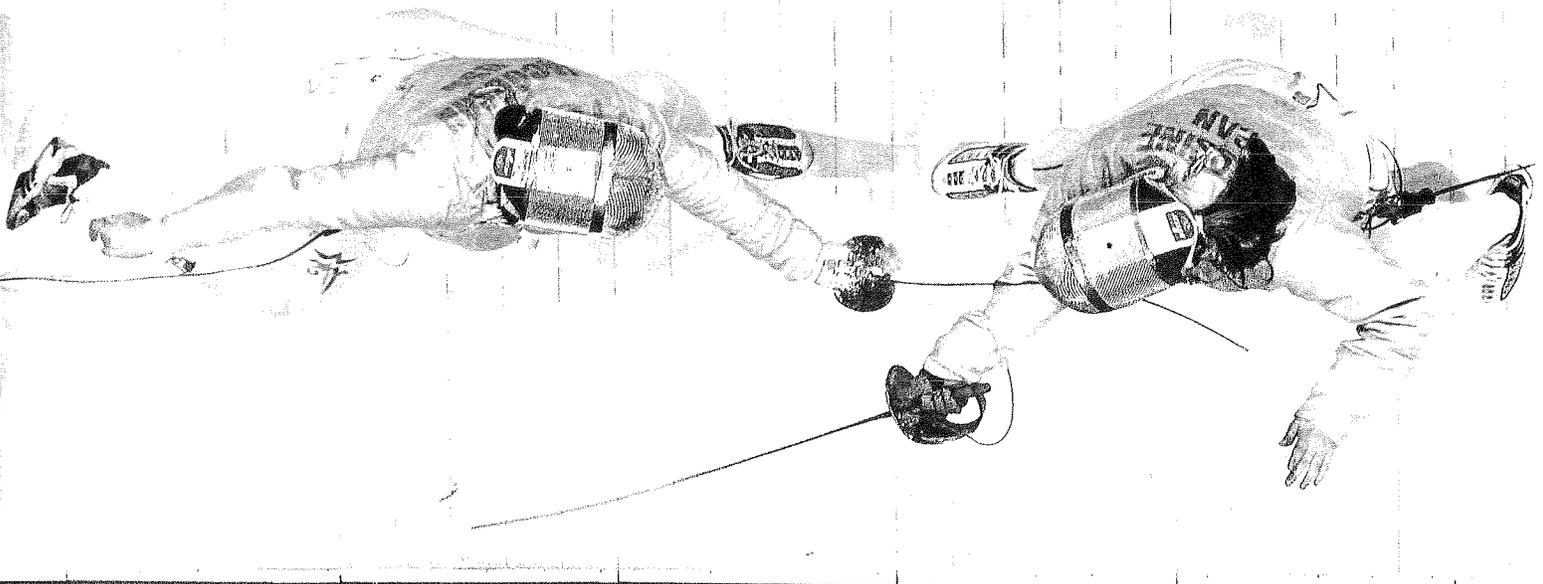


# American FENCING

spring 2003

## THE TITAN GAMES



plus...what to expect after college,  
profile on nikki franke, the junior olympics, and more

# American FENCING

Spring 2003 · Volume 53, Number 1

## FEATURES

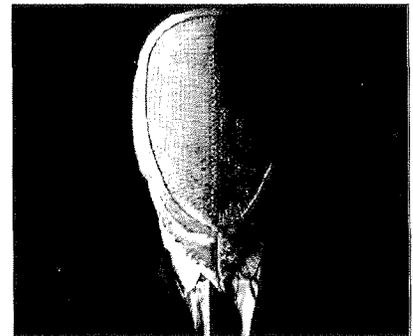
- 22 survey results  
**2003 Best Fencing Web Site**
- 26 profile  
**NIKKI FRANKE**  
by Nathaniel Cerf
- 29 **THE GRADUATE**  
**How to survive post-collegiate fencing**  
by Eric Rosenberg
- 31 essay  
**TEN QUESTIONS (AND ANSWERS)**  
**about tournament coaching** by Paul Soter

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 **President's Letter**
- 5 **Letter from the Editor**
- 5 **Your Letters**
- 6 **News** Awards, Pan Pacific Masters Games and more
- 8 **Postcards from the Strip** Finland's Saresto Open, JO Journal
- 12 **Sports Med Q&A** Putting Your Best Foot Forward
- 13 **Sport Science** The Masked Crusader
- 14 **The Grayblade** An Interview with Ed Richards
- 17 **Pen & Sword** A Review of *By the Sword*
- 18 **Rules/Referees** The Rise of the Fall
- 20 **TechTalk** A Few Observations
- 35 **Tournament Highlights** including the 2003 Junior Olympics
- 36 **Touche** Spotlight on the up-and-coming and already there

### On the cover:

Sada Jacobson helps the United States in its win at the Titan Games (see President's Letter on page 2). Photo: Dave Black Photography.



22



26



41

## 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) 866-4511  
 Fax: (719) 866-4270  
 E-mail: info@usfencing.org  
 Web: http://www.usfencing.org

President Stacey Johnson  
 Vice President Barbara Lynch  
 Vice President Sherry Posthumus  
 Vice President Ralph Zimmerman  
 Secretary Donald Anthony  
 Treasurer Michael Sullivan

## American Fencing

### Dedicated to the Memory of:

Jose R. DeCapriles 1912-1969  
 Miguel A. DeCapriles 1906-1981

**EDITOR/Layout and Design** Meg Galipault  
 magoo@columbus.rr.com  
 (with thanks to Mary Stettner and Matt Russell for copyediting assistance)

### Associate Editors:

Bob Block Veterans  
 Chris Cuddy Advertising Sales  
 John Heil Sports Psychology  
 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.

©2003 United States Fencing Association. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission prohibited.

## PRESIDENT'S Letter

# STACEY JOHNSON

President, United States Fencing Association



## Fencing at the 2003 Titan Games

One of the roles of the USFA president is to envision the future. On February 13-14 in San Jose, Calif., the future of just how spectacular fencing *can be experienced* by spectators and television cameras alike was revealed in tantalizing fashion with the introduction of the U.S. Olympic Committee's (USOC) 2003 Titan Games. The Titan Games is a multi-sport event that featured non-stop action and enthusiastic crowds of over 4,000 who came to watch 184 athletes from 19 different countries compete in sports—boxing, judo, karate, tae kwon do, track and field/shot put, weightlifting, wrestling and, of course, fencing.

The San Jose State Event Center was transformed by an incredible makeover of colorful graphics, lights, cameras, pounding music and exciting announcers who kept the audience connected to the action going on in the "battle zones"—four large fields of play—erected on the event floor. Fencing shared its battle zone with the sport of weightlifting. Our zone sported a huge television screen for highlighting exciting fencing moments shown from interesting camera angles shot at a piste elevated approximately 4.5 feet off the ground on a draped platform.

The fencing competition featured mixed, three-weapon relay teams utilizing four minutes of non-stop, running-time action. A 15-second countdown clock was also used to avoid stalling between touches and kept athletes on a tight event schedule. All expenses for this event were paid by the USOC and we are grateful for their outstanding support. All-star teams with athletes selected from FIE World Cup point standings from Pan American and Asian countries were invited to the United States:

Inostroza, Paris	M. Epee	Chile
Junco, Carlos	M. Foil	Mexico
Moreno, Eddie	M. Sabre	Puerto Rico
McConkey, Marina	W. Epee	Canada
Rothfeld, Silvia	W. Foil	Brazil
Sassine, Sandra	W. Sabre	Canada
Kim, Sang Hoon	M. Foil	Korea
Yuko, Arai	W. Foil	Japan
Victorino, Avelino	M. Epee	Philippines
Ho, Ka Lai	W. Epee	Hong Kong

Chow, Tsz Ki	W. Sabre	Hong Kong
Emerson, Sequi	M. Sabre	Philippines
Hansen, Eric	M. Epee	San Bruno, CA
Wood, Alex	M. Foil	San Francisco, CA
Parker, G. Colin	M. Sabre	Columbus, OH
Suchorski, Kristin	W. Epee	Chevy Chase, MD
Zimmermann, Iris	W. Foil	San Jose, CA
Jacobson, Sada	W. Sabre	Atlanta, GA

The U.S. team captured the Ultimate Titan Gold Medal and the final scores were:

- 1) USA - Pan Am: 64-44
- 2) Pan Am - Asia: 48-43
- 3) USA - Asia: 56-50
- 4) USA - Pan Am (Best of Best): 50-41

