

American Fencing



Cordial
Season's
Greetings

from the

Board of Editors



Official A.F.L.A. Notes

By Ralph Goldstein, Sec.

Classification Rules

At the Board of Governors meeting of October 17, the proposed new rules on classification of fencers and the rating of competitions were approved with minor changes. A committee was appointed to work out the lists of Class A and Class B fencers, in consultation with the divisions. It was expected that there might be some confusion during this year, but that the new system would be fully understood by the end of the season.

International Affairs

The visiting team from Argentina was presented with memorial A.F.L.A. medals; the visitors in turn presented to the A.F.L.A. an engraved silver cup.

The F.I.E. requested the A.F.L.A. to designate a member of the Olympic Bout Committee (Directoire Technique) for the Games in Melbourne. Mr. Curtis Ettinger was designated. Inasmuch as there is no expense allowance from either the F.I.E. or the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Board authorized an appropriation of \$500 from the International Fund to help Mr. Ettinger finance his expenses.

Mr. Fred Linkmeyer and Mr. Nickolas Muray were certified to the F.I.E. as judges for the Olympic Games. Both men will finance their own travel expenses.

Divisional Affairs

After consultation with the Midwest Section, the Board denied the request of the Western New York Division to join the Midwest Section. The decision was based in part on the large size of the sectional championships and in part on the sectional rule for rotation of the site of the tournament.

The Board recommended that the fencing groups in Council Bluffs, Iowa, join the Nebraska Division instead of setting up a separate Western Iowa Division.

New Inland Empire Division: In view of the inactivity of the Spokane Division, the charter of this division was cancelled. A new charter was issued to the Inland Empire Division to include the former territory of the Spokane Division, with headquarters in Richland. The new division includes eastern Washington State, Idaho, western Montana, and part of Oregon.

New Rules Book and Manual

The Board instructed the Rules Committee to print the new rules in the same format and style as the International Rules of the F.I.E., including the international numbering of articles, and to insert additional paragraphs as needed to point up any deviations or additions in force in the United States. The Rules Committee was authorized to adjust the size of the manual, depending on the number of pages required for the rules, and to enter into a flexible printing contract based on the number of pages to be included in the new book.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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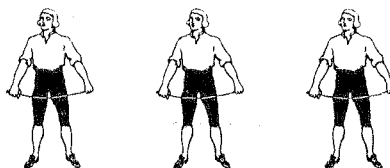
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—Connie Latzko



SOVIETS WIN WORLD'S WOMEN'S TEAM TITLE

A strong and well-balanced team from the U.S.S.R., defeated 9-6 by France in the semi-final, turned the tables in the final round by an identical score to win the world's women's team fencing title. Since the women's team event is not on the Olympic program, a separate competition is organized every four years; in 1956 it was held in London on September 14 and 15.

The twelve competing teams were divided into 4 pools. In Pool I, Holland was eliminated after losing to Roumania 10-6 and to Hungary 9-2; in Pool II, Belgium dropped out on defeats by Germany and France, both 9-1; in Pool III, Denmark was crushed by Great Britain 13-3 and then lost to Italy 9-5; and in Pool IV, Eire lost to Austria 15-1 and to U.S.S.R. 9-0.

The semi-finals were very close. In Pool A, three teams tied in match victories, as Great Britain beat Italy 9-7 and Germany 11-5, Hungary beat Great Britain 11-5 and Germany 9-7, and Italy beat Hungary 9-7 and Germany 10-6. The Hungarians, defending champions, led the pool with 27 bouts won. Italy had 26, and Great Britain (with 25) was out. In Pool B, two teams won two and lost one: U.S.S.R. defeated Austria 11-5 and Roumania 9-7; France defeated U.S.S.R. 9-6 and Austria 10-6; Austria defeated Roumania 9-7 and Roumania defeated France 8-8, 45 to 49 touches.

In the finals, France squeezed out two victories on touches, beating Hungary 8-8, 45 to 47 touches, and Italy 8-8, 37 to 50 touches; while U.S.S.R. beat Italy 8-8, 43 to 46 touches, and Hungary 9-7. Then, in the battle for third place, Hungary defeated Italy 9-4; and in the championship match U.S.S.R. defeated France 9-6.

Commenting on the competition in L'Es-crimme Francaise, Julien Eggmont of Belgium, had considerable praise for the athletic qualities of the Russian foilswomen. Epimova and Chitikova were particularly outstanding for their speed and beautifully executed straight thrusts. Their game, like that of their teammates, Rastvarova and Yagordina, was simple and mobile, with excellent judgment of distance. For France, Veronnet showed great progress, and Garihe, Maillard and Delbarre fenced strongly in the classical French style. Hungary's team, which had been unbeaten since 1952, combined the clever fencing of Kovacs-Nyari, the speed and balance of Domolki, and the experience of M. Elek and Kiss. The Italian team was composed of Colombetti, a fine all-around fencer, Strukkel, a powerful competitor, and two fine technicians, Cesari and Zanelli. The British stars were Glen Haig and Sheen. The Roumanian team made a great impression, because it included three young women (Orb, Orban, and Sam-sudeau) who showed a sound technical style and extraordinary promise for the future.

—M. de C.

INTERNATIONAL

OLYMPIC RESULTS

Inasmuch as the Captain's Report will not be available in time to meet printing schedules for this issue, we are summarizing the results of Olympic fencing at Melbourne insofar as reported in the American press:

Foil Team: Preliminary pools: (I) U.S.A. defeated Australia 13-3; Hungary defeated Australia 8-8, 57/65. (II) Belgium d. Russia 9-7; Russia d. France 9-7; France d. Belgium 10-4 (Belgium eliminated). (III) Italy and Great Britain defeated Colombia. Semi-final pools: (I) U.S.A. and Italy qualify over Great Britain; (II) France and Hungary qualify over Russia. FINAL ROUND: (1) Italy; (2) France; (3) Hungary; (4) U.S.A.

Foil Individual: Albert Axelrod reached semi-finals with 5-1 score; Harold Goldsmith and Byron Krieger eliminated in first round. FINALS: (1) Christian D'Oriola, France, 6-1; (2) Giancarlo Bergamini, Italy, 5-2, won fence-off; (3) Antonio Spallino, Italy, 5-2; (4) Allan Jay, Great Britain, 4-3; (5) Josef Gyuricza, Hungary, 3-4; (6) Claude Netter, France, 3-4; (7) Mark Midler, U.S.S.R., 2-5; (8) Raymond Paul, Great Britain, 0-7.

Epee Team: Preliminary pools: (I) Great Britain defeated U.S.A., 9-7; Italy defeated U.S.A., 8-8, 63/65; Australia lost two; (II) Belgium and France defeated Luxembourg; (III) Russia defeated Colombia 15-1 and Sweden 9-7; Hungary defeated Sweden 9-5 and Colombia 14-2. Semi-finals: Hungary defeated Belgium 11-5, Belgium defeated Italy 8-8, 63/67, Italy defeated Hungary 9-3 (Belgium eliminated). France and Great Britain defeated Russia. FINALS: (1) Italy; (2) Hungary; (3) France; (4) Great Britain.

Women's Individual: Judy Goodrich eliminated in first round, 3 v., 4 d.; Maxine Mitchell topped pool in first round 5-1, but lost all bouts in semi-final; Janice-Lee Romary, 5-2 in first round, 3-2 in semi-final, 4-3 in final for fourth place. FINALS: (1) Gilliam Sheen, Great Britain, 6-1, won fence-off; (2) Olga Orban, Roumania, 6-1; (3) Renee Garihe, France, 5-2; (4) Janice-Lee Romary, U.S.A., 4-3; (5) Kate Delbarre, France, 3-4; (6) Karen Lachmann, Denmark, 2-5; (7) Ellen Muller-Preis, Austria, 1-6; (8) Bruno Colombetti, Italy, 0-7.

Epee Individual: All U.S.A. entries passed first round; Kinmont Hoitsma eliminated in second round; Sewall Shurtz tied for top in second round, 4-1, but was eliminated in semi-finals, 2-5; Richard Pew passed second round, 3-3, on fence-off, topped his semi-final with 6-1, finished fourth in final with 4-3. FINALS: (1) Carlo Pavesi, Italy, 5-2, after two fence-offs; (2) Giuseppe Delfino, Italy, 5-2; (3) Edoardo Mangiarotti, 5-2; (4) Richard W. Pew, U.S.A., 4-3, 28 t.; (5) Lajos Balthazar, Hungary, 4-3, 30 t.; (6) Rene Gueyroux, France, 3-4; (7) and (8) Per Carlsson, Sweden, and Rolf Wilk, Finland.

Sabre Team: Hungary and U.S.A. qualified from preliminaries without fencing when the third team in the pool, Colombia, defaulted. In other preliminaries, Great Britain was eliminated by Poland 12-4 and Italy,

8-8, 62/66; and Australia was eliminated by U.S.S.R. 14-2 and France 9-1. In the semi-finals, U.S.A. was eliminated by Poland 10-6 and Hungary 9-1; Italy was eliminated when France beat U.S.S.R. 9-7, U.S.S.R. beat Italy 9-7 and France led Italy 8-6 (match halted because Italy could not qualify even if it beat France on touches). FINALS: (1) Hungary (2) Poland (3) U.S.S.R. (4) France.

