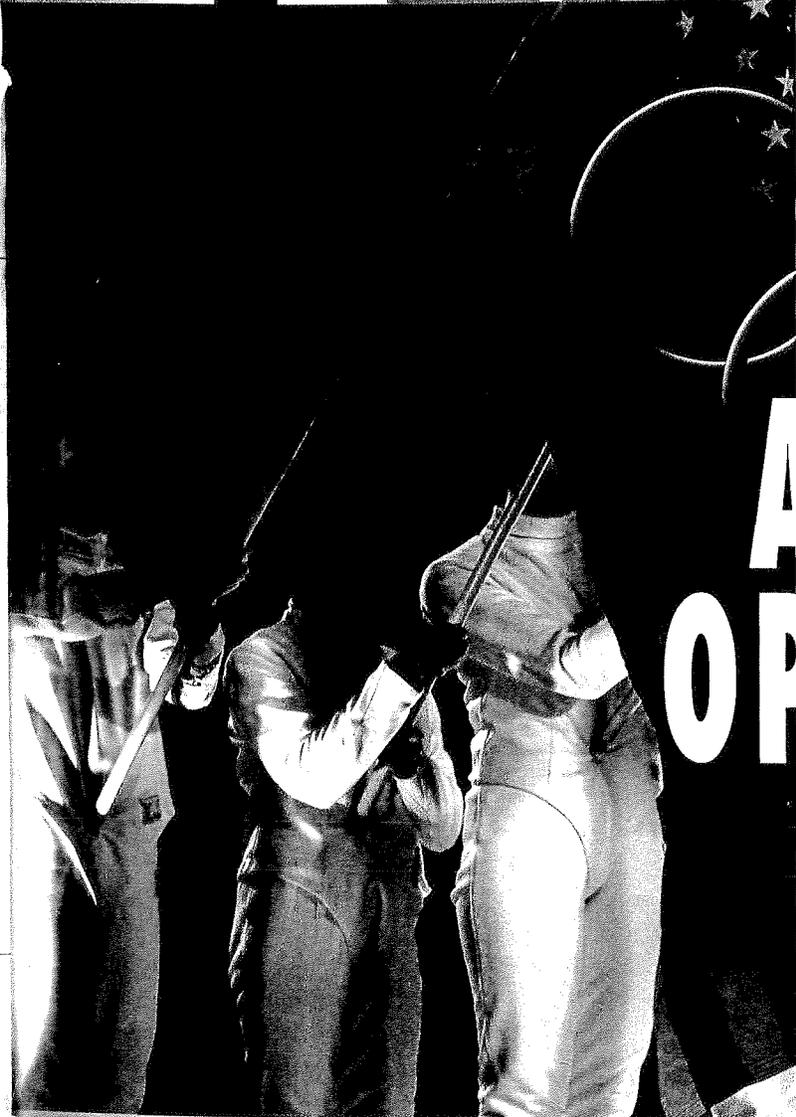


FENCING



2004 Olympic Games Fencing

merican

ING

SUMMER 2004

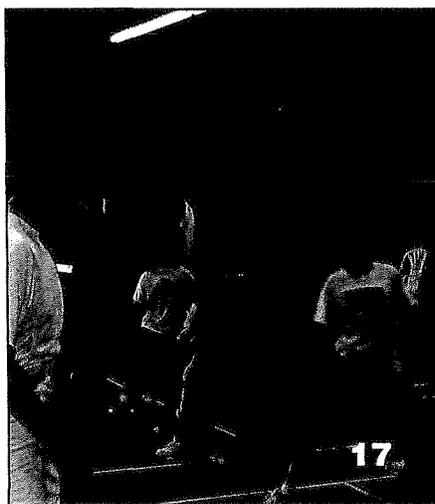
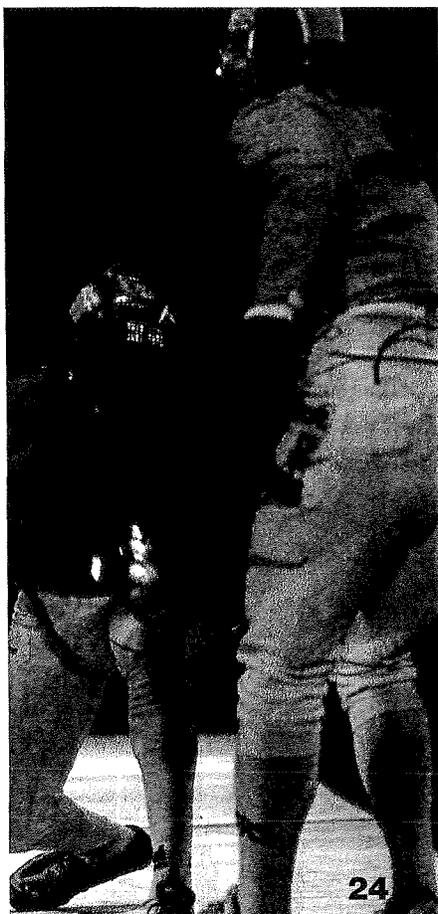
AN OLYMPIC
OPPORTUNITY

*U.S. fencers ready
for the world in Greece*

ing Preview and Schedule

American FENCING

Summer 2004 · Volume 54, Number 2



AF FEATURES

- 24** Onward To Athens ...
U.S. Fencers Head To 'The Show'
A 2004 Olympics Preview
by Jeff Bukantz

AF DEPARTMENTS

- 5 **President's Letter** Mission Accomplished
- 7 **Your Letters** Rules/Referees Column Debated By Readers
- 9 **Fencing News** Bukantz Entering Hall, SJSU Fencing Masters
- 11 **Postcards from the Strip** A Fencer's Tale
- 12 **Sports Medicine Q&A** Being Prepared
- 13 **Sport Science** The Inner Game
- 15 **Rules/Referees** The Elephant In The Room
- 17 **Club Corner** South Coast Fencing Center
- 19 **Club Corner** Avoiding The Tax Trap
- 20 **Parent's Corner** Tournament Time Arrives
- 21 **Tech Talk** Playing By The Rules
- 32 **Fencing History** The Olympic Experience
- 34 **Tournament Results** Pacific Coast Championships
- 35 **Athlete Q&A** Jason Rogers
- 36 **In The Spotlight** Doris Willette

37 USA FENCING: THE USFA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

On the Cover: The U.S. team made its last pre-Olympic showing at the New York City Grand Prix of Fencing earlier this summer. Photo: Federation Internationale d'Escrime.
Cover Design: Andy Teng

DUEL IN THE DESERT

L A S V E G A S

The Flamingo Hotel & Casino

January 28-30, 2005

www.duelinthedesert.com

The UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION Member Services Directory

The UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION is the national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USFA is affiliated with the Federation Internationale d'Esclime, 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

Phone: (719) 866-4511

Fax: (719) 632-5737

E-mail: info@usfencing.org

Web: <http://www.usfencing.org>

President	Stacey Johnson
Vice President	Barbara Lynch
Vice President	Sherry Posthumus
Vice President	Ralph Zimmerman
Secretary	Donald Anthony
Treasurer	Michael Sullivan

AMERICAN FENCING

Dedicated to the Memory of:

Jose R. DeCapriles 1912-1969

Miguel A. DeCapriles 1906-1981

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Meg Galipault

EDITOR Cindy Bent Findlay;

USFencingMedia@earthlink.net

PRODUCTION/DESIGN Michael Jacobsen

USFA Public Relations The Sherry Group, Parsippany, N.J.

Associate Editors:

Bob Block Veterans

Jeff Bukantz Rules/Referees

Joe Byrnes Technology

Chris Cuddy Advertising Sales

Peter Harmer Sports Medicine

John Heil Sports Psychology

Andy Shaw Official Historian

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.

2004 United States Fencing Association. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission prohibited.

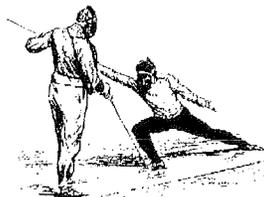


THE SWORDMASTER

The Journal for Fencing Coaches

Read articles by U.S. and international fencing coaches and find information about:

- *Pedagogy
- *Business Management
- *Masters Theses
- *Conferences
- *Coaches Clinics & Seminars
- *Job Listings
- *And More!



To subscribe to *The Swordmaster* quarterly journal, join the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association...

P.O. Box 1966
Hoboken, NJ 07030

www.usfca.org

A final letter to USFA members... MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

by Stacey **JOHNSON**, President, United States Fencing Association



We are now poised on the eve of the Olympic Games. This President's Report marks my last. I am truly grateful for the forward progress the organization has made over the last four years. Before I wrote this final column, I reviewed all of the documentation, our strategic plans, the many articles I have written for the magazine and the ongoing reports made to the USFA Board of Directors.

Listed below is an overview of our current mission and broad goals and what I believe we have achieved together as an organization. The Mission of the USFA is to:

- Direct, administer and promote the sport of fencing in U.S.
- Develop programs, services and opportunities that enable members from recreational to Olympian to reach their maximum potential.
- Select athletes and cadre for international competition, including the Olympic, Pan American and FIE World Championships.

I believe we have achieved the above-stated mission in these past four years. I think now it is time to rethink the mission statement to include specifically winning Olympic, World Championship and Pan Am medals. We must continue to administer the sport and provide quality programs and services to all members; however, our power internationally has doubled in the last four years, as is reflected in our international results, our Pan American Games results, and in the doubling of our qualified Olympians (17) to the Games in Athens. We are now the fourth highest country in the world in terms of the number of athletes qualified.

How did we do in reaching our goals? You the membership are the true arbiters of the final grade, but I am willing to recommend the following for your consideration:

1. TO EXPAND MEMBERSHIP – A+

Rationale: Membership has grown from a 1997 number of below 10,000 members to a projected 20,000 members registered by the close of 2004. Club memberships have grown in the last four years from approximately 440 clubs to over 500 clubs, meeting and exceeding our goal to increase by 50 clubs. The more informal groups where recreational fencing occurs is happening also in approximately 500 sites in all 50 states in the U.S.

2. TO INCREASE USFA REVENUES – B

Rationale: Our revenues have increased significantly with a budget that is now more than \$2.6 million, but our expenditures are more than keeping pace. We have been successful in getting more USOC grants, more donations, but we are expending just as quickly. We need to improve our overall cost containment, cost-benefit analysis and long-range project expense planning. As our financial pie continues to expand, we have the luxury of creating more programs that will benefit the overall state of the sport. The temptation is to increase funding levels of existing programs, even if the existing programs have not been analyzed or proven to be the most effective for the state of the sport.

3. TO INCREASE PUBLIC INTEREST IN FENCING – A-

Rationale: No question we have done a good job in moving things forward in increasing public interest in fencing. From television coverage to print in magazines and newspapers, our great athletes have been front and center in the media.

Peter Westbrook's Program also has generated incredible publicity for fencing as well and the USFA can reap benefits of increased exposure of fencing programs that are truly outstanding. In addition, our own internal public relations efforts include the work of our tremendous editor of the AMERICAN FENCING Magazine, Meg Galipault. Also working full tilt is Cindy Bent doing an incredible job with news/magazine writing, and a new addition helping to leverage even more media coverage for us than ever before is 1996 Olympian Suzie Paxton, who has just been named an official NBC commentator for the Olympic Games (where fencing is promised five hours of TV coverage, an historic first for U.S. Fencing). For the future, however, we must have at least one full-time, highly qualified, paid professional staff who will work with other additional staff that can be hired for future marketing initiatives.

In addition to marketing and public relations activities, an objective was pursued to ensure our national tournaments and key international tournaments had a "look and feel" that was both audience and media friendly. Clearly we have made outstanding strides in this effort; the most recent spectacular event where this was demonstrated was at the New York Grand Prix World Cup, which featured Olympic-style presentation of

four quarterfinal strips at Hunter College with beautiful scoreboards visible from all directions. In addition, wireless saber with colored lights flashing from the masks made it so much clearer to determine who was being hit. The raised strip was beautiful and audiences really enjoyed the spectacular finals featuring U.S. athletes earning five medals. Finally a special note: Michael Massik saved the USFA literally thousands of dollars by garnering the Roosevelt Ballroom for the finals of the World Championships. Many kudos for his fast thinking that enabled the USFA to host a class act and keep a lid on expenses.

4 To ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE USFA – B

With the development of the four-year plan (which received high praise as a model strategic plan from the USOC) and the naming of competent individuals to serve on key committees, the USFA has enjoyed a strong four years led by capable volunteers who served throughout our committee structure. In addition, the Executive Committee and the Board held ongoing planning retreats, where they took time to really think and speak to each other about not only what was happening in the present, but how we could keep working successfully towards goals in the future.

5. To DEVELOP A COHERENT COACHING STRUCTURE – B

Certainly, this particular goal was a stretch for the organization. It was a goal that evolved from the last quad's goal to include coaches' participation in all levels of the organization. We of course have a strong grassroots training program that is run through our Coaches College certifying coaches very successfully. Further, we have named national coaches who have other assistant coaches operating in national programs with elite level fencers. In addition we held coaching seminars at national tournaments and the very first "Black Star" advanced coaching seminars. Also, we saw great leadership installed and leading the USFCA in Wendell Kubik. In addition, we have systematically recognized and rewarded coaches' accomplishments at our annual Hall of Fame ceremonies and in working with the USOC in their coaches' recognition program. However, we have not been able to pull all the pieces of the coaching puzzle together, or to make a coherent pipeline for them to emerge through a system as of yet. This challenge needs to be revisited in the next four years.

6. To ESTABLISH THE USA AS A RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL FORCE IN THE WORLD FENCING COMMUNITY – A+

Clearly in both the competitive arena and in the political arena, the U.S. has become a powerhouse in terms of athletic results and in terms of political influence within the FIE. The USFA website has provided a running list of the incredible number of medals we are picking up in nearly all weapons on the international scene. We are unhappy now as a nation if we do not hear the U.S. national anthem played at an international event.

Politically, we joined forces with the Pan American Confederation member countries, supported our Pan Am Confederation president Anibal Illueca, and were able to ensure an American presence on every single FIE Commission and the Executive Committee. The U.S. became a pivotal player in terms of influence, and we saw the European Confederation consistently unable to come to consensus on key issues.

We helped ensure women's saber onto the Olympic Games program. Now young girls and women can dream of their own personal journey to gold in all three weapons. It has taken us more than 100 years to achieve this and the U.S. was a key reason that it happened.

Do women have equity yet in fencing? No. We have come a step closer, however, and now we must continue the fight for equity into the next quad. The individuals who have served on the FIE Commissions have represented us very well and I believe we have a cadre of individuals who can continue to help and serve us well over the next several quadrennials.

The USFA Board of Directors worked diligently over the last four years. I thank them for modeling the value of cooperation, working together as a team solving policy issues on behalf of the USFA. We did not engage in combat, but rather we reasoned together and moved quickly along our path, enabling more of our energies to be put to use in productive ways.

In closing, I am very proud of the USFA staff. I compliment Michael Massik for his work as our Executive Director, and in particular for the individuals that he has hired at the National Office. Truly he works around the clock and often seven days a week, keeping us financially strong and helping the USFA to keep pace in an ever-changing sports industry world. As the organization has grown, the USFA staff is increasing and its success is so fundamental to our continuing strength and performance.

Carla-Mae Richards is retiring and moving to Atlanta in the near future to be close to family. As I complete writing that sentence, I feel the tug of emotions rise as she has been a guide to so many of us over the years. She surely has been one of the wise women in my life and has guided me on my personal journey in fencing. Carla – there is no way to thank you for all that you do for fencing because it has been so immense. Carla will continue to work with U.S. Fencing on special projects.

