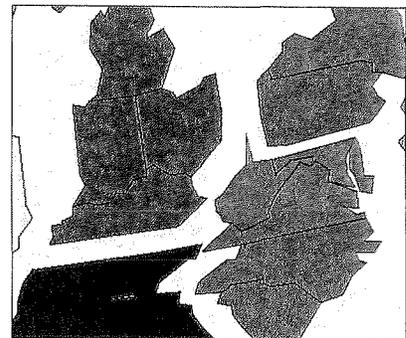
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The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

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 Fédération Internationale d'Éscrime, 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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Please send all correspondence and articles for submission to Editor, *American Fencing*, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. *American Fencing* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Please contact the editor regarding submission deadlines. Please contact Chris Cuddy at (719) 578-4511 regarding advertising.

American Fencing (ISSN 0002-8436) is published quarterly by the United States Fencing Association, Inc., One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774, and additional offices. Subscriptions to *American Fencing* are included with membership in the association. Individuals can subscribe for \$16 in the United States and \$28 elsewhere. Postmaster: Send address changes to USFA, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774.

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STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States Fencing Association



Remembering Who We Are— From Afar and Up-Close

As I write this column under deadline pressure, it is December 12 and mere days before Christmas. With the coming of the holidays and the impending New Year, these winter days provide a great opportunity to pull back, open the wide-angle lens of life, and remind ourselves of the riches this organization offers to each of us and to the fabric of our collective lives.

The USFA will be 112 years old in 2003. We existed before the FIE, which was founded in 1913. We currently boast 17,200 members and have increased our membership in six years by 77 percent. Our strategic objective is to reach 20,000 members by the start of the next quadrennium. Did you know that we have 64 divisions in 10 sections? If you haven't already, you must pay a visit to the USFA website and go to "Info for Members, Clubs and Divisions" link where you can surf the U.S. map for sections, divisions and clubs. Fabulous websites abound and, as you surf, you begin to develop a deeper appreciation for the incredible work and commitment our organization has to the sport of fencing and to the youth in our country.

Today we have 497 registered clubs in the United States (we met our goal this year of adding 50 new clubs!) and there are more than 500 other, less formal fencing sites where recreational fencing occurs throughout all 50 states.

Under the collegiate website link you will find 47 NCAA Sponsoring Schools and more than 150 colleges and universities that run fencing clubs and programs. Our sport has established itself within some of the finest educational institutions in our country—and the world, for that matter. From Ivy League addresses to the finest state-supported educational bastions in the United States you will find our sport of fencing.

Now, let's zoom in a little closer to look at who is fencing in all these incredible clubs and educational institutions. Our membership is 66 percent male and 34 percent female. Of these USFA members, 46 percent are under 24 years of age and another 42 percent are 25-

40. The fastest growing area, of course, is the under-19 age category.

The USFA membership clearly values higher education. Sixty-four percent of our members have college degrees or higher, with 20 percent holding a master's or law degree, and eight percent holding doctorates. I won't soon forget seeing a list of high school club members posted at New York City's Fencers Club: all—and I do mean *all*—were already accepted at Ivy League institutions ranging from Columbia to Princeton. It was a *wow* kind of experience to see the sport of fencing so directly assisting young folks in pursuit of the best in higher education, and to see a club valuing this accomplishment publicly.

Now that you have the macro view of our organization, let's zoom further in and get a micro view of a specific individual in our organization. This person exemplifies all of the USFA's strengths, leading a path of dedication by choosing fencing as her life's work.

Dr. Nikki Franke, health studies professor and director of fencing at Temple University, is the *only* African-American woman to ever coach a NCAA Division-I fencing team in the United States. Nikki was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York this past October. Nikki stood alongside other legendary female athletes: recent figure-skating gold medalist Sarah Hughes; Britain's Jayne Torvill, of the famed ice dancing duo (Torvill and Dean); and Valerie Brisco, track-and-field Olympic medalist.

In the 1991-92 season, Nikki guided Temple to its first national Women's Foil Championships. She has had many other successful seasons as well in her nearly 30-year coaching odyssey at the university.

Nikki was a member of the 1976 and 1980 Olympic Teams. Happily, I had the opportunity to call her my teammate in 1980 and on many other journeys, including the World University Games in Bulgaria 1977 and Mexico City in 1979. She was USFA National Champion in 1975, and won an individual silver medal in 1975 and team bronze in 1979 at the Pan Am Games. She was inducted in the USFA Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Temple Hall of Fame in 1995.

Nikki is an associate professor in Temple's department of health studies; she received a bachelor's from Brooklyn College, a master's degree in health education from Temple in 1975, and completed her doctorate in 1988. She is the mother of two children—Aisha Jendayi, 20, and Hasani Akil, 17.

When I spoke with her recently about the incredible international honor the Women's Sports Foundation was bestowing, Nikki said that she felt so fortunate because she was just doing what she loved. The honors she has accumulated are a result of this incredible love. If you look at the accomplishments listed above, you will note that at the height of her competitive career she was simultaneously working toward a master's degree. Nikki demonstrates all that is good in our

sport: the values, the caring, the courage to go where no one has before, the value of giving back to others on her own journey.

In this season of peace, please remember our organization: the nine staff members who work in Colorado Springs; the many thousands of volunteers who work throughout our country in divisions, sections, nationally and internationally. The way is being made, the door opened wider for others to experience the joy of our sport. To have hope for a very bright future, all we need to do is look at the quality of individuals who serve in our organization in so many different ways. As president, and on behalf of the USFA Board of Directors and our staff, I wish all of you the very best in the holiday season!

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MEG GALIPAULT
Editor

Dear Readers:

If you're looking to fill out your club during the slow summer months, you might want to recruit your local NBA team. In the December 2 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki shared his summer training regime, which included—surprise!—fencing. Nowitzki's former coach in Germany, Holger Geschwindner, convinced the seven-footer to pick up a foil to improve his defensive skills in the off-season. Geschwindner is quoted as saying, "Fencers always have to be 100 percent on the defensive before they can go on the offensive."

And in the December 13 issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, fencing made the "field guide to the next new things": "the art of the sword is back," wrote Alice Lee. The magazine lists five recent and upcoming movies that feature fencing: *Die Another Day* (with Madonna as a fencing instructor), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, a French sword-fighting film called *On Guard* (touted as a "critical hit"), *Pirates of the Caribbean* (starring Johnny Depp—I can live with that), and a film by *The Princess Diaries* producer about Peter Westbrook. If you're into celebrity-watching, the magazine hints that L.A.'s Westside Fencing Center is the place to be.

Finally, we have an opportunity to smugly smile and say, "I started fencing years ago—before it was hip."

your letters

Support Your Fencing Community

Regarding Joseph Streb's article [AF, Fall 2002], any attempts to popularize fencing must begin with support from the fencing community and it must last long enough to attract media interest. My recent documentary on Peter Westbrook, *Choice of Weapons*, received favorable reviews when it opened in New York last July, but few fencers came to the theater. Even worse, when the film opened in Dallas in September nobody came. This despite e-mail and snail-mail to local fencing clubs in both areas well in advance of the release. By comparison the Greek community kept *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* alive and in theaters for several months before attracting the audience that led to its well-publicized success and pending TV sitcom.

Christopher Dalrymple (fencing parent)
New York, NY

California High Schools: Debate Continues

I read what Kenneth Wiener wrote about the situation for his son with regard to fencing in a southern California high school [Letters, AF, Fall 2002].

The officers of the Southern California Scholastic Fencing League (SCSFL) have offered to help him. The league has no requirement that someone from the faculty of his school be present when the student is fencing. We have other fencers who participate in the league from Mr. Wiener's school. Many fencers who participate in the league do so without any representative of their school present and without their coach present.

Entering the individual competitions of the SCSFL does not require that you have the "authorization" of your school to compete. Additionally, Mr. Wiener is located in a part of Los Angeles County that is included in a "composite" team of fencers from several different high schools who compete in the league's team competitions.

The SCSFL had 110 fencers at its first competition this season: 60 in high school men's foil; 29 in high school women's foil; and 21 in mixed middle school foil. They represented 33 different high schools and 15 different middle schools from Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego Counties. We expect fencers from Tijuana to compete in the league as well.

To add to the articles on high school fencing, another thing that can be done to help the kids get recognition is to get the newspaper to cover a tournament. Photos of kids from one of the San Diego High Schools that resisted fencing (it is a "club" like the situation in Rancho Palos Verdes) and interviews with them were in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* last fall at the first league tournament. At the end of the league's season, a second article appeared in the San Diego paper's regional edition about the achievements of the fencers from one of the high schools. This is good press for the kids and the school. League officers are already working with the *Victorville News* to get coverage of the tournament at Victor Valley High School this weekend. We will make an effort to have the kind of additional material about fencing available to them before they get to the tournament. (We are fortunate that two highly ranked epeeists are graduates of Victor Valley High School: Janet Wertz and Brian Clawson, and they will be at the tournament. Additionally, a current member of the fencing team at the U.S. Military Academy, Issac Erbele, is also a Victor Valley graduate.)

Midi Cox
Secretary
Southern California Scholastic Fencing League

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@columbus.rr.com. 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.

FENCING OFFICIALS COMMISSION GALA AWARDS DINNER

submitted by Jeff Bukantz

Times marches on. Some of the legends of the USFA, and the then-AFLA, who devoted much of their lives to fencing, have long since been forgotten. In most cases, these great volunteers go off into the sunset without even a "thank you."

On September 14, the Fencing Officials Commission (FOC) decided it was long overdue to honor those who were charter members of the 30-year-old FOC, as well as the esteemed six Referee Emeriti.

As this gala event took place during the FOC's annual meeting weekend, 16 of the 17 current members were in attendance. The charter members included: Steve Sobel, who was the AFLA president at the time; Laszlo Pongo, who was the chair of the referees' committee prior to the formation of the FOC; Chaba Pallaghy, the first chair of the FOC (and currently a member); Irwin Bernstein; and Dr. Daniel Bukantz.

Other charter members were: the late Ralph Goldstein, Vincent Surdi, Anne Drungis, George Worth and Joe Byrnes.

These pioneers were the trailblazers of an independent entity that was specifically set up in order to insulate referees from potential political pressure. Referees would now be selected based on merit, not on the pressures of cronyism. Can you imagine if USFA President Stacey Johnson attempted to dictate to the FOC which referees should be chosen for international events? Well, once upon a time...

We were honored to have four of the five living emeriti present. Ralph Goldstein will always be in our hearts. George Worth, unfortunately, was unable to attend. This highly esteemed group was represented by:

Ralph Zimmerman, our current USFA vice president, had a stellar

domestic and international career, culminating in receiving an "A" in epee, and refereeing in the finals of the 1992 Olympic Games. Ralph, a true fencing lifer, is still refereeing, and serves as the Head Referee for the NCAA Championships.

Anthony (Jack) Keane was a highly respected international referee, and was responsible for running the New York International competition for many years. He refereed in the 1988 Olympics, officiated the finals of the World Championships, and received an "A" rating in saber.

Dr. Daniel Bukantz was an "AAA"-rated referee who refereed in four Olympic Games ('64, '68, '72 and '76), officiated the finals of all three weapons, and served as the Directoire Technique at the 1984 Games. In addition, he refereed at the '56 and '60 Games, where he was also a competitor. (According to Pallaghy, who claims that Bukantz opened the door for Americans on the international scene, "Dr. Bukantz's acceptance and recognition—when fencing was totally dominated by Europeans at an elevated level—by inviting him to referee at the most important event, the Olympic Games, is extraordinary in itself.")

Chaba M. Pallaghy was a "AAA"-rated referee who became the chair of the FIE's Arbitrage Commission, as well as a vice president of the FIE. He refereed in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games and officiated in numerous finals. As Arbitrage chair, he created an environment that ensured that referees would maintain a level playing field, regardless of what nation was involved.

While two entire groups were honored in one fell swoop, in the future the referees will be included in the annual USFA Awards dinner. An FOC subcommittee has been given the task of nominating honorees for either Emeritus or Distinguished Service Awards.

MOVING TOWARD DOPING-FREE SPORT: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY (USADA)

The following article is published as a service from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency:

The USADA began operations October 1, 2000, with full authority for testing, education, research, and adjudication for U.S. Olympic, Pan American, and Paralympic athletes. In a November 2001 Act of Congress, USADA was recognized as the official Anti-Doping Agency for Olympic Sport in the United States. USADA is dedicated to preserving the well being of sport, the integrity of competition and ensuring the health of athletes. For more information, visit our website at www.usantidoping.org.

Promoting Doping-Free Sport In order to promote sport that is doping-free, it is important to understand how doping can be defined, and why doping is prohibited.

How is Doping Defined? Currently anti-doping agencies around the world are working to harmonize the definition of doping. The Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code (OMADC), published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in late 1999, set forth one definition of doping as follows:

"The presence of a substance, defined as a prohibited substance under the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code (OMADC), in a competitor's sample or the use of a prohibited method under OMADC."

In Olympic sport, athletes are governed by "strict liability." This means that doping violations can happen whether an athlete deliberately uses a prohibited substance, or unintentionally uses a product containing a prohibited substance.

The bottom line is that all athletes

must be responsible for any substance that is taken. Athletes, parents, coaches, and other people involved in sport must take the time to be responsible and healthy consumers.

Why Isn't Doping Allowed? Doping is not allowed in order to protect athletes' rights to compete on a level playing field without the use of substances. In addition, it is important to know that doping can cause:

Harm to athletes who dope. Most sports carry a certain amount of risk. Many substances may add serious risks of harm to those who use them. Clean and ethical sport does not require that athletes take unnecessary risks.

Harm to athletes who do not dope. Athletes who dope ruin fair sport for all athletes who do not dope. Clean athletes may imagine that they need to dope in order to compete with other athletes they think are doping. This senseless cycle of doping can cause personal devastation through health and safety risks, and the destruction of sport.

Sport is about athletes competing fairly and performing to the best of their ability, in the pursuit of human and competition excellence. Doping in any form is cheating and undermines the fundamental spirit of sport and severely damages the integrity, image and value of sport.

Competing fairly, without doping, ensures that the true spirit of competition and athletic ability in sport is at the forefront.

Other Resources for Doping-Free and Ethical Sport:

www.aap.org/family/steroids.htm
www.ohsu.edu/som-hpsm/atlas.html
www.aforbw.org/
www.charactercounts.org/sports/sports.htm
www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/supplmnt.html
www.healthycompetition.org/
<http://monitoringthefuture.org/>
www.drugabuse.gov/NIDAHome.html
www.mediacampaign.org/
www.playclean.org/index.html
www.samhsa.gov/index.html

OLYMPIC UPDATE: ROGGE LEARNS SOBERING LESSON OF LIFE AT TOP OF IOC By Adrian Warner

MEXICO CITY, Nov 30 (Reuters) - International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge learned in Mexico City this week that forcing through radical change in the IOC is as difficult as racing through the rush hour traffic in this busy city.

The body that controls the world's most prestigious sports event has always been a conservative organization and the former yachtsman who pledged reform when he was elected last year got caught in gridlock at a session of all its members.

Rogge has pledged to scale down the Summer Olympics after decades of expansionism under his predecessor Juan Antonio Samaranch because he is worried that the Games are getting too large and expensive to manage.