Sabre Individual: All U.S.A. entries passed first round: Nyilas 5-0, Worth 3-1, Kwartler 2-1. In the second round, Nyilas went out with 2-4, while Kwartler and Worth advanced with 3-2 and 3-3 scores respectively. In the semi-finals, Kwartler and Worth had 2-5 records and were eliminated. FINALS: (1) Rudolf Karpoti, Hungary, 6-1; (2) Jerzy Pawlowski, Poland, 5-2; (3) Lev Koutznetzov, U.S.S.R., 4-3, won fence-off; (4) Jacques Lefevre, France, 4-3; (5) Aladar Gerevich, Hungary, 3-4; (6) Wojciech Zablocki, Poland, 2-5, 28 t.; (7) Pal Kovacs, Hungary, 2-5, 30 t.; (8) Luigi Narduzzi, Italy, 2-5, 31 t. (The entire final was judged by a single all-U.S.A. jury, with J. de Capriles presiding).

HUNGARIAN FENCERS EXPECTED

Eight members of Hungary's Olympic delegation to the Melbourne Games are expected to make their permanent home in the United States. They are led by the great Piller, 1932 Olympic sabre champion, who hopes to establish himself as a fencing master, and include two former world champions: Josef Sakovics in epee and Lidia Domolki in women's foil, as well as another epee fencer and the three youngest members of the 1956 championship sabre team.

Canadian International

By Dave Silverstone

The Open International GOLDEN EPEE TOURNAMENT, held at the Deikania Sports Centre on October 20, 1956, drew 27 entries. The results of the final pool were as follows:

1. Richard Berry, U.S.A. 2. Carl Schwende, Canada. 3. R. Spinella, U.S.A. 4. Ed Brooke, Canada. 5. A. Silverstone, Canada. 6. J. G. Tremblay, Canada. 7. A. Paxton, Canada. 8. H. Schmadtke, Canada. 9. D. Silverstone, Canada.

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UNITED STATES, ARGENTINA SPLIT SABRE TEAM MATCHES

By Jose R. de Capriles

The long awaited visit of Argentine fencers to the United States finally became a reality when a five-man sabre team led by General Huergo arrived in New York early in October, for a pre-Olympic session. The United States won the first match 15-10; the Argentines won the second match 13-12. Individual results:

October 5, 1956: Cohen, USA, 5-0, def. Huergo 5-3, Agüero 5-4, Andalur 5-4, Vassallo 5-2, and D'Andrea 5-4; Worth, USA, 3-2, def. Huergo 5-1, Vassallo 5-2, and D'Andrea 5-3; Dyer, USA, 3-2, def. Huergo 5-4, Vassallo 5-4, and D'Andrea 5-2; Pongo, USA, 2-1, def. Andalur 5-3 and Vassallo 5-2; Spector, USA, 1-1, def. D'Andrea 5-2; Blum, USA, 1-3, def. Huergo 5-2; Marcell, USA, 0-1.

Agüero, ARG., 4-1, def. Worth 5-2, Dyer 5-1, Pongo 5-2 and Marcell (sub for Blum) 5-3; Andalur, ARG., 3-2, def. Blum 5-3, Dyer 5-2 and Worth 5-3; Huergo, ARG., 1-4, def. Spector (sub for Pongo) 5-1; Vassallo, ARG., 1-4, def. Blum 5-1; D'Andrea, ARG., def. Blum 5-2.

October 6, 1956: Agüero, ARG., 4-1, def. Worth 5-1, Nyilas 5-2, Dyer 5-2, and Milletari (sub for Farber) 5-3; Huergo, ARG., def. Worth 5-2, Cohen 5-3 and Spingarn (sub for Milletari) 5-1; Andalur, ARG., 3-2, def. Cohen 5-2, Nyilas 5-3 and Farber 5-3; D'Andrea, ARG., 2-3, def. Nyilas 5-2 and Farber 5-3; Vassallo, ARG., def. Farber 5-2.

Dyer, USA, 4-1, def. Huergo 5-4, Andalur 5-4, Vassallo 5-0 and D'Andrea 5-2; Worth, USA, 3-2, def. Andalur 5-3, Vassallo 5-4 and D'Andrea 5-3; Cohen, USA, 3-2, def. Agüero 5-2, Vassallo 5-3 and D'Andrea 5-4; Nyilas, USA, 2-3, def. Huergo 5-3 and Vassallo 5-3; Farber, USA, 0-3; Milletari, USA, 0-1; Spingarn, USA, 0-1.

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Gulf Coast

By Mabel Morse

The following are the results of the early invitational meets of the division:

**W. A. Franks Memorial, Texas City,
9/29-30/56**

Women's Open: (1) Mary Curl, Dallas, 5-0; (2) Marcelle Ducros, S d'E, 4-1; (3) Helen Gray, Dallas, 3-2; (4) Susan Platts, Lamar, 1-4 23/14; (5) Pat Fiske, Sd'E, 1-4, 23/13; (6) Nancy Derrick, Sd'E, 1-4, 24 t.

Epee Open: (1) Hector Poventud, MPT, 5-0; (2) Robert Miller, MPT, 4-1; (3) Ben Firth, MPT, 3-2; (4) Bob Derrick, Sd'E, 2-3; (5) Dave Dillehay, Rice, 1-4; (6) Jack Baird, Buc., 0-5.

Sabre Open: (1) Arnold Mercado, Ind., 4-1; (2) Hal Taxel, Ind., 3-2, 13 t.; (3) Jack Baird, Buc., 3-2, 18 t.; (4) Don Greene, UH, 3-2, 19 t.; (5) Charles Willis, A&M, 2-3; (6) Don Curry, Sd'E, 0-5.

**Y.W.C.A., San Antonio,
10/27/56**

Women's Open: (1) Ruth Goodlett, Cav., 3-1; (2) Marcelle Ducros, Sd'E, 2-2, 15/16; (3) Roxann Renneberg, Ind., 2-2, 15/15; (4) Mabel Morse, Sd'E, 2-2, 15/14; (5) Janice Savoy, Sd'E, 1-3.

Epee Open: (1) Hector Poventud, MPT, 5-0; (2) Jack Baird, Buc., 4-1; (3) Jack Daniels, MPT, 2-3, 12/12; (4) William F. Knuppel, MPT, 2-3, 12/11; (5) Robert Miller, MPT, 1-4, 14/10; (6) Leslie Bleamaster II, Ind., 1-4, 14/6.

Foil Open: (1) Robert Nielson, Harlingen, 7-0; (2) Jack Baird, Buc., 6-1; (3) Hal Taxel, Ind., 5-2; (4) John Curry, Ind., 4-3.

**S. W. Trophy & Awards, Houston,
10/27/56**

Women's Team: (1) Marcelle Ducros-Mabel Morse, 2 w. 1 t.; (2) Nancy Derrick-Roxann Renneberg, 1 w. 2 t.; (3) Ruth Goodlett-Janice Savoy, 1 t. 2 t.; (4) Ann Robertson-Susan Platts, 2 t. 1 t.

Foil Open: (1) Jack Baird, Buc., 6-0; (2) Gene Allen, A&M, 5-1; (3) John Curry, Ind., 4-2; (4) Don Greene, UH, 3-3; (5) Dave Dillehay, Rice, 2-4; (6) Pat Harrison, UH, 1-5; (7) T. R. Melton, T.C., 0-6.

**Texas A&M College Invitational,
11/24-25/56**

Women's Open: (1) Beverly Baird, Buc., 4-2, 2-1 on first fence-off, 2-0 on second fence-off; (2) Nancee Kirk, U.H., 4-2, 2-1 on first fence-off, 1-1 on second fence-off; (3) Roxann Renneberg, Ind., 4-2, 2-1 on first fence-off, 0-2 on second fence-off; (4) Mabel Morse, 4-2, 0-3 on first fence-off.

Foil Open: (1) Jack Baird, Buc., 5-0; (2) Gene Allen, A&M, 4-1; (3) Hal Taxel, Ind., 3-2; (4) Joe Elliott, A&M, 2-3; (5) John Curry, Ind., 1-4; (6) Albert Yantis, A&M, 0-5.

Sabre Open: (1) Hal Tael, Ind., 5-0; (2) John Curry, Ind., 4-1; (3) Gene Allen, A&M, 3-2; (4) Arnold Mercado, Ind., 2-3; (5) Desi Trevino, A&M, 1-4; (6) Dave Dillehay, Rice, 0-5.

Epee Open: (1) Jack Baird, Buc., 5-1; (2) Ben Firth, CAFB, 4-2; (3) Cecil Hill, A&M, 3-3, 11/13; (4) John Quigley, A&M, 3-3, 11/11; (5) Dave Dillehay, Rice, 3-3, 13t.; (6) Charles Willis, A&M, 2-4; (7) Gene Allen, A&M, 1-5.

John Gottlob Trophy (most victories in three final pools): (1) Jack Baird; (2) tie—Gene Allen and Hal Taxel.

Border

By Nelson Iry

The following are the results of the divisional competitions held on 3 and 4 November at Fort Bliss, Texas:

Foil Novice: (1) Carl Ditrack; (2) Eddie Tinoco; (3) James Cline.