Nancy Anderson will be the USFA's new president and takes office at the close of the Olympic Games. Nancy has asked me to serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee and to continue to serve the USFA as its representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee in the future.

I am committed to fencing for a lifetime and please know I am grateful for the wonderful experience you all have given me in this opportunity to serve as your president from 2000-2004.

– AF

Bukantz Column On 'Flicks' Elicits Comments

DISAGREES WITH BUKANTZ

Jeff Bukantz' hyperbolic screed, "Blinded by the Flick" (*AMERICAN FENCING*, Spring 2004), cries out for rebuttal. His strained apologia for flicking fails his case despite his facile use of sarcasm, elastic logic and invidious comparisons.

Classical fencers are not hysterics; we just have more respect for fencing and its romantic history than the sheep who flock to the whip-and-flick fad currently afflicting so-called "sport fencing." Fencing developed as a training discipline to prepare for combat with swords, not whips or willow switches and more of us than Mr. Bukantz may imagine still prefer the balletic beauty and aesthetics of the classical form.

Bukantz admonishes us to accept change for its own sake, but all change is not progress and electric fencing and flicking have reduced fencing to something akin to acrobatic pinball games, hardly an improvement. Nor is fencing logically compared with high jumping, figure skating or basketball and to compare fencing with color TV, airplane propulsion, typewriters, computers or delivery services is just plain inane. Worse, to suggest that those who object to flicking and whipping are sexists who would deny women the right to fence all three weapons is downright offensive.

Fencing is not a spectacle, except in movies and theatre and those who need audience applause or TV cameras and sponsors are fencing for the wrong reasons. And the Olympics these days are no longer the epitome of amateur sports, but a programming coup for advertisers and the television industry and have a shady administrative history.

Yes, Mr. Bukantz, the rules should be changed to include longer contact time, more energy to depress foil and epee points and especially straighter, stronger, stiffer blades. Do we anti-flickers prefer we go back to dry? Well, it wouldn't be a bad idea. The flick could not have come about without electric scoring, flimsy,

over-bent blades and bent arm attacks. As Nick Evangelista says; the marriage of those things to pistol grips begat an evil child: The Flick.

For flicking is a cheater's ploy, the device of those who fence only for the Pavlovian pleasure of a flashing light and buzzer. If the USFA continues to countenance the anything goes degeneration of fencing in pursuit of TV exposure or to recruit new fencers, then it's indeed time for an association for classical fencers for those of us who do appreciate fencing's noble history. We certainly wouldn't be competing for memberships, preferring as we do the true art and science of fencing.

Flicking and whipping would be suicidal in a real duel, but they serve those too lazy and unmotivated to learn and practice real fencing. Anyway, I doubt Mr. Bukantz converted any classical fencers with his rant. We're not blinded by his rhetoric or by the flick. Just disgusted.

Ron Harris, Prescott, AZ

GOING TOO FAR!

Since when did hating flick attacks become equivalent to wanting to deny women the vote?

Jeff Bukantz's hyperbole went too far in last Spring's issue of *AMERICAN FENCING*. While painting this 28-year-old, 10-year veteran of fencing as a dinosaur who can't wrap his mind around progress, the renaissance ref failed to acknowledge what we anti-flickers hate most about the action: unrealistic right-of-way calls.

As a myopic linear fencer, my classical training has allowed me to adapt and turn most flickers into Jell-O. If people want to flick against me, I say bring it on. I have no issue with the flick itself. I've even learned how to execute the maneuver ... with a French grip. (Gasp!)

However, according to the rule book, an attacker must be threatening the target area with an extended or extending arm. Simply running at someone does not grant anyone right of way, especially

if one's arm is cocked (foil pointing straight at the ceiling) or winding backward. A simple extension or stop thrust by the so-called defender should take right of way. It would impale any fleet-footed fool in a real duel. And even though we aren't dueling, for this sport to maintain any sense of credibility, we shouldn't throw common-sense officiating out the window.

With that, dear ladies, go out and register to vote. The election is nigh upon us. And dear Mr. Bukantz, stop trying to make fencing something it's not – the NBA, technicolor or high-speed internet.

Nathaniel M. Cerf, Sioux Falls, SD

FLICKING BACK

Kudos to Jeff Bukantz for his column in the Spring 2004 issue. The best way to kill the sport of fencing is to hold it back, and "flicks" or hits to the back are a great example of an evolution in sport that make it more exciting and fun.

In my experience, the people who complain most about "flicks" are those who can't defend themselves against being hit on the back. A hit to the back can be defended just like every other tactic – with good distance, properly executed parries, and attacks in preparation, just to start.

Fencing is a sport. It's not a museum of style or history. It's about testing yourself against others in competition. If you want to fence "classically," join a historical fencing society. Better yet, if you're so worried about fencing with historical accuracy, go fence with real swords. Just stop coming to modern sporting competitions and complaining when you can't keep up.

Adam Podlaskowski, Columbus, Ohio

A THANK YOU

I would like to extend a formal thank you to Mr. Bukantz for such a fantastic article in the last issue of *AMERICAN FENCING*. I have often been puzzled by the actions of the FIE, which seem counter-intuitive. First, they want to encourage

spectator interest in our sport, yet they seem intent on removing a part of the game that the general public so clearly finds impressive. When I fenced in the finals of the 1992 National Championships, one of the only ways I could hit Molly Sullivan was on the back, because she had impressive timing for her duck counterattack. Upon reviewing the videotape later, the "ooohh" of the crowd with these actions was quite audible. These were people who were new spectators, but they found the action exciting. Often, upon introducing kids to fencing at our club in New York, one thing that definitely made them return was the desire to "flick like Zaddick." Finally, when I try to explain right of way to reporters or spectators, they always want to know about "that back action." They are amazed at the trajectory of the blade and ability to still hit with the tip.

Mr. Bukantz makes superb analogy to

other changes and advances in sports that have been controversial. I have often compared it to figure skating and gymnastics where the actions have become more athletic, and yet the judges are two steps behind the general public in appreciating the improvement, possibly because they remember the "good old days." The flick has advanced the sport of fencing. Fencers who rely on last minute counterattacks and head parries no longer dominate our sport. The flick has minimized this ducking and twisting, and has actually forced fencers to defend themselves with distance and parries. The change has been more recent in women's foil because women did not start flicking until after men, and tapes even from as recent as 1992 show much more reliance on counterattacks than the present. This is clearly an improvement in tactics.

Change is always difficult for people to

accept, even when it leads to great improvement.

There will always be those old traditionalists who no longer feel like experts once the sport evolves. I have met coaches who have said that modern fencing is not real fencing because we are not using the French grip. For me this is analogous to the flick argument. Unfortunately, some of these backwards thinking individuals hold prestigious positions within the FIE. However, I agree with Mr. Bukantz. The new rules will not eliminate the flick; they will just lead to stronger flicks with more bruising. Forward progress cannot be reversed, only diverted.

Ann Marsh, Detroit, Mich.

Ed. note: Ann Marsh is a three-time Olympian ('92, '96, '00). In 1996, Ms. Marsh took 7th, the highest finish for a U.S. woman in Olympic competition since the 1950s. In 2001, she was a member of the bronze medal U.S. women's foil team at the World Championships.

SG FENCING U.S.A.

280 N Midland Ave. Bldg W Saddle Brook NJ 07663 U.S.A.
Tel:201-797-4280 201-791-6066 Fax:201-791-7106

www.sgfencing.com

SG Fencing-Fencer's friend

For web orders 90% of stock is 10% to 20% off

Look on web page for each ITEM details

For personal phone orders

over \$200 take 10% off

over \$400 take 15% off

Except special Items & on sale items

Special Discount for group orders

SG Fencing is strictly Web and Phone orders only

Bukantz Entering Jewish Sports Hall of Fame In August

2004 Olympic Team Captain and well-known international referee **Jeff Bukantz** will be inducted into the JCC Metrowest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in August.

Six individuals are to be inducted in the inaugural 2004 class, including a sportswriter, professional baseball player, outstanding collegiate athlete, professional boxer and a beloved coach, along with Bukantz.

JCC Metrowest's Director of Development Jules Greenwald says Metrowest represents the Jewish communities in Morris and Essex Counties, New Jersey, one of the largest Jewish communities in the U.S.

"You don't very often hear about Jewish athletes, so we wanted to be able to promote and celebrate their achievements. Jeff is a rarity in this day and age," says Greenwald.

"That I was inducted in this, the inaugural year, is quite an honor," says Bukantz. Many professional and other notable athletes were passed over by the nominating committee.



Some of the other U.S. fencing athletes inducted into Jewish Sports Halls of Fame include **Albert Axelrod**, bronze medalist in the 1960 Olympic Games, and Jeff Bukantz's father, **Daniel Bukantz**. Both were inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Netanya, Israel.



Sada Jacobson and **Cliff Bayer** were awarded the Marty Glickman Athlete Award for Outstanding Jewish Collegiate Scholastic Athletes from the JSHF in Commack, N.Y. **Emily Jacobson** was awarded the 2002 Jules D. Mazor Award to the Jewish High School Athletes of the Year.

University of Pennsylvania head coach **David Micahnik** was honored in 1997 as an inductee in the inaugural class of the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

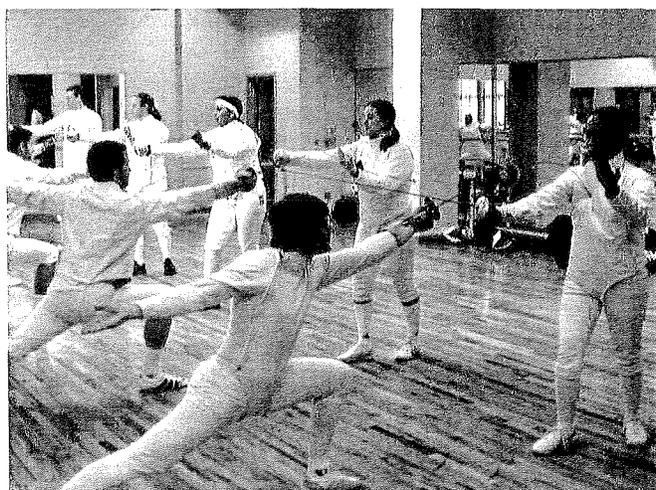
San Jose State Celebrates 25th Year Of Fencing Masters Program

The Fencing Masters Program at San Jose State University in San Jose, Calif., celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

The program prepares candidates for teaching at three levels: Instructor, Provost, and Master at Arms, requiring between one and three years of training.

Since 1981, 37 Instructor at Arms, 28 Provost at Arms,

SJSU recently certified three women in its Fencing Masters Program (from right to left): Provost at Arms Matilde Rodriguez; Master at Arms Janine Monteleone Sahn; and Master at Arms Jennifer Walton.



and 14 Master at Arms credentials have been awarded to graduates, including members of the United States Olympic and World Championship teams.

This year the first two women, **Janine Monteleone Sahn** and **Jennifer Walton**, completed the three-year course of studies and received the Master at Arms credential.

The program was initiated in the fall semester of 1979 under the auspices of the Department of Military Science (Army R.O.T.C.) with the aim of producing professional fencing teachers comparable to those trained in Italy. The teaching system is based on that of the famous Scuola Magistrale Militare di Scherma in Rome, and the textbook for the program, "The Science of Fencing," which appears this anniversary year in revised third English and German editions, has now enjoyed world-wide currency for the past 21 years.

It is the only university program in the United States that offers professional training and certification for fencing teachers. The program is still directed by its founder, **Dr. William M. Gaugler**, Professor Emeritus and Maestro di Scherma (Accademia Nazionale di Scherma, Naples, Italy.)

The program has received kudos from prestigious international academies, including Maestri Niccolò Perno, President of the International Academy of Arms and of the Associazione Italiana Maestri di Scherma, and Enzo Musumeci Greco, Member of the Examining Board of the Accademia Nazionale di Scherma in Naples.

Korfanty is Finalist For U.S. Olympic Coach of the Year

Ed Korfanty, U.S. National Women's Saber Coach and Head Coach at the Oregon Fencing Alliance in Beaverton, Ore., was named one of five National Coach of the Year finalists by



the U.S. Olympic Committee in May.

The U.S. women's saber team is currently ranked number two in the world; many U.S. women have broken into the top international rankings during his tenure.

Korfanty was selected as U.S. Fencing's Coach of the Year and his nomination was sent on to the USOC. The USFA also nominated its Developmen-

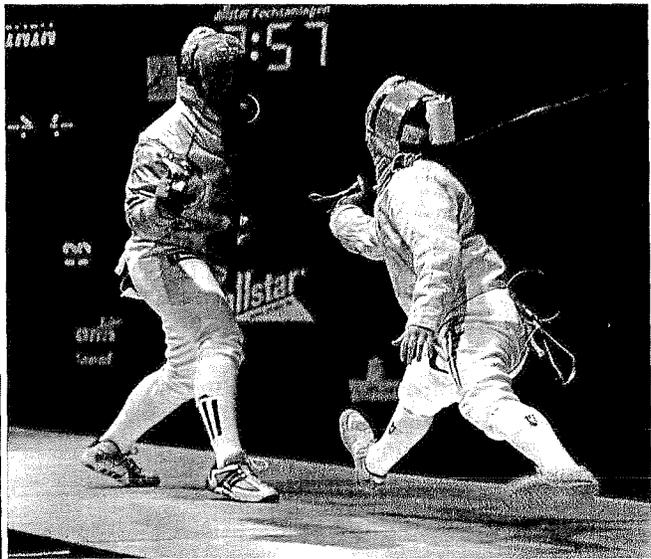
tal Coach of the Year, **Mikhail Petin**, of New York City (Fencers Club) earlier this spring.

Korfanty's personal students include **Mariel Zagunis**, 2004 Olympian and the only fencer in the world to hold four World Championship titles in one season (2000 Women's Saber Team, 2001 Cadet, Junior and Junior Team Champion).

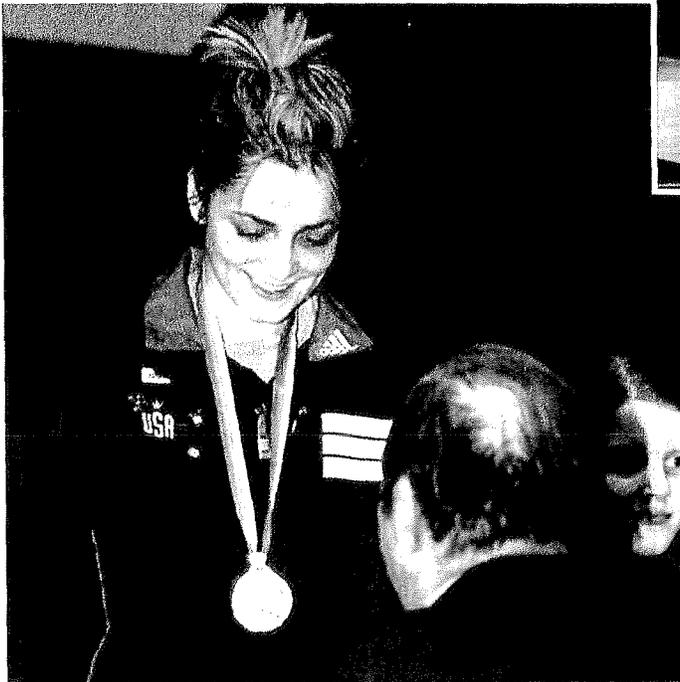
Correction: Caitlin Thompson Wins 2004 Cadet Saber World Championship

In the Spring 2004 issue of AMERICAN FENCING, we reported incorrectly in the Athlete Spotlight on page 40 that **Rebecca Ward** won the 2004 Cadet World Championships women's saber gold.

