

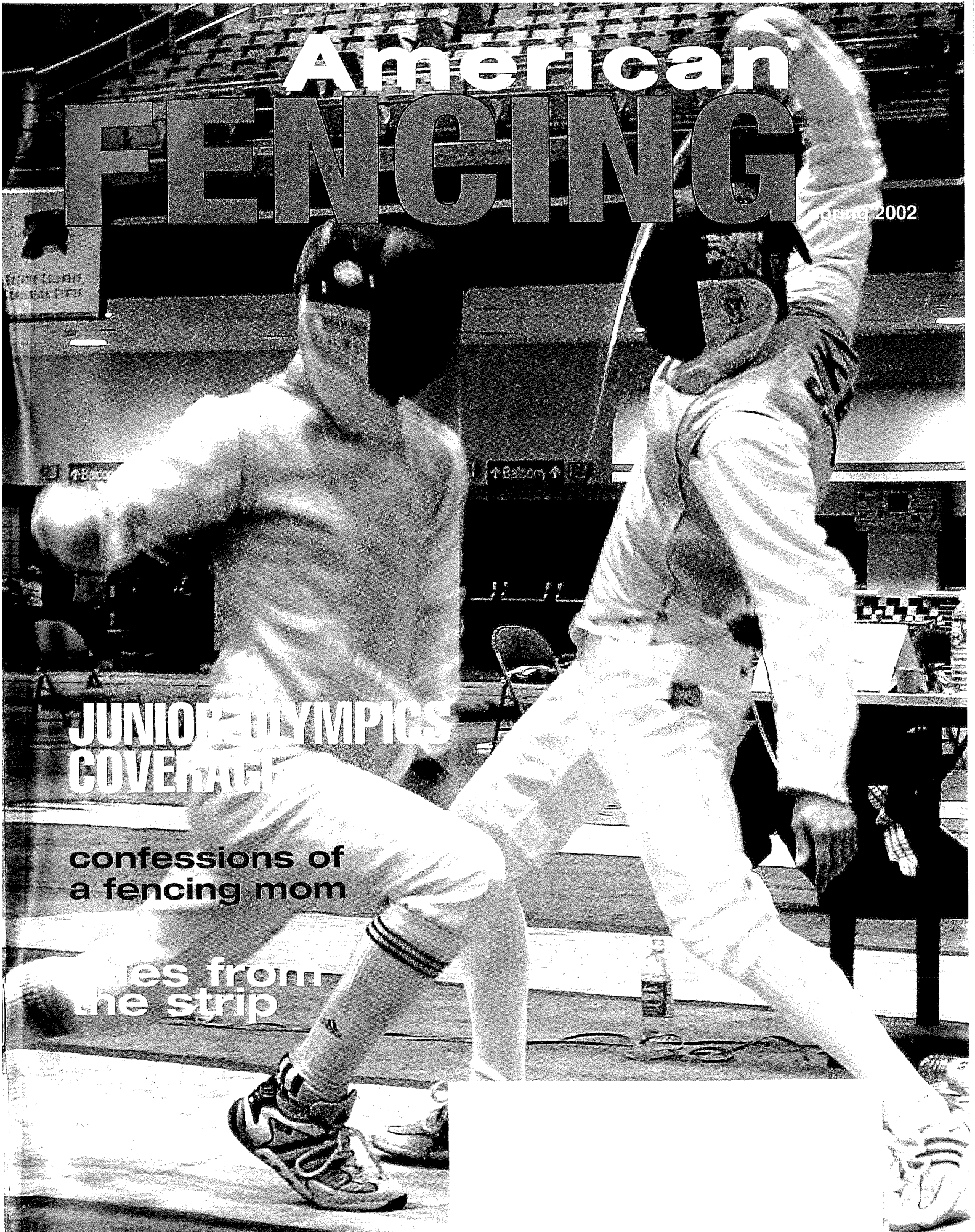
American FENCING

Spring 2002

**JUNIOR OLYMPICS
COVERAGE**

**confessions of
a fencing mom**

**lies from
the strip**



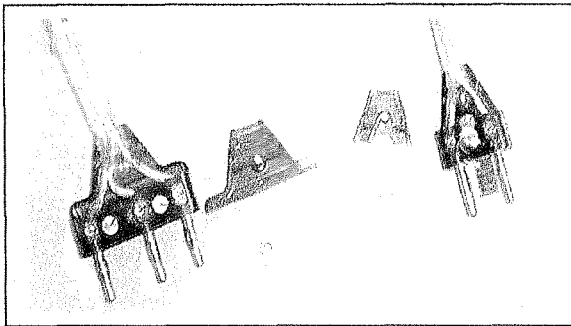
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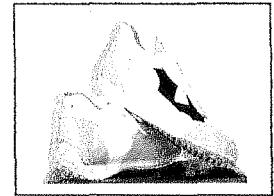
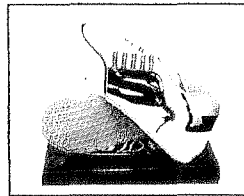
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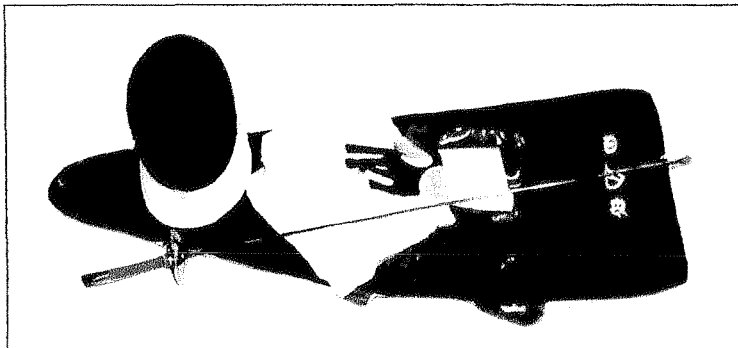


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The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

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

The United States Fencing Association

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

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

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STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States
Fencing Association



Not Your Father's Oldsmobile

I've just returned from the Junior Olympic Championships in Columbus, Ohio. It was a great competition in a convenient location. A sea of competitors, coaches and family from throughout the country filled the Columbus Convention Center and the adjoining Hyatt Regency. Linda Login, director of sports marketing for the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, reported that the competition would generate between 4,000-5,000 "heads in beds" for the city. The best and brightest of our youth performed—and winners such as Junior Saber Champions Caitlin Thompson and David Douville, Junior Women's Foil Champion Jacqueline Leahy, and Junior Men's Epee Champion Benjamin Solomon can provide us needed talent for future World and Olympic teams.

Moving through the requisite meetings of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Tournament Committee and other gatherings, I was struck by how smoothly issues were being addressed and work was conducted. So many talented folks are leading and administering the various program areas of our organization including coaching, youth development, weapon programs, division, sections, and tournaments. Our strategic plan is moving the USFA forward and now is embraced by a multitude of passionate, dedicated volunteers and staff. As we accomplish our goals, we are strengthening our organization and seeing progress reflected everywhere in the U.S. fencing environment.

Walking around the competition venue, I had the opportunity to speak with scores of folks, such as other tournament organizers preparing their cities for upcoming NACs, National Championships or World Cup competitions. Coaches with whom I chatted reported phenomenal growth in their clubs and expressed a general sense of optimism about the sport and where it is headed.

At our Board of Directors meeting we heard reports from our Executive Director Michael Massik that the USFA fiscal picture is sound, our relationships with the USOC is strong, and our influence in the world of the FIE has never been better.

Now, more than ever before, we are poised to take the USFA to the next level of organizational success—increasing our revenue stream through greater marketing efforts and building relationships that could solidify corporate sup-

port. This next step could only be taken once we could show potential partners that we are an organization that possesses sound strategic direction, fiscal stability, strong organizational management and cooperation, and increasing high level competitive results.

On the flight home, I realized that the USFA "is not our fathers' Oldsmobile." Exactly who we are, who we are becoming, and who we want to be in the marketing arena of Olympic sports is the vision we must crystallize to bring U.S. fencing to a higher level of operation. Our house is in order and we are ready to invite guests in the front door.

As I looked around the room at the JOs I saw the faces of hundreds of youth on the pistes and the accompanying

families cheering outside the competitive floor. I saw that we are truly a multi-cultural organization whose growth is exploding exponentially. Although many of us love and embrace the history of fencing, the style of our sport, the brilliance of many of its champions—we can and must shape an image that can provide mutual benefits to corporate sponsors and capture a satiated media interest in a sport that still carries the baggage of its Euro-centrism.

Over the next few months many of us will be working to crystallize our marketing and media vision for the future of U.S. fencing. If you have the time or desire, email me your thoughts: SJohnson@accd.edu.

EDITOR'S letter

Meg Galipault

Editor

Dear Readers:

I had the great fortune of attending my first Junior Olympics event, which, gratefully, was only a 10-minute drive from my house. While I didn't spend as much time as I would have liked at the event (deadlines looming for the other magazine I edit, alas), I was quickly astounded at the streamlined operation—from set-up the night before the championships opened, to the busy pools and final bouts. Just as impressive was the USFA's board of directors meeting. I've worked in the nonprofit world for more years than I'd like to count (despite my annual vow to never again work for a nonprofit). Most nonprofits, sadly, involve mind-numbingly tedious board meetings that result in indecision, followed by more meetings to make up for the indecision of the last meeting. But watching this board in action renewed my faith in civic responsibility. A group of volunteers, supported by dedicated staff, can *indeed* set goals, accomplish tasks, and move forward. We are fortunate to have this talented group of leaders in our midst.

To pick up where our able president, Stacey Johnson, left off in her remarks above, marketing is essential to the USFA's future growth. This magazine is primarily a vehicle for communicating news and promoting the sport of fencing among members (giving us all something good to feel about each time we step on the strip). Still, so much more can be done to promote the sport within these pages. To this end, I would encourage clubs, divisions, athletes, parents, colleges, and others to submit news stories and feature story ideas. For example, "how-to" articles on creating high school fencing programs, promoting clubs, devising unusual competitions, fundraising, organizing volunteer groups, and more would be immensely helpful to those in the field.

Even if you don't feel capable of writing the story, the

writing staff of *American Fencing* can pick up your idea, interview you, and put the story to the page. While we do have policies regarding publishing fencing instruction tips and training programs, there are dozens of stories out there needing a voice. Successful sports begin from the grassroots. Just look at soccer. Once leagues were established at the elementary level, teams were formed at the high school level, and now we have professional soccer franchises gaining support in major and mid-level cities.

So tell us, what is your club, college, or division doing that can help the rest of us succeed in our own hometowns? How do you get press coverage? How do you keep your club in the black? How do you deal with limited practice space? Is your web site attracting new fencers? Does your division offer workshops or mini-camps? How have you involved parents in your club? What role does sponsorship play in your tournaments?

As members of the USFA, we are entitled to certain benefits—that's what we pay for. But as members, we also have a responsibility to share our successes so that the sport has a chance of increasing its visibility, attracting major sponsors to support our place in the Olympics, and maybe...just maybe...someday seeing our favorite fencers on TV. It won't happen overnight, but it won't happen if we don't step forward either. Send your success story ideas (a brief description, please) to magoo@columbus.rr.com.

...Finally, a word to the Columbus Division: Wow. You did the JOs right and made our town shine. Thank you.

corrections...whoops (my bad)

► Carl Borack. That's his name...not *Borak*. Sorry, Carl!

► The photographs in Carl *Borack's* article on the Senior World Championships, including the cover image, were taken by Lisa Slater (not Lisa Blake). Our apologies.

Getting the Point

I've recently come back to fencing after more than 20 years away from it. I've been more than happy to discover that most of what I learned from Coach Zoltan Von Somgyi back then, while I was fencing for UCSB, is still with me, though my speed is longer what it was.

I am dismayed to learn how many colleges no longer have teams, but am encouraged by the number of fencers starting earlier and the apparently larger total number of fencers participating in the sport today.

The article by Jeff Bukantz about fencing and TV and rules changes, and the letters on similar topics show that there are some serious issues that fencers need to resolve soon.

Fencing is not only not TV-friendly, it is not spectator-friendly. And some of the changes since I was last in competition have made it even less so. One area that I have discovered is most definitely in immediate need of fixing is sabre. When I learned that sabre had gone electric I was really looking forward to trying it out. I can only dimly recall the many bouts I fought back then, but I do recall that there were more than a few times when I was hit or vice versa and no one saw it. Electric ought to fix that, I thought.

No, electric scoring has not done good things for sabre fencing. For one thing, now any part of the blade contacting the opponent's target is a hit, instead of the bottom edge, tip and one third of the top edge. This has resulted in a sport that now resembles jousting more than anything else. Think about the last sabre tournament bout you watched. Two fencers stand, shuffle around a bit, then charge full speed in a flurry of blades, both lights go off, and much more often than is reasonable, the director has to say something like, "Simultaneous" or "Can't determine right of way, nothing done."

Like jousting, the victory goes to the firstest with the fastest. Unlike jousting, the audience has nothing obvious to cheer or jeer, no one gets dumped on the floor. Instead, someone with eyes much much more trained than theirs makes a judgement call regarding right of way, or, all too often, throws it out. It's no wonder sabre fencing is not a spectator sport.

Think about the other sports that get a lot of TV coverage—tennis, for example. The scoring is very obscure in tennis, but anyone can see when a player misses a return. In contrast, baseball and cricket are sports with wide audiences, but the appeal there is not so much the obviousness of the plays as it is that most of the viewers have played the game and know the rules, and thus understand what they are seeing—it also helps that what they are seeing is slow enough to comprehend.

Many years ago my parents came to watch me in a fencing tournament. I'll never forget coming off the strip after a particularly hard fought 4-5 bout and having my mother ask "Who won?" I guess the rule change that now has points awarded to the touching fencer instead of against the touched fencer was to prevent mothers from having to ask that question. But I challenge you to bring a non-fencing parent to a bout and have them be able to tell who won if they don't hear the score.

I'm not sure that fencing can be made into that kind of an obvious spectator sport. Sword play is always popular in the movies, but that is because the result is blood and guts, and there is never any doubt about who won a touch, or a bout.

Fencing will not become spectator- or TV-friendly until the average Joe or Jane can tell who got the point. Other factors mentioned in the editorial and the letter, such as personality and stardom, are important, and it certainly doesn't help that there aren't very many Americans in the top ranks. It is American advertising that makes a sport something that gets put on TV. If we want to see fencing remain an Olympic sport, we need to have TV coverage of regional and national championships, and to that end, computerization of the bout processing and keeping things moving quickly are certainly requirements.

I don't think white uniforms are boring, but uniformity is. Let's add some rank. If someone is "A" ranked, they should have a belt or perhaps a slash up the outside of each leg and outside of each arm indicating their rank. I've no problem with borrowing from the younger martial arts—black slashed fencers, red slashed and so forth. Plain white is for the beginners. Make it visually obvious who the top contenders are.

I'd also like to suggest that a serious push be made to improve the electrical component of fencing so that, for example, a bright red light goes off on the fencer that gets hit, rather than off to the side of the strip. Again, making it much more obvious what has just happened. Having to take one's eyes away from the fencers to look at the scoring light is just another spectator-hostile element of fencing. It also distracts the spectators to have the fencers constantly looking at the scoring box, too.

Laser and computer technology is almost at the stage where we can definitively automate the presence of a point in line moving directly toward the target requiring a parry.

Sabre needs to either eliminate the arms as targets or make the system accurate enough that it only registers what would be a real cut or point hit.

Epee probably needs no changes, but I don't think it would hurt the sport at all to have the touches count different amounts according to where they hit. I'd go for foil having off-targets count one point if on-targets count 10, or some such simple scheme. In foil or sabre it would be easy for a red light to go off from inside the top of the masks for an on-target hit and some other color for off-target. The practical problems of doing the same with epee probably put that out several years.

But regardless of rule changes, the most important action you can take to make fencing TV-friendly and keep it in the Olympics is publicity. Whenever you come back from a tournament, sit down at your computer and email the results to your local paper. Write it up as a sports story, and most of the time they will simply print it as you send it. If you've got a good picture—either of action or the the grip and grin for your champion—send it along, too. The more often folks see the stories, the more likely more spectators will show up at the next tournament. Keep it up, and local TV

stations will come out to do a story, particularly when you have someone good.

Brandon Smith
Hartsburg, Missouri

What to do with those pesky old magazines...
[Here's a promotional tip for readers:] I place my past issues of *American Fencing* magazine in local doctors' offices and health club/fitness centers. Inside each magazine I paste a local fencing "information page" giving the reader information about where they can learn to fence here in my city.

Coach Lightner
Santa Fe Community College
Gainesville, Florida

Waxing Poetic

In response to the Winter 2002 issue, (editor) Meg Galipault wrote about the top fencers: "I see their photographs and read the grace in a captured lunge, a well-placed parry..."

Where do you see these photos and why are they not printed in *American Fencing*?

Example: A foil picture of Ann Marsh with both feet sideways and her arm in what appears to be a sabre head parry (page 10). A photo of Felicia Zimmermann holding a foil with both out-stretched arms well behind her shoulders (page 11). Another photo of Ann Marsh in a lunge position that would get any beginning student immediately and loudly corrected, against an opponent doing a matador move (page 12).

Were you just waxing poetic or do the photos you refer to exist? Please print them instead of the ones that show our top people looking like beginners.

Bent attack arms, bent back legs lunging, usually off the floor—what are we teaching? The American strategy of "win at any cost"...is costing us.

Students ask: Why do I have to learn footwork or parry-riposte when many of the top fencers attack once, then stand and slug it out? Parents ask: Where is the form and strategy of a poke and jab move? It looks like little boys backyard stick-fighting and is just as interesting. To make winning easier for us, change the rules. God forbid we should just emphasize form and ability to win, as that would take hours, months and years of perfect practice and our coaches are only deemed as good as their last student's win.

