

# American **FENCING**

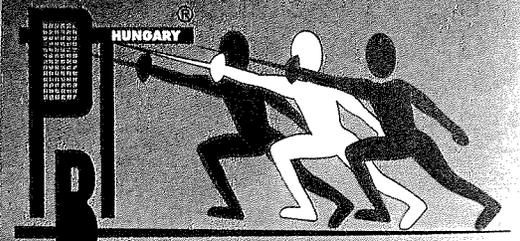
spring 2001

talking with  
**buckie leach**

plus...  
training tips  
fencing academy of philadelphia  
results from j.o.'s  
and more



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# American FENCING

Spring 2001 · Volume 51, Number 1

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#### BUCKIE LEACH

As part of her "Faces of Fencing" series, Barbara Anderson interviews this Olympic coach

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#### Fencing Academy of Philadelphia

by Sybil Hunter

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Bob Largman's moving memorial to this USOC press liaison

### On the cover:

First place winner Joshua J. McGuire (Canada), right, faces sixth-place Gabriel M. Sinkin (Western NY) at the Division I Men's Foil competition, NAC, Greenville, SC, January 12-14, 2001. Photo: Lisa Slater.



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## The United States Fencing Association Member Services Directory

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

### The United States Fencing Association

Phone: (719) 578-4511  
 Fax: (719) 632-5737  
 E-mail: [info@usfencing.org](mailto:info@usfencing.org)  
 Web: <http://www.usfencing.org>

President	Stacey Johnson
Vice President	Barbara Lynch
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## American Fencing

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 Miguel A. DeCapriles 1906-1981

**EDITOR/Layout and Design** Meg Galipault  
[magoo@iwaynet.net](mailto:magoo@iwaynet.net)

### Associate Editors:

Bob Block Veterans  
 Chris Cuddy Advertising Sales  
 John Heil Sports Psychology  
 Sam Lillard Photography  
 John Moss Rules and Referees  
 Andy Shaw Official Historian

**Editors Emeritus** Mary Huddleston, Emily Johnson,  
 Albert Axelrod, Candi McConaugha

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

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

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## STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States  
Fencing Association



### MEETING CHALLENGES BEYOND THE ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN

At the Junior Olympics in Salt Lake City, the final Strategic Plan was shared with the Board of Directors along with a fantastic letter of support and praise from the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) about the strength of our plan. Doug Ingram, USOC Sports Partnerships, said, "I want to congratulate you and Michael Massik on the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan that your National Governing Body put together. With your permission, the document is one that I intend to use as an example for several other NGBs, as they begin this arduous but critical initiative."

In addition, the USFA, after months of preparation and garnering financial support from the USOC International Grants division, achieved an historic win by placing eight individuals on all eight of the FIE Commissions. *This is an historic first for the U.S., and we were the only country in the world that placed a representative on every single FIE Commission.*

The new U.S. FIE Commission Members include:

**Sam Cheris**

Executive Committee & Chair of Legal Commission

**Carl Borack**

Publicity and Promotion

**George Kolombatovich**

Arbitrage (refereeing)

**Dan DeChaine**

Semi

**Jeff Bukantz**

Rules

**Peter Harmer**

Medical

**Gerri Baumgart**

Discipline

*[Nancy Anderson has also been named a permanent member of the Bout Committee (DT) for the quadrennial.]*

So now we are a full eight months into this new administration, with a clear vision of where we want to go and success already under our belt. What are some of the key challenges that face us as we move forward?

As many of you have experienced in your own regions, the membership ranks are swelling and tournament entries are growing like crazy. If membership growth rates continue as projected, USFA membership will reach 18,000 by the close of this fiscal year.

Growth and popularity are fantastic, but certainly it presents us with one of our greatest organizational challenges. For the first time, the Executive Committee of the USFA in its meetings in Salt Lake discussed the need to review our current organizational structure of divisions and sections. Will the current structure serve the USFA membership needs for the next 10-20 years, particularly if our growth rate continues? Certainly, discussions are already underway about reinventing our competitive pathways with the Regionalization Task Force looking to increase competitive fencing opportunities in regional areas of the country and insisting on higher levels of performance before athletes move further up the pipeline to national level tournaments.

Another challenge that is aligned to our rapid growth is the requirement for us to review the changing roles of volunteers and staff in our organization. The USFA could not function or survive without the work, love and passion of its volunteers. Volunteers run our divisions, sections, clubs, and are our fencers, referees, armorers, administrators and tournament officials. As we grow, however, and work at greater levels of complexity, the USFA staff must take on greater levels of responsibility, influence, and leadership as well. Running the USFA is a full-time affair with an ever-growing need for reliance on our seven full-time employees, a staff that will need to grow as the organization grows.

As our staffing and membership levels grow, so does our need for continuing cooperation. One of the areas that I have stressed is this idea of moving from a combative organizational culture to one of cooperation. We are seeing the roots of cooperation taking hold already. USFA Committees are working together; the board is working with officers to resolve issues and conflicts, and any negativity whatsoever during our meetings has been absent.

With greater cooperation, we can now better meet another level of organizational challenge—identify new talent and leadership. When we bring new energy and talent, we create new opportunities and ideas to meet our challenges. Recently, I asked Cliff Bayer, Olympian and internationally renowned men's foilist, to join the Executive Committee. Cliff, who will be attending the Wharton School of Business working on an MBA this fall, was engaged immediately, participating and asking questions about the U.S. Fencing Foundation. Simply having his involvement and presence imbues all of us with a direct connection to our current competitive fencers and provides a fresh outlook on all our policy decisions.

Felicia Zimmermann, chair of our Athlete's Group, is another great leadership talent, doing a super job and representing the voice of the athletes, not only on the USFA's

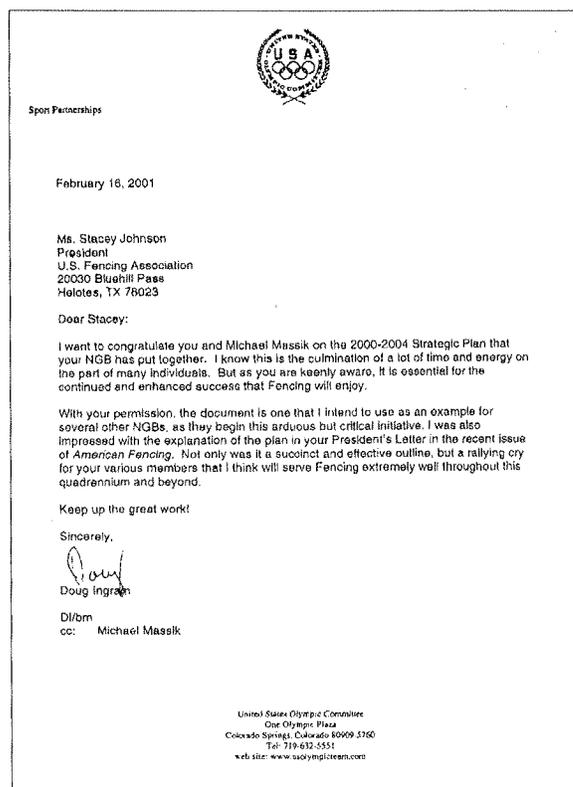
High Performance Committee and Board of Directors, but also as our representative to the USOC Athletes Advisory Group. Felicia, at the last board meeting, introduced a concept to consolidate all athlete representative areas under one umbrella group for better organization and communications—a great suggestion that will make changes to our by-laws and hopefully better serve all athletes in the future.

Finally, as in all organizations, the challenge of increasing our revenues will be key. At the February meeting we were blessed with a gift from the organization's long-time friend and member, Jack Baker. Jack Baker was a well-known Northern California fencer who passed away and left a legacy gift for the USFA of \$433,000.

The bulk of these monies—\$333,000—will be transferred to the United States Fencing Foundation. The balance of the \$110,000 will be posted to the USFA's current year's revenue, but \$30,000 of it will be retained to fund a new public relations project where it will be used to develop materials to support fund raising efforts. The USFA is exceedingly grateful to the Jack Baker estate for its generosity and must encourage internal development activities such as this in the future.

If any of you have ideas that will help us meet our challenges, or have leads to help us generate additional revenues, please contact me at [Sjohnson@accd.edu](mailto:Sjohnson@accd.edu).

Letter of congratulations from the USOC's Doug Ingram.



**Meg Galipault**

Editor

**Dear Readers:**

When I was twelve, my dad started a lacrosse team at the local high school. He was their coach until I graduated from high school, at which time he resigned (only to later come back as the girls coach). All in all, this was a good experience for me...especially in light of the fact that many, many handsome young lacrosse players were at my house on a regular basis. While my older and younger sisters played on the girls lacrosse team, and my brothers played on the team my father coached, I was a lowly statistician. I sat at a table and counted ground balls and assists and marked the time for the penalty box. I did this throughout high school, in fact. I was never big on team sports.

But this is what I got out of my lowly statistician status: a sincere appreciation for coaching. I can say, with pride, that my father was a damn fine coach. He listened to his players but didn't let them make excuses for their mistakes. He was, like all good coaches, a *teacher*, first and foremost. He made sure that everyone got to play and that everyone had a chance to make their own mistakes and learn from them. He was no saint, to be sure. He yelled. He threw down his hat. But he never once called anyone an idiot, and never embarrassed his team by crossing the line of decorum.

The lacrosse team was a group of renegades...they were the guys who didn't really want to play football (though many of them did anyway). Some of them had drug problems. Some of them had physical disabilities. Some of them weren't doing well in school or didn't have a role model at home. My dad took them in, gave them a strong hand up, and taught them to respect themselves. He created an award, the "Sisu" (a surprisingly short Swedish word that means "bulldog spirit;" and one that my dad, in typical wry fashion, used to name one of our cats), designed to recognize those players who faced an uphill battle and achieved success anyway.

It's been nearly a decade since my father passed away. I think of the hundreds of kids he helped. I think of his gruffly macho way of expressing approval...a thumbs up, a nod, maybe even a "good job"...that made you feel like a million bucks just for having tried. I think of how much he *cared*.

That's what a good coach does.

...In this issue of *American Fencing*, you'll hear from one such coach—Buckie Leach. His work with the Rochester Fencing Centre continues to result in outstanding fencing achievements for his students, and inspires the rest of us to believe in Team USA.

Kudos to the coaches, I say.

**your letters****Diving into the Pool**

The current NAC format includes a mid-competition return to a pool format, and many good fencers need more experience fencing others of their high competitive level in that format.

In addition, at many tournaments the five or six really good fencers don't get to fence one another if a direct elimination format is followed; in fact, the winner usually has only two difficult bouts during the whole competition (1-4 and 1-2).

For those reasons, I advocate a tournament format with an initial round of pools for seeding, then a D.E. sequence to get to a final of six, which is then fenced as a pool. I have developed the D.E. tableau which results in a final of six from as many as 48 fencers and will be happy to send it to anyone who asks for it—contact me at my web site: [www.augustafencers.com](http://www.augustafencers.com).

Rudy Volkmann, DMA  
The Augusta Fencers Club  
Augusta, Georgia

**Save the Flick**

Did you see their faces? They were cheering—fencers and non-fencers alike. They enjoyed the cat-like movement. They were intrigued by the classic long attacks and amazed with the infighting. Applauded after complex actions. And then, when the flick hit, they went wild.



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Afterward kids were trying out what they had just witnessed at the fencing education area. "How do you do that shot to the back?" they would ask. "That was so cool."

Meanwhile I am listening in on a group of coaches and officials embracing plans to dilute or eliminate the use of the flick in foil through new boxes or tips. "Look what it has done to the sport; we must get rid of it. This is not what foil fencing was meant to be."

Oh, right. We would never want to get people excited about our sport. Just think what that would mean. More kids wanting to learn how to fence. National tournaments would have to accommodate for more than 100 spectators. Sports writers treating fencing like a sport instead of an anomaly that comes through town every few years.

Give me a break. To fencers and non-fencers, the flick is our equivalent to the slam-dunk. And like the slam-dunk, you can't win with just the flick. It is just another, albeit cool and fun, technique used to land a touch. Most coaches and fencers understand that to win consistently you must have an array of skills and then apply them correctly.

Although not a scientific survey, I talked to no less than 25 under-20 and under-17 foil point holders and not one wanted to see the technique diluted or eliminated. And those who had used an "adjusted" box summed up their feelings by including the word "sucks" as part of their evaluation.

To those in power, consider what is best for the sport and not what is best for a handful of conservative coaches and officials who can't handle a new technique. Let fencing evolve into a great spectator sport and not back track to "the arm must be fully

extended with point continually threatening a valid target area" mentality.

Ron Hendricks  
Fencing fan

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

## CORRECTIONS

In the Winter 2001 issue of *American Fencing*, the interview with Sergei Golubitsky, through no fault of either the author or Sergei, got off to a rough start—the first question was inadvertently wiped off the page. Author Daniel Boles' first question to Sergei was, "How did you start fencing?" The reply did appear on the previous page. Which brings up another error: the smarty-pants designer thought it would be cool to place the continuation of the article on the previous page, much to the confusion of many *American Fencing* readers. Sincere apologies to Daniel Boles and Sergei Golubitsky.

