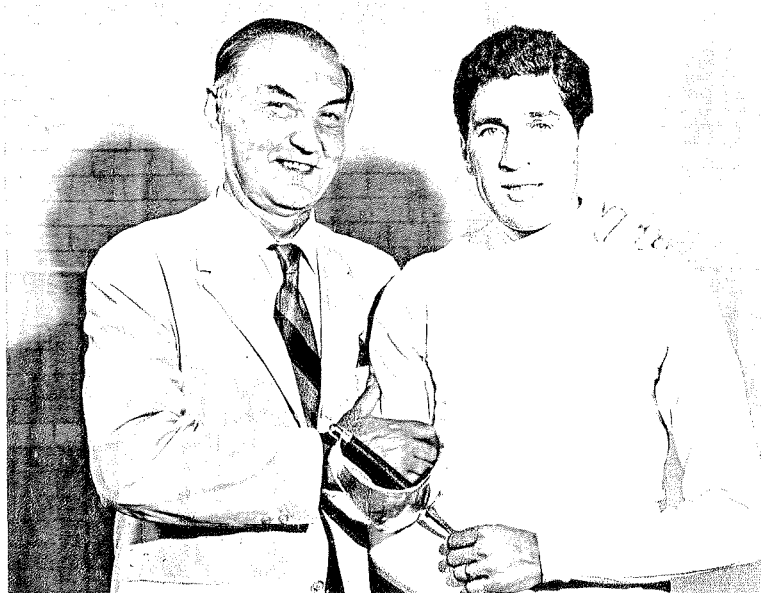


American **F***encing*



ALEX ORBAN — SABRE CHAMPION



Alex Orban, five times United States saber champion with Csaba Elthes, his coach at an Olympic team training session held this summer at Hunter College in New York.

(see page 13)

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

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MUNICH 1972

The Olympic Games as we knew it are over. The Worldwide gathering of youth to match skills, strength and to foster friendship and good will among the people of the World regardless of color, religion or National origin came to an abrupt halt. The sports arenas were taken over by politics.

Those of us who are old fashioned and still believe in ideals are in the minority. The Olympics became the sounding board for political propaganda, racist demonstrations, blackmail and now political murder of the innocent cream of the youth of a small nation struggling to survive.

Who is to blame? International and National Olympic Committees, Officials, Coaches, and some athletes are all at fault one way or other. Everybody seems to want to pass the buck and put the blame on someone else. Sense of values are changing all over the World and not for the better. I wish I knew what the solution is. One thing seems to be certain—we will never again see the carefree, friendly Games that I had the pleasure, indeed the honor of being part of from 1948 to 1972. This is a great loss not only to sport but to decent people all over the World.

What was done can not be undone. Let us hope that this tragedy will teach us that violence creates more violence and in the end solves nothing. Let us hope that we will resolve to find a way when all people, though not agreeing, at least can live together and sport, friendship, comraderie will bring youth and adults together again under the five circles of the Olympic Flag. Let us remember what they stand for.

(Ed. Note: The events at the Munich Olympics have caused a great many people to re-think their attitude toward the Games. The continuation of the Olympic Games depends upon popular support throughout the entire world. We received the above thoughts from George Worth, who competed with distinction on U.S. saber teams in four Olympics and officiated in eight. We felt that his feelings would be most appropriate to share with our readers as an editorial.)

1972 OLYMPIC TEAM REPORTS; Paul Apostol Reaches Semi Final in Sabre Epee Team Advances to Round of Te

Captain's Report
by Alan Miles Ruben

SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF TEAM

In accordance with previously adopted policy the first four fencers in each weapon were chosen solely on the basis of their points earned in National and Sectional Competitions over a two year period. In women's foil there appeared to be no reason to select the fifth member of the team on any basis other than points earned. However, choosing the fifth man in foil, epee and sabre was not that simple. Here, in the opinion of the Committee, a fencer other than the fifth highest point holder in each weapon was judged to be able to make a stronger contribution to the performance of the team. The decisions were reached only after hours of discussion and deliberation. In foil the nod went to John Nonna over Al Davis primarily because it was felt that Nonna's game was still improving and had not yet peaked and we could therefore expect a superior result at the time of the games. Nonna had a record of achievement in significant European tournaments during the 1971-1972 season. And, his ability to reach the final round in two weapons at the National Championship was not overlooked.

In epee the Committee selected Steve Netburn, over both Nonna and Brooke Makler.

Finally, in sabre the appointment went to Al Morales over Csaba Gall. Morales, eighth in the Mexico City Olympics under a direct elimination system, was beginning to recapture his old form and the Committee believed that given serious training between the time of the National Championship and Olympic Games he would produce more vic-

tories.

Immediately following the National Championships we opened our training in New York City under the direction of Olympic coaches, Michel Alaux and Elthes. Training practice sessions at the New York Athletic Club, the Club and Hunter College in New York City. A series of weekend competitions were organized. These proved highly successful and should be the basis of preparing national teams in the future.

With the assistance of written reports from our coaches and armourer, I will be considering the individual competitors for the 1972 Olympic Fencing Team.

One thing can be said categorically: each member of the team — each member was ed vigorously to prepare for competition. A single team member took his part at the Games as a vacation or a reward for past achievement. The spirit to do it in Munich which animated the entire team was felt no less by our four alternate members. I consider Messrs. Davis, Gall and Miss Armstrong to be members of the 1972 Olympic Fencing Team.

Between August 21st and 29th, 1972, of the opening foil event, we had practice which usually lasted thru the morning and well into the afternoon. Our coaches did not spare themselves in giving us lessons. Our armourer Star worked particularly with members of the epee and sabre teams and Lajos Csizsar worked with all of our practice sessions and he measurably to lighten what would be an impossible burden upon the team. I feel that the U.S.O.C. and its coaches that the U.S.O.C. and its

We experienced considerable difficulties getting our electrical weapons past F.I.E. inspection. Those members of the team who had purchased weapons on their own and had not had them checked out in advance by our armourer created the most problems. The situation was compounded because of the large number of blades which broke or otherwise failed to function during our practices. We also experienced some rejections of vests which did not conform to F.I.E. specifications. However, thanks to a heroic effort by our armourer and the generosity of U.S.O.C. in making additional monies to purchase equipment available to us, we were not significantly disadvantaged.

This was a dedicated team. It was not necessary to lay down ground rules as to curfew, diet, attendance at practice sessions or general demeanor. Every member of the team had signed a pledge to adhere to regulations laid down by the captain, understood the constraints under which we would have to live at Olympic Village and the reasons for them.

I selected a team leader in each weapon charged with responsibility for seeing to it that the five members of his team got to their practice sessions on time, were in bed at reasonable hours and had adequate opportunity to fence with competitors from other countries as part of their preparation. Jim Melcher in Epee, Carl Borack in Foil, Anthony Keane in Sabre and Harriet King for the women all handled their assignments creditably.

The burdensome logistical problems were handled by our manager Bill Latzko. We had no major problems with support services.

FOIL

International foil fencing is very physical and very fast. It was rare for a phrase to go beyond a counter-riposte. The actions tended to be very simple, superbly executed in the right tempo. The only regularly successful counter-time actions involved blade control.