Americans don't use the National Champion as our top fencer, we use the fencers who can afford the cost of monthly competitions and travel, the point system. We have three nationals—Elite, Div. 1-A, and Summer. Why? Which one produces our National Champion? Anyone who doesn't know the convoluted logic behind our tri-national system

is bound to get confused. When any of our three national first-place winners are not necessarily our top fencers, and there are no distinct recognizable moves (poke & jab) and we wonder why the public has trouble understanding our sport, we must remember: We are Americans and winning is everything. It appears we must win at any cost.

Suzanne Miljevich
Orange Coast Fencing Academy

The Editor responds: Why, yes, I was waxing poetic. You caught me with a purple pen in hand! But I beg to differ on a number of points—first, I would challenge anyone to find a fencer who has achieved perfection. The Europeans are just as likely to err in form as any American. Human beings simply are not perfect. What concerns me more, however, is the assumption that the fencers featured in these pages do not work hard, are only interested in winning, and could care less about form. My guess is that the majority of these elite fencers take a great deal of pride in executing a lunge or parry-riposte with as much grace as they can muster. Who wouldn't? When you do something right, it feels good. That these moments aren't always captured in photographs doesn't negate their existence. I would also argue that not every coach or fencer believes that classical training is the best route to take. Just as there are different strategy styles in basketball or any other sport, there are different approaches to fencing. That's what makes it fun. And while you're correct in emphasizing skill, the sheer joy of sport need not be lost in the argument.

A Call to Arms

This letter is in response to several recent letters in *American Fencing* about realism and fencing. Number one: fencing is not real. Olympic-style fencing is not swordfighting or dueling or whatever else you might call it. It is an artificial sword sport that was originally designed to prepare European men for dueling and life in high society. The idea behind right-of-way is that it encourages proper development of both defensive and offensive movements independently. This concept is familiar to many martial arts where, in training, one person attacks and the other defends. The idea is to develop either your defending or attacking skills. I disagree with the idea that right-of-way developed out of the idea that, in a real fight, no logical swordsman would counterattack without first securing his own defense. Fencing was a preparation for a duel and, believe it or not, irrational, illogical, and just plain crazy people probably fought duels as well. That said, right-of-way developed as a training tool and, hence, the "game" developed out of this.

Yes, fencing does have many useful aspects that, in my opinion, would relate well to a real swordfight, but then again, so does wrestling and Kung-fu. This leads us back to the issue being discussed in many recent letters: how to make fencing more realistic. First off, why should fencing be

your letters

more realistic? The answers to this could be numerous, but for the USFA, the FIE, and the future of the sport, it should come down to simple numbers. Fencing must be made more realistic or people won't want to learn it. One of the recent letters mentions the growing trend in historical swordsmanship. This is no trend or fad. These groups are here to stay and they are attracting more numbers than Olympic fencing. The SCA, which has only been around 30 years, has 25,000 members. What does the USFA have? About 15,000. Really, not much when you count up all the various sword groups out there. Now that we have a realistic business perspective of why fencing needs to be more realistic, we can further debate on how to do this.

My suggestion would be to bring back crossover footwork for sabre and eliminate right-of-way. People would say, "they'll just run into each other"—I say, take away the strip and replace it with a huge rectangle to allow more moves involving displacement and opposition. Of course, reel-less technology is what you would need here.

I encourage further discussion on these issues and I would like to end on a more realistic note: Olympic fencing has a few things other sword groups could only desire. First, we have electric scoring. This is something that must be utilized for audiences more. If sword sports ever catch on for a viewing audience, it will probably be due to technology that fencing developed. Second, we have an

extremely well-organized body that governs this sport very effectively when it comes to the established rules, formats, and rankings. If one has ever been to an SCA event, you quickly learn the rules change from state to state based upon who is in charge at any given moment. We don't have to worry about that so much. The organized body of Olympic fencing must continue to push the technology of electric scoring, and use its administrative skills to either change or add new, official ways to use the weapons. The alternatives to this are, first, isolation, which is where we are now, and then, extinction. I ask the USFA to seriously look into these suggestions and, at the very least, research into the numbers of these rising historical sword groups. The solution isn't hard to see that fencing must adapt to survive.

John Jakelsky
Columbus Ohio Division

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

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2002 USFA DEVELOPMENTAL GRANT FUND

The USFA Development Grant Program was created in 1998 to assist programs dedicated to developing young fencers requiring economic assistance and to broaden the base of American fencing by combating financial barriers that prevent potential athletes from participating in the sport. Since 1998, the program has \$33,000 in grants. At its annual meeting in September, the Board of Directors renewed its appropriation of \$10,000. Of this amount, \$4,000 will be distributed as cash grants and \$6,000 will be awarded in the form of membership and competition entry fee waivers.

Applications for USFA Development Grants are now being accepted from organizations that meet the criteria indicated.

Development Grant Eligibility and Application Rules:

Eligibility: Organizations such as fencing clubs, park and recreation departments, foundations, civic organizations, educational institutions and others that demonstrate not-for-profit status as part of their application. Awards will not be given to individuals. Such organizations must have specific goals and programs designed to introduce fencing to disadvantaged young people or to instruct and train youthful fencers requiring financial support to participate.

Application Rules: Proposals must include a description of the applicant organization, a list of its specific programs and goals as they apply to youthful fencers in need of financial assistance, and an explanation of the intended use of the grant. Applications must differentiate between requests for cash and in-kind awards, but may combine proposals for both forms of assistance.

Due Date: Grant proposals must be submitted to the Treasurer of the USFA c/o the National Office in Colorado Springs. Applications must be received in the USFA office by May 1, 2002. Late applications will not be reviewed or considered.

The final decision on Development

Grant awards will be made by the USFA Board of Directors. The USFA Grants and Development Committee will evaluate all complying applications and report its findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee. It is expected that the Executive Committee will report recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors at its July meeting.

(Source: Mike Sullivan, treasurer, USFA board of directors.)

ZAGUNIS WINS JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Mariel Zagunis has done it again. Zagunis won the gold medal at a Junior "A" World Cup in Dourdan, France. With this gold in the last Junior Women's Sabre World Cup of the season, she will now officially be known as the Junior World Cup Champion (Zagunis clinched the title with her win in Logrono, Spain on Feb. 2).

The Junior World Cup will be awarded at a ceremony at the Junior and Cadet World Championships in Antalya, Turkey, to be held April 1-8—also where Zagunis will attempt to defend her record three titles, in the Under-17, Under-20, and Junior Team Women's Sabre events.

Zagunis is now the United States' first sabre World Cup Champion ever, and only the third American to hold the Junior World Cup title. (Felicia and Iris Zimmermann won the Junior Women's Foil World Cup titles in '95 and '97, respectively.)

American teammate Sada Jacobson is second in the World Cup standings—the first time two U.S. fencers have ever finished the season ranked first and second.

For complete results, visit www.usfencing.org.

(Source: Cindy Bent, USFA media contact.)

WORLD CUP REPORT: JACOBSON IN TOP EIGHT OF SR. CUP

The senior World Cup season is in full swing, and U.S. juniors are begin-

ning to translate their successes to the next level. Emily Jacobson (16, Atlanta, Ga./Nellya Fencers) earned her second top-eight spot in a year by placing sixth at a Senior "A" Cup in Hungary; Jacobson was seventh at last year's Senior World Championships. This was a fantastic result among a field of the world's strongest. Jacobson is now ranked 12th in the world women's sabre standings.

The U. S. women's sabre squad—composed of Jacobson, sister Sada Jacobson, Nicole Mustilli and Mariel Zagunis—placed fifth in a team World Cup competition the same weekend. Seeded fourth initially in a field of nine teams, they were defeated by the tough Azerbaijan team in their first encounter. After losing to Azerbaijan, the United States beat Poland 45-34 and then defeated Hungary 45-42 for fifth place.

For more details, visit www.usfencing.org.

(Source: Cindy Bent, USFA media contact.)

WALT DISNEY COMPANY STRIKES MOVIE AGREEMENT WITH PETER WESTBROOK

With the world inspired by the performances of athletes at the recent Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Walt Disney Company hopes to do the same by agreeing this week to develop a movie based on the life of Peter Westbrook—an African-Asian-American man who used his experiences as a youngster surviving the mean streets of Newark, NJ, to become the 1984 Olympic bronze medallist in sabre fencing, and the first American ever to win a medal in this event. This accomplishment inspired the Olympian to establish the Peter Westbrook Foundation—a not-for-profit organization that uses the sport of fencing to enhance the lives of inner-city youth academically, socially, and athletically.

Westbrook is America's most decorated Olympic fencer, having competed in an unprecedented six consecutive Olympic Games spanning from 1976 in Montreal to 1996 in Atlanta. He

holds the distinction of being a 13-time U.S. National Sabre Champion, a six-time member of the Pan-American Team, and the flag bearer for the closing ceremony of the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

The movie will focus upon Westbrook's work with inner-city youth, which started 12 years ago when delinquency and youth-perpetuated violence in minority communities was increasing at an alarming rate. Committed to being part of the solution to this problem, Westbrook used his own money to start a foundation to give kids an athletic alternative to violence and social problems plaguing many of their communities. To date, the foundation has taught thousands of inner-city youth the sport of fencing, helped participants secure academic and athletic scholarships to elite high schools and colleges, and its first three students qualified to compete in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney.

In 2001, six of the foundation's athletes qualified for the Senior World Fencing Championships in Nîmes, France—the most from any fencing club in the United States. In the same year, club member Ivan Lee led the U.S. Junior World Team to its first men's international gold medal in the sabre team event at the World Junior and Cadet Championships in Gdansk, Poland. The foundation also holds the distinction for having the top-ranked senior men's sabre team in the country for the last four years. Collegiately, the foundation has seen two athletes crowned NCAA Division I Sabre Champions—Keeth Smart in 1998 and 1999, and Ivan Lee in 2001. Lee and Akhnaten Spencer-El were ranked the top junior sabre fencers in the world in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

"I'm extremely excited that this opportunity has come along," said Westbrook, founder and CEO of the Peter Westbrook Foundation. "To think that my life and dreams of helping minority youth will be highlighted in a movie is a tremendous honor. Despite obstacles, if you dare to dream of victory versus defeat, work towards your goals and act on your aspirations pas-

sionately, success can be yours."

The movie will be produced by Debra Martin Chase through her Disney-based production company, Chase Productions. Her producing credits include the recent hit *The Princess Diaries*, *Courage Under Fire* and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. "In the spirit of *Remember the Titans*, this is a terrific story about overcoming obstacles to realize seemingly impossible dreams," said Chase.

Keith Mitchell and Allie Dvorin will write the movie and serve as co-producers. Mitchell, a former tight-end at the University of Michigan, is a prolific screenwriter who specializes in sports movies. Dvorin was an All-American fencer at New York University who trained under Westbrook before coming to Hollywood.

(Source: Cindy Bent, USFA media contact.)

U.S. FENCING ANNOUNCES TEAM TO THE 2002 JUNIOR/CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USFA has selected the athletes who will represent the United States at the 2002 Junior and Cadet World Championships to be held in Antalya, Turkey, April 1-8, 2002.

Three athletes have been selected in each weapon (men's épée, foil, and sabre; women's épée, foil and sabre) for each age category, Cadet (Under-17) and Junior (Under-20). In addition to the individual competitions there is the Junior World Team Championships in each weapon with three fencers on a team.

The Junior and Cadet World Championships are held every year by the Federation Internationale d'Escrime (FIE), the international body that governs the sport of fencing. More than 100 countries are affiliated with the FIE, including the United States. Last year's championships were held in Gdansk, Poland.

This year's team has its challenges in striving to surpass the record number of medals won by U.S. athletes in Gdansk. It would not be unexpected if the 2002 team surpassed last year's

medal count of nine—the U.S. all-time high. This year's team is a strong mix of young (the average age is 16.6 years) and extremely experienced contenders. Eighteen members have competed on Junior or Cadet Worlds teams in previous years; six are defending World Champions or medalists; 15 have placed in the top eight of Senior or Junior/Cadet World Championships or World Cups.

Sister/Brother Acts. Two pairs of siblings have qualified for this team: Sada and Emily Jacobson, and Colin and Sarah Parker. The Jacobson sisters (Fayetteville, Ga.) were also on the 2001 Junior/Cadet World Championships and the 2001 Senior World Championships teams together. Emily, 16, is still in high school, and Sada, 19, is a sophomore at Yale. Sarah Parker is following in big brother Colin's footsteps. Sarah, 14, is a young sabre fencer also from Fayetteville, Ga., who aspires to mimic Colin's gold and silver medals from the 2001 Junior World Championships. Colin, 19, is a student at The Ohio State University. All four siblings will fence in sabre events.

For a complete roster of team representatives, visit www.usfencing.org. Results can be found at the site, as well.

(Source: Cindy Bent, USFA media contact.)

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

SUBMITTED BY PETER BARTON.

In many states, a statute sometimes gets passed by the legislature only to sit on the books and slowly become forgotten. I have come across a statute that may give some fencers and spectators (including some coaches) pause the next time they consider misbehaving at a fencing competition in Massachusetts.

Under the fencing rules, fencers and spectators (including coaches) cannot act inappropriately on or near the fencing strip. For spectators (or coaches), behavior that disturbs the order of the competition results in a red card. For the second infringement during the same competition, or for the first infringement in the most serious of

cases, the spectator (or coach) is sanctioned by expulsion from the competition venue. For fencers, the rule is similar. Behavior that disturbs the order of the bout results in a red card. For the second infringement during the same bout, the sanction is exclusion from the competition. For the first infringement in the most serious of cases, the fencer is sanctioned by exclusion from the competition and/or by expulsion from the competition venue. For behavior that is unsportsmanlike, the fencer is immediately excluded from the competition or even from the whole tournament.

At fencing competitions in Massachusetts, people may not realize they also risk a statutory fine of up to \$50. The statute, Massachusetts General Law chapter 272 § 36A, reads, "Whoever, having arrived at the age of 16 years, directs any profane, obscene or impure language or slanderous statement at a participant or an official in a sporting event, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars." While kids and young teenagers are not subject to the statute, the rest of us are, including fencers on the strip who mouth off to the referee. Slandering the referee—that is to say, uttering a false and defamatory statement about him or her—could get expensive, as could mouthing off to the referee with "profane, obscene or impure language."

As "sporting events," the statute seemingly covers all fencing competitions—from local divisional competitions all the way up to World Cups. The statute does not require the offending words to be in English. If said in a foreign language, the referee need not even understand the particular language in order for the speaker to be fined. Under the Massachusetts law of slander, all that would be required is that someone else be present who does understand what was said.

The statute provides an extra incentive for Massachusetts fencers and spectators (and coaches) to be on their best behavior.

(Peter Barton is a nationally and internationally rated fencing referee. In

his non-fencing life, he is a law clerk for a federal district court judge. If you think that by writing this article he is giving you legal advice or is writing on behalf of his judge, you are thinking too much.)

PAN AMERICAN FENCING ACADEMY

Olympian, national champion, and co-chair of the USFA Coaches Development Committee, USFCA Fencing Master Vincent Bradford has established the Pan American Fencing Academy (PAFA) at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas.

Bradford recognized a growing need for quality fencing coaching education with the flexibility for distance education. PAFA combines fencing classes, weekend coaching seminars, academic courses, and apprenticeships, leading to three levels of certification and international recognition as a Moniteur (instructor), Prevost d'Armes, and Fencing Master.

A complete interview with Master Bradford and the PAFA curriculum appeared in the Winter 2002 issue of *The Swordmaster*.

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

PASSINGS

MAESTRO CHARLES SCHMITTER

Long-time Michigan State University (MSU) fencing coach Charles Schmitter died on March 16 at the age of 94. He was an active advocate of AFLA/USFA and USCFA.

Born June 19, 1907, in Detroit, MI, Maestro Schmitter was a founding member of the National Fencing Coaches Association, and coached fencing at MSU for 45 years.

Schmitter's leadership in fencing led him to become a member of the Olympic Committee for the 1956 and 1960 Summer Olympics, and he served as the Pan American Fencing Coach in 1959. He won the first NCAA Fencing Coach of the Year Award and was the first American-born recipient



Maestro Charles Schmitter, former MSU coach.

of the Italian Fencing Masters Diploma in 1956.

Maestro Schmitter was Professor Emeritus at MSU. His other interests included his 70-year membership in the Musicians Local #5 of Detroit, membership in the Knights of Columbus, and membership in the Mason (MI) Community Orchestra and the Straits Area Concert Band in Mackinac City.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Ruth; daughter Dr. Ruth Elizabeth Schmitter; two sons, Dr. Charles Robert (Meeyung) Schmitter and Father Phillip Anthony Schmitter; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Those who wish may make contributions to the Charles and Ruth Schmitter Fencing Rare Book Collection, c/o Library Development Office, MSU Library, 100 Library, East Lansing, MI 48824.

(Sources: Fred Freiheit, retired, former fencing coach at MSU and former member of USFA; obituary from the Lansing State Journal, March 19, 2002.)

SUBMITTING NEWS

Have a news item you would like to share? Please email it as a Word document attachment to magoo@columbus.rr.com, and include your contact information in case we have questions.

