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# RIPOSTE

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NO. 3



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## PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Twelve individual and eight team champions were crowned at the Pacific Coast Championships in San Francisco on the week-end of April 19. Four defenders—Alfred R. Snyder of the Olympic Club in foil, Edward Carfagno of the Los Angeles Athletic Club in sabre, the Los Angeles A. C. open sabre team and the same club's junior sabre trio—retained the titles they won last year at Los Angeles.

The point score totals were much closer than last year, but the Southern California division, despite being outpointed in individual first places, took the final victory with five firsts, eight seconds, eight thirds and six team titles. The Northern division finished with seven first places, four seconds, four thirds and two team events.

In each weapon, open, intermediate and junior individual titles were contested, as well as open and junior team championships. The results by weapons were as follows:

### Men's Foil

**Open Individual**—1. Alfred R. Snyder, Olympic Club, San Francisco; 2. Edward Carfagno, Los Angeles A. C.; 3. Andrew Boyd, Los Angeles A. C.

**Intermediate Individual**—1. Andrew Boyd, Los Angeles A. C.; 2. Herman Hersum, Los Angeles A. C.; 3. Harry Mortimer, Olympic Club.

**Junior Individual**—1. Robert Cousineau, Faulkner School of Fencing, Hollywood; 2. Robert Erwin, Faulkner; 3. Herbert Sauke, Faulkner.

**Open Team**—Los Angeles A. C. (Andrew Boyd, Edward Carfagno and Herman Hersum) defeated the Olympic Club (Ferard Leicester, Alfred R. Snyder and Harry Mortimer), 5-3.

**Junior Team**—Los Angeles A. C. (Josef Lampl, Fred Linkmeyer and Andrew Boyd) defeated the University of California (Jack Hovick, Noel Spiess and Richard Dahl), 5-2.

### Women's Foil

**Open Individual**—1. Helene Mayer, San Francisco Fencers Club; 2. Muriel Calkins, Los Angeles A. C.; 3. Maxine McMasters, the Cavaliers, Los Angeles.

**Intermediate Individual**—1. Muriel Calkins, Los Angeles A. C.; 2. Janicelee York, Faulkner School; 3. Moreene Fitz, the Cavaliers.

**Junior Individual**—1. Emilie Romaine, Funke Fencing Academy, San Francisco; 2. Helen Sander, Funke Fencing Academy; 3. Marion Washko, Faulkner.

**Open Team**—San Francisco Fencers Club (Helene Mayer, Roberta Fritz and Marcelle Woollen) defeated Los Angeles A. C. (Cornelia Sanger, Winifred Uyttenhove and Muriel Calkins), 5-1.

**Junior Team**—Faulkner School of Fencing (Mavis Myre, Marion Washko and Polly Craus) defeated the Funke Fencing Academy (Helen Sander, Marjie Nevis and Emilie Romaine), 5-2.

### Sabre

**Open Individual**—1. Edward Carfagno, Los Angeles A. C.; 2. Alfred R. Snyder, Olympic Club; 3. Herman Hersum, Los Angeles A. C.

**Intermediate Individual**—1. Salvatore Giambra, G. G. 5, San Francisco; 2. Arthur Kaye, Faulkner; 3. Ferard Leicester, Olympic Club.

**Junior Individual**—1. Jack Hovick, University of California; 2. Josef Lampl, Los Angeles A. C.; 3. Robert Shrader, Oakland Fencing Club.

(Continued on page 7)

## MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Illinois fencers dominated the Midwestern Fencing Championships, held at the Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, on April 20, although not one of last year's champions was able to retain his title. A clean sweep in the foil finals enabled the Chicagoans to run off with the team title with the Michigan division second and St. Louis third.

Frank Righeimer, returning to the foil field for the first time in interdivisional competition since placing second in the national championship in 1938, dominated the field to regain his championship. Following him were his teammates Jerry Mau, Oscar Barab and Tully Friedman.

Saul Karch of the Michigan division registered a decided upset to capture the one-touch epee championship over a strong field. Second was former national champion Loyal Tingley of Illinois, followed by Gafford of the Northern Ohio division and Charles Harbst of Columbus and Ohio State University, second in the Western Conference Championships. Unplaced in the title event were such formidable contenders as the present national titleholder, Capt. Fred Siebert of Illinois and Warren Huguélet, newly crowned Illinois champion.

The Michigan division registered its second triumph when Bill Osis regained his sabre title, with Herbert Straus of Illinois second, Bob Miller of St. Louis third and Joseph J. Malkup, Chicago University's Western Conference champion and N.C.A.A. runner-up, fourth.

Third among the champions to regain titles they have held in the past was Paula Sweeney of the Michigan division, who recaptured her women's foil crown over Mae Brady and Edna Gustavson of St. Louis and Miss Richards of Illinois.

Despite the fact that its members took three of

(Continued on page 8)

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 6th - JUNE 13th

**Women's Foil—Team:** Friday, June 6th, 7:30 P. M., Fencers Club.

**Men's Electric Epee—Team:** Saturday, June 7th, 2:00 P. M., Salle Santelli.

**Men's Foil—Team:** Sunday, June 8th, 2:00 P. M., Fencers Club.

**Men's Sabre—Team:** Monday, June 9th, 7:30 P. M., Salle Santelli.

**Women's Foil—Individual:** Tuesday, June 10th, Salle Santelli; Semi-Finals, 2:00 P. M.; Finals, 8:00 P. M.

**Men's Electric Epee—Individual:** Wednesday, June 11th, Salle Santelli; Semi-Finals, 2:00 P. M.; Finals, 8:00 P. M.

**Men's Foil—Individual:** Thursday, June 12th, Salle Santelli; Semi-Finals, 2:00 P. M.; Finals, 8:00 P. M.

**Men's Sabre—Individual:** Friday, June 13th, New York Athletic Club; Semi-Finals, 2:00 P. M. (ladies not admitted); Finals, 8:00 P. M.

**Gala Night—Presentation of Awards:** Friday, June 13th, 9:30 P. M., New York Athletic Club.

**THE RIPOSTE***America's Oldest Fencing Magazine*

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**E D I T O R I A L**

Several professionals have been most helpful in the past in the submission of articles and essays on the sport. We are now delighted to introduce a new section in this issue to be known as "The Master's Voice". We have accepted the idea as well as the title from a professional. In it we hope to publish signed essays from many of our professionals. These will be accepted in any size from 100 to 1,500 words. They may be technical, controversial, discursive and even blasphemous. Our only restriction will be against dealing in personalities.

Submit your ideas. The subjects are limitless. Do you feel that a certain parry is being overlooked? Do you favor the French to the Italian weapon or vice versa? Have you developed a technique in training or fencing against lefthanders? Do you think the toe shot in epee worth the risk? Should you raise the forward toe or heel first in the lunge? How do you teach the lunge? Which parry should be taught first and why?

Pencil and paper is all that you need to get started. And don't worry about your writing. We have a staff of four rewrite men who could smooth out a doctor's prescription into an essay upon gastronomics.

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Our next issue will feature the results of the National Championships. Midway in the season we had trepidations that our 1940-1941 Championships might be pallid affairs due to the call to the colors under the Defense Program. Not at all. Many of our fencers have entered the Army or the Navy, but they are as ready as ever to enter the fencing lists this month.

It is rumored that a bomber has been requisitioned to bring an epee team from a Southern camp. Commanders, Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants and Privates will answer the lure of the swords again. We shall see khaki uniforms changed to white. Guns may be stacked in the lobbies but the ancient ring of steel upon steel will again be heard. It should be another good Nationals.

## The Remise

The most important news that we can think about as June rolls around is the inability of Joe de Capriles to enter any of the competitions during the Gala Week this year. He is faced with a week of law examinations at that time. Last year he proved to be the war horse of the week, entering all six individual and team events. His presence was certainly felt for of his 62 total bouts during the week he won 41 and lost 21. He made 229 touches as compared to 172 touches received. He placed 2nd in sabre, 5th in epee and 7th in foil and carried his foil and epee teams to first place and his sabre team to second place. Such a man's presence in competition can scramble things about considerably and there is not doubt but that this year's championships would have different results were he able to bring his varied talents to bear.

Aside from his skill as a blade wielder, we shall miss him as one of fencing's best sportsmen. His good humor, consideration and apparent pleasure in fencing has won him considerable popularity. The girls even tell me that he is good looking. All in all, he will be missed and as a lawyer one of his first acts should be to draft a law against any possible repetition of this type of thing.

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Fencing is one of the strictest sports in America in regard to professionalism. As a result of unvarying and relentless attention to the actions of its amateurs, the Amateur Fencers League of America has gained the respect and admiration of all other amateur sports governing bodies in the country. To maintain such a position is not easy and at times forces the A. F. L. A. to take drastic action which may set unpleasantly upon the minds of those uninstructed in the facts.

There was the recent experience of the Ethyl Gasoline advertisement featuring four fencers in a supposed Calnan Memorial Three-Weapon Team Championship. Those posing in the photograph were recognized as A. F. L. A. members. To appear or permit your name to be used in any commercial advertising in connection with your sport is a breach of the A. A. U. amateur code, upon which the A. F. L. A. bases much of its amateur rules, only more so. After unsuccessful efforts to clarify the circumstances, the Board of Governors has now suspended all persons appearing in the photograph from A. F. L. A. membership for a period of 45 days. This by no means ends the matter. If these suspended members do not appeal for a hearing within this period, the suspension may very easily become permanent.

It is hoped that these fencers may prove their innocence of intent. However, we cannot fail to commend the Board of Governors upon its immediate action in the matter. In these days of acceptance of borderline amateurism in so many sports it is gratifying to see fencing carry on in the strictest interpretation of its beliefs. As a result, when fencers appear at A. A. U. or Olympic Association gatherings their word is their bond, as it should be.

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Dr. Herbert Sanborn, whose article appears in this issue, is a professional. He was listed as such in the Directory of Professionals published in December.

His name was subsequently withdrawn from that listing upon the protestation of friends who stated correctly that he taught fencing without compensation and at an actual annual cost to himself. Dr. Sanborn has now presented his own case. He feels that he has acquired the professional spirit and attitude. He confesses to a professional standing in baseball years ago and the acceptance of a fee for a fencing lesson once. We salute his honesty, his good humored letter of correction and again reverse our verdict with the hope that his future professional fencing experience may not prove as costly to him as it has been in the past.

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Pieter Mijer, donor of the All-Eastern Outdoor Sabre Championship medals, scheduled for June 29th, is one of fencing's unsung benefactors. It is about time that we sang a little song in his direction. He has been giving these medals for outdoor sabre competitions since 1928 at least. Maybe we missed it by a decade. This, despite the fact that the medals he wins for himself year after year are always in his favorite weapon, epee.

Pieter's medals have always been outstanding in selection and the present series, started about three years ago, deserve special mention. There is a good solid masculine massiveness about them for they compare in size to a silver dollar. However, they are neatly simple in design for they bear only an eagle with wings outspread, holding a small sabre in one claw. Nick Muray's sabre medal, described in an earlier issue, and Pieter's outdoor sabre medal make me wonder why I stick to foil. I might cop me off a valued bronze if I played my quartes right.

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It is too bad that we are unable to be more specific this early about the entries in the National Championships. We should like to print complete listings or even better the actual seedings and pools. These, however, are not available. The most colorful possibilities lie in the Army epee team threatening to appear via bomber from Fort McClellan, Alabama, and the trio of epeeists from Cuba. These two epee teams will prove no slouches.

