

American Fencing

Joe Levis Comes Back



JOSEPH L. LEVIS

Member of New England Division
and Fencers Club (N.Y.)

National Foil Champion, 1954

Highlights of Previous Record:

National Foil Champion in 1929, 1932, 1933, 1935, and 1937;

Second-place winner in 1928, 1931, 1936.

Third-place in 1938. National Three-Weapon Champion in 1929.

Member of U. S. Olympic Fencing Teams, 1928, 1932 and 1936 (Captain).

Second Place in Olympic Individual Foil, 1932 (Highest U. S. record).

Intercollegiate Foil Champion, 1926, representing M.I.T.

Coach at M.I.T., 1939-1948; reinstated as an amateur, 1953.

THANK YOU

The nationals as reported in this issue could not have been a success without the wholehearted cooperation of many individuals. I know that all the contestants will want to join me in thanking these persons whose job, for the most part, so often goes unnoticed.

There were of course the members of juries. These are too numerous to mention, but in many instances their service was at the expense of rest they could have enjoyed prior to their own time to compete. The juries of the championship finals, without exception, did an especially efficient job.

The organization of the tournament was a monumental task because of the very large entry and the limitations of time and space, but Mike de Capriles' experience and his many hours of patient supervision enabled us to proceed on schedule. The assistance of Dorothy Friedman, Ray Chambers, Jimmy Castello, Tracy Jaeckel, Tony Orsi, and Leo Sobel on the Bout Committee was invaluable.

For the first time we were able to arrange in expensive housing for our male out-of-towners, and this very important service was due to the generous cooperation of Douglas Boyea who has also helped us in many other ways throughout the season. An effort will be made to obtain similar accommodations for our female fencers next year.

Gala night was, as usual, a very successful social affair. The credit and our thanks go to Lou Shaff and Rudy Ozol. Tracy Jaeckel was again our peerless master of ceremony.

—J. R. de C.

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Contributing Staff

I. Balint, H. Castello, H. and L. Dargie, C.-L. de Beaumont, J. de Capriles, B. de Tuscan, R. Geier, J. Giele, W. McClellan, P. Mijer, S. Schlesinger, and all Division Secretaries.

* * * * *

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1953-1954 MEMBERSHIP

Final Report

	Life	Act.	Coll.	Stud.	Assoc.	Total
Non-Divisional						
Metropolitan	12	105	85	33	19	254
Kansas City	0	4	3	5	0	12
Miscellaneous	0	9	2	1	1	13
Sub-total	12	118	90	39	20	279
Divisional						
Border	0	7	26	30	0	63
Columbus, O.	0	4	9	2	1	16
Connecticut	0	19	25	26	0	70
Delaware	0	5	0	0	0	5
Florida	0	8	0	0	0	8
Georgia	0	9	1	1	0	11
Gulf Coast, Tex.	0	15	65	14	1	95
Harrisburg, Pa.	0	14	6	8	0	28
Illinois	0	30	44	48	5	127
Iowa	0	4	0	18	0	22
Kentucky	0	9	17	0	0	26
Maryland	0	19	31	35	4	89
Miami Valley, O.	0	9	0	1	1	11
Michigan	0	53	41	21	4	119
Mid-New York	0	5	4	1	0	10
Minnesota	0	14	13	4	1	32
Nebraska	0	5	7	0	0	12
New England	0	21	21	8	4	54
New Jersey	2	21	27	24	7	81
New Orleans, La.	0	12	0	0	0	12
Northern California	0	41	21	7	3	72
Northern Ohio	2	10	3	4	1	20
North Texas	0	14	5	54	0	73
Oregon	0	10	13	24	1	48
Philadelphia, Pa.	0	17	40	38	2	97
Seattle, Wash.	0	16	11	0	0	27
Southern California	0	115	36	11	16	178
Southern Florida	0	4	2	1	0	7
Spokane, Wash.	0	7	5	1	1	14
St. Louis, Mo.	0	15	2	3	0	20
Tennessee	0	9	5	2	0	16
Washington, D. C.	0	24	8	0	1	33
Westchester, N. Y.	0	16	2	2	2	22
Western New York	0	31	42	29	6	108
Wisconsin	0	23	13	24	2	62
Grand Total	16	753	635	480	83	1967

Inactive Divisions: Alaska, Birmingham, Central Illinois, Cincinnati, Colorado, Hawaii, Long Island, Pittsburgh, Rhode Island, Sacramento, San Diego, Utah, West Point.

FENCING

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Official AFLA Notes

By Ralph Goldstein, Secretary

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Amateur Fencers League of America was called to order at 8:15 p.m. on June 14, 1954, at the Fencers Club. The following were present: Jose de Capriles, president; Donald S. Thompson, Paul T. Makler and Harold Van Buskirk, vice presidents; Ralph Goldstein, secretary; Rudolph Ozol, treasurer; Tracy Jaeckel, foreign secretary; Col. Henry Breckinridge, honorary president; Miguel de Capriles, former president; and 45 chairmen and members of various divisions and the non-divisional group.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. The President's annual report reviewed the growth of the League during 1953-54 and commented upon the valuable cooperation the A.F.L.A. has had from professionals who have taken out Associate Memberships. Reference was also made to the two Masters' events, open to professionals, the Italo Santelli memorial sabre competition, and the Wechsler trophy competition.

The secretary reported a total of 35 active divisions and 1,946 members as of June 14, 1954. Final figures will be available by the end of August. The treasurer reported substantial improvement in the financial position of the League, due for the most part to the 33 per cent increase in membership. Although a final report will not be available until September, the present surplus—both general and earmarked for international and national purposes—amounts to approximately \$5,300. Some of the improved cash position represents a recovery of the money previously spent on rules books.

The foreign secretary reported on the success of our members in the first North American Championships held in Toronto last summer. Jose de Capriles, Allan Kwartler and George Worth officiated at the Central American and Caribbean Games in Mexico City. Tracy Jaeckel has been invited to officiate in July at Cali, Colombia. Four entries from the United States have been approved for the World Championships in Luxembourg this month: Diane Millstein, Lt. Edwards, Hamilton Millard and Alex Treves. Arrangements for a match in August against the British Empire champions for the Thompson Trophy seem to have failed due to limitations on the travel time of the British Empire competitors. Mr. Jaeckel has also been invited to direct the finals of the South American championships in Brazil next November, but has some doubts as to his ability to go. At the Pan-American Games in Mexico City next March, the U.S. team will probably consist of nine or ten men; four girls have also been authorized if we can finance their expenses. This is an improvement over the previous games at Buenos Aires, where the U.S. team had only six men.

Miguel de Capriles reported on the current national championships, which are the largest the League has ever held.

The action of the Board of Governors, amending the by-laws so as to permit the secretary of the division to belong to the same division as the chairman, was ratified.

The following nominating committee for national officers for 1955-56 was elected: George Worth, New York, chairman; William T. Brown, Gulf Coast; David Logan, Wisconsin; Mrs. Maxine Mitchell, Southern California; Anthony Orsi, New Jersey.

The nominations filed by the Nominating Committee in 1953 were unopposed, and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers for the 1954-55 season: President, Jose R. de Capriles; Vice President, Donald S. Thompson; Second Vice President, Dr. Paul T. Makler; Third Vice President, Harold Van Buskirk; Fourth Vice President, Gerald Biagini; Secretary, Ralph M. Goldstein; Treasurer, Rudolph Ozol; Foreign Secretary, Tracy Jaeckel.

Sectional Reports were given by Donald Thompson for the Mid-West, by Harold Van Buskirk for the Southwest; by Fred Linkmeyer for the Pacific Coast; and by Paul Makler for the East. Dr. Makler's report pointed out that there is really no "Eastern section," but there is interest in creating one formally, to exist independently of the Metropolitan Group.

Divisional reports were given by Roy Burrell of Philadelphia, Harold Van Buskirk of the Gulf Coast, Calvert Schlick of Maryland, Miss Tommy Angell of Northern California, David Thorndike of New England, James Gosline of Northern Ohio, Tom Bickley of North Texas, Fred Linkmeyer of Southern California, and Arthur Plouffe of Western New York.

George Santelli moved to refer to the Constitutional Committee for study a suggestion that the clubs and salle d'armes themselves belong to the A.F.L.A. on a voluntary basis. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Santelli explained that European clubs are deputized by the national organization to run events and supply officials under the supervision of the official bout committee. A list of registered clubs would be helpful to travelers. Mr. Bickley suggested that in areas where there is no A.F.L.A. division, a recognized club might be given some authority to act as a representative of the A.F.L.A.

Fred Linkmeyer moved to have the Board of Governors sound out the divisions in regard to holding the nationals earlier, say in May, between May 1 and May 10. The motion was seconded and carried. Also seconded and carried was Tom Bickley's motion to have a study made concerning the use of sectional composite teams in specific cases.

There was discussion of the electrical foil, of the possibility of eliminating the term "foul" from the fencing lexicon, and of the pros and cons of the "no foul" rule. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

GARRY SCHOONMAKER

Garry Schoonmaker, only son of Florence Schoonmaker and he late Leon M. Schoonmaker, died some weeks ago after a prolonged illness. He was in his early twenties. Mr. and Mrs. Leon M. Schoonmaker both held national championships and for many years were prominent in A.F.L.A. affairs. Our deepest condolences.

NON-DIVISIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the non-divisional members of the A.F.L.A. was held on June 7, 1954, at 8:15 p.m. Present were the president, the secretary, the foreign secretary, the assistant treasurer, and 18 other non-divisional members of the league.

The non-divisional governors for 1954-55 were formally elected by a single ballot, since they were unopposed. They are: Dr. Daniel Bukantz, Dorothy Friedman, Sol Gorlin, Norman Lewis, Wilfred Ritayik, Maria Tishman and Albert Vogt.

The following nominating committee for the 1955-56 governors was elected: Austin Prokop, chairman; Ida Balint, Nickolas Muray, Edward Sebo, George Worth.

Details were discussed concerning the responsibilities of the metropolitan fencers for the running of the national championships. Admission to the finals was fixed at \$1.10 for each event, except Gala Night and those at the New York Athletic Club. Combination tickets for \$2.20 will be available for all finals except Gala Night. Competitors and officials will be given badges and allowed free admission.

It now seems feasible to organize the metropolitan group as an A.F.L.A. division, but it may be necessary to amend the Constitution. The main provision would be that the Metropolitan Division shall guarantee to underwrite the cost of the national championships when not held in any other city than New York. The basic financial plan for the nationals is the following: (1) Entry fees are to be used only to pay for medals, Salle rental fees and the 10 cents charge for the benefit of the national championship rotating fund; (2) the host division must pay all normal expenses for running the events and the travel allowances for defending champions, outstanding contenders, and officials, including bout committee, where needed; (3) any admission fees collected from spectators may go to the division to offset expenses incurred, but a percentage may be claimed for the International Fund.

Leo Sobel, assistant national treasurer, was named Metropolitan Treasurer. The Metropolitan Chairman will be appointed by the Board of Governors at its annual meeting in September; and he in turn will appoint the bout committees and Metropolitan Secretary. All entries for non-divisional competitions will be sent hereafter to the Metropolitan Secretary.

Allan Kwartler was named Chairman of the Directors' School committee. Suggestions were made for encouraging better attendance. Bill Latzko recommended more fencing quizzes in *American Fencing*, with the answers given in the next issue in order to provoke discussion during the intervening period. Another recommendation was that the Board of Governors re-establish a national list of Directors.

It was suggested that the metropolitan rules be changed to permit any high school fencer to remain a Prep as long as he is in high school, unless he wins a prize in AFLA competition. The President agreed to submit the question for study by the proper committee. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 12, 10:30 A.M.
Metropolitan Outdoor Epee Championship
 Henrique Santos Medals; entry fee \$2.60.
 New York A.C., Travers Island, N. Y.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 10:30 A.M.
Metropolitan Outdoor Sabre Championship
 Pieter Mijer Medals; entry fee \$1.60.
 New York A.C., Travers Island, N. Y.

PERSONALS

On June 9 a daughter, Eugenia Gemma, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Gormley at Huntington Hospital, Long Island. Mrs. Gormley, nee Aida B. Prencipe, a strong left-handed fencer, has been a member of the A.F.L.A. for twenty years and served with the WAC during the war.