Also, our apologies to those Youth-12 and Youth-10 fencers who did not receive recognition for their achievements at the Denver NAC. For the record, these results are printed in this issue on page 7.

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## DANIEL BUKANTZ ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL JEWISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Nine athletes and sportspersons, including U.S. fencer and referee Daniel Bukantz, were recently elected to the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame (IJSHF) for the year 2001.

Bukantz, a top fencing referee from 1952 to 1984 (including eight Olympiads and three World Cups), was also inducted into the Fencing Hall of Fame in 1978. He simultaneously competed and refereed in three Olympics—1952, 1956 and 1960. Bukantz was a member of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Team four times—1948, 1952, 1956, and 1960. In addition, he was U.S. National Foil Champion in 1949, 1952, 1953 and 1957. Bukantz is the father of Jeffrey Bukantz, an *American Fencing* columnist and current chair of the FOC Rules Sub-Committee.

The induction ceremony for the IJSHF will be held on July 18, 2001 in Netanya, Israel.

(Source: *JewishSports.com*)

## PASSINGS MARK L. BERGER

Mark Berger, veteran fencing coach, died in Las Vegas on February 16, 2001. Berger had a long and distinguished career as a fencing maestro. As a teenager in Stalinist Russia, he became involved with athletics (boxing first, then fencing) for the simple reason that Stalin fed his athletes soup and bread. It was World War II and the Russian people were starving. After the war, and a stint in the Red Army, he earned a PhD in physical culture from the Central Institute of Physical Culture in Moscow, U.S.S.R., in 1956. For 10 years, Berger served as the head fencing coach of Moscow University and then became the national fencing coach of the Russian Republic.

In 1972, his dream of emigrating to Israel was realized. He served in the Israeli army and was the National Fencing Coach of Israel from 1972 to 1975. He came to the United States in 1975 and was a National and Olympic fencing coach. From 1981 to 1991, Berger coached at the University of California in Santa Barbara and then came to Las Vegas to coach at UNLV. He was founder and coach of the Golden Swords Fencing Club in Pasadena, Calif., and the Las Vegas Fencing Club in Las Vegas, NV.

Berger won many awards and coached many champions during his professional

career. In 1956, 1958, and 1969, his team took first place in the USSR university fencing championship. The Russian state gave him an award for physical education excellence as an educator of Soviet youth (he often joked that he had to remember not to exhort his American fencing students to work hard so they could grow up to be good communists). His team won the championship at the Maccabiah Games in 1973 and took second place in Modern Pentathlon in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Coach Berger will always be remembered as a consummate fencing professional and as a passionate proponent of the sport of fencing. He is survived by his wife, Sally, and his Muscovite daughter, Masha, and her two children.

(Source: *Bill Nicoletti, Las Vegas Fencing Club*)

## USFA ANNOUNCES JUNIOR & CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

The United States Fencing Association recently announced the selection of the team that will represent the U.S. at the Junior & Cadet World Championships in Gdansk, Poland, April 9-16, 2001. They are as follows:

**Junior Men's Foil** Steven Gerberman, 17, Missouri City, Texas (Salle Mauro); Yale Cohen, 20, Houston, Texas (University of Pennsylvania); Gabriel Sinkin, 17, Rochester, N.Y. (Rochester Fencing Centre). Team: Jeremy Sinkin, 17, Rochester, N.Y. (Rochester Fencing Centre).

**Cadet Men's Foil** Enoch Woodhouse, 15, Boston, Mass. (The Roxbury Latin School/Boston Fencing Club); Cameron Perry, 16, Boulder, Colo. (Northern Colorado Fencers); Jonathan Carter, 16, New York, N.Y. (The Dwight School/Fencers Club).

**Junior Women's Foil** Iris Zimmermann, 19, Rochester, N.Y./Stanford University (Rochester Fencing Centre); Andrea Ament, 18, Gates Mills, Ohio (Hawken High School/ Saturn Fencing Center); Emily Cross, 14, New York, N.Y. (The Brearly School/Fencers Club). Team: Hannah Thompson, 17, Rochester, N.Y. (Rochester Fencing Centre).

**Cadet Women's Foil** Emily Cross, 14, New York, N.Y. (The Brearly School/Fencers Club); Jacqueline Leahy, 16, Rochester, N.Y./Aurora, Colo. (Eagle Crest High School/Rochester Fencing Centre); Cassidy Luitjen, 16, San Antonio, Texas (Texas Military Institute/Salle Poujardieu).

**Junior Men's Sabre** Ivan Lee, 19, New York, N.Y./St. John's University (Westbrook Foundation/Fencers Club); Jason Rogers, 17, Los Angeles, Calif. (Brentwood School/Salle Gascon); G. Colin Parker, 18, Fayetteville, Ga. (Ohio State University). Team: Timothy Hagamen, 16, New York, N.Y. (Riverdale Country Day School/Fencers Club).

**Cadet Men's Sabre** Patrick Ghattas, 16, Portland, Ore. (Oregon Episcopal School/Oregon Fencing Alliance); Mike Momtselidze, 17, Columbus, Ohio; Timothy Hagamen, 16, New York, N.Y. (Riverdale Country Day School/Fencers Club).

**Junior Women's Sabre** Amelia Gailard, 17, Fayetteville, Ga. (Counterpane School/ Nellya Fencers); Sada Jacobson, 18, Atlanta, Ga./Yale University (Nellya Fencers); Mariel Zagunis, 16, Portland, Ore. (Valley Catholic High School/Oregon Fencing Alliance); Team: Emily Jacobson, 15, Atlanta, Ga. (The Westminster Schools/ Nellya Fencers).

**Cadet Women's Sabre** Amelia Gailard, 17, Fayetteville, Ga. (Counterpane School/ Nellya Fencers); Emily Jacobson; Mariel Zagunis, 16, Portland, Ore. (Valley Catholic High School/ Oregon Fencing Alliance).

**Junior Men's Épée** Soren Thompson, 19, San Diego, Calif. (Princeton University); Jansson Viviani, 20, Haworth, N.J., (University of Notre Dame/NY Athletic Club); Cody Mattern, 20, Tigard, Ore. (Northwest Fencing Center); Team: Seth Kelsey, 19, Brush Prairie, Wash. (U.S. Air Force Academy).

**Cadet Men's Épée** Martin Lee, 17, Saratoga, Calif. (California Fencing Academy); Julian Rose, 16, Bronx, N.Y. (The Dwight School/NY Athletic Club); William Verigan, 16, Wyckoff, N.J. (Ramapo High School/NY Athletic Club).

**Junior Women's Épée** Arlene Stevens, 20, Fairport, N.Y. (St. John's University); Jasmine McGlade, 15, Littleton, Colo. (Northern Colorado Fencers); Kamara James, 16, Jamaica, N.Y. (The Dwight School/NY Athletic Club). Team: Eleanor Leighton, 16, Mishawaka, Ind. (Penn School/Esclime du Lac).

**Cadet Women's Épée** Kamara James, 16, Jamaica, N.Y. (The Dwight School/NY Athletic Club); Jasmine McGlade, 15, Littleton, Colo. (Northern Colorado Fencers); Eleanor Leighton, 16, Mishawaka, Ind. (Penn School/Esclime du Lac).

(Source: *USFA, Cindy Bent, Media Contact. For more information, visit the USFA web site at [www.usfa.org](http://www.usfa.org)*)

**NAC YOUTH/CADET/JUNIOR** | Denver, CO, November 3-6

In the last issue of *American Fencing*, we inadvertently neglected to include the Youth-12 and Youth-10 results for the Denver NAC event. They are listed below. Our sincere apologies to the participants.

**YOUTH-12 MEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (34 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
1. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
  2. Adjemian, Nicolas E (BORDER TEX)
  - 3.T Napala, Evan T (CAPITOL)
  - 3.T Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
  5. Nichols, Ben M (GULFCST TX)
  6. Chervis, Zachariah (COLORADO)
  7. Cabrera, Stephen M (NORTH OHIO)
  8. Duncan, Alexander (COLORADO)

**YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (21 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
1. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
  2. Cook, Meagan B (S. JERSEY)
  - 3.T Finkel, Tess O (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
  5. Caven, Elaina M (WESTERN NY)
  6. Lynch, Katherine (GEORGIA)
  7. Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
  8. Hickey, Kathryn A (WESTERN NY)

**YOUTH-10 MEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (8 Competitors - top 4 earn points)
1. Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
  2. Holbrook, Jonathan L (CAPITOL)
  - 3.T Duncan, Christophe (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Osterman, Gordon K (COLORADO)
  5. Culley, Matthew R (NORTH OH)
  6. Flockhart, Andrew B.S (CAPITPOL)
  7. Miller, Jeffrey E (COLORADO)
  8. King, S. Zachary (COLORADO)

**YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (7 Competitors - top 4 earn points)
1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
  2. Vongries, Alyssa L (MINNESOTA)
  - 3.T Barkley, Cleme W (TENNESSEE)
  - 3.T Gilman, Rebecca C (NORTH OHIO)
  5. Hartman, Grace T (MINNESOTA)
  6. Loomis, Hannah J (UTAH/S.ID)
  7. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)

**YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL**

- (88 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
  2. Getz, Kurt M (WEST-ROCK)
  - 3.T Hodges, Teddy H (KANSAS)
  - 3.T MacClaren, Robert J (WESTERN NY)
  5. Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
  6. Perkins, Samuel H (MT. VALLEY)
  7. Parkins, Benjamin B (GULFCST TX)
  8. Di Cioccio, Tauriac L (METRO NYC)

**YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL**

- (39 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
1. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
  2. McGlade, Grace E (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
  - 3.T Parker, Melissa (SO. TEXAS)
  5. Goldfeder, Misha (WESTERN NY)
  6. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
  7. Coates, Megan E (WESTERN NY)
  8. Pensler, Arielle R (ILLINOIS)

**YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL**

- (46 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
  2. Bentley, III, Frede (KENTUCKY)
  - 3.T Holbrook, Jonathan L (CAPITOL)
  - 3.T Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
  5. DeSmet, Ariel A (OREGON)
  6. Pensler, Alexander (ILLINOIS)
  7. Howard, Marcus A (PHILADELPH)
  8. Nesin, Bourcard (NORTHEAST)

**YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL**

- (17 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
1. Coates, Megan E (WESTERN NY)
  2. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
  - 3.T Hirschfeld, Rebecca C (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T McDermott, Catherine (GULFCS)
  5. McDermott, Elizabeth (GULFCS TX)
  6. Barrett, Molly K (CENTRAL FL)
  7. Hartman, Grace T (MINNESOTA)
  8. Gilman, Rebecca C (NORTH OHIO)

**YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER**

- (34 Competitors - top 16 earn points)
1. Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)"
  2. Zagunis, Merrick H (OREGON)
  - 3.T Murphy, Max D (KANSAS)
  - 3.T Williams, Maximilian (MT. VALLEY)
  5. Bielen, Andrew H (PHILADELPH)
  6. Stetsiv, Andrey (METRO NYC)
  7. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
  8. Kelly, Sean M (KENTUCKY)

**YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER**

- (13 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
1. Murphy, Anna-Paula (MT. VALLEY)
  2. Siebert, Lillian (KANSAS)
  - 3.T Keltner, Mera H (OREGON)
  - 3.T Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
  5. Bartoszewicz, Ann (NEW JERSEY)
  6. Breunier, Ellie S (KANSAS)
  7. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)
  8. Sachs, Elizabeth (HUDS-BERKS)

**YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER**

- (14 Competitors - top 8 earn points)
1. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
  2. Douville, Michael C (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Kolasa, Thomas M (S. JERSEY)
  - 3.T Mahaffey, Harrison H (GULFCST TX)
  5. Thompson, Bobby B (OREGON)
  6. Kagi, Patrick P (GEORGIA)
  7. Stampler, Michael B (SO. CALIF.)
  8. Frank, Elijah D (NEBR-S.DAK)

**YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER**

- (6 Competitors - top 4 earn points)
1. Ward, Becca C (COLORADO)
  2. Park, Casey M (KENTUCKY)
  - 3.T Kohn, Jeri L (NEBR-S.DAK)
  - 3.T Loomis, Jennifer B (UTAH/S.IDA)
  5. Condie, Sarah A (COLORADO)
  6. Kolasa, Natalie E (S. JERSEY)

**NAC DIVISION I/VETERAN** | Ontario, CA, December 8-10**DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (157 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
1. Mattern, Cody M (OREGON)
  2. Greenhouse, Rashaan O (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T O'Loughlin, Chris S (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
  5. Levit \*, Doron (METRO NYC)
  6. Tausig, Justin D (METRO NYC)
  7. Hansen, Eric J (NORTH CA)
  8. Linteau\*, Tomy (CANADA)

**DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL**

- (138 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
1. Dupree, Jedediah (METRO NYC)
  2. Perritt \*, Simeon (CANADA)
  - 3.T Chang, Timothy (CENTRAL CA)
  - 3.T Hill \*, Jeremy C (CANADA)
  5. Debic \*, Ozren (INDIANA)
  6. Khaled \*, Husham (CANADA)
  7. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
  8. McGuire \*, Joshua J (CANADA)

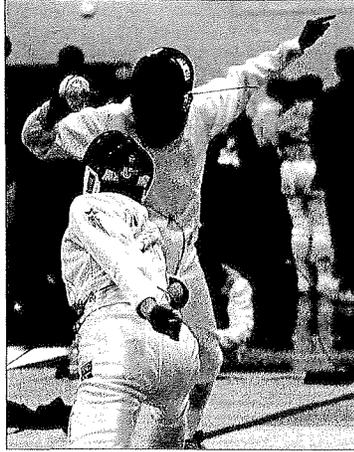
**DIVISION I MEN'S SABER**

- (101 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
1. Lee, Ivan J (METRO NYC)
  2. Smart, Keeth T (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Hassoun \*, Marc-Olivi (CANADA)
  - 3.T Roselli, Paolo (METRO NYC)
  5. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
  6. Hagamen, Timothy H (METRO NYC)
  7. Zagunis, Marten R (OREGON)
  8. Skarbondkiewicz, Adam T (OREGON)

## TOURNAMENT highlights



Above: Division I women's foil, first place Felicia Zimmermann versus third place Irina Khouade of Russia at the Ontario NAC. Photo: Chris Kohanek.