The Army team will be led by Lieut. Col. Jean V. Grombach, second place winner in last year's Open Epee competition and member of the winning Washington Square Epee Team Competition for the past two years. To trace Jean's epee winnings back through the years would tax the records of even our magazine's files. Coming with him as a team from his 1st Battalion, 165th Infantry (Fighting Sixty-ninth) would be Captain Winslow Cornett, Commanding Company "D", formerly of the N. Y. Fencers Club where he was a member of the National Senior Epee Champion Team in 1937 and the National Junior Epee Champion Teams in 1937, 1938 and 1939; Sergeant K. O'Toohill, Company "A", former Sabre, Epee and Foil Champion of Ireland; Lieutenant Herman Lutz who participated in the National Junior Epee Championships in 1930, and Private Ralph Haberle, Company "D", formerly of the N. Y. Fencers Club.

The Cuban Team will be made up of Eugenio Garate, Carlos Lamar and Eugenio Sardina, the same trio which proved so popular in last year's champion-

(Continued on page 17)

## COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Intercollegiate Fencing Association 48th ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was New York University all the way in the 48th Annual Championships of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, held on March 28 and 29 at Princeton. For the seventh time in the last nine years, the Violet swordsmen dominated the three-weapon standings, scoring victories in the team epee and team foil, and tying for third in the team sabre, only one point out of first place. In addition, Tauber of N.Y.U. successfully defended his individual epee title and placed second in foil. The remaining prizes were distributed among six colleges: Harvard and C.C.N.Y. shared the sabre team honors and each had one individual medalist in that weapon; St. John's and Navy captured the individual championships in foil and sabre respectively; Army won bronze medals in the individual epee and foil; and Columbia, despite its runner-up position in the all-around results, carried home only the silver medal in the individual epee.

The epee championship, first to be decided, produced a story-book finish. Before the final round, the team title seemed to rest between Columbia and Navy. N.Y.U. had a slight lead, 18½ points to Columbia's 16½ and Navy's 16, but the Violet had only Tauber in the finals, while Columbia had Metzger and Rogers, and Navy had Keeler and Walker. The midshipmen wilted early in the round-robin. Tauber kept N.Y.U. in the running by taking 6 of his first 7 bouts, losing only to Brua of Harvard. But Metzger had won 6 straight and Rogers had scored 2 victories so that N.Y.U. could not win without help. That help was forthcoming from the left-handed sword of Cadet Taylor of Army. In two crucial encounters, he defeated both of the Columbia men, clinching third place for himself and leaving N.Y.U. and Columbia tied with 24½ points. Thus the final bout, between Tauber and Metzger, decided both the team and the individual titles. Tauber won, 3-1.

In the sabre, a real dog-fight developed among four teams. Again N.Y.U. led with 18 points at the end of the semi-finals, with Harvard and C.C.N.Y. next with 17, and St. John's closely behind with 16. However, St. John's was in the favored spot, being the only college to qualify two men (Deladrier and Costarino), so that it had twice as many scoring chances as its rivals. It was a dramatic opportunity for the Brooklyn institution, which had been invited to compete as a guest of the Association this year to fill the vacancy created by Yale's temporary withdrawal from the Championships. Coach Marcel Pasche decided to shoot for the title by withdrawing Deladrier from the foil finals in order to concentrate on the sabre. But this logical maneuver failed, as the two St. John's men won only 3 bouts each, for a total of 6 points, while Tom Wright, of Harvard, and Herbert Spector, of C.C.N.Y., both matched this total in their individual performances. N.Y.U.'s Sol Gordin, younger brother of the former Violet captain, could do no better than break even with 4 victories. Thus Harvard and C.C.N.Y. finished in a tie for first place, one point ahead of St. John's and N.Y.U. Since there was no way to resolve the championship tie, Harvard and C.C.N.Y. were each awarded pos-

session of the trophy for six months, and duplicate medals were provided for the members of the two teams.

Meanwhile, an unheralded sabreman from Navy, Midshipman Stokes, who had squeezed into the finals on a fence-off, was running away with the individual championship. Fencing vigorously and in excellent choice of time, Stokes swept 7 bouts in a row before bowing to Greenbaum of Penn. Wright and Spector finished in a tie for second, and Wright won the silver medal on a fence-off.

N.Y.U. crushed all opposition in foil to retain possession of the famous Iron Man Trophy, oldest intercollegiate sports trophy. At the end of the semi-finals, N.Y.U. held a commanding lead, 24 points, to St. John's 19, and Columbia's 16. In addition, it had qualified its complete team of Tauber, Monzeglio, and Levy, thus retaining 3 scoring chances to St. John's 2 (Goettlicher, subbing for Deladrier, and Steinhardt) and Columbia's 1 (Mascia). With the team title virtually decided before the finals, the main interest centered on the individual results. A triple fence-off for the championship, involving Steinhardt of St. John's, Tauber of N.Y.U., and Cadet Moody of Army, was not finished until the early hours of Sunday morning, and placed the contestants in the order mentioned. Steinhardt outgeneraled Tauber to win the bout that proved decisive. Both men were guilty of infractions of the rules, Steinhardt because of his illegal times out through repeated trips to the waterbucket and Tauber by stepping off the side of the strip. But the jury was lenient in view of the lateness of the hour and the long strain to which both fencers had been subjected.

Under the new scoring rules for the Alumni Three-Weapon Trophy, N.Y.U.'s low of 5½ was far ahead of the field. The next six places were closely bunched, but the Violet was never threatened. It had only one of last year's four stars, but Tauber was the hero of the tournament, accounting for 14 points in epee and 15 points in foil. In addition, the N.Y.U. lineup was strong in every position, all 9 men surviving the first-round eliminations, so that the team as a whole matched its winning total of last year, 83½ bouts. Furthermore, in this tournament there was no rival comparable to last year's Navy squad, which finished 10 points behind. The Violet's margin over Columbia was 25 bouts.

While the performances of Spiselman in foil and of Conomikes in epee were disappointing to the Columbia rooters, Rogers did better than expected in epee and Armand Mascia earned a creditable fourth place in foil, only one point behind the three medalists. Therefore it was Columbia's weakness in sabre, usually its best weapon, that prevented the race from being close. St. John's was powerful in foil and sabre, but fatally weak in epee, failing to place a single man in the epee finals. C.C.N.Y.'s strong sabre team suffered an unexpected setback when Mendelson was eliminated in the first round, and its three finalists, Spector in sabre, Lazar in foil, and Strauch in epee, were not strong enough to lift the team into a contending position for three-weapon honors.

The Navy team, weakened by mid-year graduation, received a severe blow when none of its foilsmen reached the final, and another when its two epee finalists between them won only 5½ bouts. Stokes'

sabre victory, somewhat surprising inasmuch as he was rated second to his teammate Gooding, was the only bright spot of the tournament for the midshipmen. The Army succeeded in placing one man in each final, and two of them carried off bronze medals, but Pasciak unexpectedly bogged down in the sabre.

Harvard, pentagonal champion, had two topnotchers in Brua and Wright, but its failure to reach the finals in foil spoiled its chances in this tournament. Cornell's hope, Kelley, who came to the championships undefeated for the season, could do no better than a sixth place in foil. Pennsylvania showed its best prospect in years in Greenbaum, who fenced both foil and sabre. M. I. T. had two fair foilsmen in Sherburne and Adelson, but the latter was entered only as a substitute, after another teammate had already dropped two bouts, so that his own two victories in three attempts were not enough to qualify him for the semi-final. Princeton's Beatty and Rimbault, members of last year's epee championship team, failed to pass the first round, and with them went the Tiger's chances for success on their home strips. Hamilton managed to place only one man in the semi-finals, Gillmore of the epee squad.

### TEAM RESULTS

**EPEE: Won by NEW YORK UNIVERSITY** (Arthur Tauber, 14; Seymour Gross, 6½; Herbert Kane, 5). Total 25½. **Second: COLUMBIA** (Marvin Metzger, 12; Sanford Rogers, 8; Peter Conomikes, 4½). Total 24½. **Third: NAVY** (O. F. Keeler, Jr., 10; R. H. Walker, 9½; R. F. Sweek, 2). Total 21½.

**SABRE: Tie for first place between: HARVARD** (Thomas W. Wright, 15; L. Winfield Alberts, 6; Robert R. Batt, 2). and C. C. N. Y. (Herbert Spector, 14; Neil Lazar, 7; Martin Mendelson, 2). Total 23. **Third: Tie between: ST. JOHN'S** (Andre Deladrier, 11; Andrew Costarino, 9; Joseph Judge, 2) and N. Y. U. (Sol Gorlin, 13; Peter Tishman, 5; Anthony Lombardo, 4; Arthur Frank, 0). Total 22.

**FOIL: Won by NEW YORK UNIVERSITY** (Arthur Tauber, 15; Roland Monzeglio, 13; Stanley Levy, 8; Stanley Klein, 0). Total 36. **Second: ST. JOHN'S** (Charles J. Steinhardt, 15; Andre Deladrier, 8; E. Goettlicher, 2; Stephen Salat, 2). Total 27. **Third: COLUMBIA** (Armand Mascia, 12; Herbert Spiselman, 6; Eaton Bayor, 3). Total 21.

### THREE-WEAPON

	E	Bouts Won		Total
		F	S	
1. N. Y. U. ....	25½	36	22	83½
2. Columbia .....	24½	21	13	58½
3. C. C. N. Y. ....	12	15	23	50
4. Harvard .....	21	8	23	52
5. St. John's .....	9	27	22	58
6. Navy .....	21½	9	20	50½
7. Army .....	18	16	12	46
8. Cornell .....	12	14	10	36
9. U. of Penn. ....	10	8	15	33
10. M. I. T. ....	2	7	6	15
11. Princeton .....	8	6	2	16
12. Hamilton .....	7½	4	3	14½

### INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

#### Epee

(1) Arthur Tauber, N. Y. U., 7-1; (2) Marvin Metzger, Col., 6-2; (3) Cadet Victor V. Taylor, Army, 5½-2½; L. A. Brua III, Harvard, 5-3; James Strauch, C. C. N. Y., 5-3; Midshipman O. F. Keeler, Jr., Navy, 3-5; Midshipman R. H. Walker, Navy, 2½-5½; Sanford Rogers, Col., 2-6; Donald S. Kent, Cornell, 0-8.

#### Sabre

(1) Midshipman Griffith P. Stokes, Navy, 7-1; (2) Thomas W. Wright, Harvard, 6-2\*; (3) Herbert Spector, C. C. N. Y., 6-2\*; Robert Greenbaum, Penn, 4-4; Sol Gorlin, N. Y. U., 4-4; Andre Deladrier, St. John's, 3-5; Andrew Costarino, St. John's 3-5; Kermit Lansner, Col., 2-6; Cadet L. J. Pasciak, Army, 1-7.

#### Foil

(1) Charles J. Steinhardt, St. John's, 6-2\*; (2) Arthur Tauber, N. Y. U., 6-2\*; (3) Cadet Alfred J. F. Moody, Army, 6-2\*; Armand Mascia, Col., 5-3; Roland Monzeglio, N. Y. U., 4-4; Daniel F. Kelley, Jr., Cornell, 3-5; Stanley Levy, N. Y. U., 2-5; Neil Lazar, C. C. N. Y., 2-6; E. Goettlicher (sub for Deladrier), St. John's, 2-6; Stanley Klein (sub for Levy), N. Y. U., 0-1.

\*Places decided by fence-offs.

### National Collegiate Championships

Nineteen colleges—from Dartmouth in New England to the University of Washington on the Pacific Coast—took part in the first National Collegiate fencing championships ever to be held, staged on March 29 at Columbus, Ohio.

While no formal team championship was contested, the Yale University cup for the team ranking highest in the three individual weapon competitions was won by Northwestern University with 28½ points. Illinois was close behind with 27, Washington University (St. Louis) third with 26½, and a tie for fourth between Rutgers and Yale, each with 26.

Seventy-six men participated in the three competitions, which got going at 9 a. m. on five strips and wound up at 11 p. m. E. McNamara of Northwestern took the gold medal in foil, winning cleanly over Warren Malik of Illinois and Morris Rudolph of Rutgers, who finished second and third in that order.