While Ms. Ward's achievements do include membership on the 2004 Cadet team, she pointed out to us that she did not win that competition. That gold went to



Above: Caitlin Thompson battles during the 2004 Cadet World Championships earlier this year. At left, she receives her gold medal award for winning the Women's Saber competition..



her clubmate, **Caitlin Thompson**, also of the Oregon Fencing Alliance, as correctly reported on page 9 of the same issue.

Thompson was also a member of the gold medal-winning Junior Women's Saber Team a few days later, bringing her gold medal total to two from the 2004 Junior Worlds in Plovdiv this April.

Battling a different opponent

A FENCER'S TALE

An athlete deals with her own challenges • by Meg**GALIPAULT**

It started out slowly – a slight tremor in the lower back, a cramp in one calf, some mild weakness in an arm. Some days were good, some were bad. I chalked most of it up to stress.

I can't remember exactly why I was visiting my doctor – it could have been the flu – but when I mentioned the back shaking and the calf cramping, she sent me to a neurologist. And therein began my five-year odyssey into diagnostic limbo.

I had only been fencing for two years when all this started. I had finally earned my "E." After 20 years of being "sport-less," I found a sport I could love. I went to every competition I could.

Given that I was 35 when I first picked up a foil, I didn't have lofty goals for my fencing success. I only wanted to reach a level where I could fence competitively, and without great embarrassment, in the Veterans field, which meant I had five years to develop my skills.

The Thrill Of Competition

I love to compete. The adrenaline kicks in, the rest of the world fades, and life is made infinitely simple, pared down to one thin foil against another. I am never happier in my fencing than when I'm competing and, I'll admit, sometimes never more angry.

At first, my unknown malady had little effect on my fencing. But then my muscles began to cramp and my rhythm was off. The harder I fenced, the worse I felt afterward. It took days to

recover from tournaments – as if every muscle were chafing against bone, like shin splints. Depressed, I stopped fencing for a year. Even more depressed as a result, I started fencing again.

All the while, the diagnostic limbo continued: four MRIs, countless blood tests, two EMGs, two spinal taps. Was it multiple sclerosis? A cranky, slightly bulging disk in my spine? Lyme disease? Or, most frightening of all, Lou Gehrig's? Neurology is a tricky business and my condition stumped the neurologists. My muscles were clearly spastic and twitchy, my reflexes were hyperactive, I had muscle-wasting in my right foot. And my fear of Lou Gehrig's, more properly known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a fatal neurological disease, was heightened when it couldn't be ruled out.

A Body At War

I was at war with my body and the battleground was the fencing strip. That's where the contrast between what I thought I was capable of doing and the reality of my limitations came into full light. Each meet became a litmus test for my body. Would it hold up? Would I fall down? Will my right leg become a heavy weight when I advance? Will I recover from a failed attack fast enough to retreat, parry, riposte? I tried to time my medication so that I wouldn't be too weak, but that also meant I would be stiff and the chance of pulling a muscle that much

greater. I tried pacing myself during pools but I was still exhausted when it came to direct eliminations.

More than once, I had to take a break from a meet and go to the bathroom to cry. Fencing became less about how to outsmart my opponent and more about how to outsmart my body, and I wasn't winning at that game.

I fenced my last tournament in Fall 2003. I dropped out after the pools, having lost every bout, unable to move my legs fast enough to maintain rhythm and balance. I went to the bathroom and cried, and a dear friend held my hand; she knew that the strip had become a metaphor – my elusive dragon, my contemptuous whale.

Back To The Strip?

Three months ago I saw a new neurologist and my condition has been narrowed down to either hereditary spastic paraplegia or a mitochondrial myopathy. It really doesn't matter which one – both are a far cry better than ALS. In lieu of competing, I teach fencing to a small group of teenagers, who give me far greater joy than they'll ever know.

But I'm still not content with not competing. I have not found peace with it. And still, in the back of my mind, I'm thinking I should go back to the strip. — AF

Meg Galipault is managing editor of THE KENYON REVIEW and volunteers as executive editor of AMERICAN FENCING.

A first aid insurance policy **BEING PREPARED**

You need a plan in place • by Peter **HARMER, Ph.D, ATC**



Q *We have a small but active club and want to have a first aid kit available for the members. What should we include?*

A There are a number of issues to be considered as you put together supplies to treat injuries at your club or when members travel to competitions. Although the data we have collected at the NAC indicates that the incidence of injury is very low, we know that injuries occur, ranging from minor to quite severe. As with competition, preparation is key to success. Preparation for injury prevention and treatment covers three areas: protocols, training and supplies.

1 Protocols are the procedures that you have in place to deal with injury-related events. For example, in terms of injury prevention at practice, the club should have established methods for ensuring that all equipment (both that which belongs to the club and that which is members' personal property) is in good condition, as well as mechanisms for replacing unsafe items or prohibiting their use. Masks in poor condition seem to be the most obvious risk, but jackets with tears in them or missing groin straps and gloves with holes are also risk factors. Probably the most common problem is fencers bouting in sweat pants. This should not be permitted. In addition, it would be wise to have members indicate significant pre-existing health conditions on their membership forms so that appropriate care can be given in the event of injury/illness. It is important to note

the requirement for confidentiality in these cases.

The most important protocol is the one that identifies who is responsible and what they are to do in the event of a significant or serious injury. The basics include the ability to access 911 or the local emergency response number to call for an ambulance, an appropriately equipped (and readily accessible) first aid kit, and the ability to administer care to the injured athlete and direct others to help in the case of an emergency.

2 It is not particularly useful to have a system in place and supplies at hand if no one is capable of utilizing them. The minimum training requirement should be child and adult CPR and first aid training. A number of recognized agencies run regular courses in these skills and the costs are very reasonable. For those who wish to have a little more preparation, the American Red Cross introduced a Sports First Aid course a few years ago that may be of interest.

As few people are present at every session, it is a good idea to have built-in redundancy; that is, more than one person should be trained and certified. Keep in mind that younger members can also undertake CPR and first aid training and can be a valuable resource by being certified. Also remember that certified athletic trainers and other healthcare professionals staff the medical area at all of the NAC.

3 The supplies that you need will depend on how much coverage you want to provide for your members,

but can be broadly defined as those for acute, chronic or prophylactic purposes. Most first aid kits are designed to provide supplies for acute injuries (that is, sudden, unexpected damage to the body). Acute injuries are principally musculoskeletal (sprains, strains, dislocations) or soft tissue (lacerations, contusions, blisters).

For acute injuries you should have access to ice (or instant ice packs), heavy-duty ACE bandages, a SAM™ splint, and a pair of crutches. For acute soft tissue injuries you need gloves, Vionex (or similar hand sterilizer), hydrogen peroxide, Provodine antiseptic wipe, triple antibiotic ointment, some 3X3-inch gauze, fabric band-aids (regular, knuckle, square), Spenco Second Skin™, dental plugs (for nose bleeds), BloodClotter™ Wound sealer or New Skin Liquid Bandage™, tweezers, bandage scissors and sterile eye wash. Finally, it would be helpful to have a spray-on adherent such as Tuff Skin™, pre-wrap, one and two-inch Lightplast™ adhesive elastic tape, athletic tape, moleskin and a CPR pocket mask.

The time, effort and money put into injury prevention and treatment is much like paying insurance premiums – you hope that you never have to collect on your investment, but the peace of mind that comes from being prepared is priceless. — AF

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

The greatest sports event ... **MORE THAN 'GAMES'**

Idealism blends with reality in Athens • by Dr. JohnHEIL

The Modern Olympics unfold where the idealism of ancient Greece meets the practical reality of the 21st century world order. The result is the greatest sports event in the history of the world, an awesome demonstration of athletic grace and power. But the full richness of the Olympic story – the abundance of joy and sadness, work and worry, wonder and despair – is revealed only as one comes to understand the “Inner Game” and the “Outer Game” that are an integral part of it.

The “Inner Game” is in the heart and soul of the athlete. It is the sanctuary of the Olympic spirit, the source of the aspiration to go “faster, higher, stronger.” Many will seek and some will succeed in making their mark on the Olympics, but the Games will leave its mark on them all. While the winners of gold and glory will have their moment in the bright lights of the world stage, those who live the ideals of the Games will be brightened by the glow of the torch that shines across time and civilizations. Their stories are the true treasures of the Games. Most will unfold outside the spotlight.

To the favorites upon whose spirits medal dreams may weigh heavily, give plenty of room, and avoid burdening them further with your expectations. To the “long

shots” who have defeated the odds and proven the naysayers wrong, give your respect - which is all they have wanted. Give time to mourn to those who have missed out on their Olympic dreams - by as little as a touch in a single bout, or by a decision in a board room. Give them your understanding, but keep your sympathy to yourself.

Look also to the coaches and sports staff who have ridden the ups and downs with the athletes, and all who have been with them, “Not once every four years, but every day.”

Their “inner games” are revealing as well.

The “Outer Game” is about the “When, Where and How” of the Olympics. If the Games are to thrive in contemporary culture even as they continue to honor an ancient one, there is a difficult balance to be struck. This is clearly worth fighting for. And there will be fights galore – about the flick and right of way, about prime time and market share, about national pride and international cooperation. This “Outer Game” is played by a vast array of characters who will seek to shape the field of play for reasons ranging from the truly noble to the just plain nuts.

The alphabet soup of IF’s, NGB’s, NOC’s, LOC’s, and WADA’s are charged with running the event and seeing that the “I’s” are dotted and the “T’s” are crossed. When

the athletes are center stage, look right and left – there they are. The sponsors and the media are competing for your eyes and ears, and your credit card. They need their own wins, if they are to stay in their game. Someone must pick up the tab for the athletes to eat and compete. But don’t be massaged into mistaking fluff for substance. A sports drink can’t do your workout for you. Look a little closer to discover the real deal. Notice also how creatively (flags, teddybears etc.) the high-profile athletes with personal sponsors cover their team sponsor logos on the podium.

More police will be on the beat than ever. As always, the officials will stand guard on the field of play, protecting its integrity, from the pounding of the impassioned gamesmanship that swirls all around it. There are Anti-Doping agents, policing the athletes’ bodies so that they can compete without poisoning themselves for a chance at glory. And of course, there are the security forces which are charged to preserve and protect the world’s largest celebration of peace and internationalism from those who would seek to taint the Games with innocent blood. They will all go unnoticed when the job is well done – and are usually underappreciated. Try to figure out what is a good day is for these police.

The Games have a history of

politicization – including ploys for national and ethnic supremacy. Notice how unimportant this is to the athletes. For all the strife of the 21st century, Iraq is back in the Olympic family, as are many other nations liberated from oppressive regimes and now free to march under their own flag.

The bar keeps getting set higher for each successive Olympics, now requiring a mobilization of forces on scale that it is seldom seen outside of war.

Each successive LOC has to do it right the first time, facing a learning curve as steep as Mt. Olympus itself. Now the citizens of Athens make their stand in the modern era (trying to avoid crushing their antiquities under foot as they do so) in a mass cultural struggle that reaches all the way to the trash collector and the transit worker. Like the athletes, they will falter at times. As you tally up this score be sure to count for grace under pressure.

Through the interweaving of the many story lines of the Games themselves, as well as the “Inner Game” and the “Outer Game,” the full picture of the Olympics is revealed – a tapestry of grace and glory, of conflict, culture and change. — AF

Dr. John Heil is Chair of Sportsmedicine and Science for USFencing, and can be reached at jheil@lewisgaleclinic.com

GOOD NEWS *for You*



The Philosopher's Choice

Triplette Competition Arms is happy to offer you our Super Duty lame for Foil or Saber in six new exciting colors. Choose from Blue, Sky Blue, Green, Gold, Red, or Rose, or the traditional Silver. Same great price, same great fit! Call us for yours today.



Triplette Competition Arms
101 East Main Street, Elkin, NC 28621
336-835-7774 www.triplette.com

The elephant in the room

REFEREEING DEBATED

The challenge to be fair • by Jeff **BUKANTZ**



OK, after all the years of ignoring it and dancing around it, let's acknowledge the elephant in the room.

While refereeing will always be subjective, especially in fencing, the fact remains that some referees are simply not objective.

Some refs favor the bigger name, whether it belongs to an individual or a team. Some do so subconsciously, which is human nature, and some do so consciously, which renders them as sub-human.

I have a film from the 1956 Olympics where my father Dan beat the great Eduardo Mangiarotti 5-4 in a hotly contested team match in the round of four. My dad insists that he won the bout 10-2, and the film pretty much bears him out.

I remember fencing our own legend Mike Marx on many occasions where it would have to be one light in order for me to get the call. Rest assured Mike didn't need any help, as he was the best of my generation, as proven by his eight championships.

Of course, both my dad and I were the beneficiaries of "favorable" calls against lesser opponents, as well.

In the army, this is known as "R.H.I.P.", or "Rank Has Its Privilege."

The most apropos anecdote was once provided to this magazine a generation ago by former AFLA & USFA President and recent inductee into the USFA Hall of Fame, Steve Sobel. Steve recalled the story of Dr. Tibor Nyilas, who won seven U.S. saber titles and competed on four Olympic Teams.

Tibor was fencing a neophyte in dry saber, and received a gift call from the

judges and the then director. The young fencer (rightly) exclaimed, "Tibor, you know you got that touch on your reputation!"

The unflappable and dry-humored Nyilas quickly riposted, "So, why don't you go out and get a reputation, too?"

OK, belly-aching and anecdotes aside, let's admit that this happens. It is, of course, a disgrace and completely unacceptable. It is, sadly, an extremely unfortunate fact of fencing life. Ultimately, it is the job of the FOC and the FIE to weed out the perpetrators, no matter what the political fallout.

In the international arena, the stakes are raised and the antics substantially more despicable. Some referees have been accused of being on another country's payroll. We snicker about it and make comments behind the scenes, but the reality is that this undoubtedly has been the case.

In one international competition, a referee was allegedly seen accepting cash from a member of the host country. Was it his per diem? Maybe. Was it something else? Maybe. Will this highly regarded referee be in Athens at the Olympics? NO!

And, for that, kudos go out to the FIE Arbitrage Commission, of which our own George Kolombatovich is a member.

But, that's a spit in the bucket. The problem is widespread, and seems to be particularly limited to referees from the traditional powerhouses. Hmmm. Do certain countries watch each other's backs? Over the years, it sure has seemed that way.

Traditionally, American fencers have, if anything, been stabbed in the back.

We have gotten the short shrift too often in foil and saber. Once we waded through the omnipresent (and possibly warranted) paranoia and conspiracy theories, there is no doubt that some referees from certain countries have appeared to give every call with two lights against us!

As a competitor, I've seen it. As a longtime referee, I've seen it. As the Team Captain, I've seen it. We've gotten hosed too many times to ignore or for it to be considered a coincidence.

Of course, saber is the hardest to officiate. It has incredible speed and the most calls that can be separated by a hair. Honest referees are roundly criticized, no matter what they call. That's the nature of the saber beast.

But, it is also the easiest weapon for the "professional referee" to slant the outcome of a bout or match. As so many calls can go either way, or so it seems, the unscrupulous referee can pick nearly any moment to call a certain touch in favor of the chosen fencer or team. As much as I want to give the benefit of the doubt to every referee for having made only honest mistakes, I'd be naive to do so.