More of the Ontario NAC. Left: Division I men's epee, first place Cody Mattern versus second place Raashan Greenhouse. Above: Division I men's sabrist Marten Lagunis (left) attacks. Photos: Chris Kohanek.

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(86 Competitors - top 48 earn points)

1. Zimmermann, Felicia T (WESTERN NY)
2. Eim, Stephanie (CENTRAL PA)
- 3.T Król \*, Magda (CANADA)
- 3.T Rudkin, Kate A (ILLINOIS)
5. Burke, Jessica B (CENTRAL PA)
6. Suchorski, Kristin Fo (CAPITOL)
7. Campbell, Lindsay K (NORTH OHIO)
8. James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL

(73 Competitors - top 48 earn points)

1. Zimmermann, Felicia T (WESTERN NY)
2. Zimmermann, Iris T (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Khouade \*, Irina (RUSSIA)
- 3.T Luan \*, Jujie (CANADA)
5. Anguelova-Atanassov \*, Anna I (OREGON)
6. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
7. Smart, Erinn L (METRO NYC)
8. Marsh, Ann (WESTERN NY)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER

(66 Competitors - top 48 earn points)

1. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
2. Kalkina \*, Yelena (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Becker, Christine (OREGON)
- 3.T Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
6. Purcell, Caroline M (METRO NYC)
7. Imaizumi, Vivian O (VIRGINIA)
8. Oldham Cox, Jennifer K (OREGON)

Note: for Veteran's Events, # indicates a Vet-50 Fencer; % indicates a Vet-60 Fencer

### VETERAN MEN'S ÉPÉE

(68 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Chidel, Robert # (ILLINOIS)
2. Hicks, Terry R (OKLAHOMA)
- 3.T Gelnow, William H (ORANGE CST)
- 3.T Hibnes, Marshall A (WESTERN WA)
5. Linton, Gary A # (S. JERSEY)
6. Meagher, Roderick (HUDS-BERKS)
7. Bothelio, Jere P (CENTRAL CA)
8. Ranes, Evan A (NEVADA)

### VETERAN MEN'S FOIL

(54 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Hambarzumian, Heik # (NEVADA)
2. Loper, Chris (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Drake, David L (SAN DIEGO)
- 3.T McCormick, Charles (R # (MT. VALLEY)
5. Lutton, Thomas W (NEWENGLAND)
6. Tyson, Julian F # (CONNECTICUT)
7. Van Housen, Jeff (SO. CALIF.)
8. Hornung, William R (CENTRAL PA)

### VETERAN MEN'S SABER

(42 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

1. Lara, Alfred (ORANGE CST)
2. Crowe, Daniel P (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Royal, Jim W (SAN DIEGO)
- 3.T Smith, Ted (MT. VALLEY)
5. Sexton III, Ray L # (SO. TEXAS)
6. Sands, Ned R # (OREGON)
7. Harkleroad, David A (KANSAS)
8. Yung, Wang Y # (WESTERN WA)

### VETERAN WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(20 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Krause, C.J. (WESTERN WA)
2. Leighton, Louise N (INDIANA)
- 3.T Ream, Jann L (IOWA)
- 3.T Runyon, Cindy # (SAN BERNAR)
5. Mansfield, Eugenie (WESTERN WA)
6. Kallus, Diane H # (SO. TEXAS)
7. Berardi, Gladys B (NEW JERSEY)
8. Dobloug, Lisa % (CAPITOL)

### VETERAN WOMEN'S FOIL

(23 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

1. Slater, Lisa A (WESTERN NY)
2. Bedrosian, Patricia G # (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Herriott, Diane M (WESTERN WA)
- 3.T Krusen, Kathryn (NORTH CA)
5. Offerle, Judith A (ILLINOIS)
6. Mitchell, Helen L (NORTH TEX)
7. Kallus, Diane H # (SO. TEXAS)
8. Schifferle, Kathryn L (NO. COAST)

### VETERAN WOMEN'S SABER

(15 Competitors - top 8 earn points)

1. Turner, Delia M (PHILADELPH)
2. Taft, Leslie A (SAN BERNAR)
- 3.T Eyre, Jane E (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Hurst, Susan E # (SAN DIEGO)
5. Nicolau, Doty D.D. # (ALABAMA)
6. Pestotnik, Sharol A (COLORADO)
7. Jacobson, Tina J (GEORGIA)
8. Dorren, Karen (SAN DIEGO)

## DUEL IN THE DESERT | Las Vegas, NV, January 5-7

### OPEN FOIL - A8 - 95 ENTRIES

- 1 Sean McClain WESTERN NY
- 2 Michael Marx OREGON
- 3T Julie Smith UTAH/ S. IDA
- 3T Alex Wood CENTRAL CA
- 5 Mark Mulholland CENTRAL CA
- 6 Craig Harkins GEORGIA
- 7 Bethany Cox UTAH/ S. IDA
- 8 Mike Maurin UTAH/ S. IDA

### OPEN EPEE - A8 - 103 ENTRIES

- 1 Cody Mattern OREGON
- 2 Ingo Grausam GERMANY
- 3T Gagik Demirchain SO CALIF.
- 3T Eric Tribbett CENTRAL CA
- 5 Eric Hansen NORTH CA
- 6 Frank Van Dyke NEVADA
- 7 Brian Clauson SAN BERNAR
- 8 Walter Dragonetti NORTH OHIO

### OPEN SABRE - A1 - 39 ENTRIES

- 1 David Cabouat SO. CALIF.
- 2 Michael D'Asaro SO. CALIF.
- 3T Nickolay Logatchov COLORADO
- 3T Paul Friedman SO. CALIF.
- 5 Alexander Kovacs METRO NYC
- 6 Sasha Zucker CENTRAL CA
- 7 Jim Royal SAN DIEGO
- 8 Christophe Greller NEWENGLAND

### WOMEN'S FOIL - A1 - 22 ENTRIES

- 1 Felicia Zimmermann WESTERN NY
- 2 Julie Smith UTAH/ S. IDA

### WOMEN'S EPEE - A1 - 36 ENTRIES

- 1 Szilvi Naray-Davey SO. CALIF.
- 2 Margo Miller SO. CALIF.

### WOMEN'S SABRE - B1 - 21 ENTRIES

- 1 Amanda Nelson NEBRASKA
- 2 Megan Everett CENTRAL CA

- 3T Iris Zimmermann WESTERN NY
- 3T Bethany Cox UTAH/ S. IDA
- 5 Laura Horton SO. CALIF.
- 6 Justine Aw SO. CALIF.
- 7 Margaret Fagan NORTH CA
- 8 Leah MacKinnon UTAH/ S. IDA

**VETERAN'S FOIL - 27 ENTRIES**

- 1 Michaél McCahey ILLINOIS
- 2 David Drake SAN DIEGO
- 3T Marek Piatkowski SO. CALIF.
- 3T Jamie Douraghy SO. CALIF.
- 5 Jeff VanHousen SO. CALIF.
- 6 Donald Bengé SO. CALIF.
- 7 Adrian Sessions CENTRAL CA
- 8 Jan Patterson WESTERN WA

- 3T Anna Cillo COLORADO
- 3T Janet Wertz SAN DIEGO
- 5 Amy Fortune SO. CALIF.
- 6 Carla Corbit SO. CALIF.
- 7 Michelle Brinlee NEVADA
- 8 Sharol Pestotnik COLORADO

**VETERAN'S EPEE - 17 ENTRIES**

- 1 Frank Van Dyke NEVADA
- 2 Alfred Cherry NEW JERSEY
- 3T Eric McDonald CENTRAL CA
- 3T Marcel Miernik WESTERN NY
- 5 Jere Bothelio CENTRAL CA
- 6 James Lagiss NORTH CA
- 7 Thomas Bronzo NORTH CA
- 8 Craig Bansmer ORANGE CST

- 3T Rachel Liebing UTAH/ S. IDA
- 3T Linda Dunn SO. CALIF.
- 5 Sandra Kuhn ORANGE CST
- 6 Justine Aw SO. CALIF.
- 7 Jeanette Strumillo MT. VALLEY
- 8 Rita Comes CENTRAL CA

**VETERAN'S SABRE - 11 ENTRIES**

- 1 Jim Royal SAN DIEGO
- 2 Paul Hicha ARIZONA
- 3T Alexander Kovacs METRO NYC
- 3T David Lee MT. VALLEY
- 5 Daniel Crowe SO. CALIF.
- 6 Jeanette Strumillo MT. VALLEY
- 7 Karen Dorren SAN DIEGO
- 8 Lloyd Wright ARIZONA

**NAC JUNIOR/DIVISION I/WHEELCHAIR I Greenville, SC, January 12-15**

**DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (159 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
- 1. St-Hilaire \*, Charles (CANADA)
  - 2. Wiercioch \*, Adam A. (POLAND)
  - 3.T O'Loughlin, Chris S (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Smerdin \*, Alexander (KYRGYZSTAN)
  - 5. Tausig, Justin D (METRO NYC)
  - 6. Laight \*, Simon J (GRTBRITAIN)
  - 7. Rostal, Scott E (MINNESOTA)
  - 8. Niyzov \*, Yevgeni (ISRAEL)

**DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (94 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
- 1. Alexandra \*, Shklar (ISRAEL)
  - 2. Eim, Stephanie (CENTRAL PA)
  - 3.T Burke, Jessica B (CENTRAL PA)
  - 3.T Leprohan \*, Julie (CANADA)
  - 5. Miller, Margo L (SO. CALIF.)
  - 6. Stevens, Arlene (METRO NYC)
  - 7. Walton, Kerry E (NORTHEAST)
  - 8. Pelletier \*, Marie-Eve (CANADA)

**JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (80 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
- 1. O'Malley \*, Darragh P. (CANADA)
  - 2. Thompson, Soren (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Kelsey, Cadet West (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Lelion \*, Jean (CANADA)
  - 5. Meidell, Phillip R (ARIZONA)
  - 6. Mattern, Cody M (OREGON)
  - 7. Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
  - 8. Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)

**JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (73 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
- 1. James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
  - 2. McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Stevens, Arlene (METRO NYC)
  - 5. Korb, Erica M (PHILADELPH)
  - 6. Chin, Meredith M (NEWENGLAND)
  - 7. Sullivan, Sharon L (WESTERN NY)
  - 8. Park, Gaelyn M (KENTUCKY)

**WHEELCHAIR MEN'S ÉPÉE**

- (7 Competitors)
- 1. Rodgers, Scott J (GEORGIA)

**DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL**

- (144 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
- 1. McGuire \*, Joshua J (CANADA)
  - 2. Dupree, Jedediah (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Kellner, Dan J (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLND)
  - 5. Khaled \*, Husham (CANADA)
  - 6. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
  - 7. Panchan \*, Nontapat (WESTERN NY)
  - 8. Gutkovskiy \*, Stanislav (BELARUS)

**DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL**

- (69 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
- 1. Smart, Erinn L (METRO NYC)
  - 2. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
  - 3.T Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
  - 3.T Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
  - 5. Luan\*, Jujie (CANADA)
  - 6. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
  - 7. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
  - 8. Anguelova-Atanassov, Anna I (OREGON)

**JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL**

- (96 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
- 1. Cohen, Yale E (METRO NYC)
  - 2. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T McGuire \*, Joshua J (CANADA)
  - 3.T Sinkin, Jeremy C (WESTERN NY)
  - 5. Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
  - 6. Breen, Jeffrey A (PHILADELPH)
  - 7. Pasinkoff, Michael (LONG ISLND)
  - 8. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)

**JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL**

- (53 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
- 1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
  - 2. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)
  - 3.T Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
  - 5. Leahy, Jacqueline (WESTERN NY)
  - 6. Luitjen, Cassidy C (SO. TEXAS)
  - 7. Stinetorf, Chloe L (NORTH CA)
  - 8. Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)

**WHEELCHAIR MEN'S FOIL**

- (3 Competitors)
- 1. Rodgers, Scott J (GEORGIA)

**DIVISION I MEN'S SABER**

- (121 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
- 1. Smart, Keeth T (METRO NYC)
  - 2. Lapointe \*, Frederick (CANADA)
  - 3.T Lee, Ivan J (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Skarbonkiewicz, Adam T (OREGON)
  - 5. Mormando, Steve (METRO NYC)
  - 6. Spencer-El, Akhnaten (METRO NYC)
  - 7. Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
  - 8. Clinton, Elliott (OREGON)

**DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER**

- (69 Competitors - top 48 earn points)
- 1. Becker, Christine (OREGON)
  - 2. Oldham Cox, Jennifer K (OREGON)
  - 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Smith, Julie T (UTAH/S.IDA)
  - 5. Kalkina \*, Yelena (COLUMBUSOH)
  - 6. Purcell, Caroline M (METRO NYC)
  - 7. Brosnan, Heather J (OREGON)
  - 8. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)

**JUNIOR MEN'S SABER**

- (72 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
- 1. Miller III, Harvey L (METRO NYC)
  - 2. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
  - 3.T Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
  - 5. Rahimi\*, Amir (IRAN)
  - 6.T Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
  - 6.T Piette \*, Eric (CANADA)
  - 8. Magee, Andrew P (KENTUCKY)

**JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER**

- (41 Competitors - top 24 earn points)
- 1. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
  - 2. Sabbath\*, Shena (CANADA)
  - 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
  - 5. Crane, Christina (GEORGIA)
  - 6. Padula, Veronica M (NEW JERSEY)
  - 7. Jemal, Alexis D (METRO NYC)
  - 8. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)

**WHEELCHAIR MEN'S SABER**

- (5 Competitors)
- 1. Rodgers, Scott J (GEORGIA)

2. Royal, Joey (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Day Jr., Roy E (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
5. Collman , Peter D (NATIONAL)
6. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
7. Sikorsky, Steven (KENTUCKY)

2. Day Jr., Roy E (GEORGIA)
3. Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)

2. Collman , Peter D (NATIONAL)
- 3.T Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Van Der Wege, Gary M (SO. TEXAS)
5. Sikorsky, Steven (KENTUCKY)

## JUNIOR OLYMPICS I Salt Lake City, UT, February 16-19

### JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

- (157 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
  2. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
  - 3.T Testerman, Nicolas M (OREGON)
  5. Rose, Julian M (METRO NYC)
  6. Sanders, Michael A (SO. TEXAS)
  7. Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
  8. St. Francis, John M (NORTH CA)

### JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

- (168 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
  2. Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
  - 3.T Cohen, Yale E (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Mulholland, Mark B (NORTH CA)
  - 5.T Radu, Andrew (LONG ISLND)
  - 5.T Schlaepfer, Ian F (MT. VALLEY)
  7. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)
  8. Perry, Cameron D (COLORADO)

### JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

- (112 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Parker, G. Colin (GEORGIA)
  2. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
  - 3.T Williams, James L (MT. VALLEY)
  5. Jakus, David J (METRO NYC)
  6. Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
  7. Magee, Andrew P (KENTUCKY)
  8. Boorstin, Adam S (SO. CALIF.)

### JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

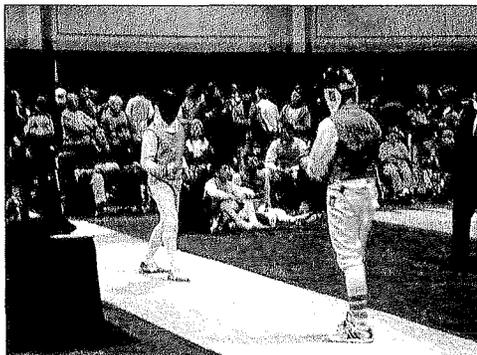
- (103 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Walton, Kerry E (NORTHEAST)
  2. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
  - 3.T Harris, Caitlin E (SO. TEXAS)

### JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

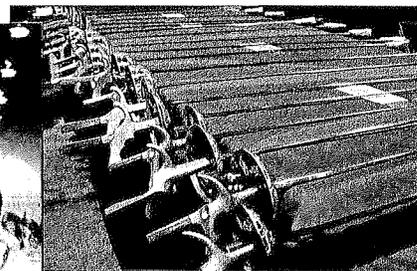
- (116 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Leahy, Jacqueline (WESTERN NY)
  2. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)

### JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

- (76 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
  2. Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Gelman, Julia (METRO NYC)



Above: The crowd watches a foil match at the Junior Olympics. Photo: Steven Piantadosi, M.D., PhD.



Scenes from the Junior Olympics. Left: Weapon testing on the strip. Above: Foils and sabres for sale. Photos: Steven Piantadosi, M.D., PhD.

- 3.T Hohensee, Kira L (NORTHEAST)
- 5.T Jacobson, Raelyn P (CENTRAL CA)
- 5.T Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
7. Phair, Meghan D (LONG ISLND)
8. Chin, Meredith M (NEWENGLAND)

- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
- 5.T Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)
- 5.T Stinetorf, Chloe L (NORTH CA)
7. Vega, Keeley I (MT. VALLEY)
8. Delahanty, Amy T (KENTUCKY)

- 3.T Jemal, Alexis D (METRO NYC)
5. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
6. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
7. Brosnan, Heather J (OREGON)
8. Everett, Meghan E (CENTRAL CA)

### CADET MEN'S ÉPÉE

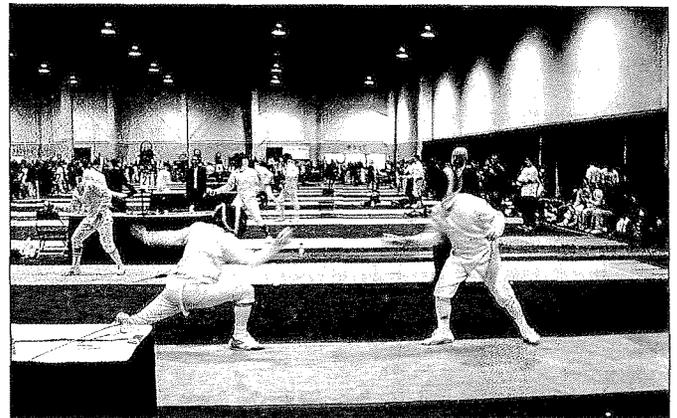
- (128 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Ranes, Jackson M (NEVADA)
  2. Verigan, William R (NEW JERSEY)
  - 3.T Cavan, James E (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
  5. Perry, Cameron D (COLORADO)
  6. Rose, Julian M (METRO NYC)
  7. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
  8. Stockdale, Jason T (PHILADELPH)

### CADET MEN'S FOIL

- (149 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
  2. Perry, Cameron D (COLORADO)
  - 3.T Carter, Jonathan H (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)
  5. Kirk-Gordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
  6. Taylor, Jesse E (CENTRAL CA)
  - 7.T Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)
  - 7.T Kline, Jared M (SO. TEXAS)

### CADET MEN'S SABER

- (106 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
  2. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
  - 3.T Boorstin, Adam S (SO. CALIF.)
  - 3.T Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
  5. Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
  6. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
  7. Greene, Joseph T (GEORGIA)
  8. Magee, Andrew P (KENTUCKY)



Scenes from the Junior Olympics in Salt Lake City. Above: Competition site, the South Towne Exposition Center; above right: competition in the hall. Photos: Steven Piantadosi, M.D., PhD.

#### CADET WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

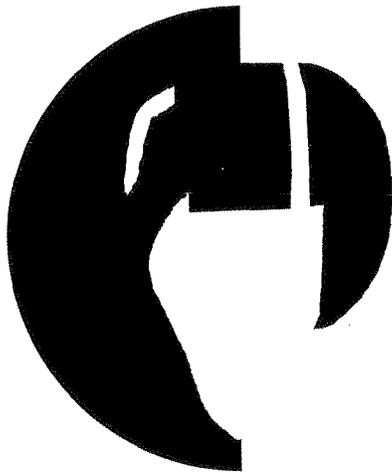
- (90 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)
  2. Schirtz, Alli M (WESTERN NY)
  - 3.T Phair, Meghan D (LONG ISLAND)
  - 3.T Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
  5. McGlade, Jasmine A (COLORADO)
  - 6.T Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)
  - 6.T Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
  8. Harris, Caitlin E (SO. TEXAS)

#### CADET WOMEN'S FOIL

- (114 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Leahy, Jacqueline (WESTERN NY)
  2. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
  - 3.T Luitjen, Cassidy C (SO. TEXAS)
  - 3.T Stinetorf, Chloe L (NORTH CA)
  5. Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)
  6. Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)
  7. Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
  8. Florendo, Jessica S (METRO NYC)

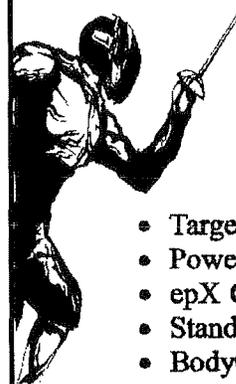
#### CADET WOMEN'S SABER

- (68 Competitors - top 32 earn points)
1. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
  2. Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
  - 3.T Eiremo, Annika M (MT. VALLEY)
  - 3.T Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
  5. Padula, Veronica M (NEW JERSEY)
  6. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
  7. Frey, Cassandra (NEW JERSEY)
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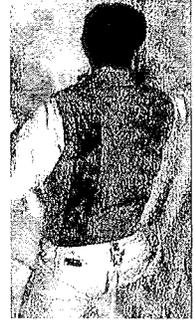
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# REELING IN REELS PART 1

by Joe Byrnes

Let's say you have been asked to survey the reels belonging to your club, school, division, section, or whatever. Where do you start? You say, "Forget it, that will never happen to me." If you're sure, then you can skip this column, and maybe the next two or three. All last summer I did that sort of survey for my division, New Jersey, where we still have a lot of equipment, even though most of our large competitions (the big high school bashes) are run these days like national events, with a fully contracted floor. Much of our divisional stuff is not new, especially the reels, but they tend to work reliably, simply because they have been maintained regularly. We have some reels that, to my knowledge, must be 30 years old if they're a day. Their wires and fencer connections, and spring packs, and so forth have been replaced several times.

So, let's make a start. The first thing in surveying a reel is nothing surprising: just look at it. Does it need a bit of external cleaning? Well, let that wait until you are sure that there's something inside worth cleaning. An immediate check with a meter or even a lamp-tester or LED-device should come next. If you get some kind of continuity reading, there's hope, even if only for improvement. If there is no reading, the "wire" (to be precise, one or more of the *three wires* in the cable) is doubtless broken or unconnected somewhere. If there is at least continuity or even a low-resistance reading, but the reel just isn't taking up, it will be the (or a) spring: this is the case when the wire is just spilling out with no pull-back at all. If, on the other hand, the cable simply doesn't want to move, it probably means a jam of some sort—maybe nothing more ominous than a cable that crossed itself in winding up. Such problems will be considered later.

Assuming basic continuity, the con-

dition of the connection for the fencer should be checked. It is a wonder how often—some would say, how soon—these things stop looking like what left the factory. Wondrous and many are the substitutes that have been devised all over the world. Some of these improvisations work, and even work well, but the ideal fix, if you can afford it, is normally the replacement of broken or missing parts by genuine spare parts supplied by the manufacturer. Of course, as an ideal, that goes for all parts of a reel, since these things are rather specialized devices, and are not going to be easily repaired just by dropping in on your local hardware store, looking for the odd bit of machined metal, or a molded vinyl part, or metric nut, etc.

One of the few places about a reel, however, where it is safe to mix manufacturers' parts, is at this very fencer connection. One sees French reels with German connectors, and vice versa, Russian reels with English dittoes, and so forth—just about any combination your imagination can encompass. The important thing is that, assuming you have done a proper hook up, they will all work. What is less likely to work is a hybrid—a connector internally made up, in desperate hope and/or ambition, out of international bits. Yes, the sport is practiced internationally, but there are limits.

Replacements or substitutions (unless you go in for precise historical reconstruction) can be used for the snap-catch and the body cord retainer. Very useful and strong hook-ups can be made with split rings (key-holder type) plus an appropriately sized catch. There is a frequent problem with some fixes that use rings, catches, and so forth that are either too small (they break easily) or too large (they are clunky and unduly strain things). And if you haven't got the original mini-bolt and nut, or either of them,

that held these things on, a simple cotter pin—cheap and easily replaced, and not going to unthread like a nut—can hold the ring or catch. The catch/device for keeping the body cord plugged in can be replaced—not always, but often, and by using a little ingenuity by Velcro. Use the kind intended for sewing, not the sticky-back stuff, and hold it down by bolt and nut, or pop rivet, or even cotter pin; don't forget flat washers.

*Very important:* Observe carefully what sort of strain relief was provided in the original. A very common fault I find in "repaired" reels that causes new and rapid failure is forgetting or omitting to provide at least the equivalent of the original strain relief. Think for a moment of how the cable is continually being tugged and yanked where it enters the connection. At an absolute minimum, a knot inside (one that will not slip or slide out of the housing), and a plastic or rubber sheath to protect the last two or three inches of cable entering the connector, not to mention the tied-off nylon or Kevlar cord in a proper cable—all of these things should be there after you have finished with your fix, if they were there in the first place, or were supposed to be there, according to the design. Ideally, they should have been.