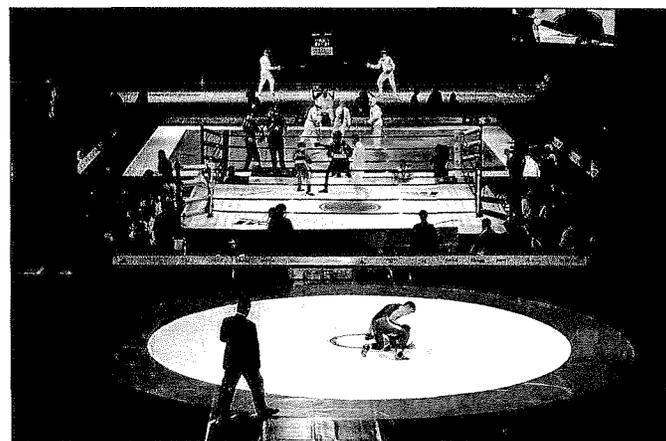
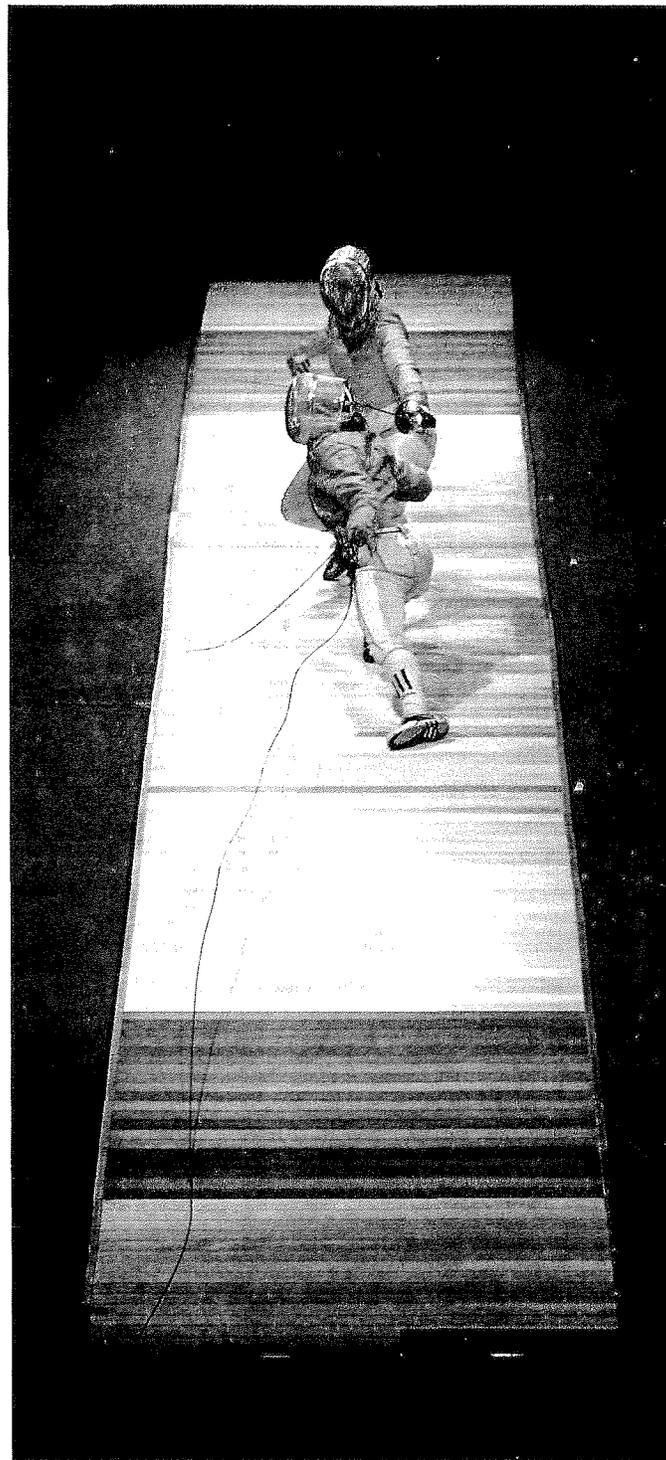
For the three matches, touches scored by each of the U.S. fencers:

- Hansen: 15
- Foellmer-Suchorski: 25
- Wood: 17
- Zimmermann: 28
- Parker: 47
- Jacobson: 38

The U.S. fencing athletes were great ambassadors for our sport and I heard many comments from athletes on the floor that this event, with all of the cameras, lights and media, served as a great rehearsal for what kind of experience they will encounter at the Olympic Games. Special kudos must go to Sherry Posthumus, USFA vice president for coaching and Titans Games Local Organizing Committee representative, for her work as our contact with the San Jose Sports Authority. In addition, the following staff from the USFA helped make the event exciting and smooth:

George Kolombatovich	FIE Arbitrage
Nancy Anderson	Tournament Director
Matthew Porter	Athlete Armorer
Ted Li	Scoring Equip. Technician
Donald Anthony, Jr.	USFA Secretary/Chair of the Committee
Michael Massik	NGB Exec. Director
Carl Borack	U.S. Team Captain
Suzie Paxton	Media Liaison

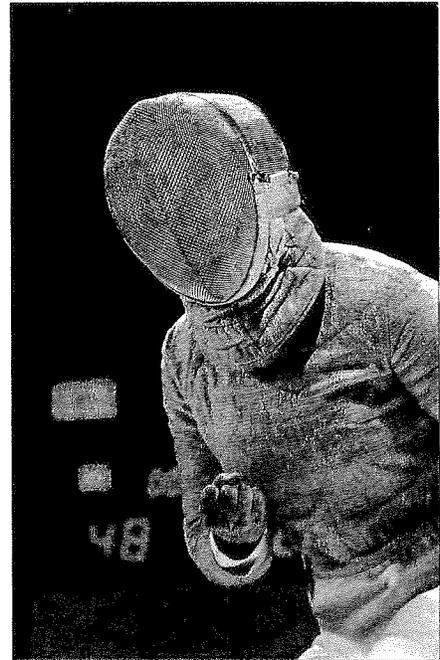
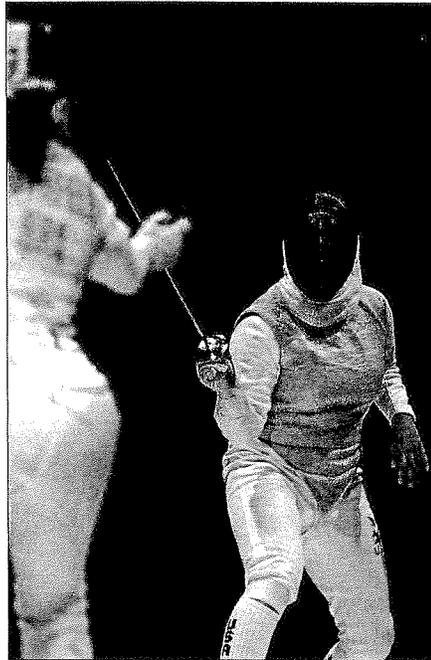
On the opening evening, "A Night of Champions," presented by Bank of America, was hosted. The VIP gala honored heavyweight world champion and 1984 Olympic bronze medalist Evander Holyfield, wrestling legend Dan Gable, and our own six-time Olympian and 1984 bronze medalist Peter



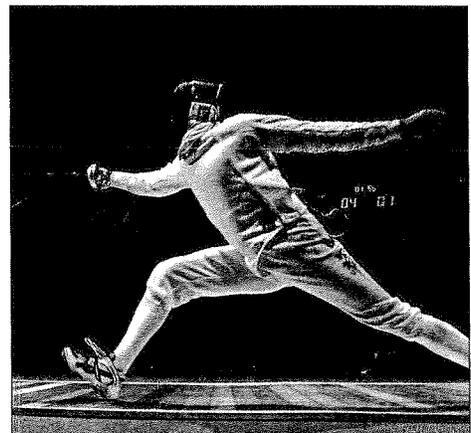
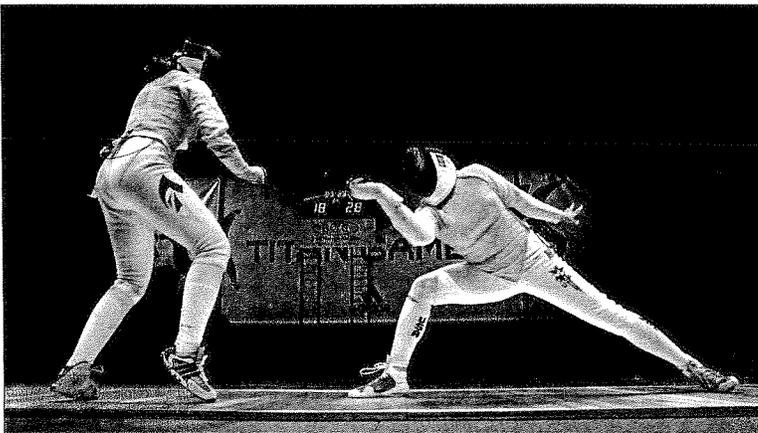
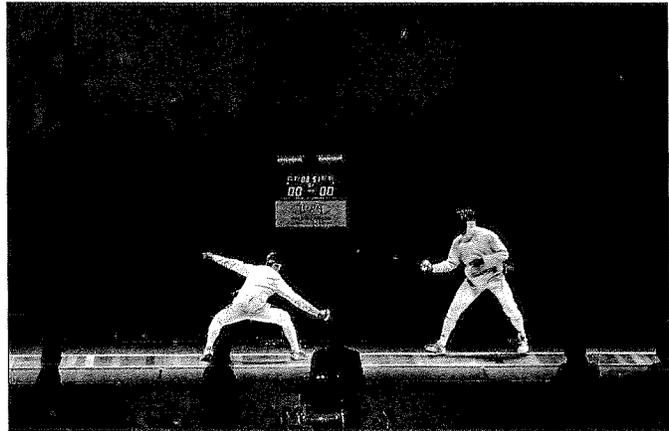
Scenes from the 2003 Titan Games. Right, top: sabrist Sada Jacobson; right, a view of the "battle zones" with fencing at the back. Photos courtesy of Dave Black Photography.

Westbrook, along with other Olympic standouts.

ESPN2 aired highlights of the event on March 29 and 30. (If you missed the cablecast, check out the Titan Games web site at: <http://www.usolympicteam.com/titangames/about/about.cfm>.) Another bonus for U.S. fencing will be the delivery of approximately 18 hours of camera footage that we will be able to use for our own purposes. Although the USOC has been dealing with its own organizational challenges as of late, the Titan Games was a huge win for participating NGBs, the athletes, and our sport. I glimpsed the future of how our sport can be more effectively presented for audiences and TV alike—and it is hot, hot, hot!



2003 Titan Games. Clockwise from above: Iris Zimmermann; Sada Jacobson; a view of the strip; Alex Wood; Zimmermann; Zimmermann. All photos courtesy of Dave Black Photography.