Epee Novice: (1) Eddie Tinoco; (2) Charles Baker; (3) James Cline.

Sabre Novice: (1) Donald Bengé; (2) Nelson Iry; (3) Eddie Tinoco.

Foil Junior: (1) Jack McDaniel; (2) Donald Bengé; (3) Nelson Iry.

Epee Junior: (1) Donald Bengé; (2) Charles Baker; (3) Fred Allaga.

METROPOLITAN

(In handicap events, seniors are designated by capitals, intermediates in bold face type.)

Sabre Novice, 10/13/56: (1) B. Balaban, NYU, 8-0; (2) R. Gradkowski, Saltus, 7-1; (3) B. Whittingham, Saltus, 6-2.

Epee Novice, 10/20/56: (1) John Farrell, NYU, 8-1; (2) H. Eichenbaum, NYU, 7-2, 31 t.; (3) M. Yabkow, CCNY, 7-2, 35 t.

Women's Novice, 10/21/56: (1) Evelyn Terhune, unatt., 6-0; (2) A. Genton, Lucia, 4-2, 15 t.; (3) B. Maviglio, SS, 4-2, 16 t.; (4) D. O'Connor, NJTC, 3-3; (5) P. Schwabe, Lucia, 2-4, 20 t.; (6) D. Comerio, NJTC, 2-4, 21 t.; (7) B. Bieleu, F-D, 0-6. Semi-finalists: S. Parker, C. McCune, M. Churchill, R. Moran, M. Mulloy, M. J. Gunther.

High School Invitation, 11/3/56: (1) Glazer, F.H., 6-1, won fence-off; (2) G. Cetrulo, Barr., 6-1; (3) Goldstein, Boys, 5-2; (4) Gilbert, B.T., 4-3; (5) Colon, Morris, 3-4; (6) Kao, F.H., 2-5; (7) Johnson, Boys, 1-6, 31 t.; (8) Manochio, Barr., 1-6, 32 t. Semi-finalists: Santangelo, E.D.; Purvis, Raustalia, B.T.; Jacobs, Wachman, Uttaro, Boys; Bavuso, Comm.; S. Cetrulo, Barr.

Epee Handicap, 11/3/56: (1) Ogren, Col., 4-1; (2) SOBEL, SS, 3-2, 12 t.; (3) Peredo, NYU, 3-2, 19 t.; (4) Mercurio, NYU, 2-3, 20 t.; (5) BERRY, USN, 2-3, 23 t.; (6) Pascal, NYU, 1-4. Semi-finalists: Farrell, Rosenberg, NYU; Nesserau, Starrett, Col.; LAZOVICK, USN; Gradkowski, Bodeth, Saltus; Yabkow, CCNY; Chafetz, FC.

Sabre Handicap, 11/4/56: (1) FARBER, unatt., 4-1, won fence-off; (2) Balaban, NYU, 4-1; (3) Parisi, Col., 3-2, 17 t.; (4) Spector, unatt., 3-2, 19 t.; (5) Whittingham, Saltus and Jones, USN, 0-4. Semi-finalists: PONGO, SOBEL, Bloom, Shaff, SS; Wertlieb, FC; Feinberg, Graubart, Greene, Appel.

Women's Handicap, 11/8/56: (1) Ida BALINT, unatt., 6-2; (2) P. Schwabe, Lucia, 5-3, 20 t.; (3) B. Santelli, 5-3, 22 t.; (4) H. King, Lucia, 4-4, 24/24; (5) E. Terhune, unatt., 4-4, 24/22; (6) A. DRUNGIS, SS, 4-4, 25 t.; (7) H. BREWSTER, Boston FC, 4-4, 27 t.; (8) S. Parker, unatt., 3-5; (9) D. O'Connor, NJTC, 1-7. Semi-finalists: J. Shaff, A. Genton, J. Dardia, J. Ulricksan, C. Burnett, B. Maviglio, M. McInerney.

Epee Team, Novice, 11/11/56: (1) NYU (Pascal, Dasaro, Kadish) 4-0, def. Columbia A, 5-4, Columbia B, 5-3, CCNY, 7-2, Columbia C, 5-3; (2) Columbia A (Carter, Lipper, Reuter).

Foil Handicap, 11/17/56: (1) Paul Reyes, SS, 8-1; (2) J. Strauch, FC, 7-2; (3) A. Goldstein, FC, 6-3, 24 t.; (4) J. Canvin, FC, 6-3, 30 t.; (5) P. Frank, FC, 5-4, 34 t.; (6) D. Marmor, FC, 5-4, 36 t.; (7) A. Rubin, SS, 3-5; (8) A. SPINGARN, FC, 3-6; (9) A. Kaplan, CCNY, 1-7; (10) J. Brodeth, Saltus, 0-9. Semi-finalists: J. OLDSTEIN, H. Spector, T. Bickley, J. Prostick, SS; R. Compton, M. Davis, M. Dasaro, A. Peredo, NYU; M. BRANDEIS, B. Schoek, FC; M. Glassner, P. Tannenbaum, CCNY; M. Kamki, Pav.; R. Turtle, Q.; S. D'Ambola, unatt.

Women's Prep, 11/29/56: (1) Churchill, NYU, 6-1; (2) Newks, Pat., 5-2; (3) Imbese, Masque, 4-3; (4) Freeman, Saltus, 3-4, 19 t.; (5) Geralski, Pat., 3-4, 22 t.; (6) Lewis, Grand Cent., 3-4, 23 t.; (7) De Jessa, Pat., 2-5, 20 t.; (8) Bartlett, NYU, 2-5, 24 t.

New Jersey

By Catherine Kopp

Mr. Hugh V. Alessandrini, former national foil champion and Olympic star, is organizing a new fencing group in the Monmouth County area, meeting on Thursday evenings at the Red Bank Community YMCA. Fencers interested should contact Mr. Alessandrini at his address, Wilson Circle, Rumson, N.J.

... Divisional News ...

Northern California

By Ferard Leicester

The following are the results of the 1956-57 competitions to date:

Foil, Sr. & Masters—9/15/56, Halberstadt: (1) Gerard Biagini, O.C., 6-0; (2) Jack Baker, O.C., 5-1; (3) Daniel De La O, O.C., 4-2; (4) Arthur Lane, BF, 2-4, 25/19; (5) Erich Funke, FFA, 2-4, 26/18; (6) Woolford Wootan, 2-4, 27 t.; (7) Laurance Brownlee, LAH, 0-6.

Romaine Trophy — 9/22/56: Halberstadt S.F. (Reid, Pirquet, Matthies, Huddleson, Angell) defeated Composite Team (Veloza, Brownlee, Short, Makabe, Holloway, Jesseph), 18-7.

Epee Novice—9/28/56, H.S.F.: (1) George Kester, L.A.H., 6-1; (2) Severo Pasol, L.A.H., 5-2; (3) Laurance Brownlee, L.A.H., 3-3, 21 t.; (4) Robert Simon, S.U., 3-3, 23 t.; (5) George Hampton, BF, 3-3, 26 t.

Epee, Sr. & Masters—10/6/56, H.S.F.: (1) Gerard Biagini, O.C., 7-0; (2) John McDougall, unatt., 4-3, 20 t.; (3) Jack Adams, H.S.F., 4-3, 22 t.; (4) Wolford Wootan, BF, 4-3, 24 t.; (5) Albert Lambert, BF, 4-3, 26 t.; (6) Leal Kanstein, BF, 3-4; (7) Keith Glazer, unatt., 2-5; (8) Jack Baker, O.C., 0-7.

Foil Prep—10/13/56, S.F.S.C.: (1) John Smith, Napa S.C., 5-0; (2) Charles Selberg, S.F.S.C., 4-1; (3) Robert Dahlstrom, LAH, 3-2.

Women's Prep—10/13/56, S.F.S.C.: (1) Deborah Wood, FFA, 6-1; (2) Jacqueline Pfeiffer, unatt., 5-2; (3) Herminia Smith, Napa, 4-3.

Foil Novice—10/26/56, L.A.H.: (1) Jose Galvan, LAH, 5-0; (2) Robert Simon, S.U., 4-1; (3) Leo Thompson, LAH, 3-2.

Women's Handicap — 10/27/56, S.F.S.C.: (1) Tommy Angell (—3), 6-2, won fence-off; (2) Mary Huddleson (—2), 6-2; (3) Donna Holloway (—1), 5-3; (4) Carol Reid (0), 4-4; (5) Grace Makabe (—1), 4-4; (6) Shirley Canter (—3), 4-4.

Women's Novice—11/2/56, F.F.A.: (1) Shon Brownlee, LAH, 4-1; (2) Deborah Wood, FFA, 3-2, 12 t.; (3) Herminia Smith, NSC, 3-2, 16 5.; (4) Hughette Carlton, 3-2, 17 t.

Sabre Novice — 11/3/56, B.F.C.: (1) George Hampton, BF, 8-2; (2) Leo Galvan, LAH, 6-4; (3) Robert Simon, S.U., 6-4.