The epee title went to C. A. Boland of Illinois, with T. Houser of Case and Howard Baker of Washington (St. Louis) second and third. In only one weapon—sabre—was a fence-off necessary to determine the champion. William A. Meyer of Dartmouth finally pulled through with a 5-4 victory over Joseph Molkup of Chicago to take the title. Robert Schmidt of Yale finished third.

A dinner attended by the coaches of the competing teams saw plans laid for a national coaches' association. Such a group, it was decided, would serve the function of assisting the less trained coaches to fulfill their duties more competently.

The tournament bout committee, composed of Dr. John R. Huffman, chairman ex-officio; Royall Snow, Harvard, chairman; Dr. Frank Riebel, Ohio State; Scott Breckenridge, Kentucky; and Lucien Morris, Case, expects to recommend that next year's championship will be held on March 28 at Cleveland, Ohio.

The final three-weapon standing of teams for the Yale Trophy was as follows (it should be remembered that all colleges did not enter their full complement of six men, two in each weapon):

Northwestern, 28½; Illinois, 27; Washington of St. Louis, 26½; Rutgers and Yale, 26; Ohio State, 20; Chicago, 17; Michigan State, 13; Kentucky, 11½; Case, 10½; Wayne and Wisconsin, 10; Dartmouth and Notre Dame, 9; Lawrence, 6; Ohio University, 4; Oberlin, 2; University of Washington (Seattle), 1; Dennison, 0.

### Women's Intercollegiate Championships

A well-balanced trio from Brooklyn College, Charlotte Anker, Kathleen Cerra and Lillian Rubino, undaunted by an unexpected setback at the hands of the College of William and Mary in the initial team match of the tournament, came back strongly to sweep its remaining six matches, and to capture the team trophy (the Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish Cup) in the 13th annual championships of the Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association held at New York University on April 18 and 19.

Grace Acel, daughter of the A.F.L.A. Secretary and a freshman at the College of William and Mary, became the individual champion with 21 victories. Ruth Maxwell, of Hofstra College, finished second with 19 victories. Miss Anker, of Brooklyn, took the third medal over Ruth Barcan, N.Y.U., on a count of touches after both had finished with 18 victories.

New York University, rated the team favorite on the basis of its undefeated dual meet season, was impressive in the early rounds, winning its first three matches with ease. Then came the N.Y.U.-Hofstra match, which gave rise to much heated discussion. Miss Maxwell, already a winner over Miss Acel, had defeated Miss Barcan, 4-2, when, with the score tied at 4-all in bouts, she faced Harriet McGlennon. The N.Y.U. fencer won 4-2, to give her team the match. But this turned out to be the last N.Y.U. team victory.

Hunter College, defeated only by Brooklyn, pulled N.Y.U. down into a triple tie for the lead by scoring a clean-cut 6-3 victory. Then William and Mary dropped N.Y.U. down another notch by winning 5-4. The match was tied at 4-bouts-all when Miss Acel faced Miss Barcan. The new champion practically clinched her title with a brilliant 4-1 victory.

Meanwhile, Hofstra College had rallied from an earlier let-down, so that at the start of the final round, with Hofstra meeting Hunter and N.Y.U. fencing Brooklyn, there was still the possibility of a four-way tie among these teams. Hofstra defeated Hunter, and Brooklyn then led the field, with 5-1 in match victories and needing only 4 bouts to clinch its first team championship.

The Brooklyn team was not to be denied. Miss Cerra, younger sister of the former Intercollegiate and Metropolitan Champion, found her best game in the crucial match. Overcoming her chief weakness, a tendency to indecision, she breezed through the N.Y.U. team by 4-1, 4-2, and 4-1 scores. But the final climax of a successful tournament was reached when, with the score tied at 3-all in bouts, Miss Anker defeated Miss Barcan 4-3 to clinch Brooklyn's title in the team events, and to win for herself the third-place medal.

The summaries:

#### Team

1 Brooklyn College defeated Cornell 9-0, Hofstra 5-4, Hunter 5-4, N. J. State 6-3, N. Y. U. 6-3, and Wagner 7-2. (Won 6 matches.)

2 Hunter College defeated Cornell 8-1, N. J. State 7-2, N. Y. U. 6-3, Wagner 5-4, and William & Mary 5-4. (Won 5 matches, 39 bouts.)

3 Hofstra College (5-2) defeated Cornell 6-3, Hunter 5-4, N. J. State 5-4, Wagner 7-2, and William & Mary 5-4. (Won 5 matches, 36 bouts.)

4 College of William & Mary defeated Brooklyn

5-4, Cornell 6-3, N. Y. U. 5-4 and Wagner 9-0. (Won 4 matches, 36 bouts.)

5 New York University defeated Cornell 7-2, Hofstra 5-4, N. J. State 6-3, and Wagner 6-3. (Won 4 matches, 34 bouts.)

6 New Jersey State College for Teachers (Jersey City) defeated Cornell 6-3, Wagner 5-4, and William & Mary 6-3. (Won 3 matches, 29 bouts.)

7 Wagner College defeated Cornell 5-4. (Won 1 match, 20 bouts.)

8 Cornell lost all matches. (16 bouts won.)

#### Individual

1 Miss Grace Acel, Wm. & M., 21-2; 2 Miss Ruth Maxwell, Hofstra, 19-4; 3 Miss Charlotte Anker, Bklyn, 18-5 (47 t.r.); 4 Miss Ruth Barcan, N. Y. U., 18-5 (50 t.r.); 5 Miss Kathleen Cerra, Bklyn, 16-7 (56 t.r.); 6 Miss Edith Zinn, Hunter, 16-7 (58 t.r.); 7 Miss Grace Uhthoff, Hunter, 15-8; 8 Miss Mildred Fraiese, N. J. S., 13-10 (54 t.r.); 9 Miss Lela Joggi, Hofstra, 13-8 (59 t.r.); 10 Miss Irene Gaczynski, N. J. S., 12-11; 11 Miss Marian Keller, Cornell, 11-12 (64 t.r.); 12 Miss Lillian Rubino, Bklyn, 11-12 (70 t.r.); 13 Miss Inna Troupin, Hunter, 11-12 (71 t.r.); 14 Miss Harriet McGlennon, N. Y. U., 10-13 (65 t.r.); 15 Miss Margaret Wiesner, Wagner, 10-13 (70/67); 16 Miss Mary Moncure, Wm. & M., 10-12 (70/63); 17 Miss Ethel Iskowitz, N. Y. U., 9-14; 18 Miss Florence Mikkelsen, Wagner, 8-15; 19 Miss Josephine Schappert, N. J. S., 7-15 (71 t.r.); 20 Miss Henrietta Brackley, Hofstra, 7-14 (73 t.r.); 21 Miss Frances Knight, Wm. & M., 7-14 (79 t.r.); 22 Miss Florence Jicha, Wagner, 5-13; 23 Miss Olive Wis- sel, Cornell, 4-16; 24 Miss Ellen McCarthy, 3-15.

#### Substitutes

25 Miss Norma Alessandrini, Cornell, 1-5 (90 t.r.); 26 Miss Gladys Jones, Wm. & M., 1-0 (91 t.r.); 27 Miss Ethel Teal, Wm. & M., 0-2 (92/3); 28 Miss Selma Miller, Hunter, 0-1 (92/2); 29 Miss Lorraine Shirley, Hofstra, 0-4 (92/2); 30 Miss Margaret Kirkwood, Cornell, 0-2 (92/1); 31 Miss Ethel Hueglin, N. J. S., 0-1 (92/0).

### Eastern Intercollegiate Fencing Conference Championships

Sweeping aside its opposition for the fourth consecutive year, Seton Hall College rolled up a total of 66½ points (bouts won) to capture the Eastern Intercollegiate Fencing Conference Championship over a field of nine colleges on its home strips March 21.

In none of the three weapons was the Seton Hall domination threatened, and all but two of the nine individual champions—Classes A, B, and C in each weapon—fell to the South Orange fencers. Dean Cetrulo, captain of the winning squad, repeated his performance of last year by winning all his bouts in Class A foil and sabre to take two individual titles. Paul Riccardi, a teammate, duplicated this performance with 16 straight wins in Class C epee and Class B foil. Peter Milone was the third Seton Hall fencer to emerge from the championships unbeaten, winning all his bouts in Class C foil.

Other individual winners were: Epee (A) Robert Girardot, Seton Hall; Epee (B) James Turley, Middlebury; Sabre (B) Pat Marzulli, Seton Hall; Sabre (C) Morris Rudolph, Rutgers.

Throughout the entire competition, in which each college fenced 72 bouts, the Seton Hall fencers lost



only 5½ bouts. Their foil trio emerged unbeaten from 24 encounters, the epee fencers lost 2½ engagements and the sabremen 3.

The final point scores by weapons and teams:

College	F	S	E	T
Seton Hall .....	24	21	21½	66½
Rutgers .....	17	13	13	43
Panzer .....	14	15	12	41
Lafayette .....	10	15	10	35
Virginia .....	9	12	10	31
Lehigh .....	8	10	11½	29½
Middlebury .....	4	11	13½	28½
Temple .....	14	4	8	26
Long Island .....	8	7	8½	23½

## South Atlantic Intercollegiate Championships

By JOSE R. de CAPRILES

We journeyed down to Williamsburg last month to officiate at the annual South Atlantic Fencing Conference Tournament as guests of William and Mary. Frankly, we accepted Mr. Tucker Jones' invitation largely out of curiosity as to the calibre of collegiate fencing in the south. Like too many of our friends in New York, we had the impression that any fencing so far removed from our Metropolitan area must be in its undeveloped stages. We know better now, and our apologies go to the fencers we saw and to their coaches who have done such a good job.

With William and Mary as host, the tournament included teams from Georgia Tech, Johns Hopkins, Kentucky, North Carolina, Norfolk Division of William and Mary, Virginia Military Institute, and Washington and Lee. The meet was conducted on the three-pool system in each weapon, with one man from each college on every strip. Medals are awarded to the first two places in each pool, and the three-weapon team title is decided on the basis of bout victories. Mr. Anthony Greco directed the first strip, Mr. Philip Lubart the second, and I took the third.

William and Mary presented an aggressive, well-balanced team which swept through the three-team events in impressive style and took the three-weapon trophy with 45½ victories. Georgia Tech, with a total score of 33, placed second by virtue of a tie for the runner-up position with Johns Hopkins in the foil and epee team events. Johns Hopkins fared badly in the sabre, however, and was outscored for the third position by Kentucky. North Carolina garnered five individual medals and tied William and Mary for the sabre team crown, but lagged too far behind in foil and epee to challenge the home team.

Jim Glossman, captain of the William and Mary team, fenced on the first strip in each weapon and turned in a brilliant performance which was largely responsible for his team's success. Glossman topped his foil and epee strips and won second honors in sabre. The only perfect record in any weapon was made by Bill Grover, also of William and Mary, who went through the No. 2 foil strip without a set-back. Manager Dave Meyer of the home team took a gold medal in epee and sabre, turning in a particularly fine performance in the latter weapon. The fourth member of the winning team, Sam Bessman, took first on his sabre strip and second in epee.

Gold medalists from the other schools were: Kinsolving, of V.M.I., who fenced his deciding bout in

foil with the generalship of a veteran; Jones of Kentucky, who was closely pressed by Bessman of William and Mary on strip 3 in epee, but came through to give his school its only prize; and Hutton, of North Carolina in sabre, with the additional distinction of being the one man in the tournament who was able to out-rank Jim Glossman in any weapon. Smernoff of North Carolina won silver medals in epee and sabre, but showed to best advantage in the epee. Tolmach was the third North Carolina man to take a sabre medal, winning the silver prize on the second strip and earning a tie with William and Mary for the team crown. Davis, of Georgia Tech, won silver medals in foil and epee.