But the first attempt to take sports out of the Games since 1936 at the three-day Mexico session ground to a halt on Friday when the members postponed a vote on dropping modern pentathlon, softball and baseball after emotional pleas by the leaders of the three sports.

The decision was postponed until after the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Rogge had enjoyed a public relations success the previous day when the IOC voted overwhelmingly to maintain a ban on members visiting cities bidding for the Games.

The visits were at the heart of the biggest corruption scandal in Olympic history in 1998 and 1999 when 10 members were forced to leave the organization for breaking rules on accepting gifts from Salt Lake City when it was bidding to host this year's Winter Olympics in the mid-1990s.

A return to visits would have created bad publicity for Rogge as he bids to erase the past public perception of the IOC as an exclusive club of jet-setting officials who enjoy free hotels and holidays.

The Belgian was also successful in

gaining backing for changes in the running of the IOC at its Swiss headquarters.

But in a 2-1/2-hour debate on Friday the IOC members made it clear that they were not ready to throw any of the 28 sports out of the Summer Games.

Samaranch ruled over a 21-year era from 1980 when the Olympics grew and grew like a thriving tree.

Rogge, a former surgeon, may succeed in clipping off a few small twigs but he is unlikely to be successful in chopping off major branches.

The session's decision is a blow to sports who are keen to join the Games.

The IOC had been considering adding rugby union sevens and golf to the Games but had already announced that it would only add a sport if the session decided to drop others from the program.

It also means that the IOC's ruling executive board will have to focus its attention on cutting disciplines from other sports in the next few months to find other ways of scaling down the Games.

CHANGE AHEAD

A report discussed at the meeting suggested radical steps like scratching disciplines such as race-walking and equestrian events.

Events in badminton, rowing, canoeing, yachting and synchronized swimming are among the other disciplines in danger.

Rogge does not need the support of the session to take out disciplines and he will discuss the issue with his executive board at meetings in the next few months.

The Mexico City meeting did, however, make it clear that no sport is guaranteed its future in the Games and that all international federations must find ways of making sure their sports remain attractive enough to keep their place.

The program will be reviewed every four years after each Olympics.

"People forget about the millions of athletes whose sports are outside

of the Olympic program. They want to be part of the Games and today they cannot. The question is: 'Don't we have sports outside that deserve to be in the program?'"

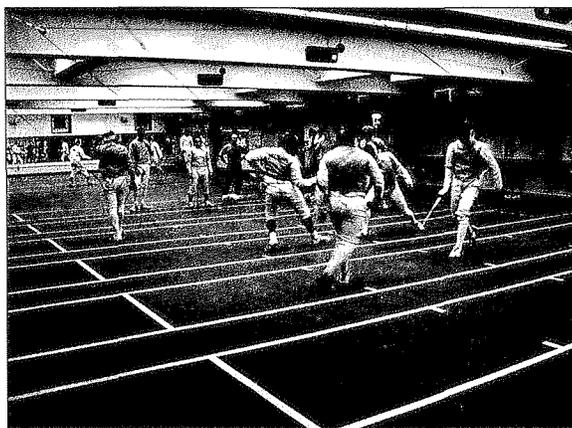
Rogge may find the answer is "yes" but finding a way to get them into the Games is likely to be tough.

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DUKE'S NEW DIGS

When Duke University gave its fencing team a 4,000-square-foot gym, it wasn't without a price. The gym, said Leslie Marx, "was a disaster."

While the formerly homeless team was given generous space from the athletic department, it was up to the team to refurbish it. Marx, former Olympian and current assistant coach at Duke, told *American Fencing* that alumni and parents pooled money together to assist with the renovation



Duke University's new fencing facilities.

expense, and volunteers drew their collective decorating resources together to get the gym in shape.

"Alex and Elizabeth Beguinet worked night and day cleaning, painting, building equipment, installing machines and reels, and hanging their extensive collection of posters," said Marx.

Alex Beguinet is Duke's fencing coach. During the summer, Beguinet runs the Coaches College at the Olympic Training Center, with wife Elizabeth assisting.

"The fencers on the team gave up weeks of lessons and practice time to paint, drill, clean, and install equipment," Marx said. The only outside labor used was for electrical work.

The gym now features 11 strips with overhead reels, machines in the middle, and repeaters on each end. Weapons and masks are mounted on the walls, and the gym is decorated with the Beguinets' collection of fencing posters. A fully equipped armory is also on-site.

POSTCARDS from the strip

Wiring 101?

2002 ARMORERS COLLEGE

by Melissa Iverson

*"Anyone have the open tube of Cement-It?" "Whaddya think, is this a Russian knock-off?" "Quick quiz: what's a class-A fit?"**

If you've ever enjoyed messing around with armoring, whether on your own equipment or someone else's, Armorers College is for you. This new, USFA-sponsored program is offered in conjunction with the Coaches College program. The Olympic Training Center (OTC) in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colo., hosted both camps last July. As a student in the first class ever offered to certify American armorers, it was my extreme privilege and honor to study under Dan DeChaine, and to share this experience with five other eager students.

Much of DeChaine's teaching is anecdotal. Anyone interested in the history of fencing—armoring-related or not—would benefit from spending time listening to his stories. And as each story unfolds you begin to realize that nearly every rule relating to equipment has a direct and applicable reason for existing. Why must foil blades be "chamfered" (the edges rounded off)? Chamfering drastically reduces blade breakage, thereby significantly increasing the safety of the fencers. Why the 12K punch-test for masks? DeChaine will relate the story of the 1982 World Championships. I guarantee that you'll never hesitate to hand your mask over for punch-testing again!

Our session began on July 15th with dormitory check-in. As rooms began to fill with both Coaches College and Armorers College participants, the sound level in the hallway

rose. Old acquaintances renewed their connections, and strangers rapidly became friends, sharing an exciting, new experience. Beds were claimed, drawers were filled, and fans quickly became a hot commodity.

That first evening we were introduced to the Armorers College and Coaches College staffs, and given our schedules and study books. A full schedule awaited us, beginning with CPR and first-aid training all the next day. After that we were entirely in the hands of DeChaine.

A typical day of classes started at 8 a.m., going until either 11 a.m. or noon. We resumed one-and-a-half hours later and worked until 5 p.m., then had another long break for supper. After that was the evening session until 8 o'clock. Every day we kept going until someone noticed that lunch break had started, usually a good half-hour or so before. Supper

breaks were along the same lines. We joked that cots should be installed in our classroom so we wouldn't have to leave overnight.

DeChaine's teaching style is such that we were always encouraged to think and learn for ourselves the reasons behind rules. Knowing the "why" of a rule means you are more likely to remember it. But our classes were not just about rules. One of the many things we learned was how to tell the different styles of parts from each other. This is not nearly as difficult as you'd think. Each manufacturer has tell-tale signs they leave on their products. With a bit of practice, parts from Negrini, Uhlmann, Prieur, Leon Paul, and many others become as easy to spot as writing on a page.

Hands-on work was a large part of our training, as well as role-playing. Armorer for U.S. teams fencing abroad must be able to instill confidence in our fencers. That is our most important product. If the fencer is worrying about his or her equipment, then they are not fully committing

themselves to their fencing game. In comes the Team Armorer who takes over the fencers' gear, thus permitting the athletes to focus on their job—fencing. We role-played various scenarios to help us learn how to instill confidence while efficiently completing our jobs as armorers.

We also learned how to set up, run, and take down equipment at national-level events; managing tournament equipment is another aspect of being an armorer.

The hands-on work was by far the most fun. An elite junior training camp (foil and epee) was in session at the OTC while we were there, so we offered up our services to them and everyone benefited. We had equipment to practice and learn on, and the junior elite fencers got their equipment repaired by the first soon-to-be-certified American armorers. We also worked on the Coaches College students' equipment, and Coach Abdel Salem from the Air Force Academy brought over gear, as well. Nearly every type of equipment was avail-

able: blades, bodycords, reels—you name it, we probably saw some version of it, and repaired it. We learned how to properly do the punch-test for masks (yes, there is a right way and a wrong way). We experienced exploding reel springs. We wired and re-wired blades. We learned to use soldering guns and soldering irons correctly. Our hands-on skills, under the tutelage of DeChaine, flourished.

Some evenings concluded with a quick jaunt over to the Finish Line, a local establishment. Most often, though, we finished up with a study session in a dorm room. There are many rules to learn in order to understand the role of the armorer, but with DeChaine's classroom stories, learning came easily.

**And in case you were wondering, a "class-A fit" means that the threads of a screw are pointed at the edges, not rounded off. This gives a tighter fit in the hole.*

Melissa Iverson is a Level 3 Certified U.S. Armorer.

POSTCARDS from the strip

Journal VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Delia Turner

The Veteran World Championships were held on U.S. ground this August, in Tampa, Fla. The official events—men's and women's epee and foil, and men's saber—were joined this year by a demonstration event of women's saber. While the other events were divided into 50-59 and 60+ age groups, women's saber was open to any female competitor over 40. Being a saber fencer of a certain age, I made my reservation the moment I heard about it, delighted that we would have the chance to compete.

It was a high-speed trip for me, whisking down to Tampa and zipping

back. I am a teacher and school started right after Labor Day weekend. I saw some palm trees on the way from the airport to the hotel, and again on the way back. Still, the intervening two days was a rich experience and worth any loss of prep time or missed opportunities to sightsee.

I could see from the moment of my arrival that this was an interesting hybrid of friendly get-together and serious international event. Like the World Cups, there were international referees, representatives from the FIE, drug testing, weapons control, and meticulous procedures. Like the USFA veteran events, competitors often chatted with one another on the strip, or even hugged after a bout was over.

Volunteers I spoke with confirmed my impression of two different fencing worlds intersecting. Michelle Crosby



Above:
Men's 50-59 saber competition
was swept away by the Americans.
Photographer unknown.

of the Jacksonville Fencing Club offered to help with the bout committee two years earlier, and had practiced running large-area events while using Point Control software. She didn't find out until soon before the Worlds that she would be using different software, so "there were some

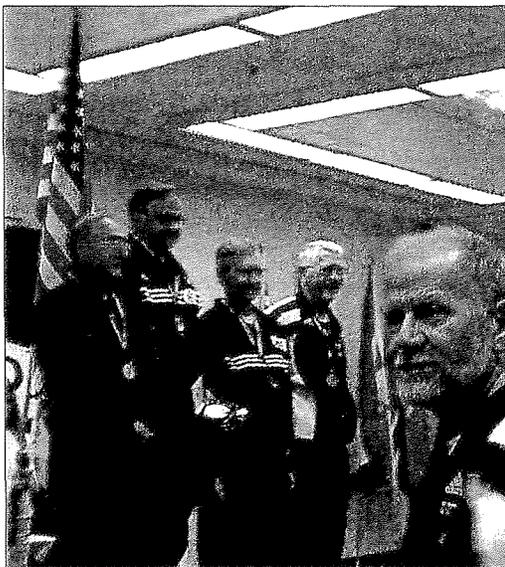
glitches,” she said ruefully. She also found it different because at an FIE event, the Directoire Technique (DT) runs everything.

Jim LaFollette, originally from Northstar in Fairbanks, Alaska, but now living in Florida and fencing at Dunedin, was helping out at the armorer’s table (though he said he’d rather be fencing epee). Most of the equipment brought to the event worked well, he said, and the problems with equipment mostly had to do with too much tape on the foils or with blades that were too long. Again, though the armorers were experienced, they were taken by surprise by the decision to enforce formal requirements.

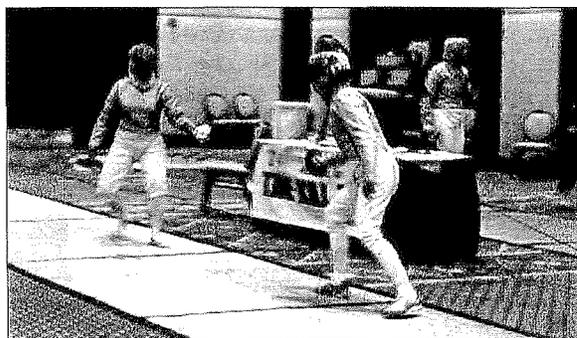
Armorer Chuck Allen said that the armorers had not known there would be “full control” of equipment until two weeks before the championships. “Full control” apparently involves not only taking the weapons and cords and holding them until the event, but also checking a long laundry list of specifications for each piece of equipment. Fortunately for me, the women’s saber demonstration was exempt from this intense scrutiny. We had our body cords, mask cords, and masks inspected but nothing else.

On Saturday, my first day at the championships, I watched the men’s 60+ saber event—a real nail-biter, with the semifinal bouts both being decided 10-9. Bill Hall defeated fellow U.S. fencer Bill Goering in a tight bout to go to the finals. Goering joked before the bout that it must be the first of the month because everyone was screaming, “Go, Bill!”

The finals were jammed with spectators, watching intently. For the most part, it was a well-behaved crowd, even when U.S. epeeist Bob Cochrane was up on the strip (he finished second in a closely contested bout). The most you heard was muted applause and a growl of approval from the audience. However, that all went out the window during the men’s 60+



Above: Men’s 60+ Saber awards ceremony, with German fencer Franz Hirt in the foreground. Photos this and opposite page: Chuck Allen and Nancy Allen.



Above: Women’s saber demonstration event.
Below: Awards ceremony for women’s foil.



saber final between Hall and Canada’s Marvin Fine. Fine’s coach, Alex Jeffries, crouched behind him at the end of the strip, shouting instructions at the top of his voice so that the spectators couldn’t help chuckling, and Jeanette Strumillo, a fellow women’s saber fencer, joined him at the end of the strip to cheer for Hall. There were shouts and roars, and in the end Hall won. For the next day, every time I saw him I thought he was floating a couple of inches above the ground.

The women’s saber demonstration event was on Sunday. Female saber fencers from all over the United States, as well as Great Britain and Japan, jumped at the opportunity to participate. Everybody was excited and we were all determined to do our best, hoping that a good showing would lead to including women’s saber in forthcoming veteran world championships. Everybody was encouraging everybody else. Princeton fencer Maya Lawrence coached her mom, Pat. I lent an extra lame to a friend, and I saw Bill Hall’s mask getting an extra day’s work as well. We had 23 fencers, a good number for an unofficial event.

It was rapidly clear that even though this was a demonstration event, women’s saber was going to be run like an official international event. We started exactly on time, and the pools and preliminary DEs ran like clockwork, even though the men’s 50-59 saber event was held at the same time.

When it came down to the semifinals, I was very proud that two of us over 50 had remained in the game: the elegant and wily fencer Doty Nicolau, and myself. Also in the semi finals were old friend and crafty adversary Jeanette Strumillo, and internationally experienced, smooth Fiona Wilson of Great Britain. When the dust cleared, I had survived a tough bout with Wilson and Jeanette had triumphed over Nicolau.

While we were competing, a

remarkable thing happened in the men's 50-59 saber competition: the top four finishers were all U.S. fencers. Recent world championships fifth-place finisher Sada Jacobson was there cheering on her father, David Jacobson, who, with Wang Yung of the United States, tied for third, while national saber coach Ed Korfanty went on to face the experienced and impressive Philip Reilly in the final.



Above: A final toast.