Foil Junior—11/9/56, L.A.H.: (1) John McDougall, 4-1, won fence-off; (2) Keith Glazer, 4-1; (3) Robert Simon, 3-2.

Sabre Senior—11/11/56, H.S.F.: (1) Gerard Biagini, O.C., 5-0; (2) Salvatore Giambra, O.C., 3-2; (3) Jack Baker, O.C., 2-3, 19/16, won fence-off; (4) Gordon Scheile, HSF, 2-3, 19/16; (5) Wolford Wootan, BF, 2-3, 23 t.; (6) Dirk Von Ekelenburg, HSF, 1-4.

Foil Handicap—11/17/56, S.F.S.C.: (1) Gerard Biagini (—2), 6-1; (2) Andreas Chrambach (+3), 4-3 (won 2 on fence-off); (3) Jose Tofoya (—1), 4-3 (won 1 on fence-off); (4) John McDougall (—1), 4-3; (5) Wolford Wootan (—1), 3-4; (6) John Daniels (+3), 3-4; (7) Keith Glazer (0), 2-5; (8) Robert Simon (0), 2-5.

Southern California

By Fred Linkmeyer

The Southern California Executive Committee for 1956-57 is as follows: Fred Linkmeyer, Box 564, North Hollywood, Calif., chairman; Tom Tarbet, vice-chairman; (3) Peggy Lundeberg, 8529 Kittihawk Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif., secretary-treasurer; L. Verne Delling, Paul Etter, Keith Glazer, and Bill Mitsuda.

Seattle

By Katherine Pettit

The 11th annual Pacific International Fencing Tournament was held in Vancouver, B.C., on 9 and 10 November. Following is a list of the winners:

Foil Junior: (1) Bruce Smith, Seattle; (2) M. Zylberg, Vancouver; (3) Don Polinsky, Richland.

Women's Junior: (1) Jean Robeson, Seattle; (2) Gloria Nottingham, Portland; (3) Mrs. Gold, Vancouver.

Women's Open: (1) Katherine Modrell, Seattle; (2) Fern Vraney, Seattle; (3) Roberta Scott, Seattle.

Foil Open: (1) Bob Geier, Portland; (2) William Modrell, Seattle; (3) Richard Sockey, Richland.

Epee Open: (1) William Modrell, Seattle; (2) Henry Bockman, Vancouver; (3) Allen McCulloch, Vancouver.

Sabre Open: (1) David Gibbons, Seattle; (2) William Modrell, Seattle; (3) Eric Fink, Vancouver.

Kentucky

By C. M. Burge

The Kentucky Division begins its 1956-57 season with a new group at the Louisville Jewish Community Center, in addition to the older groups at the Central YMCA and the St. Matthews YMCA. The amateur coaches are, respectively, Francis Wolff (nephew of Albert Wolff), Carl Burge, and John Gehant. The first competition of the new season yielded the following results:

Foil Open: (1) C. M. Burge, Central Y; (2) John Gehant, Central Y; (3) Lt. E. V. Smith, Franklin, Ind.; (4) Francis Wolff, Central Y; (5) Charles Thomas, Central Y; (6) Jerry Cartwright, Central Y.

Delaware

By Roger U. Owings

The Delaware Division will be hosts for the North Atlantic Championships to be held in Wilmington on May 4 and 5. The divisional officers for 1956-57 are: Chairman, Roger U. Owings, 300 Overbrook Ave., Carrcroft, Wilmington 3, Del.; secretary, Edwin B. Wachtel, 502 West 88th St., Wilmington, Del.; treasurer, Carl L. Wright, 1005 River Road, Wilmington 3, Del.; bout committee chairman, Richard L. Guerke, 93 S. Avon Drive, Ashbourne Hills, Darley Road, Claymont, Del. The chairman also becomes the secretary-treasurer of the North Atlantic Section.

Florida

By Lucille Heintz

The Sarasota Fencing Club has elected the following officers for 1956-1957: Jack Rollins, President; Eleanor Lambright, Secretary; Robert Pavitt, Treasurer. The Board of Directors includes Lucille Heintz, coach-director, Jack Rollins, Marge Brady, Barbara Pavitt, Lawrence Snyder, Mel Augustini and Eleanor Lambright.

Western New York

By Fran Breton

The divisional newsletter "Over Your Bellguard" is edited by Joe Coppola, with Peggy Nicolas as assistant editor. A membership drive is in progress, and the exhibitions committee, headed by Jules Goldstein, is arranging fencing shows to further the sport. The open invitation event held on September 30 gave the following results:

Women: (1) Barbi Brill; (2) Nancy Zielinski; (3) Marcia Richmond.

Epee: (1) Howard Fried; (2) Bob Feinan; (3) Charlie Jacobs.

Foil: (1) Art Plouffe; (2) Paul Scipioni; (3) John Williams.

Sabre: (1) Jules Goldstein; (2) Dave Bohacket; (3) John Hamilton.

New England

Marjian Pengov, member of Yugoslavia's 1936 Olympic Fencing Team, has been named assistant fencing coach at Harvard University. Mr. Pengov, who is employed as an engineer in Boston, will assist coach Edo Marion with both the varsity and freshman squads.

PERSONALS

Turk-Litka

Leonard Turk, first alternate foilsmen on the 1956 Olympic squad, was married to Marilyn A. Litka on November 24. Our congratulations!

New Fencer

Clayton Llewellyn Hillyer was born in Bermuda on November 12, 1956, to Mr. and Mrs. L. Peter Hillyer. Mrs. Hillyer is the former Grace Acel, member of the 1955 U.S. Pan American team, whose father, Dr. Ervin S. Acel, of the New York Athletic Club, served as Secretary of the Amateur Fencers League for many years.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS DESIRED

Only a few divisions regularly report the results of their competitions and other items of general interest. The Board of Editors suggests that divisional secretaries or bout committee chairmen send in at least the names of the medalists in every event in their division.



FIE Special Rules for

I. REGISTRATION APPARATUS

1. The fixed electrical equipment (central apparatus, connections, reels) must be approved by the F.I.E.'s Electrical Registration Commission. The apparatus must be submitted in complete form for testing under conditions agreed to by the Commission at least six months before the event at which the equipment is to be used. The apparatus must be accompanied by a detailed diagram of its construction.

(A) Central Apparatus

2. The central apparatus must satisfy the following operating requirements:

(a) It must register a hit whenever there is a break in contact for 1/100 of a second or less;

(b) It must give a signal, red on one side (preferably on the right) and green on the other side, for a touch arriving on valid target; and another signal, white on both sides (preferably at the extreme ends of the apparatus), for a touch arriving on an invalid surface;

(c) The acoustical signals shall consist of either a single bell attached to each optical signal, or a buzzer limited to a duration of two seconds. This time limit may

be the same as that provided below for the blocking of the apparatus, which must be between one and two seconds. The sound must be the same on both sides;

(d) After the registration of an invalid hit, the apparatus must permit the registration of a touch on the target on the same side;

(e) On the other hand, after the registration of a touch on the target, the apparatus must not register a subsequent hit on invalid surface on the same side;

(f) The apparatus must not register the priority of a hit against one fencer in relation to a hit against the other;

(g) However, after the lapse of a certain interval of time "x" (which has no reference to the "fencing tempo" that is the basis of judging according to the conventions of foil play) following the first registration signal, the apparatus must be blocked against the registration of any subsequent hit;

(h) The exact length of the interval of time "x" shall be determined in practice. The central apparatus must permit adjustment of this interval between the limits of one and two seconds;

(i) A hit on the metallic strip or upon the metallic parts of the opponent's foil must not be registered by the apparatus and must not prevent the registration of a simultaneous hit by opponent;

(l) The apparatus must be able to withstand a momentary increase in resistance in the closed circuit of the foils of up to 250 Ohms without causing the registration of the invalid signal.

3. The operating buttons must be located on the upper or the front surfaces of the apparatus.

The signal lamps must be located on the upper surface of the apparatus so that they may be visible at the same time to the fencers, the judges, and the apparatus manager.

It is recommended that provision be made for supplementary lamps outside of the apparatus, in order to increase the visibility of the signals. This provision is compulsory for official F.I.E. championships. The lamps shall be placed approximately 1.80 m. (6 feet) above the ground or strip.

(B) Reels, Cables, and Metallic Strip

4. The reels, cables, and metallic strip are identical with those used for epee.

However, due to the fundamental difference in principle between the registration system for epee and for foil, only reels in excellent condition can be used for foil.

5. The electrical connection of the various parts of the apparatus to the three prongs of the reels and cables shall be as follows: The external prong, 15 mm. from center, for the metallic vest; the central prong for the foil wire; the external prong, 20 mm. from center, for the body of the weapon and the metallic strip.

II. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT FOR FENCERS

(A) General Provisions

6. The personal equipment for fencers, consisting of the electrical foil, the metallic (conductive) vest, and body cord, must be approved by the representative of the F.I.E.'s Electrical Registration Commission at the place of the competition, or by the special commissioner required by Article 44 of the Technical Rules of Fencing.

(B) Electrical Foil

7. The foil is wired with a single electrical wire which is in permanent contact with the *pointe d'arret*.

With the weapon at rest, the *pointe d'arret* is also in contact with the body of the foil. When there is a hit, this contact is broken.