—Ida Balint

* * *

Leon Strauss, one of the strongest all-around fencers of the Midwest, has opened a small Salle d'Armes in Chicago which is enjoying unusual success. Membership has already reached 25, including several members of the "Seven Year Itch" cast. Leon reports that he enjoys teaching even more than he did competing.

—J. de Capriles

* * *

A fine story on Fencing, illustrated with photographs of Salle Santelli in full swing, appeared in a house organ, Gould Battery News last March. The author was Myron A. Matzkin.

—W. Osborn

* * *

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, former national champion and donor of the trophy for the Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association, was a guest of honor at Gala Night. Mrs. Fish and Helena M. Dow presented the women's medals for the 1954 championships to the winners.

—T. Jaeckel

PAN-AMERICAN AND OLYMPIC SQUADS

by Jose de Capriles, Chairman
 Olympic Fencing Committee

The Olympic Committee met during the National Championships to map out the general plan for selection of the Pan-American team. In view of the small number of men to be chosen, it was decided to hold try-outs wherein candidates must demonstrate their ability to represent the U. S. in two or three weapons. The only exception may be in the case of the top-ranking fencer in each weapon. In view of the above, a small preliminary squad for the Pan-American Games has been selected: A. Axelrod, J. de Capriles, A. Cohen, P. Conomikes, R. Dyer, R. Goldstein, B. Krieger, A. Kwartler, N. Lewis, N. Lubell, P. Makler, T. Nyilas, S. Shurtz, J. Strauch, D. Thompson, E. Vebell and G. Worth. Lewis, as a reinstated amateur, is not eligible and his top place in foil has been earned by Axelrod.

There will be an open qualifying try-out in each weapon in November from which

1954 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By C. L. de Beaumont
 Great Britain

The 1954 World Championships were very well organized in Luxembourg from the 10th to the 21st of June, and attracted an average entry.

Foil Team: The final of the men's foil team as usual was fenced between Italy and France, and once more they ended at 8 victories each, with Italy gaining the title with 58 against 64 hits received. Hungary beat Belgium for third place, 9-3. Mangiarotti and Bergamini each won three bouts against France. All four Frenchmen won two and lost two against Italy.

Foil Individual: The foil title was retained by Christian d'Oriola, but only after a barrage with Edoardo Mangiarotti, whom he beat 5-1. In point of fact, Manlio di Rosa, the Italian 1950 World Champion and the veteran of the pool, would have gained the title had he not lost to his compatriots, Mangiarotti and Bergamini, in the early rounds of the final for his only defeats. An admitted error of tactics by the Italian team!

Summaries: (1) C. d'Oriola, France, 6 v.; (2) E. Mangiarotti, Italy, 6 v.; (3) G. C. Bergamini, Italy, 5 v., 24 t.r.; (4) M. di Rosa, Italy, 5 v., 25 t.r.; (5) Spalino, Italy, 2 v., 29/27; (6) Netter, France, 2 v., 29/16; (1) Rommel, France, 2 v., 30 t.r.; (8) Closset, France, 0 v.

Ladies' Foil Team: Hungary won the ladies' foil team over Italy, 8-8 in bouts, 42-45 hits. France was third over Germany, 8-8 in bouts, 45-50 hits. In the final match, Olympic Champion Camber won 4 bouts for Italy, and Ilone Elek, her predecessor, won 3 for Hungary.

Ladies' Individual: Everyone was delighted by the victory of Karen Lachmann of Denmark. Second in the 1948 Olympic Games and the 1949 and 1951 World Championships, and third in Helsinki, Lachmann at last achieved her ambition and justified the confidence of her many friends and supporters.

Summaries: (1) K. Lachmann, Denmark, 6 v.; (2) I. Elek, Hungary, 5 v., 16 t.r.; (3) R. Garilhe, France, 5 v., 17 t.r.; (4) I. Camber, Italy 4 v., 12

t.r.; (5) Bernheim, France, 4 v., 23 t.r.; (6) Nyari, Hungary, 2 v.; (7) Cesari, Italy, 1 v., 24 t.r.; (8) Morvay, Hungary, 1 v., 26 t.r.

Epee Team: Italian supremacy in the epee events was impressive. They won the team title by scoring 9-1 over France, 11-5 over Sweden and 13-3 over Switzerland. Sweden beat France 10-6 for second place, and France just defeated Switzerland, 8-8 in bouts, 59-64 in hits, for third place.

Epee Individual: Italy placed all six of her epeeists in the individual final of eight, along with one Frenchman and one Luxembourg. A triple tie for first place was resolved by barrage between Edoardo Mangiarotti, Carlo Pavesi, and Franco Bertinetti of Italy, who finished in that order.

Summaries: (1) E. Mangiarotti, Italy, 6 v.; (2) C. Pavesi, Italy, 6 v.; (3) F. Bertinetti, Italy 6 v.; (4) Huet, France, 3 v., 27 t.r.; (5) Dario Mangiarotti, Italy, 3 v., 32 t.r.; (6) Anglesio, Italy, 2 v.; (7) Delfino, Italy, 1 v., 31 t.r.; (8) Leischen, Luxembourg, 1 v., 34 t.r.

Sabre Team: It was no surprise that Hungary again won the sabre team event by a decisive margin. In the final match, Hungary defeated the young Polish team, who did well to take second place, by 9-2. France beat Italy 9-7 for third place.

Sabre Individual: With five Hungarians in the final, Karpati finished first, undefeated. Second place went to Pal Kovacs, the defending champion and 1952 Olympic titleholder, and third place to the veteran Berczelly. The sixth Hungarian, Gerevich, was eliminated in the quarter-final.

Summaries: (1) Karpati, Hungary, 7 v.; (2) P. Kovacs, Hungary, 5 v.; (3) Berczelly, Hungary, 4 v., 24 t.r.; (4) Pawlowski, Poland, 4 v., 25 t.r.; (5) R. Nostini, Italy, 4 v., 26 t.r.; (6) Lefevre, France, 3 v.; (7) Papp, Hungary, 1 v.; (8) Magay, Hungary, 0 v.

Editor's Postscript: Last-minute reports on the performance of the two United States entries in the World Championships indicate that Hamilton Millard fenced very well, reaching the semi-finals in sabre. Diane Millstein qualified easily in the first round but was eliminated in the second round with one victory only.

the Pan-American squad will be excused. Any other candidates must qualify from the November try-outs in more than one weapon. Candidates who are on an Olympic Squad (below) need not qualify in their weapon but will have to compete and qualify in another. Qualifiers and Squad members will then compete in a final try-out in January at which all entries must fence two or three weapons.

The girls will have two try-outs on the Pacific Coast and two on the East Coast. It will be necessary to finance a four-girl team through funds independent of the Olympic Fund and all candidates must contribute to the effort in this connection.

Olympic Squads

Women: Grace Acel, Tommy Angell, Estelle Atkin, Ida Balint, Barbara Baxter, Sallye Chambers, Madeline Dalton, Anne Drungis, Betty Dedouis, Julia Doerschuk, Dolly Funke, Judy Goodrich, Grace Marchant, Diane Millstein, Maxine Mitchell, Janice-Lee Romary, Eve Siegel, Vivienne Sokol, Paula Sweeney, Trudi Wodgenske.

Foil: Albert Axelrod, Daniel Bukantz,

Jack Carnell, Richard Dyer, Dan Edwards, Silvio Giolito, Robert Goldman, Harold Goldsmith, Ralph Goldstein, Byron Krieger, Allan Kwartler, Neil Lazar, Nathaniel Lubell, Paul Makler, Marvin Metzger, Robert Nielson, Evan Quinn, Sewall Shurtz, Arthur Spingarn, Charles Steinhart, James Strauch, Vincent Surdi, Leonard Turk, Herman Velasco.

Epee: Richard Berry, Tom Bickley, Peter Conomikes, Jose de Capriles, Robert Derderian, Ralph Goldstein, James Gosline, Walter Henry, Allan Hoffmann, Kinmont Hoitsma, Roger Jones, Henry Kolowrat, Paul Makler, Gary Martin, Marvin Metzger, Alan Ruben, Hugh Salzburg, Sewall Shurtz, Alfred Skrobisch, James Strauch, Donald Thompson, Edward Vebell, Albert Wolff.

Sabre: Norman Armitage, Frank Bartone, Robert Blum, Jack Carnell, Abram Cohen, Jose de Capriles, Richard Dyer, Walter Farber, James Flynn, Sol Gorlin, Walter Henry, Byron Krieger, Allan Kwartler, Paul Makler, Hamilton Millard, Umberto Miletari, Nickolas Muray, Tibor Nyilas, Daniel Rubinstein, Louis Shaff, Steve Sobel, Donald Thompson, Alex Treves, George Worth.

THE 1954 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Miguel A. de Capriles
Chairman, Bout Committee

The 1954 national championship tourney witnessed the defeat of all defending champions in the four individual events, as Sewall Shurtz succeeded Don Thompson in epee, Maxine Mitchell regained the women's title from Paula Sweeney, Joe Levis displaced Dan Bukantz in foil, and George Worth finally captured the sabre crown worn by Tibor Nyilas over the past four years. All of the new champions scored dramatic victories, but the "big story" was the great comeback of Joe Levis after a 16-year absence from national competition.

A legendary figure to most of the current crop of fencers, and known principally as the holder of the American record in Olympic fencing competition (with his 2nd place in 1932), Levis came out of the past into the present to perform an athletic miracle which had veteran observers rubbing their eyes and pinching their arms in amazed disbelief. For the Levis of 1954 was little different from the Levis who had won his fifth national title in 1937, and whose fencing at the Los Angeles Olympiad had been described by a blonde fan as "poetry in motion": The same lithe, slender body, perfectly balanced on a pair of steel springs; the same well-fitting and spotless uniform; the same short foil—a No. 4 blade mounted on aommel-less French handle strapped to the hand; the same smooth flow of movement on attack and retreat; the same explosive, forcing game—scoring so often on the counter-riposte and on baffling changes of tempo; the same courteous acceptance of official decisions, whether favorable or not. Of course there were some differences: The strong face had matured and the beard was thicker than ever; the hair on top was still black but noticeably thinner; the perspiration more copious and the breathing much faster after a hard bout; the blinding speed of the blade perhaps a shade slower; and the recuperative powers not as rapid as they once had been. Yet Levis won in 1954 much in the same style that he had a generation earlier.

It was peculiarly fitting to have the championship match in foil directed (and very ably, too) by young Sewall Shurtz, the new epee champion and semi-finalist in foil. Shurtz at 22 is the youngest national champion in 25 years; Levis at 48 (or is it 49?) the oldest within memory. The two are built somewhat along the same lines, and a casual observer, watching them fence with their masks on, would have had trouble in deciding who was the younger man. Yet Levis had won his first national title three years before Shurtz was born.

There were other sterling performances by young fencers: In epee, which has clearly become the young man's weapon, three of the other seven finalists were men of Shurtz's age or younger; in sabre, which in the past 20 years has seen its finalists change very slowly, Dick Dyer placed seventh at the age of 24; and the youngest competitor in any of the finals, 15-year-old Judy Goodrich, is likely to establish new records in this respect before long. On the other hand, Levis' dramatic accomplishment tended to obscure the remarkable performance of 47-year-old Norman Armitage, who came closest to upsetting George Worth in

the sabre final and missed his 23rd national championship medal by the margin of only a single touch. And there were solid performances by several veterans past the 50-year mark, such as Pieter Mijer, Leonard Doughty, Nickolas Muray, Franklin D. Jones, Donald S. Thompson, Alvin E. Rose and Duris de Jong.

These contrasts of youth and maturity were unusually vivid in the 1954 nationals, and they gave the tournament that sense of tradition and continuity which is one of fencing's great glories; but they were not the whole story, which is spelled out in the separate reports of each event. On the average, the strongest fencers are still between the ages of 25 and 40, and the best two-weapon performance, a fine exhibition of skill and stamina, was Allan Kwartler's second in sabre and fourth in foil. This feat was all the more remarkable because it was accomplished under adverse conditions: Due to delays in the program, Kwartler's 9-man semi-final in sabre did not start until nearly 4 p.m., and he was scheduled to fence in the foil finals at 7 p.m. of the same day. He ran through his sabre bouts, topping his pool, dashed across town to N.Y.A.C., and in the foil final lost only to Levis and Bukantz. Fourteen hours later, he fenced in the sabre final and lost only to Worth.