We don't want to be favored...we just want a consistently level playing field. And, it looks like the landscape is changing for the better.

At the 2004 New York World Cup, the men's saber team did the previously unthinkable when they won the gold medal.

As 1984 Olympic Team Captain Jack Keane commented to me afterward, "I'm glad this happened before they put me in the box."

How on earth did this happen? Well, this team has been on the cusp for a long time. Keeth Smart, Ivan Lee and Jason Rogers, our Olympic Team, along with replacement athlete Tim Morehouse, have been through the wars. Sometimes they were beaten by the other team. On some occasions, they beat themselves. On others, the referee played a role.

But on this magical day, they rolled through Poland, Russia (for the first time), France and Spain. They all fenced to the best of their abilities, no doubt, but there is no denying the white elephant in the room.

And, for once, the elephant in the room didn't trample us. Instead, thanks to fair officiating throughout the day, the team that hadn't made a top four result brought home the gold medal.

Isn't it amazing when the playing field is level? Isn't it amazing when the referee assignments are made fairly?

Isn't it amazing when the referees don't call every close one against us? For crying out loud, that's the way it should always be!

Now, let's look at how we can right the ship.

Since we have many highly regarded international referees, they can act as an implied deterrent. In other words, if they are used deep into the competitions, the guilty refs will know that our refs can reciprocate against fencers from their country.

In fact, there is school of thought in our country that we should fight fire with fire. An eye for an eye. Tit for tat. If they hit us, let's hit 'em back harder. Some think we should only employ referees who will not think twice about meting out the retribution to anyone at anytime.

Well, that knee-jerk reaction might make us feel good, but it is a short-

sighted approach that is sure to backfire. Once one of our referees gets the reputation of a hit man, he won't get used and we'll lose credibility. That's a lose-lose proposition.

Only the FIE can remove the elephant from the room. It is the duty and responsibility of the Arbitrage Commission to clean up the sport of the dirty players. If and when that ever happens, and the assignments are made on a completely random basis, the playing field will finally become level.

In the meantime, we are very fortunate to have George K. in his lofty position. His presence at the New York World Cup proved that we can get fair treatment, which is all we can ask for.

But, history has shown that to be an aberration. The elephant will never leave the room until the fair treatment becomes the norm. — AF

Proprintwear

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISER OF THE USFA

Art Prints, Baby Doll Shirts, Bibs, Bumper Stickers,
Cups, Golf Shirts, Hats, Henley Tees, Infantwear,
Jewelry, Lanyards, Sleeveless Shirts, Stickers,
Post Cards, Night Shirts, Pins, Shorts, Stuffed Animals,
Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Temporary Tattoos, Towels

(866) 776-9327

www.proprintwear.com



The drive to excel

A FENCING HAVEN

South Coast Fencing Center caters to all • by Kelley **HAYNES**

I've always loved fencing since age 14, when I picked up my first foil. The sport seized my imagination as no other sport before or since. When I took time off from fencing to raise a family, I always knew that I would return to the sport I loved. When I found South Coast Fencing Center, with its emphasis on serious competitive fencing within a family-oriented setting, I found the perfect place to revive my dormant fencing skills and introduce my son to the sport. The energy of both veteran and junior fencers, combined with the enthusiastic support of parents and the all-volunteer Board of Directors, creates an energized atmosphere that represents the sport of fencing at its finest.

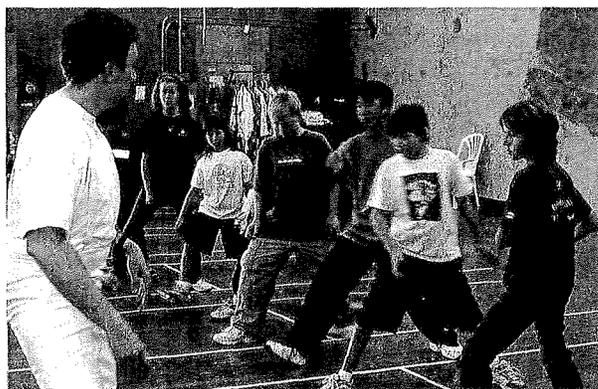
This drive to excel gave rise to a small club, Real Fencing, based in a small community recreation center. When Real Fencing abruptly lost its sublet space several years ago, the club officers scrambled to find a new, secure location for their club. At the time, Orange County did not have a single autonomous center devoted to the sport of fencing; community recreation centers and intramural college clubs provided the bulk of fencing instruction to the local area.

Brenden Richard, Louis Alvarez, Jamie Wood, and Missag Parseghian, who formed the Board of Directors for South Coast, realized a unique opportunity to expand the sport of fencing in a highly receptive area of the country. On a shoestring budget of \$2,000, officers and members purchased supplies and building materials. Volun-

teers helped assemble the wooden floor, and South Coast Fencing Center opened its doors in Tustin, Calif. in 2001 with four strips and Brenden Richard serving as Head Coach and President.

The Center initiated advertising through local ads during movie theater previews and through word of mouth in the local fencing community. The Center's website also proved to be a gold mine of advertising and recruitment. The need for more space became apparent as the classes offered through the Center quickly expanded the club's roster. When a larger two-story space became available in nearby Costa Mesa, the board of directors pooled their money to secure the lease, and South Coast moved into a new 5,400 square foot facility off of Lake Center Drive in October 2003.

South Coast Fencing Center now boasts eight strips and 2,400 square feet of fencing space. The front reception area is the central meeting place for both parents and fencers to gather and socialize. The reception area also contains South Coast's video equipment where the competitive fencers can view their bouts and study the competition. The second story loft contains both weight training



Well-attended beginner's classes form the backbone of South Coast's revenue structure.

and core exercise equipment, as well as "wall space" for fencers to practice their attacks and lunges. The loft also provides a comfortable space for the South Coast parents to watch their kids in action on the strips below.

The rent is expensive for the club – 80 percent of the club's income goes to rent, in fact – but the club has been able to afford it, posting positive income from day one in the new space and even before.

With a ratio of approximately 70 percent of the competitive fencers enrolled in the youth fencing, there certainly is plenty of action to watch! Their infectious energy invigorates the entire club; their competitive results demonstrate their dedication to the sport. Fencers Travis Girard, Elliott Kaplan and Sheena Santamaria together brought home five season championships in the 2003-2004 Southern California/Nevada Junior Circuit.

The Board of Directors strives to keep both the sport and the business

of fencing in mind while administering South Coast's functions. A strong board of directors ensures sound business decisions, keeping the Center running as efficiently as possible. The volunteer board members contribute a wide array of talent and knowledge to the business of fencing. A clear and strong means of administrating the club, with the roles and responsibilities of each leader well defined, plus a well-documented (i.e. by-laws) set of policies that ensure decisions can be made without the paralysis of disagreement or bickering has led to a strong, healthy and happy atmosphere.

Head Coach and President Brenden Richard runs South Coast's website, keeping Center members informed of the latest happenings through postings and E-mail. Members also schedule their private lessons with Brenden through the Center's website. Secretary Jaime Wood staffs the armory, which provides complete weapon maintenance and repair services for South Coast members. Treasurer Louis Alvarez, a restaurant owner, provides valuable business advice and manages the books, keeping the Center in the black. Vice President Missag Parseghian, a molecular biologist drawing on years of experience teaching college students, teaches the beginner classes. Marketing Director Faith Grimm brings

A strong board and active parental base is critical for the continued growth of South Coast Fencing Center.



All skill levels are attracted to South Coast Fencing Center.

her newspaper advertising experience to the table to promote South Coast to the general public.

Student recruitment and marketing remain major goals for South Coast Fencing Center. The beginner classes, a potent recruiting tool, are offered on an eight-week schedule. The class schedules are posted on the Center's website and prospective fencers can sign up for classes online. The Center also offers a wide variety of classes geared towards every skill level and weapon to maintain student interest and promote student return to the Center. South Coast has found that the eight-week schedule provides a regular, dependable source of income – about 90 students enroll on average in each session.

The Internet is South Coast's prime marketing tool. South Coast depends on a functioning, orderly website to attract new business and to retain our current membership at a cost of only \$18 per month. The vast majority of South Coast's new students find the Center via the Internet, and easy enrollment through the website promotes signup

and retention. Gift certificates for monthly dues also bring in extra funds, especially during the Christmas holidays! Enough people are attracted via the web and some newspaper advertising, so we currently don't feel the need to hold demonstrations.

The primary revenue stream for the club comes from the classes. Membership dues and some equipment sales bring in additional income. That is supplemented by a few fundraisers throughout the year that raise extra funds for electric equipment, travel expenses for sending coaches to competitions, etc. Costs for the club besides rent include a percentage of lesson fees for Head Coach Richard; other coaches serve on a volunteer basis.

Obtaining a corporate not for profit status has saved the Center money and contributed to a positive bottom line. After incorporating under 501c(4), the Center saved a significant amount in taxes. 501c(4) also opens the door for grant application and shelters limited fundraising activities. By pursuing marketing strategies, South Coast Fencing Center successfully melded the ultimate amateur sport with a positive bottom line.

For further information on the South Coast Fencing Center, see its website: www.southcoastfencing.com. — AF

Kelley Haynes is a South Coast Fencing Center member and fencing parent.

Advice to club owners

TAX LAND MINES

And other unpleasant surprises • by David **ARIAS**

In a previous column (Spring 2004) we addressed the options a club has when deciding whether or not to incorporate. This article provides guidance on tax and other regulatory considerations for each of those options.

A club formed by you, without establishing a corporation or other legal entity, is known as a sole proprietorship. All income and expenses flow through your checking account. You are your own boss. You are also responsible for keeping records of all income and expenses, and including that information on your personal federal (and possibly state) income tax return.

This is done using a Schedule C for business income and expenses, and Schedule SE for self-employment taxes. If you pay anyone as an assistant, you will also be required to prepare either a federal form 1099 (for fees paid to an independent contractor) or form 940 (if you pay them as an employee). Depending on the tax code for your state/county/city, you may also be required to pay: excise taxes for certain purchases made in connection with your business/club; occupation taxes on employees; lease/property taxes; and county/city business licenses.

If you decide to form a general business corporation (a C corporation), most of the taxes listed above will apply. But instead of Schedules C and SE related to your personal income taxes, you will prepare a federal form 1120. As with a sole proprietorship, it is extremely important that you separate your business income and expenses from those that are personal. Income and expenses are treated very differently for individuals and corporations. In addition, you will likely be required to hold

annual meetings of your board of directors and document those meetings in formal minutes. Other state/county/city business taxes might also apply.

Becoming a non-profit corporation has a number of important advantages, the most significant of which is that no income taxes will be paid on fees related to club operations (tournament entry fees, class fees and private lesson fees). In order to obtain non-profit status, and especially tax-exempt status, federal and state governments have fairly strict rules regarding qualifications and ongoing disclosures. Failure to meet these requirements can have serious consequences to your status as a non-profit corporation, and to your personal tax liability. Some of the following activities can void your tax-exempt status:

1 The net earnings (income less expenses) of an exempt organization cannot be distributed to anyone having a personal interest of the company, such as an officer, director, trustee or key employee. This includes unreasonably high salaries, salaries based on a percentage of donations or fees, unsecured loans, or indirect payments of personal expenses. A common problem occurs when members of a club work together to raise funds (think of a car wash) and then allocate the funds to members who participated in order to offset travel expenses to a tournament. Prohibited income does not include payment for work performed such as coaching fees, but there are many types of payments that are strictly off limits.

2 Any type of political campaign activity completely disqualifies a charitable organization from tax-exempt status. This specifically relates to active

support or opposition to an individual candidate or political party.

3 Care must be taken when the member of a charitable organization assigns income from an outside activity. For example, a coach might produce a video or book on fencing. The coach may intend for any income from sales of the video/book to go toward a specific purpose or program. Unless done correctly, the income will be credited to the coach and personal income taxes will have to be paid.

4 A charitable organization cannot engage in unrelated business activities. For example, one club started making birdhouses as a fundraiser. The venture was so successful that the club devoted considerable resources toward the production of birdhouses, to the point that birdhouse sales exceeded any revenues related to operating the charitable organization. The IRS would consider this an unrelated business activity, the club would lose its tax-exempt status, and income taxes must be paid on all net income. The definition of unrelated business income is not always clear, so it is generally best to get guidance from the IRS before devoting club resources to any venture.

There are many things we must consider when running a club, but do not be intimidated by the potential risks. You can get help from individual club members, board members, friends, the IRS and community organizations established to help non-profit clubs. — **AF**

David P. Arias is a CPA and MBA, and is president and co-founder of the Birmingham Fencing Club, Southeast Regional Youth Circuit Coordinator and a member of the USFA Regional Youth Circuit Subcommittee.

A fencing parent's guide – Part 2

TOURNAMENT TIME

FINALLY ARRIVES

The Big Day and its special challenges • by Ron **DILBERT**

Summer has come, but don't forget, even as the Summer Nationals draw to a close and the Olympics loom, the new competition season is not far behind.

Last issue, we addressed the planning new fencing parents need to execute before big competitions, including travel and organization. In this installment of the Parent's Corner, we set out Part Two on our guide, to the day of the event itself, from getting off of the plane or out of the car through the last touch.

Once you and your fencer have arrived at the hotel, now is a good time to check out where the venue is and travel time to it. All equipment must be checked and marked before you are allowed to fence in the tournament (you must have your mask, at least two body cords, and for foil and saber, your lamè tested and stamped by the armorer before fencing begins – and the referees will check!). Most times the armorers set up at the venue the night before the tournament starts and will check equipment then.

The fencer should also make sure all his weapons are working and pass regulation weight control. Your fencer should have at least three weapons. You can buy a tester from any of the vendors that are at these tournaments. If equipment does fail, you can have it fixed or replaced by any of the vendors.

On the big day, go to the venue before the posted time of registration (remember that this time is the time that registration ends, not begins) and look for the line going to the registration table. Remember that the fencer is the only one allowed to register. He must bring his USFA card and his confirmation with him to the table.

If you have not yet had your equipment checked then you must go to the armorers' table at this point. You can usually tell where they are by the inevitably LONG line. If we couldn't check equipment the night before, my son goes to warm up while I draw the assignment of waiting on line to get his equipment checked.

While we are talking about warming up: most new fencers tend to warm up for about five minutes. But athletes need to stretch and then fence for about a half-hour to get muscles warmed and focus on the fencing. If your fencer's coach is not present, encouragement may be needed in this direction!

Once registration closes, the Bout Committee (the people running the tournament) will post an initial seeding list – generally taping it to a wall in the venue. The list usually will also contain other information such as each fencer's club and rating. It is important to check this list to make sure your child is shown on it and the information is correct. If any discrep-

ancies are found, you should immediately bring it up to the Bout Committee to be remedied.

Within a short period of time after that, the pools (usually six or seven people) will be listed along with the strip that each pool will fence on. After the pool has finished fencing, have your child check his scores before signing the score sheet. If your child has signed his or her name to an incorrect result, the rules state that it will not be remedied! After all the pools finish, the results go to the Bout Committee, where they are tabulated according to wins and losses with ties being broken by indicators (touches that you make vs. touched received by you).

This usually takes about an hour, so your fencer will need some warm up again. Then, based on the results of the pools, a bracket will be posted for the direct elimination bouts along with the strips the fencers will be assigned to.

Finally, when your fencer is eliminated, the best thing to do is to watch the fencing to learn more. Then go back to the hotel, shower and have fun with your friends. Have a safe trip home!!

Finally, remember to send in your results to the local paper and check your rating with the USFA, if your fencer earned a higher one at the competition... and have a great season!!