8. The pressure required to be exerted upon the *pointe d'arret* before the apparatus registers a hit must be more than 500 grams; that is, such a weight must be supported by the spring of the point.

9. The distance that the point must recede before the apparatus registers a hit, called the "lighting stroke," may be infinitesimal. The total recession of the point must not exceed 1 mm.

10. The attachment of the point to the blade must be made by threading of 3.0x0.6 or 3.5x0.6 mm., and the length of the threading must be at least 5 mm. for a steel point. For points made of light alloys, special approval must be obtained from the F.I.E. Electrical Registration Commission. The only acceptable blades are those which provide a cylindrical tip, at least 3 mm. in diameter and long enough to permit the threading required above. All soldering or brazing operations are forbidden.

11. The single wire passes along a groove running the length of the blade. At the place where the wire passes, the width of the groove must not exceed 0.5 mm., and its depth must not exceed 0.6 mm., measured on the diameter of the core of the threading, so as to weaken the section of the blade as little as possible.

The use of tubular blades which allow the wire to pass on the inside may be authorized, after test by the F.I.E. Electrical Registration Commission, if such blades satisfy the requirements of the general rules, particularly with respect to safety and flexibility.

The use of fiberglass blades in international competitions is prohibited.

12. The electrical resistance of the single wire of the foil, measured from the tip to the plug, must not exceed 3.5 Ohms.

The resistance of the circuit of the foil itself, measured from any point of contact on the blade or guard to the foil prong, must not exceed 2.0 Ohms.

The insulation between two prongs, when the contact of the button is broken, must be not less than 50,000 Ohms.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRING

Competitors, clubs and schools rely on our experts to repair and replace worn, broken or malfunctioning electrical epees, cords, reels or recording equipment. Broken equipment is shipped to us by mail, repaired and returned promptly. If you prefer, we'll estimate costs and hold your equipment for your okay before proceeding.

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the Electrical Foil

13. The diameter of the body of the button must be between 5 and 7 mm. The moving surface of the *pointe d'arret* consists of a half-sphere of the same diameter as the body of the button. The hemispherical surface may be toothed according to the rules applicable to the epee *pointe d'arret*, adjusted to the smaller diameter.

14. The pommel of the foil shall be completely covered with insulating material; the same is required for the body of the button and the foil blade up to a distance of 150 mm. from the button.

This insulation may be provided either by a Chatterton ribbon or Scotch adhesive, or by a varnish.

15. The installations behind the guard must be arranged in such a manner that it is impossible for the fencer to manipulate or modify the contacts while fencing.

(C) Body Cord

16. The body cord encloses three wires with a maximum resistance between plugs of 0.5 Ohms.

17. At the back of the fencer, the body cord ends in a three-pronged connector of the type used for epee, and wired as follows: The external prong 15 mm. from center is connected to the metallic vest; the central prong is connected with the foil wire; and the external prong 20 mm. from center is connected with the body of the foil.

18. The system of connecting the wires to the metallic vest and the foil is unrestricted, provided that it insures contact without possibility of interruption in the course of combat.

(D) Metallic Vest

19. The conductive surface of the vest must completely cover, without exception, the target of the fencer, whether he be on the "on guard" position or on the lunge. It must not be separated from the under-clothing.

The general foil rules are amended so that the bib of the mask shall not be valid target. However, when the fencer is in the customary "on guard" position, the bib may not descend more than 2 cm. below the base of the collar.

20. The metallic cloth of the vest must satisfy, from the point of view of conductivity, the following conditions:

(a) The electrical resistance, measured from any point of contact to the appropriate prong in the body cord, must not exceed 1 Ohm.

(b) The metallic cloth shall be tested with the aid of a 500-gram weight having a hemispherical tip with a radius of 4 mm. Such a weight, when placed on end on top of the metallic cloth resting upon a soft substance, must insure contact in a continuous manner with a maximum resistance of 1.5 Ohm.

(c) The non-metallic jacket must be constructed with an inner lining which doubles the cloth thickness in the sleeve and the flank in the region of the armpit.

21. The Bout Committee (*Directoire Technique*) and the Presidents of Juries must require:

—a rigorous check on the length of the bib;

—that the metallic vest be adjusted rigorously to the target according to the rules;

—that the metallic collar shall have a minimum height of 2 cm. around the entire circumference.

III. ORGANIZATION OF COMPETITIONS AND JUDGMENT OF HITS

(A) General Provisions

22. The provisions of Articles 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 165, 167, 170, 171, 175, 176 to 184, 186 to 201, 210 to 213, 214 to 222, of the F.I.E.'s 1955 Technical Rules of Fencing for the judging of electrical epee are applicable, by substituting where necessary the word "foil" for the word "epee," and by taking into account the provisions of these special rules.

(B) Judging of Hits

23. With respect to the materiality of hits, the apparatus alone controls. Except as a result of the application of penalties under the rules, a fencer cannot be declared to be touched unless the apparatus has registered a touch in regular form.

24. With respect to the priority of one hit in relation to another, the director of combat shall judge the question by applying the conventions of foil fencing, keeping in mind that the central apparatus establishes only the materiality of hits.

25. In order to make proper use of the indications of the apparatus in making a decision, the President must be thoroughly familiar with the principles governing the apparatus, to wit:

—if the two signals, colored and white, are lit on the same side, the invalid hit has preceded the valid one;

—except for this, the apparatus does not indicate any priority of one signal over another.

26. If the signals are lit on both sides, and if the President does not have a clear idea with respect to the hits within the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) that caused the signals, so that he is unable to determine with exactitude their relative priority, it is preferable to place the fencers back on guard.

Even if no signal has registered, the President has the right to stop the combat whenever the latter becomes confused and it is no longer possible to analyze the *phrase d'armes*.

The President of course shall not take into account any signals resulting from hits arriving outside the authorized periods of combat, or arriving contrary to the rules upon the surface of any object whatsoever.

(C) Failure of the Apparatus

27. If the electrical apparatus does not function according to the rules, the President must annul the last touch awarded in favor of a fencer each time that it is determined that the signal in question might have registered without the scoring of a hit, or that a hit made by the opponent might not have been correctly registered.

Such a determination cannot be made, of course, except by tests made under the conditions enumerated in the rules for electrical epee.

(D) Penalties

28. The fencer who appears on the strip with a metallic vest that has already been rejected because it does not completely cover the target, or which has holes that may cause valid touches to be registered as invalid, shall be compelled, if these defects cannot be remedied, to finish the competition with a vest furnished by the organizing committee. In this case, the fencer shall not be heard to complain that such a vest exceeds in coverage his personal target.

29. The fencer who, in order to avoid the registration of a valid hit upon himself, establishes contact between the body of his foil and his conductive vest by pressing the weapon against the vest, shall be warned, and thereafter shall be penalized one touch each time that he repeats the offense in the course of the pool.

(E) Illegal Weapons

30. The provisions for epee are applicable to foil. (See Title Three, Art. 181-184.)

(F) General Regulations

31. The general rules of the F.I.E. shall apply on all points which are not contradictory to the present special rules.

32. The fencers do not change sides during the bout when the electrical registration apparatus is used.

In bouts between a right-handed and a left-handed fencer, the two opponents shall place themselves so that their chests shall face the President of the Jury.

INSTRUCTION

EDWARD F. LUCIA

Alternate United States
Olympic Fencing Coach

743 8th Avenue
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By Appointment

HERESY---

(Or how to start a new fencer)

By Bill Osborn

First, you must condition your own mind to think of the pupil as fairly intelligent and willing to learn. Then you must be blind to his inability to have perfect form at the start. Next you must think of getting him to enjoy fencing as a sport.

Now you must put a foil in his hand and show him the grip. You put him on guard and face him in the same pose. Now you point out to him that your guard divides the body into two parts, which you number 4 and 6. Then you show him the thrust in both lines and the correct parries of 4 and 6. Have him attack; then you parry. Next you attack and he parries. As soon as you see that he has the idea in these two lines—why, fence with him and let him enjoy a few hits!

Encourage him to believe that he is fencing, and you will find in short order that he wants to learn more. The easier you make it for him to learn more, the more he will follow through. Much encouragement is needed at the start. The wise teacher fences slowly, and makes his move only a wee bit faster than the pupil.

If you can send him home from his first lesson convinced not only that he was fencing but that it was easy and enjoyable, he will come bouncing back for more. But if, as the

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old school would have it, he goes home stiff and sore, and with only a hazy idea of what is "on guard," and what is a thrust or a parry, you will find that he thinks long and hard about returning to learn something that takes months or even years to learn.

Of course we know that it does take time to make a fencer. But isn't it better to keep him coming, with the hope that one day he will be a fencer, and with the conviction that this is a good sport to follow up? To learn a sport, you must first enjoy it.

Now, you may be the worst instructor in the world (perhaps as bad as I am). But if you get this pupil interested and happy with the thought of some day winning a modest trophy, he will thank you. You may look forward to the day when he finds a better teacher who will inspire him to great heights. Our job is to start him somewhere, and to create more interest in the sport.