In the individual foil only Bert Freeman was able to win a bout as he made it to the second round.

In the foil team event we drew the Soviet

Union and Japan. We lost to both nations and were thus eliminated in the first round.

Our foil team did not fence badly judged by domestic standards. But we were unable to hold our own against the best foreign fencers. We cannot match them in training or experience. Inevitably, therefore we are unable to match them in technique and touches.

WOMEN'S FOIL

Only Ruth White emerged to the second round where she, too, was eliminated. Ruth simply needs a great deal more experience and more maturity to utilize her undoubted ability effectively.

The women fenced with spirit in the opening pool of the team event against Italy, West Germany and Poland. We lost a heart-breaker to Poland, 8-8 as White took 3, King and Adamovich won 2 and Clovis won 1. Against Italy White took 3, Adamovich took 2 and King added 1. O'Donnell lost 4. The team was eliminated when it lost to West Germany 9-2.

The level of fencing in the women's event has unquestionably improved in comparison with Mexico City. The tolerance of our own directors of the stop thrust in domestic competition has encouraged the development of this habit among our women fencers. In international competition the counter attack which does not deviate the opponent's blade will lose virtually every time against even what seems to be a slow attack made from out of distance.

SABRE

In the individual competition Orban, Morales and Apostol advanced to the quarter final round for us, an outstanding result. At this point, Apostol and Morales drew the same pool; as it turned out it was Paul's victory over Morales in the initial bout of the pool which earned him promotion to the semi-finals. In the semi-final round Paul had two victories including a 5-1 decision over Kovacs of Hungary. The ultimate bout of the pool matched Sidiak of the Soviet Union against Bonissent of France. Sidiak, the ultimate champion, had already qualified for the six-man final. A victory over Bonissent

would have put Paul into the final on touch ratio. In what appeared to be a gift of a bout, Sidiak lost 5-4 and Paul was eliminated.

In the team event we drew Cuba and France for the opening round. Against Cuba the quartet of Orban, Apostol, Morales and Dow got off to a bad start and at one point were behind four bouts.

We managed to bring the score up to 8-7 only to lose the final bout 5-4 and with it the match. The result was a bitter disappointment since the team we fielded was far stronger than that which lost to Cuba in the Pan-American Games last year. Not all of the members of the sabre team were able to bring themselves up to that fighting spirit necessary for a team victory.

EPEE

Epee drew the most numerous field and might be considered the most difficult international weapon. It is not only that major fencing powers produce outstanding epeeists, but also it seems that every country, has at least one solid internationalist.

In the opening round Melcher was eliminated when, in his last bout, he made a tactical error under the mistaken belief that he would be promoted on the basis of his touch ratio, even if he lost. In the second round, however, Masin, who was not fencing well, dropped out as did Netburn.

These disappointing results were put behind us as we started in the team event. Going with Netburn, Melcher, Masin and Makler, we first lost to East Germany 8-8 on a poor touch ratio. Melcher took three victories while Netburn and Makler garnered two apiece and Masin added one. Substituting Bozek for Masin against our next opponent in the opening pool, Romania, we won on a 8-8 bout score as the touch ratio, this time, was in our favor. Here Bozek led the team with three victories while Melcher and Netburn contributed two each and Makler one. We then went against the fourth team in our pool, Argentina, who with a "makeshift" squad of primarily foil and sabre fencers had gone down to defeat at the hands of both East Germany and Romania by identical 13-3 scores. While Ro-

mania was defeating East Germany to retain their first seed in a pool we managed to eke out a 14 over a game Argentina squad. It gave us the second spot in the pool.

As it turned out the seeding was fortunate. It matched us against Swedish fencers who had had much success in the past against the members of our team. Fortunately, we were never in content. Netburn could manage only one touch in four bouts and Melcher and Bozek one victory as we lost to Sweden.

The results of this Olympics competition were already evident at Mexico City. Relatively immobile fencer who depends on careful point control with angulation to the hand has no chance against Europeans. Approximately three quarters of all touches scored landed as a result of actions directed to the body. Shot hand or foot tended to be made for distance with lightning-like flickered in well-chosen time. A variety of actions, including a form of "prime" much in evidence. These parries are used, however, without drawing the opponent as in foil. While Melcher has a rounded game of our current roster of fencers, Scott Bozek represents hope for the future. His footwork is lively and he has the ability to quick fleche without telegraphing intention.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the current members of the team, Apostol, Scott Bozek and Ruth White have the greatest international experience in the years ahead. They should be encouraged in their training and given preferential financial assistance to participate in international tournaments.

Looking towards 1976 and the Olympics, it seems likely that we should develop ten or twelve new fencers should therefore put the bulk of our resources into training talented youngsters.

Towards this end I would recommend the creation of an Olympic Fencing

perhaps 12 fencers in each weapon. These 12 would be selected on the basis of current performance. Members should be added or dropped according to their achievements. The squad should be brought together at regular intervals for competition and intensive training. Travel expense for this purpose will have to be sought from Olympic House.

Ultimately we may have to adopt the "national coach" scheme, so effectively utilized in Great Britain.

With all the emphasis upon physical condition and the acquisition of technique the use of the "head" has been neglected. We shall have to reemphasize both strategy and tactics. Repeatedly, our fencers in each weapon would move to commanding leads, as much as 4-0, and yet manage to lose the bout. Our opponents were able to change their games and adjust their styles. We were not able to successfully counter.

International officiating has not improved. There is reason to believe that bias exists particularly when a judge or director from one Eastern European country officiates in a match involving another Eastern European country. Our best hope in this area lies in developing our own core of competent presidents of jury in whose ability the F.I.E. will have confidence so that they will be regularly used in more than just the preliminary rounds of a major tournament. It appears that our fencers will less likely be the victims of poor officiating if the judges know that the teams from their own countries will be subject to the calls of an American director and jury.

Our fencers are still very much amateurs. For most other nations fencing is the only business-of their competitors. They are expected to attend ten practice sessions a week. They are able to spend several months at a training camp immediately prior to the Games. They are given subsidies to participate throughout the year in European tournaments. We can never hope to match this kind of preparation. And, if it is true that a good professional will almost always beat a good amateur, then we must be prepared to live with defeat. Yet, pride, if nothing

else; a desire for excellence, if nothing else, must lead us to continue to try to do our best. And, there is always the hope that every once in a while a gifted fencer will have a "good day" and so score a breakthrough which makes all of the effort worthwhile.

TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT by William J. Latzko

"How were the Olympics?" is the question most people ask. When I say, "Exciting", most people assume that I refer to the sad events of September 5. But that is not what I mean. It was truly exciting to be part of a great Team.

"How did the Team do?" is the next question. For my money the Team did very well. It is true that we won no medals, but we came very close. Paul Apostol missed getting into the saber finals, and a crack at the medal, only by the fact that the Russian, Sidiak, lost to the Frenchman, Bonissent, in his last bout. An unusual result which caused the audience to boo, the director to stop the bout and tell Sidiak to fence more strongly, and the German Newspapers to question whether that bout was thrown. Whatever view one takes, Paul ended up 8th in the world; not a bad result.