— AF

A widespread problem? PLAYING BY THE RULES

Referees can't take the law into their own hands • by Joe **BYRNES**

I heard what might have been a really distressing report after one of the NACs last year. Might have been, I say, but only if I hadn't encountered enough of this sort of thing in the old days of the AFLA, not to mention also in our current glorious ones of the USFA. I try not to let myself get all worked up (bad for the blood pressure) because people are still doing it. Doing what? Making their own rules, that's what.

The report was that a referee (supposedly a young man; if you recognize yourself, shame, shame) declared on his own responsibility at the strip that the body cord plug being used by a certain foil competitor was "illegal." Apparently he did this because he had never seen one of this particular model. Well, since it was an Italian Carmimari, obviously he had never officiated in Europe, and I hope for his sake he learns better before he gets experienced enough and good enough to be sent overseas with a U.S. team. Try to make that ruling in Europe, and you would be likely to find yourself on the way to the nearest airport, under police escort – for your own protection.

You would think that a referee would have the savvy to look at the body cord and note that it bore the official inspection mark (presumably that's the first thing he'd look for), thereby indicating that it had been passed, and if passed, presumably was a legal type. If still in doubt, he could then ask, and be thoroughly straightened out.

Unfortunately, our sport does encour-

age this sort of thing. I doubt somehow (though I admit I do not know enough about other sports to be dogmatic) that you would find it easy to get away with making your own rules in pro football, or baseball, or basketball, or tennis, or whatever.

Where this particular infection starts, I think, is from the top: certain of the FIE great and good gurus have long been inclined to such behavior. I first encountered it halfway around the world, 40 years ago at the Olympic Games, when the g&g g in question, right as I was standing there, declared an American epee "illegal." Now there was absolutely nothing in the rules at that time to forbid what he found, but he made a brand new rule even as I was watching him. There has never been any use arguing with an FIE g&g g, unless you were Fini, and he didn't always win (that's an in-joke for the international old-timers). As it happens, there was nothing inherently unfair or odd about his new rule; in fact, I had to agree that it made good sense, but the fundamental point here is that it was *not* in the rule book; that it was a *new* rule; it didn't exist before that moment. About two years later, by the way, it got into the next printing of the Reglement. With such world-class examples, it is easy to see the temptation to go off on a local and personal legislative kick.

On the matter of body cords and their connectors, wondrous are the variations that have been carried onto the

world's strips over the years. On my first overseas trip, I noted the foil team of one South American nation using ingeniously "home-built" connectors composed of the male and female clear plastic blocks used to connect 300-ohm TV antenna lead. Of course, these things aren't polarized, and the two pins are of the same diameter, so either could be wired as "B" or "C", and were. Clever types color-coded their assemblies or notched them, to make hook-up quick and accurate.

In this country, it has been decades since we have seen the Amphenol microphone connectors that were once almost universal; I believe there is still a USFA division where a lot of RCA phono plug and jack connections are used for foil. What's that? Look at the back of your hi-fi amp. Of course, the plugs used are a slightly sturdier type than the local Radio Shack's special of the day. One thing can be said for using a somewhat off-beat connector: people won't try to borrow them, or steal them.

The lesson should be that many hook-up arrangements are acceptable under the general terms of the rules, and that it would be presumptuous, as well as ignorant, to denounce something just because you haven't seen it before. Will that stop some of our opinionated, self-inflated, "qualified" referees, or others, from having conniption fits and legislative spasms? I doubt it. So what else is new? — AF

Onward To Athens ...

FENCERS HEAD TO 'THE SHOW'

U.S. Olympic fencers look to break a 20-year medal drought in Greece this summer • by Jeff **BUKANTZ**, U.S. Olympic Team Captain

The Athens Games have finally arrived. The Olympics are "The Show." They are the culmination of a quadrennial's worth of hard work by the athletes, the coaches and the entire U.S. Fencing Association.

Everyone strives for the elusive Olympic medal. Of course, that is somewhat ironic considering the Olympics have a substantially shallower field, and are hence a weaker competition, than any annual World Championship.

The reality is that an Olympic medal is worth its weight in gold, silver and bronze. The great Alexander Romankov of the former Soviet Union won an astounding five World foil titles, but was an Olympic bridesmaid. Alessandro Puccini of Italy won the Olympic gold at the 1996 Atlanta Games, but didn't do much else. Guess which one would gladly trade their credentials?

Pre-1996, any country could send a full team to the Games. Then, due to the International Olympic Committee limiting the size of the overall field, a stringent qualification system was put into place by the F.I.E. Fencers and teams could now qualify by their World ranking or through their zonal ranking. This had the effect of guaranteeing that some of the top fencers and teams in the World would be shut out from competing. It also meant that many countries would not qualify even one fencer. And, it meant that the United States



would have its work cut out for it to field a strong team.

Well, as the home team in Atlanta, we were allowed to enter a full team, so there was no blood there. However, in Sydney we were only able to qualify eight fencers and one team.

We had two close calls in the 2000 Olympics. **Cliff Bayer** was in the top 10 in the world, had won two Category A World Cups, and had no fear on the strip against any opponent. As it was, he lost a 15-14 heartbreaker to Korea's Kim Young-Ho, the eventual gold medalist. *(Captain's note: Cliff attacked on the last touch, but missed as the Korean scored on a duck-stop. As Cliff so poignantly commented to me, "At 14-14, I was going to win or lose with MY best action, not his. I have no regrets.")*

The women's foil team lost a heartbreaker to Germany 45-43 in the battle for the bronze. To refresh your memory, the last

Young standard-bearers at the New York City Grand Prix of Fencing earlier this year.

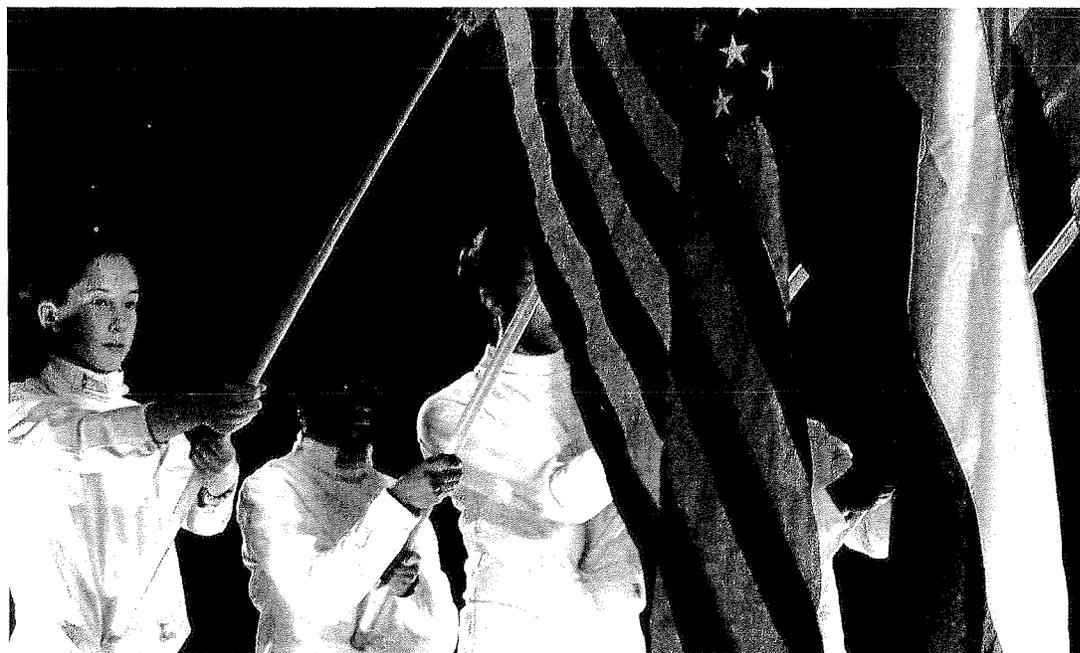


Photo courtesy of FIE/Inchun Farber



touch was “scored” against us on a highly questionable red card when **Ann Marsh** was called for covering target. This was after constant and belligerent razzing by the German team of the arm judge, who finally

cracked. (*Captain's note: Do you think that arm judge would have made that call against Italy?*)

The ladies regrouped, refocused, re-energized and eventually beat Germany for the bronze medal at the 2001 World Championships. Even though there will be no women's foil team event in Athens, let's never forget this great championship team.

A NEW ERA

Well, the Athens Games will be ushering in a new era for Olympic fencing, as women's saber individual will be included for the first time. But, the Athens Games will also represent a new era for American fencing. For these Games, we have qualified a whopping 14 fencers (the fourth largest contingent!) and three teams. As FIE President Rene Roch recently commented, “The Americans have become a powerhouse.”

OK, let's take a step back for a reality check. Our last Olympic medal was earned by **Peter Westbrook** 20 years ago when he won the men's saber bronze in Los Angeles (1984). The prior medal was 24 years before that, when the late **Albert Axelrod** got the men's foil bronze in Rome (1960).

So, in nearly half a century, we have a total of two Olympic medals.

The landscape has changed, however, as we are now players in the international arena. The mindset has completely changed. Where we once had many athletes happy just to make the team, we now have athletes who are unhappy to take second place!

No matter what happens in Athens, the membership of the USA should understand that we are continuing to solidify our standing, and will continue to produce fencers who have the new mindset. This was again proven at the Junior/Cadet Worlds in Plovdiv, where our young fencers won seven medals.

THE 2004 UNITED STATES OLYMPIC TEAM

Let's take a look at our team, the teams to beat, the individual favorites, and how we stack up.

Women's Saber Individual

No need to mince words or candy-coat things here. We have three fencers qualified and all three are ranked in the top 10 in the World. **Sada Jacobson** is Number 1, **Mariel Zagunis** is now tied for Number 4, and **Emily Jacobson** is Number 10.

There is no denying that all three are capable of medalling. With a combination of fair officiating and utilization of the Bayer mantra (using your best action on the critical touch), we have a glorious chance to end the 20-year drought.

Sada is the favorite going in and has the pressure that goes with it. However, she is a very mature young lady and has everything in perspective. It says something about her competitive ability at crunch time when other fencers on the team have longed for Sada's ability to thrive when the pressure is greatest.



U.S. women's saber fencers Emily Jacobson and Mariel Zagunis are a formidable pair, both ranked in the top ten in the world.

Mariel is playing with the casino's money, as she qualified when another fencer from the African zone was not allowed by her country to go. Of course, Mariel's Number 4 ranking proves she deserves to go! Her fencing has improved greatly this year and I expect Mariel to have her best day in Athens.

Emily is at the top of her game, as well. She has been consistently at or near the top at the senior level, is the current World Junior champion, and will be a force to deal with.

(It really is amazing that these three will be vying for Olympic medals in Athens and for the NCAA Championship next March!)

Fencers to beat: #2 Touya of France, #3 Netchaeva of Russia, and #5 Tan of China.

Women's Foil Individual

Erinn Smart, who was the alternate for the Sydney foil team, qualified through the zone, having just beaten out **Iris Zimmermann** by two World Cup points.

Erinn, ranked Number 28, is capable of great success, as proven by her 11th place at last year's World Championships in Havana. She has a tremendous sense of timing, is an extraordinary athlete, and has solid overall game. In order for Erinn to fence to

photo courtesy of FencingPhotos.com



the best of her ability, she must maintain concentration on every touch and discipline herself to stay down on her legs while defending. If she does, she can surprise any-

one in the field.

Fencers to beat: #1 Vezzali of Italy, #1 Vezzali of Italy, and #1 Vezzali of Italy. (Vezzali is almost unbeatable and has won more World Cups than any other fencer in history. She is also the defending Olympic Champion.)

Women's Epee Individual

Kamara James also qualified through our zone and is ranked Number 35. Kamara emerged at the senior level this past season when she won the bronze at the Katowice World Cup and finished 16th at the tougher Legnano World Cup. She has medaled at the 2003 Junior Worlds in Trapani, so she is no stranger to the podium.

Kamara can score touches in a hurry, a la **Ann Marsh**, and she'll have to keep the pressure on her higher-ranked opponents.

Fencers to beat: #1 Flessel-Colovic of France, #2 Nisima of France, #4 Na of China

Men's Saber Individual

We have Number 19 **Ivan Lee**, Number 26 **Keeth Smart**, and Number 29 **Jason Rogers**, our three lefties.

Ivan has had his breakthrough year, culminating with his bronze medal at the New York World Cup in front of his home-

Ivan Lee, left, in action in New York in June.

town fans. He is confident, he is strong, and he comes to the strip ready for war. As long as Ivan keeps a positive attitude when the momentum is against him, he can beat anyone.

Keeth, the only repeat U.S. Olympian, became the first American in history to attain the Number 1 ranking when he did so in 2003. Keeth had no problem climbing the mountain that year, and arrived at the strip prepared to take the opponent's lunch. That was the easy part. But, as many of you know, once you reach the top, the mindset changes from one of gaining another level to just protecting your position. And that is a weird position, as an athlete goes from striving to win to striving "not to lose."

So, Keeth struggled early in the season, and didn't compete with the same swagger. He paid the price, got knocked down a bit, and the calls he was getting last year didn't seem to be coming this year.

In my opinion, this was good. I believe that Keeth has regained the same hunger and mindset that propelled him to the top, and will be far more dangerous as an underdog than as the favorite. Keeth regained some of his 2003 form in May when he placed 12th at both the Padua and Nancy World Cups.

Jason continues to improve. He is tactically sound and generally stays eerily calm under the most trying circumstances. He placed 14th in Padua and was deprived of the top 16 at the Athens World Cup by a tough call at 14-14. The key for Jason is to be ready from the outset and be aggressive, even with second intention in mind.

Fencers to beat: #1 Lukashenko of Ukraine, #2 Podzniakov of Russia, and #3 Covaliu of Romania.

Men's Foil Individual

We have Number 21 **Dan Kellner**, Number 42 **Jon Tiomkin**, and Number 55 **Jed Dupree**.

Dan won the Pan American Games gold last summer and made the top 16 at the Bonn and La Coruna World Cups. He is a wily veteran who stays within his game, and never panics when the chips are down. His confidence level is high and he has beaten many of the fencers in the field already.

Jon was the silver medalist at the Pan Ams and made the top 8 at the Vienna World Cup. He is a bull, both in physical strength and in attitude. Jon always fences his oversized heart out, and as long as he stays even-keeled throughout the ebbs and flows of the bout, he has the game to cause trouble for anyone.

Jed is probably the most athletically gifted of the three. He had a huge breakthrough in La Coruna, as he responded to coach Simon Gershon's advice to relax and enjoy. Jed, who normally appeared emotionless and somewhat introverted, started to use his great talents in a relaxed manner and started



photo courtesy of FIE/Joehon Farber



in Athens.

Fencers to beat: #1 Sanzo of Italy, #2 Cassara of Italy, #3-Bissdorf of Germany, and #5 Joppich of Germany.

Men's Epee Individual

We have Number 20 Seth (The Falcon) Kelsey, Number 29 Cody Mattern, and Number 41 Soren Thompson.

Seth has been the most consistent, having reached the top 32 in Bern and Budapest, the top 16 in Vancouver, the top 8 in Bratislava, got the bronze in Tallinn, and in late June won the first World Cup gold in recent history for a U.S. men's epee fencer. Seth frustrates his opponents with his atypical style, which features a lot of circling before The Falcon swoops in for the kill. He's succeeded throughout the grueling World Cup season and is capable of a great result in Athens.