**MEG GALIPAULT**  
**Editor**

## Dear Readers:

As I write this, we are at war. Regardless of where you stand on the issues that brought us here, there can be little doubt that a consequence of the war is an increasingly strained relationship within the United Nations. In another time, another century, individual countries—including the United States—could isolate themselves from conflict. But today, our economies, our culture, our families, in fact, are intertwined.

What does this have to do with fencing? Everything and nothing at all. As much as we would like sport to be independent of politics, the fact remains that we are affected by what goes on in the world. You can look at it from several points of contact, from the innocuous and to the weighty: from the equipment you purchase, to the friend who is training at a salle in France, to the coach whose family is in a war-torn country, to the troubled air space we share as we travel to tournaments. Our relationship within this global community affects us on a daily basis in ways that are at turns banal and profound.

And yet if ever there is a time when all worldly worries fade, it is when we fence. Even our personal problems—the bills, the arguments, the sorrow and the illness—drop away from each flexed muscle. At that moment, we don't define ourselves by nationality or race. We are simply sentient beings in movement.

It would be easy to feel polarized by the passionate discussions we hear every day on the news. All the more reason to get back to the piste and remember that we are all, really, the same.

## your letters

### Women's Sabre: More Debate

Regarding [USFA] President [Stacey] Johnson's column in the Fall 2002 issue of *American Fencing*, it ought to be evident to everyone that the sport of fencing is experiencing a crisis. The question thus devolves: Do we want to weather this crisis by taking appropriate steps, or do we want to throw fuel on this incipient fire?

The International Olympic Committee has its own concerns and priorities. Keeping one of the original modern Olympic sports does not appear to be one of these. It seems that the IOC is very concerned with television income and putting on the broadest and most popular show featuring a "viewing experience." There is no secret about this. While visiting the IOC's Olympic museum and library in Lausanne some years ago I read a copy of a book espousing this con-

cept. Unfortunately, as it is now presented, fencing fails to meet these criteria. We read that men's and women's modern pentathlon, women's softball and men's baseball are being considered for elimination. Modern pentathlon, which was a sport initiated by the founder of the Olympics, Baron DeCoubertin, has had its team event dropped and the number of participants reduced by three quarters. All demonstration sports are also being eliminated and some sports are under pressure to cut down the number of events they host. In a recent *New York Times* article, Jacques Rogge, the president of the IOC, is quoted as saying, "We think that the Olympic Games have to be made smaller, made less costly so that they can be organized by all continents and subcontinents." Should we, at this time, try to make things difficult for the IOC, or should we work with it until there is a possibility that things get better?

President Johnson writes that unless women's sabre is included in the coming 2004 Olympics, it will never get in. She recommends that pressure be put on the FIE and the IOC, regardless of fairness to fencers of other weapons, to include women's sabre. She has approached other national federations in an effort to recruit opposition.

I would like to point out the following considerations:

1. Fencing has existed in the Olympics for over 100 years without women's sabre. While not perfectly administered, it is relatively firm in its status.
2. The IOC is under continuous pressure from many different non-Olympic sport federations to include their sport. One of the problems that the IOC faces is that the Olympics cannot be scheduled for more than the 17 days which it now takes and that the logistics of accommodating over 12,000 athletes, as many officials, and a huge media corps are becoming almost insurmountable.
3. By approaching other fencing federations to support women's sabre, are we not also risking antagonizing the established fencing nations of the FIE?
4. This cannot be good policy or politics.

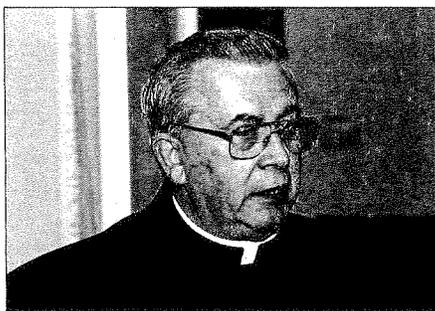
It seems foolish to jeopardize the future of all fencing in the Olympics by insisting on the inclusion of this unnatural and johnny-come-lately event. The right way to go is to make fencing as interesting to the TV audience as we who participate know it can be. I am informed that the IOC is considering including wu-shu, rugby, and golf in the Olympic program. If our leaders cannot figure out how to make fencing more attractive than golf, I think we should pack it in.

Richard J. Gradkowski  
 New York, NY

*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@columbus.rr.com](mailto:magoo@columbus.rr.com). 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.*

## THE REV. CALHOUN HONORED BY USFA BOARD

USFA President Stacey Johnson presented the Rev. Laurence "Larry" Calhoun with a special award on the 30th anniversary of the Junior Olympics. Calhoun organized the first Junior Olympics in 1973. The USFCA called Calhoun "a long-standing, loyal life member of the USFCA." Calhoun led many fencers to national championships, 11 of whom earned All-American status. He coached most recently at Chaminade College Preparatory in Chatsworth, Calif. Previously, he coached for Notre Dame and Culver Military Academy in Indiana. Though retired, Calhoun remains active in promoting youth fencing.



Top: The Rev. Laurence Calhoun accepts his award from the USFA. Above: From left, USFA President Stacey Johnson, Calhoun, and USFA Executive Director Michael Massik. Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

together top cadet, junior and senior women, led by Nat Goodhartz, a coach at the Rochester Fencing Centre, and Mike Pederson.

Senior foilist Iris Zimmermann was happy with the program, saying that she thought the women benefitted from training together.

"Hopefully this is the beginning of more national camps...it was good that the seniors and the juniors along with the cadets were able to get together to fence. We don't often work together and I think it is best if we can get together often to give each other advice and guidance."

She added that future camps will strengthen the women's foil program.

The camp was held at the Rochester Fencing Centre, owned by Gordy and Sue Clinton.



National Women's Foil Camp. Back row from left to right: Nat Goodhartz, Mike Pederson, Cassidy Luitjen, Ilana Sinkin, Metta Thompson, Hannah Thompson, Sophie Hiss, Iris Zimmermann, Erinn Smart.

Front row on the bench from left to right: Jocelyn Svengsouk, Sam Nemecek, Abby Emerson, Andrea Ament, Kelsey Finkel, Doris Willette, Misha Goldfeder, Jacqueline Leahy. On floor: Ali Glasser. Photo: Gordy Clinton.

## STACEY JOHNSON ELECTED TO USOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

USFA President Stacey Johnson was recently appointed by the U.S. Olympic Committee's (USOC) National Governing Bodies Council to serve on the USOC Executive Committee. The USOC oversees the United States' participation in the Olympic Games. Its "mission involves training, entering and

underwriting the full expenses for the United States teams in the Olympic and Pan American Games."

The appointment is significant—Steve Sobel is the only other person in the USFA's history to serve on the executive committee.

## 1st U.S.-HOSTED PAN PACIFIC MASTERS GAMES SLATED FOR SUMMER

The Pan Pacific Masters Games is coming to the United States this year. Those in the 30-something-and-up crowd are invited to compete. According to organizers, a total of 20 events, including fencing, will be contested at various venues in and around Sacramento, Calif. The event is slated to take place July 26th through August 3rd.

Through an arrangement by the Sacramento Sports Commission / Sacramento Region Sports Education Foundation and the Queensland Event Corporation (Australia), the Pan Pac Masters Games are now held in Sacramento during odd-numbered years and in Australia in even-numbered years. The Games have been a staple on the Australian sporting scene for the past two decades.

Organizers have created two levels of competition: 30 years and older, and 40 years and older. There are no rating requirements; competitors are only required to have at least six months of fencing experience. Other sports include: archery, baseball, basketball, dance, the Eppie's Great Race, flag football, golf, handball, hockey (in-line), netball, racquetball, road race (running), rugby, shooting, soccer, softball, track and field, triathlon and volleyball.

"After months of planning, it's really exciting to see all our sports come together into one large event," said Pan Pac event manager Dustin Romero.

## WOMEN'S FOIL NATIONAL CAMP HELD IN DECEMBER

A training camp for national women's foil was held December 27-30 in Rochester, NY. The camp brought

"The interest so far has been very encouraging."

For more information on how to apply, see the event web site at [www.panpacmastersgames.com](http://www.panpacmastersgames.com) or call the Sacramento Sports Commission at (916) 566-6560.

## WORLD CUP NEWS

### SMART IS #1

It's official! Keeth Smart (24, New York, N.Y.) is now ranked #1 in the men's sabre world standings, edging out Stanislav Pozdniakov of Russia by 13 international points.

Smart's recent second place finish to Pozdniakov in Athens, Greece gave him enough points to overtake Pozdniakov.



Sabre champion Keeth Smart.

Smart, a member of the 2000 Olympic team, is having the finest season of his career and is on track for the 2004 Olympic Games. Though the United States has produced some of the finest sabre fencers, Smart has outshone all by attaining the highest ranking of any U.S. fencer in FIE world standings.

In another part of Europe, Elisabeth Spilman (33, Los Angeles, Calif.) made the finals of a women's épée world cup competition held in Portugal, the first this season for the U.S. épée women.

Results summary:

#### Senior "A" Men's Sabre Athens, Greece, 3/8/03

1. POZDNIAKOV Stanislav RUS
2. SMART Keeth T (24, New York, N.Y./Westbrook Foundation)
3. CHARIKOV Sergej RUS
3. LUKACHENKO Volodimi UKR
5. COVALIU Mihai ROM
6. TARANTINO Luigi ITA
7. MONTANO Aldo ITA
8. DIATCHENKO Alexei RUS
29. MOREHOUSE Timothy F (23, Bronx, N.Y./Fencers Club)
43. MOMTSELIDZE Mike (19, Columbus, Ohio/Ohio Fencing Alliance)
45. HAGAMEN Timothy H (18, New

- York, N.Y./Fencers Club/Harvard '06)
50. LEE Ivan J. (21, Brooklyn, N.Y./Westbrook Foundation)
55. SPENCER-EL Akhnaten (23, New York, N.Y./Westbrook Foundation)
56. CLEMENT Luther C (18, Prairie Village, Kans./Fencing Athletic Club of Kans. City)

Referee to Athens: Vladimir Lilov

### U.S. WOMEN'S SABRE: GOLD AND BRONZE; JACOBSON NOW SECOND

The U.S. women's sabre team won gold at a meeting of the world's best in Nagykanizsa, Hungary in March. The team of Sada Jacobson, Emily Jacobson, Mariel Zagunis and Amelia Gaillard defeated Hungary to win the gold.