I am afraid this reporter was too nervous to pay too much attention to the other final events. You will have to get the details from someone else. I know I was there for the women's epee events, and I remember Korfanty won the men's saber, but that's about all. The room was jammed, the air was hot, and I don't know if Jeanette could possibly have been as nervous as I was. Although we did our finals in the 2002 Summer Nationals on raised strips in front of an audience, I knew

everybody there. This was different.

The final passed in a blur. I got some pointed comments from friends afterwards about my poor footwork, but I'm astonished I moved my feet at all. I'm usually a very noisy and uninhibited fencer and I chat with my opponent, the referee, and the audience, but I don't remember anything of the bout except my coach, Mark Masters, standing at the end of the strip gesturing at me to straighten up. All my old bad habits came back in spades. At the end, though, somehow I came out ahead and my first thought was to be glad it was over. Jeanette and I hugged and we got ready for the awards ceremony.

I was very moved by what happened next. Many fencers will remember Ruby Watson, a veteran fencer and an early champion of women's saber who attended every national and international event. This past year, we didn't see much of her, and we didn't know, until we heard of her death, how very ill she had been. Karen Brynildsen decided that this event deserved commemoration of Watson's tireless enthusiasm, and paid for two trophies in her memory. I received one and Doty Nicolau received the other as the finishers in the 50+ age category. My eyes mist-

ed and I was proud to be part of everything.

I was exhausted, and went straight to bed, so I missed the gala dinner, though I hear it was wonderful. Jim Campoli deserves tremendous credit for pulling off this international event, which was also a meeting of old friends. Earlier in the weekend, I stood with him in the hall while he chatted with me, answered questions from passersby, and directed the volunteer drug-testing aides to a meeting. He made everything look smooth.

On the way to the airport I chatted with referee Mary Frye. Echoing the theme I had noticed in the beginning, she said it was interesting to watch the Veteran Worlds make the transition from something like a social event to a serious international competition, as well as to see organizers adapt their experience of running local tournaments to the stringent requirements of an official FIE event.

It was great to see veteran fencing taken so seriously. However, I hope and believe that no matter how hotly contested the competition gets, the Veteran World Championships will continue to be a friendly encounter among fellow citizens of the world.

Delia Turner took the gold in the 40 & Over Women's Saber demonstration event at the Veterans World Championships. For complete results, see the Fall 2002 issue of American Fencing.

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**American
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KNEE PAIN IN ADULTS, AND MORE

what you need to know **by Peter Harmer, Ph.D., ATC**

Q. I am a 27-year-old epee fencer with knee pain so bad that I cannot practice. I read your column about knee pain in children in the last issue of *American Fencing*, but that obviously doesn't apply to me. My doctor told me that I probably have patellofemoral pain syndrome but didn't tell me much else. What can I do about this?

A. There are several issues you have to consider. The first is that you should always ask your physician to explain his/her evaluation and treatment plan fully in a way that you understand, otherwise the consultation will not have been beneficial for either of you. The treatment plan may be a specific regimen of rest, ice, medication, physical therapy, modifying your training program, etc., or it may be a referral to a specialist. The option presented should be designed for your specific circumstances and concerns.

The second point is that sometimes there are no easy answers. Patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS) is a general term for diffuse pain "in" or around the kneecap (patella) that is aggravated by activity, especially if it entails "squatting" of some type (en garde position, jump landings, running downhill). Although a variety of specific problems—such as damage to the back of the patella, torn cartilage or growth-related stresses on the joint—can cause knee pain and may be classified as PFPS, there is uncertainty about the cause of true PFPS (knee pain without a specific pathology). Currently, the most widely accepted causes are biomechanical and relate to the way the patella tracks on the thigh (femur). The back of the patella is V-shaped and it runs in a V-shaped groove on the front of the femur. If the patella is not correctly aligned in the groove, the backside of the patella will grind against the femur when the knee bends, eventually causing irritation and

pain. The bad alignment may be congenital or acquired. If it's congenital, it may not become evident until you engage in enough activity to "trigger" the pain, as in organized sports where you are required to repeat movements that aggravate the susceptible area much more frequently than occurs in free play. Organized training is also typically a cause of acquired PFPS, most often because of muscular imbalance (either weakness or tightness) that causes the patella to be pulled off-line. Weak quadriceps and tight hamstrings, calf and hip muscles are the major areas of concern so strengthening of the quadriceps and stretching of the other groups are useful options. One or more of these may be incorporated into a treatment program if they have been identified as problematic.

The good news is that a conservative approach is usually effective, although it may require a number of treatment strategies depending on your particular situation. In addition to strengthening and stretching programs, evaluation of footwear, the use of specific external support (such as McConnell taping), modifying training to limit "squatting" activities until the pain begins to diminish, and symptomatic treatment of the pain (for example, icing after activity) are typically recommended. The key is an accurate evaluation of the condition and an individualized treatment program.

Q. I was at the summer nationals in Greenville and saw a fencer get hit in the leg with a blade, which caused a lot of bleeding, and I've noticed other fencers being cut on their hands. Should I be worried about AIDS and stuff like that?

A. The possibility of acquiring a blood-borne disease from a fencing injury is virtually zero for a number of reasons. Initially three things need to be considered: a) the injured person must

have a disease; b) you have to be directly exposed to their blood; and c) the infectious agent has to be able to get into your body. Although human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) receives the most publicity, both hepatitis B (HBV) and C are more realistic problems, but none of these are common in the general population; the likelihood that you will face a competitor with one of these conditions is very small. Furthermore, even if the person is infected, the probability that he/she will sustain a bleeding injury is low because the incidence of such injuries in fencing is actually quite small; when they do occur most are very minor. Fencing attire also minimizes direct exposure to blood as it covers most of the body and prevents blood from spilling uncontrollably. Blood on a uniform is not dangerous. Large and/or uncontrolled blood spills—nosebleeds and injuries to the head/neck—pose the greatest risk. Even in these cases, the pathogen must still have an entry route into your body; the most susceptible parts are your eyes, mouth or other mucous membrane, or non-intact skin. If these avenues are protected, it's not probable for an infection to occur. A minimum of care and common sense, including using gloves if necessary, not touching blood directly, washing hands after treating a wound, and decontaminating any bloodied surfaces will further reduce the risk of infection.

Finally, certified athletic trainers or other healthcare professionals who are trained to deal with blood-spill injuries are on duty at each NAC as part of the medical support program of the USFA and should be called to deal with any bleeding injury.

Professor Peter Harmer is a member of the FIE Medical Commission and associate chair of the USFA Sports Medicine & Science Committee. Email questions and comments to: pharmer@willamette.edu.

MIND ON WINNING, PART 3:

sarah hughes & ann marsh **by Dr. John Heil**



This series on winning, thus far, has spanned American sport folklore, modern science, and the wisdom of the ancients. Even the Bible offers its perspective. St. Paul, in a letter to the Corinthians (9:24), wrote, "Do you know that all who run in a race, all indeed run. But only one receives the prize. So run to win." Ideas on winning are but points on the compass guiding the journey to excellence. The truth of their reckoning is to be found in competition. So now we look to 21st-century sport for examples—to figure skater Sarah Hughes, the surprising star of the Salt Lake Olympics, and to fencing's own, Ann Marsh.

SARAH HUGHES

After a disappointing preliminary round, Sarah Hughes skated her way to Olympic Gold, and into the hearts of the world audience. As much as the come-from-behind win, it was her free-spirited and joyful performance that made her the darling of the Games. How did this come to be? Her many public interviews (with *Sports Illustrated* as a source for the comments that follow) provide a window into the mindset she took into the event of her life. The single most compelling insight was that she wasn't thinking about a gold medal or any medal (which she usually does when competing), but about skating well. The comments of her coach reflect the paradoxical benefit of not thinking about winning: "Sitting fourth [place] she had nothing to protect. It was an invitation to cut loose." As her opponents succumbed to the hype of expectation, she skated for fun and for personal pride. It showed. And in the process, she not only won a gold medal but also left a mark on the Games and her sport.

Perhaps the most sobering realization (and the one most quickly forgotten in retrospect) is that once she had skated, the final results were out of her control. The resolution to this dilemma is found in the words of her mother: "The marks? The placement? It didn't seem to matter at the time...She had done

what she set out to do." This perspective stands in stark contrast to the constant efforts of the media, to massage the spectators' collective consciousness into believing that "winning is the only thing."

ANN MARSH

For Ann Marsh, the pressure was on. This was likely her last shot to win a world championship medal (which had thus far eluded her despite an outstanding career), and maybe her last chance to compete on a team with two of her closest friends, Felicia and Iris Zimmermann. As the team entered the bronze-medal match there was the opportunity, and therefore the hope, that the dubious and painful loss to Germany in the Sydney bronze-medal match could be avenged. The score before the final bout made that goal seem impossibly out of reach, yet coach Buckie Leach projected a quiet confidence that the match was still winnable. Ann's mindset was extraordinarily simple: "I am going to hit you." There was nothing on her mind but fencing for the next touch. There were no thoughts of the need or hope or expectation of winning, or the fear or sadness or finality of losing. Ann was not even keeping track of the score. Her mind narrowed to just herself and her opponent. In fact, she was so focused on the moment that her memory of much of the bout is lost.

Ann lost the first two touches, putting her down 31-40, then somehow turned things around going on a 14-3 run to win.

Standing stripside, USFA Director of Technical Programs Carla Richards observed, "Something was suddenly different, in her face, in her eyes."

Where did this come from? No doubt, it was the product of years of preparation, but one incident stood out. Before the Sydney Olympics, it was painfully uncomfortable for Ann to discuss the role of "closer" in the team competition. In the critical match

against Hungary (which would place the team in the medal round), Ann got off to a bad start and struggled dearly to regroup emotionally, but she did come back to finish successfully. The lesson learned: she had the strength to turn herself around when things seemed hopeless, and the payoff was that she seized control of the bout and steamrolled her way to victory.

So it appears that whether "pressure off" or "pressure on," winning is about playing one's personal game to its fullest. By moving beyond thoughts of the results and remaining grounded in the game, any athlete can be a winner in her heart—and sometimes win it all, even when all seems lost.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Let's close where we began, with Vince Lombardi's famous quote. But let's revise it to suggest that "winning isn't everything, it isn't the only thing—but it *is* many things." It is the root of inspiration, the point of focus, and the cause for celebration—and more. The desire to be a winner is at the heart of sport. Without the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, the heat of competition cools into the ice of indifference. Most of its secrets remain to be discovered, and will be by those diligent students of the game who search its mysteries and live its ideas on the long and winding road to excellence.

Perhaps thinking about winning is like holding an egg. Clutch it too tightly and it may break. But if kept close, held softly and with confidence, the mind will be free to be the best it can be.

Dr. Ann Marsh is completing her residency training in emergency medicine, and is a member of the U.S. Fencing Sports Medicine & Science Committee.

Dr. John Heil is chair of Sports Medicine & Science for the USFA. He is with Lewis-Gale Clinic's department of psychological medicine and can be reached at jheil@lewisgaleclinic.com.

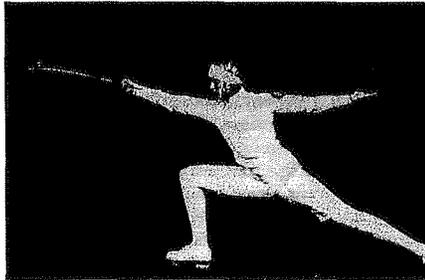
HELENE MAYER: A LEGACY FOILED

by Bob Block

Helene Mayer has intrigued me ever since I first heard about her when I was a college fencer in the early '60s. During her fiercely competitive career she was an Olympic champion (at age 17), three-time world champion, six-time German national champion and eight-time U. S. national champion in women's foil. But it is the infamous photo of Mayer standing on the medals podium at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games that illustrates her enigmatic nature: while the other medallists stand at attention with their arms by their sides, Mayer, who won a silver, holds her right arm in a stiff Nazi salute. She was a resident of the United States who had returned to her homeland to compete for the Third Reich—the only Jewish member of the 1936 German Olympic Team. Hers was a life marked by paradox and controversy for which answers have been hard to come by.

But now in her new book *Foiled—Hitler's Jewish Olympian: The Helene Mayer Story* (RDR Books, Oakland, Calif., \$17.95 paperback), author Milly Mogulof tackles the unanswered questions in this careful examination of the life and times of history's arguably most famous woman fencer. The author follows the career of Helene Mayer, who won the gold in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games and was recalled from a self-imposed exile in California eight years later to fence for Germany again. Her participation in the 1936 Olympics was highly controversial—many thought the Nazis brought her home to be the token Jew on their team to avoid a potential international boycott of the Games because of anti-Semitism.

Although she was not successful again in her quest for Olympic gold, the 1936 Games in Berlin was the defining moment in Mayer's life and the natural focal point of the book. Born in 1910 and growing up in the post-World War I era, Mayer's early life



Mayer's amazing lunge.

and spectacular development as a young fencing champion are set against the changing social and political environment of a resurgent Germany. In fact, the book is as much a cultural history of the period as it is a biography of a world famous athlete—Mayer's personal ambition, dedication and unparalleled fencing skills turned out to be on a direct collision course with the menacing political developments occurring in her country.

The author portrays Mayer as a very athletic woman who had the physical advantage of being 5'10" and 150 lbs., and who had excellent balance and early training in ballet, possessed an extremely long lunging ability and was blessed with a natural affinity for the sport of fencing. She started fencing at 10 years old under the tutelage of Cavaliere Artur Gazzera, an Italian fencing master who taught at the Offenbach Fencing Club, and later trained with another Italian master, Tagliabo, while preparing for the 1936 Olympic Games. After coming to America, she eventually resumed her friendship with Hans Halberstadt, another German-Jewish immigrant also from the Offenbach Fencing Club, and fenced for many years at his salle in San Francisco. Mayer also trained occasionally with Rene Pinchart at the Fencers Club when she visited New York.

However, Mayer's fencing accom-

plishments and fencing instructors are not part of her enigma. Both can be found in the official record. The essential questions at the heart of Mogulof's book are: Why did Mayer return to Germany to fence in the 1936 Olympic Games? Why did she present the *seig heil* on the medals podium? And why, as a Jewish athlete, was it so difficult for her to renounce what was taking place in Germany under the tyranny of Hitler and his Third Reich? Because Mayer never publicly addressed such questions, according to Mogulof she came to be viewed by some as a "flawed opportunist and overzealous nationalist."

Mogulof theorizes that Mayer never really considered herself a Jew, but thought of herself as a quintessential German. Her steadfast allegiance and gratitude to the fatherland was first developed in her early years when she won the German youth national championship at the age of 13 and was reinforced at the age of 17 when she became an Olympic champion and national heroine. In 1936 she was, above all, a fencer who desperately wanted to regain her status as the Olympic champion. Her surprising salute on the podium was a naïve attempt to demonstrate her continuing loyalty to her country in the belief that the German government might restore her citizenship that had been removed after passage of the notorious Nuremberg Laws.