If you can work out an improvement to the strain relief (one that will actually work and help) more power to you. One such approach that definitely helps with any reel is a rubber ball bumper put onto the wire just where it disappears into the case. Many possibilities exist, from hollow but stiffish balls pierced, to whole, or segments of, tough foam types. Obviously such a retrofit can only be done at a time when the whole front end has had to come apart for major repair—as when the wire has definitively broken in the connector. For more on reels, see future installments.



# BE THY INTENTS WICKED OR CHARITABLE...

by Robert Block

“Be thy intents wicked or charitable,  
Thou comest in such questionable shape  
That I will speak to thee”

*Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 4*  
...the Prince of Denmark  
addressing a ghost

**Think** of me as an apparition representing the USFA Veterans Committee. You, representing the veteran fencing community, have just spoken to me. Although I realize that I may be in questionable shape, let me assure you that my intents are not wicked. I'm talking about the recently announced changes to the qualifying path and point system for veterans that are supposed to go into effect next season—that 40-49-year-olds will no longer be participating in the qualifying path required for 50-59 and 60-plus fencers at North American Cup (NAC) events. Judging by all those who have spoken, it's apparent that quite a few in our community view these changes as a wicked intent to eliminate 40-49-year-olds from veteran fencing altogether. Not so, say I! And thereby hangs a tale, so please bear with me whilst I recount the events of recent times and beyond...

Our veteran fencing program really started in 1983 when Mac Garret, who had recently retired as the head coach at Penn State yet still wanted to stay involved with the sport, took on a new challenge. Mac decided that the time for veteran fencing had arrived, so he led the charge, often as a cavalry of one, to establish a program for the over-40 fencer. He was named chairman of a newly formed Veterans Committee from which he was able to bring

veterans into USFA-sanctioned national events.

If truth be told, the welcome that veterans found in those early days wasn't particularly warm or inclusive...visualize an older Cinderella suddenly showing up at the ball and the reaction of some much younger stepsisters who were used to having the dance floor all to themselves. But the program took hold and gradually attracted an increasing number of experienced veterans who raised the level of fencing and the quality of the competitions. These developments won over most of the skeptics and gained acceptance of the veterans in the larger world of fencing.

The FIE also noticed that interest in veteran fencing was increasing internationally (or maybe it was the fact that the veteran movement didn't appear to be going away anytime soon) and in 1997 decided to hold an unofficial world championship for veterans in Durban, South Africa, as a small sidebar to the senior World Championships that were already scheduled to take place in that city. This was really an experimental championship for veterans since the only event contested was men's epee.

In early 1998 the FIE announced that the first official Veteran World Championships would be held in Switzerland later that year. The events were expanded to include women's foil as well as men's epee. The FIE also decreed that to qualify for the Veteran World Championships a fencer must be at least 50 years old and that there would be two age group categories—50-59 and 60-plus.

Suddenly, the USFA had another world championship to deal with and needed to quickly establish a qualifying system for the 1998 championships. The Veterans Committee and the USFA office came up with what was intended as a temporary qualifying process to fill the void. It was

agreed that veteran events would be held at two NACs as well as at Summer Nationals, and that the best two out of three results would count for those 50-59 and 60-plus fencers who were eligible for the World Championships. The immediate need for a qualifying path for these two groups of older fencers was the only reason veterans events were added to NACs.

Where did this leave the 40-49-year-old veterans? In spite of the FIE's decision to start veteran eligibility at 50 years of age, our program had always been open to everyone over the age of 40. So both the committee and the national office agreed that 40-49-year-olds should be allowed to participate in this temporary arrangement at the NACs even though they were not technically part of the qualifying system for the World Championships. The committee felt that including the 40-49-year-olds was more in keeping with the mission of the USFA's veteran program and would also help to insure that the progressive growth in numbers that were now turning out for veteran events would continue.

The obvious flaw in the new qualifying path was that space and time constraints at the two veteran NACs did not allow for separation by age groups as was done at the Summer Nationals. Instead, all ages had to be grouped together in each weapon, producing what has come to be known as Veteran Combined Events.

On the positive side, both age group and combined events have been held at the Summer Nationals since 1998, which gives all of us more opportunities to fence at a veteran level, e.g., a three-weapon fencer has been able to compete in six veteran events. But, on the downside, the playing field at the NACs has often been uneven for those trying to qualify for the team that would be going to the World Championships. The older fencers in the combined events at the

NACs found themselves in situations where, in order to secure any qualifying points at all, they often had to compete against other veterans who might be 10, 20 or even 30 years younger. This situation is contrary to the very spirit of, veteran fencing, which is to level the playing field as much as possible to account for significant age differences. Feedback from frustrated veterans who were trying to earn qualifying points, as well as indications from the USFA Tournament Committee and the national office that a permanent qualifying path needed to be developed that conformed more closely to the requirements for the Veteran World Championships, prompted the changes that were announced in the Fall 2000 *USFA National Newsletter*.

In addition to the way qualifying points would be tabulated, the major change that would go into effect beginning with the 2001-02 season is that 40-49-year-old veterans would no longer be participating in the qualifying path required for 50-59 and 60-plus age groups at the NACs. This would not eliminate the 40-49-year-olds from the veteran fencing program, but would certainly reduce their role. They would still have their own events in three weapons at the Summer Nationals, which is all any veterans had until the advent of the World Championships in 1998.

But is this a step backward for veteran fencing, or a necessary change that had to be made in light of the FIE's requirements? The feedback that the Veterans Committee received after these changes were announced indicates that it is perceived as a step backward; the vast majority of veteran fencers, even those in the higher age groups, think that 40-49-year-olds should remain in the entire circuit of veteran events. Veteran competitors have grown accustomed to the combined events at the NACs and there has been a healthy increase in participation (NAC-C in Ontario last December drew 222 entries for all of the veteran events!).

The Veterans Committee discussed this issue at some length at its meeting in Ontario and decided that it is more important for the development

of the USFA veteran program that everyone over 40 be included in the process than it is to significantly modify the process for closer conformance with FIE standards. Therefore, the committee voted unanimously to again revise the point system and qualifying path with the intent of including everyone over the age of 40 in the veteran fencing circuit while still making the playing field as fair as possible for those veterans who are competing for qualifying points for the World Championships. A subcommittee is working on a solution to this problem as you read this article. It expects to have a new and improved plan that is more

acceptable to all age groups in place for the 2001-02 fencing season.

So therein lies my tale...the intent has always been charitable rather than wicked, and this I swear upon my sword, although the path itself may seem like an Elizabethan maze offering some unexpected twists and turns before we reach our intended destination.

*Bob Block, aka The Grayblade, competes in all three weapons and coaches fencing in Denver.*

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# FENCING POWER: The Ultimate Weapon

By David B. Statt, M.S., C.S.C.S.

*In future issues (we swear!), trainer David Statt will answer questions you have about the best methods to integrate weight lifting, aerobics, diet, and other fitness elements to build your fencing abilities. You can email David with your questions at [fitstatt@frontiernet.net](mailto:fitstatt@frontiernet.net). Please note: questions will only be addressed in the magazine. David regrets that he cannot respond to each question personally.*

In the last issue we discussed specific strength training for fencing. High levels of strength are critical for injury prevention and performance. However, if the fencer cannot utilize that strength to create a quick action, powerful attack, or fast retreat, then it is useless. That is where power and quickness training come in. Physiologically, strength training will improve muscular force output independent of speed. Power training will improve the muscle's ability to react and generate force quickly through improvements in the nervous system. Nervous impulses are transmitted to the muscle quicker and it can create higher forces in a shorter time. This type of conditioning is critical for any sport—especially fencing, due to its speed and power requirement. It is probably the most important component of training for fencers if done safely and effectively. "This type of training has made me faster and more explosive," says Felicia Zimmermann, member of the U.S. Women's Foil Olympic Team. In this article, a fencing-specific power and quickness program is presented that was used in part with some members of the U.S. Women's Olympic Foil Team.

The program should be preceded by a full-body warmup—for example, ride a bike for 10 minutes and then do some light fencing actions and lunges to loosen up the appropriate muscles. A warm muscular and nervous system

will produce more force and speed than a cold one. Follow this up with a full-body stretching routine that includes static and dynamic stretches. Examples of some dynamic stretches are leg swings, high knees, climbing over hurdles one leg at a time, etc. These stretches improve flexibility of the muscles in a functionally dynamic manner appropriate for this program. Follow the power program two times per week with at least 72 hours of rest in between. The program will likely take one hour and 15 minutes to complete. You can do strength and aerobic routines in between your power workout days. Power and quickness training is most effective when completed before experiencing any fatigue. Therefore, train any other fitness components after this program.

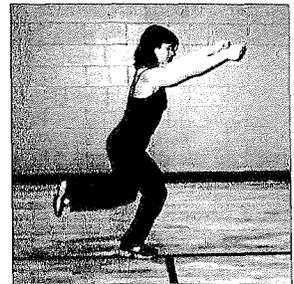
## SOME TIPS ON EXECUTING THE PROGRAM:

1. The exercises on the next page should be done explosively and as quickly as possible with proper technique. Remember the saying, "To be fast, you must train fast."
2. When learning the exercises, however, do them without resistance and use a slow tempo so that you can learn the motor patterns first.
3. Try to do most of the exercises on grass or a soft surface, such as a wrestling mat or plyometric mat, to minimize joint stress.
4. Exhaustion is not a goal. The athlete should have energy left after each set. Stop the set once you start to become exhausted, lose proper technique, and/or lose speed.
5. The fencer will be sore after the

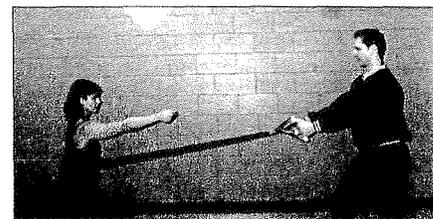
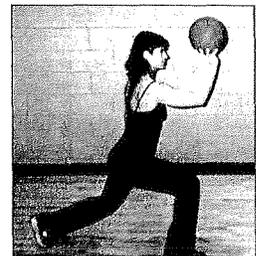
Frog leap ▶▶



Frog leap with one leg ▶▶



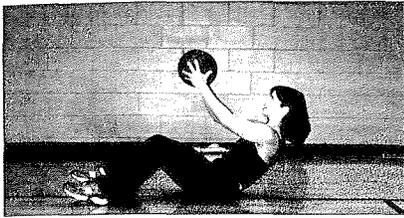
Medicine ball fencing lunge ▶▶



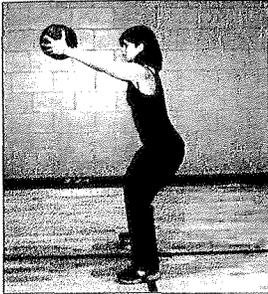
Harness fencing lunge ▲



Five-dot drill ▲



Pullover toss  
with medicine  
ball ▲



Back toss  
◀

first couple of times he or she does this routine. That is normal, delayed-muscle soreness and will get better as more sessions are completed.

After four to six weeks you should start seeing improvements in speed, power, and quickness. Actions will be quick, lunges powerful, and attacks fast. The ultimate weapon will not be the foil or sabre. It will be the fencing-specific power program. In the next article, I will discuss how to maintain strength and power during the entire bout via aerobics and aerobic conditioning.

*Dave Statt is the exercise physiologist/certified strength coach for Mid-Town Athletic Club in Rochester, NY. Fitness and training questions can be sent to [Fitstatt@frontiernet.net](mailto:Fitstatt@frontiernet.net) and will be answered as part of this regular column in American Fencing.*

Below is a sample power program used by Iris and Felicia Zimmermann, members of the U.S. Olympic Foil Team, in preparation for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. The exercises and how they positively impact fencing are listed. Some helpful comments on how to complete the exercises are noted but not intended for instructional purposes. It is imperative that this program be administered and taught by a certified professional. Not only will it be safer and reduce the risk of injury but will be more effective and make you a better fencer sooner.

## EXERCISE

## FENCING BENEFIT

<b>Fencing Lunges</b> 2 sets of 15 reps Lunge back and forth quickly using fencing motion	Retreats/Advances
<b>Frog Leap</b> 2 sets of 10 reps Leap like a frog, using arms also; done on grass or soft surface, try to land softly	Explosion
<b>Frog Leap</b> 2 sets of 10 reps Same as above, but with one leg	Explosion
<b>Medicine Ball Fencing Lunge</b> 2 sets of 10 reps (should be quick) Mimic attack while explosively throwing ball	Arm and body actions
<b>Harness Fencing Lunges</b> 3 sets of appx. 30 feet in length Simulate attack while someone pulls you faster than normal	Overspeed training (trains nervous system to be quicker than you really are)
<b>5 Dot Drill</b> 2 sets of 5 reps Touch all 4 dots on floor while coming back to the center dot each time. Jump roping is an alternative	Footwork and quickness
<b>Upper Body Airdyne Sprints</b> 3 sets :10, :20, and :30 seconds Stand facing Airdyne, using quick arm motion	Upper body power and quickness
<b>Boxing</b> 3 sets of all-out boxing for 30 seconds each Use varied combinations	Upper body power and quickness
<b>Pullover Toss with Medicine Ball</b> 2 sets of 10 reps Explosively do a sit-up while throwing ball to partner	Core power, especially abdominals
<b>Back Toss</b> 2 sets of 10 reps Squat and explosively throw ball up as you stand	Core power, especially low back muscles

# ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

## The Fencing Academy of Philadelphia Achieves Club Success

Story & photos by Sybil Hunter

"Let's do it first!  
Let's not wait for the competition!"