NAC YOUTH I Saratoga Springs, NY, January 4 - 6**YOUTH-14 MEN'S ÉPÉE**

(74 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Kenney, Clayton K (COLORADO)
2. Pearce, Michael A (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Bourbonnais*, Thierry (CANADA)
- 3.T Vallo, Alexander (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
6. Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
7. Smith, Dwight A (METRO NYC)
8. Getz, Kurt A (WEST-ROCK)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(53 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group C1 competition

1. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
2. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T French, Kayley A (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
5. McKimmy, Caitlin F (OREGON)
6. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
7. Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
8. Park, Rachael A (KENTUCKY)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(52 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Adjemian, Nicolas E (BORDER TEX)
2. Jones, Tristan K (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T DeLeeuw, Peter M (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Hedges, Daniel R (NORTHEAST)
5. Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
6. Trapani, Daniel K (GULFCST TX)
7. Choi, Joseph J (COLORADO)
8. Smith, Dillon S (GULFCST TX)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(14 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
Group E1 competition

1. Cook, Meagan B (S. JERSEY)
2. Snider, Katherine (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Bratton, Jillian T (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Hamer, Hilary A (NORTHEAST)
5. MacLeod, Shelby M (MINNESOTA)
6. Hartman, Grace T (MINNESOTA)
7. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)
8. Wu, Grace P (ILLINOIS)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(19 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Ameli, Kian (NEVADA)
2. Boutris, Samuel (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Blackmore, Asher (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Yergler, Jonathan A (CENTRAL FL)
5. Picou, Antonin R. (CAPITOL)
6. Kubik, Nickolas A (SO. TEXAS)
7. Tice-Lewis, Maxwell L (N.CAROLINA)
8. Ramos, Joey (CENTRAL FL)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(11 Competitors - top 4 earn points)
Group E1 competition

1. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S FOIL

(126 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group C4/B1 competition

1. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
2. Kubik, Mark W (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Cho, Kevin (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Parkins, Benjamin B (GULFCST TX)
5. Hodges, Teddy H (KANSAS)
6. Farrag, Sherif G (NEW JERSEY)
7. Louton, Alexander (CENTRAL PA)
8. Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S FOIL

(70 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
2. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Peronne*, Christelle (CANADA)
5. Marchand*, Julie-Anne (CANADA)
6. Montoya, Kimberlee (NEVADA)
7. Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)
8. Moss, Rebecca L (ARIZONA)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL

(100 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Parkins, Benjamin B (GULFCST TX)
2. Chamley-Watson, Miles C (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Bentley III, Frederick (KENTUCKY)
- 3.T Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
5. Kubik, Steven J (SO. TEXAS)
6. Planchard, Sean S (COLORADO)
7. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
8. Khoshnevisan, Christophe (NORTH CA)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

(55 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Ross, Nicole (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)
5. Parvu, Eliana (CANADA)
6. McDermott, Catherine (GULFCST TX)
7. Dalrymple, Alexandra (METRO NYC)
8. Rothenberg, Rocky G (GEORGIA)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL

(55 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
2. Di Cioccio, Gianni L (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Khoshnevisan, Christophe (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Shmurak, Yevgeniy (KANSAS)
5. Meyer, Bill L (KANSAS)
6. Krivenko, Igor (METRO NYC)
7. Aldrich, Michael G (GULFCST TX)
8. Shipp, Royce J (UTAH/S.IDA)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

(25 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)

YOUTH-14 MEN'S SABER

(66 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group C1 competition

1. Beaudry*, Philippe (CANADA)
2. Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Liu, Joe C (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
5. Wolff, John A (GEORGIA)
6. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Levitt, Teddy H (SO. CALIF.)
8. Limle, Kenneth L (NORTH TEX)

YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S SABER

(37 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group C1 competition

1. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
2. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
- 3.T Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Jellison, Eva (NEWENGLAND)
5. Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)
6. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)
7. Wieronksi, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
8. Bero*, Ursula H (CANADA)

YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER

(47 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Murphy, Max D (KANSAS)
2. Douville, Michael C (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Mahaffey, Harrison H (GULFCST TX)
5. Ochocki, Aleksander (NEW JERSEY)
6. Strahorn-Brown, Calvin S (OREGON)
7. Wilgus, John R (NORTH TEX)
8. Thompson, Bobby B (OREGON)

YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER

(33 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
2. Vloka, Caroline N (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Jacobson, Jackie J (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Murphy, Anna-Paula (MT. VALLEY)
5. Wieczorek, Martyna E (N.J.)
6. Bass, Molly M (NORTH TEX)
- 7.T Aksamit, Monica (NEW JERSEY)
- 7.T Miller, Alison A (ILLINOIS)

YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER

(17 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Bak, Adrian (NEW JERSEY)
2. Johnson, Alex T (KANSAS)
- 3.T Spear, Will (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Stone, Robert L (ILLINOIS)
- 5.T Prochniak, Evan A (NORTHEAST)
- 5.T Wotton*, Dakota P (CANADA)
7. Shipp, Royce J (UTAH/S.IDA)
8. Curwen, Neil (HUDS-BERKS)

YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER

(18 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
Group D1 competition

1. Rudnicki, Marie H (NEW JERSEY)

2. Bernstein, Kathryn E (COLORADO)
- 3.T Donnenberg, Elizabeth (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Rodanas, Vanessa A (NORTHEAST)
5. Abraham, Lena M (CAPITOL)
6. Bhinder, Amrit K (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Howell, Kimberly Y (SO. TEXAS)
8. Wirth, Charlotte (NEWENGLAND)

2. Murphy, Amanda I (KANSAS)
- 3.T Getz, Katherine (WEST-ROCK)
- 3.T Hawrot, Kathryn G (NEWENGLAND)
5. Abdikulova, Aida (ILLINOIS)
6. Bhinder, Amrit K (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Krajcer, Arianna K (GULFCST TX)
8. Howell, Kimberly Y (SO. TEXAS)

2. Cichomski, Joanna (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Daukszewicz, Nicole (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Park, Casey M (KENTUCKY)
5. Doyle, K Allison (HUDS-BERKS)
6. Kadree, Hafsa (GEORGIA)
7. Ford, Tasia (HUDS-BERKS)
8. Pernice, Erica J (NEWENGLAND)

DUEL IN THE DESERT | Las Vegas, NV, January 4 - 6

OPEN FOIL

1. Cedric Anen (South CA)
2. Mark Mulholland (North CA)
- 3T. Ramil Canlas (Phillipine)
- 3T. Rolando Canlas (Phillipine)

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. Kelly Koehler (South CA)
2. Lois Chang (Great Britain)
- 3T. Daisy Gilker (North TX)
- 3T. Chelsey Howell (SW Ohio)

[# indicates a Vet-50 Fencer; % indicates a Vet-60 Fencer]

VETERAN'S FOIL

1. Michael Tiffany (South CA)
2. David Drake (San Diego)
- 3T. Marek Piatkowski # (South CA)
- 3T. Jan Patterson # (Western WA)

OPEN EPEE

1. Gagik Demirchian (South CA)
2. Soren Thompson (South CA)
- 3T. Walter Dragonetti (North Ohio)
- 3T. Alejandro Castillo (South CA)

WOMEN'S EPEE

1. Felicia Zimmermann (Western NY)
2. Amy Fortune (South CA)
- 3T. Janel Obenchain (North CA)
- 3T. Michelle Schaffner (North CA)

VETERAN'S EPEE

1. Walter Dragonetti (North Ohio)
2. Marcel Miernik % (West-Rock)
- 3T. David Drake (San Diego)
- 3T. Frank Van Dyke (Nevada)

OPEN SABRE

1. Curtis Andrus (Mt. Valley)
2. Andrew Lamianski (Colorado)
- 3T. Jason Paul (South CA)
- 3T. Joshua Runyan (San Diego)

WOMEN'S SABRE

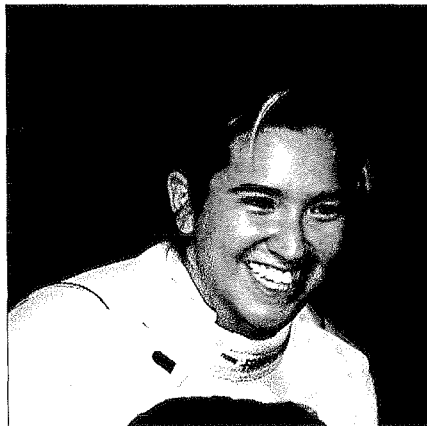
1. Rachel Liebing (Utah/S. Idaho)
2. Meghan Everett (Central CA)
- 3T. Natalie Smith (Utah/S. Idaho)
- 3T. Jeanette Strumillo (Mt. Valley)

VETERAN'S SABRE

1. Paul Hicha (Arizona)
2. Daniel Crowe (South CA)
- 3T. Marek Piatkowski # (South CA)
- 3T. David Lee # (Mt. Valley)



Fencer/photographer Serge Timacheff kept busy at the Duel in the Desert, capturing some outstanding moments.



From left: Felicia Zimmermann (l) faces Amy Fortune (r); Felicia Zimmermann; and above, left to right, Peter Burchard, Bi Goering, and Jeff Bukantz. Below: Sean McClain. Photos: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

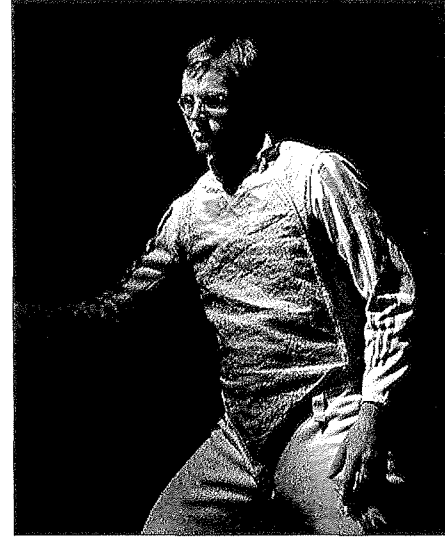
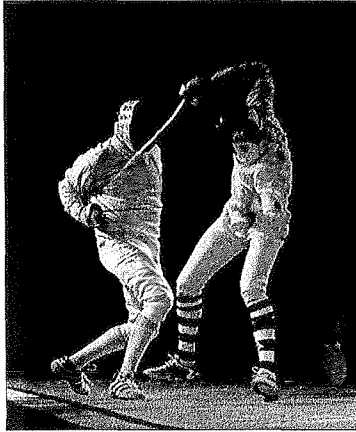
DUEL IN THE DESERT SATURDAY NIGHT FINALS WITH PURSE

	1	2	3	4	5	Result
<u>Men's Sabre \$1,000</u>						
Michael D'Asaro Jr.	D2	D2	V5	D3		D
Curtis Andrus	V5	V5	D1	V5		V
<u>Women's Foil \$500</u>						
Felicia Zimmermann	V5	V5	V5			V
Kelly Kohler	D3	D2	D3			D
<u>Women's Sabre \$500</u>						
Rachel Liebing	V5	D4	D2	V5	V5	V
Meghan Everett	D0	V5	V5	D1	D4	D



TOURNAMENT highlights

	1	2	3	4	5	Result
Men's Epee \$1,000						
Ingo Grausam	D3	V5	D2	V5	V5	V
Gagik Demerchian	V5	D2	V5	D4	D4	D
Women's Epee \$500						
Felicia Zimmermann	V5	V5	V5			V
Amy Fortune	D1	D2	D1			D
Men's Foil \$1,000						
Sean McClain	V5	V5	V5			V
Cedric Anan	D4	D4	D3			D



More photos by Timacheff from the Duel in the Desert: above, Sean McClain; far left, Ingo Grausman (l) and Gagick Demerchian (r); left, Felicia Zimmermann talks to her tip. Special thanks to Serge for sharing these images with *American Fencing*.

NAC JUNIOR/DIVISION I | South Bend, IN, January 18 - 21

DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE

(193 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Wiercioch*, Adam A (POLAND)
2. O'Loughlin, Chris S (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Feldschuh, Michael (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Sobieraj *, Michal (POLAND)
5. Levit *, Doron (ISRAEL)
6. Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
7. Burke, Nat G (MT. VALLEY)
8. Kelsey, Weston S (COLORADO)

DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(117 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Eim, Stephanie (CENTRAL PA)
2. Leszko, Julia A (OREGON)
- 3.T Gilker, Daisy D (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
5. Phair, Meghan D (LONG ISLND)
6. McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
7. Walton, Kerry E (NORTHEAST)
8. Jacob *, Monica (CANADA)

JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(92 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
2. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Jones, William S (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Seguin *, Jean-Pierr (CANADA)

DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL

(181 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Kellner, Dan (METRO NYC)
2. McGuire*, Joshua J (CANADA)
- 3.T Anen *, Cedric R (LUXEMBOURG)
- 3.T Dupree, Jedediah (METRO NYC)
5. Wood, Alexander (CENTRAL CA)
- 6.T Cohen, Yale E (METRO NYC)
- 6.T Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLND)
8. Gutkovskiy *, Stanislav (BELARUS)

DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL

(83 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Smart, Erinn L (METRO NYC)
2. Kryczalo, Alicja M (INDIANA)
- 3.T Luan*, Jujie (CANADA)
- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
5. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
6. Angelova*, Anna I (OREGON)
7. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
8. Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

(117 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. McGuire, Joshua J (CANADA)
2. Kirk-Gordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Schlaepfer, Ian F (MT. VALLEY)

DIVISION I MEN'S SABER

(118 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Hagamen, Timothy H (METRO NYC)
2. Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Weber *, Alexander (GERMANY)
5. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
6. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
7. Morehouse, Timothy F (METRO NYC)
8. Lapointe *, Frederick (CANADA)

DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER

(79 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Thompson, Caitlin (OREGON)
2. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Bond-Williams *, Louise (GRTBRITAIN)
- 3.T Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
5. Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
6. Oldham Cox, Jennifer K (OREGON)
7. Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
8. Mustilli, Nicole (NATIONAL)

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

(80 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
2. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
- 3.T Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)

5. Bajgoric*, Tigran (CANADA)
6. Testerman, Nicolas M (OREGON)
7. Smith *, Jordan L.F (CANADA)
8. Vail, Bruce D (GEORGIA)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(72 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Szarwark, Case (TENNESSEE)
2. Schirtz, Alli M (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Chin, Meredith M (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
5. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
6. Walton, Kerry E (NORTHEAST)
7. Orlando, Amy E (OREGON)
8. Hohensee, Kira L (NORTHEAST)

5. Caven, Alex P (WESTERN NY)
6. Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)
7. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)
8. Dunn, Ryan M (KANSAS)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

(79 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
2. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
5. Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)
6. Foldi *, Julia (ILLINOIS)
7. Hiss, Sophie C (OKLAHOMA)
8. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)

- 5.T Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
- 5.T Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
7. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
8. Hagamen, Timothy H (METRO NYC)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

(59 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
Group A1 competition

1. Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
2. Bond-Williams *, Louise (GRTBRITAIN)
- 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Sabbath*, Shena (CANADA)
5. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
6. Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
7. Thompson, Caitlin (OREGON)
8. Wieronski, Katarzyna (NEW JERSEY)

REPORT FROM THE NYU MEGA-MEET | New York City, NY, January 27 —

Special report from Jeff Bukantz

THREE-RING CIRCUS

In fencing, nothing can top the excitement of the team events. Whether it's the national pride on the line at the Olympics and World Championships, or the honor of your club at the National Championships, the emotional experience is chilling.

However, for my money, nothing beats the collegiate dual meet between two of the country's best teams. There is a pureness to the contest, as it involves young adults exhibiting unbridled team spirit. The best (fencing) universities not only attract the best fencers in the country, but also import some international ringers.

Add to the already electric mix an array of coaches who are grizzled veterans, and often act like grizzly bears, and the dual meet is guaranteed to leave you wanting for more.

And more is what you get at the annual Mega-Meet hosted by New York University (NYU) and Coach Steve Mormando each January. Seven of the best teams in the country are invited, and in a quasi- round-robin format, compete against each other from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM.

This year, the magnificent seven were: NYU, Columbia, Yale, Air Force, St. John's University (SJU), University of Notre Dame (UND), and Stanford. For the most part, all of the teams were in or around the NCAA's top ten. NYU, with 22 men's and women's national collegiate titles, was once the country's dominant force, and has steadily improved under Mormando. Columbia is the owner of 13 NCAA Championships, and George Kolombatovich and Dr. Aladar Kogler always field a tough team. Yale is regularly a contender, and Henry Harutunian's team always comes ready to battle. St. John's, of course, is the defending NCAA champion, and Yuri Gelman and Misha Shimshovich don't plan on relinquishing that perch. Notre Dame always challenges for the championship under Yves Auriol and Janusz Bednarski. Stanford has been a powerhouse, and Lisa Milgram and George Pogosov continue on

their quest for the elusive team championship. Air Force, under the guidance of Abdel Salem, has improved measurably.

While the coaches added flavor, the main ingredient of the recipe was the overall strength of the competitors. And, the depth on some of the teams was staggering. The teams were loaded with fencers of both sexes who dominated the junior and senior point standings, as well as a whole host of both home-grown and European World Cup, Cadet and Junior World Championship medalists.

For instance, Kevin Eriksen of Columbia placed third at last year's national foil championship, and is currently ranked sixth in Senior Foil, but is only the second best on his team, since Nico Jaspers of Germany, an FIE Junior World Cup winner, joined the Lions this year. Jeremy Sinkin, the 12th-ranked senior, who'd be the top dog on most teams, is firmly ensconced in the third spot here.

Joe Fisher of St. John's took fourth in foil at last year's NCAA's, but he's relegated to second fiddle behind Jon Tiomkin, a former USFA National Champion who's currently ranked third in the senior standings.

Andrea Ament, a multiple Cadet and Junior medalist, is a bridesmaid on the Notre Dame foil squad thanks to the import of Poland's Alicja Kryczalo, who Iris Zimmermann claims was her personal nemesis in the World Junior ranks.

Olympian Arlene Stevens is even overshadowed by St. John's epee teammate Emese Takacs, the defending NCAA champ.

Stanford freshman Steve Gerberman, who recently won a Junior World Cup (!), is only the top foilist due to the illness of Felix Reichling, a two-time NCAA champ.

Get the picture?

Add to the mix Stanford's Iris Zimmermann (if you don't know her resume by now, I'm not telling!), St. John's Ivan Lee (recent bronze medalist at a Senior World Cup) and Arpad Horvath (former World Cadet Champion), and Yale's

TOURNAMENT highlights

Sada Jacobson (currently ranked second in Junior World Cup standings), and it is clear that the NYU mega-meet is the granddaddy of them all.