Raw scores do not tell the whole story. The hours of training at Hunter College, at the Washington D.C. assembly and in Munich seemed well worth the while in light of the Team's performance at the Games. The Epee Team, for instance, started ranked 16th. By virtue of its victory over Rumania and Argentina they became 10th. Only two victories less by Rumania (or two more by us) would have achieved 5th place. Unfortunately, the Epee Team's successes in the first round seems to have escaped the attention of the press.

The Team was well equipped and well prepared. Aside from the Olympic Coaches, Michel Alaux and Chaba Elthes, we had the assistance of Lajos Csiszar in coaching.

CORRECTION

In our Olympic capsule in our last issue, the name of Dr. Tibor Nyilas was inadvertently omitted from the list of U.S. Olympic officials.



THE RESULTS

(The numbers in parenthesis represent the international rank achieved as a result of the Olympics)

FOIL: Borack, Davis, Freeman, Nonna, Simmons.
Individual results: Borack (47) and Nonna (51) went out in the first round; Freeman (25) went out in the 1/4-final.

1. Woyda (Pol), 2. Dr. Kamuti (Hun), 3. Noel (Fra), 4. Tiu (Rum), 5. Denissov (Urs), 6. Dabrowski (Pol)

Team: USA ranked 11. Japan d. USA 12-4 (Nonna 3, Simmons 1, Borack, Freeman); Russia d. USA 12-4 (Freeman 2, Simmons 2, Nonna, Davis)

1. Poland 2. Russia 3. France 4. Hungary 5. Germany 6. Japan

LADIES' FOIL: Adamovich, Clovis, King, O'Donnell, White

Individual results: King (34) and O'Donnell (40) went out in the first round; White (23) went out in the 1/4-final.

1. Ragno (Ita), 2. Bobis (Hun), 3. Gorokhava (Urs), 4. Demaille (Fra), 5. Belova (Urs), 6. Palm (Swe)

Team: USA ranked 8. Poland d. USA 8-8 (47-43 touches) White 3, Clovis 1, Adamovich 2, King 2; Italy d. USA 10-6 (White 3, Adamovich 2, King 1, O'Donnell); Germany d. USA 9-2 (King 1, White 1, Adamovich, Clovis)

1. Russia 2. Hungary 3. Rumania 4. Italy 5. Germany 6. France

SABER: Apostol, Dow, Keane, Morales, Orban

Individual results: Orban (16) and Morales (21) went out in the 1/4-finals. Apostol (8) went out in the 1/2-final.

1. Sidiak (Urs), 2. Maroth (Hun), 3. Nazlymov (Urs), 4. Maffei (Ita), 5. Bonissent (Fra), 6. Kovacs (Hun)

Team: USA ranked 9. Cuba d. USA 9-7 (Apostol 2, Orban 2, Morales 2, Dow 1); France d. USA 11-5 (Apostol 2, Orban 2, Dow 1, Morales)

1. Italy 2. Russia 3. Hungary 4. Rumania 5. Poland 6. Cuba

EPEE: Bozek, Makler, Masin, Melcher, Netburn
Individual results: Melcher (50) went out in the first round. Netburn (30) and Masin (33) went out in the 1/4-final.

1. Fenyvesi (Hun), 2. Ladagallerie (Fra), 3. Kulcsar (Hun), 4. Pongratz (Rum), 5. Edling (Swe), 6. Brodin (Fra)

Team: USA ranked 10 (up from 16). East Germany d. USA 8-8 (65-61 touches) (Melcher 3, Netburn 2, Makler 2, Masin 1); USA d. Rumania 8-8 (64-59 touches) (Bozek 3, Netburn 2, Melcher 2, Makler 1); USA d. Argentina 14-2 (Melcher 4, Netburn 4, Makler 3, Bozek 3); Sweden d. USA 9-2.

1. Hungary 2. Switzerland 3. Russia 4. France

AFLA SECRETARY'S NOT

1. Magazine Privilege

In order to avoid a repetition mailing list problems and keep our continuously informed, this Nov. I has been sent to members whose ship expired on August 31, 197; the renewal dues for these members the national secretary by December however, they will not receive the issue. If you are in doubt about your contact your division secretary or tional office.

2. Address Changes

Our post office mailing procedure include the forwarding or return delivered magazines. If your address record is incomplete or in error the office will not know about it until first class mailing. Please contact have reason to believe our record address may be wrong. If you are your address, it must reach the secretary before the first day of aazine issue month. For example, time for the Jan.-Feb. issue, a change be received before January 1.

3. Rules Books

In an attempt to reduce the leaerating deficit, the Rules Books have put on a self sustaining basis. That that when new books are printed, be sold rather than distributed from members. Meanwhile, we have been obtain a small supply of 1970 books are being sold to individuals only and are not being sent automatically new members.

FENCING JOURNAL

The Journal of the British Association of Fencing, the FENCING MASTER, available in the U.S. through the CTC—Leon Paul, Box 3164, California, 90510. Articles, pictures happily considered for publication. FENCING MASTER is distributed nationally and contains much interesting and lively material. A one year subscription is \$3.95 (sea mail) and \$7.95 (Two and three year subscriptions available.

From The President

by Steve Sobel



AMERICAN FENCING AFLA ORGAN? FREE INDEPENDENT PRESS? PUBLIC RELATIONS IMAGE?

American Fencing is stated to be the official organ of the AFLA. It is dedicated to the memory of Jose de Capriles, who, as Editor for many years, insisted that the magazine be specifically open for comment and criticism by fencers with respect to the management of the AFLA or any other fencing organization. As official organ of the AFLA, the magazine would print AFLA notices without alteration, but the remaining material would be determined by the Editor subject only to broad policy guide lines, which in the past have been the requirements that opinions be signed, and that criticism be leveled at policies or actions and not at the person of an official or fencer.

Recently, an isolated incident reported in a prior issue of American Fencing was quoted out of context to support conclusions extremely damaging to the image of fencing. An introduction "American Fencing stated . . ." was added to provide credibility to an otherwise appalling remark. Its appearance just prior to the departure of the U. S. Olympic Fencing team for Munich in what purported to be a guidebook for all sports of the Olympics was extremely unfortunate.

How do we strike a compromise? How do we provide a forum for discussion and criticism without kindling the fires of outsiders who seek supporting evidence to attack our sport? How does one publication serve effectively in three conflicting capacities?

The answers to these crucial questions are clear. First, authors must exercise discretion, evaluate the conflicting policies, and provide comments and criticism which are written carefully, clearly and in good taste.

Second, the Editor must have the respect of the administration and of the fencers, since he has the awesome responsibility to edit irresponsible material while at the same time not serving as a censor. In addition, he must produce a magazine on time and within the budget allocated. Although in most jobs 99% perfection is a good average, the editor must be 100% perfect since the 1% error will be magnified out of proportion, while the rest of the magazine will be overlooked.

American Fencing is vital and serves many purposes. As the official organ of the AFLA it must communicate notices, news, and policies, and it must do this on time. As an independent press it must be open for articles, criticism and other material. As the public image of fencing it must be attractive as well as informative, and present the sport of fencing in a favorable light to other sports, other nations, and other organizations. To survive in this noble tradition requires the cooperation of all — the staff, the AFLA, and the fencers. We must continue to serve American Fencing, and it will continue to serve us.