As Mogulof writes in her assessment of Mayer's behavior:

"Along with millions of others, Helene could not imagine the ultimate results of Nazi policies. Now that we know them, it is fitting to say that Helene's actions were disreputable. But from her point of view, what she had done to resurrect her standing was rational and understandable. As a celebrity

and influential athlete, Helene was different but not so dissimilar from the rest of us who are pursued by urges and ambition and self-serving motives. It is no easy task to be fair in assessing Helene Mayer; she was often arrogant and blind to the ugly events around her."

While Mogulof gives us a larger view of Mayer's life, the book falls flat in its attention to Mayer's fencing career. We are told repeatedly how great a champion she was, but little is divulged about what she actually did on the fencing piste to become a champion. I also wish the author had investigated the reasons for Mayer's affiliation with at least three different American fencing clubs on route to her eight national championships. What about her methods as a fencing instructor at Mills College, and did she have any success in developing

promising pupils? There are also some minor factual errors in the book regarding fencing and the history of the sport that led me to believe the author is a biographer but not a fencer.

Still, Mayer's story seems particularly relevant in today's competitive environment of even more athletic specialization and the promise of greater material rewards. What would the response be today if a world-class fencer with a legitimate chance for an Olympic medal was faced with a similar situation and had to decide whether or not to personally boycott the Olympic Games? Can you imagine the intense pressures weighing upon that individual? If Mayer were alive today, what advice would she offer about such a decision and how it might affect the rest of one's life?

I thoroughly enjoyed *Foiled—Hitler's Jewish Olympian* and found it

to be a highly readable and thought-provoking book. Mogulof has done an exceptional job in seeking out the answers to the puzzling questions and paradoxes that have clouded the legacy of Helene Mayer. I highly recommend it as a biography, as a contribution to the history of modern fencing, and as a case study on the influence of social and political issues in sport. It offers an intriguing look at a world-class athlete who is suddenly faced with life-changing decisions, the consequences of which are played out in the world arena. This book belongs in your fencing library if for no other reason than as a reminder that our sport can be about much more than just victory or defeat with a sword.

Bob Block, aka The Grayblade, fences, coaches fencing, and writes about fencing out of his home near Denver, Colo.

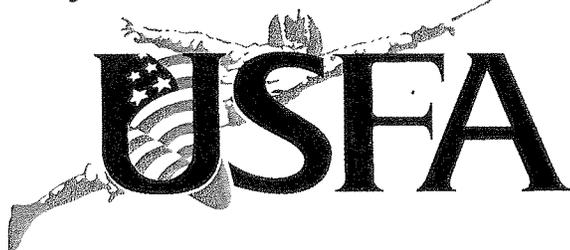
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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, BUT DON'T ABUSE THEM

by Jeff Bukantz

At the Summer Nationals last July in Greenville, the impossible happened. During a DE bout in saber, with the score 14-13, one fencer asked the referee for permission to tie his shoelaces. The referee, cognizant of the score, the likelihood this was a textbook stall tactic, and the fact that the fencer's shoelace was not untied, correctly refused the request.

The fencer protested, claiming that his shoe was loose, and he needed to tighten the laces. The referee again refused, told the fencer to immediately come "en garde," and recommenced the bout. On the very next action, the fencer retreated, and then in an attempt to change direction, tore his Achilles tendon.

Within minutes of this unthinkable disaster occurring, the blame game began. The fencer's coach approached me to ask what I thought of the referee's decision. I must commend this coach, who, while distraught over the incomprehensible bad luck of his student, dealt with me in a dignified and calm manner.

Well, despite the usual knee-jerk penchant to resort to hindsight and Monday-morning quarterbacking, let's not only look at the referee's decision, but how we can decrease the already astronomical odds of this happening in the future.

First of all, the referee acted appro-

priately. Under the circumstances, which included the timing of the request and the fact that the shoelace in question was tied, it was perfectly reasonable for the referee to determine that the fencer was attempting a well-timed stall. Even the fencer's father, who handled this tragedy with amazing reserve and dealt with me fairly and honorably, admitted to me that it was understandable for the referee to reach that conclusion.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime incident, and as it turned out, the fencer was not stalling. But, stalling is part of the game, and many fencers feature this tactic as part of their repertoire. I cannot tell you how many times I have received the same shoe-tying request late in a bout. On a regular basis, female fencers, despite their hair being perfectly tied up, request at critical moments to "fix their hair." They then proceed to get a minute rest by taking off their mask, untying the already tied hair, and then deliberately primping it for the elaborate retying. And, yes, I, as well as most referees, have fallen prey to this tactic.

Fencers in search of a breather will often ask the referee if they can wipe their sweaty faces off with a towel. Referees who know better will simply tell the fencer to use the crook of their arm to dry off, and hence prevent the stall.

Another common stall is the request to straighten or bend the blade. There's the ever-popular request to pull up the socks that should have been properly secured in the first place. Sometimes after a touch, a fencer will take off the mask, slowly walk back to the end of the strip, slowly walk back to the en garde line, and then take forever to put the mask back on before being ready to fence. Alert referees can allow that once in a while, but not on a systematic basis.

Stalls are not limited to the textbook variety. I've known fencers who could step on their shoelace in order to render it untied. Once, I actually changed one of my fencing sneakers at 0-4, and came back to win 5-4. (Sorry about that, Ben Atkins!) Regardless if it was because I couldn't see or needed a rest, I once asked the referee to wipe off my fogged-up sports glasses. (Sorry about that, Charlie Washburn!)

The bottom line is that the referee must make snap-judgments on these requests, many of which are made specifically to stall (and hence, dishonestly), in order to keep a level playing field. Therefore, it is perfectly normal for referees to view these requests with a jaundiced eye, and to deny them unless there is an obvious and valid reason, such as an untied

YOU MAKE THE CALL

For some reason, there are always certain applications of the rules that seem to befuddle fencers, coaches, and yes, even referees. Let's test your own acumen with the following teasers. Anyone who gets all correct answers will have their name posted on the FOC web page. The answers will be posted after February 15 on the FOC web page, which can be linked through the USFA web site—www.usfencing.org.

1. *With the score tied at 4-4 in the pools, and Fencer A has a yellow card for a non-conforming weapon, Fencer A attacks Fencer B and scores. During the action, Fencer A covers target with the unarmed hand.*

What is the score of the bout, after this action?

2. *In a direct elimination bout, Fencer A, who has a yellow card for corps-a-corps, comes on guard with a curve in her saber of 5 cm.*

What does the referee do?

3. *In a direct elimination bout, with the score tied at 14-14, and no cards having been issued, Fencer A launches an attack that scores. During the action, but after the touch has been registered, Fencer A loses her balance and falls.*

What is the call?

Email your answers by February 15 to: rules@usfa.org. If you get all the answers right, your name will appear on the web site after February 15.

Good luck!

shoelace or a mane of hair that has come unglued.

It was suggested to me that we could solve the "allegedly loose shoelace" problem very easily by allowing any fencer, at any time, to tie their shoelace. While that would protect the referee or the USFA from being blamed if there ever is a next time (in the next hundred years!) when a fencer tears an Achilles on the next phrase after a denied request, it is clearly not the solution. Adopting such a lenient attitude would turn competitions into stallfests, while at the same time rendering the referees' judgment as irrelevant. We most definitely do not want to make bad rules after every fluke incident.

So, instead of making bad rules or hanging referees out to dry *ex post facto*, let's conquer this problem in a

logical manner. Fencers need to know their rights. In the case of the torn Achilles, where the fencer was not stalling, and the referee was acting appropriately, what could the fencer do?

Can the fencer call for a Bout Committee? No; while a potential misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules can be questioned, a referee's judgment call cannot.

The fencer may request that the referee check the laces, and if necessary, request that the trainer on duty ascertain if the fencer's equipment is creating a safety hazard. If it is determined that the laces were loose, the fencer gets to tighten them. No harm, no foul. However, if it is determined by the referee and/or the trainer to be an unjustified appeal, the fencer won the battle by getting the breather but lost

the war, as he will have "earned" a much-deserved penalty card.

Of course, a fencer who develops a reputation for improperly utilizing stall tactics will run the risk of losing all credibility with the referees. And, this could lead to a "cry wolf" scenario, where referees would never know when this fencer was actually telling the truth.

Know the rules. Know your rights. Use them to your full advantage. Abuse them, and the ill-gotten 30-second respite may result in a lifetime of mistrust by the referees.

Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC and its Rules Subcommittee, and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission. Email your comments to Jeff at bukieboy@aol.com.

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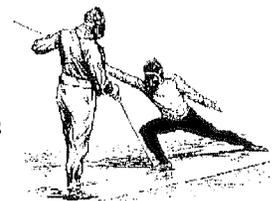


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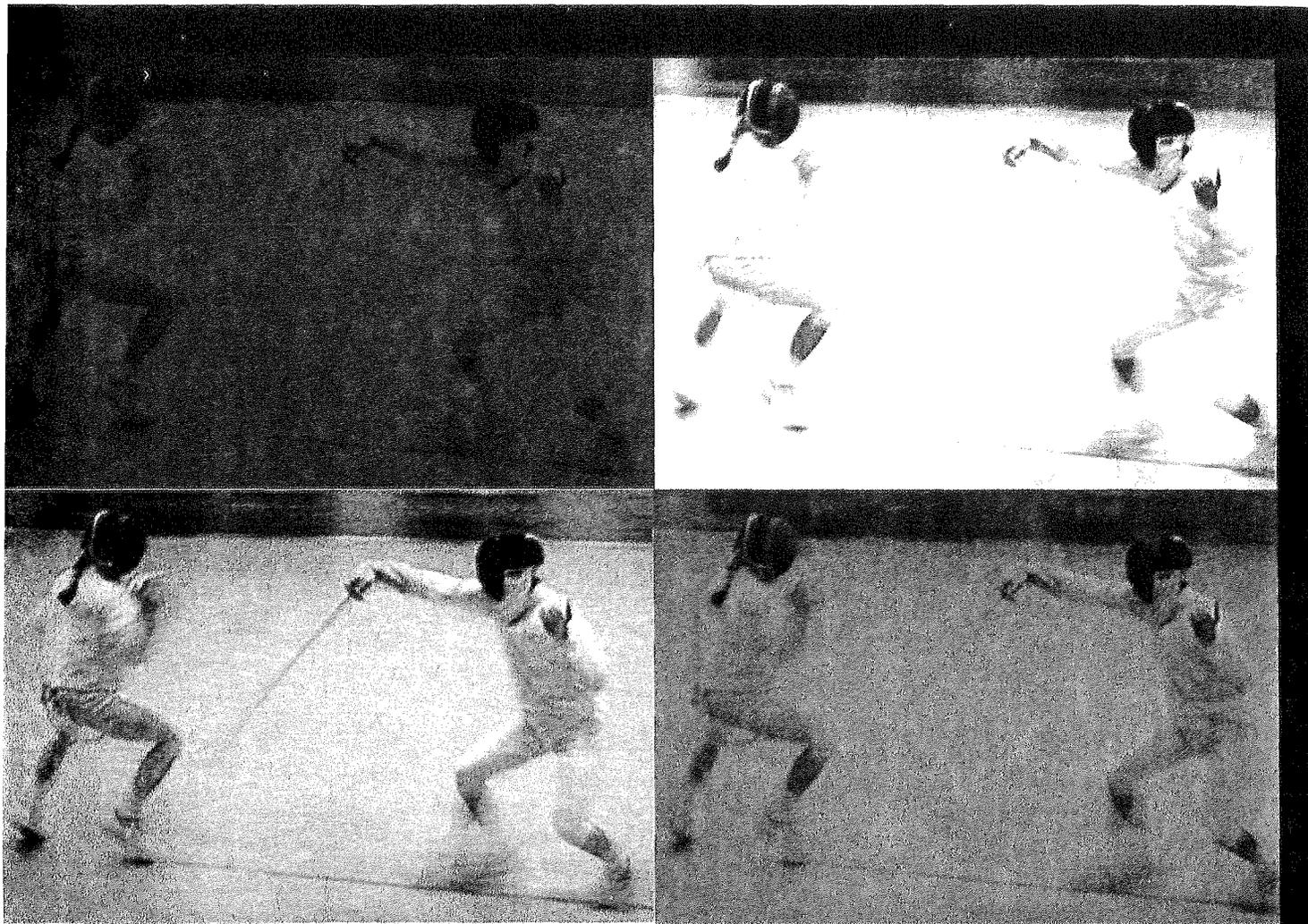
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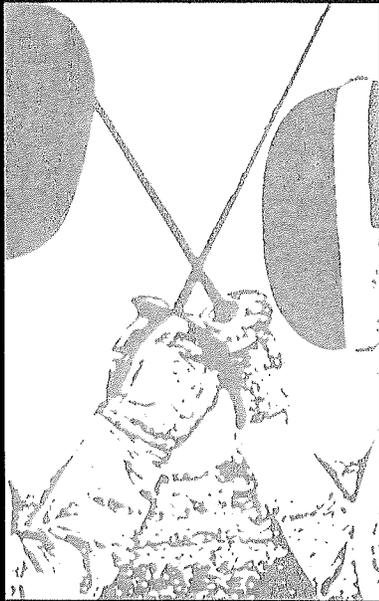
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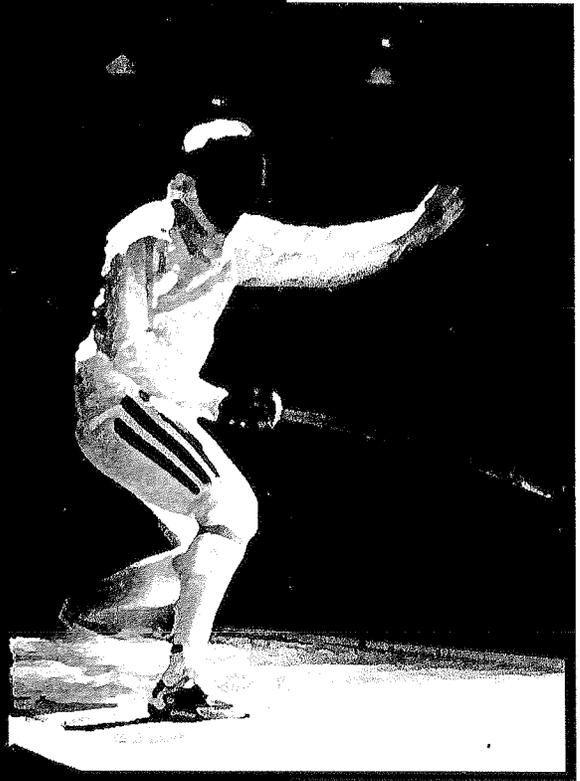
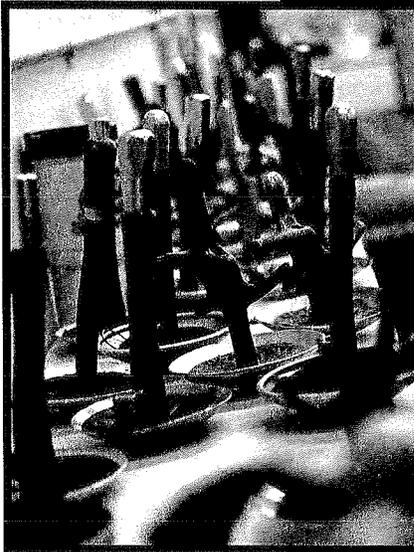
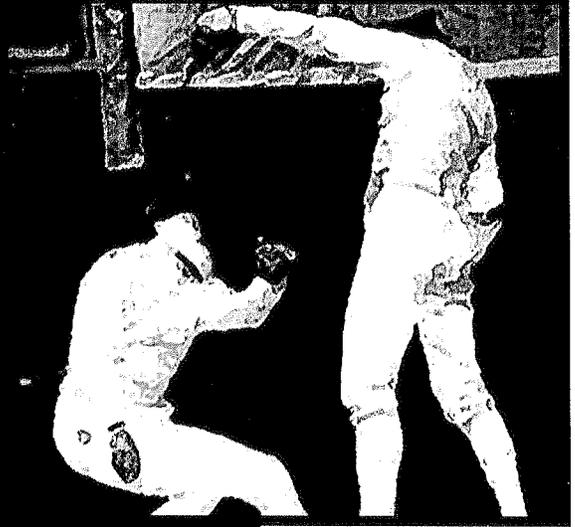
The advent in recent years of digital photography and photo editing software programs has expanded the art of sport. On these pages, three intrepid photographers—Carl Borack, Sam Lillard, and Serge Timacheff—share their visions of drama and beauty in fencing—by narrowing in on a subject, such as a mask, and adding special filters in Photoshop.