A word should be said about the 1953 champions, all of whom made the 1954 finals. Though defeated, they gave good accounts of themselves. Dan Bukantz, whose great defensive game was expected to match and perhaps overcome Levis' strong attack, was beaten by Albie Axelrod in the upper semi-final, and eventually finished third. He never met Levis, so that the fencing equivalent of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object never materialized. Paula Sweeney and Don Thompson had the misfortune to meet the new champions in their first match, and therefore automatically dropped below fourth place. Paula easily won the rest of her bouts to finish fifth, and Don wound up seventh. Tibor Nyilas, about 20 lbs. overweight and insufficiently trained because of his professional obligations, also met defeat in the first match of the final. He led Sol Gorlin 3-2 in the deciding bout, with one minute to go, when he pulled a leg muscle and was unable to hold the advantage with a stationary defense.

Muscular injuries plagued an unusual number of top contestants. Nyilas' was probably the most dramatic, but Janice-Lee York Romary, one of the favorites for the women's title, came to the tournament with an injured tendon on her sword arm, fenced in a leather cast throughout the event, and had the distinction of being the only competitor to take a bout from Maxine Mitchell (the second of their 3-bout match). Eve Cohen Siegel, another top contender, suffered a sacroiliac strain in the team matches and had to withdraw from the individuals. Ralph Goldstein's old leg injury, aggravated in the foil team event, kept him out of the individual epee and foil. Austin Prokop's displaced spinal disc forced him out of the final match in the foil team; and Paul Makler's injured back prevented him from competing in the individuals although he took part in two smaller team events.

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The importance of physical condition in the nationals cannot be overemphasized because of the large number of individual entries. This was a record-breaking year, with over 220 AFLA members filing a total of 267 entries: 56 women, 72 foil, 77 epee, 62 sabre. Actually, the number of contestants dropped to 227: 54 women, 63 foil, 64 epee and 46 sabre, but this was a list as large as the Olympics or World Championships, and taxed available facilities to the breaking point. A serious question must be raised as to how the nationals are to be run in New York in the future if, as we hope, the number of competitors continues to grow.

New York's present facilities are too small unless we can devote two full days to each individual event. The largest available site, at the N.Y.A.C., can accommodate six strips in a pinch, but not with adequate safety for contestants and officials nor space for spectators. Only three strips can be used at the other sites: the Fencers Club, the Saltus-McBurney club, and the Grand Central YMCA. This year's program, which allowed one day and one evening for each individual event, was kept reasonably within the schedule only by granting a large number of first-round byes and limiting qualification (in most cases) to three fencers out of each pool, whether of 7, 8 or 9 competitors.

This year's experiment with the Olympic rule requiring fence-offs for ties for qualification was justified because of the low percentage of qualifiers, but added to the schedule difficulties. The worst situation arose in the sabre, where a quarter-final

pool of six men resulted in a five-way tie for two places, and even required an extra bout beyond the other ten, because two men were again tied for the last qualifying place with equal victories and touches received and scored. There were several 4-way ties in other events, and 3-way ties were fairly common. It is clear that the rule is not desirable from the organizational viewpoint when time is short.

The reaction to the direct-elimination final was mixed. Most of the spectators liked it better than the traditional round-robin; many of the competitors did not. None questioned the title of the winners, but there was some dissatisfaction as to the relative standing in the lower places. On the other hand, there is great interest in the possibilities of televising the nationals, and if this means "live" television, the programming requirements can be met only by this method of running the finals.

The team events this year were grouped at the beginning of the schedule, except for the Three-Weapon Team which seems to be the best event for Gala Night. This arrangement found favor with men from the divisions who fence two or three weapons, and is partly responsible for the large size of the individual events. On the other hand, the girls and other one-weapon specialists did not care for the gap between the team and individual events in the same weapon, and therefore preferred the 1953 schedule. It is a fact that there were fewer teams in 1954 than in 1953, particularly in the women's event, but even so 41 teams entered and 37 actually competed.

The results of the team events again favored the Eastern clubs. Salle Santelli won three events and placed second in a fourth; Fencers Club won two and placed second in the other three; Philadelphia captured the remaining second place; the New York A.C. took three third places, leaving only two sets of bronze medals for the westerners: Salle de Tuscan in women's foil and Southern California in epee. With minor variations, the pattern of the past few years indicates that serious threats to the Eastern clubs in the team events exist only in the women's foil and in epee. Therefore, it might be best in the future to arrange the schedule for the nationals, when held in New York, so that the foil and sabre teams come at the start of the tournament, and to hold the epee and women's team events as closely as possible to the corresponding individual competitions.

No report on the nationals would be complete without a reference to the ever-recurring judging problem and the men and women who helped to solve it, often at great personal sacrifice. Unfortunately we had to rely on competitors for the juries in the early rounds, and sometimes even as far as the semi-finals. Special thanks are due to Maxine Mitchell, Allan Kwartler and Dick Dyer for service far beyond the call of duty; to Bob Cardozo of Canada; to Paul Makler, who directed and judged as long as he could stand up; to Duris de Jong, who officiated in every event to the point of physical exhaustion; and finally to John Erdelyi, formerly of Hungary and England, and now of Canada, whose timely arrival provided a director of the highest international caliber for the crucial matches in sabre and in the three-weapon team event.

EPEE TEAM (10 teams)

New York A.C., June 11-12

- (1) **FENCERS CLUB** (Jose de Capriles, Alfred Skrobisch, James Strauch, Edward Vebell).
- (2) **PHILADELPHIA DIVISION** (R. Richard Dyer, Alan M. Ruben, Jack Tori).
- (3) **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION** (Duris de Jong, Fred Linkmeyer, Sewall Shurtz).

In the first match of the three-team final, the Fencers Club Olympic trio of Jose de Capriles, Alfred Skrobisch and Ed Vebell, put on a seldom-paralleled display of skill, scoring 13 consecutive touches before receiving one, and blanked the Philadelphia Division, 9-0. After Philadelphia defeated Southern California, however, the Fencers Club team, with Strauch replacing de Capriles, was hard pressed to beat the Pacific Coast representatives, 5-4, due to Sewall Shurtz's clean sweep. The new champions had a close call in their semi-final match with Western New York—the same direct-elimination round which saw the defending champions from Salle Santelli routed, 5-1, by the Philadelphia Division. One of the pre-tournament favorites, the University Club of Chicago, failed to survive the first round as Donald Thompson was unable to reach New York in time to compete.

Summaries Preliminaries

Pool I. Salle Santelli, Philadelphia Division, Northern Ohio Division.

(a) Philadelphia d. Northern Ohio, 5-4. (Dyer 2-1, Tori 2-1, Ruben 1-2; Gosline 2-1, Henry 1-2, Fried 1-2.)

(b) Santelli d. Northern Ohio, 5-0. (Goldstein 2-0, Moss 2-0, Lewis 1-0; Gosline 0-2, Fried 0-2, Henry 0-1.)

Pool II. Fencers Club, Southern California Division, Illinois Division, Princeton University.

(a) Fencers Club d. Illinois, 6-3. (J. de Capriles 3-0, Skrobisch 2-1, Vebell 1-2; True 1-2, Shane 1-2, Grassie 1-2.)

(b) Southern California d. Princeton, 5-4. (Shurtz 3-0, Linkmeyer 1-2, de Jong 1-2; Hoffman 2-1, Kolowrat 1-2, Hoitsma 1-2.)

(c) Fencers Club d. Princeton, 6-3. (Skrobisch 3-0, de Capriles 2-1, Strauch 1-2; Kolowrat 2-1, Hoitsma 1-2, Hoffman 1-2.)

(d) Southern California d. Illinois, 8-1. (Shurtz 3-0, de Jong 3-0, Linkmeyer 2-1; Shane 1-2; True 0-3, Grassie 0-3.)

Pool III. University Club of Chicago, New York Athletic Club, Western New York Division, New York University. (N.Y.U. scratched.)

(a) Western New York d. Univ. Club, 6-3. (Dye 3-0, Jones 2-1, Bohacket 1-2; Berry 2-1, Rose 1-2, Gilman 0-3.)

(b) New York A.C. d. Univ. Club, 5-1. (Overhauser 2-0, Barthel 2-0, Grombach 1-1; Berry 1-1, Rose 0-2, Gilman 0-3.)

Semi-Finals (Direct Elimination)

1. Fencers Club d. Western New York, 5-4. (Skrobisch 3-0, de Capriles 2-1, Strauch 0-3; Dye 2-1, Jones 1-2, Bohacket 1-2.)

2. Southern California d. N.Y.A.C., 5-3. (Linkmeyer 3-0, Shurtz 2-1, de Jong 0-2; Barthel 2-1, Overhauser 1-2, Grombach 0-2.)

3. Philadelphia Division d. Salle Santelli, 5-1. (Tori 2-0, Ruben 2-0, Dyer 1-1; Goldstein 1-1, Lewis 0-2, Moss 0-2.)

FINALS (Round-robin)

1. Fencers Club defeated Philadelphia, 9-0, and Southern California, 5-4.

(a) J. de Capriles defeated Tori 3-0, Dyer 3-0 and Ruben 3-2; Skrobisch defeated Tori 3-0, Dyer 3-1 and Ruben 4-3; Vebell defeated Tori 3-1, Dyer 3-1 and Ruben 3-0.

(b) Vebell defeated Linkmeyer 3-2 and de Jong 3-1; Strauch defeated Linkmeyer 3-1 and de Jong 3-1; Skrobisch defeated de Jong 3-1. Shurtz defeated Strauch 3-0, Vebell 3-2 and Skrobisch 3-2; Linkmeyer defeated Skrobisch 3-2.

2. Philadelphia Division defeated Southern California, 6-3.

(Tori defeated Linkmeyer 3-2, de Jong 3-1 and Shurtz 3-1; Ruben defeated de Jong 3-1 and Shurtz 4-3; Dyer defeated Linkmeyer 3-2. Linkmeyer defeated Ruben 3-1; de Jong defeated Dyer 3-1; Shurtz defeated Dyer 3-0.)

3. Southern California lost two matches.

WOMEN'S TEAM (5 teams)

Fencers Club, June 11

- (1) **FENCERS CLUB** (Madeline Dalton, Julia Doerschuk, Dolly Funke, Diane Millstein).
- (2) **SALLE SANTELLI** (Grace Acel, Betty Dedousis, Anne Drungis, Eve Cohen Siegel).
- (3) **SALLE DE TUSCAN** (Sallye Chambers, Carol Christensen, Paula Sweeney).

With only five teams entered, a complete round-robin was held, and the championship was decided half-way through the competition when the Fencers Club defeated Salle Santelli, 5-4. The match was hard fought, and the tension was high between the local rivals. This atmosphere produced the only serious "rhubarb" of the entire national championship tournament, concerning the proper interpretation of a judge's vote "Abstain as to fair or foul."

The two final matches, reserved for the evening, were excellent. In the key match, held first by agreement in order to permit Diane Millstein to leave in time for the World Championships, the Fencers Club clinched the title by defeating the defending champions from Salle de Tuscan, 5-4. But the second match also was fraught with high drama, as the three youngsters from Lapeer High School, out of the running for the medals but in a position to drop Salle Santelli from second to third, carried their

highly favored opponents to 4-4 in bouts and 3-3 in touches before yielding the deciding hit.

Summaries

1. Salle de Tuscan d. Montclair St.T.C., 9-0 (Sweeney 3-0, Chambers 3-0, Christensen 3-0; Rawcliffe 0-3, Kopp 0-3, Perraudin 0-3).

2. Fencers Club d. Lapeer H.S. (Dalton 3-0, Funke 3-0, Doerschuk 2-1; Goodrich 1-2, Beardsley 0-3, Fernea 0-3).

3. Salle Santelli d. Montclair STC, 8-1 (Acel 3-0, Dedousis 3-0, Siegel 2-1; Kopp 1-2, Rawcliffe 0-3, Perraudin 0-3).

4. Salle de Tuscan d. Lapeer H.S., 6-3 (Sweeney 3-0, Christensen 2-1, Chambers 1-2; Goodrich 2-1, Fernea 1-2, Beardsley 0-3).

5. Fencers Club d. Salle Santelli, 5-4 (Millstein 2-1, Funke 2-1, Dalton 1-2; Acel 2-1, Dedousis 1-2, Siegel 1-2).

6. Lapeer H.S. d. Montclair STC, 7-2 (Goodrich 3-0, Beardsley 3-0, Fernea 1-2; Rawcliffe 1-2, Kopp 1-2, Perraudin 0-3).

7. Salle Santelli d. Salle de Tuscan, 6-3 (Acel 3-0, Drungis 2-1, Dedousis 1-2; Chambers 2-1, Sweeney 1-2, Christensen 0-3).