OLYMPIC TELEVISION COVERAGE— WHERE WAS FENCING

If you are one of the many fencers who would like to write a letter expressing your disappointment about the failure of ABC to televise fencing events as part of their elaborate television coverage of the Olympics, the person to write to is Mr. Elton Roule, President; WABC-TV 1330 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N. Y.

NATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following nominating committee was elected at the annual meeting of the AFLA: Barbi Lare, Chairman; Dan Lyons, Joseph Dabbs, Tom Bickley, Carla Richards, Jan Romary, Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, Gerri Baumgart. The function of this committee will be to select candidates for national office and present a slate to the Secretary of the AFLA before February 1st. As the league is presently organized there are 12 national officers: President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Presidents from each of the 8 Sections. Among the by-law changes being worked on presently is one which would reduce this number to 6 by adding 2 new Vice-Presidents (one for foreign affairs and one for domestic affairs) and removing the Vice-Presidential designation from the Sectional Chairmen (who would still be members of the National Board of Directors).

NEW MID WEST VP

Bill Goering has resigned from his elected post as Mid West VP and has been replaced by Bill Seiller of Louisville, Kentucky, by a vote of the National Board of Directors at its meeting of Sept. 30, 1972.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the AFLA consists of Steve Sobel, President, Irwin Bernstein, Bill Goering, Peter Tishman, Emily Johnson, Chaba Pallaghy, and Michael DeCicco, with Ed Zeisig and Ralph Goldstein ex officio.

FIND-A-FENCER by Irwin Bernstein

The National Office is instituting service to members called "FINDER". Under this procedure, the Secretary will use the AFLA's merits to answer inquiries from members about the addresses of other fencers. How it works:

1. If you are located in an area where fencing is not well established or you have moved to a new place and don't know the local centers are, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the AFLA: Irwin Bernstein, 249 Eton Place, 1 N.J. 07090 and ask him to FINDER for you. In addition to your own town, include the names and zip codes of a few neighboring towns as well. The Secretary will send you information on local centers and if there are none listed, will send you the names of other members of the AFLA in the zip code localities listed.

2. If you are interested in reestablishing contact with your fencing friends, list their current address, follow the procedure and, if they are on the list, their address will be sent to you.

MAC GARRET

Mac Garret, formerly coach at University of Illinois is now coaching at Perdue University. His new address is: Maxwell R. Gammeter Road, Apt. 7, State College, NC 28701.

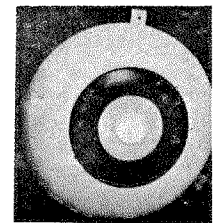
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1972 NATIONALS BOUT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Carla-Mae Richards

Once the fencers don their uniforms and report to their strips on opening day of the Nationals there is only one important area left, beyond the frills and special services, — the organization of the fencing events. And comes the moment of truth for the Bout Committee — did they do their homework and did they truly understand the rules for running the Nationals with its own special quirks and hidden problems? The Rules Book tells some of the things that must be done at the Nationals and leaves a great deal to interpretation by those running the events. One of the greatest problems faced all year was determining a consistent way to run events, acceptable for the Nationals and the fencers. And although we detailed the method for running every event we still found one grey area — which has more importance after the first round — division or club mates? It was finally resolved but too late to help some fencers. I would like to see it aired fully before the next Nationals and to incorporate into the Rules in simple English if clubmates should be separated as much as possible.

In the first round our criteria were: National rankings, Sectional performances, Divisional qualifying results and separation of Division mates. Thereon the seeding was based on the **F.I.E. indicator value** as the primary criteria, then no more than two from the same previous pool; and finally separation of club mates. In this year's Nationals we did not aggregate the indicator values from the second round on — as done last year — but used values for each round for next round only according to **current F.I.E.** practice. There is no doubt but that one method should be determined for the Nationals which should be used each year. Otherwise, it should be published at the beginning of the season so Divisions can adopt that method for the fencers to experience in their own events during the season.

We decided early in the year that we would have a six-man final for each event, again, a common practice in international

tournaments, including the Olympics. It was an advantage with the finals held in Bentley's Lindsay Auditorium as we were able to draw an audience as well as press media to attend the fencing. This worked quite well especially for the first final, men's foil, where the Auditorium filled almost to capacity (500-600). The audience did not get bored with the six-man final completed with two hours. It was also successful for the epee finals at which personnel from three local T.V. stations taped much of the fencing as well as the concluding presentations. The local CBS station showed ten minutes of the epee finals the Monday after the Nationals, July 10th, at 7:30 P.M. and the NBC station presented highlights on its news program during the week. As a matter of fact, we were told that a number of NBC affiliates thru-out the country used their fencing film for local presentation. There was local press coverage every day and all results were sent over the wire services; we have seen clippings from many parts of the country. For all of this news coverage we are wholly indebted to Letter-Men, Inc. and George Kooyoomjian for his tireless efforts on our behalf. Jay Horwitz, the AFLA PR. official, sent stories and results to the New York Times and other services every day of the Nationals.

Another innovation for this year's Nationals was scheduling the semi-finals and finals for the second day of each event. Recommended at last year's annual meeting it was well worth it, considering the entries in all weapons but sabre. As it was, the quarter-finals of some of the events were not completed till late at night with epee suffering the worst finish at 11 P.M. This was partly due to a long delay incurred by the Bout Committee which, though unavoidable at the time, was unforgivable in the eyes of the fencers. We apologize and hope someday the Bout Committee can find enough help so that when a meeting is required there are people available to keep the competition going.



Ties in a pool for promotion to next round were fenced off rather than determined by indicator values. **We recommend that the rules be changed and all ties be decided on indicator values only, as there is too much time consumed for fence-offs.**

It is imperative that a definitive set of guide lines be given to the host Division's Bout Committee to run the Nationals. We need consistency from year to year. This will only occur when the procedures are written for everyone to see. We should not need Bout Committee meetings during the Nationals on the interpretation of the Rules for this year. Either the Bout Committee Chairman has the authority to determine the method of the competition based on a descriptive set of rules or he doesn't, but let's not continue to sit on the fence waiting to juggle back and forth as suits each case that crops up.

Another problem that requires action by the Board of Directors is that of the National Under-19 events. With the introduction of two days per senior event it is inevitable that the Under-19 events take a **back seat** in the overall organization of the Nationals. By the time their events occur, at the end of the week, the officials are exhausted and their concentration way below par. The Under-1-9 fencers are **getting shortchanged**. We had to continually seek out good directors and found it difficult to provide as much for them as for the senior events. It is too much to ask Divisions to take on 12 events in one Nationals. **The Under-19 fencers deserve their own Nationals, completely divorced from the senior Nationals.** If they excel in their own Nationals then they should consider competing in the senior Nationals, otherwise it is not worth their expense or time. One does not gain experience by fencing in the senior Nationals — they just find out they are not ready for that level of fencing. Only four of the Under-19 fencers went beyond the preliminary rounds; Gay Jacobsen and Vincent Hurley in women's foil and Steve Danosi and Tom Losonszy in sabre. All others that fenced in the senior events were eliminated

in one of the early preliminary rounds. The Under-19 program should, in reality, be the Under-20 program, in line with the **World Under-20 Championship** with fencers chosen for the U. S. team within months of the World Championship nine months before.