After the fencing was over the three officials gave a short exhibition at which the enthusiasm was most flattering. The consensus of opinion was that the tournament had been a huge success and we were unanimous in our praise for the sportsmanship which had prevailed.

### Summary

**Foil:** Strip A: 1. Glossman, W. & M.; 2. Davis, Ga. Tech. Strip B: 1. Grove, W. & M.; 2. Zetlin, Johns Hopk. Strip C: 1. Kinsolving, V.M.I.; 2. Imbrey, N. Car. Team Title: 1. William and Mary; 2. Georgia Tech; 3. Johns Hopkins.

**Sabre:** Strip A: 1. Hutton, N. Car.; 2. Glossman, W. & M. Strip B: 1. Meyer, W. & M.; 2. Tolmach, N. Car. Strip C: 1. Bessman, W. & M.; 2. Smernoff, N. Car. Team Title: Tie between William and Mary and North Carolina; 3. Kentucky.

**Epee:** Strip A: 1. Glossman, W. & M.; 2. Smernoff, N. Car. Strip B: 1. Meyer, W. & M.; 2. Davis, Ga. Tech. Strip C: 1. Jones, Ky.; 2. Bessman, W. & M. Team Title: 1. William and Mary; 2. Georgia Tech; 3. Johns Hopkins.

**Three-Weapon Title:** 1. William and Mary, 45½ wins; 2. Georgia Tech., 33 wins; 3. Kentucky, 30 wins.

## PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 1)

**Open Team**—Los Angeles A. C. (Edward Carfagno, Herman Hersum and Josef Lampl) defeated the Olympic Club (Harry Mortimer, Bryan H. Smith and Alfred R. Snyder), 5-2.

**Junior Team**—Los Angeles A. C. (Dr. Henry Reitz, Al Carfagno and Josef Lampl) defeated the University of California (Jack Hovick, Noel Spiess and William Hohenthal), 5-2.

### Epee

**Open Individual**—1. Andrew Boyd, Los Angeles A. C.; 2. John L. Thompson, Olympic Club; 3. Victor Arnautoff, Olympic Club.

**Intermediate Individual**—1. Louis Lataillade, Olympic Club; 2. Robert Irwin, Faulkner School; 3. Harold Swisher, Los Angeles A. C.

**Junior Individual**—1. Robert Shrader, Oakland Fencing Club; 2. Lt. John C. Habecker, Olympic Club; 3. Dr. Henry Reitz, Los Angeles A. C.

**Open Team**—Olympic Club (Victor Arnautoff, Louis Lataillade and John L. Thompson) defeated Los Angeles A. C. (Fred Linkmeyer, Andrew Boyd and Edward Carfagno), 5-1.

**Junior Team**—Los Angeles A. C. (Dr. Henry Reitz, Stanley Vallet and Simon Carfagno) defeated University of California (Jack Hovick, Noel Spiess and Norman Firestone), 9-6. (A tie resulted in the first round-robin.)

## NATIONAL THREE-WEAPON CHAMPIONSHIPS

## TEAM

Depending heavily on the unbeatable sabre fencing of Dr. Tibor Nyilas, the Salle Santelli "A" team of Jose de Capriles, Pieter Mijer and Dr. Nyilas swept undefeated through a six-team round-robin to win the national three-weapon team championship at the Fencers Club on May 4.

Second place went to the Fencers Club, which lost only to the Santelli "A" squad, although it had to count touches to resolve a 1½-1½ deadlock with Santelli "B". The defending champions, the New York Athletic Club "A", finished third.

In successive matches, with the victory of his team depending on the outcome, Dr. Nyilas defeated Dr. Norman C. Armitage of the Fencers Club, 5-2, and Dr. John R. Huffman of the N.Y.A.C., 5-3. In neither match could the losers cope with the lightning speed of the Hungarian star's riposte.

Dernell Every took five straight foil bouts for the N.Y.A.C., but could not lift his team to victory.

The summaries (fencers listed in order of weapons fenced, i. e., foil, epee, and sabre):

**Salle Santelli "A"** (Jose de Capriles, Pieter Mijer, Dr. Tibor Nyilas)—defeated Fencers Club (2-1), N.Y.A.C. "A" (2-1), Salle Santelli "B" (2-1), N.Y.A.C. "B" (3-0) and Greco (3-0). Won 5 matches, lost 0.

**Fencers Club** (William Block and Robert Driscoll, Tracy Jaeckel, Dr. Norman C. Armitage)—defeated N.Y.A.C. "A" (2-1), Salle Santelli "B" (1½-1½, 9 touches received against 12), N.Y.A.C. "B" (2-1) and Greco (2-1). Won 4 matches, lost 1.

**New York Athletic Club "A"** (Dernell Every, Leo Nunes and Dr. John R. Huffman)—defeated Salle Santelli "B" (2-1), N.Y.A.C. "B" (2-1) and Greco (2-1). Won 3 matches, lost 2.

**Salle Santelli "B"** (Dean Cetrulo, Norman Lewis, Miguel A. de Capriles)—defeated Greco (3-0). Won 1 match, lost 3.

**New York Athletic Club "B"** (no foilsman, Henrique Santos, Ralph Marson)—defeated Greco (2-1). Won 1 match, lost 3.

**Greco Fencing Academy** (Joseph Rabb, Ralph Liederma, Peter O'Connor)—lost all matches.

The records of individuals in the various weapons were as follows:

**Foil**—Every 5-0, J. de Capriles 4-1, Block 2-2, Rabb 2-3, Cetrulo 1-3, Driscoll 0-1, N.Y.A.C. "B" (no fencer) 0-4.

**Epee**—Lewis 3½-½, Jaeckel 3½-1½, Santos 3-1, Mijer 3-2, Liederma 1-4, Nunes 0-5.

**Sabre**—Nyilas 5-0, Armitage 3-2, Huffman 3-2, M. de Capriles 2-2, Marson 1-3, O'Connor 0-5.

## INDIVIDUAL

Miguel A. de Capriles of the Salle Santelli won the national three-weapon individual championship when he defeated Dr. Norman C. Armitage of the Fencers Club, 8-6, in the final match on the loser's home strips May 11, regaining the title he last held in 1934.

A decided superiority in the weapon in which his opponent holds the national championship—sabre—won the President's gold medal for the Santelli internationalist in the final encounter of the direct elimination competition. Armitage took the foil, 3-2,

but when de Capriles won the odd point in epee with a perfectly timed fleche that left his opponent flat-footed, they went into the deciding sabre encounter tied at five-all. The new champion attacked aggressively to sweep the sabre, 3-1, and win the championship 8-6.

Armitage advanced to the title round by beating the 1939 champion, Jose de Capriles, Salle Santelli, 8-5, while Mike de Capriles ousted his clubmate, Norman Lewis, 8-2.

The new champion takes over the title spot occupied last year by Dr. John R. Huffman who, as A. F. L. A. president, donated the medals for the 1941 competition. Dr. Armitage had also been runner-up last year and, aside from the fact that Lewis took Huffman's place in the semi-finals, the closing rounds had much the same complexion they have had for the last several years.

The summaries:

## Round of Sixteen

Jose R. de Capriles, Salle Santelli, defeated Rudolph Ozol, N.Y.A.C., 8-4; Frank Goodfellow, Salle Santelli, defeated John Bech, N.Y.A.C., 8-6; Dean Cetrulo, Salle Santelli, defeated Peter O'Connor, Greco Fencing Academy, 8-3; Dr. Norman Armitage, Fencers Club, defeated Kevis Kapner, Salle Santelli, 8-3.

Leo Nunes, N.Y.A.C., defeated Edouard Guirola, Salle Santelli, 8-5; Norman Lewis, Salle Santelli, defeated Dr. L. Wallach, 92nd Street Y. M. H. A., 8-1; Pieter Mijer, Salle Santelli, defeated Ralph Marson, N.Y.A.C., 8-7; Miguel A. de Capriles, Salle Santelli, defeated Dr. George V. Lesser, Salle Santelli, 8-5.

## Quarter Finals

Jose de Capriles defeated Goodfellow, 8-5; Armitage defeated Cetrulo, 8-7; Lewis defeated Nunes, 8-2; Miguel de Capriles defeated Mijer, 8-5.

## Semi-Finals

Armitage defeated Jose de Capriles, 8-5; Miguel de Capriles defeated Lewis, 8-2.

## Finals

Miguel de Capriles defeated Armitage, 8-6.

## MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 1)

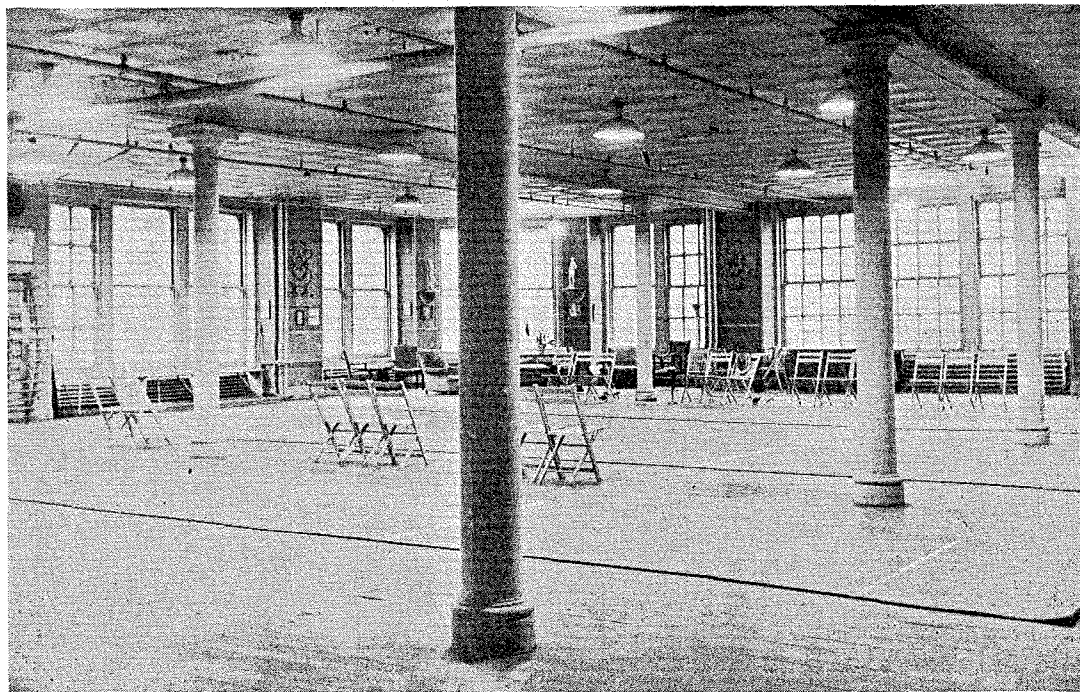
the four individual championships, the Michigan division lost its opportunity to retain the team title by failing to score another place throughout the competition. This may have been because of the strenuous pace that the host division set for itself. On Saturday, April 19, the day previous to the midwestern championships, the Michigan division held its own title round, followed by a ball that lasted into the late hours. The following day bouts for the midwestern titles started at nine a. m. and lasted about twelve hours.

The championships were run off in fine order in the Book-Cadillac's luxurious surroundings. The only difficulty encountered by the hosts lay in the matter of directors. It was found difficult to keep three strips going at once, although the time schedule called for four.

Representatives from the following divisions competed in the championships: Michigan, Miami Valley, St. Louis, Illinois, Columbus, Northern Ohio, and Central Illinois.

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*The New Rules Book - Sidelights and Comments*

## IV. THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

BY MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES

*Chairman of A. F. L. A. and I. C. F. A. Rules Committees*

Since this issue of *The Riposte* will appear shortly before the 1941 National Championship Tournament, I think it fitting to tell you something of the history of our present rules for these competitions, and to point out the various alternatives which have been suggested from time to time.