That's the attitude of Mark Masters who made the transition from fencer to owner and operator of the Fencing Academy of Philadelphia (FAP) so successfully. Starting out with just 30 students, today FAP has nearly 250 fencers, producing several finalists at nearly every NAC event in the last three years.

Masters, born in Chicago, attended college at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., where he fenced on an NCAA championship team. After graduation, an opportunity arose through the Post Graduate Institute in Coaching Development that allowed Masters to coach in Saudi Arabia for two years. He worked with Air Force cadets and soldiers. "I coached weight lifting and just about anything else they wanted me to do," he said. "They provided everything—room and board, a shared car, cooking staff, support staff, and it was all tax free."

Upon returning to Detroit came the big question, "What do I do now?" Masters had many options: entering the fitness management business, attending graduate school, coaching. In August 1989 he moved to Philadelphia and took over the Fairmont Park Fencing Center with approximately 30 members, replacing coach Abeel Saleem who was moving to Texas.

Why Philadelphia? "I came. I liked Philly; it was a chance to live in a city where I wanted to live and a chance to (implement) *my* ideas. I always liked Philadelphia, but then, of course, I'm from Detroit!" Masters said. "People here actually live in the city.

"When I started, (Fairmont Park) was run in conjunction with a city facility so it wasn't a huge financial risk." As the club grew, Masters realized he had to find a new space. In the summer of 1990 he closed up shop in the world's largest urban park and moved on. "I just got lucky; I met a guy who owned a building in the City Center area and was not using it," Masters explained. "We had two strips, a teaching strip, and a little space upstairs to workout."

After about two years the club outgrew its home again. Masters then relocated to Powelton village, a historical district between University City and West Philadelphia. Then sure enough, four years later, his group again outgrew their home.

"Down the block was a beat-up, empty warehouse," Masters said. "My current landlord offered a joint ownership deal but someone else bought it." As fate would have it, the buyer was friends with the parents of a fencer from Masters' fencing club. They convinced the owner to sell it to Masters for his new location.

That's when he bought his current facility, which is two blocks from the 19th-century Russian embassy. "I thought,

now I'm really scared," Masters admitted. Thus began the fear and excitement of being a businessman by day and fencing coach by night. "I spend two hours on the phone making business calls... on a slow day.

"The reward is getting to do what I want to do," Masters said, adding, "...and proving I was right! I can put people on international teams, but what's even better—I can pay the mortgage too. I've always thought fencing could be a good business. Most clubs sell themselves short."

As for developing international fencers, FAP has done well. Lara Masters, Mark's wife and one of the eight on-staff coaches, taught Olympic silver medallist pentathlete Emily deRiel how to fence. The other coaches include Joseph Vitebskiy, who earned a silver medal in the 1968 Olympics; Lisa Campi; David Mandell; Nick Minott; Brian Murdock; Steve Schnell; and, of course, Masters.

Masters enjoys the challenge of working with children and turning them into champions. "The best is the kids who enjoy fencing... the 10 year olds who are clumsy kids, who can't even jump rope, then they make it as a national finalist."

High expectations are set for Masters' students. "The conditioning class is open to everyone"—and he expects them to take it. "It's everything you need to not only be a fencer but an athlete. I expect at least two days a week spent at the academy... and, I know it may be a fantasy, but I expect practice at home."

As an incentive Masters even offers a parents' membership so parents can use the weight room while their kids fence. Among the other highlights of FAP's over 6,000-square-foot building are eight full strips, six of which are electric with machine and lights at the end of the strips, teaching lanes, a balcony for spectators, a nursery when needed, locker rooms with showers, a full armory, and a specially cushioned floor.

With all this comes the blessing and curse of growth. "It's growing faster than I was prepared for. I expected to be successful, but the growth rate is tremendous.

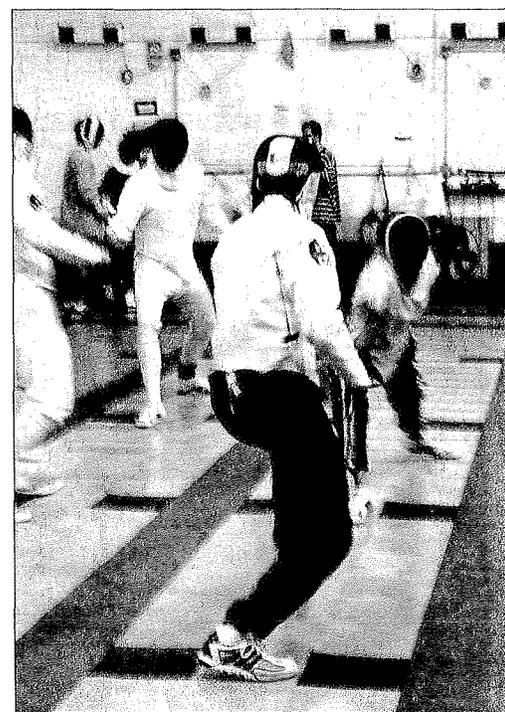
"We're already running out of room," he lamented. With almost 250 members, he's contemplating building a second level or maybe buying the building next door. "I'm committed to our location. It's ideal. It's easy to get to and central." FAP is 15 to 20 minutes from the downtown by car. There is a trolley stop right outside the club and a train depot only four blocks away.

"We're located in the best part of the city. It's a unique city, but I may be prejudiced."

Their draw is a near 50/50 split of city kids and suburb kids. "I have kids who come up from Wilmington, Del., to fence—a 30- to 45-minute drive," Masters said.

A number of Masters' students come from the University of Pennsylvania where he has a working relationship with current head coach David Micahnik. Fencers from Temple University's team frequent FAP as well.

*Opposite and right:  
Students practicing at the  
Fencing Academy of  
Philadelphia.*



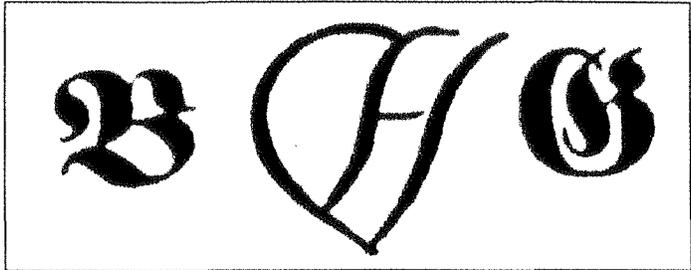
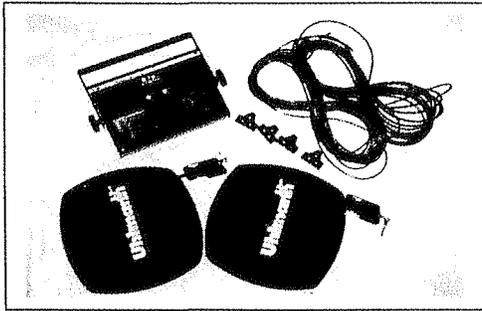
Last September Masters started a satellite program at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. "It is going strong. I'm still in the process of training coaches for that location. It helps draw kids from further away who would otherwise have trouble getting into the city.

"The biggest challenge is keeping in touch with all of it...doing the accounting...Thank God for computers!" Masters said.

His next hire won't be another coach but a bookkeeper.

*Sybil Hunter is an avid writer, artist, and fencer. Sybil, her husband Chris, and their two poodles, Mozart and Stanzie, reside in Michigan where Sybil is pursuing a second degree in secondary education.*

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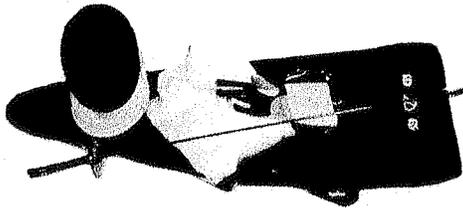
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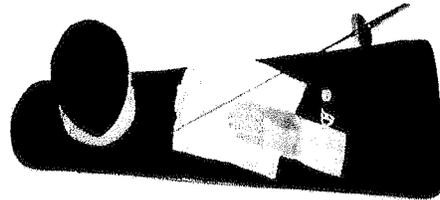
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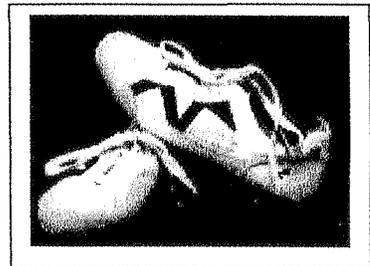


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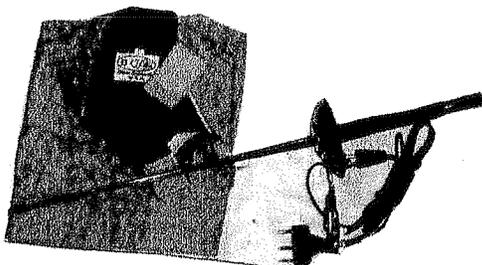
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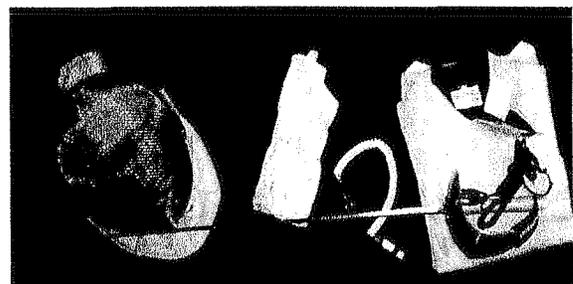
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# *faces of fencing* a conversation with **BUCKIE LEACH**



by Barbara Anderson

With one of the heaviest coaching resumes in fencing, it's no wonder that **Buckie Leach** was recently appointed the first full-time national training director for the USFA. He founded the Rochester Fencing Centre (RFC), one of the most successful training centers in the United States. Until recently, Leach's RFC students had won more Junior and Senior World Cup and World Championship medals than all other U.S. clubs combined. In recognition of their discipline, motivation, sportsmanship and academic excellence, RFC athletes have been among the most highly sought-after recruits in the country.

Leach is a 1980 graduate of the American Fencing Academy, the first school of its kind in the United States, where he earned his certification as Fencing Master in foil, epee and sabre. As a coach, he has numerous titles under his belt, including: three Cadet World Championship gold medals; a bronze, silver and gold from the Junior World Championship; and a bronze at the Senior World Championship. In addition, his athletes—including Iris and Felicia Zimmermann, Ann Marsh, Sean McClain, Andy Gearhart—have won over 20 medals in Junior and Senior World Cups. He was the U.S. National Coach for Women's Foil from 1993-2000. But perhaps he is best known today for his work as U.S. Olympic Team Coach in both 1996 in Atlanta and 2000 in Sydney. (Leach's successor is Michael Petin of New York.)

As if this weren't enough, honorable mentions—a few proud moments for Leach—include: Elite Fencing Coach of the Year, United States Olympic Committee (USOC) 1996 and 1997; and Outstanding Achievement Award to the Rochester Fencing Centre, Rochester Sportswomen of the Year Awards 1997.

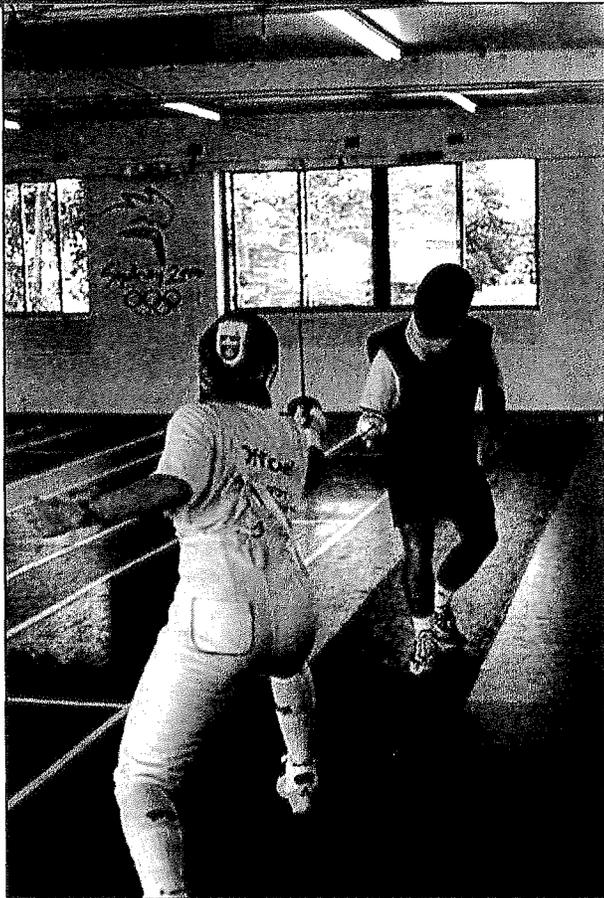
Leach, a bachelor, resides in New York where his hobbies include woodworking and (as he puts it) yelling at little kids.

*American Fencing: Is "Buckie" your birth name or a nickname?*

Buckie Leach: It's not so much a nickname. When my grandfather arrived from Italy he got a job working as a delivery boy on a "buckboard," a flatbed wagon, so they called him "Buckie." My grandfather gave the name to my father and my father gave it to me. My birth name is Anthony.