Another recommendation for the future is greater use be given of the indicator values (the results of each round recorded on separate score sheets).

There will always occur problems with scores in a pool with some fencers and it is impossible to reconstruct a bout in a pool. Where so much is given by the indicator system to score as well as received it is inevitable to have an accurate score record for a pool. I would strongly suggest that these actual bout sheets be used, at least for semi-finals and finals with the signing each bout record. We discovered serious this problem could be in the finals of epee where one touch or difference between two fencers promoted to the finals and it was necessary to reconstruct from the fencers in the actual score versus the record. This would have been prevented by the bout score sheets.

Before closing this report and the 1972 Nationals into past history I would like to present some statistics for future considerations for revamping the Nationals and its qualifying system. I realize that the purpose of the Nationals is to determine the best of our best and not just a gathering of fencers from the U. S. It seems to us that the current method used for the Under-19 fencers is more appropriate for the senior events than the senior qualifying method now used with the Under-19 events. Again we are doing things backwards with the current system devised to keep the size of the Nationals small enough so that it could be added to our Nationals. We have an Under-19 program to promote fencing among youth in hopes of having strong fencers who have experienced in international events who can reach their peak. If you truly want

mote fencing with the youth then give them a larger Nationals whereby they can accurately gauge their abilities in their peer group, don't keep it so small that you automatically favor certain parts of the country and exclude the rest.

The statistics presented in the table below indicate the relative strength of the events based on our current classification system of A, B, and C fencers. The classification system itself is weak in that once a person attains a classification he never loses that classification regardless of his level of fencing years after attaining the classification. This table shows the per cent of fencers in each senior event with a particular classification. From the data we can see

SENIOR EVENT	# Competing	# Scratches # No Shows	% A	% B	% C	% U	% A+B	% C+U
Foil	125	/14	22	19	35	24	41	59
Sabre	66	2/7	21	21	40	18	42	58
Women's Foil	110	/8	20	16	34	30	36	64
Epee	122	2/2	27	22	29	22	49	51

that 60% of the fencers in all weapons but epee are C or unclassified fencers indicating that the emphasis at the Nationals is upon the inexperienced fencer and not on the best of the country. We have also shown the number of registered fencers and actual number competing in each event with two categories: those withdrawing from the event and those who simply did not appear at their assigned strips — the "no-shows".

And so we bid Farewell to the 1972 Nationals and thank everyone, fencers and officials, for helping us do a good job. And we hope that we will all learn from the problems of this Nationals to improve the sport for future Nationals.

ALEX ORBAN

by Dan Lyons

For four years in a row, the name of Alex Orban has led the list of U. S. saber fencers. Now five time National Champion, Alex has also been one of the most successful U. S. fencers in the international field. Several firsts for an American have been scored by Alex, including winning the World Military Championship at Vienna in 1963 (along with the team of Mike Dasaro and Al Morales) and an outstanding victory at the Warsaw International in 1968, one of the premier fencing events on the fencing calendar.

Alex came to the United States in 1957 at the age of eighteen, after fencing in Hungary for four years. Just as many begin here, he learned his fundamentals in a group course, and liked it so well that he joined the Medosz Club in Budapest. Within two years he began the climb upward taking second in the Hungarian Junior Championships (under 20) in 1955, fourth in the Balaton Tournament in 1956, and finally reaching first class ranking just prior to leaving for the United States. He'll never forget the Balaton Tournament, because it was won by Csaba Elthes, who has since become one of our U. S. Olympic coaches.

Coming to Los Angeles, he studied with Dr. Ferenc Zold and started his U. S. record by winning the Southern California Championships in 1957 and the Pacific Coast Championships in 1959 and 1960. After a hitch in the U. S. Army Alex came to the New York Athletic Club in 1964 and in the next eight years won our National Championship five times. He also finished second, and fourth and fifth the other three times. In the Mexico Olympics he was a semi-finalist and in Munich he made to quarter finals.

Alex works as an automobile salesman and says that his job keeps him so busy that he can't train more than once a week as a rule. Married three years ago to a gorgeous Brazilian girl, Teresa, he and his wife have a ten month old daughter, Alexandra. A fine athlete, his hobbies include travel, dancing, and just plain going shopping.

His ambition is to fence in more international meets and "go for the gold".

GREEN GATOR '72

by Michael Robinson

Michael Robinson, President of the Fencers extends his thanks to all participants in the 1972 Green Gator which held earlier this year.

Special appreciation goes to directors and armors who spent many hours to make the Green Gator a success. The results are:

Women's Foil: 1. Sophie Trett, Unatt.; 2. Dobloug, Ft. Lauderdale F.S.; 3. Pam Cu A.O.F.C.

Foil: 1. Bob Neal, Eckerd College (F.P.C.); 2. Steinman, Fla. State Univ.; 3. Larry I Atlanta, Ga.

Sabre: 1. Dean Alexander, Miami; 2. Jack man, Fla. State Univ.; 3. Jan Delaney State Univ.

Epee: 1. Weldon Vasek, Ft. Lauderdale F. John Gordon, Alabama; 3. John Spinning, lanta, Ga.

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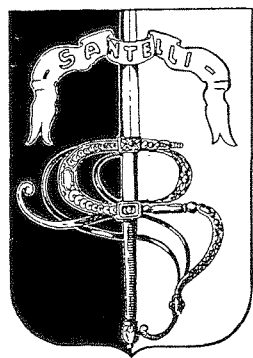
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Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



Last May the F.I.E. adopted quite a few rule changes dealing with electrical weapons. An important part now sets penalties for defective weapons. These rules apply to the 1972 Olympics and will appear in the new edition of the F.I.E. rule book, expected shortly. From there they go into English translation and we'll all be living with them for a long time to come.

From now on, if you show up on a strip with a defective weapon, no matter what the cause, whether a preliminary inspection has been held or not, that weapon will be confiscated for (re) inspection and repair — at your expense, and you will be given a warning that holds through the pool, or team match, or direct elimination bouts. Do it again and it's a touch against, every time. (I say weapons, but the rule applies to all a fencer's personal equipment: body cord, jacket, etc.)

There are tougher penalties for when your equipment doesn't have the inspection marks it should, or when — perish the thought — there seems evidence of hanky-panky. The only way you're off the hook with a piece of defective equipment is if the trouble shows up after a bout has started. Obviously it's going to be more important than ever to keep foil springs in good condition and to check epee point travel precisely (two areas where drift off specification is very common). Fencers had better get used to handling some regular maintenance for themselves.

There is a viewpoint — which I share — that holds that anyone showing up for a competition with unmaintained weapons, etc., is showing both bad manners and bad sportsmanship. As it used to be, in such a case, if there was an inspection, your cluck equipment would be rejected and require

last minute repairs. If there wasn't any (or very much) inspection before you went on the strip, then you held up the competition for everybody while your foils or epees were one after another flunked by the weight or shim tests. With the new rules, however, you won't get away with that any more. As I read them, you could show up with a bag full of defective foils and lose your first bout without ever crossing blades: one warning and then one penalty touch for each defective weapon presented!