8. Fencers Club d. Montclair STC, 8-1 (Dalton 3-0, Doerschuk 3-0, Funke 2-1; Kopp 1-2, Rawcliffe 0-3, Perraudin 0-3).

9. Fencers Club d. Salle de Tuscan, 5-4 (Millstein 2-1, Dalton 2-1, Funke 1-2; Chambers 2-1, Sweeney 1-2, Christensen 1-2).

10. Salle Santelli d. Lapeer H.S., 5-4 (Acel 2-1, Dedousis 2-1, Drungis 1-2; Goodrich 2-1, Beardsley 1-2, Fernea 1-2).

Final Standing: (1) Fencers Club, 4 v.; (2) Salle Santelli, 3 v.; (3) Salle de Tuscan, 2 v.; (4) Lapeer H.S., 1 v.; (5) Montclair, 0 v.

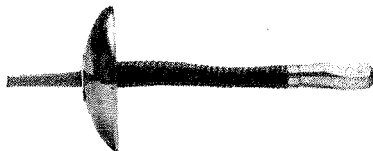
FOIL TEAM (9 teams)

Grand Central Y.M.C.A., June 12-13

- (1) **SALLE SANTELLI** (Albert Axelrod, Ralph Goldstein, Allan Kwartler, Norman Lewis).
- (2) **FENCERS CLUB** (Daniel Bukantz, Harold Goldsmith, Nathaniel Lubell, Austin Prokop).
- (3) **NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB** (Dernell Every, Silvio Giolito, Evan Quinn, Vincent Surdi).

Salle Santelli, smarting from its defeat in the epee team, came back to upset the favored Fencers Club Olympic stars by 5-4 in the final match of the foil team championship. The Santelli cause seemed lost when Ralph Goldstein was beaten by Harold Goldsmith and in the process aggravated an old muscle injury which forced him to withdraw; but this bad break may well have been the key to Santelli's ultimate victory. Goldstein was replaced by Norman Lewis, always a tremendous competitor under pressure, who carried Bukantz to 5-4 and then won the deciding bout of the match over Lubell by 5-3. The Fencers Club's own bad break came on the final touch of its match with the New York Athletic Club, when Austin Prokop suffered a jolt to his spinal column as he went past Giolito, and was forced to retire.

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The superiority of the five Eastern teams, four from New York City and one from Philadelphia, over the rest of the field was amazing. In six matches, these five teams won 47 bouts and lost only 3 against teams from other parts of the country.

Summaries Preliminaries

Pool I. Fencers Club, Saltus Club, Salle de Tuscan (Detroit).

Saltus Club d. Salle de Tuscan, 7-2. (Schechter, 3-0; Ritayik, 3-0; Stephens, 1-2. Chambers, 1-2; Tobey, 1-2; Chadwick, 0-3.)

Fencers Club d. Salle de Tuscan, 9-0 (Goldsmith, 3-0; Lubell, 3-0; Prokop, 3-0. Chambers, 0-3; Tobey, 0-3; Chadwick, 0-3.)

Pool II. Salle Santelli, Illinois Division, Rochester.

Illinois d. Rochester, 7-2. (Berry, 3-0; Velasco, 3-0; Gilman, 1-2. Plouffe, 1-2; Bohacket, 1-2; Cargill, 0-3.)

Salle Santelli d. Rochester, 8-1. (Goldstein, 3-0; Kwartler, 3-0; Axelrod, 2-1. Bohacket, 1-2; Cargill, 0-3; Plouffe, 0-3.)

Pool III. New York A.C., Philadelphia Division, Western New York Division.

Philadelphia d. Western New York, 9-0. (Altabef, 3-0; Goldman, 3-0; Zitomer, 3-0. Dye, 0-3; Schwartz, 0-3; Williams, 0-3.)

New York A.C. d. Western New York, 9-0. (Every, 3-0; Quinn, 3-0; Surdi, 3-0. Dye, 0-3; Jones, 0-3; Williams, 0-3.)

Semi-Finals (Direct Elimination)

1. Fencers Club d. Illinois, 5-0. (Bukantz, 2-0; Goldsmith, 2-0; Lubell, 1-0. Gilman, 0-2; Velasco, 0-2; Berry, 0-1.)

2. Salle Santelli d. Saltus Club, 5-1. (Axelrod, 2-0; Goldstein, 2-0; Kwartler, 1-1. Schechter, 1-1; Ritayik, 0-2; Stephens, 0-2.)

3. New York A.C. d. Philadelphia, 5-4. (Every, 2-1; Surdi, 2-1; Giolito, 1-2. Goldman, 2-1; Altabef, 1-2; Austin, 1-2.)

FINALS (Round-robin)

1. Salle Santelli defeated New York A.C. 5-1 and Fencers Club 5-4.

(a) Axelrod d. Surdi, 5-0 and Quinn, 5-3; Kwartler d. Giolito, 5-2 and Quinn, 5-2; Goldstein d. Surdi, 5-3. Giolito d. Goldstein, 5-4.

(b) Axelrod d. Lubell, 5-2 and Goldsmith, 5-2; Kwartler d. Lubell, 5-4 and Goldsmith, 5-2; Lewis (sub. for Goldstein) d. Lubell, 5-3. Bukantz d. Kwartler, 5-3, Axelrod, 5-3 and Lewis, 5-4; Goldsmith d. Goldstein, 5-4.

2. Fencers Club d. New York A.C., 5-4. (Prokop d. Giolito, 5-2, Quinn, 5-2, and Every, 5-2; Lubell d. Giolito, 5-1 and Every, 5-3. Quinn d. Goldsmith, 5-4 and Lubell, 5-3; Every d. Goldsmith, 5-3; Giolito d. Goldsmith, 5-4.)

3. New York A.C. lost two matches.

SABRE TEAM (6 teams)

Saltus-McBurney Club, June 13

(1) **SALLE SANTELLI** (Sol Gorlin, Allan Kwartler, Tibor Nyilas, George Worth).

(2) **FENCERS CLUB** (Jose de Capriles, Abram Cohen, Arthur Spingarn, Peter Tishman).

(3) **PHILADELPHIA DIVISION** (John F. Austin, R. Richard Dyer, Walter V. Farber, Paul T. Makler).

Salle Santelli's powerhouse retained its national sabre team championship without difficulty, losing only 2 bouts in three matches. The real battle came in the semi-finals, between the Fencers Club and the Philadelphia Division, in the match which indirectly decided the second and third places, and was featured by Arthur Spingarn's three victories. Dr. Makler, mainstay of Philadelphia's 1953 silver medalists, fenced in a brace due to a back injury which kept him out of the individual events in all weapons.

As in the foil, the New York and Philadelphia sabre teams outclassed the rest of the field. Only Sid Schwartz of Western New York was able to win against them, and he captured two bouts from the N. Y. A. C.

Summaries Preliminaries

Pool I. Fencers Club, Philadelphia Division, Gulf Coast Division, Michigan Division. (Michigan Division scratched.)

(a) Philadelphia Division defeated Gulf Coast, 9-0: (J. F. Austin, 3-0; R. Dyer, 3-0; P. Makler, 3-0. Bickley, 0-3; Applebaum, 0-3; Reed, 0-3.)

(b) Fencers Club d. Gulf Coast, 9-0: (A. Spingarn, 3-0; A. Cohen, 3-0; P. Tishman, 3-0. Bickley, 0-3; Applebaum, 0-3; Reed, 0-3.)

Pool II. Salle Santelli, New York A.C., Western New York Division.

(a) New York A.C. d. Western New York, 7-2: (Marson, 3-0; Muray, 2-1; J. Flynn, 2-1. Schwartz, 2-1; Jones, 0-3; Hamilton, 0-3.)

(b) Salle Santelli d. Western New York, 9-0: (Worth, 3-0; Gorlin, 3-0; Nyilas, 3-0. Plouffe, 0-3; Hamilton, 0-3; Schwartz, 0-3.)

Semi-Finals (Direct Elimination)

1. Salle Santelli defeated New York A.C., 5-1: (Worth, 2-0; Nyilas, 2-0; Kwartler, 1-1. Muray, 1-1; Flynn, 0-2; Marson, 0-2.)

2. Fencers Club defeated Philadelphia Division, 5-3: (Spingarn, 3-0; J. de Capriles, 1-1; Cohen, 1-2. Farber, 1-1; Makler, 1-2; Dyer, 1-2.)

Third-Place Match

Philadelphia Division defeated N.Y.A.C., 5-1. (Makler d. Marson, 5-3 and Flynn 5-4; Farber d. Marson, 5-4 and Muray, 5-4; Dyer d. Muray, 5-4. Flynn d. Dyer, 5-4.)

Championship Match

Salle Santelli defeated Fencers Club, 5-1. (Worth d. de Capriles 5-3 and Spingarn 5-2; Gorlin d. de Capriles, 5-4 and Cohen, 5-3; Nyilas d. Spingarn 5-4. Cohen d. Nyilas, 5-4.)

EPEE INDIVIDUAL (64 contestants)

New York A. C., June 14-15

(1) **Sewall Shurtz, U.S.N., Faulkner S.F.**(2) **Alfred Skrobisch, Fencers Club**(3) **Peter S. Conomikes, Washington F.C.**

Sewall Shurtz of the Faulkner School of Fencing, currently serving in the United States Navy in Hawaii, became the new epee champion at the age of twenty-two—the youngest man to win the nationals since Frank Rigeheimer's epee victory as a Yale senior in 1929. Shurtz combined a fair hand with good legs and a stout heart to score his well earned victory in a fine field. He led his semi-final pool, outscored defending champion Donald G. Thompson in the first match of the direct-elimination finals, and defeated the experienced and technically superior Olympian, Alfred Skrobisch, in the title match. The result was a bitter disappointment to Skrobisch, who has been a strong contender for 15 years but never a gold medalist. Third place went to "Pete" Conomikes, another seasoned veteran, who defeated Dick Berry, another twenty-two year old, who was the bronze medalist last year and is currently an ensign in the Navy.

A pleasant international note was added by the participation of Major Luis Sanchez, of the Spanish Army. Major Sanchez was about to return home via Boston after spending several months at Fort Knox, but came down for the championships at the invitation of the Board of Governors. He reached the finals and finished eighth. A number of strong old-timers gave a traditional flavor to the gruelling competition, but youth was the keynote of the event,

and the three members of Princeton's varsity attracted the greatest attention. Kinmont Hoitsma finished fifth by defeating his teammate, Henry Kolowrat, the N.C.A.A. champion, who boasted an unbeaten record in the first two rounds. Both men reached the final, along with Shurtz and Berry, after a four-way fence-off in the semi-finals with Jose de Capriles and Edward Vebell of the 1952 Olympic Team. The third Princetonian, Allan Hoffman, led his pool in the first round and was undefeated in quarter-final pool which included both Shurtz and Skrobisch, but did not quite make it in the semi-finals.

Preliminaries

24 Byes: Automatic qualifiers: D. G. Thompson, Berry, Ruben, Derderian, Bickley, Vebell, R. F. Jones, J. de Capriles, Strauch, Skrobisch, Lewis, Jaekel, Gilman, Mijer, Doughty, Shurtz, Gosline, Major Luis Sanchez (Spain); 1953 semi-finalists: Bavuso, Conomikes, Quinn, Fried, Wallner.

Pool I. (1) Hurwitz, Balto.F.C., 4-2; (2) Tobey, S. de Tuscan, 4-2; (3) de Jong, Hollywood A.C., 3-3 (3 v. in 4-way fence-off). Non-qualifiers: Sonnenreich, F.C., 3-3, 2 v. in f-o; Williams, W. N.Y., 3-3; F. D. Jones, Phila.F.C., 3-3; Arvanites, N.Eng., 1-5.

Pool II. (1) J. Flynn, N.Y.A.C., 4-1; (2) Kunzmann, G.P.S.C., 4-1; (3) Salzburg, F.C., 3-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Non-qualifiers: Breckinridge, Wash.F.C., 3-3 (1 v. in f-o); Jed. W.N.Y., 3-3; Weinberg, U. Pa., 2-4; Grassie, U. of Chicago, 1-5.