Above image by Sam Lillard.

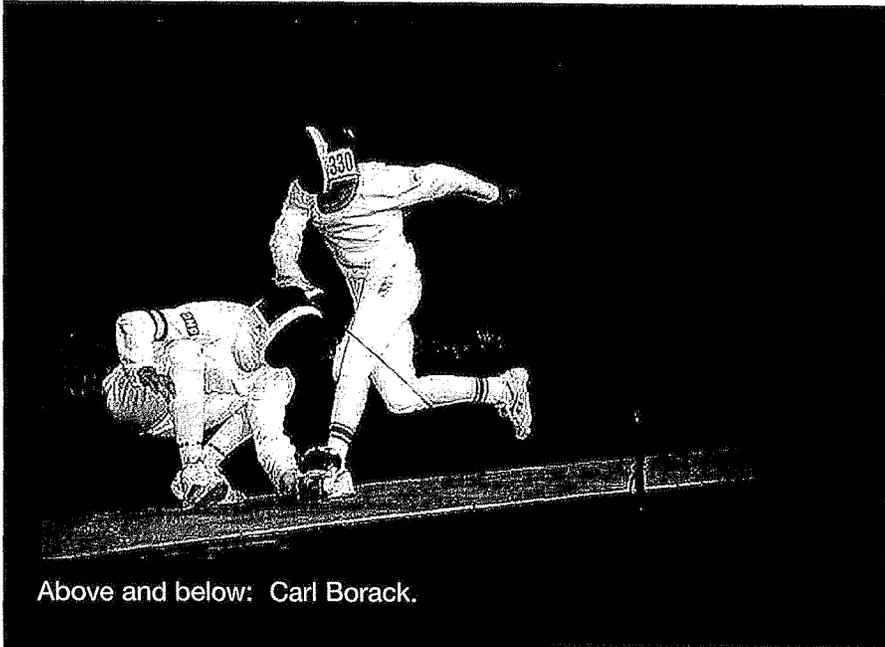


Above and below: Serge Timacheff.

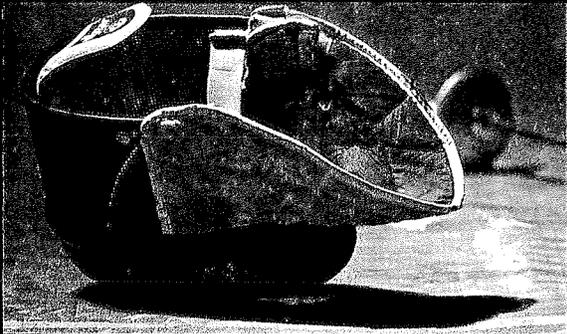
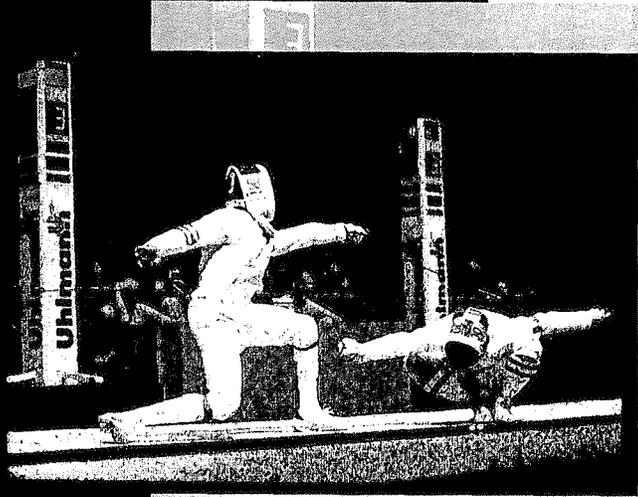
Below: Carl Borack.



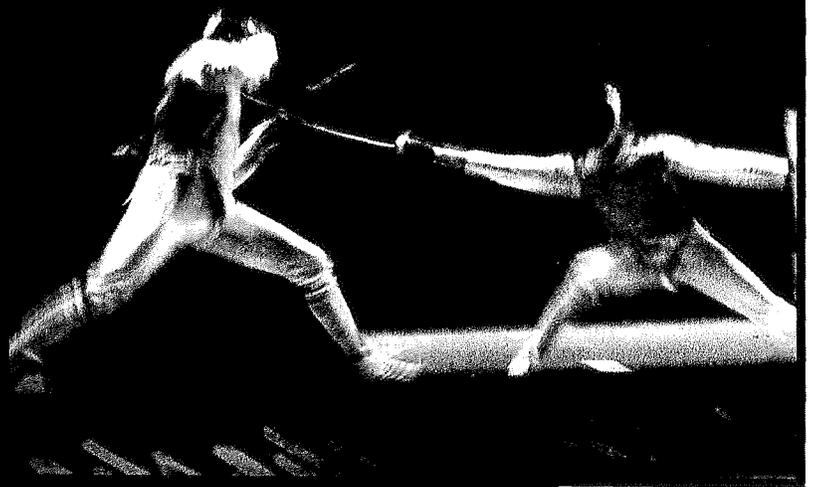
Serge Timacheff.



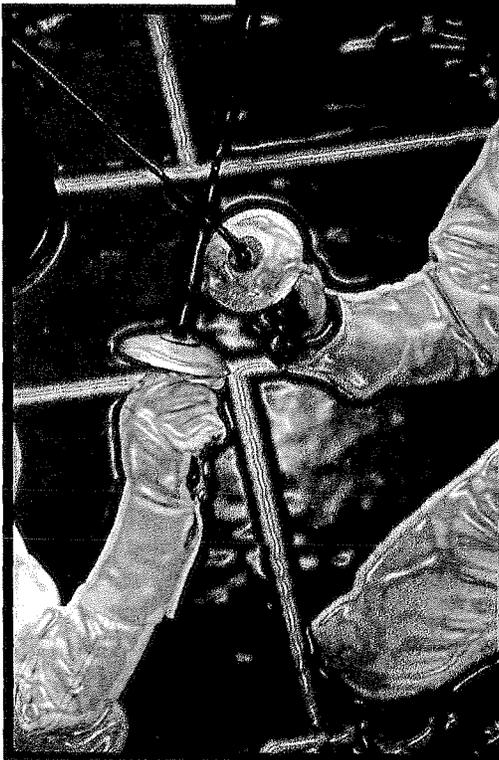
Above and below: Carl Borack.



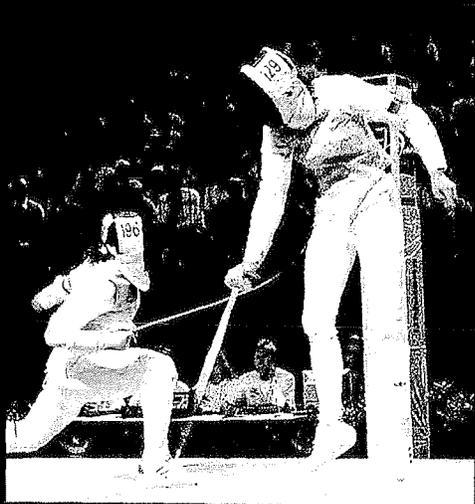
Serge Timacheff.



Above and below: Carl Borack.



Serge Timacheff.



HOSTING YOUR FIRST TOURNAMENT:

Advice from a Grassroots Swashbuckler

By Nathaniel M. Cerf

I still have nightmares about it sometimes. I wake up screaming and dripping in sweat; I soothe myself by saying, "It's OK. That tournament was years ago. It'll never happen again."

That tournament was the very first event I ever organized myself. It was supposed to be a fun, little foil event between the University of Montana (UM) Grizzlies and the Montana State University Bobcats. But if something could go wrong, it did. Both clubs were in their infancy and neither had any electronic scoring equipment. No one knew how to lay down strips. Most of the fencers were at their first tournament and couldn't follow the action well enough to accurately help directors officiate—not that it mattered, since only three of us knew how to officiate well. Essentially, chaos

reigned supreme. Things got so bad that at one point a 13-year-old spectator stole a suit of our gear and "joined" our team, got his butt kicked in our name, registered his losses on our scoreboard, and left before I could find out and throttle him.

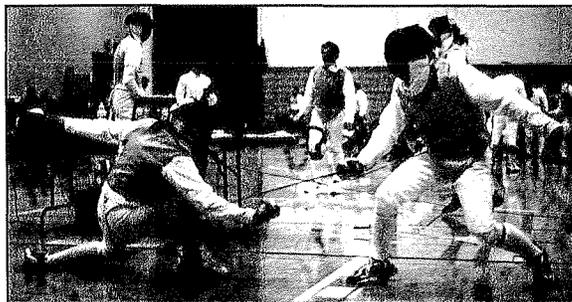
Nearly a decade later, I have hosted, helped out with, and survived scores of tournaments in the Inland Empire's grassroots competition circuit. So, for all of you club leaders who are considering hosting your first or first *smooth-operating* tournament, take a deep breath, relax and maybe some of this advice will help you and your club.

GETTING ORGANIZED

Starting early is the key to hosting an efficient tournament that has a good turnout and a sufficient amount of the necessary gear. Several months before your club plans to hold an event, check with the other participating teams and select a date that works best for you and them. Once you have agreed on a date, secure the venue—in writing—as soon as possible.

If your team is short on scoring boxes and reels, ask the other teams to bring some of their equipment. Frequently, this is no big deal since many of these clubs may also lack scoring machines and reels and will eventually ask the same favor of you. Just remember not to over-charge your competitors with tourna-

Matt Clausen, left, goes in low for the kill at last April's Tournament of the Iron Fencer in Missoula, Mont.



ment fees since you are using their gear.

Simultaneously, contact any local referees or fencers who direct well and invite them to attend, ensuring that the directing is fair and consistent.

Once the tournament date is established, order your medals, trophies or other such prizes immediately. USFA ratings are great, but most people want something else to show for their victories. Additionally, by ordering early you can make certain that the prizes are properly engraved. In the mid-1990s, UM's saber fencers were notorious for imbibing after a big tournament. Yet, one year we were almost stuck with first-, second- and third-place "Sober" medals—a veritable insult to any of our victorious sabrists. Fortunately, I caught the error in time to avoid mutiny. My favorite out-of-state trophy reads, "1st Place Man's Foil." That's something worth bragging about, if you ask me.

Finally, just because you've set a competition date, it doesn't mean that everyone will remember. Have the date posted on your division's web site. As soon as the date is set, e-mail and real-mail every fencer and club you know who might want to attend. This will help avoid double-scheduling and reminds people to keep that date open for your event. Hit them with a second wave of mailings about two weeks before the tournament. Fencers frequently have the memory of a fruit fly. I'm as bad as the rest of the fruit flies and lose fencing dates in the juggling of all the other dates I schedule. No one will be offended, and I'm sure you'll have a bigger turnout.

CHECKING THE GEAR

Sometime before the big day, make certain that all of the club's gear is working properly. Yeah, it's always a pain in the keister to test, fix and clean the gear, but it is well worth the headaches you'll save on the day of the tournament. Besides, I've found that going through all of the gear can be fun if you get the whole club involved.

We routinely throw gear-cleaning parties at UM. One coach and his wife donate their large living room for a night; we teach each other how to make repairs, stretch out wet jackets, tell tales of past glory, eat junk food, and watch a good sword-fighting movie, which we have playing in the background. The onerous task is usually completed much more quickly, and most people have a pretty good time.



Left: A pack of Griz fencers invade the den of a teammate to repair jackets and trade barbs—all without thimbles.

Below: Cerf, seated, reviews the seeding.



SETTING UP

On the night before the tournament, go to the venue—if you are allowed—and, with your team, lay down strips and set up all of the tables and chairs. This will save you a ton of time the next morning. Just remember not to set up the electric gear unless you can lock the doors after you've left.

Get to the venue early on the morning of the event and finish setting up. Ask your teammates to help other clubs set up their gear.

RUNNING THE SHOW

Leave registration up to yourself or one or two others who you know are reliable and efficient. Insist on registering people as soon as they enter the gym. Each competitor should

fill out a three-by-five note card with their name, fencing club, ratings, and the events they are competing in. This will make creating the initial pools go much more quickly. If one of your fencers is high-tech savvy and owns a laptop computer, inexpensive fencing software is available over the Internet that will create pools and seed results at the press of a button. All you have to do is enter the data. (This software is available at www.pointcontrol.com and www.fencing-time.com; the USFA offers a program called Xseed on its web site, www.usfencing.org, under the "Info for Members" menu.)

Another way to minimize the chaos is to ask a friend of the fencing team (usually a spouse or parent) to volunteer as the central headquarters for scoring results. By having them create the pools, tabulate the results, and organize the direct-elimination rounds, the tournament will flow 10 times more smoothly while you are actually competing. Check in with them often to help out. Since this can be a slightly nerve-wracking job, make sure to protect this person from being pestered by everyone wanting to know the latest scores and stats. You will owe this person a huge dinner or some other fine gift, especially if you want help in the future.

For more advice on hosting your first tournament, talk to others in your division who have experience. They will be able to give you tips specific to your region. Good luck!

Nathaniel Cerf is captain and coach of the University of Montana fencing club.

Editor's Note:

Based on the number of letters we've received over the past year regarding fencing's future and the debate over its "TV-friendliness," it seemed appropriate to begin a wider dialogue on the topic in these pages. While the following essay contains some viewpoints not necessarily shared by all fencing organizers and athletes, there is little debate that the sport needs to increase its visibility if it is to thrive in the United States. We felt it was important to bring the issue to the foreground—to encourage debate, generate new ideas, and perhaps even pave a path for the future.

SPORT OR SPECTACLE?

FENCING ON TELEVISION PART TWO

BY JOSEPH S. STREB

The IOC is breathing down the neck of the FIE to make the sport of fencing more spectator-friendly. The FIE feels the heat and sees a slice of the television money pie that could come with greater popularity. Is there a way to change the sport to make it more "TV-friendly," or will TV turn the sport of fencing into mere spectacle?