*AF: Who is your fencing idol and why?*

BL: I don't have any one particular idol. Over the years I have looked at coaches with certain qualities about them that I



Buckie Leach, right, giving a lesson to student Julie Mahoney at the Rochester Fencing Club. Photo: Lisa Slater. 2000.

wanted to incorporate into what I do. In the late '70s and early '80s, Bill Reith began a youth program in Cleveland and became very successful with a group of kids, which started me thinking that was what I wanted to do.

*AF: What do you hope to accomplish as the first full time national training director for the USFA?*

BL: I'd like to see cooperation among the coaches. It is very important for all of the coaches in the United States to be very competitive with each other. But it is more important for us to work with each other more effectively by putting our heads together and beat the traditional strong powers in the world. We need to involve international experienced coaches in the education of the beginning coaches and show them the way by sharing their information, instead of keeping things to themselves. When we start to see this happen then we will see the level of our fencers increase even more than it has in the past five to ten years. We've had very good results, but they belong to a few individuals. We've arrived at one point and it's been a hard road to get to that point. We have a short distance to go, but that short distance is going to be the hardest distance of all.

*AF: What criteria do individuals have to meet to train at RFC?*

BL: To be able to deal with me yelling at them. Anybody can train here who is interested in being a competitive fencer. Our focus has always been a competitive program. A high level of expectations of our kids in the discipline sense is required. Work ethic and discipline are key things, along with maintaining their grades. We are very strict about keeping track of their academic achievements because we want them to have a good life after their fencing career. When Nat Goodhart and I started this program in 1981, one of the key things was that we wanted to have good fencers and nice people around us. Our expectations of our kids were not always the same of kids in other clubs. It is changing now; it used to be that kids traveled on their own and could do pretty much what they wanted at competitions. But now more and more clubs are traveling as a group and expecting more from their kids in general behavior.

*AF: What advice can you give to a fencer who can't move to Rochester, New York, and train at RFC, but desires to train with top-level fencers?*

BL: There are so many clubs around the country now that they have so many different choices to make. A few years ago Rochester was one of the strongest programs, but now Northern Colorado Fencers, New York Fencers Club, Kansas and Texas all have strong programs. There are more aggressive and knowledgeable coaches around the country and one can find a good program almost anywhere. If they really want to be a good fencer where there is limited fencing they have to be willing to leave their families and live with another family. They must make big changes in their lifestyle and gear themselves just toward fencing. It's a big commitment so they have to be sure they want to do it. It's a difficult thing for parents as well. It takes a lot of love for the parent to allow their child to pursue their dreams.

*AF: In general, what is it like coaching Olympian sisters [Felicia and Iris Zimmermann] and do you credit genetics for their "equally talented" success?*

BL: People ask me that all the time. They ask what it is like for Felicia and Iris to fence with each other and how difficult it is. Felicia and Iris have been fencing for a long time and one can think of them as sisters, but really they're teammates. They are good friends and I'm not sure that the "sisters" thing is that critical or that important. They love each other but in fencing treat each other more like teammates. They work hard with each other and compete with each other all the time. It hurts when one loses to the other, but they deal with it very well and they support each other when one is doing better than the other. The two of them have such an incredible work ethic and mental toughness. Obviously it is genetic to some degree because they both have it. Neither of them were the best athletes when they began. They made up for some of their lack of athletic abilities with sheer desire and motivation which is consistent in both of them. I think their parents gave them that sense of discipline.

*AF: Who or what do you attribute your "elite" sense of discipline to?*

BL: I have no sense of discipline—the athletes have the discipline. I did modern pentathlon for a few years so I grew up in a sporting world other than just fencing, such as swimming and running. Both require strong discipline because the work load is so much higher than it is in fencing. My father was in the military for 22 years so I could have obtained some of my coaching style from him as well.

*AF: As a disciplinarian, what procedures do you follow for enforcing proper behavior and discipline on and off the strip?*

BL: I am very strict, but it is for practical reasons. Preparing properly for competition is very important: getting to bed early, avoiding dehydration, eating properly are all important aspects of peak performance. In the United States we were operating with many disadvantages—lack of coaching, money, and high-level opponents. We would go to international events and add to our problems by staying out late, going dancing, and drinking the night before the events. We were already starting behind our European opponents and we would help them out even more by poor competition preparation.

*AF: What is a pet-peeve of yours as a coach?*

BL: Big steps...people taking big steps. Big steps get you into

trouble and are lazy, controllable mistakes. Unforced errors. Things that people look at as small mistakes. No mistakes are small. Also, being late makes me crazy, it's just plain rude. Athletes who don't have a sense of discipline.

*AF: How do you handle the personality/ego conflicts among so many high-caliber athletes?*

BL: In my program it was always clear that there is one person who always gets what they want and that was going to be me—at least that's what I thought. They know they can push a little bit, but they can't push too far because I want things a certain way. I've become a little more relaxed over the past few years. The men and women that I've dealt with have their egos well attached. They've accomplished a lot and they understand how each other feels. They train together, talk to each other, work with each other. They have conflicts but they seem to be able to resolve them fairly well among themselves. When a problem exists, I am always there to be the common enemy. When they are irritated with each other, they are even more irritated with me, which bonds them together.

*AF: What are your secrets, if any, for preventing parents from becoming "stage" moms and dads?*

BL: Most parents want to do the right thing and want to behave correctly, but sometimes they don't always know how to. It is just a matter of talking to them when you see the inappropriate behavior and for the most part they'll understand and adjust. Parents are not that much different from big kids at times. They get excited and they overreact. Sometimes the kid comes off the strip and the parent is upset with him or her for what they did. I need the parent to give unconditional support so that I am free to do my job as a coach.

*AF: What "therapeutic" source(s) do you turn to in order to relieve stress?*

BL: I like designing and building wood furniture. Listening to the late '60s and early '70s folk rock music of Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel and Phil Ochs also relaxes me.

*AF: What was your personal best fencing result?*

BL: I made the Junior World foil team in 1979 and went out in the first or second round. I stopped competing when I was 20. I didn't have a huge drive and desire and the edge it took to be a competitive fencer. I have it as a coach, which is kind of strange. My best results as a coach...my most important result as a coach would be in 1992. I had made a decision that I had been working very hard with Felicia Zimmermann, who was the strongest student I had at the time. I had decided that if I didn't have an international success, a medal, within the next six months, I was going to change and become more of a recreational coach with a national focus and not worry about the international scene. I figured if I couldn't get a medal, that either it couldn't be done or I just wasn't good enough to do it. Three months later, Felicia was third at the Cadet World Championship—a critical moment in my career. I said, OK, I

Leach with student and fencing champion Felicia Zimmermann.  
Photo: Lisa Slater. 2000.



can do this. Had Felicia not done that, I would have gone on to be a recreational coach and made a lot more money, been home more often, and not have had the crazy life that I've had, even though I've had a great time.

*AF: How would you compare the international programs of 1977 with the international programs of today?*

BL: The difference between today and yesterday and why our athletes are successful today are the coaches. The coaches of today are taking greater responsibility and making a greater effort in getting their athletes to international competitions. There is also a greater focus on the international competitions among our athletes.

*AF: What is the key word for the success of Buckie Leach and RFC athletes?*

BL: Good luck and hard work. Good luck in that the right people came through the door at the right time. I'm lucky that I had athletes like Felicia, Iris and Ann to work with and they are lucky that I happened to be here at the same time to be able to work with them. We worked our asses off for a lot of years to get to where we are today.

*AF: What's the "buzz" going around on the international scene in regards to the rise of American champions?*

BL: The Europeans are more impressed with what we've done than most Americans are. We need to believe more in what we've accomplished. The rest of the world has a huge amount of respect for the United States because they know how hard it is to do this in a country that has no history with it.

*AF: What is your opinion regarding all the hoopla of the reversal of part of Rule t.82—coaching allowed on the strip?*

BL: My job in fencing is to coach and be successful at the international level, and in order to do that I look at what I need to do to be successful. The rules are important to me. More important is how the rules are applied. Every coach in

Europe coaches his or her athlete on the strip. The Italian coaches are yelling at their athlete and the athlete is yelling back. They are only a few feet away from actually giving a lesson in the middle of the bout. It happens that much. Now, as Americans we can try and take the high ground and say this is not what we should do, but it hurts our athletes. If we want to succeed, we can't afford to do that. If our athletes don't learn to be coached on the strip and we as coaches don't have the opportunity to do it, they're not going to respond as

well as their European counterpart. As long as it doesn't disturb the flow of the b o u t . Coaching is accepted in a l m o s t

every sport. None of the basketball and soccer coaches are expected to sit on the sidelines and be quiet. Sometimes people say that it isn't fair when the other athlete's coach isn't there. If I'm coaching an athlete it is not my problem if their coach is not there. It is that coach's responsibility to be there as much as possible and if they aren't there when their athlete is fencing then they are not doing what they need to do for their athlete. I will take it into consideration sometimes when I know a coach isn't around. I might back off a little because it is in my own backyard here in the United States. But I'm certainly not going to do that in Europe.

*AF: What is your greatest fear in life?*

BL: Besides the IRS? Probably that I'll never ever learn how to dance well.

*AF: What are your views regarding the 45th touch between Ann Marsh and Germany's Rita Koenig in Sydney?*

BL: People are probably wondering what happened or how I feel about it. We were behind and Ann started to come

back. She was fencing very, very strong. But Rita Koenig, the German woman, was fencing well also. They were trading touches. The score was 42-43. Rita scored a very good 44th touch. Ann already had a yellow card for covering, which was a very bogus call. Ann does cover target, but in this case she really didn't. Even the video shows that she didn't. The Germans were harassing the side judge. The judges didn't change sides during the match because it wouldn't look good for television, so this guy

*The Europeans are more impressed with what we've done than most Americans are. We need to believe more in what we've accomplished.*

was harassed for 40 minutes. Ann made a strong, strong attack and Rita parried four and riposte right to the middle of Ann's chest and the judge raised his hand for covering. Red card, match ended 42-45. Ann would've had to score the next three touches in a row to win the match, had she not been carded. It would've been difficult because Rita was fencing very well. We would've rather had the Germans beat us than to have the referee take the touch away. That's what bothered me. It was a very, very disappointing finish to the event. Fourth is good, but it was a tough way to go.

*AF: What single word best describes the feeling of coaching for you?*

BL: Home.

*Barbara Anderson began fencing in 1980 in Los Angeles and is now a nationally rated referee. She is a fashion freelance stylist for Nordstrom and lives in Michigan, where she is also a substitute job coach for the handicapped.*

# THE SPORT PARENT

## Guiding the Way in the Field of Play

by Dr. John Heil

**FENCERS:** This article is for **YOU** and your **PARENTS**. Take a look, and consider passing it on.

**I**f it takes a village to raise a child, then it takes a team to raise an athlete. That is to say, there is much to do and there are many roles to play in raising a child, and in bringing an athlete along. This is the collective task of coach and parent, of sports officials and administrators and of the sport governing bodies—to create the environment where the athlete can strive and thrive. The mark of quality of this team's performance is the extent to which the goals for the child and the goals for the athlete run in parallel.

The heart of the team is, of course, the athletes themselves — those peers in sport who share the ups and downs of training and competition. Sport is a test of muscle, mind and heart. When the team works well, it creates a safe haven where children grow into adults through the trial and error of the game, while learning the value of trust and support. Wins and losses become

*lessons*, and the camaraderie and excitement of the game are remembered long after the score is forgotten. It is a task of daunting depth and complexity to create a field of play where athletes can flourish. It takes a group that will work together toward a common goal—that is, it takes a team.

The coach is the hub of it all, part of the team that plays the game and part of the team that creates the game. The coach—or more typically a series of coaches, usually across a variety of sports—is a constant, teaching and guiding the athlete's life in sport. The officials and referees are the guardians of the game, the rational forces who seek to keep the flow of emotions in bounds. They enforce fair play, ensure safety, and whistle the frequent reminder that, above all, youth sport is and needs to remain a game. Then there are those who labor in the background, whose work and dedication often goes unnoticed—the grassroots organizers, the staff and volunteers of your local parks and recreation departments, the state high school leagues, the national sports governing bodies, and so on.

Yet, the most essential player in the athlete's life always has been and always will be the parent. Clearly, no one has the potential for greater impact on the youth athlete. Most parents play this role quite well, struggling quietly but effectively, if not with some misgivings. Of course, there are abundant examples of sport parenting gone wrong—everyone has seen it happen. As a seventh-grade student, I watched in disbelief as the parent-coach of the opposing team told one of his players to “go kick my son [the pitcher] in the butt and tell him to get off the mound.” I felt embarrassed for my friend (who was, on this day, my opponent), and grateful in the knowledge that my father-coach would never say that to me. In spite of media attention given to the worst of these events, the same miscues happen again and again. Why?