The U.S. women met Iceland in their first match and defeated them 45-13. They next defeated Romania, winning 45-34.

The team's third opponent was France, who had defeated Germany in the previous round. The U.S. won 45-42. They went on to fence Hungary for the gold, defeating them 45-41.

Sada Jacobson also won bronze in the individual "A" World Cup competition in Hungary. Jacobson is now the #2 ranked women's sabre fencer in the world—the highest ranking ever achieved by a U.S. woman in any weapon. The U.S. women's sabre team stands in fourth place in the World Cup rankings.

Results summary:

#### Senior "A" Women's Sabre Budapest, Hungary, 3/1/03 113 competitors

- 1) ARGIOLAS Cecile FRA
- 2) BIANCO Ilaria ITA
- 3) JACOBSON Sada M. (19, Dunwoody, Ga./Nellya Fencers/Yale '04)
- 3) SOCHA Aleksandra POL
- 5) JEMAYEVA Elena AZE
- 6) NETCHAEVA Elena RUS
- 7) TOUYA Anne-Lise FRA
- 8) PERRUS Leonore FRA
- 24) GAILLARD Amelia (19, Fayetteville, Ga./Nellya Fencers)
- 31) JEMAL Alexis D (20, Westfield, N.J./Westbrook Foundation/Rutgers '05)
- 33) JACOBSON Emily (17, Dunwoody,



USA wins gold for women's team sabre. The team on the medals stand, from left: Mariel Zagunis, Sada Jacobson, Emily Jacobson, Amelia Gaillard. Photo courtesy Cathy Zagunis.

- Ga./Nellya Fencers)
- 34) BECKER Christine (39, Portland, Ore./Oregon Fencing Alliance)
- 40) ZAGUNIS Mariel L. (17, Beaverton, Ore./Oregon Fencing Alliance)
- 76) MUSTILLI Nicole (24, South Orange, N.J./Lilov Fenc. Acad./U.S. Air Force)
- 78) BARATTA Emma (18, Somerville, N.J./Medeo F.C./Columbia '06)
- 80) COX Susan (28, Lithia Springs, Ga./Nellya Fencers)
- 85) CRANE Christina (20, Riverdale, Ga./Nellya Fencers/St. John's '05)
- 100) IMAIZUMI Vivian (23, Arlington, Va./D.C. Fencers Club)
- 101) LE Nhi Lan (37, Marietta, Ga./Nellya Fencers)
- 111) LATHAM Christine (33, Columbus, Ohio/Fencing Alliance of Ohio)

#### Senior "A" Team Women's Sabre Nagykanizsa, Hungary, 3/2/03

11 teams

- 1) USA
- 2) HUNGARY
- 3) RUSSIA
- 4) FRANCE
- 5) POLAND
- 6) GERMANY
- 7) AZERBAIDJAN
- 8) ROMANIA

Referees to Hungary: Wés Glon, Derek Cotton

(Source: Cindy Bent, USFA media contact.)

## POSTCARDS from the strip

### Arctic Fencing at Its Best FINLAND'S SARESTO OPEN

by Serge Timacheff

One hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle, in the Lapland region of Finland, it's 40 below zero in early February. The nights last 20 hours, and the sun never rises above tree level. Each year at this time, the town of Levi hosts the Saresto Open, perhaps the world's northernmost, only Arctic fencing tournament.

This year was the tournament's sixth season, taking place February 1-2 at the Levitunturi hotel spa, which has a spacious gymnasium well-suited to a medium-sized fencing competition. About 40 fencers attended from Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States for men's and women's foil and epee. Rene Roch, the president of the FIE, attended the event as a special guest of honor.



*Maarit Rajamaki, artistic director of the Saresto Chamber Concerts and Saresto Open tournament organizer, serenades fencers. Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photos.*

Jan Bade, president of the Finnish Fencing Federation, gave a keynote welcome address to the entire group. Maarit Rajamaki, a concert violinist and artis-

tic director of the Saresto Chamber Concerts, organized the tournament, and also competed. On the opening night, she performed a concert for the public and the fencers, played on her 400-year-old Nicola Amati (a teacher of Stradivarius) violin. Rajamaki was accompanied by Annika Palm-Doumenge, a well-known pianist in Northern Europe. Later that evening, a "fencing show" took place at a popular local nightclub.

Tim Clark, an American fencer training in Budapest for the 2003-2003 season, took third place in men's epee, and I took sixth in men's epee as well as first in veteran's men's epee (part of men's open epee, but recognized separately). Lela Whisnant, a former member of the U.S. women's veteran's epee team, fenced in the women's epee event, taking 13th place.

In spite of the incredibly harsh conditions, the region is known for great food (reindeer meat, anyone?) as well as

## LUCCHETTI FENCING USA

### Pre Nationals Fencing Camp JUNE 16-21, 2003

Join top ranked fencers from the USA and Europe to get in the best shape before the 2003 Summer National Championships. Distinguished International and American Masters will give private lessons, tactics drills, and strategy and bouting in a tournament simulated environment. Coaching staff includes Maestro Marcos Lucchetti, USA; Andras Decsi, Hungary; Gabor Kolczonay, Hungary; Alberto Alvaro, Italy; and other reknown coaches. Fencing tuition \$495

### French-American Fencing Camp JULY 14-19, 2003

Join high level fencers from across Europe and the United States! Come to sunny California and train with experienced French fencers and coaches. This camp is ideal for all level fencers in all weapons. Campers will train at the Lucchetti Fencing USA in Sacramento. The French- American camp will provide individualized and group instruction to all participants. Two training sessions are held each day of camp. Coaching staff includes Maestro Marcos Lucchetti, Camp Director; Andras Decsi, Hungary; Maitre Regis Mantzer, France; and other distinguished international coaches. Fencing tuition \$495

An Exiting Opportunity to Train with European Fencers !

**For more information, please contact :**

Maestro Marcos Lucchetti

Phone/Fax : 916.797.8898 or Cellular: 916.402.9235

or visit our website at: [www.LucchettiFencing.com](http://www.LucchettiFencing.com)

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MR. MA CUP

Saturday, May 31 -  
Sunday, June 1, 2003

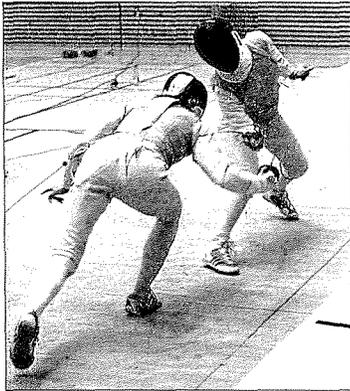
- \* Open to USFA members of all ages (men and women)
- \* Trophies awarded to top three finishers in each event; medals to fourth, fifth and sixth place finishers
- \* Over 400 participants competed in 2002

Cinnaminson High School  
1197 Riverton Road  
Cinnaminson, New Jersey

Pre-registration required.

**For further information, please call  
(856)786-7416 or fax (856)786-7480**

Sponsored by:  
USFA Mid-Atlantic Regional Circuit,  
USFA South Jersey Division, Blue Gauntlet Fencing Gear, Inc.,  
and the Fencing Academy of South Jersey



Scenes from Saresto. Left: Hilla Hamalainen v. Marja-Liisa Someroja. Above: Men's Epee Finalists. From left, Serge Timacheff, Seppo Lauhio, Pekka Vedanta, Tim Clark, Lauri Alanko, Teo Lainonen (winner), FIE President Rene Roch, Jan Bade, Maarit Rajamaki. Right: Teo Lainonen and Hilla Hamalainen (women's epee gold medalist). Photos: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.



Serge Timacheff is a photographer whose work appears frequently in American Fencing. He is a member of Salle Auriol in Seattle, WA.

diverse outdoor winter sports and activities. The Saresto Open has become a novel "vacation tournament" for a number of fencers, especially from the United Kingdom, who combine their trip with snowmobiling, downhill and cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and cultural exploration. The aurora borealis (northern lights) are especially spectacular in this area and can be seen on most clear nights.

An interesting sidebar: the scoring equipment (and other electronic equipment) seems to experience odd malfunctions due to the electromagnetic interference from proximity to the magnetic North Pole. As if directing weren't difficult enough already...

Information on this year's tournament and future events in Finland can be found at [www.miekkailuliitto.fi](http://www.miekkailuliitto.fi) (miekkailu is Finnish for "fencing").

## POSTCARDS from the strip

### Journal

#### 2003 JUNIOR OLYMPICS

by Caitlin O'Sullivan

I watched a moon the color of a new dime set over blue-tinged Colorado mountains on the last morning that my whole team was together in Colorado Springs. The sky was empty of the clinging grey clouds that had lingered since Saturday, and the air was cold and clean. My roommates packed their suitcases to leave as I stood on the balcony in half of my fencing uniform, poised in that nervous moment when you can only think of two ways for the day to end: one, sobbing in the corner after losing every bout; or two, stepping up to take a medal as an entire room of people cheers. It is too early for the mundane details of warming up, of footwork practice and checking in, to have much significance; early morning is the hour when dreams become flesh, real enough to touch.