In Part One of this essay ["Crouching Tiger or Hidden Dragon?," Fall 2002], the uncertain status of the Olympic format for fencing and the relative obscurity of the sport were described against the backdrop of a modern sports culture that favors televised sports capable of attracting advertisers. This inclination to favor sports that appeal to advertisers has not gone unnoticed by the FIE or USFA. While world cup and Olympic fencing is broadcast in European countries, coverage in the United States is virtually nonexistent. What needs to be done to convince American networks to televise fencing? First and foremost, the audio-visual product must be adapted to appeal to the sporting demographic so popular among this country's advertisers—the young male sports fans with disposable income.

Is there an audio-visual fencing product currently known that can serve as a model for future productions or for rule changes? There are two: sport and spectacle. We can learn from existing video recording of fencing competitions overseas. And we can also learn from movie sword-fighting's undeniable mass appeal and economic potency.

"People love fencing in the movies because of its open and obvious drama," said Dr. Clayton Lowe, former chair of the Ohio State University's department of cinematography. Big-time movie productions—from *Crossed Swords* to *Zorro* to *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* to *Die Another Day*—have proven over and over again that the masses like and understand sword fighting.

In order to achieve movie sword-fighting's appeal in competitive fencing, it is important to understand what drives that

appeal. The essential dramatic elements of Hollywood sword-fighting revolve around and reflect conflict:

- A good person fights a bad person with a sword that serves as an extension of character;
- the good person and bad person are identifiable to the audience—by their clothing and through stories told about them;
- both persons are excellent at manipulating swords;
- both dash about the movie set without confinement;
- after a series of continuous attacks and parries, one person (usually the bad one) is stabbed or slashed;
- the stabbing or slashing is made clearly and convincingly known to the audience by color (blood) and sound (screaming) and bodily reaction (doubling over, falling down, etc.); and,
- the stabbing or slashing resolves a conflict between the sword fighters, at least temporarily.

"There is no reason fencing could not be dressed up and made more dramatic. It has a dramatic structure now, but a sterile environment," said Lowe.

Some dramatic elements of movie sword-fighting could easily be adapted to any TV production about fencing. Some would require technical advances, some would require rule changes. Even taking the following conservative steps would improve fencing's TV viability:

- **Pre-bout interviews.** The fencers' conflict should be personalized through pre-bout interviews regarding the history of conflict between the competitors and their clubs.
- **Glamour.** Fencers and their equipment—especially their weapons—should be presented as expressions of style. Just as basketball stars have signature shoes, so should star fencers have signature foils.

- **Distinctive uniforms.** The good versus bad drama is heightened by uniforms and insignia designating rank and club affiliation to take advantage of existing rivalries and the tendency of people to root for the underdog, the lower-rated fencer.
- **Expert tactics.** Nobody pays to see the inept. “People might be interested in seeing the best fencers in the country but not the best in the city,” said Bob Yalen, programming manager at ESPN. “We need an overwhelming reason to try something new.”
- **Movement.** Wires should be eliminated to allow for more action. Such a change would also accentuate fencers’ athleticism; wires make fencers look like robots and puppets.
- **Expression of emotion.** Fencers must be free to talk, yell, and gesticulate within reason.
- **Clear scoring.** Scoring resolves the essential conflict between the antagonist and protagonist, and it should be immediately clear and apparent. In the recent James Bond movie, *Die Another Day*, in which both sport fencing and typical movie sword-fighting are presented for a mass audience, it is absolutely clear who gets the touch. There are no double lights.

Is there a limit to adding dramatic elements to the sport of fencing for the sake of television and increased popularity? Absolutely. Should fencing cease to be sport and become mere spectacle, the goal of making fencing more popular in order to secure its place in the Olympics and to generate revenue for development would ultimately fail. Spectacle is fake, choreographed, preordained. It makes a mockery of human effort, will and spirit, and there is nothing that spectacle will not do to pander to the lowest common denominator of understanding. For purposes of sport, fencing without intellect is just flailing about with sticks. The best result—and the one advocated here—is to emphasize those aspects of the existing sport of fencing that already lend themselves to dramatic portrayal, while at the same time continuing the grassroots efforts to educate young people regarding discipline, which is a large part of the sport of fencing.

We can take lessons from coverage of other sports, as well as examples of broadcast-quality fencing footage, to strengthen the technical aspects of taping fencing competitions:

- **Controlled visual environment.** The fencing strip must be located between the audience and a dark background. This allows for ambient audience noise and reaction shots. It also presents a clean visual background upon which fencers’ moves are visible.
- **Special lighting.** Fencers must be illuminated from the rear (backlighting) as well as the front in order for blade action to be seen on video tape or film.
- **Clear displays.** The score of the bout must always be clearly visible to the live audience and the TV audience.
- **Intelligent commentary.** Knowledgeable com-

- mentary on fencing actions and scoring is indispensable.
- **Instant-replay.** Fencing action is too fast for all but the trained eye. It must be slowed down to be clearly seen and analyzed. “Fencing is definitely an instant-replay type of sport,” said Borack.
- **Multiple camera angles.** Movement of the picture is as important as movement of the picture’s subject. Modern television production techniques require at least three cameras.
- **Post-production editing.** Camera shots taken from different positions must be edited after the event to ensure a visually pleasing presentation. Additional commentary may also be added.

Most television programming is created by private production companies—not broadcast or cable networks. It takes big bucks to produce programs for television. For example the Fox Network program *Son of the Beach* costs between \$600,000 and \$650,000 per episode. Unless the program is sure to bring in advertising revenue for the network, you’ll have to pay for airtime, too. “For a few thousand dollars, Fox Sports will regionally cablecast technically sufficient sports programming, and Fox will even do it for free once the popularity of the programming is established,” said Kent Walsh, a local programmer for Fox Sports Net.

For organizations with small budgets, such as the USFA, the cost of producing high-quality fencing programming for television is often prohibitively large. In addition, since there is no established audience for fencing programs, the USFA might have to pay to have a program cablecast.

In some parts of the country, however, it is possible to produce television programming of high enough quality for cablecasting without spending vast amounts of money. According to Walsh, regional cablecasting usually involves a multi-state area in a particular region of the country, such as the Midwest or Southeast. Dewey Martin of Production Partners, a Columbus, Ohio, video production company, said that a production truck could roll up to a fencing event with several crew members to produce a cable-ready 30-60 minute production for \$3,000- \$5,000. A program that includes feature stories—for example, a history of the sport, coach and fencer interviews, referee rules explanations—as well as coverage of the actual competition would be \$8,000 to \$10,000. “It’s like buying a car,” said Martin. “How much do you want to spend?”

How much do we want to spend? That is the question.

Copyright 2002, Joseph S. Streb. Joseph S. Streb is an alumnus of the Ohio State University (OSU) department of photography and cinematography and former adjunct professor of art and entertainment law at OSU. He currently practices law in Columbus, Ohio. He is a member of the 2002 veteran’s world championship foil team and an alternate in saber. He placed 6th in foil at the 2002 veteran’s world championships in Tampa, Fla., last August.

REGIONALIZATION *and the* FUTURE of U.S. FENCING

By Eric Rosenberg

In an effort to limit the growth of the Summer Games, while at the

same time expanding to include more “commercial” sports, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is threatening to place traditional but less popular events—such as modern pentathlon—on the chopping block. Can fencing be far behind?

The current state of fencing, particularly in the United States, suggests this is certainly a possibility. Even though the USFA has experienced significant growth in the last decade, our participation levels dwarf many time-honored and emergent sports—from golf to triathlon to ballroom dancing—that are pressing for Olympic inclusion. [Because the IOC is unwilling to add medals or increase the number of competitors in fencing, the recent addition of women’s saber in the 2004 Games forced the FIE to mothball two team events. Earnest movements toward gender equity in other smaller Olympic sports (such as wrestling) have resulted in similar actions.]

Fencing is menaced by a double-edged sword. First, it is not considered “viewer-friendly” by the media. Second, it lacks a large participant base. These elements are crucial to ensure a future in the ever-expanding universe of sports, with each vying for the next generation of fans and practitioners. As an additional consequence of these limitations, fencing has little commercial value to the IOC, which is focused primarily on “bottom line” profitability. The USFA’s handling of these issues could well determine whether our sport will face increasing marginalization.

Absent the advice of some MTV-generation media consultants, it is more realistic for the USFA to focus on how to increase our participant base. This expansion must occur on a

grassroots level—but the basic architecture and blueprint should be planned and implemented by way of national guidelines.

For me, the content of these guidelines began to coalesce after I started working with youth fencers. Standard training pedagogy calls for a developing athlete to get approximately 100 competition bouts per season. Even in the New York metropolitan area, with one of the largest fencing populations in the United States, achieving this standard has been problematic. First, the larger local competitions—like opens or other non age-restricted events—are unsuitable for small children. (Under-13 fencers are prohibited from competing in open NACs for the same reasons.) Age-group events in neighboring divisions often had limited entries, netting few meaningful bouts. Second, when the USFA created the North American Cup (NAC) system, it became the focus of nearly all competition for the national fencing community. NACs, originally developed as an equitable means of selecting senior national teams, rapidly expanded to include all age and classification categories. Larger local events began to decline when NACs were indiscriminately used as training vehicles by anyone with enough money to enter and show up—regardless of their competitive level. NACs became organizational boondoggles with bloated entries (necessitating formats that limit the number of competitive bouts per fencer) in remote venues that required significant sacrifices of time and money for athletes and their families.

I felt it was financially and experientially imprudent to send beginners to NACs. They needed those 100 training bouts—to build competitive experience, and establish some objective performance benchmarks relative to their peer group—before

they advanced to the national scene. After speaking to coaches and club administrators in other northeastern cities, the solution was evident. First, we delineated some rough geographic boundaries (based on driving distance and time) that defined our region. Then we agreed upon dates for a series of three large competitions, each run by local event organizers with proven track records. These events would be jointly promoted through mass mailings and direct contact with major clubs in the region. The principal organizers would keep all revenues generated from the competition. Space and time permitting, we would adopt formats that maximized the number of competitive bouts for each fencer so everyone could get the experience they needed.

It was an unqualified success. The number of young competitors (from clubs all over the region) showing up was greater than any of us had hoped. Parents and coaches were grateful that in hosting these large competitions, we minimized both travel time and expense. Organizers profited; kids got bouts and had fun; everyone went home happy. The “regional circuit” was born.

By the time most of my fencers were successfully competing at the Junior Olympics and NACs, I began to recognize an archetypical tale. I would be introduced to a distraught parent from “Anywhere, U.S.A.” who had just spent over \$1,000 to watch their disconsolate child get knocked out after only one round of pools and a single direct elimination bout. At nearly \$25 per touch, this clearly was not a cost-effective experience. The song always had the same refrain: *But my child placed second in the qualifier...well, there were only four entries, but there are no other competitions in our area. But we didn't know it would be this hard; what else were we supposed to do?* With more than 60 percent of the entry for national junior, cadet and youth events eliminated after fencing a very limited number of bouts, there had to be a practical alternative for these up-and-coming athletes.

I began examining the competitive structure used by various successful European fencing powers. Each country—from those with larger geographical land masses like Russia, to smaller ones like Hungary—without exception had some form of local-to-regional-to-national qualification format. The wheel had already been invented.

Armed with all this evidence and positive feedback, I engaged in some inductive reasoning: If the regional paradigm works for us, why not for the rest of the United States? I outlined a four-year plan for the regionalization of U.S. competition. It began with the development of countrywide regional events for youth-category fencers. We would bring the tournaments to the fencers rather than the other way around, making large, well-run competitions far more accessible to the grassroots. After a “ramp-up” period, competition results would be

analyzed and then used as the basis for developing a qualification path to the downsized NACs. Fencers would be promoted to the national level after rising to the top in their region. Organizers, who would receive 100 percent of the net profits from these events, would be financially (as well as spiritually) rewarded for doing a good job.

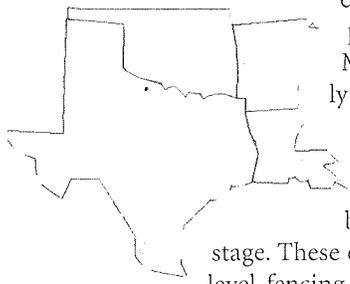
Developing these tournaments would necessitate building a regional infrastructure—basically, a group of competent “do-ers” capable of providing adequate venues, proper scoring equipment, and a good referee crew—without being helped (or encumbered) by external micro-managers. Eventually this same approach would be applied to cadet, junior and open events. And there were more benefits to be had from what would be known as “Regional Youth Circuit” (RYC) events:

- The size and expense of NACs would be reduced, allowing the best fencers to get more experience against their peers.
- RYCs do not add any expense to the USFA budget.
- RYCs provide the FOC a training and testing ground for referees.
- Revenues from RYCs help subsidize the clubs or emerging regions that organize and run them.
- RYCs reduce travel and related expenses for administrators and officials as well as fencers.
- RYCs increase the sport's exposure, visibility and talent pool.
- Decentralized regional organizations would be more responsive to the particular needs of their own fencing communities.

When I submitted this plan for USFA approval over 10 years ago, it was summarily rejected. The primary reason: several geographically isolated clubs claimed they would suffer and decline because regionalization would supplant the YNACs and favor sections with greater fencing population density. Suddenly, I was engaged in the fencing equivalent of the Civil War. All the positive virtues of regionalization were being ignored, and even when new USFA administrations expressed some furtive interest, they lacked the political will to establish and implement national policy. I began to think I was fighting a lost cause.

Then a curious thing happened. In Texas, California, and Illinois, regional events were organized. The same impetus that inspired my northern colleagues had caused a spontaneous flowering of regionalization elsewhere. Stacey Johnson was elected USFA president, and I knew that she supported the concept. A Regional Youth Committee was impanelled (ably chaired by Wendell Kubik of Texas) and the RYC was in business. The Fencers Club jumped on the bandwagon, volunteer-

ing to host the first Northeast RYC in New York City in the fall of 2001. Then 9/11 happened. But not even Osama Bin Laden



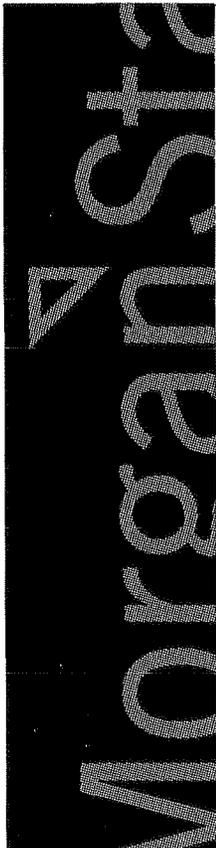
could prevent hordes of intrepid young fencers—from Maine to North Carolina, nearly 300 strong—from coming to our event, less than a month and a half later.

Regionalization has begun, but it is still in a nascent stage. These events are building grassroots-level fencing by creating more opportunities and stimulating the development of an infrastructure needed for better competitions. Decentralizing to the local

and regional level is critical to increasing the number of fencers in the United States. Coupled with the ongoing commitment of the current and subsequent USFA administrations, regional organizers must be empowered to make this happen.

On behalf of the RYC committee, I invite every parent, coach and club administrator to read and evaluate the specifics of our plan (available on the USFA website—www.usfencing.org), and become part of this process. With the collective efforts of those us working in the trenches, we can and will see the stature of fencing enhanced in the wide world of sports.