First, about the history: In the early days, the National Championships, in their entirety, were held in New York City. The great bulk of the A. F. L. A. members were living in the cities of the Eastern seaboard, and New York was then, even more than now, the center of fencing interest in this country. As the number of competitors grew, the championships included preliminaries, semi-finals, and finals—all of which were held in New York.

Then, when the divisions were established, they were given the right to send three men each directly into the "semi-finals" of each weapon, while the non-divisional members (mostly New Yorkers) were permitted to qualify from four to eight fencers, depending on the number of competitors in the preliminaries. The "semi-finals," which in reality were the first round of the Championship Competition as distinguished from the Qualifying Competitions, were held at the New York Athletic Club on successive days, although down to 1932 it was customary to fence the epee and sabre semi-finals on the afternoon and evening of the same day. Then there would be a grand "final," four men in each weapon, immediately preceding the Annual Ball at the Hotel Astor. (The women's individual championship usually was fenced to a decision at the Fencers Club on the evening preceding the foil "semi-finals").

The National Championship Tournament, therefore, consisted only of the individual events. The national team championships were fenced during the regular season in New York. It was a rare occasion when teams from other cities would compete, although Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington in certain years sent teams that carried away the championship trophies.

By 1933, the divisions had been given the right to qualify competitors into the "semi-finals" on the same basis as the non-divisional group, that is a minimum of four and a maximum of eight, depending on the number of competitors in the divisional preliminaries. Perhaps the idea was to encourage greater divisional participation; perhaps the idea was to destroy what seemed to be an invidious distinction in favor of the New York fencers. At any rate, this rule has stood down to the present time, although the divisions seldom have taken advantage of the increased number of possible qualifiers.

The following year, largely for financial reasons, the Annual Ball at the Astor was dropped, and one of the great social traditions in American fencing was lost. Those balls were truly gala affairs. Each member received a free ticket for himself, and had the right to purchase additional tickets. Most of the Governors subscribed for boxes, and the annual deficit was generally covered by contributions from the wealthier members of the group. Eventually, per-

sonal contributions for this purpose dwindled as the great depression took its toll. Rather than finance deficits out of League funds, the Board decided to retrench. A self-supporting "gala night" at the New York Athletic Club was substituted.

The four-man finals in each weapon were retained until 1935. The following year, largely in response to the desires of the leading active fencers, the number of finalists was increased to six. This made a better final round for the fencers, and provided a better basis for the selection of the Olympic Team, but it had the disadvantage of lasting so long as to curtail rather seriously the social phases of the "gala night." The following year (1937), the same plan was followed, but it became obvious that, from the spectators' viewpoint, there was too much fencing and too little party, and that to continue to hold three six-man finals on the same evening would eventually destroy the social gathering.

Consequently, in 1938, a new plan was tried, to send only two men in each weapon into the "finals," so that only three bouts, each for 10 touches, would be fenced. This probably was, from the spectators' point of view, the most interesting championship. But it was highly unsatisfactory from the competitors' angle. The two finalists had qualified out of a round-robin of 8, and only in the epee had the two finished the pool with identical records. In foil, the winner of the round-robin won the championship match. In sabre, the winner of the round-robin lost the championship match. Neither situation was wholly satisfactory. Most of the top-notch fencers preferred to settle the issue on the basis of a round-robin, as being more in keeping with the traditions of amateur fencing as developed in the Olympics and in the Worlds' Championships.

The year 1939, thanks to the enterprise of the California divisions, saw the establishment of a national championship tournament along Olympic lines, and the holding of the title events away from New York for the first time. Four team and four individual championships (the women's foil and the separate weapons for men) were held on eight successive days, each competition being completely finished before the next one was begun. The "gala night" was officially eliminated, although a social gathering was organized on the final night (individual sabre) at a San Francisco night club. New rules were formulated for the qualification of two teams from each division, and the Bout Committee organized the individual events on the basis of semi-final and final pools of eight fencers. The same basic pattern was followed in New York in 1940, except that the individual events were held first, so that the sabre team championship (a relatively short competition) was reserved for the same date as the "gala night."

Your Rules Committee drafted Chapter VIII, therefore, with all these varieties of National Championships in mind. It attempted to clarify the relation of the qualifying events to the championship competitions; and on two subjects, where it found conflicting precedents, it formulated the rule that seemed to

have the weight of logic on its side. The first question was whether "alternates" should be allowed to take the place of a regular qualifier who could not compete in the championship competition. In New York, because of precedent set in a junior event some years ago, alternates were not allowed. Elsewhere in the country they were permitted as a matter of course, although there was great variety in the method of selecting such alternates. Your Rules Committee decided that there was no fundamental objection to alternates, but that there certainly should be uniformity throughout the country in the rules to govern their participation.

The other point concerned the method of determining the finalists when the final pool consisted of less than six men (so that a potential bronze medalist might be shut out, as would happen if less than three men were qualified from each of two semi-final pools). In the old days, with a final of four, if two or more fencers were tied for a qualifying place, touches were counted in the manner prescribed by the rules. Since only two qualified from each of the two semi-final strips, it was quite possible for a fencer to lose only a single bout in a long semi-final round, and yet be eliminated from the final. However, in 1938, when the two-man final was tried, and two or more fencers were tied for qualification out of a single semi-final pool of eight, a fence-off was ordered.

The Rules Committee considered both procedures, and decided in favor of the fence-off in all cases where the final pool consisted of less than six fencers. It considered the fact that the system of counting touches for individual qualifying places was completely

eliminated from the Olympics in 1940, although it was apparently retained by the F.I.E. for lesser competitions. Furthermore, in this country, there has been growing criticism of this method of deciding ties. This story deserves separate treatment, which I hope to present in a later article.

Finally, the Committee adopted the recommendation of the National Bout Committee, setting the dates of the divisional qualifying competitions at least **one month**, and the closing date for entries at **two weeks**, before the opening of the national championship tournament. This action was based on purely practical considerations. If, by any chance, in a given year, all the divisions decided to send on their full quota of qualified fencers for the nationals, the Bout Committee would find it impossible to cope with competitions involving 100 or 200 fencers. Even half of these numbers might require a complete re-scheduling of the championships. Therefore, it seemed logical to give the Bout Committee at least two weeks' notice as to the number of entries that might be expected. On the other hand, the Northern Ohio Division pointed out that, to comply with the new regulations, the divisions would have to know the exact date of the national championship tournament early enough in the season to permit proper draft of the divisional schedules. This point was very well taken, so that a new rule was added, requiring the date of the tournament to be set at the first meeting of the National Board of Governors in September of the previous year.

Except as here explained, the rules in Chapter VIII were simply a codification of existing practice

## Amateur Fencers League of America

### *National Championships - - June 6 - 13*

See Schedule of Events, Time and Place on Page 1

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down to the summer of 1940. However, a number of alternatives have been suggested, and I give them to you now with a brief statement of their background:

(I) European fencers generally are astonished to learn that our National Championships are open to all amateur fencers, without restrictions as to class, so that a prep or a novice is free to enter the preliminary rounds. In most European countries, only the fencers of the top class are eligible to compete for the national title. It is argued on behalf of this system: (a) that participation in the national championship is an honor which fencers should earn only by proving their worth in lesser competitions; (b) that top-notch fencers should not be required to meet adversaries of lesser rank of ability; (c) that a restricted national championship makes a better competition for participants and spectators, since the contestants are more evenly matched throughout the event.

(II) European fencers are also puzzled to find that we permit foreigners to enter our championships on the same footing as our own citizens. In Europe, in the few cases where a foreigner may enter a national championship, he is required to compete "hors concours"—that is, he may place first, but he cannot win the "championship" title. This title may be won only by a citizen of the country holding the competition. The background, of course, lies in the closeness of one country to another in Europe and the great variations in fencing strength as between those countries. Perhaps we may come to a similar rule in the future, if we should get a large influx of foreign fencers. But at present this possibility seems rather remote.

(III). A number of objections have been made to our qualifying system, which is based principally on the geographical areas represented by the divisions, without regard to the relative strength of the fencers

in each area. The main objection is that, in given situations, the qualifying competition may be "tougher" than the championship event. This has happened in New York in sabre, because of the great concentration of sabre fencers in this area. Two types of alternatives are offered as solutions:

(A) To set a fixed number of competitors in the championship competitions (say 36), and to allocate the number of qualifiers to each section or division on the basis of the relative strength of its fencers in their particular weapon. This plan, offhand, seems to present a number of difficult administrative problems, although it seems to work in golf.

(B) To increase the number of automatic qualifiers for the championship competition. At present, only the defending champion has this privilege as a matter of course. It has been suggested that automatic qualification be granted (1) to all three medalists of the previous year; (2) to all finalists of the previous year; (3) to all former national champions in that particular weapon. In favor of this plan it is argued that a division which is relatively strong in one weapon would thus have the opportunity to send more men into the championships than a weak one—and that this could be accomplished without having to "draft" extra competitors in order to comply with the present requirements for the qualification of more than four fencers. The Board of Governors, as a matter of fact, has recently asked the Rules Committee to study these recommendations for possible adoption next year. Personally, I like the idea of qualifying automatically the three medalists of the previous year.

(IV) There is another group of alternatives offered as improvements in our championships from the viewpoint of the spectator. These ideas favor the decision of the championship on the basis of a match between two fencers, rather than on the basis of a round-

(Continued on page 20)

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## A. F. L. A. Competitions in New York City

Marion Lloyd Vince, of the Salle d'Armes Vince, regained her metropolitan foils title when she triumphed over a strip of twelve at the Fencers Club on March 15. She captured the title only after a fence-off with Helena Mroczkowska, when each had finished the regulation competition with scores of 10-1. In the third place was Mrs. Jarmila Vokral of the Salle Herrmann, Philadelphia.

The New York Athletic Club men's foil team repeated its sweeping victory of last year in the Metropolitan open championship, defeating a field of six teams with the loss of only three bouts at the Salle Santelli on March 16. Dernell Every, Silvio Giolito and Warren A. Dow comprised the title-winning team. In second place was the Salle Santelli "A" squad of Jose de Capriles, Norman Lewis, Dean Cetrulo and Albert Axelrod, who lost only to the winners, 5-1. Also entered were "B" teams representing the N. Y. A. C. and Santelli, together with New York University and the Greco Fencing Academy. The two top teams also qualified for the national open championship.

The Salle Santelli squad of Dr. Tibor Nyilas, Miguel A. de Capriles, George V. Worth and Dean Cetrulo swept the Metropolitan open team sabre championship from a field of six teams on their home strips March 20. Again the competition narrowed down to a fight between the Santelli "A" team and the N. Y. A. C. squad of Dr. John R. Huffman, Ralph Marson, Nickolas Muray and Bela de Nagy, with the eventual winners pulling up from a 3-0 deficit to take the gold medals. Santelli "B" and New York University also competed, with the first and second teams qualifying for the nationals.

The Salle Santelli notched its second metropolitan championship in four days when its "A" team of Miguel A. de Capriles, Pieter Mijer and Norman Lewis captured the open epee title on March 23. Qualifying with the Santelli trio for the national championships was the runner-up Fencers Club team, Alfred Skrobisch, Robert Driscoll, and Tracy Jaeckel, whom Santelli defeated 5-3 in the deciding match. Other teams fencing were the Salle Santelli "B" squad and the New York Athletic Club.

The Salle d'Armes Vince regained its metropolitan women's open foil championship after a year's lapse when it dominated a field of four teams in the title round at the Fencers Club on March 26. The trio that won the championship was composed of Marion Lloyd Vince, Maria Cerra and Kathleen Cerra. The winning team was not decided until the final match between Vince and the Fencers Club, with a team composed of Helena Mroczkowska, Mildred Stewart, Dorothy Wahl and Dorothy Lancaster. In the deciding bout Mrs. Vince conquered Miss Mroczkowska, the national champion, to win the match for her squad. Also competing were teams from New York University and the Foils Club.