Dreams aren't always grandiose

things, though. For most of my team, myself included, just being here was a dream fulfilled. Over the past three days, I watched as my teammates, inspired by the overwhelming superiority of their competition, fenced far better than anyone could have hoped. A shy girl revealed her inner toughness; a tall boy showed that hours of practice with a tennis ball and an epee had paid off; and everyone behaved better than expected. Even the coaches.

Our head coach had originally planned three side trips to keep those who weren't fencing busy: a visit to the Air Force Academy, a walk among the Garden of the Gods, and a tour of the U.S. Olympic Training complex. Three side trips proved two trips too many. Instead of leaving the grounds of the Broadmoor to see the Air Force Academy or the Olympic Training complex, those members of the team who did not have an event to fence stayed to cheer on their teammates. I think we drew stares when we encamped strip-side, four or six or more of us in our black and

gold jackets, like a flock of blackbirds roosting on a telephone wire. Everyone on the strip knew when an Upper Arlington fencer scored a touch, because as soon as the director's hand went up on our fencer's side, the shouting and clapping started and didn't end until the next "en garde."

In addition to our cheering, we made our presence known by taking over a corner of the International Center. It was a small corner, sure, but it became a sort of home base as coaches and fencers shuttled between three buildings. It remained "our" corner for all four days, a place to drop heavy equipment bags and return to when one's pool finished. It was there that, at any given moment, you might find exhausted coaches noshing on Chips Ahoy! from the gas station next door, three giggling girl-fencers leaning on each other, or any portion of the whole 15-member Upper Arlington delegation sitting on the carpeted floor, discussing lunch plans.

We always had to be careful when large portions of the team met, since

space was at a premium at this Junior Olympics. Directors and fencers had first dibs, their territory marked by cloth-draped rails, while everyone else was relegated to narrow runways between the wall and the strips, or choked thoroughfares that occasionally resembled the halls of a high school populated entirely by people in white fencing uniforms. It became a daily challenge to get from our base in the corner to wherever our fencers were: on a far strip in the Colorado Room, where one risked the ire of the directors by sneaking along the edges of the copper strips; in the West Ballroom, a full five-minute walk over a miniature lake; or in the International Center itself, where the bout committee repeatedly reminded non-fencers to keep off the strips over the P.A. (not that anyone listened). By the end of the day, everyone, not just the fencers, was exhausted.

We managed to have fun in the evenings, though. On Thursday we had a midnight pizza party, ravenous from traveling from 2 p.m., Columbus time, to 10 p.m., Colorado time. On Friday, Valentines magically appeared in every room in the morning, and we went to dinner at the Golden Bee in the evening. Saturday, our group split up, half going to see *Igby Goes Down* at the Broad-

moor's theater and half going to see *Daredevil* in town. (It was while the latter group was waiting for transportation that the team's "lucky pretzel" was discovered. Don't ask.) On Sunday, following an afternoon wandering through the Garden of the Gods, most of the fencers saw (or slept through) *Treasure Planet* after dinner at the Golf Club. It was a bit-sweet moment, since it was the last night the whole team stayed at the Broadmoor. Three coaches, two fencers, and one parent stayed behind on Monday, while the rest of the team traveled home.

And that was when I stood on the balcony of our beautiful room in the Broadmoor, staring at a small white moon that gradually slipped down the sky and behind the mountains, sinking until it was only a sparkle in the treeline—then disappearing. I fenced epee that day better than I ever had before, scoring touch upon touch on opponents that were ranked higher than me, letting nothing shake my confidence. I have good days and bad days, like everyone, and I was lucky enough that that day was a good day. I didn't place in the top 32. I didn't earn national points. I didn't bring home a medal—but I fenced well. In the three-and-a-half years I've fenced, I've learned that good fencing is some-

times its own—and only—reward. Every now and again, when a non-fencer asks how I did and grimaces at hearing that I placed 59th in junior women's epee, I just smile and think of Theodore Roosevelt:

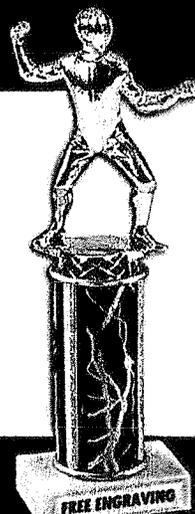
*"It is not the critic that counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."*

Amen.

*Caitlin O'Sullivan is a senior at Upper Arlington High School in Ohio, where she is the co-captain of her fencing team.*

# FREE CATALOG & SAMPLE MEDAL

BUY ONLINE -- [WWW.CROWNAWARDS.COM](http://WWW.CROWNAWARDS.COM)



FREE ENGRAVING



GENUINE MARBLE BASES

AS LOW AS \$3.50 EACH

**DESIGN YOUR OWN MEDAL**

MINIMUM QUANTITY REQUIRED

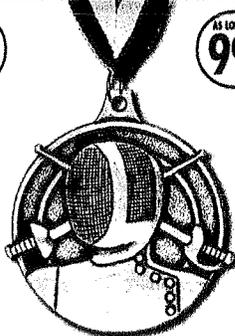
**FREE ENGRAVING**  
UP TO 40 LETTERS ON TROPHIES

**HUGE SELECTION**  
TROPHIES, PLAQUES, PINS, PATCHES, & MORE...

AS LOW AS \$1.69 EACH



AS LOW AS 99¢ EACH



AS LOW AS \$1.49 EACH



FREE R/W/B RIBBON

## Crown Awards 800-227-1557

VISIT A CROWN TROPHY STORE NEAR YOU • DEPT AMFSP3

# PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

what you need to know **by Peter Harmer, Ph.D., ATC**

**Q.** Recently, I have noticed that there seems to be less effort made to provide padding under the strips at NACs. As someone who has had knee surgery I find that my feet and knees seem to be very sore after a competition on a concrete floor. In the interest of "preventative medicine" shouldn't more attention be paid to this problem?

**A.** Although there is no doubt that feet and knees can feel achy and tired after fencing on "unpadded" strips, this issue is more complex than it seems. In 1996, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) published its "Standard Specification for Shock Attenuation Properties of Fencing Surfaces" (Document number: ASTM F1543-96) that provided the specifications of "the shock absorbing properties of fencing surfaces as measured by a drop test." However, the report notes that "the specification does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with fencing surfaces and will not prevent all surface-related injuries." It goes on to indicate that it is up "to the user to establish appropriate safety practices, including, but not limited to, foot movement, footwear, and training practices."

There are three elements that come into play in this situation: safety, performance, and cost. Of primary concern is the competitors' safety: Is competing on strips laid over carpet, for example, more likely to result in general leg pain than if the strips are on plywood or some kind of padding, such as carpet underlay? Unfortunately, we don't have enough data to come to a definitive conclusion. However, the injury information that we have been collecting for the past two years at each NAC does not indicate that the flooring is a significant problem in this regard.

This may be for several reasons: a) the change in competition formats means that fencers do not have nearly

as many bouts in a day, and the ones they do have are more spread out so the body has time to recover; b) more fencers are wearing shoes with better padding or are adding inserts that help to cushion their feet; and c) the aches and pains that are associated with this type of stress are not significant or acute. They tend to be transient but could become chronic if the stress persisted for an extended period. However, as noted earlier, competitions are short and these problems seem to be self-limiting. My experience over the last decade is that I have had to work with referees for floor-related "discomfort" to a much greater extent than with athletes because referees are standing and walking for much longer periods.

The second consideration is performance. It should be pointed out that the only way to decrease the stress on the legs at foot strike (which, theoretically, is what produces the discomfort we are discussing) is to increase the area of the foot strike (for example, a larger heel area in your shoes) or extend the time of the foot strike (which is what happens with a padded floor or cushioned shoes). The first of these is obviously not a good solution because it can alter your foot mechanics and increase the risk of lower extremity injuries, particularly ankle sprains. The second option is problematic because the longer the foot strike, the slower the movement following foot strike and the less "rebound" energy you get from the floor.

Whether these two factors add up to a noticeable change in the speed of an attack, for example, is conjecture at this point—but it should be clear that if we went to an extreme example, athletes would have to make a decision about the trade-off between safety and performance. At present, there is no reason to believe that this trade-off needs to occur because safety (specifically, lower extremity impact-force injuries) does not seem to be a problem.

Finally, there is the question of cost. It's quite evident that providing raised

strips or other forms of quality flooring that may decrease the incidence of floor-related leg pain would be both a substantial financial and logistical burden. Given the current lack of evidence of a significant problem it would be difficult to justify a change at this time—that is, the cost-benefit ratio is very poor.

Nonetheless, the USFA has investigated this question on several occasions. Dr. Cynthia Carter has previously conducted research on strip "hardness," and the USFA attempted to have a portable shock-absorbing surface designed but without success. The issue is being re-examined by the USFA Sports Medicine and Science Committee.

Of course, none of this is much comfort if you happen to have sore feet at the end of a day of fencing. There are some things you can do to diminish the occurrence or degree of discomfort. First, make sure that you have quality shoes in good condition. The state of your footwear is a major factor in force distribution and diminution. Second, you should wear two pair of socks (neither of which should be threadbare). This will also decrease the likelihood that you will develop blisters on your feet. Third, look into adding some padded insoles to your shoes. There are a number of good choices on the market including products from Spenco and Dr. Scholls. Fourth, get in the habit of putting your feet up, taking off your shoes and massaging your feet and legs between rounds.

*Professor Peter Harmer is a member of the FIE Medical Commission and associate chair of the USFA Sports Medicine & Science Committee. Email questions and comments to: [pharmer@willamette.edu](mailto:pharmer@willamette.edu).*

# THE MASKED CRUSADER

by Dr. John Heil



Who is that masked crusader? It is not Zorro or one of the Musketeers. But it is someone you know. Might it be the barber, the baker, the candlestick maker...or more likely, the attorney, accountant or administrator? Is it a parent, a spouse, or co-worker? Yes, to all of these. It is the veteran fencer. One who may also be a coach, official or organizer? It is Bob Cochrane and Don Anthony; it is Bill Goering and Ed Korfanty, and many more—you know who you are. You are the ones whose passion for the sport calls for the most delicate of balancing acts—to be all these things and a fencer, too!