All this is by way of prelude to announcing a regular column or feature or what-you-call-it on equipment repair and maintenance that your editors have been twisting my arm to undertake. I plan to cover things both simple and complicated, in no particular order, and I'll welcome inquiries from readers on specific or general points. Those that will make a column, I'll answer here. Since I'm feeling brave right now, I'll also volunteer to field questions by mail as long as my strength holds out.

One parting hint for now: those of you who still have around a copy of the old 1965 AFLA Manual, hang on to it. The section on electrical equipment (especially the part on weapons, pp. 206-215) is still useful. If you had it and threw it away, shame on you. If you never had it, you were born too late, and this column will try to be your salvation.

AFLA PINS

The popular AFLA shield pin with clutch back is available from the Secretary at \$1.00 each or \$35.00 for 50. The sword pins are out of stock and will not be available for an indefinite period. A full listing of emblems will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

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photo by Seligson

Jay Horwitz, AFLA publicity writer, at his trusty typewriter.

JAY HORWITZ

by Jeffrey Tishman

In response to numerous suggestions by fencers for more publicity for our sport, the AFLA's Executive Board decided to take concrete action and hire a professional public relations expert, Jay Horwitz of the New York University News Bureau.

Signed up by the league during the summer of 1971, Jay's first assignment was to obtain better than usual media coverage of the members of the Pan-American Team. He accomplished this by sending out press releases to over 100 hometown newspapers of team members and coaches. Throughout the season he filed stories for regional and local papers on subjects that varied from the Diamond Anniversary of the District of Columbia Fencers Club to the daily results and feature aspects of the 1972 Bentley Nationals. This latter work achieved particularly good placement in the New York Times. Several television shows (in New York) as well as articles in national physical education magazines that had previously ignored fencing were the direct result of Jay's efforts.

Twenty-six years old, Jay graduated from the Washington Square College of New York University in 1967, majoring in journalism. He recently obtained a masters degree in

history from N.Y.U. and is current his doctorate there in the same background in various areas of is extensive. He was a reporter for saic Herald News (N.J.) for several has been Director of Sports Info for the N.Y.U. News Bureau since 1

Jay is enthusiastic over the promoting fencing, and feels the results can be achieved by concealing local newspapers throughout the instead of on major city dailies. news outlets will be interested fencer for more than just a single Jay believes. "They will return for articles and will check a fencer through the nationals and even Jay hopes that this sort of "foll result from his work. "No paper overlooked or neglected for its r to the league," Jay adds, "an arti local shopping weekly is just as as a feature in the New York Ti

Jay also thinks that every mem league can help in public relation mailing a copy of any clip they fining to one of the national office league, precluding the necessity an expensive clipping service to where fencing is well covered. He omends that any future press c well as all national officers (Presi retary, and Treasurer) be placed on ing list of every division for ne schedules, and announcements.

(Ed. Note: Jay Horwitz, the Public officer of the AFLA for the past year, retained by the league this season t budget cuts instituted by the Board of

HELP WANTED—AFLA LIBR

The Board of Directors has reco the establishment of a librarian t all fencing publicity articles throug country and assemble them for and guidance. The plan would be Division to forward a photocopy o published for national filing. The brarian is open for anyone intere experience is necessary.

ANOTHER RANK INJUSTICE

by Michel Alaux

I am John Nonna's current fencing coach.

As democratic as the right of an individual to dissent is, I question the motive, behind Mr. Zeisig's article "The Evisceration of the Olympic Point System."

In going back, as he did, to the way the selection was made, the dissenter is no less than attempting to indict a majority; jeopardizing the very essence of the voting system, if not casting doubt on the integrity of those who participated in the voting. This is particularly implied when this long and arduous article tries to prove above all that the selection of John Nonna was a "rank injustice."

Had Mr. Zeisig confined his article to the real subject, i.e., the point system, its shortcomings and mis-interpretation, perhaps something constructive would have come out of its publication.

However, it is obvious that the article is not centered so much on the point system as it is on the selection of Nonna. One may think there is no better way to make such a point than to prove that a "rank injustice" has been committed. Granted!

However, when the way of arriving at this conclusion is based on purely personal interpretation, keeping facts out of the picture or denying flatly a man's achievements, it appears that behind the intent lies a personal matter and not one of general interest.

It is even more obvious when Mr. Zeisig goes to great lengths to demonstrate that decisions in two other cases similar to Nonna's were not "rank injustice" but either "justifiable" or "not unreasonable".

My answer to Mr. Zeisig's article requires that every point I put forth be substantiated.

So let us look first at Nonna's record.

1. We have here a very young fencer, 23 years old, who in a rather rapid fashion reached the top National ranking, not only in one but two weapons. In this year 1972, making the final in Foil and Epee was certainly not a feat to be ignored.

2. On the international level, the Olympic Selection Committee had been informed that Nonna went out of his way, i.e., to Europe, with a view to improving his fencing

as well as checking his techniques against top European fencers. In the process Nonna took 2nd place in foil at the international competition of Graz, Austria (180 competitors); he finished 6th in the Coronation Foil Cup in London (90 competitors). At Poitiers (France) in an epee competition considered one of the top epee competitions in the world, John Nonna placed 16th. The competition was won by Nielaba (Polish Olympic Epee Team) while Fenyvesi and Kulcsar (Gold and Bronze medal at Munich, respectively) were eliminated in previous rounds. Nonna took 5th in the Martini Rossi in N.Y. in 1970 while he was still at Princeton under the coaching of Stan Sieja. He accomplished this after beating Wessel (then World Champion) in direct elimination. We should also note that in the 1972 Foil Nationals, John finished 1st in each of his pools with only a total of three defeats until the final.

To deny Nonna's achievements as well as his "potential" and "better technique" reflects sadly on Mr. Zeisig having been on a selection committee. As a member of the selecting committee it was his duty to get all pertinent information and facts.

How Mr. Zeisig singles out the selection of Nonna as a "rank injustice" is even a greater injustice. To prove it, let us make a comparison with other selections.

1. In the Olympic point ranking, Nonna was 6th in foil. In Epee, his 5th place (adhering to a strict point system) should have given him an automatic place on the Olympic Epee Team. Todd Makler was 4th, Brook Makler was 6th and Steve Netburn was out in the semi-final and far behind in points.

Has Mr. Zeisig at anytime been concerned with Mr. Nonna's selection in epee once it was established that Steve Netburn would be on the Epee Team?

2. In the selection of Morales over Gall, Mr. Zeisig writes: "I did not agree with this judgement but I could not argue that it was unreasonable. There were only 40 points separating the two men . . ." (emphasis supplied)

And further on: "The selection of Nonna over Davis was a completely different story. The points separating them were . . . 238



TERRY TERHUNE

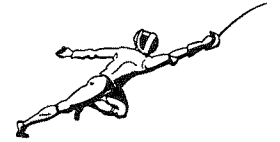
by Vincent Surdi

Evelyn F. Terhune has been appointed Vice President for Development at Fairleigh Dickinson University, the first woman to hold such high office in the history of the institution.