Warren A. Dow of the New York A. C., the defending champion, won the metropolitan individual foil championship over a field of 18 on the strips of the Salle Santelli April 5. Dropping only one bout in the nine-man final, Dow established a clear margin over Dr. John A. Huffman, his teammate, who finished second with a record of 6-2. Deadlocked for

third with five victories apiece were Jose de Capriles of the Salle Santelli, Nathaniel Lubell of the Salle d'Armes Vince, and Dernell Every of the N. Y. A. C., who finished in that order on a count of touches. Other finalists were Arthur Tauber of New York University, Dean Cetrulo of the Salle Santelli, and Wallace Goldsmith and Rudolph Ozol of the N. Y. A. C.

Six Salle Santelli fencers swept the field in the metropolitan open individual epee championships at the Salle Santelli on April 12. Leading the group was Edouard Guirola who went through the 17-man strip in the one-touch competition with only three losses. The Santelli epeemen who followed the winner were: Jose de Capriles (11-5), Miguel de Capriles (10-6), Jack Gorlin and Frank Goodfellow (tied at 9-7) and Pieter Mijer (tied with six other contestants at 8-8).

Dr. Norman Armitage of the Fencers Club regained his metropolitan sabre title in the championship held on April 13 at the Salle Santelli. The competition, handicapped by a lack of directors and an inordinate amount of protesting on decisions, took more than seven hours to complete, and tested the endurance more than the skill of the competitors. Dr. Armitage's cool fencing, however, won him a clear margin over the field with seven victories and only one defeat. Second place went to Dr. John R. Huffman of the New York Athletic Club with six victories, while George V. Worth of the Salle Santelli defeated Ralph Marson of the N. Y. A. C., 5-4, in a fence-off for third place after a complete deadlock. Other finalists were Jack Gorlin, Dean Cetrulo, Jose de Capriles and Douglas Gerard of the Salle Santelli, and Neil Lazar of C. C. N. Y.

Four N. Y. A. C. fencers led the eight metropolitan qualifiers for the national open individual foil championship in the preliminary rounds fenced at the Salle Santelli on April 20, with a field of 23. Dr. John R. Huffman and Silvio Giolito, A. C. fencers, led the first strip, on which Jose de Capriles of the Salle Santelli and Peter O'Connor of the Greco Fencing Academy also qualified. On the second strip the qualifiers were Warren Dow and Wallace Goldsmith of the N. Y. A. C., Albert Axelrod of the Salle Santelli and Nathaniel Lubell of the Salle d'Armes Vince. Arthur Tauber, New York University, defeated Ralph Goldstein of the Metropolitan Fencing Club for the first alternate's position.

Marion Lloyd Vince, of the Salle d'Armes Vince, fenced her way undefeated through a field of 17 in the qualifying round for the women's national open individual championship on April 23 at the Fencers Club, to lead the six who went up to the championship finals. In her eight bouts in the final qualifying round, she was pressed to 4-3 scores only twice. Qualifying behind Mrs. Vince, in order, were: Dolly Funke, Greco Fencing Academy; Maria Cerra, Salle d'Armes Vince; Elizabeth Bruskin, Metropolitan Fencing Club; Dorothy Grimmelman Centrello, Salle Santelli, and Barbara Cochrane, Salle Santelli. First alternate was Pearl Perlmutter, Foils Club.

Eight more qualifiers for the national championship were determined in the preliminary electrical epee round fenced at the Salle Santelli on April 27. Twen-

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## THE MASTER'S VOICE

*Fencing and the Teaching of Fencing*

By DR. HERBERT SANBORN  
Vanderbilt University

I was very much interested in the article by Aldo Nadi in the last issue of *The Riposte* in respect to the teaching of fencing in America. In common with most lovers of the sport, I was in agreement with much of what Mr. Nadi had to say.

There is, indeed, too little respect for the expert, not merely in fencing but in every other line of endeavor in America. In a relatively young country where everyone, only a few short years ago, was his own butcher, baker, and candlestick maker, little importance is placed upon the relative skills of others. As increased population has made more intensive specialization possible and necessary, respect for these specialized skills has, in many cases, been withheld. Even today, there are communities in parts of the country where a skilled carpenter or plumber, who has every right to insist on doing nothing but these special things, would be out of work most of the time. People still insist on doing these things for themselves. To such a self-sufficient people, it is therefore conceivable that they would not be impressed by any claim that there is a special technique for using the foil, sabre, or epee. Their approach would be to buy foils and masks and then, God help them, proceed to fence.

In many communities, there is a natural skepticism with respect to the existence or infallibility of any particular technique. Its natives believe that anybody, given a proper cudgel or blade, might develop a perfect system of attack and defense in the use of such tools. In other words, we find ourselves in the position of the primitive fencers who, with a trust in their capacity that had never been demonstrated properly, simply set to work to discover or invent the natural or artificial way of handling such tools in order to get the best results. This was the beginning of the process which has led down to our modern techniques, none of which is accepted today as the perfect system by any of its rivals.

Up to the period of artificial fencing, there must have been a natural elimination process by which those fighters who did not have the correct theory of fencing did not survive to teach and pass on their theories. We must also grant the possibility that, even here, some who had bad theories were so gifted physiologically as to counterbalance defects in their own theories. These survived, unfortunately, to pass on their defects to the next generation. I believe, however, that, in spite of this, most of what all of us regard as genuinely solid doctrine in our fencing today is the result of some such practical elimination process.

With the advent of artificial combat (including the absurdities of European journalistic "duelling"), certain theoretical fencing gained the upper hand, which, in a period of serious duelling, would have been too dangerous to receive consideration. Systems for winning matches were developed that would doubtlessly have kept the undertakers busy taking care of the followers of these systems if they had been

engaged in genuine combat. That is one reason why many of us cannot subscribe to a theory of fencing, simply because it has shown itself expedient in the winning of matches. Similar considerations would apply not merely to whole theories but also to particular aspects of those theories—that is to particular movements.

On the other hand, where we have to do with developments that are not based upon mere success but upon sound thinking in fencing, that is, upon a theoretical development from basic principles, it seems that we are more likely to discover, or rather invent, movements and combinations of movements that shall be correct and harmonious within the system. That is why I myself do not agree with the notion that a special American technique of fencing can be developed out of a mixture of elements selected from competing systems. Such eclecticism is, of course, typically American; but here, as everywhere else, it is the manifestation of a lack of style, such as we see when a Grecian building is surmounted by a Gothic steeple, or in a building that may be described as Queen Anne in front and Mary Ann behind. In other words, it seems to me better to take any style of fencing, like the French or the Italian, and develop it along its own lines than to attempt any admixture. Even though such admixtures should lead to success, we might easily be led astray in our evaluation of them.

Now, I believe that in some of the communities I have referred to, and perhaps even in more sophisticated communities, little harm and perhaps considerable good results to fencing in general from the individual who may set himself up as a teacher, after preparing himself chiefly by the study of a book. I say this after having undergone considerable irritation myself at seeing just that sort of thing happen in communities where I have lived. At first sight, it seemed to me that people were being deceived into the belief that they were being taught the art of fencing, whereas they were actually being mistaught movements that were so incorrect that they would later have to be unlearned if the pupil went on to a higher stage of the game. After teaching fencing to beginners for a considerable period of time, I have changed my mind to a considerable extent. In the first place, very few of the beginners ever go any farther. They find, if they ever do go on, that fencing is far from being so simple as they had thought, and they acquire a respect for accomplished technique, and perhaps an interest in and a certain knowledge about fencing that constitutes the necessary background for the inquisitive and interested spectator, without which no sport can be even remotely popular. They may become, like the baseball and football fans, a critical or fairly critical constituency for the sport. Even such futile endeavor in fencing as they may have been engaged in, might further an interest in the sport in general. For the more sophisticated beginner, one can only utter an



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emphatic "caveat emptor" and suggest that he secure the best teacher available. But all of us will agree, I think, that even the worst fencing is better than no fencing at all, and even the worst sort of a beginning may in certain cases develop into good or fairly good fencing if the interest of the individual is strong enough.

Moreover, even with relatively typical fencers it is plain that all of them diverge from a theoretical norm, much as all of us in our handwriting may develop individual peculiarities. Our peculiar physiological structures cause us to diverge widely from the styles of our friends, even though in the beginning we all started to imitate the identical Spencerian model for fine handwriting. If we should attempt to pass on these individual peculiarities, it is plain that we should

be doomed to failure, except perhaps in those rare instances where a similarity of bodily structure and also of psychic temperament make the proposed imitation obvious and facile.

Finally, as a summing up of all this, it is hardly necessary to emphasize the fact that while it is fairly certain that nobody in the strict sense can teach what he does not know (although warnings are said to be quite as potent as examples), it is also equally obvious that not everybody—perhaps nobody—knows exactly what he does in specific cases, and also that not everybody can teach what he really does know. That is why we have in most fields of athletics especially great teachers who have not been great performers, and great or practically perfect performers who have been only poor or mediocre teachers.

Foil Gleanings After Many Years

By RICARD WEST
Philadelphia Fencers Club

Foil lessons may at times seem purely mechanical. There is a reason for this. The repetition of complicated muscular actions encourages the coordination of thought and action. During the process of knitting several successive actions into flowing graceful movement, the mind as well as the muscles learn the sequence. These learned sequences or routines are stored away for immediate use when the occasion offers or demands in a bout. Other benefits to be derived from what may appear as mere mechanical lessons are a fine sense of balance, the gradual supplying of muscles, harmony of motion, independent arm action, strength of fingers and wrist and extreme controlled speed.

\* \* \* \*

When the foil fencer realizes that the legs move the body backward or forward without lateral trunk sway or lurching, he has gained much.

When the forearm and upper arm muscles respond to quick forward thrusting for attack without tenseness or jerk and can be returned smoothly to the bent position for defensive lateral actions, point up or down, he has gained more.

\* \* \* \*

When blade actions and footwork coordinate with speed and accuracy, a fencer may consider trying conclusions with other trained foil fencers. Not before. This is not as easy as it sounds. Many fencers, thinking they have reached this stage, start an attack well with the arm and blade only to freeze with their feet or worse still tangle them into knots. Others start well with the hand then bring their feet into action and neglect their arm to stiff oblivion. When either of these things happens to you, you must stop and admit that you are not quite a fencer yet.

\* \* \* \*

Only by dint of good physical exercise in elementary and preparatory work of conventional nature can one lay the foundation of good fencing form. As in any game of skill where decision, precision and courage are necessities, the fencer must be so trained that to perceive is to act. It is the eye of the good fencer which places the foil button upon the opponent's tar-

get. The eye saw the opportunity, the fingers, the wrist, the arm, the legs and the body coordinated without conscious effort to achieve the objective. When you find yourself able to make touches "on sight", you have achieved the greatest pleasure afforded by any sport. If you cannot do this yet, fencing offers you many future thrills as you find yourself acquiring this additional fencing sense.

\* \* \* \*

Foil play is an academic exercise in which style and effectiveness are synonymous.

\* \* \* \*

The versatility of defense governs the attack. If the defender has no system of complicated defense, the attack is relegated to the simplicity of speed attacks which the defense is unable to match with equal speed. The timing of those attacks can overcome the embarrassment of equal or even greater speed in the defense. It is futile, however, to use anything beyond a two action attack with or without pressure or beat against the simple defender. Correct judgment of distance and accuracy of aim are every bit as important as speed. Some fencers are naturally fast but distance and accuracy must be learned by everyone.

Complicated defense requires much control against a determined attacker. It is apt to become wild and thereby provide the attacker with the opportunity he was seeking. Paradoxical though it may seem, a too complicated defense can cause you defeat as surely as no defense at all. A shrewd opponent, noticing a complicated defense, will feint to start your series of parries and hit you when you come up for air.