Cody reached the top 32 in Bern and Tallinn, but gave notice to the epee contenders when he exploded for a silver medal at the final Olympic qualifying event, the Vancouver World Cup in March. Along the way to the podium, Cody beat five of the top epeeists in the world. After the Vancouver explosion, Cody knows he can beat the best, and so do his opponents.

Soren made the top 16 in Bern and the top 32 in Bratislava, but we can't forget his top 8 at last year's Worlds in Havana, where he just missed a medal. Soren is a cerebral fencer who combines classical technique with sometimes unorthodox tactics in order to maximize his success. There is no reason why he can't duplicate or better his result from Havana.

Fencers to beat: #1 Rota of Italy, #5 Jeannet of France, and #12 Kolobkov of Russia.

Men's Saber Team

Our team is ranked 7th and has drawn Number 2 Hungary.

This team, which includes replacement athlete **Tim Morehouse**, had been knocking on the door for a year. They were turned away many times from that door, but were getting closer. Finally in New York, they blew the door down with the exhilarating gold medal performance.

Certainly, this had to put an end to the "what ifs," and give this team the confidence to know they can beat anyone. They have beaten Russia, France, Italy, Germany, Poland and Spain. But, they have not yet beaten Hungary. The bottom line is this team is fully capable of a medal, and we're going to have to beat Hungary to have a chance.

There is no doubt whatsoever that they've fenced Hungary in the past without the honest feeling that they could win. After New York, that feeling should have been erased. If Keeth, Ivan and Jason

to smile and actually have fun. It resulted in a well-deserved top 32 result and hopefully provided Jed with the confidence to excel



The men's foil team of Jed Dupree, Dan Kellner and Jon Tiomkin, along with stand-in Soren Thompson, with their team gold from the 2003 Pan Am Games.

Photo courtesy of Beth Leigman

all fence their best, they can keep the momentum going in Athens. While they have earned the right to be satisfied after New York, they will have to be hungry to beat Hungary.

Teams to beat: #1 Russia, #2 Hungary, #3 France, #4 Ukraine.

Men's Foil Team

Our team is ranked 7th and draws Number 2 Germany.

The foilists, which include replacement athlete **Greg Chang**, have had some near misses during the year, but have been training together exclusively to peak at the Games. They stick to their strengths, and have gone toe to toe with some of the top teams.

While Germany is loaded with #3 Bissdorf, #5 Joppich, and #15 Wessels, our guys have had success against them individually. That has given them the confidence to approach the team match with the feeling they can beat the heavily favored Germans.

Comeback Kellner has proven to be a formidable closer. His comeback from a 30-40 deficit against Cuba at last summer's Pan Am Games was historic, and Dan was doing it again against Russia at the Worlds before the referee made an incomprehensible reversal at 43-43.

The key is to keep it close until we arrive at Kellner's finishing encounter. Tiomkin has performed very well in team matches, and has an ability to score touches in bunches. He has to feed on his emotional energy, his defining competitive trait.

Dupree can make a huge difference. That was illustrated by his performance in La Coruna (where the team finished 5th), especially in the team matches against Belgium and Korea, where Jed was a combined +16.

Teams to beat: #1 Italy, #2 Germany, #3 China



Men's Epee Team

Our team is ranked 7th and has drawn Number 2 Russia.

The bad news is that this team, which includes replacement athlete **Jan Viviani**, did not get over the hump this year. The good news is that they have a cohesive unit, have stayed positive, and

TUNE In

It's NBC's Olympics again, and the network is pulling out all the stops for its broadcast of the XXVIII Olympiad from the home of the ancient Games in Athens.

The unprecedented 24-hours-per-day broadcast of the Summer Games on the NBC Universal Networks will consist of 1,210 hours of coverage – nearly three times the 441.5 hours from Sydney in 2000. Over the 17 days of the Games (Aug. 13-29), NBC's coverage will average more than 70 hours per day. That means fencing will be televised, although when and on what channel has yet to be determined.

Watch www.NBCOlympics.com for more detailed broadcast information in July. Below is the schedule for fencing at the Games on Athens time, followed by Eastern time zone equivalent.

SATURDAY, AUG. 14 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 1:10 p.m. (3:00-6:10 a.m. ET)

Men's Individual Saber Eliminations

Men's Individual Saber Quarterfinals

6:30-8:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. ET)

Men's Individual Saber Semifinals

Men's Individual Saber Bronze Medal Match

Men's Individual Saber Gold Medal Match

SUNDAY, AUG. 15 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (3:00-7:40 a.m. ET)

Women's Individual Epee Eliminations

Women's Individual Epee Quarterfinals

6:30-8:40 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:40 p.m. ET)

Women's Individual Epee Semifinals

Women's Individual Epee Bronze Medal Match

Women's Individual Epee Gold Medal Match

MONDAY, AUG. 16 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (3:00-7:40 a.m. ET)

Men's Individual Foil Eliminations

Men's Individual Foil Quarterfinals

6:30-8:40 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:40 p.m. ET)

Men's Individual Foil Semifinals

Men's Individual Foil Bronze Medal Match

Men's Individual Foil Gold Medal Match

TUESDAY, AUG. 17 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 4:40 p.m. (3:00-9:40 a.m. ET)

Women's Individual Saber Eliminations

Women's Individual Saber Quarterfinals

Men's Individual Epee Eliminations

Men's Individual Epee Quarterfinals

6:30-10:05 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -3:05 p.m. ET)

Women's Individual Saber Semifinals

Men's Individual Epee Semifinals

Women's Individual Saber Bronze Medal Match

Men's Individual Epee Bronze Medal Match

Women's Individual Saber Gold Medal Match

Men's Individual Epee Gold Medal Match

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 18 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. (3:00-5:40 a.m. ET)

Women's Individual Foil Eliminations

Women's Individual Foil Quarterfinals

6:30-8:20 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:20 p.m. ET)

Women's Individual Foil Semifinals

Women's Individual Foil Bronze Medal Match

Women's Individual Foil Gold Medal Match

THURSDAY, AUG. 19 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (3:00-7:40 a.m. ET)

Men's Team Saber Preliminaries

Men's Team Saber Quarterfinals

Men's Team Saber Classifications

Men's Team Saber Semifinals

6:30-8:40 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:40 p.m. ET)

Men's Team Saber Bronze Medal Match

Men's Team Saber Gold Medal Match

FRIDAY, AUG. 20 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (3:00-7:40 a.m. ET)

Women's Team Epee Preliminaries

Women's Team Epee Quarterfinals

Women's Team Epee Classifications

Women's Team Epee Semifinals

6:30-8:40 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:40 p.m. ET)

Women's Team Epee Bronze Medal Match

Women's Team Epee Gold Medal Match

SATURDAY, AUG. 21 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (3:00-7:40 a.m. ET)

Men's Team Foil Preliminaries

Men's Team Foil Quarterfinals

Men's Team Foil Classifications

Men's Team Foil Semifinals

6:30-8:40 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:40 p.m. ET)

Men's Team Foil Bronze Medal Match

Men's Team Foil Gold Medal Match

SUNDAY, AUG. 22 Helliniko Fencing Hall

10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. (3:00-7:40 a.m. ET)

Men's Team Epee Preliminaries

Men's Team Epee Quarterfinals

Men's Team Epee Classifications

Men's Team Epee Semifinals

6:30-8:40 p.m. (11:30 a.m. -1:40 p.m. ET)

Men's Team Epee Bronze Medal Match

Men's Team Epee Gold Medal Match



have all had significant individual results.

Mattern most likely will be the closer. He's a sharpshooter and can score touches when needed. Certainly, he's on a high after the Vancouver result and we'll need him to keep it going in the team.

Kelsey is a key component on this team. He can go either way depending on the strategy being employed. Seth can be the stopper, the one to keep the score close and the touch count low. He can also go out and get the touches, if necessary.

Thompson has boundless energy and an inherently aggressive style. However, he will also have to play stopper at times and that goes against his natural makeup. But, Soren is a smart fencer, and I know he'll do whatever the situation calls for.

Teams to beat: #1 France, #2 Russia, #3 Germany, #4 Hungary.

Women's Epee Team

We didn't qualify a team, as a formidable Canadian team earned the zonal spot.

Teams to watch: #1 Germany, #2 China, #3 Hungary, #4 France



Men's epee team members, clockwise from left: Coach Paul Soter, Soren Thompson, Jan Viviani, Seth Kelsey and Cody Mattern.

Brentwood Imaging

**COMPLETE ATHENS 2004
FENCING COVERAGE AND RESULTS**

**THE COMPLETE OLYMPICS... ONLY ON
NBC OLYMPICS.COM**

Chivalric tradition, agile execution, strategic timing, total focus and **cool t-shirts.**

©2004, Big For Our Britches

*Our t-shirts are necessarily not official, sanctioned or approved, but they are wittily admired.

Now on deck! A brazen collection of original casual apparel* for fencers and friends of fencers (FOFs). Designed to answer the question: When the plastron comes off, what to wear?

ORIGINAL CASUAL APPAREL FOR FENCERS

www.big4ourbritches.com 50 styles for men and women

CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS



I am deeply honored and humbled to be the Captain of the 2004 United States Olympic Fencing Team. I would like to express my sincerest thanks and respect to **Carl Borack**, who has been America's Captain since 1985. Carl has always put the athletes first, and I will follow his lead. The entire USFA owes a debt of gratitude to Carl, who has served the organization loyally and altruistically for a generation. It would be great for members to thank him personally for his outstanding service; his email is cbescrime@aol.com.

The outlook for Athens is great. However, the bouts and team matches will be over in a matter of minutes. There will be success and failure, and anything can happen in a short competition.

I can't stress strongly enough that, with or without a medal or medals, U.S. fencing is on the rise. While we focus on and strive for Olympic medals, that can never be the sole factor in determining our improvement and overall success.

That having been said, we certainly have our best shots at gaining the elusive Olympic medal in Athens. Every member of the team has had significant international results, and they are all grizzled



Photo courtesy of FIE/Jochen Färber

The men's saber team of Ivan Lee, Tim Morehouse, Jason Rogers and Keeth Smart in a triumphant moment at the 2004 Grand Prix of Fencing in New York.

NATIONAL Pride

The Olympic Games epitomize national pride but you wouldn't know it in this country. In May, Mike Moran, a former spokesman for the United States Olympic Committee who has been retained as a "consultant regarding athlete behavior," made some remarks to the *LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH* that will live in infamy.

Moran started on the right track by stating that American Olympians shouldn't "taunt" their opponents, as the men's 4 X 100 meter relay team did in Sydney when they did Hulk Hogan poses with the flag. OK, fair enough, even if that was more of a spontaneous celebration than actual taunting.

Where Moran got derailed and crashed was by also telling the athletes, "Don't run over and grab a flag and take it around the track with you."

How dare he? There's a huge difference between taunting and celebrating!

Moran incredibly continued with this gem, "Unfortunately, using the flag as a prop or a piece of apparel or

indulging in boasting behavior is becoming part of our society in sport because every night on TV we see our athletes – professional, college or otherwise – taunting their opponents and going face-to-face with each other," Mr. Moran said. "We are trying for 17 days to break that culture." (Fortunately, sanity was restored when USOC Chief Executive Jim Scherr refuted Moran's remarks.)

We, as Americans, will determine right from wrong. We will not change anything in our culture to appease someone who hates us to begin with. For him to suggest otherwise was incomprehensible and reprehensible!

If you think Moran's inane comments were made in a vacuum, consider this: According to Michael Budman, the co-founder of Roots, the USOC suggested that both Roots and adidas, the apparel suppliers, "tone down" the U.S. Olympic apparel for the Athens Games. Hence, the outfits will not be the usual and vibrant red, white, and blue that has been the

norm in past Olympics, but considerably toned down. What?!

Well, I can assure you that our team will represent the United States with honor and dignity, and never apologize for or hide from who we are. We are proud Americans and nobody will ever tell us to "tone down" our national pride. We'll bleed red, white, and blue even if our sweat suits don't.

My mother Alice is a Holocaust survivor and understands what America stands for. She brought me a beautiful flag to fly proudly on Memorial Day and the 4th of July. That flag is already packed and I promise it will be draped around any fencer who breaks the 20-year medal drought!

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone what Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympic Games, said: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well."

Good luck to our Olympians!



veterans of international competition who shouldn't be overcome with Olympic stage-fright.

Everyone has trained their hearts out. Everyone has fully devoted their lives to this moment. Everyone is ready.

But, in order to maximize our results, our fencers will need the following:

- 1) They will have to "arrive at the strip in ill humor." No matter whom the opponent is or where they're from, they must be viewed as the enemy for that short timeframe.
- 2) It is absolutely crucial that everyone knows exactly what action they'll use at 14-14 or 44-44 long before they arrive at that point. We must win or lose with the Bayer mantra of going with our best action at the deciding touch.
- 3) Fair refereeing. See my column in this issue.
- 4) There is such a fine line between wanting to win and being afraid to lose. Our fencers must embrace the former and never the latter!
- 5) Be inwardly proud of who they are and of the country they represent. With the current anti-Americanism running rampant, it is imperative that our fencers use that to their advantage by taking pride in our country and competing even harder for it.

— AF



Photo courtesy of FIE/Jochem Faber

Sada Jacobson (right) is currently ranked Number 1 in the world and will be a medal favorite in Athens.

THE 2004 U.S. OLYMPIC FENCING TEAM

Back row (from left): Ron Herman (team armorer), Greg Chang, Jan Viviani, Ivan Lee, Jason Rogers, Dan Kellner, Jeff Bukantz (team captain)
 Middle Row: Jed Dupree, Tim Morehouse, Cody Mattern, Seth Kelsey, Soren Thompson, Keeth Smart, Bob Largman (team leader)
 Front Row: Kamara James, Erinn Smart, Emily Jacobson, Sada Jacobson, Mariel Zagunis, Jon Tiomkin
 Photo: Brentwood Imaging/Las Vegas



Brentwood Imaging

A look back at the Games ... THE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

U.S. has been an Olympic force • by AndySHAW

The anticipation of the 2004 Olympic Games has already stimulated the American imagination of what may be to come for our fencers. We have heard much of what the U.S. Fencing Team has NOT done in the past ... much of this “chatter” ranges from exaggeration to plain old ignorance ... to clear some of this haze, here is a little bit of Olympic Fencing intelligence with an American accent.

The founder of the Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, was himself a fencer. One of the original goals of the Games was to bring together individuals from all of the countries of the globe without keeping track of medals by national origin. (This stipulation has long ago been discarded) Remember that the idea of the Olympic Games was new to the people of the new world and it would take time for this concept to catch on fire in

the minds of Earth's athletes.

The first Olympic Games in Athens saw the Greeks chalking up two fencing gold medals, partially due to the fact that only three countries were represented. Only France and Greece had men's foil entries and men's saber had only five competitors. The AFLA (USFA) did not send a contingent to the 1896 Athens Games.

Each of the early modern Olympic Games' Fencing events suffered through low turnouts, poor publicity and much disagreement about fencing regulations ranging from “target area controversies” to blade length “anomalies.” A common result for host nations has also been the home-team advantage for fencing and other medals. Consider this: Greece earned four Olympic fencing medals in the 1896 Games.

1900 saw the modern Olympics opening in Paris, the home of Pierre de Coubertin. The Games, to which the U.S. again did not send a contingent of fencers, was again poorly organized and ran for months. The French fencers completely dominated. (During the Paris Games, the French took the first seven places in men's foil where only three countries were represented, places 2-8 in men's epee where only four countries participated, and gold and silver in men's saber).