Quite frankly, it was a 12-strip circus! The fur was flying, and even as a referee concentrating on one strip, I couldn't help but sneak glances at the hysteria on the surrounding strips. There was a buzz in the room from start until finish.

Appropriately, the final men's match of the day, which pitted first-ranked St. John's against second-ranked Notre Dame, provided the most drama. Notre Dame was leading 13-12 going into the penultimate epee bout. The battle between SJU's Doron Levit and UND's Jan Viviani, both NCAA All-Americans, went to 4-4, when Levit appeared to score on Viviani's leg, thereby tying the match and sending his teammates into a frenzy. Levit, after initially thinking the hit was valid, was told by some friends who were at the side of the strip that he had actually hit the floor. Levit, in a true display of character, in spite of the referee awarding the touch, refused to accept it.

The bout was re-started and Levit again touched Viviani, but this time for real—the match was now 13-13. This set up

the final bout between two world-class epeeists (and collegiate freshmen), UND's Polish import Michal Sobieraj and SJU's Horvath.

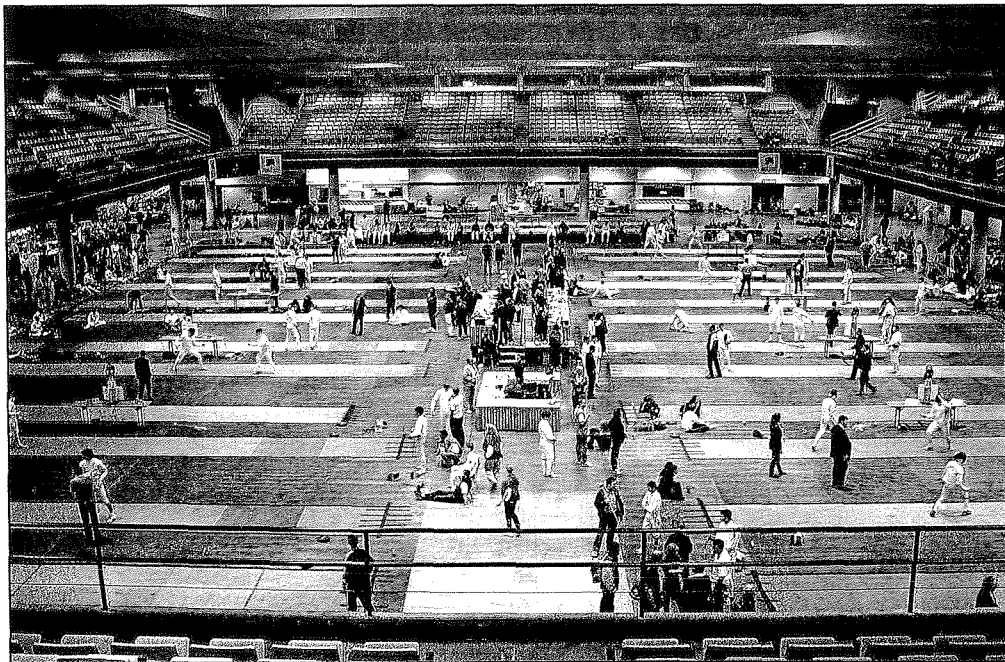
The bout was full of tension as the fencers felt each other out. While these fencers had experienced the pressure of competing for World Championships, this was quite the indoctrination to the super-charged world of college fencing. Sobieraj had the added pressure of maintaining UND's nearly three-year, and 44-match, winning streak.

Not unexpectedly, the tactically cautious bout resulted in a 2-2 tie when the four minutes ran out. The coin was flipped, and Sobieraj's pressure mounted as the priority went to former World Cadet Champion Horvath. Horvath chose to press the action and it backfired, as Sobieraj scored on a lightning-fast counter action, thereby preserving both UND's winning streak, and his seat on the bus ride back to South Bend.

If you love fencing, and live within a reasonable distance to New York City, make every effort to attend this event next year. It is the single most exciting day of the fencing season.

REPORT FROM THE JUNIOR OLYMPICS I

Columbus, Ohio, February 15 - 18 | special USFA report from
Cindy Bent, USFA Media Relations



▲ A scene from the bleachers at the 2002 Junior Olympics at the Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Photo: Sam Lillard.

Leahy defeated Amy Delahanty (16, Louisville, Ky./Louisville Fencing) in a carefully fenced 14-9 bout for the gold in Cadet on Friday. She also defeated Andrea Ament (19, Gates Mills, Ohio/Saturn Fencing Center/Notre Dame '05) in a cliff-hanger 15-14 bout to win the Junior gold on Sunday.

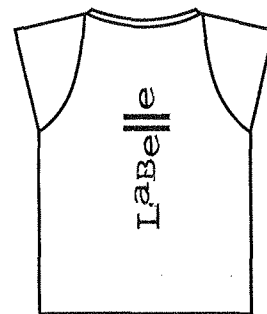
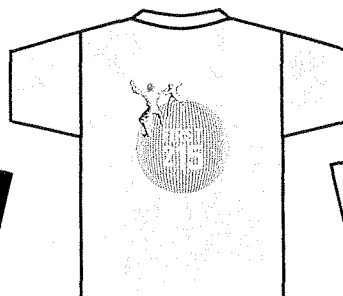
Junior Olympics '02, at 1,241 competitors, was the largest JOs ever. The competition opened in style. Nicolette Kocsardy, representing the Grapevine Middle School in Texas as a cadet/junior epee fencer, played the national anthem on her violin. Now in her second year of fencing, she also placed in the top 32 in cadet epee.

The weekend belonged to the Cadet set. Cadet fencers won every Under-20 event but men's epee and men's sabre. Sixteen-year-old Jacqueline Leahy (Aurora, Colo./Fencers Club) made history by becoming only the second fencer ever to win both Under-20 and Under-17 events two years in a row.

continued on page 22

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Italy Training Camp JUNE 15-22, 2002

Join high level fencers from across Europe and the United States. The Italy training camp is designed for all levels of fencers in each weapon. Campers will train at the Club Scherma Frascati in Rome. The camp will provide individualized and group instruction to all participants. Two training sessions are held each day of camp. Coaching Staff includes: Maestro Marcos Lucchetti (Camp Director), Maestro Salvatore Dinaro of Club Scherma Frascati and other U.S. coaches. Fencing tuition \$595

Los Angeles Training Camp JULY 8-13, 2002

Join Fencers from around the globe for this incredible opportunity to train with an international group of fencing masters in sunny southern California! The camp will be hosted by the Westside Fencing Center, located minutes from dozens of beaches, Universal Studio, Disneyland, The Hollywood Walk of Fame and many other attractions. Fencing tuition \$495

5th Annual French - American Fencing Camp JULY 15-20, 2002

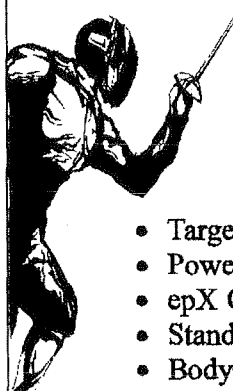
This camp, hosted in Windsor, CA just a short drive from San Francisco, is ideal for all novice to elite (foil, epee, or saber) fencers who wish to improve their skills in one incredible week of training. Every day of the camp all fencers will receive private lessons and participate in footwork, cross-training and bouts with French opponents. Fencing tuition \$495

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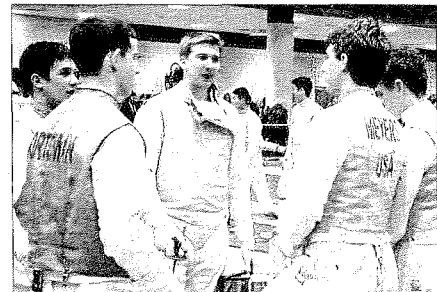
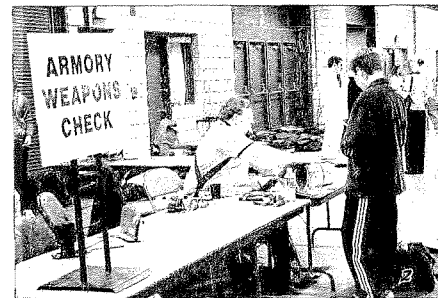
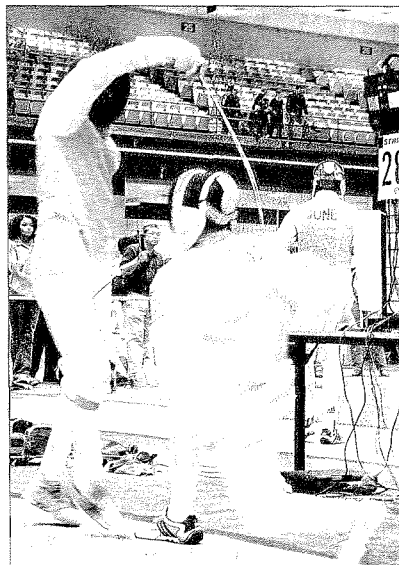
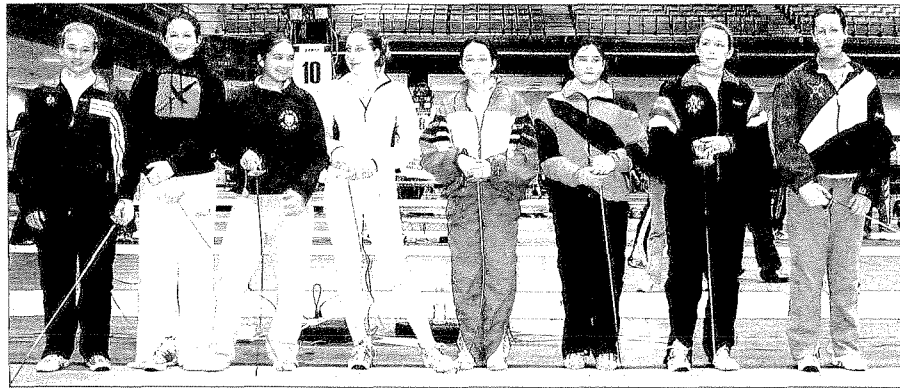
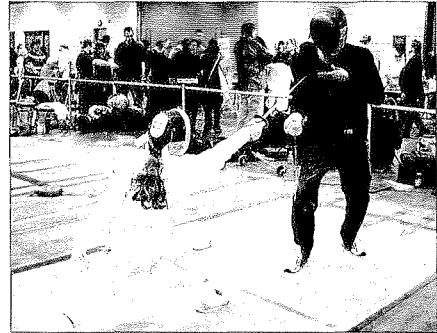
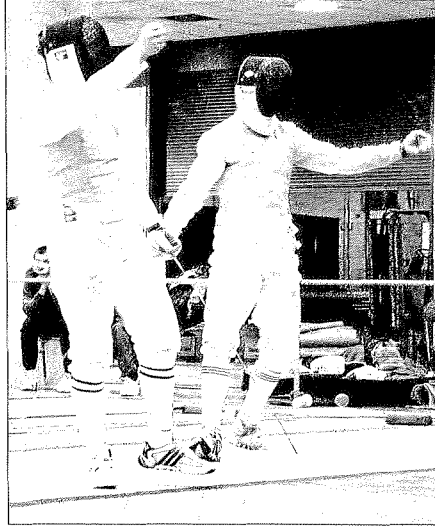
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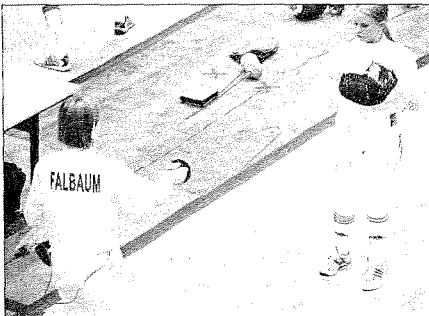
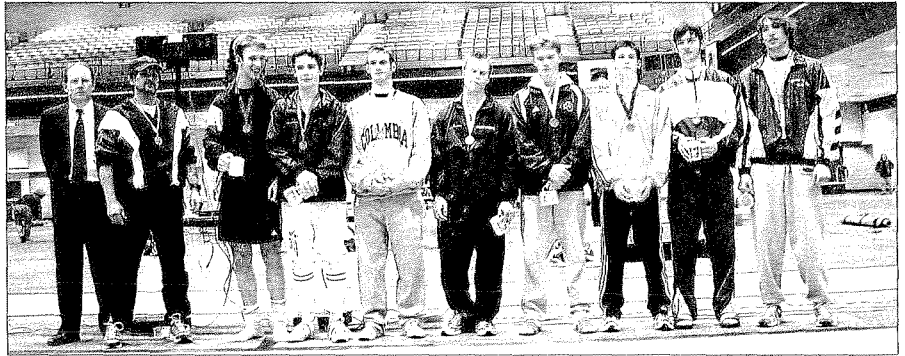
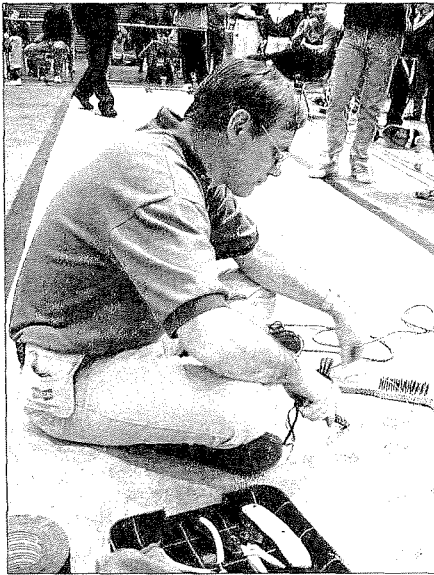
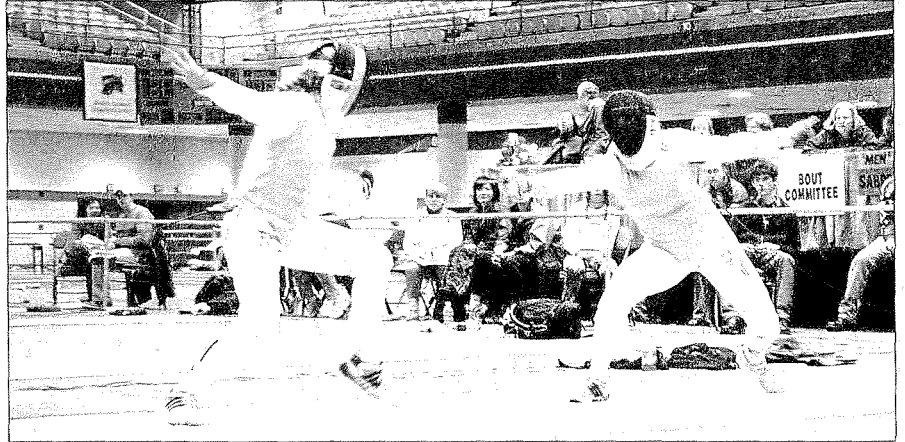
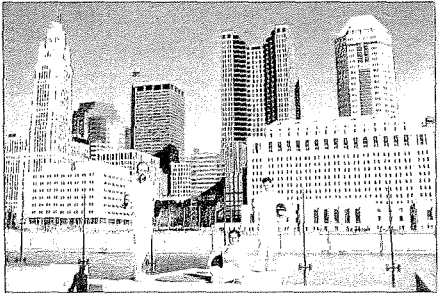
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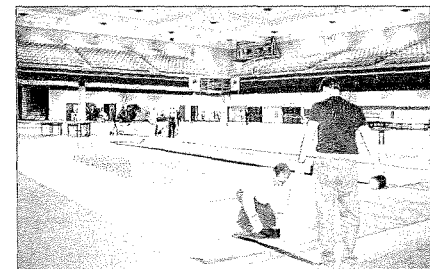
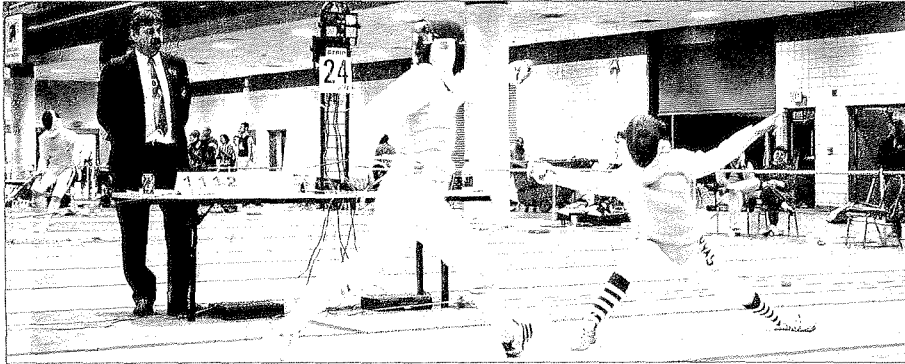
Scenes from
THE 2002 JUNIOR OLYMPICS

COLUMBUS, OHIO Photographed by Samuel Lillard, photo editor of *American Fencing*

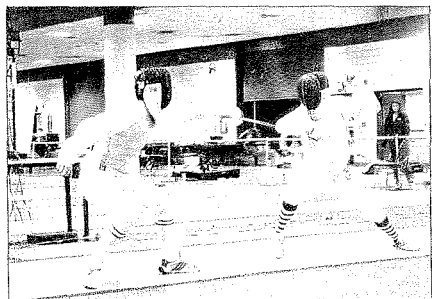
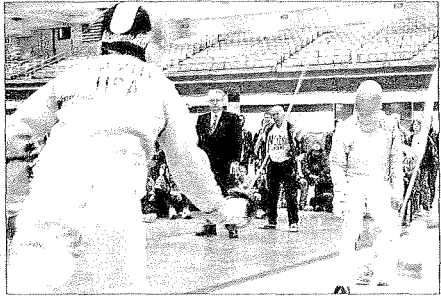




2002 JUNIOR OLYMPICS



FEBRUARY 15 - 18, 2002



TOURNAMENT highlights

Junior Olympics report, from page 16

The only other fencer to achieve two consecutive victories in both age groups was Felicia Zimmermann ('96, '00 Olympian) in 1990 and 1991.