It is clear that competitive sport brings a special challenge to parenting. Opportunities and dangers, joy and pain are there in abundance. When the child walks onto the playing field, the parents can only stand by and watch, helpless to protect them from its pitfalls and uncertainties. This is a diffi-

### HOW TO BE A CHAMPION PARENT TEN TIPS TO GET THERE

- Support your youth athlete by providing a safe, sensible opportunity to train and compete, and to grow from the experience of sports.
- Establish an ongoing dialogue with the coach so that you understand his or her philosophy, and remain aware of your child's strengths and weaknesses—athletically and psychologically.
- Provide unconditional emotional support as your youth athlete rides the ups and downs of the competitive experience, and help him or her learn the lessons of winning and losing.
- Avoid coaching—that is, avoid giving specific instructions or critique of the technical or tactical aspects of sport.
- Accept—even as you are bewildered by—your child's varying demonstrations of composure and distress, maturity and neediness in the competitive environment.
- Talk candidly with your youth athlete about the role you should play as a parent at competitions. Be prepared to keep your distance.
- Work actively to manage your own anxieties and frustrations as you watch your child compete. Be sure to set these aside before you interact afterwards.
- Show composure in the face of stress, and let this serve as a model to your youth athlete. He or she is watching.
- Identify mutual expectations for your youth athlete's commitment to training and competition as you make successive commitments to support his or her sport activities financially and logistically.
- Guide your child in balancing sport, school, family, and other responsibilities.

cult task, given the emotional intensity of sport and the sense of responsibility that parents carry for the well-being of their children. But these young athletes are typically more resilient to the misfortunes of the game than to the missteps that come when coaches or parents lose perspective. When the excitement of the

competition is over children need to know they are valued just the same—win, lose or draw.

Some athletes will succeed regardless of their parents' behavior—good, bad or ugly. But there are many athletes whose path to success is paved by their parents' good efforts. Olle Larsson, coach of the highly suc-

cessful Rowmark Ski Academy, calls them "championship parents."

Working with your youth athlete is an ongoing task, full of its own victories and losses. You can lead the way with your own good example, and by revealing the worth of an inner compass to guide one's own way through doubt and uncertainty. While there is much you can do to open the door to success, the passage is theirs alone to make. But by providing an inner compass you can continue to guide their way in the fields of play.

*Dr. John Heil is chair of sport science for the USFA and the parent of two young athletes, ages 7 and 11 years. He can be contacted at Lewis-Gale Clinic, 4910 Valley View Blvd., Roanoke, VA 24012; JHeil@rev.net.*

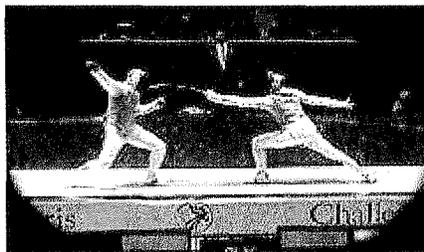


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## Two touches, one action

referee Jeff Bukantz offers his take on a heart-wrenching, bout-ending call

In the last issue of *American Fencing*, Carla Mae Richards, the USFA's director of technical programs, treated readers to her Sydney Olympic diary, which was one of the most enjoyable articles in recent memory. Certainly, we all felt Carla's pain in her heartfelt description of how our near-medallist women's foil team lost to Germany on a penalty touch, let alone a questionable one that coincided with a hit on Ann Marsh. Carla was candid enough to echo the thoughts of many others by asking the following questions:

1. How can a fencer be able to score two touches on one action?
2. Is that right?
3. Should not the rules allow for some discretion?

Well, before I answer those questions, let's keep in mind the following: No referee wants to end a bout or a match in a questionable manner, let alone on a penalty touch. While the weaker referees pray for the last touch to be a one-lighter, and the strongest referees thrive on making the tough final call, every referee (as well as every coach, parent and fencer!) would prefer that the last touch be clean, as opposed to marginal.

Answers to questions #1 and #2: The rules do provide for a fencer to "score" two touches on one action. A properly scored touch combined with a red card given to the touched fencer for an offense committed during the same action will result in two touches. That's fair. Otherwise, the fencer committing an offense, let alone for the second time during that bout, will not be penalized, nor deterred from committing the offense again. This would result in putting the offended fencer at a disadvantage, which, of all the options, would be the worst thing a referee could do, as it has basically punished the victim.

Answer to question #3: The rules are the rules, whether the score is 0-0, 4-4, 14-14, or 44-44. Whether it is the first touch of the lowest level competition or the deciding touch of an Olympic medal match, the referee must call the action properly and/or enforce the rules consistently. While each referee utilizes discretion (judgment) on every call, that discretion should not be predicated on when the call is made.

Let's be realistic. Referees are human...well, most of them, anyway! Some will chicken out on the really close last call, whether it is an action or an infraction. Those referees who choose this particular path of least resistance usually do so to give the benefit of the doubt to the fencer who either would lose on a less-than-picture-perfect action, or on a penalty touch for an offense that did not result in hospitalization of the opponent. Once again, this represents the worst-case scenario, as the fencer who deserved the benefit of a close call or penalty touch has been adversely affected. That's not the referee anyone wants.

The referee everyone should embrace is the one who will make the call regardless of the score—and regardless of who's fencing, who's watching, and whether or not that call will result in the usual suspects going ballistic.

I would like to relate a relevant personal story. About five years ago, I was refereeing at the NCAAs. It was late in the competition, and it was coming down to St. John's or Team #3 (who shall go unnamed). In a bout between a Notre Dame and St. John's foilist, the score was 4-4, and the Notre Dame fencer already had a yellow card. He fleched and ran into the St. John's fencer. No touch was scored. The corp-a-corps did not result in a decapitation, a concussion, or even a knock-down. But it was a blatant offense and had to be called. Did I want the

bout to end that way? Of course not! Should I have been more sensitive to the overall team score, and not given St. John's a cheap point in its pursuit of Team #3? Of course not! In fact, neither was relevant to the call.

I properly gave the bout-ending red card to the Notre Dame fencer. Instantaneously, I was ambushed from behind by Team #3's coach, who, without even having a horse in that race, accused me of "really being creative." Failure to penalize the offending fencer would have effectively penalized the offended fencer in this case. And that would have been a terrible mistake, especially on the deciding touch.

Hopefully, the two themes of this article have hit home. First, the score of the bout or match should never come into play in any referee's decision. Second, a referee who chooses to give the benefit of the doubt to a fencer by failing to properly penalize that fencer, or by "throwing out" a close touch, whether or not it was the first touch or last touch, has effectively penalized the wrong fencer!

No referee should ever be criticized for having the guts to make a close call that ends a bout or match. On the contrary, this is exactly the type of referee to be held in the highest regard.

Still, another question remains (though not asked by Carla Mae, it surely was in the back of everyone's mind): Do American fencers get treated fairly by referees? While that can't be answered with a simple yes or no, the good news is that the USFA is now represented on each of the seven FIE Committees, including the ultra-important Arbitrage (referee) Committee, where George Kolombatovich's presence will, we hope, enhance our chances of getting our fair share of the close calls at the critical moments.

*Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC Rules Subcommittee and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission.*

## REMEMBERING WILL HANCOCK

Bob Largman offers this moving tribute to a well-loved USOC press liaison

The Olympic moment that I will remember most was one that I never thought I'd remember at all...until today. Today I read about a seemingly inconsequential airplane crash somewhere in the Midwest. It made headlines because some of the passengers on that ill-fated airplane were members of the Oklahoma State University (OSU) basketball team. There were other people on that plane, including other students, the pilots, and other staff and employees of OSU. The event was a tragedy to each family of every human on that plane and a source of tremendous grief for the OSU family at-large. But it is a tragedy for us, too, not only in the cruelty and unfairness of the lives that were claimed, but because it affects our USFA family as well.

I remember the first time I met Will Hancock. It was a warm, still, humid night in Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the 1999 Pan Am Games and Will was assigned as our U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) press liaison. He was an articulate young man, but seemingly not very interested in fencing. He was difficult to get ahold of and therefore difficult to promote our team. We felt slighted and I blamed him. I did not try to find out why. All I knew was that he was not treating the Pan Am Fencing Team properly. I did not bother to consider that Will might have had other sports that demanded his attention. I didn't know that he was giving our team more than he had time for because he believed in them and felt they did not receive the press they deserved.

Just about a year later, I bumped into Will again. This time it was at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Will was again assigned to the U.S. Fencing Team as our USOC press liaison. I could not believe that this had happened again. In the Olympic year when the U.S. Fencing Team was expected to have its best results ever, we had a press person who would not be there for us. (What I wouldn't do now to have Will at all of our events!)

Now that he was assigned to us—and only us—it became obvious that Will was good at his job, and he was good because he cared, he enjoyed sports, and reveled in the triumph of athletes—all athletes. Yes, he was a sports information specialist at a major Division I NCAA university that had tremendous success in football and basketball. But what intrigued him was the athlete and his/her sport. Will spent time with us. He cared about us. He protected us from the press and cared enough to not let the often intrusive public eye interfere with our purpose. Will took the time to know us and we took the time to know him—thankfully, we took the time to know him.

Will became a fencing team staff member. He joined us



*The U.S. Fencing Team and support staff outside the USOC's High Performance Center at Sydney. Front row (left to right): Erinn Smart, John Heil, Aladar Kogler, Felicia Zimmermann, Ann Marsh, Yefim Litvan, Matthew Porter, Iris Zimmermann, Buckie Leach. Middle row (left to right): Gwyneth Short, Carl Borack, Yuri Gelman, Cliff Bayer, Akhi Spencer-Ei, Carla Mae Richards, Keeth Smart. Back row (left to right): Sean McClain, Arlene Stevens, Tamir Bloom, and WILL HANCOCK. Photo: Bob Largman.*

at our team events outside the venue and was invited to our team meetings. He participated with us, he supported us, and he became us. Towards the end of the fencing competition, in the days leading up to the women's foil team event, Will came to me in turmoil. There were some health difficulties back home that his pregnant wife was experiencing. He was torn between his duty and obligation to us and to that of his family. It was really no question at all. As we would have done with any team member, we told Will that his primary responsibility was back home. We would miss him at this event. He had done so much for us and we received more attention, more press, more interviews than at any other previous fencing event. But, even as Will knew he had to head back to the States, he made sure that we were taken care of. He had arranged press coverage and interviews. To ensure that the fencing team was covered, Will had his dad (also a member of the USOC press corps) support us after he left. Will even managed to call us from the States to see how we performed. He really was a part of our family.

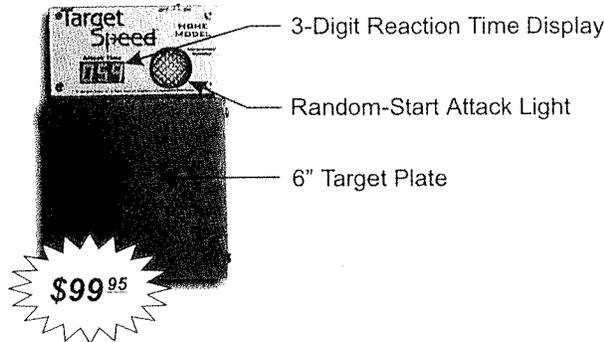
I am happy to say that Will's wife and baby overcame the difficulty and are healthy. Will was there for them, just as he was there for us. Now, we can return the favor. Will's family needs us now, because, you see, one of those "other" people in that crash was Will Hancock. I was shocked when I heard the news and made the realization that the Will Hancock mentioned in the article was "our" Will Hancock. I was sad. I looked at the pictures from Sydney and saw Will as part of our team when we took pictures, went out for dinner, and just hung out downtown.

But, if we can come away with anything, we should know that Will was doing what he loved doing. He loved his family. He loved his job. And he loved us as we became both for him. Now, the "16 Days of Glory" that we experienced in Sydney will also be our 16 days with Will—to be treasured and remembered for as long as we can.

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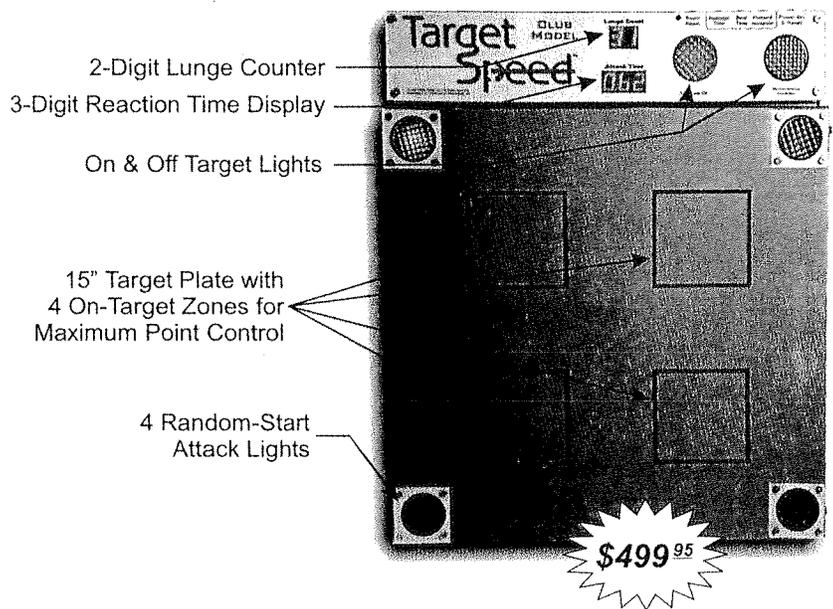


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