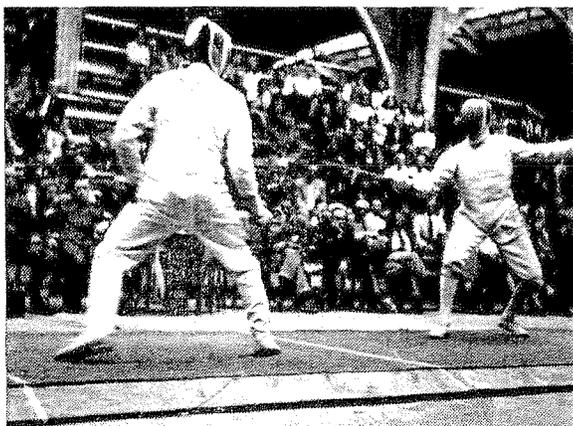
The St. Louis Olympic Games of 1904 was actually supposed to be the 1904 Chicago Games, but controversy caused President Theodore Roosevelt (a fencer himself) to cast the deciding vote. He picked St. Louis, who failed to organize a worthy Olympic Games. Like the Athens and Paris Games, there was a poor turnout, a small number of entries and great results for the home team. This was the first Olympic experience for the Americans.

Most media recounting of American history never speak of the St. Louis Olympic fencing medals due to the low number of entries. (Only Cuba and Germany and U.S. had representatives). Try telling the grandchildren of all of these past Olympic Medal winners from 1896, 1900 and 1904 that you think that they “don't count.”

The NEW YORK TIMES reported that prior to the 1904 Games, “The Fencers' Club in this city announced that they will open their rooms during the month of August to allow all fencers who wish to try for team positions to practice. This is the first time in the history of the Fencers' Club that its rooms have been offered to fencers in general, apart to special invitation. Fencers from Boston and Philadelphia may use the rooms of the club.”

It was September 6, 7 and 8 of 1904 that brought us our first Olympic fencing experience at Exposition Hall in St. Louis during the World's Fair and Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Rules of the AFLA governed the events. The entry fee for the 1904 Olympic Fencing

Norman Lewis of the United States opposes Gretsche, of Luxembourg, in the individual epee finals during the 1904 Games.



events was \$3 per man per event. The events were as follows: Foils, Dueling Swords (epee officially became the term of choice in 1915) Sabers, Single Sticks, International Team Foils Competition, Intercollegiate Team Competition* and Junior Foils. (*Banner but not medals awarded in this demonstration event.)

The U.S. team competed for its first time and took the gold, silver and bronze in Single Sticks. No other country competed in this weapon. In the Foils event, Ramon Fonst of Cuba took gold and New York's Albertson Van Zo Post and Charles Tatham took the silver and bronze respectively. The U.S. foil team took the silver medal behind the Cuban team, which had borrowed one American (Van Zo Post) so that they could compete. The Germans only had one foil fencer.

- 1904 St. Louis Men's Epee: USA took silver (Charles Tatham) and bronze (Albertson Van Zo Post).

- 1904 Men's Saber: Two U.S. medals out of five competitors. William Grebe of Chicago took the silver medal and Albertson Van Zo Post won the bronze.

- It wouldn't be until 1908 in London that the Olympic Games would reach an organizational and attendance level that signalled a new era.

This would be a good time to exam-

ine the early fencing performances of the various countries and see exactly how the U.S. fencing team performed in the first 56 years of the Olympic Games.

Combining all Olympic Games together from 1896 through 1952 (even with the U.S. skipping the first two Olympics) the breakdown medal-wise creates the following rankings:

- Olympic Men's Foil ranking by country from 1896-1952 1. France 2. Italy 3. USA

- Olympic Men's Foil Team ranking by country from 1904, 1920-1952 *1. France 2. Italy 3. USA 4. Hungary *no Men's Foil Team events in the other years.

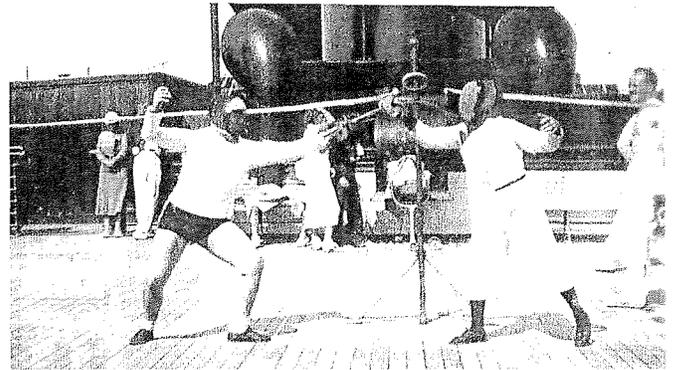
- Olympic Women's Foil ranking by country from 1924*-1952 1. Hungary 2. Denmark 3. Austria 4. Great Britain. (1924 was the commencement of the Women's Foil event and Olympic Women's Foil Team was not held until 1960.)

- Olympic Men's Epee ranking by country from 1900-1952 1. France 2. Italy 3. USA 4. Cuba

- Olympic Men's Epee Team ranking by country from 1908-1952 1T. France 1T. Italy 3. Belgium 4. Sweden 5. Great Britain 6T. USA 6T. Holland 6T. Portugal

- Olympic Men's Saber ranking by country from 1896-1952 1. Hungary 2. Italy 3. France 4. Greece 5. USA

- Olympic Men's Saber Team ranking by country from 1908-1952 1. Hungary 2. Italy



The 1936 U.S. Olympic team got some on-board practice in while on the way to the historic Games in Germany.

3T. Holland 3T. Poland 5. France 6. Austria 7T. USA 7T. Czechoslovakia 7T. Germany

Some of the U.S. highlights of this era include:

- 1920 Men's Foil Team takes the bronze medal

- 1928 George Calnan takes the Olympic bronze medal in Men's Epee.

- 1932 The U.S. Men's Foil Team defeats France for the bronze

- 1932 The U.S. Men's Epee Team takes the bronze medal

- 1932 Joe Levis, silver, Men's Foil

- 1948 The U.S. Men's Saber Team, bronze

- 1948 Maria Cerra Tishman takes fourth after a three-way tie for second in Women's Foil

- 1948 Men's Foil Team: bronze

- 1948 George Worth takes fifth in Men's Saber

- 1952 Janice Lee York takes fourth in Women's Foil

- 1952 Maxine Mitchell, fifth, Women's Foil

- 1956 Richard Pew, fourth in Men's Epee

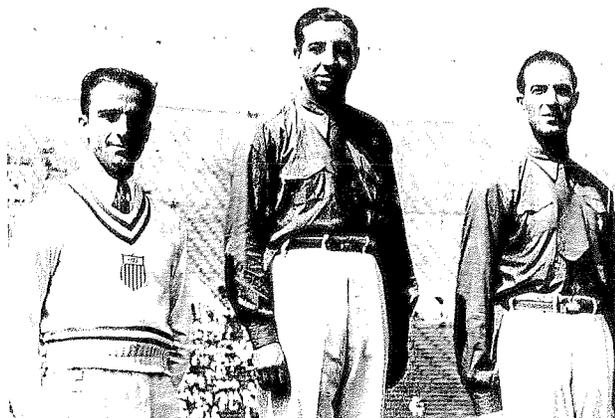
- 1956 Janice Lee York Romary takes fourth in Women's Foil

- 1956 U.S. Men's Saber team takes fourth

- 1960 Albie Axelrod takes the bronze medal in Men's Foil

Now let's make America's fencing history lovers work as we attempt to hit the record books with more greatness. — AF

American Joe Levis (left) takes his place on the medal stand after winning the silver in the men's foil competition in 1932.



Regional Youth Tournament April 16-17, 2004 • University of Detroit, Mercy

Open Youth-10 Mixed Foil

1	Suma, Danny	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
2	Murphy, Cody	LIBERTY LAKES FENCING CLUB
3T	DeCou, David	GRAND RAPIDS FENCING ACADEMY
3T	Kernosky, Alexander	GRAND RAPIDS FENCING ACADEMY
5	Wesenburg, Perry	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
6	Rueter, Austen	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
7	Woods, Raquel	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
8	Gribben, Will	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
9	Boot, Andrew	GRAND RAPIDS FENCING ACADEMY

Event: Open Youth-12 Mixed Foil

1	Howell, Ryan	SALLE DU LYON
2	McDonald, Andrew	SALLE DU LYON
3T	Stern, Glen	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
3T	Cole, Ben	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
5	Takagi, Rui	GRAND RAPIDS FENCING ACADEMY
6	Conover, Haley	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
7T	Dobbs, Olivia	UNATTACHED
7T	Phelps, Sage	GRAND RAPIDS FENCING ACADEMY
9	Mackinder, Madeline	GRAND RAPIDS FENCING ACADEMY
10	Chiatlas, Elias	LIBERTY LAKES FENCING CLUB

Open Youth-14 Mixed Foil

1	Ozimek, Aaron	UNATTACHED
2	Cole, Ben	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Fitzgerald, Scott	UNATTACHED
3T	Dobbs, Olivia	UNATTACHED
5	Woods, Harrison	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Open Youth-10 Mixed Saber

1	Murphy, Cody	LIBERTY LAKES FENCING CLUB
2	Wujcik, Ryan	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3	Crombez, Connor	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Open Y12 Mixed Saber

1	Balayev, Fedor	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
2	Boyd, Emily	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Murphy, Cody	LIBERTY LAKES FENCING CLUB
3T	Wujcik, Ryan	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Open Youth-14 Mixed Saber

1	Paddock, John	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
2	Hobig, Jillian	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Tencer, Sam	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Morandi, Mia	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
5	McCaughey, Laura	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Open Y12 Mixed Saber

1	Balayev, Fedor	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
2	Boyd, Emily	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Murphy, Cody	LIBERTY LAKES FENCING CLUB
3T	Wujcik, Ryan	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Open Y14 Mixed Saber

1	Paddock, John	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
2	Hobig, Jillian	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Tencer, Sam	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB
3T	Morandi, Mia	RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Pacific Coast Championships May 8-9, 2004 • Las Vegas, Nev.

Men's Epee

1	Demirchian, Gagik	Southern California
2	Mehall, Michael	Southern California
3	Gannon-O'Gara, Gershom	Southern California
4	Hedges, Philip	Central California

Men's Foil

1	DiNapoli, Emerson	Central California
2	Douraghy, Jamie	Southern California
3	Chen, Tommy	Central California
4	Perkins, Samuel	Northern California

Men's Saber

1	Jackson, Bryan	Mountain Valley
2	Matsukata, Hajime	Northern California
3	Reid, Leonon	Mountain Valley
4	Nydam, Barron	San Diego

Women's Epee

1	Montoya, Kimberlee	Nevada
2	Erickson, Cyntia	Southern California
3	Griffin, Maureen	Northern California
4	Wertz, Janet	San Diego

Women's Foil

1	Becker, Rachel	Central California
2	Mattox, Lucia	Northern California
3	Horton, Laura	Southern California
4	Kirk, Angie	Southern California

Women's Saber

1	Grench, Eileen	Mountain Valley
2	Shon, Adrienne	San Diego
3	Hirayama, Yukari	Southern California
4	Rodriguez, Anastacia	Mountain Valley

TEAM EVENTS

Men's Epee

1	Golden Gate Fencing Center
2	LA International Fencing Center
3	No Fear

Men's Foil

1	LA International Fencing Center
2	Caltech Fencing
3	Halberstadt

Men's Saber

1	Spartak #1
2	Spartak #2
3	Sacramento Fencing Center

Women's Epee

1	Golden Gate Fencing Center #1
2	Beverly Hills Fencers' Club
3	No Fear

Women's Foil

1	Halberstadt
2	LA International Fencing Center
3	Los Angeles Fencing Center

Women's Saber

1	Lucchetti
2	Spartak
3	Southern California

Jason Rogers ...

BEING PREPARED

An Olympic fencer speaks on getting ready for big competitions

How do you prepare yourself mentally for a very important competition that makes you very nervous?

For me personally, preventing negative thoughts is the biggest part of my mental game. I derive my confidence from good performance, so obviously going into the start of a competition, I find it difficult to be very confident. So I try to cultivate a really positive outlook, so that I don't hold myself back.

I usually start to get nerves 10 days before, probably. When I start to think about it is when I start to taper my practice. My natural reaction going into a competition is to want to practice harder and harder, I try to find my best performance in practice to take confidence from. What ends up happening is that I push myself more and more to find that performance in practice, but in reality I'm just exhausting myself. I've learned to trust myself and my ability more before a competition and not burn out beforehand.

Every athlete lets their psyche get the best of them sometimes; it's something you have to constantly work on, it's a process. It's something that I sort of grapple with a lot, but in the end I know I can overcome that type of negativity.

My last year of Juniors, I felt the pressure of being number one in the world going into that season. I went into every competition thinking I had to win. With that mentality comes extra pressure, and I allowed it to get to me, allowed myself to doubt continually my ability. How did I get here? Was it just luck? I was asking myself constantly. It was a recipe for disaster. I ended up being fourth.

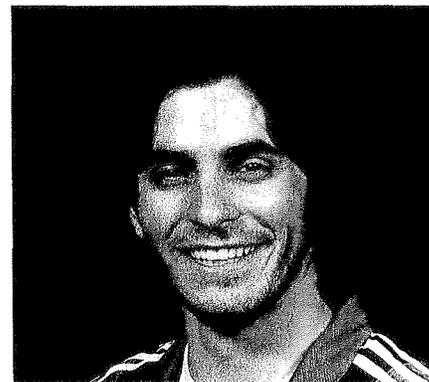
I didn't have the tools to stop that negativity that I allowed to spiral out of

control. It took me until actually during the team event at Junior Worlds to resurrect myself. We fenced really well, I came out of that slump. I was finally to the point that I said, "I'm sick of this, I'm done with this, I'm going to fix this problem," and I ended up fencing very well, and beginning a new period of my fencing.

It's sort of an inherent thing that you encounter a lot of doubt and negativity at any level, even as a beginner – saying, "Oh, I'm not going to do well, did I train hard enough?" So the best way I have found is to deal with thoughts that hinder your performance immediately, when you set off down that path, immediately set up a brick wall, say, "Stop!" Be really proactive about not thinking negatively. It takes a lot of energy to prevent those types of negative thoughts.

It's the most important part of fencing, period. It doesn't come naturally, it's something everyone has to build and work on. Like a library, you keep adding to it.

How long has it taken me? Probably nine years, since I started fencing. I've really been able to implement this within the last year. It's a hybrid of things that I've decided to use from having spoken with sports psychologists and some self realization on my part.



Brentwood Imaging

My performance at the Bulgarian World Cup is a good example. There was so much pressure riding on that competition, because if I did well I'd make the Olympic team. I said, I'm not going to beat myself. It was the last leg of a long, exhausting mental game of stamina. I gave it absolutely everything, and I made the top 16 and the team.

The funny thing is, I feel like I learned my lesson. If I encounter something like that outside of fencing, I wouldn't allow it to happen again. I feel equipped to deal with it. — AF

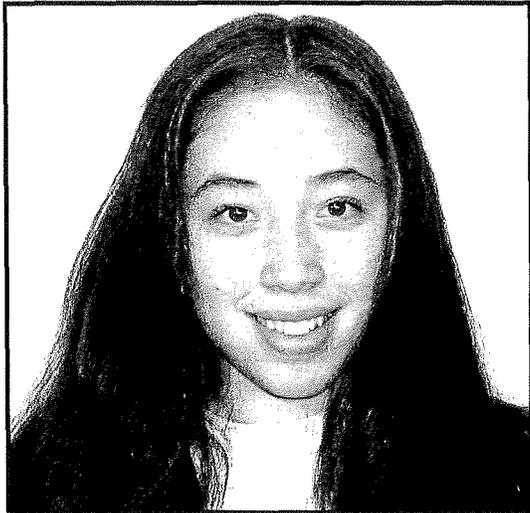
Jason Rogers, 21, lives in Los Angeles and is a student at Ohio State. He was a member of the team that won the men's team saber World Cup gold in New York this June. He is a member of the 2004 Olympic Team.