Benjamin Bratton (16, Richmond Hill, N.Y./Westbrook Foundation) also shone in men's epee, winning the Under-17 event in a convincing 15-9 victory over Joshua Choi and also earning the bronze in the Under-20 event, beaten only by top-ranked Junior Benjamin Solomon (15-12).

"The JOs ranked among the best tournaments I ever fenced," said Bratton. "This tournament allowed me to face the toughest cadets and juniors in

the country. It was wonderful winning the gold medal in the Cadet Men's Epee event. I was pleased with my fencing in the Junior event and winning the silver medal since Ben Solomon is such a very strong competitor."

Cadet women's epee fencers Ruth Schneider (16, Rochester, N.Y./North West Fencing Center) and Alli Schirtz (16, Beaverton, Ore./North West Fencing Center), men's sabre fencer Patrick Ghattas (16, Beaverton, Ore./Oregon Fencing Alliance), and men's foil fencer Brendan Meyers (13, New York City, N.Y./Fencers Club) all earned top-three spots in both Under-20 and Under-17 events.

And two 14-year-olds—Caitlin

Thompson (Beaverton, Ore./Oregon Fencing Alliance) and Sarah Parker (Fayetteville, Ga./Nellya Fencers)—went medal for medal over the weekend, each earning gold and bronze. Thompson defeated hometown fencer Syvenna Siebert 15-10 to win gold in the Junior Women's Sabre event and also earned a bronze in the Cadet Women's Sabre.

Parker won the gold in the Cadet event with a 15-13 victory over Carolyn Wright (15, Arlington, Va./Virginia Acad. of Fencing), and won the bronze in the Junior event — losing to Thompson on this day, 15-11. Both showed great determination and promise throughout the weekend.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS 2002 | Columbus, Ohio, February 15 - 18

JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(179 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
2. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Marlin, Evan S (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Meidell, Philip R (ARIZONA)
5. Testerman, Nicolas M (OREGON)
6. Snider, Chris E (SO. TEXAS)
7. Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
8. Ungar, Benjamin N (METRO NYC)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(124 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Schirtz, Alli M (OREGON)
2. McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
- 3.T Orlando, Amy E (OREGON)
- 3.T Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
5. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
6. Albers, Franziska (NEW JERSEY)
7. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
8. Brendler, Kaela J (SO. TEXAS)

CADET MEN'S ÉPÉE

(140 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
2. Choi, Joshua Jae (COLORADO)
- 3.T Ferrer, Alex R (N.CAROLINA)
- 3.T Howard, Greg E (INDIANA)
5. Hohensee, Douglas G (NORTHEAST)
6. Wright, Neal P (COLORADO)
7. Sherrill, Teddy R (NEW JERSEY)
8. Hohmeister, Eric J (MT. VALLEY)

CADET WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(100 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4 competition

1. Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
2. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)

JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

(190 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A8 competition

1. Kirk-Gordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
2. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Schlaepfer, Ian F (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Sinkin, Jeremy C (WESTERN NY)
5. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)
6. Lazic, Luka (NEW JERSEY)
7. Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)
8. Schibilia, Jesse A (NEW JERSEY)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

(152 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
2. Ament, Andrea E (INDIANA)
- 3.T Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)
- 3.T Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
5. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
6. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
7. Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
8. Walker, Lauren C (SO. CALIF.)

CADET MEN'S FOIL

(182 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4 competition

1. Miner, Parker J (UTAH/S.IDA)
2. Horanyi, Andras M (COLORADO)
- 3.T Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
5. Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
6. Stauble, Andrew Co (KENTUCKY)
- 7.T DiNapoli, Emerson T (CENTRAL CA)
- 7.T Hamilton, Ian (METRO NYC)

CADET WOMEN'S FOIL

(136 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group C4/B1 competition

1. Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
2. Delahanty, Amy T (KENTUCKY)

JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

(142 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
2. Jakus, David J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
- 3.T Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
5. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
6. Sohn, Andrew J (METRO NYC)
7. Hagamen, Timothy H (METRO NYC)
8. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)

JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

(101 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
2. Siebert, Syvenna B (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
- 5.T Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
- 5.T Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
7. Robinson, Christian (METRO NYC)
8. Liebing, Rachel (UTAH/S.IDA)

CADET MEN'S SABER

(118 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition

1. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
2. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
- 3.T Friend, John F (KANSAS)
- 3.T Igoe, Benjamin D (METRO NYC)
5. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
6. Andrus, Curtis A (MT. VALLEY)
7. Farr, Ian G (OREGON)
8. Paul, Jason M (SO. CALIF.)

CADET WOMEN'S SABER

(75 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
Group A1 competition

1. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)
2. Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)

- 3.T Kantor, Rachel M (OREGON)
- 3.T Schirtz, Alli M (OREGON)
- 5. Brendler, Kaela J (SO. TEXAS)
- 6. Willock, Lauren W (KENTUCKY)
- 7. Kercksmar, Anne B (NORTH OHIO)
- 8. Orlando, Amy E (OREGON)

- 3.T Emerson, Abigail (A (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
- 5.T Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
- 5.T Walker, Lauren C (SO. CALIF.)
- 7. Nott, Adrienne M (WESTERN NY)
- 8. Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)

- 3.T Schneider, Daria H (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
- 5. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
- 6. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
- 7. Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)
- 8. Siebert, Syvenna B (COLUMBUSOH)

NAC DIVISION II/III/VETERAN | Reno, NV, March 8 - 11

DIVISION II MEN'S ÉPÉE

(95 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

- 1. Moody, Jimmy W (COLORADO)
- 2. Guymon, David R (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 3.T Beaulac, Edward P (LONG ISLND)
- 3.T Kolker, Sergey (NEWENGLAND)
- 5. Levy, Paul G (NEW JERSEY)
- 6. Bronzo, Justin G (NO. COAST)
- 7. Pearce, Michael A (NORTH CA)
- 8. Juengst, Bruce E (N.CAROLINA)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(65 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

- 1. Bartschi, Corinne
- 2. Dominick, Christine (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Bowen, Victoria M (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Dubois, Courtney A (NEW JERSEY)
- 5. Thouless, Helen R (WESTERN WA)
- 6. Buechel, Holly M (NEW JERSEY)
- 7. Chimienti, Michele (SO. CALIF.)
- 8. Telles, Anna (WESTERN WA)

DIVISION III MEN'S ÉPÉE

(73 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

- 1. Moody, Jimmy W (COLORADO)
- 2. Thurlow, Joshua M (HAWAII)
- 3.T Gandley, Tom (UTAH/S.IDA)
- 3.T Kolker, Sergey (NEWENGLAND)
- 5. Hargis, Dale J (NEVADA)
- 6. Matteson, Tucker H (NORTHEAST)
- 7. Morich, Matt T (ILLINOIS)
- 8. Kaufman, Joel H (CENTRAL CA)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(60 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

- 1. Bartschi, Corinne

DIVISION II MEN'S FOIL

(91 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

- 1. DiNapoli, Emerson T (CENTRAL CA)
- 2. Matteson, Tucker H (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Perry, Jarrod H (LONG ISLND)
- 3.T Talbott, George C (SAN DIEGO)
- 5. Laskov, Alexey (METRO NYC)
- 6. Tucker, Dan D (CENTRAL CA)
- 7. Wang, Jonathan (CENTRAL CA)
- 8. Nary, William J (WESTERN WA)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S FOIL

(66 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

- 1. Yang, Maggie L (CENTRAL CA)
- 2. Wise, Annie (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Fagan, Margaret (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Mazorol, Natalie F (NEW MEXICO)
- 5. Kornilova, Polina S (MICHIGAN)
- 6.T Arpke, Kalina N (KANSAS)
- 6.T Sidenblad, Ann M (CENTRAL CA)
- 8. Wang, Natalie (CENTRAL CA)

DIVISION III MEN'S FOIL

(88 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

- 1. Hutt, Grady L (SO. CALIF.)
- 2. Mooney, Jeffery A (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Perry, Jarrod H (LONG ISLND)
- 3.T Topp, Roger M (ALASKA)
- 5. Burton, Jeff (NORTH TEX)
- 6. Wood, Benjamin M (CAPITOL)
- 7. Harkey, John J (AK-LA-MISS)
- 8. Maynard, Daniel M (SO. CALIF.)

DIVISION III WOMEN'S FOIL

(66 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

- 1. Masters, Lara A (PHILADELPH)

DIVISION II MEN'S SABER

(58 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

- 1. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
- 2. Liu, Joe C (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Greene, Shaun A (KANSAS)
- 3.T Ho*, Adrian (CANADA)
- 5. Toscani, Rocco (ILLINOIS)
- 6. Zagunis, Merrick H (OREGON)
- 7. Vongries, Alexander (MINNESOTA)
- 8. Jones, Gregory A (WESTERN WA)

DIVISION II WOMEN'S SABER

(36 Competitors)

Group B4 competition

- 1. Ward, Becca C (OREGON)
- 2. Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)
- 3.T Grench, Eileen M (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Newstrom, Mary K (MINNESOTA)
- 5. Berman, Cecelia F (COLORADO)
- 6. Ambalongo, Jody P (MT. VALLEY)
- 7. Comes, Rita (CENTRAL CA)
- 8. Penton, Sharon P

DIVISION III MEN'S SABER

(68 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

- 1. Vongries, Alexander (MINNESOTA)
- 2. Toscani, Rocco (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Chaoui, Luc A (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Liu, Joe C (GEORGIA)
- 5. Greene, Shaun A (KANSAS)
- 6. Randolph, William R (KANSAS)
- 7. Rauzin, Joel D (GATEWAY FL)
- 8. Roe, Theodore ((OREGON)

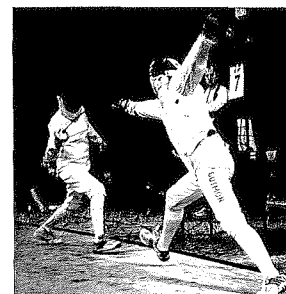
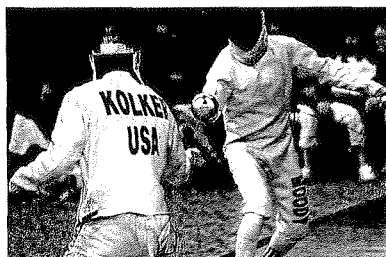
DIVISION III WOMEN'S SABER

(29 Competitors)

Group C4 competition

- 1. Grench, Eileen M (MT. VALLEY)

NAC epee action at Reno: from left, Sergey Kolker and Jimmy Moody face off in Division II competition; middle and far right, Moody (l.) and David Guymon (r.) finish the job. Photos: Serge Timacheff.





The eight finalists in Veteran Women's Foil at the Reno NAC, left to right: Ream, Jann L.—Iowa (8th place); Huey, Sharone A.—Metro NYC (7th place); Nowell, Linda C.—North CA (6th place); Duthie, K. Maria—Inland Empire (5th place); Herriott, Diane M.—Western WA (tied for 3rd place); Bedrosian, Patricia G.—So. Calif. (tied for 3rd place); Mazorol, Lydia G.—So. Calif. (2nd place); Walton, Yvonne R.—Northeast (1st place); and McLain, Sean—director. Photo courtesy Serge Timacheff.

2. Dominick, Christine (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Rising, Merideth A (NEW MEXICO)
- 3.T Rush, Allison A (COLORADO)
5. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
6. Buechel, Holly M (NEW JERSEY)
7. Zuzek, Christine (NEW JERSEY)
8. Rowe, Rachel H (NEW JERSEY)

2. Bassik, Judith M (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Chimienti, Michele (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Howell, Chelsey E (SW OHIO)
5. Kaplan, Amy R (HUDS-BERKS)
6. Whitehurst, Mercedes A (WESTERN WA)
7. Kornilova, Polina S (MICHIGAN)
8. Bessell, Sarah L (SO. CALIF.)

2. Rill, Kristin E (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Barroso, Audrey A (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Weldon, Marijke L (ILLINOIS)
5. Penton, Sharon P
6. Jacobson, Anna L (GEORGIA)
7. Klein-Braddock, Kimberly (OREGON)
8. Dosmann, Lisa A (MICHIGAN)

indicates a Vet-50 Fencer % indicates a Vet-60 Fencer

VETERAN MEN'S ÉPÉE

- (88 Competitors - top 64 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition
1. Moreau, John A # (SO. TEXAS)
 2. Schneider, Charles J (MICHIGAN)
 - 3.T Goossens, Bruno J # (OREGON)
 - 3.T Lattin, Kenneth A (OREGON)
 5. Cochrane Jr, Robert A # (GOLDCST FL)
 6. Van Dyke, Frank A (NEVADA)
 7. Chidel, Robert # (ILLINOIS)
 8. Tyson, Julian F # (CONNECTCUT)

VETERAN MEN'S FOIL

- (68 Competitors - top 64 earn points)
Group B4/A1 competition
1. Hambarzumian, Heik # (NEVADA)
 2. Mattox, N. S (NORTH CA)
 - 3.T Streb, Joseph S # (COLUMBUSOH)
 - 3.T Tyson, Julian F # (CONNECTCUT)
 5. Milligan, Bruce C # (MARYLAND)
 6. Mayer, Richard # (NEW JERSEY)
 7. Diamond, Gary M (MT. VALLEY)
 8. Ide, Eiichi #

VETERAN MEN'S SABER

- (50 Competitors - all earn points)
Group B1 competition
1. Korfanty, Edward # (OREGON)
 2. Reilly, Philip # (OREGON)
 - 3.T Harper, Brian S # (GATEWAY FL)
 - 3.T Yung, Wang Y # (WESTERN WA)
 - 5.T Goering, William A % (COLORADO)
 - 5.T Jacobson, David H # (GEORGIA)
 7. Toth, Istvan (SO. CALIF.)
 8. Meagher, Roderick (HUDS-BERKS)

VETERAN WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

- (35 Competitors - all earn points)
Group B1 competition
1. Johnson, Karen (SO. TEXAS)
 2. Kato, Janice S (HAWAII)
 - 3.T Duthie, K. Maria (INLAND EMP)
 - 3.T Frye, Mary P (PHILADELPH)
 5. Gresham, Carolyn N (OKLAHOMA)
 6. Cloud, Christy J (MT. VALLEY)
 7. Dobloug, Lisa % (CAPITOL)
 8. Whisnant, Lela R # (SO. TEXAS)

VETERAN WOMEN'S FOIL

- (33 Competitors - all earn points)
Group C1 competition
1. Walton, Yvonne R # (NORTHEAST)
 2. Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)
 - 3.T Bedrosian, Patricia G % (SO. CALIF.)
 - 3.T Herriott, Diane M (WESTERN WA)
 5. Duthie, K. Maria (INLAND EMP)
 6. Nowell, Linda C # (NORTH CA)
 7. Huey, Sharone A (METRO NYC)
 8. Ream, Jann L (IOWA)

VETERAN WOMEN'S SABER

- (24 Competitors - all earn points)
Group B1 competition
1. Turner, Delia M # (PHILADELPH)
 2. Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)
 - 3.T Strumillo, Jeanette M (MT. VALLEY)
 - 3.T Taft, Leslie A (SAN BERNAR)
 5. Eyre, Jane E (S. JERSEY)
 6. Nicolau, Doty # (ALABAMA)
 7. Comes, Rita (CENTRAL CA)
 8. Stopak, Deb M (VIRGINIA)

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MEN'S SABRE

1. Ivan Lee (St. John's)
2. Jakub Krochmalski (Wayne State)
3. Jason Rogers (Ohio State)

WOMEN'S SABRE

1. Sada Jacobson (Yale)
2. Louise Bond-Williams (Ohio State)
3. Julia Gelman (St. John's)

TEAM FINAL STANDINGS

Place	School	Total	MS	MF	ME	WS	WF	WE
1	Pennsylvania State University	195	37	35	29	29	26	39
2	St. John's University	190	38	17	35	35	31	34
3	Notre Dame	186	27	33	29	20	45	32
4	Ohio State University	140	33	10	18	28	36	15
5	Columbia/Barnard	96	26	20	11	†	24	15
6T	Stanford University	92	10	33	16	16	17	†
6T	Yale University	92	17	5	5	34	21	10
8	Princeton University	81	8	6	28	9	†	30
9	University of Pennsylvania	68	4	24	17	6	10	7
10	Rutgers University	60	8	12	15	12	†	13

MEN'S FOIL

1. Nonpatat Panchan (Penn State)
2. Jonathan Tiomkin (St. John's)
3. Steve Gerberman (Stanford)

WOMEN'S FOIL

1. Alicja Kryczalo (Notre Dame)
2. Andrea Ament (Notre Dame)
3. Hannah Thompson (Ohio State)

MEN'S EPEE

1. Árpád Horváth (St. John's)
2. Soren Thompson (Princeton)
3. Weston Kelsey (Air Force)

WOMEN'S EPEE

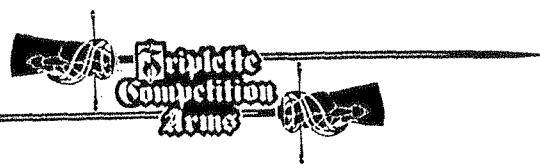
1. Kerry Walton (Notre Dame)
2. Stephanie Eim (Penn State)
3. Kate Rudkin (Northwestern)

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SOLDERING ON...

by Joe Byrnes

In the last couple of years, people going into certain body cords (especially) or floor cables—looking to reattach a wire that had broken just where it disappears into the pin—have found a new problem in clearing the stub end of the wire from that pin. When there is merely wire, held down by a set screw, there has never been a problem. And if the wire had been “tinned,” as it’s called—i.e., flooded with a bit of solder to make a more solid metal unit for the set screw to bite into or press upon—that has also usually been pretty clear sailing.