Pool III. (1) Hoffman, Princeton, 5-1; (2) A. M. Rose, Balto. Y, 3-1; (3) Dollinger, F.C., 3-3. Non-qualifiers: Linkmeyer, L.A.A.C., 2-4; Dushoff, U. Pa., 2-4; Shane, U. of Chicago, 2-4; Plouffe, W.N.Y., 2-4.

Pool IV. (1) Martin, Wash.F.C., 4-1; (2) Metzger, F.C., 4-1; Henry, No. O., 3-3 (3 v. in 4-way fence-off). Non-qualifiers: Goldman, U. Pa., 3-3 (1 v. in f-o); Carnell, 3-3 (1 v. in f-o); Romary, So. Calif., 3-3; DeMoura, N. Eng., 0-6.

Pool V. (1) Hoitsma, Princeton, 5-1; (2) Kapner, S.S., 4-2; (3) Promish, U. Pa., 3-3 (won fence-off 3-1). Non-qualifiers: Dye, W.N.Y., 3-3; Cohen, F.C., 2-4; Waffa, Michigan, 2-4; A. E. Rose, U.C.Chi., 2-4.

Pool VI. (1) Kolowrat, Princeton, 5-0; (2) Bowser, M.I.T., 4-1; (3) True, Northwestern, 3-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Non-qualifiers: Dyer, Phila. F.C., 3-3 (1 v. in f-o); Bohacket, Rochester, 3-3; Chambers, S. de Tuscan, 1-5.

Quarter-Final Roundrobins

Pool I. (1) Thompson, U.C.Chi., 4-1; (2) Hoitsma, Princeton, 3-2; (3) Salzburg, F.C., 3-2. Eliminated: Strauch, F.C., 2-3; A. M. Rose, Balto. Y., 2-3; Quinn, N.Y.A.C., 1-4. Lewis, S.S., scratched.

Pool II. (1) Conomikes, Wash.F.C., 4-2 (2 v. in 4-way fence-off); (2) Berry, U.C.Chi., 4-2 (1 v. in fence-off); (3) J. de Capriles, 4-2 (1 v. in fence-off). Eliminated: Hurwitz, Balto. F.C., 4-2; Promish, U. Pa., 3-3; Mijer, S.S., 1-5; Bowser, M.I.T., 1-5.

Pool III. (1) Hoffman, Princeton, 5-0; (2) Skrobisch, F.C., 4-1; (3) Shurtz, U.S.N., 3-2. Eliminated: Kunzmann, G.P.S.C., 1-3; True, Northwestern, 1-2; Fried, No. O., 0-4. R. Goldstein, S.S., withdrew.

Pool IV. (1) Kolowrat, Princeton, 5-0; (2) Gosline, No. O., 3-2; (3) Martin, Wash.F.C., 2-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Eliminated: Dollinger, F.C., 2-3 (1 v. in f-o); Jaekel, F.C., 2-3; Derderian, Michigan, 1-4. Wallner, N.Y.U., scratched.

Pool V. (1) Metzger, F.C., 6-0; (2) Ruben, Phila. F.C., 4-2; (3) De Jong, Hollywood A.C., 3-3. Eliminated: Jones, W.N.Y., 2-4; Bavuso, F.C., 2-4; Gilman, U.C.Chi., 2-4.

Pool VI. (1) Vebell, F.C., 4-2; (2) Henry, No. O., 4-2; (3) Sanchez, Spain, 3-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Eliminated: Flynn, N.Y.A.C., 3-3 (1 v. in f-o); Tobey, S. de Tuscan, 3-3; Doughty, U.S.N., 2-4; Bickley, Gulf Coast, 2-4.

Semi-Final Roundrobins

Pool A: (1) Skrobisch, 6-2; (2) Conomikes, 5-3, 13 t.r.; (3) Sanchez, 5-3, 14 t.r.; (4) Thompson, 5-3, 15 t.r. Eliminated: Gosline, 4-4, 15 t.r.; Metz-

ger, 4-4, 18 t.r.; Hoffman, 3-5; De Jong, 2-5; Salzburg, 1-6.

Pool B: (1) Shurtz, 7-1; (2) Berry, 6-2; (3) Kolowrat, 4-4 (2 v. in 4-way fence-off); (4) Hoitsma, 4-4 (2 v. in fence-off). Eliminated: Vebell, 4-4, 1 v. in f-o; de Capriles, 4-4, 1 v. in f-o; Ruben, 3-5, 19 t.r.; Henry, 3-5, 21 t.r.; Martin, 1-7.

FINALS (Direct Elimination)

Quarter Final Round: Alfred Skrobisch, Fencers Club, defeated Kinmont Hoitsma, Princeton, 2-3, 3-0, 3-1; Richard Berry, University Club of Chicago, defeated Major Luis Sanchez, Spain, 3-1, 1-3, 3-2; Peter S. Conomikes, Washington Fencers Club, defeated Henry Kolowrat, Princeton, 3-2, 4-3; Sewall Shurtz, U. S. Navy (Faulkner S.F.), defeated Donald G. Thompson, University Club of Chicago (defending champion), 2-3, 3-1, 3-1.

Upper Semi-Finals: Skrobisch d. Berry, 4-3, 4-3; Shurtz d. Conomikes, 2-3, 3-2, 3-1.

Lower Semi-Finals: Hoitsma d. Sanchez, 3-1; Kolowrat d. Thompson, 3-1.

Seventh Place: Thompson d. Sanchez, 3-1.

Fifth Place: Hoitsma d. Kolowrat, 6-5.

Third Place: Conomikes d. Berry, 3-2, 3-2.

First Place: Shurtz d. Skrobisch, 3-2, 3-2.

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL (54 contestants)

Fencers Club, June 15-16

(1) Mrs. Maxine Mitchell, Hollywood A.C.

(2) Miss Grace Acel, Salle Santelli

(3) Miss Madeline Dalton, Fencers Club

Maxine Mitchell, the most consistent performer in the past five women's national championships, regained the title with the best individual record made in the 1954 tournament. Maxine was unbeaten in the qualifying roundrobins, and in the direct elimination rounds won every match by wide margins except against Janice-Lee York Romary, who managed to eke out a 4-3 victory in their second bout before losing the deciding encounter, 4-2.

Grace Acel, the metropolitan champion, climaxed her most successful season with a well-earned second place, while the veteran Madeline Dalton outscored Mrs. Romary for the bronze medal. Defending champion Paula

ELECTRIC FOIL IN COLOMBIA

By Tracy Jaekel

Ed. Note: The following letter was received by Jose de Capriles just as this issue went to press. Mr. Jaekel accepted the invitation to direct the 1954 Colombian national championships in Cali largely because he wished to observe at first hand the operation of the new Italian electric foil machine in a regular competitive setting.

"Dear Joe,

Well—we fencend with the electric foil; and, although directing needs four eyes, a competent foil director can easily master it. The first team match took seven hours; the second 5 1/2, and the third 5 hours.—By that time all the equipment was exhausted. It consisted of

22 mounted foils
29 extra points
35 extra blades with points.

Total damage: 86 weapons for 68 bouts. **Incredible!** A qualified Italian, trained by the company, adjusted the points after every touch, every heavy parry or heavy beat. The points were **hopeless**. I write this hurried note so that you can warn Castello when he receives the A.F.L.A. order to test all points before accepting them. Either the points sent here were old and defective or electric foil is impossible and impossibly expensive. The machine and the reels were perfect."



—Photo by Hans Teichmann

Sweeney had the misfortune to meet Mrs. Mitchell in her first match of the final, but fenced strongly thereafter to take fifth place over her teammate, Sallye Chambers. Estelle Osher Atkin, former intercollegiate champion but absent from national competition in the last few years, nosed out 15-year-old Judy Goodrich, a gallery favorite who fenced remarkably well throughout the event, for seventh place. Ida Balint continued to show steady improvement, missing the final on a fence-off with Mrs. Chambers. The field included all of the outstanding women fencers in the United States except Mrs. Eve Cohen Siegel, who sustained a back injury in the team event, and Mrs. Diane Millstein, last year's bronze medalist, who had to forego the nationals in order to compete in the World Championships.

Summaries Preliminaries

17 Byes Automatic qualifiers (7): Sweeney, Mitchell, Dalton, Chambers, Sokol, Dedousis, Romary; 1953 semi-finalists (6): Goodrich, Thompson, Brewster, Funke, Balint, C. Kopp; outstanding 1954 qualifiers (4): Acel (Met. Champion); Knab, Met.; Baxter, So. Cal.; Angell, No. Cal.

Pool I. (1) Stack, F.C., 4-1; (2) Marchant, N. Eng., 3-2; (3) Beardsley, Lapeer H.S., 2-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Non-qualifiers: Dardia, Montclair STC, 2-3; Hayes, Int'l Y., Balt., 2-3; Newton, Wash. F.C., 1-4.

Pool II. (1) Drungis, S.S., 5-0; (2) Fernea, Lapeer H.S., 4-1; (3) Schutt, Conn., 3-2. Non-qualifiers: Bernard, Int'l Y., 2-3; Armitage, Tenn., 1-4; Johnson, W. N.Y., 0-5.

Pool III. (1) de Polo, S. de Tuscan, 5-0; (2) Breton, W. N.Y., 4-1; (3) Pierce, S.S., 3-2. Non-qualifiers: Townsend, Int'l Y., 1-4; Bemler, N. J., 1-4; Taylor, Phila., 1-4.

Pool IV. (1) Doerschuk, F.C., 5-0; (2) R. Martin, Mid-N.Y., 4-1; (3) Chadwick, S. de Tuscan, 3-2. Non-qualifiers: Wegener, Wash., 2-3; Scrivanisch, Int'l Y., 1-4; Moreck, Paterson STC, 0-5.

Pool V. (1) Atkin, S.S., 5-0; (2) Wodgenske, Cavaliers, 5-0; (3) Snyder, S. de Tuscan, 3-3; (4) Burger, Int'l Y., 3-3. Non-qualifiers: Whitehead, Elmira, 2-4; Millman, Tri-Weapon, 2-4; Mautino, Conn., 0-6.

Pool VI. (1) Boyce, F.C., 5-0; (2) Rose, Tri-Weapon, 3-2; (3) Pressley, Tenn., 2-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Non-qualifiers: Stein, G.P.S.C., 2-3; D. Kopp, Montclair, 2-3; Salisbury, N. Eng., 1-4.

Quarter-Final Roundrobins

Pool I. (1) Balint, Saltus, 5-0; (2) Sweeney, S. de Tuscan, 4-1; (3) Wodgenske, Cavaliers, 3-2. Eliminated: Brewster, N. Eng., 2-3; Pierce, S.S., 1-4; Boyce, F.C., 0-5.

Pool II. (1) Mitchell, Hollywood A.C., 5-0; (2) Atkin, S.S., 3-2 (1 v. in 3-way fence-off); (3) Funke, F.C., 3-2 (1 v. in fence-off). Eliminated: Fernea, Lapeer H.S., 3-2; Chadwick, S. de Tuscan, 1-4; C. Kopp, Montclair, 0-5.

Pool III. (1) Dalton, F.C., 4-0; (2) Drungis, S.S., 4-0; (3) Thompson, U.C.Chi., 3-2. Eliminated: Snyder, S. de Tuscan, 0-3; Rose, Tri-Weapon, 0-3; Breton, W.N.Y., 0-3.

Pool IV. (1) Baxter, So. Calif., 4-1, 8/13; (2) Chambers, S. de Tuscan, 4-1, 8/12; (3) Doerschuk, F.C., 4-1, 12/11. Eliminated: Dedousis, S.S., 2-3; Beardsley, Lapeer H.S., 0-4; Pressley, Tenn., 0-4.

Pool V. (1) Goodrich, Lapeer H.S., 4-1 4 t.r.; (2) Accl, S.S., 4-1, 9 t.r.; (3) Angell, 3-2 (won fence-off, 4-3). Eliminated: Stack, F.C., 3-2; Schutt, Conn., 0-4; Martin, Mid-N.Y., 0-4.

Pool VI. (1) Romary, 4-1; (2) Marchant, 3-2 (1-1 in fence-off), 18 t.r.; (3) Sokol, 3-2 (1-1 in fence-off), 20/21. Eliminated: Knab, S.S., 3-2 (1-1 in fence-off), 20/20; De Polo, S. de Tuscan, 1-4; Burger, Int'l Y., 1-4.