\* \* \* \*

Some fencers, naturally fast in simple action, unfortunately gain the idea that that is all there is to fencing. With a few simple attacks up their sleeve, they saunter forth to beat the world. And what is more, they do so up to a certain point. One fine day they meet an experienced fencer whose lines seem always closing automatically to thwart these heretofore irresistible attacks. Our fast man becomes non-plussed and loses in his bewilderment. We

## THE MASTER'S VOICE

only hope that he slinks back to his teacher and supplements his natural speed with more knowledge.

\* \* \* \*

Since a fencer is permitted to manoeuvre upon a forty foot strip, the sport demands a high degree of leg activity. Even so, the hand of a defensive fencer can be so highly trained that footwork in his case becomes negligible. The most perfect form of fencing is to possess the ability to defend accurately and reply instantly with a return thrust before the attacker is able to withdraw his body to security or repel this return thrust with swordplay. To parry and riposte, as it is known, is the fencers' perfect answer to any attack.

\* \* \* \*

The slender blade, controlled by the fingers, either in attack or defense, can be taught to move with uncanny dexterity and control. Its speed in attack

must be regulated by the speed of the defense. In fencing, therefore, one can be too soon or too late but never too quick.

\* \* \* \*

Although simple actions are always the best, there soon develops an impasse between two fencers of equal ability. Their only recourse for victory lies in tactics. Tactics is the fine art of creating actions or feints of actions which compel an opponent to reveal some weakness or hesitation. The better tactician is he who capitalizes upon these weaknesses or hesitations first.

\* \* \* \*

Since about 1820, foil fencing has been known as the "perfect science". The French master, Lafaugere, computed 11,240 combinations in the art of fencing. Although brilliant tacticians have since tried to add to the number, they have been unable to do so.

*The Lesson*

By JOHN DIMOND  
U. S. Military Academy

The fencing pupil is wanting in judgment if he submits himself to the coach for a lesson, year in and year out, without some exact purpose in his own mind.

There should come a time when the pupil is aware of his needs in most departments of the game. He is likely to reap greater profit from the lesson if the lesson is shaped to his own needs and desires, as determined by his own experience. The coach does try to shape the lesson to the pupil's needs as he, the coach, understands them. But, sadly, the pupil is too often unaware of what, exactly, the coach is trying to achieve or trying to induce the pupil to achieve.

Too often the lesson is seen as the cure-all and in the effort to make of it a cure-all too many elements are woven into a disharmonious pattern.

The lesson should be simplified in that the most important element in the lesson is understood and all actions are incidental to that precise development.

Lessons can and should vary in greater or lesser degree depending upon the exact purpose. The routine lesson that is ground out, day after day, and year after year, is better than no lesson at all, but not much better.

A fencer of some little experience should know of the basic elements of fencing and in which element he most needs training.

Do you need conditioning? Ask for a lesson for that purpose.

Do you need to improve your defensive game or your parry technique?

If you ask for what you think you need, you will enjoy the lesson, gain more from it, and stimulate the coach out of the routine that you may have helped to make inevitable.

At any given moment you will have a special need. Have some idea in the matter and ask for the kind of lesson you think most profitable and satisfying.

You will probably be very happy to find so much submerged talent and knowledge in the coach.

Many fencers lucky enough to have ready access to a professional avoid lessons because they are so fatiguing and dull. This fact, if a fact, is the fault of the pupil for leaving the lesson in all of its details entirely up to the energy, imagination and judgment of the coach.

If the coach, through the years, handles pupils perforce as a coal passer handles lumps of coal, he will, naturally, perform very much like a coal passer.

The most satisfying experience short of winning a championship may well be a work-out with the coach, no matter what your fencing experience or rank, provided you are jointly working toward a specific objective.

Know what you need and ask for it. Never doubt that you will get it, because no one is more anxious to give you what you want than your fencing coach.

Giving lessons is fatiguing in the peculiar fashion that follows restriction of any sort. After a half dozen technique lessons, the coach is much more tired than the fencer who fights a like number of hard bouts. As a result, the coach is seldom in the mood or condition for a bout or free play.

One lure, used by a fencer who wished to fence with the coach, but could not enjoy the routine lesson, was to offer the coach a certain reward (monetary) for every hit the coach could score before the pupil himself scored a stated number on the coach.

If you are not fully satisfied with your coach, you might consider first if you are getting the best use out of the coach in your own behalf and interest.

The coach is not likely to resent the idea that you are "using" him. Being a fencer he will manage that matter and it will probably be a refreshing change for him, from wood-chopping, if you have, heretofore, been a blockhead in this little matter.

Pupil: "Coach, I want to improve my foot-work."

Coach: "What kind of foot-work?"

Pupil: "Just foot-work."

Consider "just foot-work" for a moment and you will find that you have given a large order, but, Lord

love you, you have, at least, taken the lesson out of the grab-bag and the catch-as-catch-can class, and that is something.

The novice is best off to leave the form of the lesson to the judgment of the coach, but the fencer of some experience should use his experience when seeking to improve his game with the aid and advice of a coach.

Ask. You'll get it!

XX

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The Amateur Fencers League of America has recently awarded its Certificate of Merit to Mr. James Montague, fencing coach at the College of the City of New York.

XX

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Alfred R. Snyder of the Olympic Club repeated his victory of last year in the Northern California Division's open foil championship, held on March 14, defeating Salvatore Giambra of the G G 5, 5-1, in a fence-off after they had tied with four victories and one loss apiece at the end of the regular competition. Harry Mortimer of the Olympic Club took third place from his teammate, Louis Lataillade, with an Olympic touch-score of .526 to .485.

The Olympic Club's "A" team of Louis Lataillade, Alfred R. Snyder and Ferard Leicester, captured the division's open epee team championship on March 19 over a field of three other teams. The winners defeated the Oakland Fencing Club 5-4, the Olympic Club seconds 5-4, and the University of California, 5-2. The other teams finished in that order.

The San Francisco Fencers Club, led by Helene Mayer, swept matches from four other teams to emerge undefeated in the Northern California women's open foil team championship on March 21. They defeated the Funke Fencing Academy 6-3, the G G 5 8-1, the Funke seconds 7-2, and Stanford University 9-0. The winning team was composed of Miss Mayer, Roberta Fritz, Marcelle Woollen and Lura Morse.

Four straight victories won the Northern California men's junior foil team title for the University of California trio of Noel Spiess, Jack Hovick and Richard Dahl on March 21. They downed the G G 5 squad 5-0, the Funke Fencing Academy 5-2, the Oakland Fencing Club 5-3 and Stanford University 5-0.

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## THE REMISE

(Continued from page 3)

ships and won second place only one victory behind the winning Salle Santelli team. In last year's individual epee championships Sardina placed 4th and Lamar 6th.

XX

No one seeing the May 3rd issue of the New York World Telegram could have failed to see and be impressed by the full page devoted to the history, activities and personalities of the New York Fencers Club. The article entitled, "Fencing in Society", dealt primarily with the important New Yorkers who had participated in this famous club's activities since its founding in 1883.

Speaking of fencing blades, and nobody has, the domestic situation is becoming very serious indeed. With the European source of supply completely shut off and domestic manufacture never having been entered upon very earnestly, the Continental blockade caught all American fencers with their pommels down. Equipment houses were fairly well stocked up at the start of the war but as time passed on the shelves began to gather voids. The situation is particularly bad in regard to sabre, Italian foil and epee blades. For a time various equipment houses swapped supplies as they needed more of this in exchange for that. Now there is practically nothing left to swap. Both Vince and Castello have undertaken the manufacture of domestic blades, but this is not proving as easy as it seemed. The problem will undoubtedly be worked out but it may be some time before our sabre men will dare to practice with real sabre blades again. They are keeping their blades now for competitive purposes and using French foil blades mounted in their sabres for practice.

XX

Joe Smith, coach of both the Hunter College and Brooklyn College women's fencing teams, will never forget the date of April 19, 1941. On that day his wife presented him with a brand new son and his two teams placed first and second in the Women's Intercollegiate Championships.

XX

Curious results always occur in three-weapon competition when the entrants are forced to lay aside their favorite weapons for awhile and take up unfamiliar ones. Norman Armitage, the National Sabre Champion, placed second in the National Three-Weapon Championship on the basis of his foil rather than his sabre. He won all of his foil bouts and only one out of four bouts in sabre. His foil successes were all the more impressive for they included victories over such foilsmen as Jose and Mike de Capriles and Dean Cetrulo.

It had been rumored around that Norman Lewis had a trick or two up his sleeve in sabre. He has won enough medals in foil and epee to demand respect in those weapons and he had lately been practicing seriously with the sabre, perhaps just to make sure of himself in this three-weapon affair. There is still no answer to his potentialities in Grade A sabre competition for Norman went through the three-weapon contest without touching his sabre. He won his first bout 8-1 and his second 8-2, only to draw Mike de Capriles at his hottest and be snowed under 2-8.

XX

Although we doubt its authenticity we heard one about a man who walked in upon a sabre competition, saw everyone dressed in white, heard the announcement, "Dr. Huffman and Dr. Acel up! Dr. Armitage and Dr. Nyilas on deck!" and left thinking that he had come to the Surgeons' College by mistake.

XX

The best crack of the month, however, was the one pulled by the Harvard competitor at the I.C.F.A. Championships at Princeton who, disliking a judge's decisions, commented in a loud voice, "They should give that judge an A.F.L.A. Rulesbook written in braille." That just about covers everything.

## "All-American" Intercollegiate Team

An "All-American intercollegiate fencing team" which contains competitors from 25 colleges is listed in the recent "Intercollegiate Fencing Bulletin," prepared by Dr. Gerald I. Cetrulo of Seton Hall College, vice-chairman of the American Collegiate Fencing Coaches' Association.

While in some instances it seems to be true that excellence of fencing has been subordinated to geographical considerations, the team is nevertheless a formidable one and those who compiled it should be congratulated for a difficult job well done. The selections, according to the bulletin, "represent the opinions of some of the coaches of the American Collegiate Fencing Coaches' Association, opinions of some of the leading fencing judges, the writings of several newspaper men, and computations based on sectional and A. F. L. A. competitions."

The squad is as follows:

### First Team

*Foil*—1. Steinhardt, St. John's; 2. Moody, Army; 3. McNamara, Northwestern.

*Sabre*—1. Cetrulo, Seton Hall; 2. Wright, Harvard; 3. Specter, C. C. N. Y.

*Epee*—1. Tauber, N. Y. U.; 2. Girardot, Seton Hall; 3. Boland, Illinois.

N. B.—Cetrulo and Tauber, although receiving enough votes to make the first Foil team easily, were omitted and placed only in Sabre and Epee to make room for a nine-man team.

### Second Team

*Foil*—1. Liederman, L. I. U.; 2. Riccardi, Seton Hall; 3. Kelly, Cornell.

*Sabre*—1. Stokes, Navy; 2. Meyer, Dartmouth; 3. Hutton, N. C.

*Epee*—1. Glassman, W. & M.; 2. Turley, Middlebury; 3. Taylor, Army.

### Honorable Mention

*Foil*—Mascia, Columbia; Malone, Seton Hall; Monzeglio, N. Y. U.; Rudolph, Rutgers; Curtis, Washington; Grover, William and Mary; Malik, Illinois.

*Sabre*—Goldring, Lafayette; Deladrier, St. John's; Ringi, Panzer; Marzulli, Seton Hall; Molkup, Chicago; Schmidt, Yale; Greenbaum, Pennsylvania.

*Epee*—Hauser, Case; Hausman, Yale; Hampe, Wisconsin; Brua, Harvard; Kent, Cornell; Smernoff, North Carolina; Keeler, Navy; Metzger, Columbia.