This will jar any thinking fencer, and make some professionals shudder. But let's face it: There just aren't enough teachers. The result is that, unless you live in some metropolitan area or are blessed with a college coach who has the time, you just don't have fencing. Even where you do have a good "salle," the pupil often becomes discouraged because he cannot see himself making progress. Or perhaps he finds that it is a tough exercise that makes him tired before he has learned to enjoy it. Much too much fuss has been made about the correct basic position and the correct move before the pupil has been allowed to find out if he enjoys fencing. Of course, if he did follow through, the fencer starting in the traditional way may become a very good fencer. But isn't it possible that the same would be true of an interested beginner who moves on to better instruction after starting as I have suggested? I have seen some of these poor fellows greeted by a good teacher with "My God, where did you learn these bad habits?" or "I can never make a fencer out of you; you have learned wrong!" Yet, I have seen such fencers win through to the top. I think we need the fencer first, and then the very good fencer. Let us get more people fencing.

I know that there are many who disagree. But one must creep before he walks, and don't tell me your mother held you at bay for months before you were allowed to creep just because you could not stand correctly or walk a straight line.

Book Review

OLYMPIC CAVALCADE OF SPORT. By John V. Grombach. 216 p. Ballantine Books. New York. Hardbound \$2.75. Paperbound .35c.

This little book by Colonel Grombach should be very popular with all fencers and other sports enthusiasts. The story of the Olympic Games is told in considerable yet well selected detail in 23 chapters. Of particular interest to our readers are the chapters devoted to Fencing and Modern Pentathlon.

The dashing style of Colonel Grombach's prose is so engaging that one hesitates to point out factual errors and doubtful choices as to what is included and excluded in reference to the United States. For example, on page 58 the name of Julio Martinez

Castello, coach of the U. S. 1924 team, is given as "F. M. Costello." On page 59 the reference to the World Championships is not accurate: The 1929 European Championship for the first time included all weapons at one tournament, but an epee championship was held as early as 1921, and the European Championships were renamed the World Championships in 1936. On pages 61 and 62, the 1936 incident concerning Haro Oliva is not accurately reported: He was required to re-fence his semi-final bouts but not the earlier ones; and the reference to the German officials is misleading because the Olympic Fencing Games were run by an international committee in which the host country had two of five members. There is no doubt that Haro Oliva's weapon was illegal, but the rules at the time did not specify the procedure to be followed in such a case; most of us thought the penalty was too severe because the weapon—electrical, of course—had been purchased from the officially approved source of supply in Berlin and no bad faith was involved. Also on page 62, Levis is said to have placed 7th in foil at London in 1948, but Levis was not a member of the U. S. team that year. On page 63, reference is made to Stanley Sieja as an Olympic coach in 1952; he served as manager and trainer of the team but did not coach. On the same page, the name of Maxine Mitchell, 6th place, is omitted from the finalists of that year. In the chapter on the Modern Pentathlon, at page 76, it is stated that Fred Weber competed in both the epee individual and the epee team in 1936. My recollection is that he could not compete in the epee team because this event overlapped the pentathlon, but he did fence in the individuals.

On matters of judgment, Colonel Grombach's list of prominent U. S. fencers, other than finalists and medalists at the Olympic Games, is limited to those in the Army or Navy.

The report on the performance of the 1932 U. S. team correctly states it to be the best in our history; it would have been worth saying that the foil team defeated France, the eventual winner, in the final round robin to earn a tie for first place before finishing third on a fence-off that lasted until 2 a.m.; nothing more dramatic has happened to us in Olympic fencing, except perhaps our sabre team's battle with Italy for 2nd place at London (also not mentioned). For good or evil, it has been a consistent policy of the U. S. Olympic Fencing Committee to stress "team" over individual performance.

Maitre Vauthier's contribution to West Point fencing was indeed notable; in the larger canvass of U.S. international fencing it was no greater than that of several other masters. And the reference (in the last line of the Fencing chapter, on page 4) to Panama as a potential high scoring country defies the imagination; if a Latin-American country is to be so regarded, Argentina is by far the most likely to stand out.

But these are minor matters. I know of no other book that gives a better flavor and understanding of Olympic fencing, and of the United States' role, than Colonel Grombach's, and therefore recommend it.

— M. A. de Capriles

WRONG HAND?

By Arthur W. Lane

It may be that fencing offers something special to left-handers that the rest of our right-handed world does not. Mr. Ripley once remarked that one southpaw in five was not uncommon among fencers. My own students count one in seven. Even casual observation shows that fencing enjoys (?) many more off-handers than the average population group with approximately one in forty. We seem to accumulate them. Early success, and thus more enthusiasm and will to continue, may be the basic reason why we have so many. It takes much time for a beginner to learn to handle unorthodox opponents—and a lefty, however nice his form, is unorthodox to any fencer of less than four years' experience. And so the southpaw learns early the feel of victory. This is probably the reason so many more lefthanders stick with the game in proportion to right-handers, but how do so many get to the top? M. A. de Capriles' formidable listing of champion portsiders three years ago in this magazine gives much food for thought.¹ Obviously, they are not born with that "X" quality that Tracy Jaeckel claims has eluded him.² Or are they?

Comment on 1956 Nationals

By Roger R. Jones, Ens., USNR

In reading the writeup of the 1956 National Championships, I note there is no mention of a very outstanding achievement on the part of Dick Dyer. Representing Salle Csizsar, he fenced in three team and one individual event, garnering one first, two seconds, and one fourth, with a total of 34 victories and 9 losses in all events. This achievement is all the more impressive in view of the timetable of the events he fenced in, and the fact that in an Olympic year, most topflight fencers do not risk tiring themselves by fencing in team events.

Thursday, June 7—Sabre team	
2d place	7 w., 1 d.
Friday, June 8—Epee team	
1st place	10 w., 4 d.
Friday, June 8—3-Weapon team	
2d place	4 w., 0 d.
Sunday, June 10—Sabre (to Q-F)	5 w., 0 d.
Tuesday, June 12—Sabre (S-F & Finals)	4th place 8 w., 4 d.
Total	34 w., 9 d.

It was noted in the National Epee Team review that the Navy did well in this event. The review didn't do us full justice! There was still another Naval officer in the final mentioned—Ensign Zechlin of the Maryland team. This means that, excluding the three members of the Salle Csizsar team, 9 out of 10 other finalists were Naval officers! Correspondingly it can be seen that one-third of the individual final were Navy men. Join the Navy and learn to fence epee!

Ed. note: Both points are well taken. We have a warm spot in our hearts for fencers who are good "team" men, and the Navy has shown the way among the armed forces to high achievement in our sport, which should be a favorite of men in uniform.

Having devoted two or three years (a long time ago) to trying to learn to fence competitively with my left hand, and having taught a few who were naturally endowed as well as several who were not, I feel that I can approach the matter with a little confidence.

First of all, I believe, is the left-hander's analytic ability. He isn't born with more than any of the rest of us. However, he is more quickly in a better position to observe and to apply his observations, both on his opponents and on himself. This is already almost a lifetime habit with him; for remember, the rest of the world is right-handed, and from his earliest years he has had to analyze every new situation involving personal movement and adapt himself to it. He comes into fencing with this habit already highly developed. He reads bodily movements with ease. A baby speaks with its entire body as its voice. Adults do too, more than they know. Fencers, alas! Our future champion southpaw already knows the meaning of what he sees as a right-hander moves. We standardized machines have to learn to read again. Just think, his reflection in a mirror is simply another right-handed opponent. He sees us committing errors, and quickly, easily, takes advantage of them on us or corrects them in himself, as the case may be. He can do this **without** mentally reversing the image he sees, as we must do. If he practices in front of a mirror his reflection is a tactical right-handed target. With such practice he learns better balance in footwork movements, smoother, more precise handwork, and thus is more poised in sustained or broken continuity. This more highly developed analytic ability, plus balance and poise acquired thereby, give him a heavy edge in timing. (All of this is on the premise that he has had half-way decent instruction to start with.)

Technique, in my mind, is another key to left-handed success. A common cycle for an off-hander to follow in his course from beginner to competence is early success, followed by a deep slump with sometimes sloppy form, then slow but long-sustained improvement. The slump is the key. If he doesn't become a permanent "hamburger" at this stage, or desert the game, the only path is improvement. At this time he discovers that it is not enough simply to be left-handed. So he applies himself harder and with greater dedication than the comparable right-hander. He learns to adapt his blade and hand movements to those of his opponent to a higher degree than average. There are certain modifications of technique that he learns are absolutely essential due to the position and slant of his opponent's target relative to direction of action; and also due to the presence of an arm that more often than not crosses the opposing target and impedes point freedom. The importance of this has been deeply impressed on him through personal failure early in his career.

Along with this self-education in technique comes one in distance. That impeding arm of his opponent's is the direct cause. Our portsider learns early what we all know about feints: that these must get close enough to the opponent to frighten him, and that they must do so with apparently ever increasing speed. However, he also

learns that if he gets too close while feinting, his disengage will not clear that obstructing arm unless he momentarily slows or stops his forward motion, a tactical error of the first order. I think particularly of Al Snyder (National foil champion in 1943, and many times Pacific Coast foil champion), when I mention a lefthander's distance. He could attack from yards away, or from extremely close, with equal effectiveness; or he would retreat without parrying and allow his opponent to be less than one frustrating inch short. There you have analysis, poise, technique, distance, and timing all rolled into one. A southpaw's usual distance is an inch or two greater than a right-hander likes. And his legwork is developed commensurately. Also, he can and does execute broken-tempo actions with greater variation in distance than most normal fencers. He has learned speed control.