Semi-Final Roundrobins

Pool A: (1) Dalton, 7-1, 12 t.r.; (2) Goodrich, 7-1, 17 t.r.; (3) Atkin, 6-2; (4) Sweeney, 5-3. Eliminated: Funke, 3-4; Sokol, 3-4; Baxter, 2-4; Marchant, 0-7; Wodgenske, 0-7.

Pool B: (1) Mitchell, 8-0; (2) Accl, 7-1; (3) Romary, 6-2; (4) Chambers, 4-4, won fence-off 4-2. Eliminated: Balint, 4-4; Doerschuk, 3-5, t.r.; Drungis, 3-5, 28 t.r.; Thompson, 1-7; Angell, 0-8.

FINALS (Direct Elimination)

Quarter-Final Round: Miss Madeline Dalton, Fencers Club, defeated Mrs. Sallye Chambers, Salle de Tuscan, 4-2, 4-2; Miss Grace Accl, Salle Santelli, defeated Mrs. Estelle Osher Atkin, Salle Santelli, 4-0, 4-0; Mrs. Janice-Lee York Romary, Southern California, defeated Miss Judy Goodrich, Lapeer High School, 4-3, 4-3; Mrs. Maxine Mitchell, Hollywood Athletic Club, defeated Miss Paula Sweeney, Salle de Tuscan (defending champion), 4-1, 4-1.

Upper Semi-Finals: Miss Accl defeated Miss Dalton, 4-2, 4-2; Mrs. Mitchell defeated Mrs. Romary, 4-1, 3-4, 4-2.

Lower Semi-Finals: Mrs. Chambers d. Mrs. Atkin, 4-2; Miss Sweeney d. Miss Goodrich, 4-0.

Seventh Place: Mrs. Atkin d. Miss Goodrich 6-4.
Fifth Place: Miss Sweeney d. Mrs. Chambers, 4-2.

Third Place: Miss Dalton d. Mrs. Romary, 4-3, 4-2.

First Place: Mrs. Mitchell d. Miss Accl, 4-2, 4-2.

FOIL INDIVIDUAL (63 contestants)

New York A. C., June 16-17

- (1) **Joseph Levis (New England Division), Fencers Club**
- (2) **Albert Axelrod, Salle Santelli**
- (3) **Dr. Daniel Bukantz, Fencers Club**

The final match of the individual foil brought together the U.S. heroes of the 1932 and 1952 Olympiads in foil. Both men featured strong offense, light hands, fast tempo, and their battle electrified the audience. In the first bout, probably the best of the tournament, Levis got off to a 3-0 lead and eventual victory at 5-2, scoring once on the riposte and twice on his favorite counter-riposte. Axelrod came back to win the second bout by an identical score, taking the last three points in a row, each on a different action. Axelrod then started the deciding bout with a lightning riposte, but Levis ran off five straight hits to win the championship. This bare recital is misleading, however, for both men, under great tension, missed at crucial junctures, and there was no time to rectify even a minor error; Levis' second and third touches, for example, were scored on remises which would have been out of time if Axelrod's ripostes had found their mark.

Axelrod showed to great advantage in his one-sided triumph over Dan Bukantz in the upper semi-final, while many observers thought that Levis' match with Kwartler in the same bracket was the most brilliant display of technical skill on the part of two contestants in several years. Strauch's fifth place was not too surprising in light of his fencing in last year's foil team event, but Spingarn's sixth place, on top of his fine performance in the sabre team, stamped him as the most improved fencer in the metropolitan area. Lubell and Goldsmith were below par. Most promising of the semi-finalists were Herman Velasco of Illinois and Bob Goldman of Pennsylvania, both of whom should make the finals with a year or two of hard training and top-flight competitive experience.

Summaries Preliminaries

24 byes: Automatic qualifiers (12): Bukantz, Kwartler, Axelrod, Turk, Lazar, Lubell, Quinn, Shurtz, Levis, Goldsmith, Carnell; 1953 semi-finalists (10): Spingarn, Marmer, Edwards, Altabef, Kunzmann, Dion, Thompson, Velasco, Martin, Lyons; 1954 epee finalists (2): Berry, Conomikes.

Pool I. (1) Tobey, S. de Tuscan, 4-1; (2) Metzger, F.C., 4-1; (3) Goldman, U. of P., 4-1. Non-qualifiers: Frank, F.C., 3-3; Olcott, No. Tex., 3-3; Brienza, N.J., 1-4; Castigliola, Wash. YMCA, 0-5.

Pool II. (1) DeCicco, N.J., 4-1; (2) Brandeis, F.C., 4-1; (3) Chambers, S. de Tuscan, 3-2 (won fence-off). Non-qualifiers: D. S. Thompson, No. O., 3-2; Taylor, Tenn., 1-4; Shapiro, Syracuse, 0-5.

Pool III. (1) Dyer, Phila. FC, 4-1; (2) Price, S. Santelli, 4-1; (3) Strauch, F.C., 4-1. Non-qualifiers: Sanchez, Conn., 2-3; Giordano, N.J., 1-4; Howden, Tenn., 0-5.

Pool IV. (1) Fried, No. O., 5-0; (2) Zitomer, Phila., 5-1; (3) Fitzsimmons, Wisc., 4-2. Non-qualifiers: R. Jones, W. N.Y., 2-3; Chadwick, S. de Tuscan, 2-4; Thorndike, N. Eng., 1-4; Reed, G.C., 0-5.

Pool V. (1) Convin, F.C., 5-1; (2) Steinhardt, U.S.A.F., 4-2; (3) Sully, N.Y.A.C., 4-2. Non-qualifiers: Moss, S.S., 3-3; Gilman, Univ. Cl. Chi., 3-3; Plouffe, Rochester, 1-5; Mahony, Tenn., 1-5.

Pool VI. (1) Ostrofsky, Phila. F.C., 4-1; (2) Seeman, C.C.N.Y., 4-1; (3) Cargill, W.N.Y., 3-2. Non-qualifiers: Sherman, N.Eng., 1-3; R. Flynn, N.Y. A.C., 1-3; Szathmary, Tenn., 1-4.

Quarter-Final Roundrobins

Pool I. (1) Bukantz, F.C., 5-0; (2) Strauch, F.C., 4-1; (3) Velasco, Ill., 4-2. Eliminated: Conomikes, Wash.F.C., 3-3; Zitomer, Ph.F.C., 1-4; Tobey, S. de Tuscan, 1-4; Carnell, No. Tex., 0-4.

Pool II. (1) Kwartler, S.S., 4-0; (2) Shurtz, U.S.N., 5-0; (3) Steinhardt, U.S.A.F., 4-1. Eliminated: D. G. Thompson, U.C.Chi., 3-3; Cargill, W.N.Y., 1-4; DeCicco, N.J., 1-5; Marmer, F.C., 0-5.

Pool III. (1) Axelrod, S.S., 5-0; (2) Levis, F.C., 4-1; (3) Dyer, Ph.F.C., 4-1. Eliminated: Kunzmann, G.P.S.C., 2-3; Brandeis, F.C., 2-3; Sully, N.Y.A.C., 0-4; Berry, U.C.Chi., 0-5.

Pool IV. (1) Goldsmith, F.C., 6-0; (2) Goldman, U.Pa., 4-2; (3) Turk, S.S., 3-3 (won fence-off). Eliminated: Convin, F.C., 3-3; Altabef, Ph.F.C., 2-4; Dion, N.Eng., 2-4; Seeman, C.C.N.Y., 1-5.

Pool V. (1) Lazar, S.S., 5-1; (2) Spingarn, F.C., 4-2 (1 v. in 3-way fence off); (3) Metzger, F.C., 4-2 (1 v. in fence off). Eliminated: Martin, Wash. F.C., 4-2; Ostrofsky, Ph.F.C., 3-3; Surdi, N.Y.A.C., 0-5; Chambers, S. de Tuscan, 0-5.

Pool VI. (1) Lubell, F.C., 4-0; (2) Edwards, Ph.F.C., 3-1; (3) Quinn, N.Y.A.C., 3-2. Eliminated: Fitzsimmons, Wisc., 1-3; Price, S.S., 1-3; Lyons, Wash.F.C., 1-4. Fried, No. O., withdrew.

Semi-Final Roundrobins

Pool A: (1) Bukantz, 7-0; (2) Kwartler, 6-2, 18 t.r.; (3) Spingarn, 6-2, 26 t.r.; (4) Goldsmith, 5-3. Eliminated: Steinhardt, 4-4; Velasco, 3-4; Dyer, 2-5; Turk, 0-6; Edwards, 0-7.

Pool B: (1) Levis, 8-0; (2) Axelrod, 6-2; (3) Strauch, 4-4 (1 v. in 3-way fence-off); (4) Lubell, 4-4 (1 v. in fence-off). Eliminated: Lazar, 4-4;

Goldman, 3-5; Quinn, 3-5; Shurtz, 2-5; Metzger, 1-6.

FINALS (Direct Elimination)

Quarter-Final Round: Dr. Daniel Bukantz, Fencers Club (defending champion), defeated Nathaniel Lubell, Fencers Club, 5-1, 4-5, 5-0; Albert Axelrod, Salle Santelli, defeated Arthur Spingarn, Fencers Club, 5-2, 5-1; Allan Kwartler, Salle Santelli, defeated James Strauch, Fencers Club, 5-3, 3-5, 5-1; Joseph L. Levis, Boston and N.Y. Fencers Club, defeated Harold Goldsmith, Fencers Club, 5-2, 5-4.

Upper Semi-Finals: Axelrod d. Bukantz, 5-1, 5-2; Levis d. Kwartler, 5-3, 5-2.

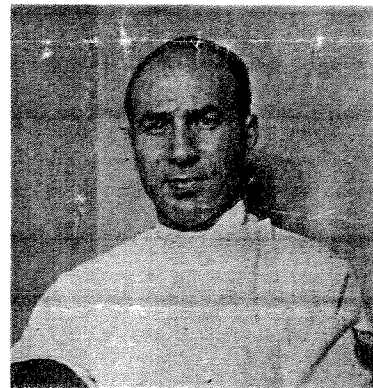
Lower Semi-Finals: Spingarn d. Lubell, 5-3; Strauch d. Goldsmith, 5-2.

Seventh Place: Lubell d. Goldsmith, 5-0.

Fifth Place: Strauch d. Spingarn, 5-3.

Third Place: Bukantz d. Kwartler, 5-2, 5-3.

First Place: Levis d. Axelrod, 5-2, 2-5, 5-1.



SABRE INDIVIDUAL (46 contestants)

Grand Central YMCA and Fencers Club,
June 17-18

- (1) **George V. Worth, Salle Santelli**
- (2) **Allan Kwartler, Salle Santelli**
- (3) **Sol Gorlin, Salle Santelli**

George Worth's victory over Allan Kwartler in the final match of the sabre championship brought to a successful conclusion a 14-year quest of the U. S. title. Champion of Cuba in 1939, several times metropolitan champion, 5th place winner in the 1948 Olympics, and holder of the Brooks Parker trophy for his superb 1952 Olympic Team record, George had won practically every sabre honor within his reach except our national championship. There was doubt that Worth could win this year because he had a relatively mediocre season, but he was in danger only once, when Norman Armitage carried him to the last touch in the semi-final direct-elimination match.

For Kwartler, metropolitan champion, this was his first national sabre medal and the climax of an excellent season. It was particularly gratifying to him because of his unfortunate experience last year, when he missed the final on touches. Gorlin scored an upset over Nyilas in the first match of the final, and seemed to be on his way to a comfortable victory over Armitage in the third-place match, leading 4-1 in the deciding bout with one minute to go. The wily veteran, however, pulled up to 4-4 before time ran out, and Gorlin needed all his wits to capture his second third-place medal.

Worth, Armitage, Gorlin and Jose de Capriles (who won 5th) all qualified from the same semi-final pool with almost identical records. In the other semi-final, Abe

Cohen (who finished 6th) showed to advantage, while Dick Dyer squeezed past Bob Blum and Don Thompson. Dyer proved his right to be a finalist, however, by the quality of his fencing, carrying Worth to the limit of three bouts in their match.

Summaries Preliminaries

18 Byes (top-ranking 1953 competitors): Nyilas, Worth, Armitage, Cohen, J. de Capriles, J. Flynn, S. Gorlin, Sobel, Muray, Kwartler, Ozol, D.G. Thompson, Austin, Dyer, Bartone, Pongo, Younis, Tishman.