FencingDRILL

Wearing a weight jacket or a weight belt, advance the length of a strip, taking extremely small steps at moderate to high speed. This strengthens your legs and reinforces not taking huge steps going down the strip. It is also good for strength and explosive speed. Use a light amount of weight; adults would carry 25-30 pounds if in excellent condition, 15 to 20 pounds if younger.

Drill courtesy of Jason Rogers.

Doris WILLETTE • 16, Rodeo, Calif./Golden Gate/Sword Play



TheSTATS

Event: Women's Foil
Birthdate: February 11, 1988 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Height: 5-2
Weight: 120
Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.
School: Acalanes High School, '06
Club: Golden Gate Fencing/Sword Play
Coaches: Mike Pederson, George Platt

For this issue, with the 2004 Olympic Games looming, we decided to take a look at a hopeful for the future. **Doris Willette** has been near the top of first the Youth and Cadet and now Junior point standings in women's foil for several years. Watch for her looking forward to Beijing, 2008.

Doris began fencing because her father, who fenced when he was younger, wanted an interesting, martial-arts like sport for Doris and her brother, David – the 2002 Youth-10 National Champion.

What is your favorite type of blade?

FIE France Lames. They're pretty light and flexible, and they last for a fairly long time.

Who inspires you?

Iris Zimmermann ('00 Olympian), for one. She's so dedicated and so ready to put up a fight, it's so fun to watch her fence. Then Emily Cross ('03 Cadet World Champion), too. She's so young and so amazing, and always so poised. She's such a nice person off the strip, but as soon as she steps on, it's all fire.

Best Bout So Far?

At the 2004 World Cup in New York, fencing 2000 Olympic Games silver medallist Rita Koenig-Roemer of Germany. Even though I lost, I came so close to

beating her (15-14), and it was such a fun bout. It was one of the first times I didn't get frustrated and lose my temper or do anything really stupid, it was just a good clean bout.

Worst Bout So Far?

My bout at Cadet Worlds, against Saskia Van Erven of the Netherlands. In that bout I started to get frustrated, flustered. I lost control of my emotions, and started to rush.

— AF

CareerHIGHLIGHTS

- 2003 and 2004 Cadet Worlds team member, finishing 10th individually in '04
- 2003 and 2004 Cadet National Champion; 2nd in the Junior event in '04
- 5th, 2004 Division I National Championships
- 2003 and 2004 Cadet Junior Olympic Champion
- 8th, Senior North American Cup Palm Springs, December 2003
- 9th, Cadet International Cup, Samorin, SVK, November 2003
- **Currently Ranked 1st in U.S. Cadet, 5th in U.S. Junior, 9th in U.S. senior standings.**



National News

Formerly USFA National Newsletter

Directory

USFA National Office
 1 Olympic Plaza
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 Phone: (719) 866-4511
 Fax: (719) 632-5737
 E-mail: info@usfencing.org
 Web: www.USFencing.org

USFA Staff

Executive Director
Michael Massik
Dir. of Athletic Programs
Jeff Cohen
Dir. of Business Services
Robert Dumcum
Dir. of Sport Development
Chris Cuddy
Dir. of Tournament Services
Christine Simmons
Dir. of Member Services
Dana Brown

USFA Officers (as of 9/1/04)

President
Nancy Anderson
 Phone: (609) 921-8396
 Fax: (609) 921-6623
nanderson5@mindspring.com
Vice Presidents
Sam Cheris
 Phone: (303) 632-7212
cheriss@bwn.net
Ro Sobalvarro
 Phone: (651) 335-6342
 Fax: (651) 698-2945
sobal001@umn.edu
Edward Wright
 Phone/Fax: (703) 243-3951
ensenada@erols.com
Secretary
Linda Merritt
 Phone: (978) 667-1100
merritt8@comcast.net
Treasurer
Derek Cotton
 Phone: (213) 216-0682
 Fax: (360) 272-2617
foilcoach@yahoo.com

CHANGES IN THE WIND

Come September 1 there will be several changes to the "face" of the USFA. Not only will US athletes have shown the world the mettle of their souls, but the people behind the scenes will change. After 21 years manning a desk at the USFA national office, Carla-Mae Richards will slow down a notch or two, retiring to Marietta, GA to spend time with her family and discover if there really is a life beyond fencing!!

Jeff Cohen, athletic director for Brandeis University for 20 years, has decided to accept new and different challenges in his life, and will begin working for the USFA July 1 as Director of Athletic Programs. Besides his athletic involvement with Brandeis, Jeff was Chair of the NCAA Fencing Committee. His athletes, coaches, and various aspects of sports administration will only serve to enhance his approach to the many athlete programs of the USFA and help lead the USFA to new levels of accomplishments.



Corinne Greenman will expand her duties assuming more responsibilities for the international programs and international teams. Corinne has gained the respect and confidence of the athletes and coaches involved with international tournaments. The international operations of the USFA have become more efficient and more responsive to the needs of increasing numbers competing overseas. She can be reached at programs@usfencing.org.



Photo by: Serge Timacheff

Nancy Anderson will assume the role of President of the USFA for the next four years. She is a familiar face at World Championships as a member of the D.T. (Bout Committee), and as one who can communicate in different languages to FIE personnel. For the US, she has led teams to many international tournaments. She looks forward to elevating US Fencing at home and abroad.

TIME CAPSULE

In the 20+ years I have served the USFA as a full time employee and 20 years as a volunteer, the changes that have come upon US Fencing have been amazing. When the USFA, through the efforts of Michel Mamlouk, past president, opened its national office in Colorado Springs the summer of 1982 the membership numbered approximately 6,000; the National Championships were the equivalent of the Division I



Nationals today, in number of events and number of participants. There was no national series of tournaments but rather closed competitions of the top 24 in each weapon. Teams were sent to World Senior Championships with little hope of medals and many concerns that fencers did just enough to make the team. The 1984 Olympic Games saw the US win its first medal, a bronze by Peter Westbrook, after 24 years of "medal

continued page 8

In This Issue

Paralympic Games	2
Rule Changes	2
Entry tips	4
NAC Form	5
2004-2005 Calendar	7
2004-2005 Age Rules	7
Membership Notes	8
Olympic Schedule	8

NEW USFA FENCING RULES – AS OF AUGUST 1, 2004

The United States Fencing Association (USFA) Board of Directors approved the following rules changes at their meeting on July 5, 2004. These changes, except where specifically modified for the USFA, are the same as those adopted by the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE).

These changes to the rules are especially important as they change the penalty for committing a number of faults, as well as what will happen if a fencer or team does not report to the assigned strip on time. Remember the first line in the Rules Book, "Ignorance of the Rules is no Excuse." [George Kolombatovich, FOC & FIE Arbitrage]

TECHNICAL RULES

Article t.20

In foil and saber, it is forbidden for a fencer to cause corps à corps (even without brutality or violence).

Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Explanation: Previously, if you committed this fault you would receive a warning, but any touch scored would be allowed. Now, if you commit this fault, you receive a warning, and the touch is annulled.

Article t.22

In foil and sabre, it is forbidden to protect the target area or to substitute another part of the body for the target area, either by covering or by an abnormal movement (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120): any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

During the bout, the fencer must not, under any circumstances, take hold of any part of the electrical equipment with his/her non-sword hand (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120): any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Explanation: Previously, if you committed any of these faults, you would receive a warning, but any touch scored would be allowed. Now, if you commit any of these faults, you receive a warning, and the touch is annulled.

Article t.36

First paragraph, delete the words: reversal of the line of the shoulders in foil.

Last paragraph:

The judges must change ends after each period in direct elimination bouts and after each bout in team matches, so as not to watch the same fencer the whole time.

Explanation: Previously, you were not allowed to bring your rear shoulder in front of your front shoulder in reference to your opponent; that is now allowed.

Previously, the rule about judges changing sides covered only individual bouts; now it also applies to team matches.

Article t.43

Add a 6th item:

- At all three weapons, that the fencer is not equipped with any electronic communication equipment which would allow a person off the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout.

Article t.44

At the end of the 2nd paragraph (after "each time a weapon is changed"), add:

In all three weapons, the referee will check that the fencer is not equipped with electronic communication equipment that would allow a person off the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout.

Article t.45

Add a new paragraph (f):

is equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting a person outside the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout.

In cases (c), (d), (e) and (f), the referee must immediately confiscate the equipment concerned (weapon, bodywire, if necessary conductive jacket, mask et cetera) and have it examined by the expert on duty.

- in cases e) and f), the Referee will penalize him as specified in Articles t.114, t.119, t.120.

Explanation: While you are fencing, you may not have any electronic communication apparatus that would enable someone else to communicate with you.

At the end of the article add a new paragraph:

If a fencer appears on the strip for a bout (whether in a pool, in the direct elimination or during a team match) with clothing not conforming to the rules in that he is:

- not correctly showing his name and nationality on his back (application – all official FIE competitions, all stages) and/or - not wearing his national colors; application as follows:

- a) open, junior and cadet World Championships, all bouts (whether in a pool, in the direct elimination or during a team match).
- b) Senior World Cup individual competitions, all DE bouts from the last 64 onwards.
- c) World Cup team competitions, all bouts in every team match. the referee shall penalize him with a red card (Articles t.114, t.117, t.120, second group). He shall however be allowed to remain on the strip and fence the bout concerned.

Note USFA Application:

If a fencer appears on the strip for a bout (whether in a pool, in the direct elimination or during a team match) with clothing not conforming to the rules in that he is: - not correctly showing his name on his back or on his back leg (application – all National USFA competitions, all stages), the referee shall penalize him/her with a red card (Articles t.114, t.117, t.120, second group). He/she shall, however, be allowed to remain on the strip and fence the bout concerned.

Explanation: As has been the case for many years, if you fence in a USFA national event, your name must be on the back of your jacket/metallic jacket or on your back leg, in navy blue and in letters from eight to ten centimeters in height. Now, you will start each bout with a Red Card until you conform to this requirement.

Article t.46

Delete:

At foil it is forbidden, during the course of fencing, to advance the shoulder of the non-sword arm in front of the shoulder of the sword-arm (cf. t.36). Any touch scored by the fencer at fault while committing this offence will be annulled.

Explanation: You may now bring the rear shoulder in front of the front shoulder.

Article t.72

A touch which arrives on a non-valid part of the target is not counted as a touch; it does not stop the fencing phrase and does not annul any subsequent touches. If a fencer substitutes a non-valid part of his target for a valid part, either by covering it or by any abnormal movement, the Referee must penalize him/her by applying the penalties specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120, and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Explanation: Please be aware that this rule is in the sabre section. **THIS IS ONLY FOR SABRE!** Previously, if you committed this fault, you would receive a warning, and you would score the touch. Now, if you commit this fault, you receive a warning, and the touch is annulled.

Article t.86

For any fencer not present, or any team which does not have all its members present, when called for the first time by the Referee at the time published for the beginning of the pool, match or bouts of direct elimination, there will be two further calls by the Referee, at intervals of one minute, to be followed by exclusion from the competition if the fencer or the entire team have not presented themselves by the third call (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

In the course of the competition (individual or team), when a fencer has been warned that it is his/her turn to fence and does not present himself/herself when called by the Referee, the Referee will similarly repeat the call twice, at intervals of one minute, and will exclude the fencer concerned from the competition if he/she has not present by the third call (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

Should a fencer abandon a bout by leaving the strip (cf. t.18/3), he will be penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

During a team match, should there be a modification in the order of bouts in the match, either intentionally or unintentionally, the team which has made the modification loses the match (cf. t.120, o.44).

Explanation: Previously, if you were not at your strip after the announcement to report to your strip, or if you were not at the strip after a pool or team match started, the Directoire Technique (Bout Committee) would make an announcement advising you to go to your strip. (Example: "Mary Smith, please report to Strip 22. This is your second call.") Now such announcements will only be made by the referee at the strip.

Article t.87

Replace 2nd and 3rd paragraphs by the following texts:

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a fencing salute to their opponent, to the referee and to the spectators. Equally, when the final touch has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the referee and (to) the spectators - to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making his decision; when he has given his decision, they must again perform a fencing salute and must shake hands with their opponent, with the unarmed hand.

If either or both of the two fencers refuses to salute or shake hands in compliance with these rules, the referee will suspend him/them for the remainder of the competition taking place and from the following two FIE (USFA modification: USFA) competitions in the weapon concerned (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120). The points or titles obtained at the moment of the offence remain acquired.

During the first and second periods of a direct elimination bout and the first eight bouts of a team match, when both fencers make clear their desire to stop fencing or show evident passivity, the referee will immediately call 'Halt!' and the two fencers will in individual direct elimination take their regulation one minute rest, in team matches will proceed to the next bout.

In bouts in pools and in the third period of a direct elimination bout or the ninth bout in a team match, should there be passivity on the part of both fencers in the first two minutes and only in

the first two, the referee will warn the fencers (but without imposing a yellow card). If there is obvious repetition, the referee will call 'Halt!' and proceed to the last minute of the time allowed for the bout. This minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

Should there be manifest passivity or unwillingness to fight during the third minute, the referee will neither give a warning nor stop the bout.

Explanation: Fencers who do not salute will now be penalized by "suspension" rather than a Black Card. Points earned at a competition prior to such suspension will be kept.

Passivity is now controlled in a slightly different manner than before. It is important to remember that fencing for a long time without scoring a touch does not necessarily constitute passivity. Particularly in épée, a bout may be very active and exciting to watch, yet may end with a very low score (e.g., 3-2) when time runs out.

Article t.118

Any person not on the strip who disturbs the order of the competition receives:

- On the first infringement, a warning, indicated by a Yellow Card, valid for the whole of the competition, which must be noted on the bout score sheet and recorded by the Directoire Technique;
 - At the second infringement during the same competition a Black Card (expulsion from the competition venue).
- In the most serious cases concerning disturbance either on or off the strip, the Referee may exclude or expel the person at fault immediately.

Explanation: A person disturbing order now receives a Yellow Card instead of a Red Card for the first infringement. The penalty for the second infringement remains the same (a Black Card).

Article t.120

a) Add an asterisk (*) to each of the following in the Schedule of Offences and Penalties:

- Simple corps à corps (foil and sabre)*
 - Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment *
 - Covering/substitution of valid target *
- b) 1st group, delete the following three items:

Fencer not presenting himself at the first call of the referee during the competition, t.86

In foil, reversing the line of the shoulders (*), t.46

Deliberate touch not on opponent, t.53, t.66

c) 2nd group, add:

Deliberate touch not on opponent t.53, t.66

Absence of name on back, absence of national colors where compulsory t.45

d) 4th group,

- add:

Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting him/her to receive communications during the bout, t.45/3(f) (1) or (2).

- Replace the current text of the paragraph "Non-presentation" by:

Non presentation when called by the referee at the time indicated or when warned it is his turn to fence, after 3 calls at one minute intervals, t.85 (1)

e) below third group

For "Any person not on strip disturbing good order", the first offence warning should read "WARNING (YELLOW CARD) or (4)"

Explanation: These are all changes to the Penalty Chart to reflect the changes in the rules.