During his slump and learning periods he is, in attitude and application, more often self-taught than not. He may take lessons continually, but his instructor's mold is not enough. He often takes charge of his own lessons to a large degree (and a wise instructor will allow this), or drops them for long periods, and is the better for it. Right-handed fencers sometimes do this at a much later stage of development.

Next time you fence a left-hander just forget about the possible score and settle down to learn something. Keep about three inches more distance than normal. Note the target obstruction in position **and depth** of his forearm and upper arm. Play the "distance game" as often and as long as possible while you note down for future reference the little things your point, fingers, hand, arm, hips and knees must do to hit various portions of his target clearly and cleanly for the officials' benefit in all the varying actions and situations that may come about. And take into account the curvature and whip of your own blade.

I don't agree with Miguel de Capriles' quizzical suggestion that the rest of us may be fencing with the wrong hand. It's more than that. We've simply got to learn to live again. Blade movements with the off-hand are fairly simple. Try an off-footed jump-lunge sometime.

1. M. A. de Capriles, "Those Left-Handers," *American Fencing*, Vol. IV, No. 4, May, 1953, p. 7.
2. Tracy Jaeckel, "Competitive Fencing," *ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

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Tentative National Classifications

The Classifications Committee has presented a preliminary report covering the proposed classification of approximately 200 fencers who, on the basis of available data, seem to warrant Class A or Class B rating. The report will be formally submitted to the Board of Governors in January. Pending Board action, the Executive Committee has made a tentative check by weapons, and in doubtful cases has recommended that additional information be submitted.

In view of the interest throughout the country, American Fencing is listing below the unofficial list of Class A and Class B fencers in each weapon. It must be emphasized that this list is subject to correction at the request of any fencer concerned, upon submission of pertinent information for the guidance of the Board of Governors. A supplementary list will be published at a later date.

WOMEN'S FOIL

Class A (18)

Balint, Ida
Chambers, Sally
Craus, Polly
Dalton, Madeline
Dow, Helena M.
Dyer, Louise K.
Funke, Dolly
Goodrich, Judy
Hillyer, Grace A.
Maxwell, Ruth
Millstein, Diane
Mitchell, Maxine
Pew, Florence
Romary, Janice-Lee
Siegel, Eve C.
Sweeney, Paula
Tishman, Maria C.
Van Buskirk, Evelyn

Class B (23)

Angell, Tommy
Atkin, Estelle O.
Baxter, Barbara
Boyce, Mildred
Brewster, Harriet
Canter, Shirley
Christensen, Carol
Drungis, Anne
Feig, Bessie
Frese, M.
Hille, G.
Hoblit, Iris
Meislahn, Bernardine
Mesmer, Joan
Nasce, Rosemarie
Santelli, Betty
Schoek, Julia D.
Sokol, Vivian
Stack, Dorothy
Thompson, Sue
Turney, Eleanor
Twitchell, Lynn
Wodgenske, Trudi

EPEE

Class A (50)

Alessandrini, Hugh
Andre, William J.
Armitage, Norman C.

Bavuso, Frank
Berry, Richard
Boyd, Andrew
Bukantz, Daniel
Cohen, Abram D.
Conomikes, Peter
de Capriles, Jose
de Capriles, Miguel
Donaldson, John
Doughty, Leonard
Dow, Warren A.
Driscoll, Robert
Dyer, Richard
Flynn, James H.
Gilman, Mack
Goldsmith, Harold
Goldstein, Ralph
Grombach, John V.
Heiss, Gustave M.
Hoitsma, Kinmont
Huffman, John R.
Jaeckel, Tracy
Krieger, Byron
Lewis, Norman
Linde, G.
Linkmeyer, Fred
Lubell, Nathaniel
Mackler, Paul T.
Martinez, Raul
Metzger, Marvin
Mijer, Pieter
Muray, Nickolas
Nunes, Leo
Pcw, Richard
Sands, Thomas J.
Santos, Henrique
Shurtz, Sewall
Siebert, Fred
Skrobisch, Alfred
Strauch, James
Thompson, Donald G.
Van Buskirk, Harold
Vebell, Edward
von Munchhausen, August
Weber, Fred R.
Wolff, Albert

Action Pending Additional Data (5)

Biagini, Gerard
Hayden, Howard
Lambert, A.
Paret, Pierre
Da Silva, P.

Class B (45)

Barden, S.
Barthel, Henry
Bernstein, L.
Bickley, Tom
Breckinridge, Scott
Burt, Benjamin
Calkins, Bernard
Cameron, John
Carfagno, Edward
Davis, B.
DeMoge, Paul
Derderian, Robert
Dollinger, Edmond
Durrett, William
Edmonds, Hobart
Farber, W.
Firth, Ben
Fried, H. J.

Goldsmith, Wallace
Henry, W. B.
Hoffman, Allan
Hughes, J.
Jones, Roger
Kanstein, Leo
Kapner, Kevis
Kolowrat, Henry
Miller, R.
Mortenson, Paul
Moss, Paul
Parmacek, R.
Quinn, Evan
Reese, C.
Ruben, Allan
Seiller, W.
Soddy, Tom
Tetaz, Marcel
Thompson, Donald S.
Tishman, Peter
Turk, Leonard
Utterback, Paul
Wallner, Herman
Weigert, Richard
Williams, Leslie
Yalkowski, Leo
Zechlin, Frank

FOIL

Class A (34)

Alessandrini, Hugh
Axelrod, Albert
Biagini, Gerard
Breckinridge, Henry
Bukantz, Daniel
Carfagno, Edward
Cetrulo, Dean
de Capriles, Jose
de Capriles, Miguel
Dow, Warren A.
Ettinger, Curtis
Every, Dernel
Gialito, Silvio
Goldsmith, Harold
Goldstein, Ralph
Huffman, John R.
Krieger, Byron
Kwartler, Allan
Levis, Joseph
Lewis, Norman
Lubell, Nathaniel
Makler, Paul T.
Muray, Nickolas
Nunes, Leo
Nyilas, Tibor
Prokop, Austin
Schankin, Arthur
Shurtz, Sewall
Snyder, Al
Steinhardt, Charles
Steere, Richard
Van Buskirk, Harold
Velasco, Herman
Wolff, Albert

Action Pending Further Data (7)

Campoli, James
Giambra, Salvatore
Lampl, Josef
Leicester, Ferard
Martin, Gary
Mau, Jerry
Welkes, P.

Class B (22)

Altabeff, Jack
 Cameron, John
 Crawford, R.
 Derderian, R.
 Dods, Madison
 Fitzimmons, J.
 Goldsmith, Wallace
 Kellerman, Leo
 Lazar, Neil
 Lundeberg, W.
 Ozol, Rudolph
 Pinchuk, Rene
 Quinn, Evan
 Reese, C.
 Sauke, H.
 Seeman, Audrey
 Spingarn, Arthur
 Strauss, L.
 Surdi, Vincent
 Turk, Leonard
 Young, Peter
 Zeisig, Edmond

Dow, Warren A.
 Dyer, Richard
 Ettinger, Curtis
 Flynn, James H.
 Giambra, Salvatore
 Gorlin, Sol
 Huffman, John R.
 Kirchner, Werner
 Krieger, Byron
 Kwartler, Allan
 Lubell, Nathaniel
 Makler, Paul T.
 Marson, Ralph
 Millard, Hamilton
 Muray, Nickolas
 Nunes, Leo
 Nyilas, Tibor
 Shurtz, Sewall
 Treves, Alex
 Van Buskirk, Harold
 Weber, Fred R.
 Worth, George

Class B (20)

Baker, Jack
 Blum, Robert
 Edmonds, Hobart
 Farber, W.
 Freiheit, F.
 Gorlin, Jack
 Lazar, Neil
 Mamlouk, Michel
 Martin, F.
 Mori, T.
 Pariser, Barry
 Parmacek, Robert
 Reese, C.
 Richards, Edwin
 Scheile, G.
 Seiller, W.
 Sobel, Steve
 Szentkiralyi, J. S.
 Watson, Richard
 Yasenchak, R.

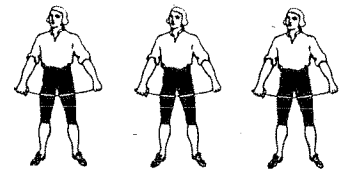
SABRE

Class A (29)

Acel, Ervin S.
 Armitage, Norman C.
 Carfagno, Edward
 Cetrulo, Dean
 Cohen, Abram D.
 de Capriles, Jose
 de Capriles, Miguel

Action Pending Further Data (8)

Biagini, Gerard
 Cameron, John
 Campoli, James
 Da Silva, P.
 De La O, Daniel
 Hayden, Howard
 Lampl, Josef
 Westley, John



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It is expected that the new Rules Book and Manual will be ready for distribution by February, 1957. Under the present League policy all Life, Active, Collegiate and Associate members in good standing are entitled to a copy of this new book which will retail for \$2.00 (hard-cover library edition for \$3.50).