Pool I. (1) Pariser, Columbia, 5-0; (2) Burrell, Phila. F.C., 4-1; (3) Blum, S.S., 4-2; (4) Jones, W.N.Y., 3-3, won fence-off, 5-4. Non-qualifiers: Sully, N.Y.A.C., 3-3; Cornell, No. Tex., 1-5; Reed, G.C., 0-6

Pool II. (1) Lorant, S.S., 5-1; (2) Farber, U. Pa., 4-2; (3) Richards, N. Eng., 4-2; (4) Szathmary, Tenn., 4-2. Non-qualifiers: Cardozo, Canada, 3-3; Sonnenreich, F.C., 1-5; Bickley, Gulf, 0-6.

Pool III. (1) Schwartz, W.N.Y., 4-2; (2) Newton, Wash. F.C., 4-2; (3) Spector, S.S., 4-2; (4) Milletari, F.C., 4-2. Non-qualifiers: R. Flynn, N.Y.A.C., 3-3; Hurowitz, U. Pa., 2-4; Mahony, Tenn., 0-6.

Pool IV. (1) Shaff, S.S., 6-0; (2) Rubinstein, Mid-N.Y., 5-1; (3) Kunzmann, G.P.S.C., 4-2; (4) Henry, No. O., 2-4, won fence-off 5-2. Non-qualifiers: Byfield, S.S., 2-4; Brienza, N.J., 1-5; Olcott, No. Tex., 1-5.

Quarter-Final Roundrobins

Pool I. (1) Nyilas, S.S., 4-0; (2) Thompson, U.C. Chi., 4-0; (3) Shaff, 2-3 (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Eliminated: Austin, Ph.F.C., 2-3; Szathmary, Tenn., 2-3; Jones, W.N.Y., 0-5.

Pool II. (1) Worth, S.S., 3-0; (2) Dyer, Ph.F.C., 3-0; (3) Rubinstein, Mid-N.Y., 2-2. Eliminated: Ozol, N.Y.A.C., 1-3; Spector, S.S., 0-4.

Pool III. (1) Armitage, F.C., 3-1; (2) Kwartler, S.S., 3-1; (3) Bartone, Ph.F.C., 3-2. Eliminated: Kunzmann, G.P.S.C., 2-2; Newton, Wash. F.C., 0-4.

Pool IV. (1) Cohen, F.C., 4-1; (2) Muray, N.Y.A.C., 3-2 (1 v. in 3-way fence-off); (3) Blum, S.S., 3-2 (1 v. in fence-off). Eliminated: Pongo, S.S., 3-2; Schwartz, W.N.Y., 1-4; Richards, N. Eng., 1-4.

Pool V. (1) J. de Capriles, F.C., 4-1; (2) Henry, No. O., 4-1; (3) Sobel, 2-3, (2 v. in 3-way fence-off). Eliminated: Younis, N. Eng., 2-3; Lorant, S.S., 2-3; Burrell, Phila. F.C., 1-4.

Pool VI. (1) Gorlin, S.S., 5-0; (2) Milletari, F.C., 2-3 in regular round, 3-1 in 5-way fence-off, 32 t.r.; (3) J. Flynn, N.Y.A.C., 2-3 in regular round, 3-1 in 5-way fence-off, 33/33 in touches, won second fence-off, 5-3. Eliminated: Tishman, F.C., 2-3, 3-1, 33/33; Pariser, Columbia, 2-3, 1-3; W. Farber, U. Pa., 2-3, 0-4.

Semi-Final Roundrobins

Pool A: (1) Kwartler, 7-1, 16 t.r.; (2) Cohen, 7-1, 22 t.r.; (3) Nyilas, 6-2; (4) Dyer, 5-3. Eliminated: Blum, 4-4; Thompson, 3-5; J. Flynn, 1-6; Milletari, 1-6; Henry, 0-6.

Pool B: (1) Worth, 7-1, 22 t.r.; (2) Gorlin, 7-1, 23 t.r.; (3) Armitage, 6-2, 22 t.r.; (4) J. de Capriles, 6-2, 23 t.r. Eliminated: Muray, 2-4; Rubinstein, 2-4; Shaff, 1-5; Sobel, 0-4; Bartone, 0-6.

FINALS (Direct Elimination)

Quarter-Final Round: Allan Kwartler, Salle Santelli, defeated Jose de Capriles, Fencers Club, 5-2, 1-5, 5-2; Sol Gorlin, Salle Santelli, defeated Dr. Tibor Nyilas, Salle Santelli, (defending champion), 2-5, 5-2, 5-4; Norman C. Armitage, Fencers Club, defeated Abram D. Cohen, Fencers Club, 2-5, 5-2, 5-3; George V. Worth, Salle Santelli, defeated Richard Dyer, Philadelphia F.C., 5-2, 4-5, 5-2.

Upperr Semi-Finals: Kwartler d. Gorlin, 5-3, 5-3; Worth d. Armitage, 5-2, 1-5, 5-4.

Lower Semi-Finals: J. de Capriles d. Nyilas, 8-7; Cohen d. Dyer, 5-3.

Seventh Place: Dyer d. Nyilas, 5-1.

Fifth Place: J. de Capriles d. Cohen, 6-4.

Third Place: Gorlin d. Armitage, 5-3, 1-5, 5-4.

First Place: Worth d. Kwartler, 5-1, 5-4.

THREE-WEAPON TEAM (9 teams)
Fencers Club and Waldorf-Astoria, June 18

(1) **SALLE SANTELLI (Albert Axelrod, foil; Ralph Goldstein and Norman Lewis, epee; George Worth, sabre.**

(2) **FENCERS CLUB (Daniel Bukantz and Joseph Levis, foil; James Strauch, epee; Jose de Capriles, sabre.**

(3) **NEW YORK A.C. (Silvio Giolito and Vincent Surdi, foil, Jean V. Grombach, epee; Nickolas Muray, sabre.**

Salle Santelli easily retained its three-weapon team title and the George C. Calnan Memorial Trophy, losing only one bout in the entire event. In the final match at Gala Night, the Fencers Club captain, Dan Bukantz, took himself out and called upon Joe Levis, less than 24 hours after the latter's spectacular victory in the individual foil to fence against Albert Axelrod; but Axelrod turned the tables in a well-earned 5-3 victory. The Salle Santelli captain, Ralph Goldstein, then produced Norman Lewis as his own substitute in epee, and the latter clinched the match with an easy 3-1 victory over Strauch. With the result already decided, the sabre bout was more of an exhibition than a contest, in which George Worth, the newly crowned sabre champion, rallied from a 4-2 deficit to keep intact his remarkable undefeated record in this event over the past seven years.

Summaries

First Round

Pool I. Salle Santelli, University Club (Chicago), Northern Ohio Division.

(a) University Club defeated Northern Ohio, 2-1. (F) Gilman d. Fried, 5-2; (E) Berry d. Gosline, 3-1; (S) Henry (No. O.) d. Thompson, 5-2.

(b) Salle Santelli defeated Northern Ohio, 3-0. (f) Axelrod d. Fried, 5-3; (E) Goldstein d. Gosline, 3-2; (S) Worth d. Henry, 5-4.

Pool II. Fencers Club, New York A.C., Washington F.C.

(a) N.Y.A.C. d. Washington F.C., 2-1. (F) Giolito d. Martin, 5-2; (E) Conomikes (WFC) d. Grombach, 3-0; (S) Muray d. Newton, 5-4.

(b) Fencers Club d. Washington F.C. 2-1: (F) Bukantz d. Martin, 5-1; (E) Conomikes, WFC, d. Strauch 3-1; (S) de Capriles d. Newton, 5-3.

Pool III. Michigan Division, Philadelphia Division, Western New York Division.

(a) Philadelphia defeated Western New York, 2-1. (F) Goldman won by forfeit; (E) Jones, WNY, d. Makler, 3-2; (S) Dyer d. Schwartz, 5-1.

(b) Michigan defeated Western New York 2-1. (F) Chambers d. Schwartz, 5-1; (E) Jones, WNY, d. Tobey, 3-0; (S) Kunzmann won by forfeit.

Second Round

Pool A. Salle Santelli, Philadelphia Div., Univ. Club (Chicago).

(1) Philadelphia d. University Club, 2-1. (F) Gilman, UC, d. Goldman, 5-1; (E) Makler d. Berry, 3-1; (S) Dyer d. Thompson, 5-3.

(2) Salle Santelli d. University Club, 3-0. (F) Axelrod d. Gilman, 5-4; (E) Goldstein d. Berry, 3-0; (S) Worth d. Thompson, 5-1.

Pool B. Fencers Club, N.Y.A.C., Michigan Div. (1) New York A.C. d. Michigan, 3-0. (F) Surdi d. Chambers, 5-3; (E) Grombach d. Gosline, 3-0; (S) Muray d. Kunzmann, 5-4.

(2) Fencers Club d. Michigan Div., 2-1. (F) Bukantz d. Chambers, 5-1; (E) Strauch d. Tobey, 3-2; (S) Kunzmann, Mich., d. de Capriles 5-2.

Semi-Finals (Direct Elimination)

(1) Salle Santelli d. Philadelphia Div., 2-1: (F) Axelrod d. Barton, 5-2; (E) Makler, Ph., d. Goldstein, 3-1; (S) Worth d. Dyer, 5-4.

(2) Fencers Club d. N.Y.A.C., 2-1. (F) Bukantz d. Giolito, 5-2; (E) Strauch d. Grombach, 3-1; (S) Muray, NYAC, d. de Capriles, 5-1.

Third Place Match

N.Y.A.C. d. Philadelphia 2-1. (F) Giolito d. Goldman, 5-3; (E) Grombach d. Makler, 3-2; (S) Dyer, Ph., d. Muray 5-4.

Championship Match

Salle Santelli d. Fencers Club, 3-0. (F) Axelrod d. Levis, 5-3; (E) Lewis d. Strauch, 3-1; (S) Worth d. de Capriles, 5-4.

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KYOHEI INUKAI

Kyohei Inukai, prominent American fencer in the 'twenties, and a well-known painter, died last June in his late sixties after a long illness. Mr. Inukai was born in Japan but came to the United States in early childhood and learned to paint in Chicago. He was best known for his portraits. A slight individual barely five feet tall and weighing around 90 pounds, he was a formidable competitor in both epee and sabre, and was a regular member of the first team of the Washington Square Fencers, when this club was at the height of its strength.

—P. Mijer


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ELECTRICAL FOIL AT GALA NIGHT

An added attraction of exceptional interest at Gala Night was the remarkable demonstration of electrical foil staged by Tom Bickley, in association with the Castello Fencing Equipment Company, between the third-place and first-place matches of the National Three-Weapon Team Championship. And thereby hangs a tale of American inventiveness and resourcefulness which bears retelling.

Tom Bickley, it will be recalled, is the young Texan with the slow draw who created a sensation last year by placing sixth in the individual epee championship even though technically still of "novice" rank. Tom was impressed with the lively controversy engendered at the Nationals by the announcement in the June issue of **American Fencing** that the F.I.E. had adopted the electrical foil for the 1955 World Championships and the 1956 Olympic Games. It was on Sunday, June 13, 1954, that he asked me in his diffident manner: "Do you think the boys would like to see how the electrical foil works?" I said, of course, but where could we get a machine and weapons? Then he said: "I have read very carefully the description of what the European machine does, and I am pretty sure that I can rig up a machine by Friday which will do exactly the same things." There might be some difficulty, he allowed, in getting weapons and a metallic jacket, but perhaps he could work something out with Jimmy and Hugo Castello. I gave him my blessing, and assured him that we would make room on the Gala Night program for the demonstration if he succeeded.

By Thursday night, the machine was in perfect operation, and on Friday evening it passed all tests with flying colors. The honor of demonstrating the improvised equipment went to Bob Goldman, national intercollegiate foil champion, and his former University of Pennsylvania teammate, Frank Bartone. Both men wore well-fitting metallic vests made of copper screening, fastened over their regular jackets. Their weapons consisted of extremely light epee blades, mounted with the hemispheric electrical top on regular foil hilts. The wiring system was identical with that now used for the epee, and the same body-wires and reels were used. The control machine was different; I cannot give the technical details. Suffice it to say that four lights were shown: The two upper lights (which would have had colored bulbs if they could have been found) showed when good hits had been scored by either fencer; the two lower lights showed when a foul hit had been scored. However, the lower lights would not show if the foul was made after a good hit in the same direction.