The squad of 40 men is made up as follows: Seton Hall, five; St. John's, Army, Harvard, New York University, Illinois, Cornell, Navy, North Carolina, William and Mary, Columbia, and Yale, two each; and the following with one: Northwestern, C. C. N. Y., Long Island University, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Rutgers, Washington (St. Louis), Lafayette, Panzer, Chicago, Pennsylvania, Case and Wisconsin.

While Seton Hall's team, unbeaten in over 60 straight dual meets and championship competitions, undoubtedly deserves its places, there seems to have been a tendency to underrate New York University's strong squad which scored an equally impressive victory in the I. C. F. A. championships. The inferior positions given to Tom Stokes of Navy, I. C. F. A. sabre titleholder, and Marvin Metzger of Columbia, epee runner-up might be disputed, but on the whole the team is doubtless as competent as any that might be picked.

## A. F. L. A. Interscholastic Competition

John F. Mulligan, 18-year-old senior from the James Madison High School in New York City, won the annual interscholastic individual foil competition, sponsored by the New York Metropolitan Committee of the A. F. L. A. This competition was held at the Washington Irving High School on May 17th and attracted 44 schoolboy competitors from New York City and vicinity.

Mulligan swept through the eight-boy final round undefeated with only 7 touches made against him, his opponent scoring more than twice. He had just previously won the P. S. A. L. individual foil crown and had also taken first place in that same organization's important award for best fencing form, making him the first boy to take all three firsts.

Frank Paniatowski of Eastern District High School placed second with six wins and one loss, while John Marzulli of Barringer High School (N. J.) was third on touches over David Ozarow of Bayside High School after both boys had tied with four wins and three losses each.

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### ST. LOUIS

Fencing his way through seven bouts without a defeat, William Chiprin won the men's open foil tournament. Second place went to Capt. Fred Seibert, third to Alexander Solomon. Tracy Barnes, last year's victor, did not defend his title.

In her second season of competitive fencing, Miss May Brady took the honors in the women's open foil meet. Finishing second and third were Miss Edna Gustavson and Miss Vera Martin.

Robert Miller captured the sabre honors, decisively defeating Lon Hocker and Charles Morgan, who placed second and third respectively. Some weeks later Miller collected his second title of the season by winning the men's three-weapon individual meet. Only one touch behind him, Capt. Fred Seibert was second, while Lon Hocker finished third.

First place in the men's open epee tournament went to Capt. Fred Seibert, who did not lose a bout and was only touched twice throughout the competition. Robert Miller took second place, and James Steere third.

The Kiwanis women's foil team trophy was captured by a Y. W. C. A. team composed of Miss Ervilla Droll, Miss Lucille Haenni and Miss Olivia Mewes. This same trio, competing as the St. Louis Fencers, was defeated in the women's open foil team meet by the Salle d'Armes Vical team of Misses Brady, Agricola and Gustavson. The Vical fencers took the title.

Four teams entered the women's novice foil competition, which was won by the Y. W. C. A. second trio—Misses Haenni, Kickham and Michael.

Tied for first place, Miss Barbara Ellison defeated Miss Dorothy Kickham 4-1 to win the women's novice foil meet. Third place went to Miss Dell Dawson, who had previously captured the women's prep tournament. In the prep competition Miss Irmgard Mahling placed second and Miss Dorothy Petrov third.

## ILLINOIS

Sweeping first, second and third place in both the men's and women's foil, the Green Briar fencing teams won the Chicago Park District tournament this year for the first time. Limited to foil only, the competition was held on February 13 and 14.

Three fencing exhibitions were staged in Chicago during the spring. On the evenings of March 20 and 21, Miss Shirley Logan, Miss Patsy Walsh, Eugene Williams, Hanns Fischer and Gordon Groh demonstrated with three weapons before several hundred spectators at Green Briar Park. Another exhibition was presented by the Lincoln Belmont Y. M. C. A. on April 24, with Miss Logan, Miss Walsh, Williams, Fischer, Groh and Jerry Mau competing. The feature of the evening was the sabre show by the girls, who fenced without protection.

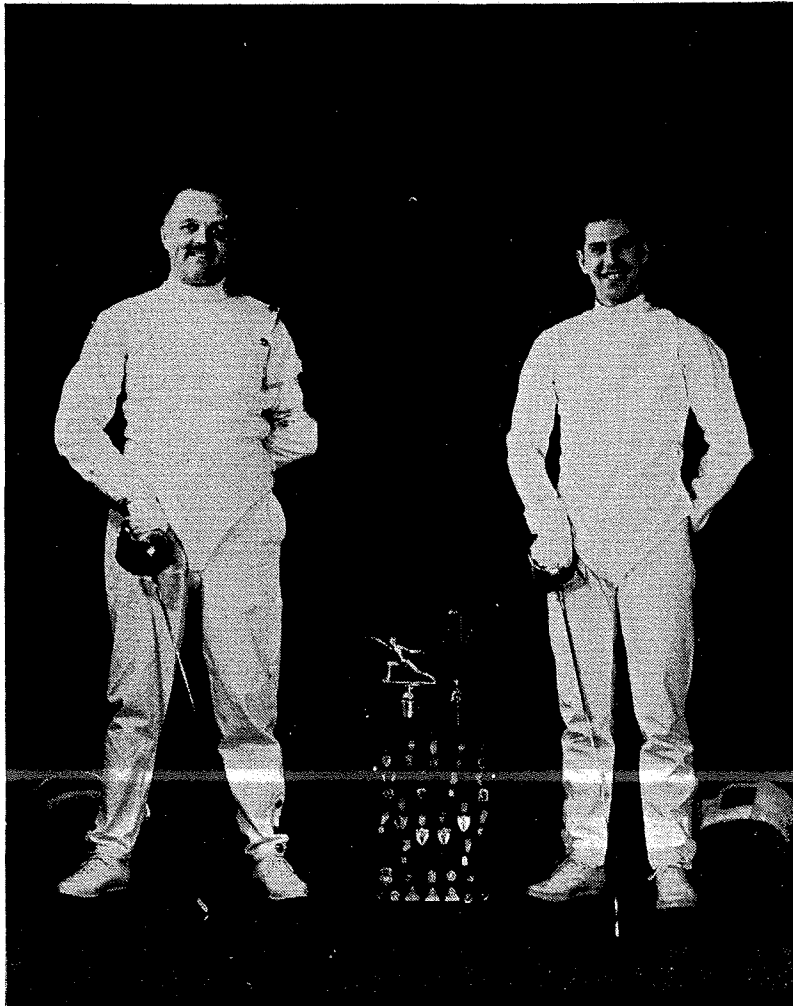
Warren Huguélet, formerly a member of the Salle d'Armes Henry IV in New York and now with the

U. S. Army at Fort Knox, Ky., won the Illinois division epee championship over a top-flight field that included National Champion Fred Siebert and last year's champion, Loyal Tingley. Huguélet went through the six-man finals with only one defeat, that a 3-1 loss to Charles Corbett. After defeating Capt. Siebert 3-0 and Tingley 3-1, he outpointed Tingley again 3-0 in a fence-off for first place.

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## LONG ISLAND

Miss Mildred Stewart of the Fencer's Club captured first place in the qualifying round for the women's national foil championships. The three other fencers to qualify were Miss Ruth Maxwell, Hofstra College; Miss Dorothy Wahl, Fencer's Club; and Miss Henrietta Brackley, Hofstra College, who finished in that order. There were seven entries in the competition, which was held at Hofstra College on April 1.



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## NEW JERSEY

National Champion Helena Mroczkowska won six straight bouts on the final strip to take the Scafati Trophy open women's foil competition at the Salle Scafati on March 7. Miss Mroczkowska defeated Mildred Stewart, last year's winner, in the final bout to decide the competition. Miss Stewart was second with five wins and one loss, and Aida Prencipe of the Salle Messineo, Washington, third. Fourteen competitors took part.

Douglas Gerard of the Salle Santelli won the N. J. State open sabre championship and qualifying round for the national championship on March 30 at the Salle Scafati, after a fence-off with Rudolph Ozol of the New York Athletic Club. Dean Cetrulo, Salle Santelli, took third place over Dr. James Flynn, N. Y. A. C., after a count of touches, each with three wins and two losses. Six competitors entered the competition.

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## WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Jarmila Vokral of Philadelphia won the invitation women's fencing meet sponsored by the Salla Messineo and held at George Washington University on April 12. Second place went to Miss Aida Prencipe, Salla Messineo; and Miss L. Ann Pratt of Washington took third after a fence-off. There were ten contestants.

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### THE NEW RULES BOOK Sidelights and Comments

(Continued from page 12)

robin. As I mentioned before, we tried something of this sort in 1938, and—although the contestants generally did not like it—it was unquestionably popular with the spectators. Some minor details for improvement over the 1938 plan are these: (A) Instead of qualifying both finalists out of a single large semi-final pool, qualify the top man from each of two semi-finals. (B) Instead of a 10-touch final in all weapons (with or without the requirement of a two-touch margin for victory), schedule a final match for two regular bouts out of three—something like the tennis idea of two sets out of three. This last suggestion is probably a good one, but the whole idea must stand or fall on the merits of the final match between two fencers only.

(V) Along similar lines, but worthy of separate classification, is a plan which seems to prevail in certain South American countries. It is substantially the Davis Cup plan applied to individual fencing events. The holder of the championship is not required to "play through." The aspirants for the title enter the regular annual competition, and the winner becomes the recognized "Challenger." The National Champion and the Challenger then meet in a championship match. A similar idea, although on a round-robin basis, would be to limit the championship competition to former national champions plus the Challenger of the particular year, determined as above.

I think this rounds out the more important alternatives to our present rules. Would you like to see any of these tried? If so, let the Board of Governors know your wishes, and if enough think as you do, you may be sure they will be carried out.

## PHILADELPHIA

Penn Charter School captured the three-weapon championship at the Pennsylvania interscholastic fencing meet on March 14, winning first place in team epee and second in foil, and sabre. The team foil championship went to Haverford School, the sabre to Valley Forge Military Academy.

Joseph Carrion, V. F. M. A., won the individual foils honors, while Werner Zimmermann and Joseph Birdsell, both of Penn Charter, took first place in sabre and epee respectively. The meet was held on the Penn Charter strips.

In a sabre team competition the Haverford Fencer's Club placed first, with the Philadelphia Fencer's Club and the Triangle F. C. finishing in that order.

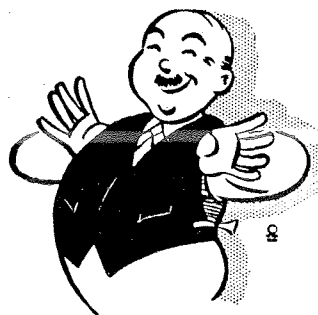
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## A. F. L. A. COMPETITIONS IN N. Y. C.

(Continued from page 13)

ty-one competed in the test. Edouard Guirola, Salle Santelli, and Leo Nunes, N. Y. A. C., led the first strip with four victories apiece. Also qualifying were Miguel A. de Capriles, Salle Santelli, and Marvin Metzger, Columbia, with Frank Goodfellow, Santelli, as alternate. Kevis Kapner, Salle Santelli, led the second strip with four victories, followed by Jose de Capriles, Santelli; Henrique Santos, N. Y. A. C., and Wallace Goldsmith of the same club. Peter O'Connor, Greco, who qualified as alternate from the second strip, defeated Goodfellow in a fence-off to determine the first alternate.

The Salle Santelli and the New York Athletic Club again dominated the qualifying lists in the sabre preliminary to the national championship, the former qualifying three men and the latter five. On the first strip, the leaders were Miguel A. de Capriles and George V. Worth, Santelli, and Nickolas Muray and Ralph Marson, N. Y. A. C. On the second strip, the winners were Dr. Tibor Nyilas, Santelli, and three A. C. men: Dr. Ervin Acel, Dr. John R. Huffman and Dr. Angelo Treves. First alternate is Jack Gorlin, Santelli.



OUR FIRST 20 PAGE ISSUE