Eric Rosenberg is the president of the Fencers Club, spearheading its youth development program for over 25 years. He also works closely with the Peter Westbrook Foundation.



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TOURNAMENT highlights

METRO NY DIVISION/THE FALL BIG APPLE OPEN | New York, NY, September 14 - 15

MEN'S FOIL (59 ENTRIES)

- 1 FISHER Joe
- 2 HOHENSEE Douglas
- 3T GONZALEZ John
- 3T PIMOUTKINE Roustam
- 5 KENNARD Henry
- 6 HAMILTON Ian
- 7 YAKIMENKO Andrei
- 8 MEEHAN Justin

WOMENS FOIL (32 ENTRIES)

- 1 LUITJEN Cassidy
- 2 FINKEL Kelsey
- 3T FLORENDO Jessica
- 3T GONZALEZ Larrisa
- 5 PENSLER Arielle
- 6 GRETA Daniels
- 7 LEE Eugenia
- 8 PILLSBERRY Dana

MENS ÉPÉE (53 ENTRIES)

- 1 HORVATH Arpad
- 2 FELDSCHUH Michael
- 3T DEJEAN Hector
- 3T VERIGAN William
- 5T BLAKE Adam
- 5T TOZZO Alex
- 7 HENDERSON Jason
- 8 LAIGHT Simon

WOMENS ÉPÉE (25 ENTRIES)

- 1 LAWRENCE Maya
- 2 CAMPBELL Lindsay
- 3T JOHNSON Raven
- 3T TOLLEY Toby
- 5 CONLEY Monica
- 6 LENDVAI Dora
- 7 BUECHEL Holly
- 8 ZUCKER Katherine

MENS SABER (35 ENTRIES)

- 1 IGOE Benjamin
- 2 ZICH Matthew
- 3T MARCEL Jonathan
- 3T EFSTATHIOU Evangelos
- 5 REYFMAN Paul
- 6 BAKER Bradley
- 7 DIGUILIO Scott
- 8 FLANDERS Christian

WOMENS SABER (19 ENTRIES)

- 1 SHERRY Katelyn
- 2 SCHNEIDER Dania
- 3T MILLER Joy
- 3T MUHAMMAD Ibtihaj
- 5 TINTER Heidi
- 6 PADULA Veronica
- 7 VLOKA Caroline
- 8 WEINBAUM Michelle

JUNIOR WORLD CUP | Louisville, KY, September 20 -22



JUNIOR WORLD CUP. Photo: John Kofodimos.

JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(56 Competitors)

1. SOLOMON, Benjamin (U.S.)
2. FRENCH, Timothy (U.S.)
- 3.T ADJEMIAN, Aaron E. (U.S.)
- 3.T SEGUIN, Jean-Pierre (CANADA)
5. RANES, Jackson M (U.S.)
6. CHINMAN, Nicholas S (U.S.)
7. DOUVILLE-PARENT, Romain (CANADA)
8. BAJGORIS, Tigran (CANADA)

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

(61 Competitors)

1. MCGUIRE, Joshua (CANADA)
2. SINKIN, Gabriel (U.S.)
- 3.T HORANYI, Andras M (U.S.)
- 3.T KIRK-GORDON, Dimitri (U.S.)
5. ANDERSON, Meade (U.S.)
6. WOODHOUSE, Enoch (U.S.)
7. SIGOUIN, Jean Francois (CANADA)
8. BROOKS, Ronald B (U.S.)

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

(57 Competitors)

1. GHATTAS, Patrick (U.S.)
2. HAGAMEN, Timothy (U.S.)
- 3.T CLEMENT, Luther (U.S.)
- 3.T ROGERS, Jason (U.S.)
5. WILLIAMS, James (U.S.)
6. JAKUS, David (U.S.)
7. IGOE, Benjamin D (U.S.)
8. THANHOUSER, William (U.S.)

TOURNAMENT highlights



JUNIOR WORLD CUP. Women's saber competition. Photos: John Kofodimos.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(53 Competitors)

1. JAMES, Kamara (U.S.)
2. INMAN, Irena (U.S.)
- 3.T BYERTS, Keri (U.S.)
- 3.T NAVARRIA, Mara (ITALY)
5. KONCZALSKA, Justyna (AUSTRIA)
6. MCGARRY, Erin Laine (U.S.)
7. HOHENSEE, Kira (U.S.)
8. ORLANDO, Amy (U.S.)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

(47 Competitors)

1. MERKL, Larissa (GERMANY)
2. CROSS, Emily (U.S.)
- 3.T FOLDI, Julia (HUNGARY)
- 3.T THOMPSON, Hannah (U.S.)
5. VAN GIJLSWIJK, Laura (NETHERLANDS)
6. LEAHY, Jacqueline (U.S.)
7. CAPLETTE, Audrey (CANADA)
8. AUSTIN, Anne E (U.S.)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

(43 Competitors)

1. JACOBSON, Sada (U.S.)
2. PROVIDENZA, Valerie (U.S.)
- 3.T GRENCH, Eileen M (U.S.)
- 3.T ZAGUNIS, Mariel (U.S.)
5. JACOBSON, Emily (U.S.)
6. GAILLARD, Amelia (U.S.)
7. PARKER, Sarah (U.S.)
8. SHERRY, Katelyn P (U.S.)

NAC DIVISION II/III, CADET, WHEELCHAIR I Orlando, FL, October 11 - 14

DIVISION II MEN'S ÉPÉE

(72 Competitors)

Group B3 competition

1. Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
2. Goldsmith, David S (GATEWAY FL)
- 3.T Kaufman, Joel H (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Matteson, Tucker H (NORTHEAST)
5. Garner, Will M (KENTUCKY)
6. Way, Charngshio (PHILADELPH)
7. Hallman, Nicholas (N.CAROLINA)
8. Hedges, Philip S (CENTRAL CA)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(64 Competitors)

Group B3 competition

1. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
2. Izso, Krisztina (KANSAS)
- 3.T Burrill, Elia S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Joyce, Victoria W (NEWENGLAND)
5. Rowe, Rachel H (NEW JERSEY)
6. Montoya, Kimberlee (NEVADA)
7. Thouless, Helen R (WESTERN WA)
8. Humphrey, Samantha L (GEORGIA)

DIVISION III MEN'S ÉPÉE

(73 Competitors)

Group C3 competition

1. Parrish ***, Bryce W (GOLDCST FL)

DIVISION II MEN'S FOIL

(150 Competitors)

Group B3 competition

1. Jeter, William E (SW OHIO)
2. Moss, Zachary (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Burton, Jeff (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Dussault, Benjamin L (VIRGINIA)
5. Itameri-Kinter, Kai E (NEWENGLAND)
6. Lindsay, Colin D (CENTRAL CA)
7. Harder, Sean C (SO. CALIF.)
8. Farrag, Sherif G (NEW JERSEY)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S FOIL

(54 Competitors)

Group B3 competition

1. Alicea, Pilar C. M (NORTH CA)
2. Losonczy, Magda S (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Najm, Tamara M (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Wang, Natalie (MT. VALLEY)
5. Svengsouk, Jocelyn L (WESTERN NY)
6. Pensler, Arielle R (ILLINOIS)
7. Gonzalez, Larissa L (METRO NYC)
8. Kaplan, Amy R (HUDS-BERKS)

DIVISION III MEN'S FOIL

(108 Competitors)

Group C3 competition

1. Vortsman, Eugene (METRO NYC)

DIVISION II MEN'S SABER

(60 Competitors)

Group B3 competition

1. Fuhro, John M (NEWENGLAND)
2. Ward, William H (OREGON)
- 3.T Randolph, William R (KANSAS)
- 3.T Smith, Kiel R (KANSAS)
5. Chaiken, Matthew E (METRO NYC)
6. Murphy, Max D (KANSAS)
7. DiGiulio, Scott J (WEST-ROCK)
8. Fiori, Maurizio (ILLINOIS)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S SABER

(69 Competitors)

Group B3 competition

1. Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
2. Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Freund, Katherine (CAPITOL)
- 3.T Tinter, Heidi G (METRO NYC)
5. Bartoszewicz, Ann (NEW JERSEY)
6. Pernice, Robin J (NEWENGLAND)
7. Jacobson, Anna L (GEORGIA)
8. Wilson, Jessica S (NEWENGLAND)

DIVISION III MEN'S SABER

(58 Competitors)

Group C3 competition

1. Chaiken, Matthew E (METRO NYC)

- Mack, Justin R (NORTH TEX)
- T Sairio, Matthew C (MINNESOTA)
- T Tasker, Arjun S (NEWENGLAND)
- Somers, Alexander (NEW JERSEY)
- Tiller, Terris R (COLORADO)
- Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
- Awsumb, Lance G (MINNESOTA)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(33 Competitors)

Group C3 competition

- Rowe, Rachel H (NEW JERSEY)
- Marletto, Suh Mal-Su (CONNECTCUT)
- T Allen, Anita F (COLORADO)
- T Flounders, Christine (METRO NYC)
- Hickey, Kathryn A (WESTERN NY)
- Balestra, Jacqueline (SO. CALIF.)
- Nielsen, Laura M (GULFCST TX)
- Chambers, Joy C (NEWENGLAND)

CADET MEN'S ÉPÉE

(59 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

Group A2/B2 competition

- Sherrill, Teddy R (METRO NYC)
- Smith, Dwight A (METRO NYC)
- T Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- T Kenney, Clayton K (COLORADO)
- Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
- Pearce, Michael A (NORTH CA)
- Saitoc, Tudor C (LONG ISLND)
- Moody, Jimmy W (COLORADO)

CADET WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(47 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

Group B2 competition

- Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
- Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
- T Kantor, Rachel M (OREGON)
- T Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)
- Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
- Montoya, Kimberlee (NEVADA)
- French, Kayley A (NORTH TEX)
- Isaacson, Oriana M (SO. CALIF.)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(4 Competitors)

- Van Der Wege, Gary (SO. TEXAS)
- Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)
- Sikorsky, Steve (KENTUCKY)
- Moreno, Gerard (SO. CALIF.)

- Perkins, Samuel H (NORTH CA)
- T Baker, Bradley (NEWENGLAND)
- T Bisignano, Jesse J (NEWENGLAND)
- DeCastro, Phillip T (OKLAHOMA)
- Lindsay, Colin D (CENTRAL CA)
- Tarascio, Michael J (S.CAROLINA)
- Chamley-Watson, Miles C (METRO NYC)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S FOIL

(84 Competitors)

Group C3 competition

- Ross, Nicole (METRO NYC)
- Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
- T Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)
- T Lee, Florence J (CENTRAL CA)
- Pensler, Arielle R (ILLINOIS)
- Jackson, Anne-Marti (WESTERN PA)
- Snyder, Aliyah R (GATEWAY FL)
- Montoya, Kimberlee (NEVADA)

CADET MEN'S FOIL

(111 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A2/B3 competition

- Miner, Parker J (UTAH/S.IDA)
- Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
- T Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
- T Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
- Holbrook, Andrew L (KANSAS)
- Getz, Kurt A (WEST-ROCK)
- Teisseire *, Nicolas (CANADA)
- Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)

CADET WOMEN'S FOIL

(65 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group B2/C3 competition

- Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
- Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
- T Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
- T Nott, Adrienne M (WESTERN NY)
- Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
- Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)
- Bouchard*, Louise-Hel (CANADA)
- Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S FOIL

(4 Competitors)

- Van Der Wege, Gary (SO. TEXAS)
- Moreno, Gerard (SO. CALIF.)
- Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)
- Sikorsky, Steve (KENTUCKY)

- Levitt, Teddy H (SO. CALIF.)
- T DeNude, Christophe (NEW JERSEY)
- T Kloepper, Jonathan C (KANSAS)
- Bielen, Andrew H (PHILADELPH)
- Dyke, Lancelot A (SO. CALIF.)
- Roe, Theodore (OREGON)
- Czaja, Michael (NORTH TEX)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S SABER

(55 Competitors)

Group C3 competition

- Kadree, Yewande (GEORGIA)
- Hassan, Aziza R (METRO NYC)
- T Kraujalis, Marina L (HUDS-BERKS)
- T Rix, Andrea L (COLORADO)
- Borrmann, Sarah V (OREGON)
- Siebert, Lillian (COLUMBUSOH)
- Klein-Braddock, Kimberly K (OREG.)
- Gordet, Danielle C (NEWENGLAND)

CADET MEN'S SABER

(60 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

Group B2 competition

- Thanhouser, William (B (OREGON)
- Diacou, Alexander (METRO NYC)
- T Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
- T Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
- Beaudry*, Philippe (CANADA)
- Murphy, Max D (KANSAS)
- Baum, Jeff D (KANSAS)
- Smith, Kiel R (KANSAS)

CADET WOMEN'S SABER

(42 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

Group A2/B2 competition

- Ward, Rebecca C (OREGON)
- Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
- T Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
- T Schuepp, Tiga K (OREGON)
- Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
- Keltner, Mera H (OREGON)
- Cloutier*, Julie (CANADA)
- Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)

WHEELCHAIR MEN'S SABER

(4 Competitors)

- Moreno, Gerard (SO. CALIF.)
- Van Der Wege, Gary (SO. TEXAS)
- Sikorsky, Steve (KENTUCKY)
- Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & WORLD CUP | Austin, TX,

November 5 - 10

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. A MEN'S ÉPÉE

(6 Competitors)

- AL-QALLAF, Tareq (KUWAIT)
- AL-MANSOURI, Mohammad (KUWAIT)
- T COLLMAN, Pete (UNITED STATES)
- T VAN DER WEGE, Gary (UNITED STATES)
- DAY, Roy (UNITED STATES)
- SIKORSKY, Steve (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. A MEN'S FOIL

(6 Competitors)

- AL-QALLAF, Tareq (KUWAIT)
- AL-MANSOURI, Mohammad (KUWAIT)
- T RODRIGUEZ, Mario (UNITED STATES)
- T VAN DER WEGE, Gary (UNITED STATES)
- CALHOUN, Mark (UNITED STATES)
- ROMERO, Hugo (MEXICO)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. A MEN'S SABER

(5 Competitors)

- RODRIGUEZ, Mario (UNITED STATES)
- COLLMAN, Pete (UNITED STATES)
- T CALHOUN, Mark (UNITED STATES)
- T SIKORSKY, Steve (UNITED STATES)
- ROMERO, Hugo (MEXICO)

TOURNAMENT highlights

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. B MEN'S ÉPÉE

(8 Competitors)

1. AL-SAIDI, Abdul (KUWAIT)
2. RODGERS, Scott (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T HISAKAWA, Toyoaki (JAPAN)
- 3.T LOVEJOY, Curtis (UNITED STATES)
5. SHUMATE, Sean (UNITED STATES)
6. CANNARELLA, Frank (CANADA)
7. BOATRIGHT*, Tony (UNITED STATES)
8. GARCIA*, Zen (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. A MEN'S ÉPÉE

(13 Competitors)