The Bickley machine may well be the answer to the practical problems of using the electrical foil in the United States. By using the same reels as the electrical epee, a substantial part of the cost is eliminated for divisions, clubs or colleges which already own an electrical epee machine. Both Bickley and the Castello brothers were confident that the ultimate net cost of the new machine could be reduced substantially below the European figures. —M. de C.

DE TUSCAN'S ELECTRICAL FOIL EXHIBITED

Bela de Tuscan, chairman of the Electrical Foil Research Committee of the National Fencing Coaches Association, presented his model of the electrical foil at a meeting held on June 17, 1954 in New York. Present were the other members of the committee (George Santelli, James and Hugo Castello, and Stanley Sieja, ex officio); Alvar Hermandon of the University of Chicago and chairman of the N.C.A.A. Fencing Rules Committee; Joseph Fiems, U. S. Naval Academy; Charles Schmitter, Michigan State; Edward Lucia, C.C.N.Y.; Walter Langford, Notre Dame; Silvio Vitale, M.I.T.; George Quinby, Washington, D. C.; and Tom Bickley, designer of the apparatus demonstrated at Gala Night.

The great advantage of the de Tuscan model is the complete absence of a central apparatus, reels, and outside wires, which reduces cost and improves the appearance of the competition. Each fencer carries his own control unit, battery and relay, in a compact case, cigarette-pack size, on his hip; and his own signalization unit is mounted on top of his mask. The director can readily see the lights of both fencers, regardless of whether the bout is being fenced in the center or at one end of the strip. There is no confusion caused by different buzzers when several bouts are in progress at the same time. The superimposed plastic-covered lights are so mounted that the contestant is informed the instant he has made a valid hit. The lights are also visible to anyone in the audience who can see the masks of the fencers. It is possible to use an interchangeable control unit which will flash radio waves to an electrically illuminated, remote-control scoreboard.

To achieve these results, the construction of the electrical foil differs from both the standard foil and the electrical epee. The blade is made of the finest tubular steel, originally oval in shape, but flattened to a shape that closely resembles the solid forgings now used. The use of tubular steel permits the wire to be inserted **within** the blade, so that it is protected against buckling and injury to the insulation. This type of blade is safer than a standard four-cornered forged blade into which a groove has been cut to accommodate the wire. The cutting of the groove weakens the blade, and sharp corners cause breakage. The tubular blade will not snap off after steel fatigue sets in; rather, it will simply buckle. The tubular blade is also very light, yet rigid enough to counterbalance the added weight of the electrical tip. The result is perfect balance, in sharp contrast with the other methods which mount a tip on a standard foil blade; and the tubular blade will not whip. Such tubular blades may be mounted on any hilt type, and are available without electrical wiring for practice use.

The electrical tip developed by de Tuscan has no moving parts. It will register all hits made squarely upon the metallic cloth which covers the valid target, and will do so with the same accuracy featured by the modern epee point. Flats, grazes, and passes do not register.

ELECTRICAL FOIL DEMONSTRATION IN NEW YORK

The National Fencing Coaches Association and New York University's School of Education are co-sponsors of an eastern conference on the electrical foil to be held in New York on September 1, 2, and 3. At this conference, Hugo and James Castello, N.Y.U. coaches, and Bela de Tuscan of Detroit will present several types of machines and some new ideas for the construction of the electrical weapon itself.

A full competitive trial, featuring six invited fencers, will be held on Thursday, September 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the N.Y.U. School of Education, corner of West 4th and Greene Streets, one block east of the southeast corner of Washington Square. All members of the Amateur Fencers League of America are invited to witness this competition.

The metallic-cloth covering for the jacket can be cut to exact size, and then snapped or zipped over the uniform for use in competition. The covering may also be ordered in "large" sizes, which can be readily cut to fit any contestant.

The only disadvantage, from the point of view of present A.F.L.A. and F.I.E. rules, is that this apparatus will not register hits outside the valid target. Under the new N.C.A.A. "no foul" rule, this is of no importance; and the disadvantage is more apparent than real in other situations. If it is desired that the foul should stop the bout, Mr. de Tuscan recommends the use of two judges, similar to the "floor judges" now used in electrical epee competitions. These judges would signal to the director when a foul hit is made—as well as the much debated "parried foul" hits which no machine is able to differentiate, and which constitute a major problem for the use of any apparatus which registers fouls. Furthermore, since the de Tuscan model registers only on the valid target covered by metallic cloth, there is no possibility of a foul being registered when a contestant accidentally or intentionally hits the floor.

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News from the Divisions

Maryland

By Alan M. Rose

The following is a report of the recent competitions in the Maryland Division:

Prize Competitions

Generoso Pavese Invitation Foil (unofficial): (1) Paul Riccardi, N.J.; (2) Alan DeCicco, N.J.; (3) Eaton E. Bayor, Balto. YMCA.

Women's Team: (1) International Centre "A" (Burger, Bernard, Townsend); (2) Tri-Weapon "A" (Rose, Morrison, Drill).

Open Foil: (1) Dr. Robert Lewis, JCC; (2) Dan Edwards, Phila. FC; (3) Eaton E. Bayor, Balto YMCA.

Open Epee: (1) Alfred Hurwitz, Balto. YMCA; (2) Calvert E. Schlick, Jr., Balto. YMCA; (3) Dr. Robert Lewis, JCC.

Open Sabre: (1) Lt. Hobart Edmonds, U.S.N.; (2) Bernard Udell, JCC; (3) Dr. Robert Lewis, JCC.

Women's Open: (1) Abbie Rose, Tri-Weapon; (2) Jane Burger, Int'l Centre; (3) Laura Burlage, York, Pa., YWCA.

Divisional Championships

Foil: (1) Dr. Robert Lewis, JCC; (2) Eaton E. Bayor, Balto. YMCA; (3) Calvert E. Schlick, Jr., Balto. YMCA.

Epee: (1) Donald Loring, USNA; (2) Capt. Leonard Doughty, USNRet.; (3) Alan M. Rose, Balto YMCA.

Sabre: (1) Bernard Udell, JCC; (2) Lee Stanley, Int'l Centre; (3) Calvert E. Schlick, Jr., Balto. YMCA.

Women: (1) Jane Burger, Int'l Centre; (2) Abbie Rose, Tri-Weapon; (3) Doris Bernard, Int'l Centre.

Harrisburg

By S. S. Schlesinger

The results of recent competitions are as follows:

Women's Foil: (1) Mrs. Elaine Daitz, Harrisburg Division, JCC; (2) Lora Burlage, Phila. Div., York FC; (3) Carol Hesperheide, Phila. Div., York FC.

Open Outdoor Foil and Sabre: (1) Pvt. Louis Wiseman, Harrisburg Div., JCC; (2) Sheldon Scott Schlesinger, Harrisburg Div., JCC; (3) Dr. Wilfred Bergman, Non-Divisional, Pittsburgh FC.

Wisconsin

By Wm. McClellan

At a combination Victory Dinner and business meeting held at the Schlitz Brown Bottle in Milwaukee, David R. Logan was re-elected chairman, Erwin J. Lukaszewski was re-elected vice-chairman, and Mrs. B. J. Chitko was re-elected secretary for the 1954-55 season. Our state champions, Gertrude H. Hille and Jerome Fitzsimmons, who placed third in the Mid-West Championships, are the first senior fencers the Wisconsin Division has ever had.

Nebraska

By John Giele, Chairman

Fencing in Nebraska during the 1953-54 season centered at the University of Nebraska; attempts to bring in fencers from the Omaha area proved fruitless, but the possibilities may improve now that Mr. Rodney Durkee is there. In addition to two official novice events, in epee and sabre, and an invitational prep foil event, fencers from the Nebraska Division participated in a tournament sponsored at Fort Riley, Kansas, by the United States Army and captured first in foil (Richard Dahl), first in epee (Jim Rogers) and third in sabre (Rudolf Link). A three-weapon interdivisional meet was scheduled with Iowa, and an exhibition was put on for the Lincoln Air Force Base. The Nebraska University Fencers Club were undefeated in several dual meets.

Divisional Events

Prep Foil: (1) Jim Rogers, NUFC; (2) John DePutron, Lincoln; (3) Bob Higgs, Rushville.

Novice Epee: (1) Jim Rogers, NUFC; (2) John DePutron, Lincoln; (3) Cyril Harvey, NUFC.

Novice Sabre: (1) Richard Dahl, NUFC; (2) Rudolf Link, NUFC; (3) Jim Rogers, NUFC.

Iowa-Nebraska Meet

Foil: (1) Richard Dahl, Lincoln, NUFC; (2) Bob Hemsley, Ames, ISU; (3) Richard Higgenbottom, Iowa City, IU.

Epee: (1) John Giele, Lincoln, NUFC; (2) Bob Nelson, Ames, ISU; (3) Richard Higgenbottom, Iowa City, IU.

Sabre: (1) John Giele, Lincoln, NUFC; (2) Tom Lyons, Ames, ISU; (3) Bob Hemsley, Ames, ISU.

New England

By Helen A. Dargie

The officers of the New England Division for 1954-1955 are: Guido Pomodoro, Chairman; Harriet Brewster, Secretary; Zigurds Kaktins, Treasurer. The results of recent competitions:

Prize Tournaments

Intermediate Epee, 3/14/54: (1) Zigurds Kaktins, Indep.; (2) Visvaidis Bergs, Indep.; (3) Hamilton Bowser, M.I.T.

Three-Weapon, 3/21/54: (1) Edwin Richards, Salle Elde; (2) Edward Washwell, Indep.; (3) Hamilton Bowser, M.I.T.

J. Levis Open, 5/23/54: (1) Robert Dion, Salle Vitale; (2) Edward Washwell, Indep.; (3) David Thorndike, Boston FC.

Divisional Championships

Sabre, 5/6/54: (1) Edwin Richards, Salle Elde; (2) Hamilton Bowser, M.I.T.; (3) George Younis, Salle Elde.

Epee, 5/13/54: (1) Philip Craig, Salle Elde; (2)

Oregon

By Bob L. Geier

Fifteen members of the division entered the Northwest Fencing Tournament at Seattle. Pat Buie, with only five months' competitive experience, brought back to Portland the beautiful Junior Foil Trophy. Janice Gay, our Secretary-Treasurer, placed second in both the junior and open events. At the Inland Empire Tournament in Spokane, Virginia Shaughnessy won third in the junior and open, and Don Naylor, YMCA, placed third in the men's open foil after fencing off for first place. Results of other events:

Open Foil: Reed College, 18 entries: (1) Don Naylor, YMCA; (2) Bob Geier, NSF; (3) Bob Reed, NSF.

Novice Sabre: Nottingham S.F., 8 entries: (1) Bob Geier, NSF; (2) Don Appling, YMCA; (3) Bob Reed, NSF.

Junior Epee: Nottingham S.F., 6 entries: (1) Don Appling, YMCA, on fence-off; (2) Bob Geier, NSF; (3) Tate Minckler, Reed College.

Junior Sabre: Nottingham S.F., 6 entries: (1) Bob Geier, NSF; (2) Gary Lewis, Reed; (3) Pat Buie, Reed.

Three-Weapon: Nottingham S.F., 8 entries: (1) Bob Geier, NSF; (2) Tate Minckler, Reed; (3) Pat Buie, Reed.

Outdoor Epee: Jantzen Beach Park, 6 entries: (1) Bob Geier, NSF; (2) Tate Minckler, Reed; (3) Pat Buie, Reed.

Spring Novice Foil: Reed College, 14 entries: (1) Bob Evans, PSC; (2) Bob Fortner, PSC; (3) Dean Rhyner.

Women's Novice: 7 entries: (1) Gloria Sacker, PSC; (2) Barbie Scarf, NSF; (3) Virginia Shaughnessy, YMCA.

Wm. Pierskalla, Harvard; (3) Paulo de Moura, Salle Elde.

Women's, 5/15/54: (1) Harriet Brewster, Boston FC; (2) Florence Power, Salle Elde; (3) Doris Salisbury, Boston FC.

Foil, 5/16/54: (1) Joseph Levis, FC (NY); (2) Robert Dion, Salle Vitale; (3) Philip Craig, Salle Elde.

POSTSCRIPT

By Larrie Dargie

As part of the Mayor's Outdoor Fencing Tournament, held on June 5 on the Boston Common, there was a competition for boys between the ages of 10 and 15. Robert Prescott and Frank Judge, both of Lexington, came first and second.

Salle Elde completed its first full season with about 30 members, and won a foil competition, 3-2, with a group from Rhoads Island in the final event of the season.