In announcing the appointment, FDU President J. Osborn Fuller said the promotion "recognizes her contributions to the University in the area of private funding." Fuller said Miss Terhune, who has served as Director of Development for the last year "has earned the confidence of all those she worked with . . . and has solidified the base of support for the University."

Miss Terhune is a graduate of FDU, receiving her B.A. cum laude in 1954, and was a member of the 1960 U. S. Olympic Fencing Team. This September she will begin her fifteenth year as amateur coach of the Women's Fencing Team on the Teaneck Campus. Professionally, "Terry," as she is known to friends, joined FDU in 1960 as the University's first full-time executive alumni secretary. She subsequently was director of development communications, director of development for annual programs, and assistant to the president. She became, on Sep-

tember 1, the first woman vice president. She has recently been appointed to AFLA's International Committee, a position of experience and influence will make her a valuable asset.



CISM CHAMPIONSHIP

The annual CISM championship will be held next in June, 1973. All fence teams and armed forces interested in the 1973 team should contact the following committee:

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UNDER-19 NATIONALS: FAIR OR FOUL??

by Carla-Mae Richards

The Under-19 National Championships program was instituted in 1965 (Special Meeting, Board of Directors, Feb. 2, '65) with the proposal by Jose De Capriles whereby the top twelve fencers, Under-19 would compete for National honors. The original concept of the Under-19 Nationals was that the four events could be held at the AFLA Nationals in the time span originally used for the 3-Weapon Team event that had been discontinued. The number 12 was based on three qualifiers from each of four sections currently existing in the United States with the Metropolitan Division included in the North Atlantic Section for this purpose. Almost immediately this number was increased with the Metropolitan Division reconsidered as a separate Section. Since then the number of eligible fencers for the National Under-19's has steadily increased with the inclusion of automatic qualifiers from the preceding Nat'l's. as well as the Junior Olympic Championships in mid-year and new AFLA Sections. For this year we have eight sections (Pacific Coast, South-East & West, Mid-West, Mid-Atlantic, Metro, and North Atlantic).

And now each Section can qualify more than three in each weapon based on number of entries in the Sectional qualifying round. So the number of possible entrants to the Nationals has grown from 12 to 30 or 45 per event; a size imposing upon the host Division the need to schedule at least **two days** for these events. Parallel to the growth of U-19 entrants we have a significant growth in the senior events where we must now schedule one and a half days for each senior event! And we still have the team events!

In all, the burden placed upon a Division to host our National Championships has become impossible and the net result is that the Under-19 fencers are shortchanged. By the time their events begin all the officials are dog-tired and their performance is way below par. Instead of supporting and encouraging our young fencers we are giving them leftovers in terms of directing

and organizing personnel.

Besides the burdens of the U-19 events at the Nationals we have unduly complicated the program by using the results of the U-19 Nat'l's. to select the members of the World **UNDER-20** Team held nine months after the Nationals. To offset this problem of such an early selection the Board of Directors has agreed to have another qualifying event for selection to the team — the Junior Olympic "Championships" in mid-February so that the selection will be fairer towards the fencers that are truly qualified for the World event. But here's the "curve". At these Junior Champs, fencers who have not reached the age of 20 on Jan. 1st of the year of the World event are eligible to compete in Feb. And so we have an Under-20 program embedded in the Under-19 program. All because the World Under-20 Championships are held in April before the existing Nationals.

I propose that we remove this duality and give our young fencers the independent program they deserve with an "Under-20 Program", that has its own separate National Junior Fencing Championships in mid-March — one month prior to the World Under-20 Championships. And in this proposal I strongly recommend that all U-19 events be dropped from the National Championships held in June-July (a time well past the conclusion of most scholastic fencing programs). The top three fencers in the National Junior Championships could be automatic qualifiers to the senior events. But all other Junior fencers should save their money and wait till they have reached a level of fencing high enough to warrant the expense of competing in the senior Nationals. You do not **get** experience by fencing in the Nationals — you must **have** the experience before then. It is the same thing as saying one should fence in the World Championships or Olympics for experience. If you haven't reached a high level before you'll never know what happened before you're eliminated. How can one round of fencing give you "experience"?! At this past Nationals most of the U-19 fencers who competed in the senior events were eliminated in the first two preliminary rounds!

Once and for all we must establish programs with well-formulated long-term goals. Let us inaugurate a youth program that allows for a successful response and can expend and meet new needs and new ideas without strain. Most major sports have highly successful youth programs which constantly feed new blood and challenge to the older, experienced participants. These youth programs are completely separate from the senior programs. Let the young fencers learn and hone their skills in a relatively unpressured atmosphere before facing the challenges of the experienced competitors. Must we always be rushing along trying to do everything at once so that we accomplish nothing? Let us give our young fencers the attention and recognition and serious consideration they so well deserve!



DOPING CONTROL by Dr. M. Valsamis

Doping control and the problems associated with it will be with us for some time to come. The Medical Commission devised and implemented a successful program of doping control at the 1972 Nationals. The program is now under consideration for extension to include sectional championships.

In order to comply with such a requirement it is necessary for the sectional administration to do the following:

1. Locate a motivated individual to run the drug testing program. Such a person need not be a physician, but should have laboratory experience. Chemistry is adequate, but a clinical chemical background is preferable.
2. Once such a person is located, contact the Medical Commission by writing to: Marius P. Valsamis, MD, 375 Vanderbilt Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11238.

Information on procedures is available for distribution.

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T. F. WINDSOR
by Jolene Cassidy

Mr. Windsor died on August 5 at his home in El Paso, Texas. He was the organizer of the Border Division of the A.F.L.A. in 1951 starting with the Sala de Armas Windsor in El Paso, with the University of Texas Tech in Lubbock in the east and reaching out to include at that time the University of Arizona and the Tucson YMCA to the west. The Sala Windsor's Border Invite was the first Southwestern International fencing tournament, continuing for nine years and followed by the Torneo del Norte at the University of Chihuahua in Mexico and the Tucson Grand International. Mr. Windsor was a member of the National Fencing Coaches Association, a fellow of the British Association, and Cordon De Oro.



T. F. WINDSOR

(Ed. Note: In our next issue we will feature an article by Mr. Windsor, father of Marietta Towry).

VIEWS ON YOUTH PROGRAM
by Irwin F. Bernstein

I have become very concerned with the direction our youth program has been taking over the past two years. The decisions taken at the September 30, 1972 Board of Directors meeting and the accompanying discussion convince me that the National Under-19 Championships is being systematically undermined preparatory to being eliminated. This would be a serious mistake.

1. Selection of Under-20 Team:

This is the most easily defined objective of our youth program. Since the Under-19 Tournaments began, we have produced a large number of outstanding young fencers who have excelled in the national tournament and went on to represent us with increasingly good results in Under-20 and other international events. The number of team members who dropped out of effective training between the National Under-19 and the World Under-20 are so few that discussions of this problem usually revolve about one individual.

Starting with this as the problem, however, we are establishing a February tournament as the key to team selection. This event is being held during the school year, at the height of the fencing season for most schools and colleges. It is easy to say, "let the colleges reserve that weekend for the AFLA event", but we can't control school scheduling. Some school boards may even prohibit students from participating.