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NATIONAL CALENDAR 1956-57

JANUARY 1957

5	Gulf Coast—E&S—Prep Prize Metropolitan—EPEE—Interm. Team New England—WOMEN—Handicap Western N.Y.—F&W—Interm.	2:00 pm 10:00 am 2:00 pm 10:00 am	Texas A&M Fencers Club Brandeis Gym Neighb. House
6	Metropolitan—WOMEN—Interm. Team New England—EPEE—Junior	1:00 pm 2:00 pm	Santelli M.I.T.
11	No. Calif.—WOMEN—Interm.	8:00 pm	S.F.S.C.
12	Gulf Coast—F&W—Prep Prize Metropolitan—WOMEN—Novice Team	2:00 pm 1:00 pm	Tex. City R.C. Saltus Club
13	Metropolitan—3 WEAPON—Team Special New England—SABRE—Junior No. Calif.—3 WEAPON—Ind.	11:00 am 2:00 pm 2:00 pm	N.Y.A.C. M.I.T. Berkeley F.
17	Metropolitan—WOMEN—Sr. & Interm.	7:00 pm	Santelli
19	Metropolitan—FOIL—Sr. & Interm. No. Calif.—FOIL—Interm.	noon 8:00 pm	N.Y.A.C. Stanford
20	Metropolitan—SABRE—Interm. Team New England—FOIL—Handicap	1:00 pm 2:00 pm	Fencers Club M.I.T.
24	New England—WOMEN—Junior	6:30 pm	Salle Elde
25	No. Calif.—SABRE—Interm.	8:00 pm	Letterman AH
26	Metropolitan—SABRE—Sr. & Interm.	1:00 pm	Saltus Club

FEBRUARY 1957

2	Metropolitan—EPEE—Sr. & Interm.	noon	Fencers Club
2-3	Border—F-E-S-W—Open, Sr., Interm. 3 Weapon—Open	1:00 pm 1:00 pm	St. Joseph St. Joseph
3	Metropolitan—WOMEN—Team Ch. Q.R. Nat. New England—FOIL—Junior No. Calif.—WOMEN—Open	noon 2:00 pm 2:00 pm	Santelli M.I.T. Halberstadt
8	Western N. Y.—E&S—Junior	7:30 pm	U. Buffalo
9	Gulf Coast—F&S—Jr. Qual. New England—WOMEN—Open No. Calif.—SABRE—Interm. Team	2:00 pm 1:30 pm 8:00 pm	to be ann. Brandeis Berkeley F.
10	Metropolitan—EPEE—Team Ch. Q.R. Nat. New England—SABRE—Open	11:00 am 2:00 pm	Fencers Club M.I.T.
16	Gulf Coast—E&W—Jr. Qual. New England—SABRE—Shakespeare Team No. Calif.—FOIL—Interm. Team Western N.Y.—FOIL—Team	2:00 pm 2:00 pm 8:00 pm 7:00 pm	Rice Inst. Latvian F.C. Stanford Y.M.H.A.
17	Metropolitan—FOIL—Team Ch. Q.R. Nat. New England—FOIL—Open	10:00 am 2:00 pm	N.Y.A.C. M.I.T.
22	Metropolitan—EPEE—Team Special	noon	Fencers Club
22-23	Intercollegiate—WESTERN CONFERENCE		San Francisco S.C.
23	Gulf Coast—F-E-S-W—Interm. Qual. Western N.Y.—F&S—Prep	9:00 am 7:00 pm	U. Houston U. Buffalo
24	Metropolitan—SABRE—Team Ch. Q.R. Nat. New England—EPEE—Open	11:00 am 2:00 pm	N.Y.A.C. M.I.T.

MARCH 1957

1	No. Calif.—SABRE—Open	8:00 pm	Letterman AH
2	Gulf Coast—E&S—Novice Qual. No. Calif.—WOMEN—Interm. Team Long Island—FOIL—Open Western N.Y.—WOMEN—Team	2:00 pm 8:00 pm to be ann. 1:00 pm	Teaxs A&M Berkeley F. Neighb. House
3	Metropolitan—WOMEN—Novice New England—FOIL—Levis Team	noon 2:00 pm	Santelli M.I.T.
8	New England—EPEE—Team Western N. Y.—E Prep—F Novice	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Latvian F.C. U. Buffalo
9	Gulf Coast—F-S-W—Open Inv., Qual. Metropolitan—SABRE—Novice New England—WOMEN—Team Western N.Y.—3 WEAPON—Ind. No. Calif.—SABRE—Open Team	2:00 pm 1:00 pm 1:30 pm noon 8:00 pm	San Antonio Saltus Club Latvian F.C. Neighb. House Letterman AH

9-10	Border—F-E-S-W—Prep	1:00 pm	Holloman AFB
10	Metropolitan—EPEE—Novice	10:00 am	Fencers Club
15-16	Intercollegiate—ICFA CHAMPIONSHIPS		Concourse Plaza, N.Y.
16	Gulf Coast—F&W—Novice Qual. No. Calif.—WOMEN—Open	2:00 pm 8:00 pm	Rice Inst. S.F.S.C.
17	Metropolitan—F-E-S—MASTERS New England—3 WEAPON—Castello Team	10:00 am 2:00 pm	Fencers Club M.I.T.
22-23	Intercollegiate—NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS		U. of Detroit
23	Gulf Coast—F&S—Prep Qual. Metropolitan—FOIL—Novice New England—SABRE—Interm.	2:00 pm 10:00 am 2:00 pm	to be ann. N.Y.A.C. Harvard
24	Metropolitan—WOMEN—Interm. New England—EPEE—Interm. No. Calif.—WOMEN—H. Mayer Mem.	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 8:00 pm	Santelli M.I.T. to be ann.
28	New Jersey—WOMEN—Ch., Q.R. S&N	7:00 pm	to be ann.
30	Metropolitan—EPEE—Interm. New England—WOMEN—Interm. No. Calif.—EPEE—Open Western N.Y.—E&S—Interm.	10:00 am 1:30 pm 8:00 pm 1:00 pm	Fencers Club M.I.T. Berkeley F. U. Buffalo
31	Metropolitan—FOIL—College Freshmen	1:00 pm	Santelli

APRIL 1957

5	No. Calif.—FOIL—Open	8:00 pm	Letterman AH
6	Gulf Coast—E&W—Prep Qual. Long Island—SABRE—Open Metropolitan—FOIL—Interm. New England—FOIL—Prep	2:00 pm to be ann. 1:00 pm 2:00 pm	Rice Inst. to be ann. Saltus Club Brandeis
7	Metropolitan—SABRE—Interm. New England—FOIL—Interm.	10:00 am 2:00 pm	Fencers Club M.I.T.
12	No. Calif.—FOIL—Open Team	8:00 pm	Letterman AH
13	Intercollegiate—WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS New England—WOMEN—Prep No. Calif.—WOMEN—Open Team		Rochester Tech Brandeis Berkeley F.
13-14	Border—F-E-S-W, 3 W. Open Teams Gulf Coast—E&S, Open & Team, Qual.	1:00 pm 2:00 pm	El Paso YMCA Texas A&M
14	New England—3- WEAPON—Ind. Western N.Y.—3 WEAPON—Team	2:00 pm 10:00 am	M.I.T. Baden St. S.H.
20	Gulf Coast—F-E-W—Open Inv., Qual. No. Calif.—EPEE—Open Team	2:00 pm 8:00 pm	Galveston Berkeley F.
27	New England—WOMEN—Cass Trophy Western N.Y.—WOMEN—Div. Ch.	1:30 pm 7:00 pm	Camb. YWCA B.J.C.
27-28	Gulf Coast—F&W—Open & Team Q.	2:00 pm	U. Houston
28	Metropolitan—SABRE—Ch. Q.R. Nat. New England—SABRE—Div. Ch. Western N.Y.—FOIL—Div. Ch.	10:00 am 2:00 pm 1:30 pm	N.Y.A.C. M.I.T. B.J.C.

MAY 1957

3	New England—FOIL—Boys under 15	6:00 pm	Latvian F.C.
4	Metropolitan—EPEE—Ch. Q.R. Nat. Long Island—EPEE—Open Western N.Y.—E&S—Div. Ch.	10:00 am to be ann. 1:30 pm	Fencers Club to be ann. B.J.C.
4-5	North Atlantic—SECTIONAL CHAMP.		Wilmington, Del.
5	Metropolitan—WOMEN—Ch. Q.R. Nat.	1:00 pm	Santelli
11	Metropolitan—FOIL—Ch. Q.R. Nat. New England—EPEE—Div. Ch.	1:00 pm 2:00 pm	N.Y.A.C. Harvard
12	New England—FOIL—H.S. Boys	2:00 pm	M.I.T.
17	Western N.Y.—4 WEAPON—Team	10:00 am	U. Buffalo
19	New England—FOIL—Div. Ch.	2:00 pm	M.I.T.
18-19	Pacific Coast—SECTIONAL CHAMP.		San Francisco, Calif.

JUNE 1957

6-14	NATIONAL CHAMP. TOURNAMENT		Milwaukee, Wisconsin
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