However, the latest approach, used by a couple of prominent manufacturers, is to crimp a tiny, very soft metal tag or tab (rather like that on the end of a shoelace) onto the wire, then stuff it into the hole in the pin and crank down the set screw. This makes for a very tight attachment, as it happens, but one that’s a real bear to get out, since the soft tab expands to fill the whole bore of the pin. I find that drilling the resultant mass out is about the only approach that works. (You need some rather fancy tiny drill bits; used dental bits work well).

Of course you can always throw the pin away, and buy a new one; or, even better doubtless from the manufactur-

er’s point of view, buy a whole new body cord. (Maybe that was the idea?)

What I am going to advise now is the approach that I feel comfortable recommending and the one that I tend to use myself—some of the time. (Actually, most of the time, but only when there is time.) People who have seen me at work, however, will know that I don’t always do it. So here I am, hypocritical me, giving good advice: do as I say, not as I do? Well, let me point out that I have been fooling around with solder and soldering irons for nearly six decades, and have acquired almost an instinct for what will work. Some things will work reasonably well; some will work better; some will be virtual overkill, depending on the circumstances: belt *and* suspenders, as the old jokes have it.

It’s the tinning, as mentioned above, that is the preferred way to go when you are dealing with a wire (a stranded wire, of course; that’s what it will be) that is to be held by a set screw. The amount of solder to be applied to the free end of the wire need not be very much—in fact, too much will only bulk out your wire to the point where you will probably not be able to get it into the little hole where it must fit.

The difference that the tinning

makes, however, is great, in the holding power of the set screw. If you merely run the set screw onto, or into, the loose strands of the wire, they will tend to move out of the way, and the resultant fit will be somewhat loose to begin with, and will only get worse with time.

The one exception to this advice is with those assemblies that use spike-pointed set screws that are intended to cut into the plastic insulation and make their contact with the wire after passing through the insulation, which naturally serves to hold the strands together. These are mostly the original Leon Paul style body cords, although some other models have been encountered. Removing the insulation at the end of the wire is a serious mistake with these types.

Where this approach comes a cropper, however, is with imitation Paul cords (mostly from Far Eastern sources) in which the wire and its insulation is much thicker than the original British design called for. With these, it is impossible to run the insulated wire up through the narrow channels in the foil/saber cord front end, or at the 3-pin end also, for that matter. Then you do have to remove insulation, and are left with loose strands, which cry aloud for careful tinning.

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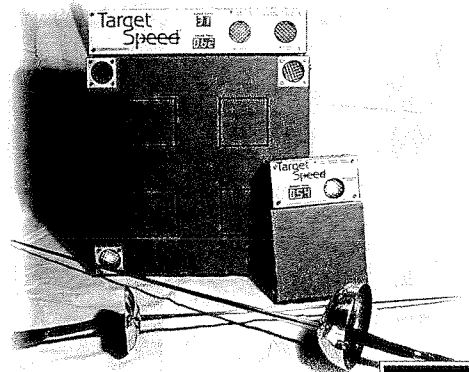
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TREATING CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME

By James Elbaor, M.D.

This is the first installment of the Sports Medicine Q & A column that will be a regular feature in American Fencing. If you have a question you would like answered, please direct it to Dr. Peter Harmer, associate chair of Sports Medicine & Science, at pharmer@willamette.edu.

Ouch! Darn it! The fencer pushes back from his competition and starts shaking his wrist. It hurts. He wonders why his wrist is aching so much lately. And why do his fingers seem to have gone to sleep so often?

The most likely explanation for the scenario above is Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

Just what is Carpal Tunnel Syndrome? The median nerve, one of the major nerves in the forearm running into the hand goes from the palm side of the arm and wrist into the hand and supplies sensation to the thumb, long finger and part of the ring finger. It also supplies

the motor power to the thumb. It is in a bony canal

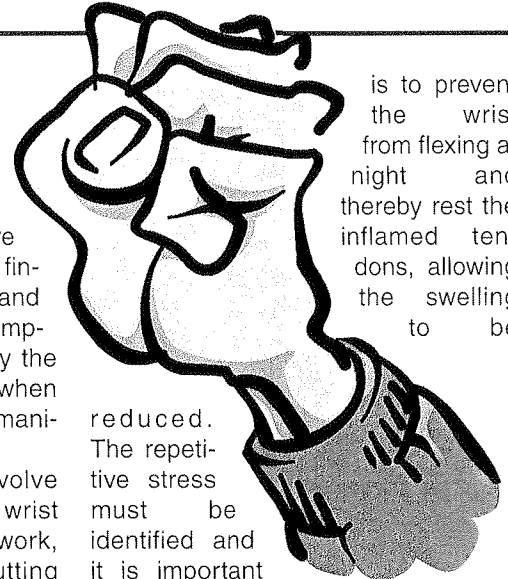
toms of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

There is a second tunnel next door to the carpal tunnel called the guyon's canal in which the other nerve going from the arm into the hand is located. This nerve controls the motor power to the fingers. It also can become swollen and tight and may cause some pain symptoms. However, it is most usually the carpal tunnel that is the culprit when the symptoms mentioned above manifest themselves.

Typically, activities that involve quick, fine finger action and wrist movement—such as computer work, some assembly machines, cutting motions, and sports such as fencing—can cause Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The pain usually presents itself as tightness, numbness, tingling, aching, and weakness or clumsiness in the hand. One could experience these pain symptoms at night to the point of waking and being unable to return to sleep.

There are other possible causes for this type of pain that must be ruled out by your healthcare provider before beginning treatment for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. For example, there is the possibility of a pinched nerve in the neck, which can produce pain that radiates from the neck to the arm and hand, or complications associated with conditions such as diabetes or thyroid disturbances. Athletes with wrist/hand pain should review their family history and confer with their physician as a first step in treatment.

How does one treat Carpal Tunnel Syndrome? The first and most simple treatment is to splint the wrist at night and to rest from the repetitive wrist motion suspected of causing the pain. The splint does not have to be fancy or elaborate; a short splint from the corner drugstore can suffice. The object



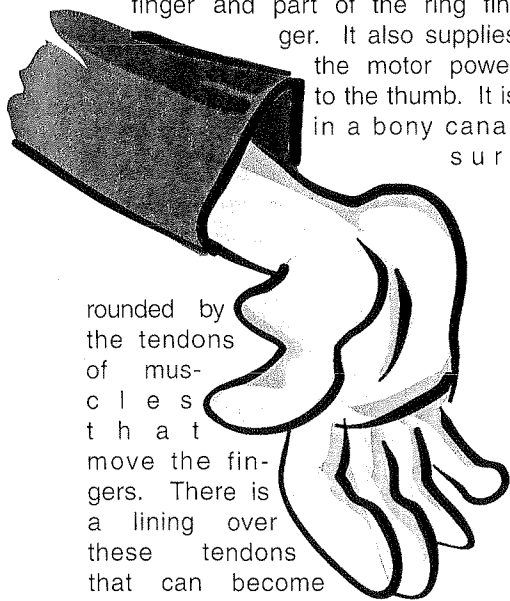
is to prevent the wrist from flexing at night and thereby rest the inflamed tendons, allowing the swelling to be

reduced.

The repetitive stress must be identified and it is important to remember that it may not be obvious. Although the pain may be most (or first) evident when fencing, the cause may be work-related (especially if you are keyboarding). Using ergonomic keyboards (or other assistive devices at work) and taking regular breaks from intensive finger/wrist work can help decrease the stress and inflammation.

In cases where these conservative approaches do not provide adequate relief from the pain, surgical intervention may be required. This procedure involves dividing the tight ligament in the palm of the hand to release the pressure in the wrist. This can often be done through a small incision with a rapid recovery. However, the use of night splints, physical therapy, and rest from repetitive stress usually produce relief and avoid the need for surgery.

James Elbaor, M.D., is medical director of the American Institute of Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine in Dallas, TX. Dr. Elbaor specializes in spine and sports medicine, including orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation.



rounded by the tendons of muscles that move the fingers. There is a lining over these tendons that can become thickened or inflamed by the repetitive use of wrist motion. This causes tightness in the compartment, which causes the pain symp-

GRAEME MONROE HAMMOND

Doctor, Lawyer, Fencing Chief by Bob Block

A Background Note: I bumped into Andy Shaw, USFA historian, at the veteran competition in Palm Springs last December and told him I thought we should have more historical pieces in this magazine. He said Why don't you do something on Graeme Hammond, our first veteran fencer? I'll send you some information about him. This wasn't exactly what I had in mind, but it is how I came to write this biographical piece on Hammond. I want to thank Andy for his generosity in suggesting the topic and sharing his research. I hope you enjoy our collaborative effort.

Thumbing through the old tattered books, you keep spotting the tall, distinguished looking man wearing a closely cropped Van Dyke-style beard. He looks back at you resolutely from the black and white photographs, always in a dark suit and with his hair and beard turned completely white by the years. He is there among the officers depicted in the 1928 Report of the American Olympic Committee (predecessor to the United States Olympic Committee). There he is again on the very first page of the Committee's 1936 Report right next to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Early in the volume you see him standing among the American delegation gathered in the city hall of Berlin as the mayor welcomed our team to the German Olympic Games of 1936. You can also find him pictured wearing his American team blazer in the Olympic Village standing alongside a fellow delegate. Elsewhere in the report, you recognize him dressed in a tuxedo at a formal banquet given in honor of a Japanese member of the International Olympic Committee, whose nation had won the bid to host the ill-fated 1940 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

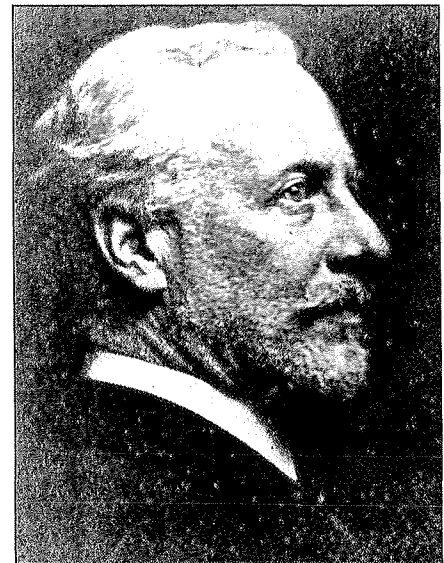
Browsing further through the 1936 report, you discover that the man with the Van Dyke beard is a member of the 1936 Olympic Games Fencing Committee as well as the chairman of the medical committee for the American team. He is also President Emeritus of the American Olympic Committee and a leader in the Olympic movement.

The beard is no longer in style in 1936 and the tall, ubiquitous figure stands out in the photographs. He is 78-year-old Dr. Graeme Monroe Hammond, a remarkable figure in the history of American fencing and a veritable Renaissance man.

Hammond was, above all, an athlete. Before he discovered fencing, he competed in track and field, boxing, wrestling and cycling. Later in life he took up tennis and handball and then fencing, which was to become his favorite sport. He was born in Philadelphia on February 1, 1858, the son of William A. Hammond who in a couple of years would become the Surgeon General of the Union Army during the Civil War. After attending public schools in Philadelphia, young Graeme entered Columbia University in 1874 and studied at the School of Mines until 1877. While at Columbia he set an American record on the track in the quarter-mile and the collegiate record in the half-mile. In 1877 Hammond entered New York University Medical College and graduated with a medical degree in 1881. He became an intern at the Post Graduate Hospital, where he remained professionally for most of his life as a professor of nervous diseases.

By the late 1890s, Hammond was married, the father of three young daughters, and following the busy work schedule of a physician and teacher. Yet he remained active in his chosen

sport as one of the top fencers in the United States. He apparently sought still more intellectual challenges because he decided to study law in his spare time and graduated from the New York University School of Law in 1900. His next incarnation was as a soldier during World War I when he served as a major in the Army's Medical Reserve Corps and became



Graeme Monroe Hammond—President, Amateur Fencers League of America, 1891-1925.

Photo courtesy U.S. Olympic Committee.

famous for treating shell-shocked war veterans.

Hammond was clearly a leader who was more than willing to serve his term at the helm: president of the American Neurological Society, 1911-1912; president of the New York Athletic Club, 1915-1919; and president of the American Olympic Association, 1928. But to fencers the most relevant item on his record of

leadership is that he was the founding president of the Amateur Fencers League of America (AFLA) when it was formed in 1891 and was reelected to that office continuously until 1925. Can you imagine the members of the USFA wanting the same president for 34 consecutive years?

The record of Hammond's accomplishments continued impressively both on as well as off the fencing piste. He was at various times national champion in all three weapons: three times in epee, twice in saber and once in foil. In 1889, at the age of 41, he won his first national championship by taking the gold in men's epee. Two years later he took the gold in both epee and foil at the Nationals. But soon afterwards,

*In 1889,
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and foil at the Nationals.*

becoming increasingly disgusted with the manner in which the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) managed the fencing championships, Hammond and a group of other prominent fencers met at the New York Athletic Club on April 23, 1891. They emerged from the meeting with the announcement that they had seceded from the AAU and formed the AFLA to run their own affairs. The AFLA was off and lunging for the next 90 years, finally metamorphosing into the USFA in 1981.

Hammond's best all-around year as a competitive fencer was 1893 when he was national champion in epee and saber as well as the silver medalist in foil. He won one more national championship in saber in 1894 and then his name disappeared from the individual record books. His last hurrah at the national level was in 1906 when he was a member of the New York Athletic Club's national champion epee team.

But Hammond's name reappeared in the fencing news in 1912 when, at the age of 54, he qualified for the Olympic Games in Stockholm. He was named captain of an American fencing team that included a young U.S. Army lieutenant by the name of George S. Patton, Jr., who qualified in both fencing and the new sport of modern pentathlon. At Stockholm, Hammond was eliminated in the first round in epee, but survived until the semifinals in foil where he was the last American to be eliminated from the event, which was eventually won by an 18-year-old Italian named Nedo Nadi. Hammond reflected on the 1912 experience, saying, "We learned a lot that time...we know more about how Europeans fence now, and we'll show them something the next time 'round."

The "next time 'round" for Hammond was in 1928 when he returned to the Olympics as the manager of the American team competing in Amsterdam. The Americans did show the fencing world something more in Amsterdam where U.S. Navy Lt. George C. Calnan took the bronze medal in individual men's epee, and the men's foil and epee teams each tied for fifth place.

Always optimistic about the progress he saw in American fencing and hopeful for its future, Hammond remained intimately involved with the sport by continuing to go to his fencing club for regular workouts well into his 70s. On his 77th birthday, Hammond told a reporter, "On my birthdays I do (run) four miles to prove to myself that I am not getting old. And I intend to keep it up as long as I live, which probably won't be much over 110."

In 1936 he returned for the last time to the Olympic Games at the age of 78 as the chairman of the American medical committee and member of the fencing committee.

Consistent and proper exercise was Hammond's recipe for longevity and health. When he was in his early 60s and still considered one of the best three or four fencers in the country, he explained his fitness and health philosophy to another reporter:

"I started athletics when I was sixteen years old, and I have never quit. Why, I run three miles every afternoon, and I fence, and I play other games I like. But what is equally important, I eat only two light meals a day. At the same time, I do all the things that are bad for me. I use alcohol and tobacco temperately and I drink tea and coffee. I go to banquets and eat and drink my fill. But my constant exercise comes to the rescue. Through it my system throws off all the things that are bad for me."

Not exactly a modern training regimen, but it seemed to work just fine for Hammond. At the age of 80 he still worked out twice weekly at the New York AC track.

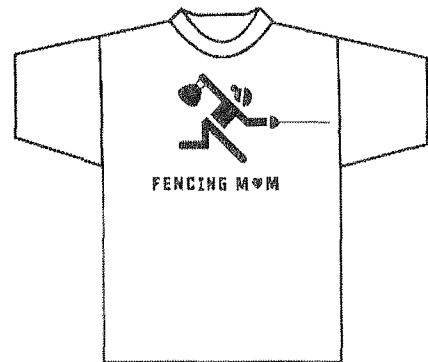
All things considered, it must have come as somewhat of a shock to the good doctor when he eventually fell ill at the tender age of 86, slipped into a coma and died a few days later on October 30, 1944. In light of the fact that he fenced his way onto the 1912 Olympic Team at the age of 54 and remained an active participant in his fencing club when he was in his mid-70s, it seems apropos to find a little more room in his legacy to add the well-deserved accolade of "America's First Veteran Fencer."

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

CONFESSIONS OF A FENCING MOM

by Carol Lasky

A couple of Presidential election seasons ago, pollsters coined a new species in the electorate, the so-called Soccer Mom. She came with a full set of definitions. We knew what kind of car she drove, how many kids she had (2.5, I believe), where she tended to live (how many ways can you spell *suburbia*?) and, most importantly, where she swayed politically. The Soccer Mom's defining moment, we were told, occurred in the voting booth.



Almost exactly at the time Bill Clinton won his second election, I became a Fencing Mom. At first, it was a fairly routine thing that amounted to driving my son to footwork drills on Saturday morning and comforting him when, suited up in the smelly equipment that the club offered for borrow, he was out-pointed by masked kids flailing foils. About a year ago, though, at about the time my son became deeply devoted to the sport and began to compete with a sense of purpose, I

discovered my calling as a Fencing Mom. It began with three defining moments:

1. In the equipment-check line at my son's first national event, when his one and only body cord failed. Not exactly sure what that even meant, we immediately changed lines, stepping up to make a purchase of two new Uhlmann's, double-pronged. OK, I thought, this is for real.
2. One event later, when I was on the receiving end of a ferocious glare delivered by the director. His eyes communicated this message: *You don't belong here. Only coaches stand here.* And I knew at that moment that my job had changed. I was now in charge of water and Power Bars—and not fencing. At events, coaches rule and moms do not help zip up.
3. At the vendors' tables at the Sacramento Nationals, when I was trying to kill some of the interminable waiting time by doing what comes naturally to all moms—shopping. As I toured the tables, picking up merchandise that I'd picked up and put down countless times that day, it became more and more important to me to experience a victory in my quest for a great fencing t-shirt.