At an NAC, Dave Micahnik pressed me for my thoughts about the veterans' mental game. I tried to convey that the game of fencing, and hence the mental game, remains fundamentally the same regardless of age—suggesting, “The more the game changes (which it continually does for all), the more it stays the same.” I felt surreptitiously self-satisfied with this profound and pithy comment, and was ready to move on. But being the wily fox that he is, Dave would not let me get away with such an easy answer. Then, most fortunately (but not to my surprise), he promptly provided a handful of pretty darn good ideas:

**Thought #1: If you want to know how something is done, ask someone who is doing it, and listen carefully.**

While a pristinely simple idea, this is quite tricky to implement. There are a variety of approaches, of varying complexity and sophistication, that sport psychologists have used to accomplish this—but the core idea is converting intuitively held knowledge into pragmatic, usable concepts. (Check out “Men’s Epee Team Mental Training Protocol” at [usfencing.org](http://usfencing.org) as an example.)

In lieu of actually consulting a sport psychologist, you might consider this simple alternative: Talk to your fellow fencers, and share thoughts. (And consider inviting Dave Micahnik since I may

not have stolen *all* of his ideas.) Don't worry about it being used against you; it's the young ones you really want to beat anyway. And a little lubrication may help—consider washing down your ibuprofen and glucosamine/chondroitin with the adult beverage of your choice, and let it flow (and if there is

---

*“After a certain age, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead.”*

—Tommy Mein

*[With thanks to the Triplette Competition Arms equipment catalogue.]*

---

some ice left in the cooler be sure to stick it on your knees).

**Thought #2: Don't take yourself too seriously; it interferes with enjoyment.**

All competitive fencing requires emotional control, intense focus and decision-making under pressure, as well as realistic goal-setting and sensible competition day planning. But what about the age factor? The learning curve in fencing is a protracted one, and success can continue across the decades—take George Masin and Elaine Chervis, for example. But it is all too easy for limited training and conditioning to masquerade as the age factor.

**Thought #3: Set expectations for performance that are realistic, based on how you train.**

What is the greatest psychological challenge that veteran fencers face

before they ever get to the strip? Perhaps the balancing of the many roles they play with their inevitable duties and responsibilities. In essence, the veteran fencer is one who wears many masks, and who must wear them all well to succeed. And as all fencers know, you can put on the mask but you cannot hide behind it. The mask of competition, in particular, does far more to illuminate than obscure. This crusader, like his or her historical predecessor, is on a mission of discovery and fulfillment. Veterans must walk a path that connects their fencing lives with the other roles that define who they are—a path that can be as narrow as a tightrope.

**Thought #4: Keep things in balance.**

The term “addicted athlete” has arisen to describe one whose passion for sport can tip life out of balance, causing work, health and family to suffer. Such a loss of the fundamental perspective of what is truly important in life may create pain that cannot be soothed by any level of athletic achievement.

No less an authority than Senator Bill Bradley (whose lifetime achievements include being a Rhodes scholar and NBA All-Star) spoke of the full arc of an athlete's life. He extolled the benefits of remaining in the competitive environment and loving the game.

**Thought #5: Being fully there is being a winner.**

Because the wage of age is wisdom, all fencers may do well to heed these thoughts from the veterans' game. Perhaps the more things change, the more they do stay the same.

*Dr. John Heil is chair of Sports Medicine & Science for the USFA. He is with Lewis-Gale Clinic's department of psychological medicine and can be reached at [jheil@lewisgaleclinic.com](mailto:jheil@lewisgaleclinic.com).*

# CONFESSIONS OF A THREE-WEAPON MAN: An Interview with Ed Richards by Bob Block

Ed Richards began fencing in 1951 as a sophomore at Boston University (BU). He was an athlete who had boxed and played basketball before he went out for BU's fencing team. During his first season he fenced foil and competed in two intercollegiate bouts, both of which he lost, and failed to earn a varsity letter. He came back the following year more determined than ever to make the team, earned a spot as the third saberman, and finally won his varsity letter.

Within five years of learning to fence, Richards reached the finals in saber at the 1956 Nationals. He came back strongly again in 1958 reaching the finals in foil and earning a berth on the World Team. In 1960 he was invited to join the New York Athletic Club and commuted for many years from Boston to train with Csaba Elthes in saber and foil and Odom Kneiderkirscher in foil. In a very impressive performance at the 1962 Nationals, he not only took the gold in foil, but also the silver in epee and placed in the top eight in saber.

Richards made the 1964 U.S. Olympic team and competed in foil at Tokyo. In 1970 he won a World Fencing Masters Championship after becoming a professional coach.

Not a bad career for a guy who couldn't letter in fencing as a college sophomore.

At various times in the early '60s Richards was nationally ranked as high as first in foil, second in epee and fifth in saber. He was one of the last of a vanishing yet once-common breed in American fencing: the Three-Weapon Man. Today he teaches at the Westside Fencing Center in Los Angeles and is a senior staff member at the USFA Coaches College. If you've fenced either epee or foil at national tournaments in recent years and had a tall, gray-haired referee who occasionally looked up from his clipboard and over his spectacles at you with a quizzical eyebrow lifted in a look of utter disbelief, then you've met Ed Richards.

Grayblade: Why did you settle on fencing?

Ed Richards: It was interesting and something turned me on. The coach at Boston University, Larry Dargie, taught with great enthusiasm and I think that's what I caught. In fact, one day during a lesson I stopped and said to him, with great accusation in my voice, "How much of my love for fencing is *mine* and how much of it is *yours*?" He looked at me and smiled and said, "Now it's all yours." Dargie was way ahead of his time, way ahead. He taught me time and distance when everybody was still playing a blade game.

Grayblade: Would you say that you were the last of the true three-weapon men?

ER: I was one of the last of the three-weapon men. There was also Mike D'Asaro, Hezaburo Okawa and Carl Borack. Borack made the finals in all three weapons at the Nationals after I did. There weren't too many others, though—in two weapons, maybe, but three?

Grayblade: How did being a three-weapon man affect your overall competitive career?

ER: Oh, it certainly gave me an edge in being chosen for international teams. The AFLA couldn't afford to send everyone in those days so they saved some money with a three-weapon man. In 1962 in Buenos Aires I tripled at the Worlds and was still able to make the semifinals in saber and ended up ranked 12th in the world...What was it they used to say, "When ships were made out of wood and men out of iron"?

Grayblade: How did being a three-weapon man affect your performance as a fencer?

ER: Well, some things are transferable, some of the tactics and technique, and I was tall and had a long arm which certainly helped. I think it gave me somewhat of a competitive edge, a psy-

chological advantage. At the salle, the saber guys would say to me, "Ed, you fence foil so well, why don't you just fence foil?" And the foil guys would suggest that I concentrate on saber. So you knew they were thinking about it. Larry Anastasi and Mike D'Asaro heard the same stuff because they were both good at more than one weapon.

Grayblade: Did being a three-weapon man affect your coaching career?

ER: No, not really. Maybe it means I've gotten more insight into all the weapons, but as coaches we're all specialists in one. My best is foil, though strangely enough I've had my best successes with my students in epee.

Grayblade: Do you have any thoughts to offer about the demise of the three-weapon fencer?

ER: Oh, today it would be almost impossible to do well in all three weapons. It takes too much time and training commitment, and there is so much competition.

Grayblade: If you were just starting in the sport today how many weapons would you fence and which one or ones?

ER: Not much choice anymore. I'd have to specialize. I like saber the best, but I had my greatest success in foil, so I'd do foil today.

Grayblade: As a three-weapon man, how do you think you would have done in your prime against today's one-weapon specialists?

ER: I would do well in foil, although the game has changed a lot since my day. I had a better feel for foil than the other weapons. In epee I would probably still do pretty well because I had a very good point and I didn't feel any pressure. I didn't really enjoy epee that much and didn't fence it very often, but I could fence epee without training for it and didn't care about it. In saber they



Ed Richards. Photo courtesy of Alex Ripa.

would kill me today; the game is so different. It's all legs, and foil is getting to be that way, too. Today it's an offensive game in all three weapons, not defensive anymore.

Grayblade: Can you comment on the changes that you've seen in the sport since you started fencing?

ER: Well, I think the biggest change is physical. The game used to attract brainy people, smart people, maybe not the athletic-type person with any particular physical skills, so you had to train that. This sport attracts smart people who want a physical outlet as well as mental stimulation. Then the Russians proved that you have to be an athlete. So now it's more of an athletic game, there's less technique involved and more athleticism: speed, power, distance. The whole game has changed that way. Now you get those who are smart as well as physical.

it particularly because you get so far away from reality. If you wanted to kill somebody you would have to stick it in him, not just wound him a little bit. So you want to make a thrust and not merely hit him on the shoulder. But it's part of the game in both foil and epee. It's not just something you can ignore and moan about because it's going on. Now, either you teach your people how to do it or at least defend against it or you're doing them a disservice.

Grayblade: What is your opinion of the current status of epee and saber?

ER: Epee is much more interesting now than it was before. It's physical and there's much more play. Before it was a cat and mouse game, there was so much delay, so much time. Now they're not doing that. They're getting up there to get five touches and go sit down. So there's no waiting. It's much more offensive. This is not a defensive game, none

Grayblade: How do you feel about some of the so-called negative aspects of the modern game?

ER: The game has changed and you have to go with the change. You can moan and groan and say that it's different and there's no blade play, *blah, blah, blah*—but everything evolves. This is the way fencing is evolving. It may come full circle in due time. But you still have the physical contribution to the game that has brought more speed, more power and so forth.