The recent shifting of academic calendars in Ivy League schools for example, eliminates early January dual meets and places more of them in an already crowded February. Columbia's schedule, which I cite only because I am most familiar with it, has NYU on Wednesday, February 14, Penn (away) on Saturday, February 17 and then Harvard (away) on Tuesday, February 20. Yet some of our most respected Board members expect the "serious" fencer (like Columbia's Tom Losonczy, the National Under-19 Champion) to be in Los Angeles on Sunday and Monday, February 18-19!

High school coaches in New Jersey have already complained to me about the division's junior qualifying events coming in January instead of February. The schools

in New Jersey cannot start form until November 15 and then they run into the Thanksgiving and holidays. As soon as they start (equivalent to perhaps their third week of training), they have to the Junior Olympic Tournament.

The costs of traveling to the Jpics as well as the time involved are excessive. I have heard the claim that east coast youngsters are just on the same trip in February, 1973 that the west coast fencers did in July, 1972. The east coast fencers, however, traveled during summer vacation and many of them competed in senior team and individual events as well as in the junior championship that's only this time around. As a result of the recent tournament, the Junior Olympics would move around the country and result in all out top young fencers having to travel more. A college scholarship cannot afford this — it is a "serious" fencer. Let us not require our youngsters the same requirements we place on adults who normally have greater freedom of movement and to support it.

It is clear to me, even if several people disagree, that we have ample means to select a youngster tentatively selected for the National Under-19's has failed to continue in proper training. Of all the events, the school and college fencers reported most regularly in newspapers, the selectees and alternates can be required to maintain their AF cards or a special report form a month prior to final selections.

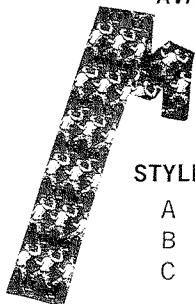
2. Junior Olympic Champion

Although it has been only a few years since its inception, this tournament has suddenly become the rallying point for many fencers who want to improve their international performance. It is a simple extension of the age group to the national level and now the Under-19 program is being turned

To begin with, I don't believe in national tournaments for 14 year olds. The proponents of it are looking

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Olympic sports as an example of correct Olympic development techniques, let them look more carefully. In some of those sports where age group competition has been emphasized, we lose most of our competitors in their early to mid 20's — in part for physical reasons but perhaps equally so because they've been saturated with training and competition (and medals) by then! Fencers don't reach their potential until their late 20's — why rush them into traveling to national events 10-15 years earlier?

Let's utilize the age group idea where it belongs — locally. Give the youngsters local competition to encourage them to start early in the sport. The outstanding ones (like Wayne Krause who won the New Jersey senior foil championship at 16) will go into the Under-19 via the divisional and sectional route and go as far as they are competitively qualified to go at the time. The others will progress more gradually to that level. Let's eliminate the separate "Junior Olympic" Championship and let the Under-19 remain part of the national tournament where the facilities and officials are already available. If the time pressure and workload are too great, qualify the older fencers to the senior events via the sectionals in order to reduce the field to a more workable size.

3. Junior Olympic Program:

The enormous amount of time, energy and money devoted to a single tournament has left us without a cohesive Junior Olympic Program. Meanwhile the funds that have been allotted in recent years have accomplished little other than administrative problems and ill will among the operators of local projects.

Our development program should utilize the creative ability of Father Calhoun and his committee and the local energy of volunteers around the country to establish clinics for new coaches, conduct exhibitions and trial classes for schools not familiar with fencing and run similar projects. The AFLA or USOC funds provided should be used for essential items only. For example, the only equipment purchased should be for beginners' use (not electrical) and should be moved around the country or reused in-

stead of lost or given away after one clinic. Travel funds should be given to our key committee members to plan, coordinate and oversee the program rather than spread thin among local participants. We should not have to pay honorariums. In areas where professional coaches cannot help out, we should use amateur talent for the program. No clerical salaries should be paid — we are a volunteer organization.

4. In Conclusion, I Propose:

- A. Eliminate the Junior Olympic Championships.
- B. Assign funds and a specific set of guidelines for their use to the Junior Olympic Development Committee for development — not tournaments.
- C. Retain the Under-19 Tournament at the nationals, reducing the size of the senior events, if necessary.
- D. Use the National Under-19 event as the prime criteria for Under-20 selection with a performance reporting and evaluation system to remove unqualified team members.

Let's not discard the Under-19 Nationals — the one portion of our development program that has worked reasonably well. Instead, we should modify the phases that take place before and after it: the grassroots development and the senior international squad training.

This is a vitally important issue, and I hope other concerned fencers, whatever their viewpoints, will make their opinions known.

QUICKIE QUIZ

If, in foil, a fencer ducks under an attack and receives a hit on the mask, is a touch scored against him? (see Rule 222, page 42, 1970 Rules Book).

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SPECIAL PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON NATIONAL AND UNDER 19 CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Steve Sobel, AFLA President

I have received numerous conflicting suggestions about the Nationals 19 program recently. The views expressed are very different and impossible to am therefore scheduling these subjects for a very important special meeting of Directors in Los Angeles on February 17th (the Saturday of the Washington weekend during the Junior Olympic Championships). To enable the Board to be to the desire of the membership I have summarized what appears to be the n of conflict in a simple multiple choice public opinion poll for each member express his opinions. A name, division and age (under or over 19) would be the evaluator, but not essential if you prefer anonymity. Additional comments, may be enclosed.

To: Steve Sobel
 18 Beverly Road
 Cedar Grove, N. J. 07009

From:
 (name)

From:
 (Division
 Under 19 (
 Amateur competitor
 Coach or Assoc me

1. THIS POLL

- A. I would like to express my opinions now.
- B. I do not wish to express any opinion. I prefer to wait and see what happens and then complain later.

2. RULES FOR NATIONALS:

- A. Qualification:
 1. From Divisions to Nationals
 2. From Divisions to Sections; from Sections to Nationals
- B. Promotion when **bout victories** are tied.
 1. By fence-off
 2. By Indicator or Ratio of touches
- C. Size of Finals in Nationals
 1. Pools of 6 (1972 rule)
 2. Pools of 8 or 9 (prior rule)
- D. The Nationals should contain the following events:
 1. Individual, Team and Under 19 events (as is)
 2. Individual and Teams only (no under 19)
 3. Individual and under 19 (no teams)
 4. Individual events only

3. Under 19 program

- A. Selection for Under 20 teams should be (The World under 20 Championships are held in April):
 1. The results of the Under 19 Nationals only (in June)
 2. The results of the Jr. Olympic championship only (in February)
 3. The results of BOTH the Under 19 nationals and the U.S. Junior Olympic championships

continued next page

- B. The U.S. Junior Olympic Championships should
 - 1. a one day event per weapon with eliminati
 - 2. Large round robins over a two day period
- C. Under 19 qualification to the Nationals should
 - 1. From Division to Section, from Section to
 - 2. Direct from Divisions
- D. U.S. Junior Olympic championships should be
 - 1. Washington Birthday weekend annually
 - 2. Another time

(please sp

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