Defining moment #3 outcome: Not finding one I liked, I took the challenge head on. I sketched shirt ideas on the back of an airline magazine on the flight home from Sacramento. Back in my graphic design office in Boston, a new Illustrator file was created, entitled "Fencing Shirts." Soon, what had started so innocently as an unsuccessful shopping spree blossomed into an indoor hobby—and then launched itself right into a fencing t-shirt company, complete with inventory (sizes youth-small through adult-XL) and a busy web address.

I did an exhaustive online survey of the handful of fencing t-shirt companies that exist in the world and researched the shrinkage factor of 100% cotton, heavy-weight materials. Colors, fonts, images and ideas piled up on my desk. Most important of all, I started doing a whole lot of talking to other fencing parents, fencing coaches and fencers. Within my design company, we set a goal of creating a line of t-shirts that would fire up fencers. We wanted to capture the insider's vantage point, to design shirts that only fencers would like, or even understand. There were plenty of "epee fencers do it in the piste" slogans, and loads of brightly colored lungers. We wanted to develop shirts just for women fencers, just for kid fencers, just for real live fencing fencers. Let non-fencers stick to Quiksilver.

I recalled a commentary by some famous art critic, who said that if you really want to understand American culture, you should look to our t-shirts. It was her contention that

the slogans and artwork emblazoned on t-shirts are the key to our character, our hopes and aspirations, our soul. It was in pursuit of the soul of the sport that I learned about the passion and the intelligence of fencers. I learned about the pride fencers take in the history of the sport. Images on shirts can date back to the 15th century and still appeal to modern fencers. The teachings of great fencing masters throughout history are revered.

I found out that the fencing community is very generous. At the NAC in Saratoga Springs, selling shirts at a table a couple of feet away from the strips, a veteran fencer stopped by repeatedly to offer t-shirt ideas he'd been thinking about for years. Another guy in California emailed several of his ideas. A club director in California asked if she could purchase a shirt for a prize for a recent first-place sabre fencer. A photographer in Germany offered his photographs for any of our shirts for free. A former US Olympic coach sat down and sketched one great idea after another. A coach in New Hampshire invited us to a competition and made repeated announcements in the arena encouraging people to stop by our table and support fencing by buying a shirt.

Part of that generosity extends to fencers' families and friends. Many of the shirts purchased on our web site are designated as gifts for favorite fencers in their lives. One mother said that the shirts would be the highlight of her daughter's birthday. Someone else ordered a shirt for a 75-year-old man in Pennsylvania who had just taken up the sport.

I learned that fencers are smart and genuinely interested in the substance of fencing. It was no surprise that a shirt we call Quadrants, which maps the parry quadrants on the front by number, is one of our most popular items. Coaches said, "That's a great teaching shirt." Kids said, "Wow, cool." Parents said, "I don't understand that shirt, but my teenager loves it."

I've learned that this truly is an international sport. Before we had placed a single advertisement, the hits on our web site were coming in from Finland, Australia, Malaysia and Estonia. There's a chatroom in England where our shirts are part of the ongoing conversation.

Through all of these discoveries, I've come to a rich appreciation for this sport of my son's choosing. I know that there are countless new shirts waiting for us to design, just as soon as I watch and listen and learn more and more.

Another Fencing Mom had her own defining moment at our table at the NAC in Saratoga Springs. She thanked us for making the shirts and said she hoped Nike and Adidas didn't find out about fencing.

If they do, I'd vote for them to put a Fencing Mom on staff.

Carol Lasky is the principal and creative director of Cahoots, a Boston-based, multi-award winning graphic design studio. Last fall, she launched Big For Our Britches, a fencing t-shirt company (www.big4ourbritches.com).

TRAINING FOR THE REAL DEAL

When the United States Air Force Academy (USafa) was created in 1955, the military origins of fencing made its inclusion on the list of the Air Force Academy's intercollegiate sports almost mandatory. Since then, a few select cadets at the Academy have distinguished themselves on the strip. Many of the fencers today believe that their experiences with fencing will help them in their careers as Air Force officers. This is especially relevant since the events of September 11 have required the military to play such an important role.

The Air Force Academy is a four-year military and academic institution that endeavors to produce men and women who are leaders, dedicated to the service of their country. This is accomplished through the four-pillar model: cadets spend considerable time honing their skills in academics, leadership, physical fitness, and character. This emphasis on the whole person and a commitment to something greater than oneself begins on the first day of Basic Cadet Training and continues throughout the cadets' careers. When this process is complete, the cadets graduate and become second lieutenants in the Air Force.

Many cadets find that fencing is more than just a game—it is an experience that helps them to become better officers. Although

the USAFA fencing team had a rough start, running through a series of military coaches, they finally hit the jackpot with Nick Toth, who coached the team for 20 years. During that time, USAFA fencers won the Western Regional Championships for all but two years. Toth coached more than a dozen All-Americans and the first USAFA women's fencing team in 1977. Shortly after he retired in 1980, the coaching staff set up the annual Nick Toth Open to commemorate his hard work and dedication both to the Academy and the sport of fencing.

In the years that followed, the USAFA fencing team again went through a series of military coaches. These coaches, who were often Academy graduates, came in on assignment—they coached for two or three years, and then went back to their jobs in the operational Air Force. This left the team lacking continuity and had adverse effects on the teams' performance. The cadets fought strongly, though, and despite the lack of titles they still managed to keep a winning record. In the entire history of the Academy, the USAFA fencing team has only had two losing seasons: 1990 and 1997.

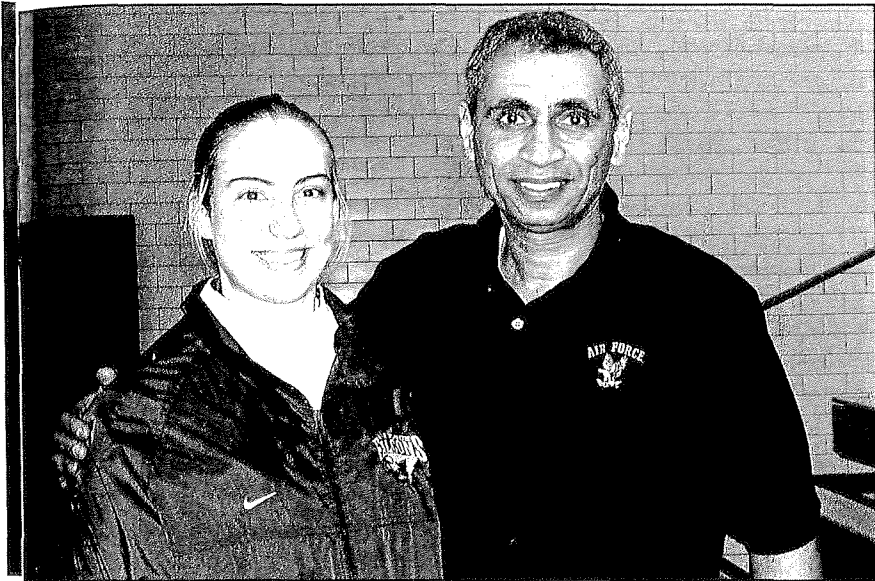
In January 1998, Abdel Salem took the job of head coach for the USAFA fencing team and after a couple years of rebuilding, the Academy team is ready to shine again. Coach Salem introduced a rigorous training program that includes both fencing (drill, footwork, and bouting) and conditioning



The 2000-2001 USAFA Fencing Team

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY FENCING EXPERIENCE

by Cadet 2nd Class
Jamie Rasmussen



Above: Elia Burrill and Coach Abdel Salem.
 Right & below: Burrill, the USAFA's women's team captain.

leadership classes. Fencing presents mental and physical challenges and dealing with those challenges prepares the cadets to face the mental and physical challenges of being an Air Force officer. Fencing on the team also teaches teamwork and the skills needed to get along with people of vastly different backgrounds.

These ideas—the preparation for the challenge, and learning teamwork—are important to Elia Burrill, the women's team captain for 2001-2002. She says that the fencing team is helping to prepare her for a military career by teaching perseverance: "There have been moments where I have thought that I have reached my limits, but there has always been somebody there to push me one step farther."

With the combination of promising careers in the military and the events of September 11 that still dominate the news, one is compelled to ask what these young fencers think about their future careers as military offi-

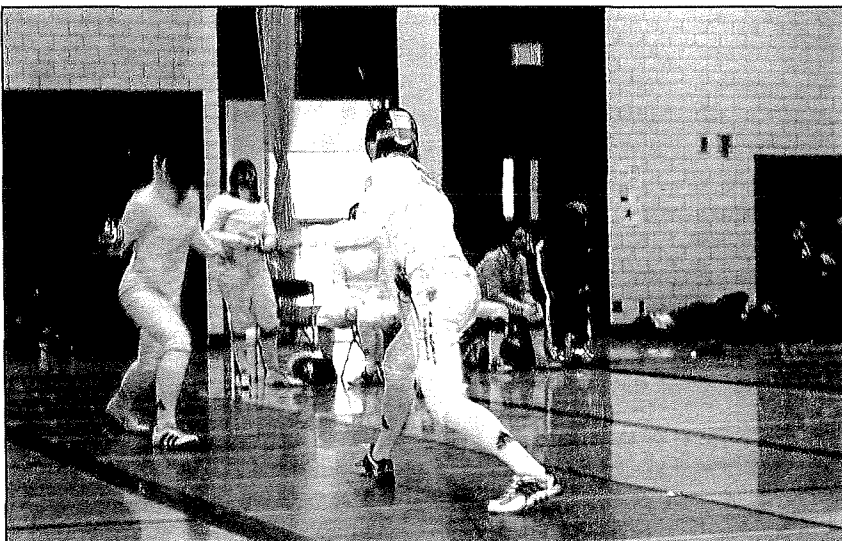
DEAL

(lifting and running). That the Academy fencers can adhere to this training schedule on top of the already demanding cadet schedule is proof of their dedication. With Coach Salem's "magic" training system, the cadets' natural desire to win, and top young fencers like Weston Kelsey and Ryan Dunn, the future looks bright for the USAFA fencing team.

Since the goal of the Academy is to train young men and women to be capable officers, intercollegiate competition—and fencing in particular—provides an excellent opportunity to cement the lessons cadets are taught in military training and

cers. If anything, the events of September 11 have made the cadets more motivated to serve their country and

more proud to be doing their work. As Andrea Rix, a second-class cadet (the equivalent of a junior at a civilian institution) said, "The events of September 11 just make me want to get out there and serve. I want to get out there and do my part to ensure that this never happens again."



The Academy is a unique institution that is essential to the defense of the United States. For the cadets who are involved in the Academy's fencing program, their experiences on the strip help advance the Academy's goal of training and inspiring young men and women to be the leaders of tomorrow—strengthening their confidence by showing them that they have what it takes to overcome a variety of challenges, and providing a forum for teamwork so that they can better lead the defense of the United States in the future.

TALES FROM THE STRIP

The good, the bad, and the goofy

as told by Jeff Bukantz

Since the inception of the Rules & Referees column over a year ago, we've dealt with many important and serious aspects of refereeing, rules, and strip behavior.

While our lives will never be the same after 9/11, we'd lose both the battle and the war if we forgot how to laugh. So let's take a break from the heavy stuff; instead, I'd like to share a few light (and some not so light) anecdotes from my lengthy competitive and officiating career.

While it's naturally more fun to "give" rather than to "receive," it was inevitable that I'd land on both sides of the "fence." And, I have to give credit where credit is due. Best of all, these depictions are exact, without embellishment, and the names haven't been changed (just, maybe, concealed!)



Tale #1 ▼

At the recent Junior/Cadet NAC in Dallas, Coach Misha Itkin pulled out a few of his remaining hairs during a bout that one of his students lost. Whether those lost hairs were caused by the student getting outfenced or by my calls, we'll never know.

But Itkin, in a proper and respectful demeanor, approached me after the bout and said, "Jeff, you are the most qualified referee here." Before I had a chance to digest what appeared to be a compliment, Itkin continued, "So...vat happened in that bout?"

Congratulations, Misha, you got the runner-up dis' of the year!

Tale #2 ▼

In order to relegate Itkin's gem to second place, someone must have really zinged me. At the Junior Olympics last year, a cadet, no less, won the prize hands down.

I was the Head FOC Rep, but had to fill in during the first round of pools for the cadet men's foil. The distance between the strips was the narrowest I can ever remember, virtually guaranteeing an increase in the amount of errors by the referees. Sure enough, I made a beauty of a reversal on a blade action between Gary Dubrovich and Alejandro Bras. Bras went berserk. And his father went berserk. And his coach from the Boston Fencers Club, who should have known better, followed suit.

Immediately after the bout, Bras asked me for an observer. I bit my tongue while I replied, "That's a bit of a problem, because I'm the FOC Rep." Then, in an attempt to put out the fire, I said something that was probably both inappropriate and apropos at the same time: "And, by the way, I've refereed in the finals of the Olympics."

The teenage Bras' riposte was cutting, as he instantaneously replied to my direct attack by snarling, "Yeah, but in what weapon?"

Ouch!

Tale #3 ▼

Hey, you can't take this stuff so seriously! But, rest assured, I haven't always been on the receiving end.

At the 1989 Nationals in Orlando, I was 3-1 going into my last bout of the pools to get into the DE of 32. However, due to the way the pool was playing out, I had to win my last bout against Eric "Dr. Doom" Dew in order to go up. Sharon Everson made what I thought was a bad call at the worst possible moment, which both cost me the bout and eliminated me from the Nationals long before I was accustomed to it. (I was ranked second in foil that year.)

After the bout, I threw the single worst tantrum of my career. It was disgraceful, and worthy of punishment. I was out of control, and the entire gym watched as I kicked equipment, threw clothes everywhere, punched the wall, and finally stomped on the seat cushion of the closest chair.

The normally no-nonsense Everson was probably stunned and let me go for quite a while. Finally, she came over to me, calmly and discreetly, and firmly said, "OK, Jeffrey, that's enough."

The next time I saw Sharon was at the Olympic Festival a month or so later. She was talking with George Kolombatovich and a group of referees near the bout committee table. Everyone knew of the heinous incident, and there was a thick air of apprehension as I approached their circle. Clearly, this was the moment to bury the hatchet, as the impact would be magnified by the group setting.



So, I got up the courage to go right up to Sharon. I put my arm around her shoulder, and then—with a look of humility and puppy-dog eyes—asked, "Sharon, have I ever formally apologized to you for the way I treated you at the Nationals?" Sharon, evidently still smarting from it, brusquely replied, "No, Jeffrey, as a matter of fact, you haven't."

I sensed that the group of referees loved this piece of humble pie I was appearing to gag on. But, they knew they'd been had by a different type of "gag" when the ol' smirk resurfaced as I looked at Sharon, and after the requisite pregnant pause, exclaimed, "Good!"

(Of course, a hug and a genuine apology followed!)

Tale #4 ▼

At an NAC about a year later, I was in a restaurant with my New York Fencers Club teammates Jack Tichacek, Eric Rosenberg, Nat Cohen, and Jerome Demarque when a group of referees took a table on the opposite side of the room. As luck would have it, Everson and Kolombatovich were there (do I sense a pattern here?), along with Gerrie Baumgart and some others.

I called over the waiter and gave him five bucks to do us a small favor. After we all deposited our eyeglasses onto his tray, the waiter delivered it to the referees' table.

They didn't get it right away, but in about the same amount of time it takes to decipher a tough action, they finally burst out laughing. Hey, at least they got this call right!

Tale #5 ▼

While refereeing a hotly contested match between Demarque (not yet my teammate, by the way) and Stephane Chauvel, which was likely to determine the NCAA Foil Champion, I called an attack for Chauvel. Demarque was sure his counteraction had stolen the time, and barked, "Jeff, didn't he search?!"

"Yes," I replied, "he searched...but he found your chest!"

Tale #6 ▼

Once I was refereeing at the NCAAs on the strip adjacent to the raised bout committee table. Professor Michael DiCicco, the longtime head of the University of Notre Dame fencing program, and one of our sport's true "good guys," was in his customary perch on that dais.

After one of my calls, DiCicco, a straight shooter not long on subtlety, blustered out, "Jesus Christ, Bukantz!" (Take it easy, P.C. police—even religious people blurt that out as an expression, without any bad intentions.)

Not thinking that DiCicco was suggesting we were one and the same, I replied, "Come on, Mike, you know there's no praying from the side of the strip!"

Tale #7 ▼

One of the best comebacks was not comical, but hit the bull's-eye, nevertheless.

Back in the late '70s, my father Dan, a four-time Olympian, would still come down to the club to fence. One night, he was

refereeing a bout between two low-ranked foilists. One of them was Alan Kornheiser. Even if Kornheiser had known that Dan had refereed in five(!) Olympics, and had a reputation second to none on the planet, it wouldn't have mattered.

After a call, Kornheiser took off his mask, and in a voice loud enough for the entire club to hear, proclaimed, "That...was the worst call in the history of fencing."

My father, whose renowned ability was only surpassed by his modesty and dignity (OK, wise guys, the apple fell far from the tree in our family!), responded to the remark by calmly saying, "No, sir...that was."



Tale #8 ▾

The granddaddy of them all proved that truth is often stranger than fiction. During the men's foil team event at the 1984 Chicago Nationals, a referee from Texas was being given a shot at a higher rating. He had the unenviable task of presiding for the New York Fencers Club and its opponent in the round of eight. The feeling of the assignor was that if any referee could deal with the NYFC, then they really earned the higher rating. It was the ultimate proving ground—and sometimes the final resting ground. The Texan, a decent enough referee, was in way over his head. The *Los Angeles Times*, in preparation for the 1984 Olympics, sent a reporter to cover the Nationals.

The following was printed in the *L.A. Times* in June 1984:

The pressure on men and women who officiate fencing bouts is great: to see and interpret the fast blade action and handle the pleas and complaints of the fencers with assured confidence.