Grayblade: What do you think of the flick technique in foil?

ER: I don't like

of the weapons are defensive anymore. They are all aggressive, all attacking games. Saber is the same, and foil is stealing from saber.

Grayblade: Who were the best fencers you've seen in the sport in each weapon?

ER: Saber—no question, Jerzy Pawlowski. Still more points than anyone else in the World Cup...And in men's foil, no question: Christian d'Oriola. He was Olympic champion at 18 fencing dry and then again when it was electrical. He won more world cup events than anyone else. I saw him fence in 1958. He was in a class of his own...

Women's foil it's hard to say, and I didn't see that many European women, but Jan Romary was certainly something else. Ten-time national women's foil champion, she was bright, she understood the opponents, and she had the drive. She trained with different coaches—Vince, Faulkner and, I think, maybe she had that megalomaniac, what was his name? Nadi, that's it...

In men's epee it would be Eduardo Mangiarotti. For women, maybe Donna Stone, but no one really stands out. For epee, even with the men, for many years it was an up and down thing, nothing consistent. In epee it wasn't necessarily the same people bouncing up and down between first and third like it was in saber and foil.

Grayblade: Who in your opinion were the outstanding fencing coaches in your era?

ER: That's good, that's cool: Santelli certainly; Elthes trained the top saber guys for twenty years; Michel Alaux produced foil and epee fencers; Odom Kneiderkirscher—George Masin was his pupil. They stand out. On the West Coast, Ralph Faulkner; you have to give him credit and he was still teaching well into his 90s. Also George Piller was a big name. He came over in '56 after the Hungarian revolution.

Grayblade: What do you think has been your most significant contribution to the sport of fencing?

ER: Oh, that's hard. Well, I didn't start these people but I certainly helped finish them. I had two national champions from my club: Nick Bravin who was

four times national champion in men's foil and Xandy Brown in women's epee. And I think what I've contributed to the Coaches College is important. I've been there ever since its inception and its development has been so phenomenal. It's grown and everybody I talk to thinks that this is the greatest thing the USFA has ever offered. It's a professional situation that means something. Alex and Elizabeth Beguinet have worked so hard to make it succeed.

Grayblade: When you started fencing, there were usually clubs each with a coach and perhaps some assistant coaches. Now we have fencing centers that may have a group of coaches and fencers from different clubs. Do you think the development of fencing centers has had a major impact on the sport?

ER: No, I don't think so. I belonged to a club with more than one coach when I competed: Elthes and Kneiderkirscher at the New York AC [Athletic Club]. So now you have places with

more than one or two coaches. It's bigger now and you have centers and this is because of the teams—you're trying to get points to get on a team.

Grayblade: To wrap it up for now, can you tell us where Ed Richards is going from here in the sport?

ER: Oh, Ed Richards is going out.

Grayblade: Going out? I thought you wanted to produce another national champion?

ER: I'm working on it, I am, but I may not get it. I would like to go out on a big high note, but I can't do it for her. So I'm going to have to get her to do it. That's interesting because I have a tendency to overlook, maybe, until you get to the final goal and I don't think you should do that. Because you have to give people credit for each step along the way, all right? I do encourage, no doubt about that, except my satisfaction isn't until we get to the very end, but we may never get to the end. So I

should enjoy what's happening along the way with my pupil, right?

Grayblade: What is the best part of coaching for you?

ER: Seeing the person grow, you know? Contributing to their growth. And this girl that I've got who I'd like to coach all the way to the top, I made her cry one time and I finally understood about that. It took a lot of years; I was in my 60s before I understood why women cry. They cry as a release, right? Men swear. I didn't know how to deal with it at first, but once I understood we talked and worked it out. She is a tough, stubborn fencer who sticks with it. Maybe she was just testing me...In any case, when you think about it, what's my purpose as a coach? My purpose is to educate, my purpose is to help.

*Bob Block, aka The Grayblade, fences, coaches fencing, and writes about fencing out of his home near Denver, Colo.*

*Chivalric tradition, agile execution, strategic timing, total focus and*

**cool t-shirts.**



**Now on deck!** A brazen collection of original casual apparel\* for fencers and friends of fencers (FOFs). Designed to answer the question: When the plastron comes off, what to wear?

**ORIGINAL CASUAL APPAREL FOR FENCERS**

Styles for men, women, boys and girls

@ [www.big4ourbritches.com](http://www.big4ourbritches.com)

©2002. Big For Our Britches



\*Our t-shirts are certifiably not official, sanctioned or approved, but they are widely admitted.

# RICHARD COHEN'S *BY THE SWORD*

Reviewed by Richard J. Gradkowski

In the tradition of the Seigneur de Brantome's *Discours sur les Duels* and Captain Alfred Hutton's *Old Sword Days and Old Sword Ways*, and in the easy style of Baron de Bazancourt's *Secrets of the Sword*, Richard Cohen has written a fascinating and erudite social history of swordplay, dueling and fencing.

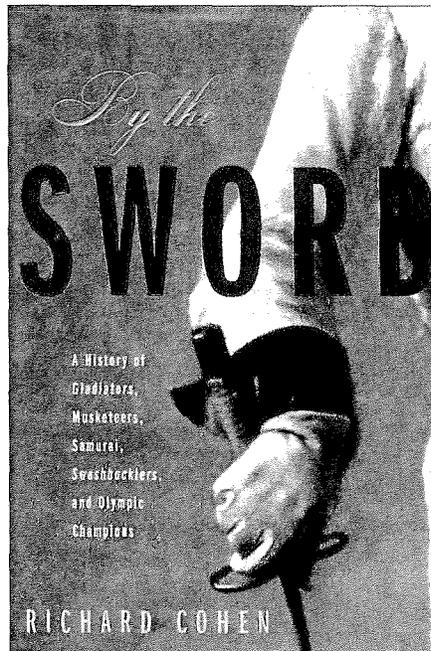
Cohen is not merely a scholarly commentator; he is a four-time member of the British Olympic sabre team, twice national champion and many times participant in Grade A international competitions. When he discusses a fencing action, a fencer's idiosyncrasy, or an underhanded political deal, he knows whereof he speaks. In addition, he has traveled widely, interviewing fencers, officials, coaches and historians, as well as delving extensively into libraries and other written sources. The book is a *tour de force* of fascinating information and commentary on the world of fencing.

No aspect is too obscure to escape his exposition. The metallurgy of steel blades, the psychology of the Samurai, the influence of firearms on military theory, the social significance of the dueling ethos, and the politics of sport are all grist for his mill.

Beginning with the earliest records of swordplay and dueling, Cohen develops his themes from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance, past Napoleonic times, to the revival of fencing as a sport in the late 19th century. From there, he recounts a history of the

*By The Sword: A History of Gladiators, Musketeers, Samurai, Swashbucklers, and Olympic Champions*

by Richard A. Cohen  
Random House, 519 pg., \$29.95,  
ISBN 0-375-50417-6



evolution of modern fencing both internationally and in the Olympic Games.

Cohen does not simply present dry facts. His presentation is embellished with accounts of incidents involving fencers such as George Washington, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau, the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, SS henchman Reinhard Heydrich, the communist writer Karl Marx, as well as many other famous and not so famous figures. Cohen also writes an interesting chapter on the influence of fencing on films, recounting various anecdotes of Hollywood "swordsmen" and their coaches and fight choreographers.

His descriptions of fencing personalities and their adventures reflect the evolution of modern fencing from a gentlemanly and aristocratic pastime to the high level of professionalism and politics exhibited today. Nor are scandals exempted: the cheating scheme by the Soviet pentathlon epeeist Boris Onishenko, the espionage trial of the Polish saber champion Jerzy Pawlowski, the brutal training and payoffs by the German coach Emil Beck, the corrupt referees, the various deals and bouts thrown on orders of team captains are exposed in detail.

A colorful and highly informative writer, Cohen makes this encyclopedic text an essential resource in the education of students and teachers of fencing.

## Colleges, send us your news!

We want to hear from you—results, achievements, coaching assignments, season line-ups.

For deadlines and submission requirements, send an email request to: [magoo@columbus.rr.com](mailto:magoo@columbus.rr.com).

American  
**FENCING**

# THE RISE OF THE FALL by Jeff Bukantz

“Rules are to guide you, not to bind you.”

Recently, the FIE removed the penalty for falling. The USFA followed suit.

I was at the FIE Rules Commission meeting where this rule change was initially discussed. The reason it was proposed (and eventually accepted by the FIE Congress) had nothing to do whatsoever with “falling” being a bad rule.

Incredibly, it had everything to do with the fact that the referees weren’t properly and consistently enforcing the rule. I dissented, claiming that the rule was necessary and that we should lean on the referees to enforce it, but my plea “fell” on deaf ears.

Yes, the “falling” rule was always a problem, as the referees never quite understood how to apply it. As one of the referees who was somewhat confused about this rule, I am concerned about its elimination, as falling often falls into the category of “disorderly fencing,” and/or a “dangerous action.”

Enforcing rules always involves subjectivity, based primarily on the infraction and secondarily on the situation. When I say “situation,” that means the effect of the infraction in the context of the fencing phrase, as opposed to the time or score of the bout.

As my father, Dan Bukantz, a USFA referee emeritus and five-time Olympic referee, has always told me, “Rules are to guide you, not to bind you.” In other words, a referee must always utilize common sense when applying the rules.

I remember a top American referee doing exactly the opposite. In one of the closed (top 24 only) point events in the late ‘70s, this well-respected international referee was hell-bent on enforcing the letter of the law, as opposed to the Danny Bukantz “spirit of the law.” Former Olympian John Nonna had a nervous habit of adjusting his mask during the course of action. On not one, but two occasions, the referee penalized Nonna for covering target while partaking in his quirky mannerism. Based on the written rule, Nonna undeniably covered target temporarily while adjusting

his mask. The problem was that he did so while way out of fencing range of his opponent. In other words, the alleged infraction had nothing whatsoever to do with the action, nor was the opponent disadvantaged in any way.