1. PENDER, Dariusz (POLAND)
2. AL-QALLAF, Tareq (KUWAIT)
- 3.T MAILLARD, David (FRANCE)
- 3.T MORE, Cyril (FRANCE)
5. CITERNE, Robert (FRANCE)
6. AL-MANSOURI, Mohammad (KUWAIT)
7. VAN DER WEGE, Gary (UNITED STATES)
8. AHNER, Martin (GERMANY)
9. BRADLEY, Jack (GREAT BRITAIN)
10. JABLONSKI, Arkadiusz (POLAND)
11. COLLMAN, Pete (UNITED STATES)
12. ROSS, Neil (GREAT BRITAIN)
13. SIKORSKY, Steve (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. B MEN'S ÉPÉE

(11 Competitors)

1. AL-SAIDI, Abdul (KUWAIT)
2. WYSMIERSKI, Robert (POLAND)
- 3.T LATRECHE, Alim (FRANCE)
- 3.T RODGERS, Scott (UNITED STATES)
5. HISAKAWA, Toyoaki (JAPAN)
6. LOVEJOY*, Curtis (UNITED STATES)
7. HEATON, David (GREAT BRITAIN)
8. SHUMATE, Sean (UNITED STATES)
9. CANNARELLA, Frank (CANADA)
10. BOATRIGHT*, Tony (UNITED STATES)
11. GARCIA*, Zen (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. A WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(7 Competitors)

1. MOREL, Sylvie (CANADA)
2. ALEXANDER, Kris (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T GILMORE, Susan (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T LANIER, Lisa (UNITED STATES)
5. TANI, Tomoko (JAPAN)
6. ISRAEL, Pat (CANADA)
7. SPARA, Maria Christina (ARGENTINA)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. B WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(4 Competitors)

1. HICKEY, Carol (UNITED STATES)
2. DE MELLO, Andrea (BRAZIL)
- 3.T MASCIOTRA, Susana (ARGENTINA)
- 3.T SCHMUTZ, Erika (CANADA)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. A WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(14 Competitors)

1. WITOS, Dagmara (POLAND)
2. MEYER, Sylviane (FRANCE)
- 3.T MOREL, Sylvie (CANADA)
- 3.T POLASIK, Jadwiga (POLAND)
5. ROSSEK, Daniela (GERMANY)
6. PICOT, Patricia (FRANCE)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. B MEN'S FOIL

(6 Competitors)

1. AL-SAIDI, Abdul (KUWAIT)
2. RODGERS, Scott (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T HISAKAWA, Toyoaki (JAPAN)
- 3.T MORENO, Gerard (UNITED STATES)
5. AL-LAHO, Nawaef (KUWAIT)
6. BOATRIGHT*, Tony (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. A MEN'S FOIL

(11 Competitors)

1. WALISIEWICZ, Tomasz (POLAND)
2. PENDER, Dariusz (POLAND)
- 3.T AL-QALLAF, Tareq (KUWAIT)
- 3.T RODRIGUEZ, Mario (UNITED STATES)
5. MAKOWSKI, Stefan (POLAND)
6. AL-MANSOURI, Mohammad (KUWAIT)
7. CITERNE, Robert (FRANCE)
8. MAILLARD, David (FRANCE)
9. EL-ASSINE, Moez (FRANCE)
10. CALHOUN, Mark (UNITED STATES)
11. ROMERO, Hugo (MEXICO)
12. COLLMAN, Pete (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. B MEN'S FOIL

(10 Competitors)

1. AL-SAIDI, Abdul (KUWAIT)
2. RODGERS, Scott (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T CZOP, Piotr (POLAND)
- 3.T MORENO, Gerard (UNITED STATES)
5. HISAKAWA, Toyoaki (JAPAN)
6. JOUBERT, Joel (FRANCE)
7. AL-LAHO, Nawef (KUWAIT)
8. LATRECHE, Alim (FRANCE)
9. VICAREY, Peter (GREAT BRITAIN)
10. DENNIS, Terry (GREAT BRITAIN)
11. SHUMATE, Sean (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. A WOMEN'S FOIL

(7 Competitors)

1. TANI, Tomoko (JAPAN)
2. LANIER, Lisa (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T GILMORE, Susan (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T MOREL, Sylvie (CANADA)
5. ALEXANDER, Kris (UNITED STATES)
6. SPARA, Maria Christina (ARGENTINA)
7. ISRAEL, Pat (CANADA)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. B WOMEN'S FOIL

(4 Competitors)

1. HICKEY, Carol (UNITED STATES)
2. MASCIOTRA, Susana (ARGENTINA)
- 3.T DE MELLO, Andrea (BRAZIL)
- 3.T SCHMUTZ, Erika (CANADA)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. A WOMEN'S FOIL

(14 Competitors)

1. PICOT, Patricia (FRANCE)
2. POLASIK, Jadwiga (POLAND)
- 3.T MEYER, Sylviane (FRANCE)
- 3.T WITOS, Dagmara (POLAND)
5. ROSSEK, Daniela (GERMANY)
6. TANI, Tomoko (JAPAN)

WHEELCHAIR ZONAL CAT. B MEN'S SABER

(5 Competitors)

1. MORENO, Gerard (UNITED STATES)
2. SHUMATE, Sean (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T AL-LAHO, Nawaef (KUWAIT)
- 3.T LOVEJOY*, Curtis (UNITED STATES)
5. CANNARELLA, Frank (CANADA)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. A MEN'S SABER

(12 Competitors)

1. MORE, Cyril (FRANCE)
2. JABLONSKI, Arkadiusz (POLAND)
- 3.T MAKOWSKI, Stefan (POLAND)
- 3.T WALISIEWICZ, Tomasz (POLAND)
5. AHNER, Martin (GERMANY)
6. BRADLEY, Jack (GREAT BRITAIN)
7. RODRIGUEZ, Mario (UNITED STATES)
8. EL-ASSINE, Moez (FRANCE)
9. ROSS, Neil (GREAT BRITAIN)
10. CALHOUN, Mark (UNITED STATES)
11. SIKORSKY, Steve (UNITED STATES)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. B MEN'S SABER

(11 Competitors)

1. WYSMIERSKI, Robert (POLAND)
2. LOVEJOY*, Curtis (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T CZOP, Piotr (POLAND)
- 3.T JOUBERT, Joel (FRANCE)
5. MORENO, Gerard (UNITED STATES)
6. HEATON, David (GREAT BRITAIN)
7. VICAREY, Peter (GREAT BRITAIN)
8. AL-LAHO, Nawef (KUWAIT)
9. DENNIS, Terry (GREAT BRITAIN)
10. CANNARELLA, Frank (CANADA)

7. ASSMAN, Emmanuelle (FRANCE)
8. IMERI, Zarife (GERMANY)
9. TANI, Tomoko (JAPAN)
10. GILMORE, Susan (UNITED STATES)
11. LANIER, Lisa (UNITED STATES)
12. ALEXANDER, Kristine (UNITED STATES)
13. SPARA, Maria Cristina (ARGENTINA)
14. ISRAEL, Pat (CANADA)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. B WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(6 Competitors)

1. WYRZYKOWSKA, Marta (POLAND)
2. HICKEY, Carol (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T DE MELLO, Andrea (BRAZIL)
- 3.T MAGNAT, Sylvie (FRANCE)
5. SCHMUTZ*, Erika (CANADA)
6. MASCIOTRA, Susana (ARGENTINA)

7. GILMORE, Susan (UNITED STATES)
8. LANIER, Lisa (UNITED STATES)
9. IMERI, Zarife (GERMANY)
10. ASSMAN, Emmanuelle (FRANCE)
11. ALEXANDER, Kristine (UNITED STATES)
12. MOREL, Sylvie (CANADA)
13. SPARA, Maria Cristina (ARGENTINA)
14. ISRAEL, Pat (CANADA)

WHEELCHAIR WORLD CUP CAT. B WOMEN'S FOIL

(6 Competitors)

1. WYRZYDOWSKA, Marta (POLAND)
2. MAGNAT, Sylvie (FRANCE)
- 3.T HICKEY, Carol (UNITED STATES)
- 3.T SCHMUTZ*, Erika (CANADA)
5. DE MELLO, Andrea (BRAZIL)
6. MASCIOTRA, Susana (ARGENTINA)

NAC JUNIOR/CADET | Greenville, SC, November 8 - 11

JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(124 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Bajgoric*, Tigran (CANADA)
2. Seguin *, Jean-Pierr (CANADA)
- 3.T Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
5. Moody, Jimmy W (COLORADO)
6. Simmonds, Oba O (METRO NYC)
7. Hurme, Tommi K (SO. TEXAS)
8. Rubrecht, Ward B (MINNESOTA)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(82 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A3 competition

1. Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
2. Harris, Caitlin E (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Brendler, Kaela J (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Hubbard, Dorothy M (AK-LA-MISS)
5. McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
6. Hohensee, Kira L (NEWENGLAND)
7. Ihara *, Emiko M (CANADA)
8. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)

CADET MEN'S ÉPÉE

(65 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A2/B3 competition

1. Saitoc, Tudor C (LONG ISLAND)
2. Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Kenney, Clayton K (COLORADO)
5. Pearce, Michael A (NORTH CA)
6. Sairio, Matthew C (MINNESOTA)
7. Joseph, Scott B (NORTHEAST)
8. Sherrill, Teddy R (METRO NYC)

CADET WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(47 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

Group B2 competition

1. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
2. Kantor, Rachel M (OREGON)
- 3.T Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
5. Brown, Jessica J (CENTRAL CA)
6. McKimmy, Caitlin F (OREGON)
7. Goldie*, Brita N (CANADA)
8. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

(143 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. KirkGordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
2. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Dunn, Ryan M (KANSAS)
- 3.T Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
5. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)
6. Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)
7. Landreville *, Alexis (CANADA)
8. Sinkin, Jeremy C (WESTERN NY)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

(98 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A3 competition

1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
2. Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
5. Voigt*, Leigh (CANADA)
6. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
7. Foldi*, Julia (HUNGARY)
8. Hiss, Sophie C (OKLAHOMA)

CADET MEN'S FOIL

(90 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A3 competition

1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
2. Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Miner, Parker J (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 3.T Wojcik*, Marek (CANADA)
5. Kubik, Mark W (SO. TEXAS)
6. Horanyi, Andras M (COLORADO)
7. DiNapoli, Emerson T (CENTRAL CA)
8. Teisseire *, Nicolas (CANADA)

CADET WOMEN'S FOIL

(82 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A2/B3 competition

1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
2. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Nott, Adrienne M (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
5. Pensler, Arielle R (ILLINOIS)
6. Sinkin, Ilana B (WESTERN NY)
7. Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
8. Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

(84 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
2. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
5. Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
6. Boudreault *, David (CANADA)
7. Farr, Ian G (OREGON)
8. Igoe, Benjamin D (METRO NYC)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

(70 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Baratta, Emma L (METRO NYC)
2. Sabbath*, Shena (CANADA)
- 3.T Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
5. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
6. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
7. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
8. Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)

CADET MEN'S SABER

(60 Competitors - top 24 earn points)

Group B2 competition

1. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
2. Thanhouser, William B (OREGON)
- 3.T Diacou, Alexander (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Yeates, Zachary D (MT. VALLEY)
5. Tracey, Douglass M (S. JERSEY)
6. Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
7. Ahn, Steve J (NORTH TEX)
8. Lin, John K (NORTH TEX)

CADET WOMEN'S SABER

(39 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

Group A2/B2 competition

1. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
2. Schneider, Daria H (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
- 3.T Ward, Rebecca C (OREGON)
5. Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
6. Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
7. Lupien*, Katy O (CANADA)
8. Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)

SABERETTAS

why teenage sabrist **Annie Holstein** gave up *Roswell*

Suddenly, cutting through the noise of the crowd, I hear the slurred consonants of an Eastern European accent, "Holstein on deck." Wherever my mind had been traveling, that voice snapped it back to the cavernous arena in Greenville, S.C., at the Summer Nationals fencing competition. I had trained for a year to reach this moment, this place, to compete with the top fencers from all over the United States. How did I get here? What have I been doing for the past 52 weeks?

I sit on an equipment box, dressed in three layers—shirt, jacket and lamé, in the middle of summer, waiting for my turn to fence a woman about whom I'd heard but never met. I was soon to compete in the most intense bout I had ever fenced. Focus Annie, watch your opponent.

Plan your moves, don't become over-confident. Don't psych yourself out.

My coach, Zoran Tulum, has been training me and the other club members to be champions, and to think like champions. I feel my sweat as I lean forward and my shirt presses against my back, damp from warmup this morning, my lesson with Zoran, my heavy fencing gear, and several visualizations of my bout.

This is only your first bout in pools. Don't get too nervous; you have four more and then DEs.

Direct elimination, what a horrible thing. One mistake and you are out of the bout and out of the competition. No second chances.

Don't think like that. Be optimistic. If you start to think about losing, you've lost.

"Holstein, fencing." Again I hear the familiar voice of the director.

Here you go. Show her what you can do, what you know you can do, what you've been trained to do.

Parries, ripostes, distance, beats. I use them all and anything else I can remember from lessons with Zoran—lessons and practice, two hours a day, four days a week, competitions on weekends. Back and forth, her touch, my touch. Then it comes to the moment of truth: simply who wants it more.

I used to be a two-season athlete. I used to take ballet. I used to have time after school to watch *Roswell*. I used to read books—for fun; I used to daydream. And I used not to know when to put up a fight or when to back down from one. Then I started fencing—for the wrong reasons: my mother told me it was a great sport and my friends were doing it.

I went every Saturday for a private lesson with Zoran. In the fall, I had lessons during the day, but I still played soccer after school. During the winter, I fenced for the school team. Come spring, I wanted to fence even more. I went to Zoran's new club and fenced four days a week, two hours a day, a schedule I would know all too well soon enough. I didn't have enough time to play lacrosse for my school anymore. I didn't even fence competitively yet; I watched the friends with whom I had practiced with every day go on to Nationals and I envied their ability.

At the start of the new season, I began to compete. I no longer learned how to dribble the ball for soccer; I learned how to strategize by the second. I was no longer concerned with how to cradle the ball in lacrosse; instead, I was mastering how to fence as if I were walking on a dangerous street in New York City. I was learning to be my own person and win for myself on the strip; to be confident, to be strong, to have stamina to fight until I couldn't fight anymore, and then to fight more. I was taught priorities—

that fencing had to be my number one priority if I intended to fence seriously, competitively; that training to be an athlete had to be demanding; that ibuprophen and ice were part of being an athlete, too. Fencing was becoming part of the fabric of my life, and I was changing because of it.

I realize now that the more involved I become in fencing, the more I continue to sacrifice, and, in a way, the more I want to sacrifice. I don't usually think of it that way. Sometimes I just think about the new things I have to give up: phone calls at night because I have to do homework after practice; other team sports because there's not enough time for two sets of practices; parties with my non-fencing friends because weekends I'm at competitions up and down the East Coast.

Sometimes I regret these sacrifices, but usually I don't. Fencing and Zoran and the other "saberettas," as Zoran calls us women saber fencers, are now a huge part of my life. Recently I've realized that the sacrifices are part of me, too—that a lot of who I am as a person has been formed by fencing. I belong to a community of people who fence and share a common outlook on life because of their fencing. When I fence, of course I want to win, but what I really want is to fence. I understand that the winner is who wants it more.

Annie Holstein is a junior at the Dana Hall School, an independent girls school in Wellesley, Mass. She fences at the Zeta Fencing Studio (ZFS) in Natick, Mass. Her coach and the director of the club is Zoran Tulum.