It's a bit mean, but when persons seeking "directing" credentials are being rated during a bout by established directors, the fencers know it and add some more pressure of their own. Shades of John McEnroe on the tennis court.

During one foil bout at the national championships, Jeffrey Bukantz of New York saw that his angry reaction to mistakes was steadily increasing the new director's anxiety.

Michael McCahey, Bukantz's teammate, said Bukantz at one point took off his mask and made a monster-like grimace and shrieked in the face of the director.

As the man started telling his reviewer, Al Davis, that he lost the action, Bukantz said, "Going...going..."

Davis asked if he needed him to go over the last touch. (Electronic scoring machines record touches, but a director has to say whether a touch was scored in a legitimate way.)

"No, I've lost control," he said with a dazed look, and turned and walked away from the fencing strip.

"...gone," Bukantz said.

The Texan walked out of the gym and was not, to my knowledge, seen again. And now, I'm the chair of the FOC. As I said, stranger than fiction!

Tale #9 ▾

At the 1982 Chicagoland NAC, I was fencing Pat Gerard late in the DE. I was ahead 9-8 in the ten touch bout. The late Dr. Fred Rhodes was the ref. An action began with me in my usual spot, on the (then one) meter warning line. At the command of "fence," I fleched at Gerard, and went off the strip right from where I began on the meter line. While I didn't hit Gerard, Rhodes said, "You're off the strip with two feet...that puts you off the rear end as well...touch...9-9."

I went nuts on the mild-mannered Dr. Rhodes. I argued that after losing a meter, I would still only be with my rear foot on the end line, but not off the strip. That would have penalized me two full meters. For whatever reason, Rhodes was in mental vapor-lock, and refused to heed my logical argument. Finally, I was able to corral George Kolombatovich, and thankfully, he immediately settled the problem.

Subsequently, Rhodes and I kidded each other about this weird situation every time we could.

While a member of the 1983 World Championship team in Vienna, I was scheduled to take my international exam. Coincidentally, Rhodes was taking it at the same time. Both of us had studied the rules inside-out, and were raring to go.

The test was being given by the FIE's Rudolph Karpati of Hungary. The experience is nerve-wracking, as you have to deal with the language issue in addition to the worries about the trick questions the examiner is sure to ask. Furthermore, you are very concerned about acting in a respectful and dignified manner in front of the FIE muckety-muck who controls your international refereeing destiny.

While I had a good case of butterflies, Rhodes, as was the norm for him, was sweating profusely, almost like a cartoon character. We were very nervous as we awaited the onslaught of test questions. Karpati began to speak English with his thick, deliberate, and syncopated Hungarian accent. Unbelievably, his very first question was, "Doc..tor Rho..des, tell me, vat happens ven a fencer already on the von meter line goes off the side of the piste?"

Rhodes and I looked at each other, and completely lost it, as we both burst out laughing uncontrollably, actually to the point of tears.

I can't imagine what Karpati was thinking of this display by these American hopefuls, but since I didn't know how to say "inside joke" in Hungarian, I didn't even try to explain.

Somehow, we both passed—and, yes, Fred got the answer right!



Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC and its Rules Subcommittee, and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission. He welcomes feedback and questions from American Fencing readers—you can email Jeff at bukieboy@aol.com.

LEVELING THE FIELD OF PLAY DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

IOC ANTI-DOPING POLICIES

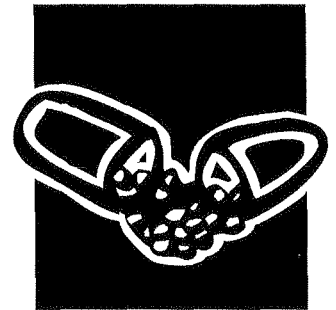
by Dr. John Heil

There is no more complex and contentious issue in the wide world of sport than drug use. Its roots can be traced to the origins of competitive sport, with historians citing examples of use in the ancient Olympic Games in Greece. New doping methods are continually being developed and there is a growing body of scientifically based guidelines for use of ergogenic aids—drawn from a mix of legitimate medical information, advice from “maverick” scientists, and the lore that has evolved from the day-to-day experience of users.

In sport, encounters with drug use and testing are unavoidable. Let me cite some examples from my work as a sport psychologist. I have personally seen unmistakable signs of blood doping with little effort to hide the evidence (not at a fencing event), and seen athletes disqualified from competition for innocent and unwitting use of legitimate medications that yield a positive screen. I have assisted in the collection of urine samples and been embarrassed to have to observe someone's toilet functions — and been surprised to be questioned in a police investigation of an athlete, who unknown to me, was using steroids. At an open seminar at an International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sport Science Conference, I heard great concern from sport scientists and administrators that the problem of drug use is unsolvable. The National Association of Drug-Free Power Lifting has actually gone to the extent of using lie-detection testing because it felt this to be more effective and less expensive than traditional drug screening methods.

But to turn away from this issue is

unthinkable because of the horrible burden that would be placed on the health and well-being of athletes. So the “cat and mouse” game goes on—sports’ governing bodies ban and test for dangerous substances, with athletes finding better methods and new ways to avoid testing. The balance between detection of illicit use and protection of personal privacy remains, at best, an awkward compromise. The controversy continues, with the search for a solution like “leveling the ‘field of play’ during an earthquake.”



Drug Use in Sport

Why drug use of all types is prevalent in society is a compelling question in its own right, without simple answers. Aside from legitimate medical use, there are two aspects to drug use in sport: ergogenic (performance enhancing) and recreational.

Ergogenic drug use is prompted by the desire to excel, which is at the heart of sport. A wide variety of substances can provide a competitive edge. While some substances are illegal, others have well-established medical uses (such as, anabolic steroids that are invaluable in the treatment of certain hormonal dysfunction). However, the way in which legitimate medicines are used for performance enhancement in sport usually carries unacceptable health risks. For example, diuretics (“water pills”), which are intended for use in medical

conditions where fluid retention is a problem, become dangerous when used to accelerate weight loss beyond the body's normal limits. Even when performance enhancement drugs are relatively safe (e.g., the use of beta-blockers to manage anxiety), they confer an advantage to those who use them over those who do not (such as in shooting). Athletes who desire to be highly competitive may feel compelled to use drugs, especially if it is common practice in a given sport.

On the other hand, recreational drug use is driven by a different set of circumstances. This pattern of use is probably related to the adventure-seeking and risk-taking styles not uncommonly seen in athletes. It may also be fueled by athletes' needs to manage the emotional ups and downs that are an inherent part of athletic

competition. The prevalence of recreational drug use (e.g., alcohol, cocaine) is widely recognized in the media and through research studies. As one might expect, the patterns of use seen among athletes reflect those of society at large.

For the most part, anti-doping focuses on ergogenic drugs. However, there is also testing for recreational drugs. So athletes need to be mindful of the provisions of the testing policy of their sport. No matter what your view of the legitimacy of testing for a particular substance, a positive test is a failed test

Participation in an anti-doping program is a requirement that comes with the privilege of participation in the Olympic movement.

Searching for a Solution

Current drug protocols can be traced to the Lausanne Declaration on Doping in Sports (Lausanne, Switzerland, Feb. 4, 1999), which states that "doping practices contravene sport and medical ethics, and that they constitute violations of the rules established by the Olympic movement." This meeting led to the establishment of an independent International Anti-Doping Agency. Simultaneously, it was resolved that educational and preventive campaigns would be intensified, and partnerships with the media developed to assist in the anti-doping effort.

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) has partnered with the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) to administer its anti-doping program, which applies to all Olympic NGBs, including fencing. While we feel that drug use is not a significant problem in fencing, we must comply with the program.

Simply put, participation in an anti-doping program is a requirement that comes with the privilege of participation in the Olympic movement. Any of our top-level athletes may be tested either at competitions or in the "no advance notice" format described in the USADA materials. "No advance notice testing" is considered an essential component of efforts to detect and

deter drug use. Without awareness of athletes' whereabouts, effective testing is not possible; drug-using athletes can simply hide from the testing. The most difficult element of this program is the provision that requires the athlete to provide detailed information about his or her whereabouts—it is very intrusive.

USOC Mandated Anti-Doping Program

No organization has yet found a way to implement an anti-doping program that has suited everyone, although virtually everyone agrees that some type of program is necessary. Information about drug use and testing follows.

- ▶ The IOC requires drug testing and sets the general guidelines. The various National Olympic Organizations (e.g., USOC) and International Federations (e.g., FIE) then implement these programs. The way in which the International Sports Governing Bodies and the National Olympic Committees will cooperate with this remains to be determined.
- ▶ The USOC has contracted with the

USADA to provide:

1. Information & Education
 2. Testing
 3. Adjudication (that is, review of positive results and determination of punishment, if warranted).
- ▶ Three Categories of Doping:
 - Prohibited Substances** (anabolic steroids, stimulants)—those banned for all sports;
 - Prohibited Substances in Certain Circumstances**—which may be added to the list of banned substances by international sports federations—for example, alcohol and cannabinoids (i.e., marijuana, hashish) are banned in fencing;
 - Prohibited Methods**—such as blood doping. Attempts to mask the presence of an illicit substance are also included in this category.

- ▶ Two Testing Protocols:
 - In-Competition Testing**—This is the protocol with which athletes are most familiar. It involves testing at competitions. It tests for all banned substances (and prohibited methods);
 - No-Advance-Notice Testing**—This is unfamiliar to our athletes and is the source of the greatest controversy among all athletes, because of its intrusiveness. It provides for athletes to be tested at any time. It does *not* test for all banned substances - instead it focuses on anabolic steroids, hormone-like substances, and blood doping, as well as methods for masking the use of a banned substance (to escape detection). It does *not* test for narcotics, marijuana or stimulants or certain other substances.

Questions & Issues

- ▶ **Privacy**—What if someone is approached for the No-Advance-Notice at school or at work? This could be embarrassing or create the impression that the athlete is

abusing drugs. To help counteract this the USFA has prepared a letter that describes your status as an elite athlete and explains why you are eligible for testing. If you would like a copy of this letter for your school or workplace, please contact the USFA National Office.

- ▶ **Stimulants for ADHD**—Stimulants are a common treatment for ADHD (Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder). Because stimulants are *not* included in the “No-Advance-Notice” testing, this will not be a problem for those using these medicines on a regular basis. However, because stimulants are included in “In-Competition” testing, the *USADA Guide to Prohibited Classes of Substances and Prohibited Methods of Doping* (you can download this guide as a PDF file by visiting www.usantidoping.org, and then linking to the “Prohibited Substances” site) advises discontinuing use far enough in advance of competition in order to avoid testing positive (p.11). This creates a dilemma for the medically prescribed user in determining when to discontinue use. It creates a greater dilemma in the case of a positive test because of the sanctions that are recommended. This concern has been presented to the USADA and will also be presented to the FIE. More information is available in the “Sports Med Q&A” column that appeared in the Winter 2002 issue of *American Fencing*.
- ▶ **Corticosteroids** (e.g., cortisone)—Corticosteroids (not to be confused with anabolic steroids) are used in the treatment of a variety of medical conditions—in creams for skin problems, in eye and ear drops, in asthma inhalers, and as injections into the joints. All of these uses are *allowed* but may require the completion of a form that provides notice of their use to the USADA—please check with the USADA about this. The “Restricted Substance Medical Notification” form is on page 32 in the *USADA Guide*.

Corticosteroids taken by mouth, as suppositories, or injected into the muscle or bloodstream are *not allowed* under ordinary circumstances. Following contact with the USADA, we have been advised to have athletes complete the “Restricted Substance Medical Notification” form when these are prescribed by your doctor.

- ▶ **Birth Control Pills**—According to the *USADA Guide*, birth control pills “have not been found to be performance enhancing and are not prohibited. IOC accredited laboratories can distinguish between birth control pills and Prohibited Substances” (p.26).
- ▶ **Caffeine**—In large amounts, caffeine is considered to be performance enhancing. Caffeine is in coffee, tea, soft drinks, chocolate, herbal products (e.g., guarana—often in high concentrations), and in a variety of medications (including Excedrin and Midol), as well as in caffeine pills (such as No Doz and Vivarin). It is banned in concentrations greater than “12 micrograms per milliliter of urine” (12 mcg/ml). What does that mean? According to the *USADA Guide*, “typically a couple of cups of U.S. brewed coffee should not result in urinary concentrations greater than 12 mcg/ml” (p.10). A table lists approximate amounts of caffeine in each of the above substances. However, it is important to note that it is not possible to determine exactly when you may have “crossed the line.” Dehydration or individual metabolic characteristics may result in a positive test one day and a negative test on another day even though you may have ingested the same (high) quantity of caffeine on both occasions.
- ▶ **Cold Medicines**—Many legal, easily available over-the-counter medications, particularly those used to treat cold and flu, contain banned substances. Remember, a banned substance is not necessar-

ily an illegal substance. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you take is free of prohibited substances. A list of “drug-test safe” medicines appears on page 29-30 of the *USADA Guide*.

- ▶ **Pain Medicines**—A number of prescription medicines for severe pain, previously banned, are now allowed. These include medications containing codeine (e.g., Tylenol with codeine), propoxyphene (e.g., Darvon and Darvocet), and tramadol (Ultram). See page 13 in the *USADA Guide* for a complete list.
- ▶ **Supplements**—Be cautious when using supplements as these may contain substances which can result in a positive drug test. Along with over-the-counter medications, nutritional supplements are the source of most frustration and heartache in a failed drug test because the athletes believed the products to be safe (all natural). Nutritional supplements are particularly notorious because they may not list all of their ingredients. Those that deal with weight-loss are particularly problematic because they often contain caffeine and ephedrine. It cannot be emphasized enough that inadvertently or unknowingly using a prohibited substance is not an excuse. It is your responsibility to ensure the acceptability of what you consume.

Always exercise caution in the use of prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, and supplements.

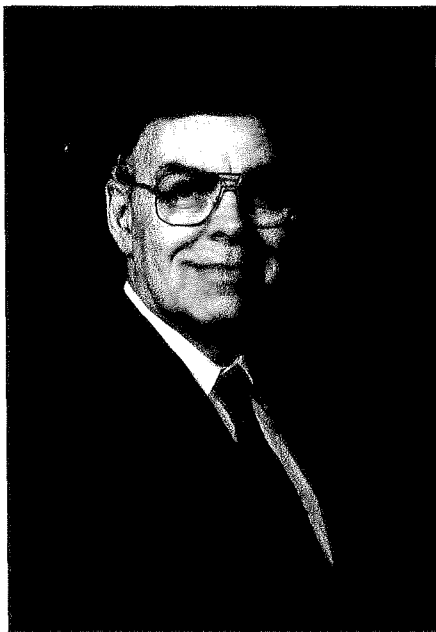
If you have any questions feel free to call (or have your doctor call) the USADA at: 1-800-233-0393, or email: usada@usantidoping.org.

Dr. John Heil is chair of Sports Medicine & Science for the USFA. He is with Lewis-Gale Clinic in Roanoke, VA, and can be contacted at 540-265-1659 or at jheil@rev.net.

READ BEFORE YOU SIGN

a lesson in learning, a lesson in life

by Steve Sobel



Steve Sobel

It happened in Dallas at a recent NAC tournament. After a 15-14 direct elimination bout both fencers were requested to sign the score sheet, and the winner delivered the signed score sheet to the bout committee. This is a routine practice occurring many times in each tournament. What wasn't routine was the score sheet was wrong and the loser was designated the winner. The winner signed an incorrect score sheet and delivered it to the bout committee. The error wasn't noticed until the next tableau was seeded and fencing was in progress. The bout committee decided that the signed score sheet was final, the fencer appealed, and a Jury of Appeal affirmed the decision of the bout committee.

It is very disappointing to be eliminated from a competition after losing a very close bout 15-14. It is even more disappointing being eliminated after winning the bout 15-14 because the score was recorded incorrectly on the score sheet. At the end of the bout, when both fencers, the referee and the scorekeeper are at the strip, it is very easy to correct any mistake on the score sheet and nobody is hurt or inconvenienced. Once the score is submitted and the next round is started, it is not easy at all. The winner cannot simply be substituted for the loser. The entire round has to be reseeded, resulting in delay, confusion, inconvenience, and fenced touches being nullified. To avoid this, each fencer is required to sign the score sheet, and the winner has the responsibility of delivering it to the bout committee.

Signing the sheet is not a mere for-

malty. The fencer is making a statement, "I have checked the score and it is correct," and the winner has still another chance to check it again before delivering it. Fencers who sign without reading do so at their peril. Most times the score is correct and there is no problem. But this time it wasn't, and the fencer who won was eliminated.

Signing any paper without reading is dangerous. When I was a Judge Advocate in the Air Force with the rank of first lieutenant, a Colonel came to my office and asked me to notarize his signature, a routine procedure. What wasn't routine was when he put the document on my desk, his hand was over the text above my signature so I couldn't read it. When I asked him to move his hand, he replied that it wasn't necessary for a notary to read the entire document. I responded that I didn't plan to read the entire document, just the paragraph above my signature. After reading it I politely said, "Sir, I think you have come to the wrong office. You are applying for replacement of a lost government check. You don't need your signature notarized. You need someone to guarantee payment of the lost check if it is found and cashed."

Learn from someone else's experience. It is easier and less painful than learning from your own. It is not over until it is over. You haven't won the bout until the correct score is delivered to the bout committee. Read before you sign.

Steve Sobel is the Associate Counsel for the USFA and is a former USFA president.

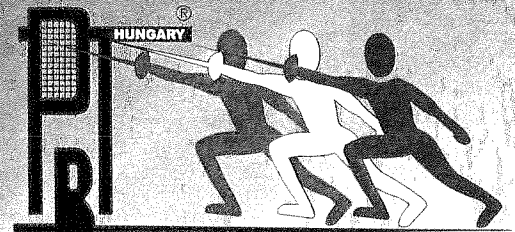
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