This was an extreme aberration; most referees figured out how to apply the covering rule correctly. With regard to falling, however, many referees just couldn’t determine where to draw the line in the sand. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that both the FIE Arbitrage Commission and the USFA’s FOC never definitively addressed the problem. No two experts ever gave the same opinion on how to correctly delineate a “falling” penalty, and subsequently, the rule was never enforced uniformly.

I distinctly recall a time when I called a fencer for falling; to this day, I’d like that call back. A female collegian from a prominent fencing program retreated quickly and, in the process, fell flat on her face with a splat heard throughout the gym. According to the USFA and FIE rules, as well as *Webster’s Dictionary*, it was a blatant act of “falling.” I penalized her.

The coach jumped out of his chair, his face turned colors, and he gave me a tongue-lashing. He probably was correct. However, this same coach would also jump out of his chair whenever the opponent would fall, looking for the call he just argued against!

So, the end result, even for an extremely experienced referee, was confusion. Every referee had his or her own personal threshold for calling “falling,” as no official edict or clarification ever came down from the mountaintop.

Now, the act of falling, whether intentional or accidental, is occasionally dangerous and always includes a loss of balance, which certainly can be construed as disorderly fencing (and hence, still deserving of a penalty). One old teammate of mine, an Olympian and national foil champion, used to systematically fall down while retreating. Whether this was due to a trick knee or simply a trick tactic, the reality was that he exhibited improper fencing, and also consistently disadvantaged his oppo-

nent. Certainly, the “falling” rule and penalty applied to him, but it was never once called.

Ernie Simon, an NCAA foil champion from Wayne State, used to perform a move that defied the rules, if not gravity. Simon would fleche, propelling his body airborne and horizontal to the strip like a flying arrow. He often scored against his opponent before landing with a thud. When he didn’t, the opponent was considerably disadvantaged, as any riposte would have to hit Simon as he was prone on the ground. Disadvantaged is the epitome of understatement, as Simon was grounded on the strip, and therefore untouchable. Certainly, Simon’s “flying arrow” was courageous and exciting, but also improper.

The above are examples of systematic and intentional, albeit bizarre, falling, where a fencer not only was guilty of disorderly fencing and committing a potentially dangerous act, but also of having disadvantaged the opponent.

However, it was the garden variety falling that caused the biggest problem for most referees. The referee was faced with the following choices:

- ▶ Do I card the fencer?
- ▶ Do I allow a touch scored while falling?
- ▶ Do I card the fencer, and disallow a touch scored by the fencer?
- ▶ Do I card the fencer, and allow a touch scored by the opponent?
- ▶ Do I simply ignore the infraction?
- ▶ Do I acknowledge the infraction, allow the touch, but claim the fall happened “after the halt”?

There is a very thin line between *some antics* and *semantics*. Many referees chose to hide behind *semantics*, and engaged in *some antics* by claiming that any fall occurred “after the halt.” Referees were criticized no matter how they enforced the “falling” rule, and that’s why it became a rule many referees chose not to enforce.

My goal, as chair of the FOC and its rules subcommittee and as a member of the FIE rules commission, is to clarify the current situation. Had this been done

before, the rule wouldn't have "fallen" by the wayside.

There is no longer a specific penalty for falling. However, not all falling will be exempted from penalty. For instance, some types of falling will fall into the realm of "dangerous actions" or "disorderly fencing" (Rule t.87).

The relevant paragraph from Rule t.87 states: "All irregular actions (fleche attack which finishes with a collision, jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the strip, touches achieved with undue violence) are strictly forbidden."

- ▶ Any fall that results in the faller's body touching the opponent must be penalized.
- ▶ If a fencer is out of control while falling, despite not touching the opponent's body, the referee will have to consider this as potentially "disorderly fencing" or a "dangerous action."
- ▶ If a fencer retreats and accidentally slips or falls, that shouldn't be penalized.
- ▶ If a fencer systematically slips or falls, that should be construed as "disorderly fencing."

The basic premise is that one fencer should not gain an unfair advantage over the opponent by utilizing any form of disorderly fencing. Any touch scored by the fencer guilty of "disorderly fencing" (aka "falling") will be annulled.

Common sense must, as always, prevail. Some falling should not be penalized. Conversely, no referee, fencer, parent, or coach should think that the elimination of the "falling" rule means that any type of falling will be allowed.

**A postscript:** Having just returned from a world cup in Ipswich, England, where I served as the FIE observer, I noticed that the British Fencing Federation penalty chart had eliminated "falling" from the group that included "jostling" and "disorderly fencing" (t.87), but still had a penalty for falling while scoring a touch (also t.87) and annullment of any touch scored by the offending fencer.

As it turns out, the French evidently have two completely different meanings for "falling," both represented in Rule t.87. One is chute, which is akin to a slip, trip, stumble, split, etc., although still

technically defined as a "fall." The other is en tombant, which means "while falling." Chute is gone from the FIE rules, but en tombant remains.

Evidently, we had a miscommunication, misinterpretation, or misrepresentation of the FIE's 2001 rules change, as both the FIE website and Peter Jacobs (the resident rules expert on the FIE's executive committee) verify that there still is a penalty for falling while scoring a touch, as well as the annullment of that touch. The USFA rules have completely, and erroneously, removed any penalty for falling. I will attempt to correct this error through the USFA's executive committee.

Nevertheless, based on the most current confusion, the logic and rationale expressed in this column, which was written before I discovered the FIE/USFA discrepancy, is even more apropos, and completely validated.

Jeff Bukantz is the chair of the FOC and its rules subcommittee, and is a member of the FIE Rules Commission. Email your comments to Jeff at [bukieboy@aol.com](mailto:bukieboy@aol.com).

**METROPOLIS FENCING**

**3rd Annual Summer Sabre Fencing Camp**  
August 4 Thru August 10, 2003

TRAIN WITH NATIONALLY RANKED SABRE FENCERS AND THEIR COACHES

114 West 26th Street New York, NY 10001  
212 • 463 • 8044

## OLYMPIC ASPIRATIONS?

If you are a young fencer with dreams of making the Olympics in fencing, Culver Academies wants you. With 16 electric strips and a former member of the Yugoslavian and Croatian Olympic Teams as head coach, no other high school in America is better equipped to make your dream come true.

**Culver** Academies—consisting of Culver Military Academy and the Culver Girls Academy—is one of the most exclusive and prestigious college preparatory schools in America. Set on 1,800 acres on the north shore of Lake Maxinkuckee in Northern Indiana, the campus is absolutely gorgeous. Culver Academies offers horsemanship, crew, lacrosse, and hockey, in addition to all other traditional sports. The famous Culver Black Horse Troop has ridden in eight presidential inaugural parades.

Culver Academies is committed to the development of an Olympic training program that will feed the nation's top youth, cadet, and junior fencers into our top fencing universities, like Notre Dame and Ohio State. It is time for America to lead the world in fencing, and Culver Academies is assembling the nation's most talented young fencers in one location.

For details, please call Head Coach Igor Stefanic at 574-842-7054 or 574-842-3275. His email address is [stefani@culver.org](mailto:stefani@culver.org)

# A FEW OBSERVATIONS

by Joe Byrnes

Here are a few observations that may have little immediate relevance for the average competitor, but maybe it wouldn't hurt for fencers in general to be aware of some of the problems that have to be solved before you can make your appearance on the strip and go on to athletic glory. And maybe also when someday you may find yourself involved in arranging a competition, even a modestly sized one, you will find the advice useful.

Over the years, I've noticed recurring problems with setting the layout for the floor for major competitions: nationals, NACs, big collegiate bashes. They arise, not usually from the tournament organizers, but from the people, non-fencers or minimally experienced ones, who get involved in the work. However much goodwill they may provide—and it can be a lot—non-fencers have often never even seen a fencing competition, and neophytes probably have experience only with small ones; thus neither will know exactly what is expected at one of our big events. Sometimes the organizers' representative isn't there yet, or may have trouble trying to make clear just what is really wanted. So the locals—let's call them that—especially if they are professional carpet people, or something of the sort, will try to stick to whatever they have been given as a sketch, that is, assuming they have been given anything to go on. Such sketches often demand a fair amount of interpretation. And if the relative dimensions are only approximately indicated (and how many of that sort have I seen!), the interpretations may be strange indeed. I have even seen simplified maps of a hall—"official" as provided by the proprietors—that were neither clear nor very forthcoming about all the things we need to know.

Consider: In the big concrete-floored halls the USFA now has to put our major events in, the professional carpet layers who are called in to underlay the area for the strips, and ideally that for the referees, too, will be using carpeting pieces, usually of standard width but irregular length. Unless they have been pre-instructed, it takes a lot of persuasion to

get them to understand that what is wanted is an underlayment that is centered on a table—especially when the table isn't there yet. Even representing its center point by a tape mark on the floor is not likely to convince them that we don't really prefer to see the carpeting start all neatly lined up at one end, and then tail off rag-tag, any old fashion, 45, 50, 55 or 60 feet down the way. Such installation pros will automatically try to set a base line down at one end and make everything run out neatly from that. What's more, when the floor has clear lines available on it, either concrete seams or paint markers or whatever, they will gravitate to these anchor points the way a traveler dying of thirst in the desert will head for an oasis.

The same problem can arise when non-fencers are given the job of rolling out strips, which can measure, as we all know, anywhere from fifty feet to almost seventy (for some of the really old heavy ones). The center mark is the important point of the strip; remember that the run-off areas at either end may be of different lengths, as the result of age and wear, assuming that they were even to begin with. Thus centering strips properly on the table will often leave a certain amount of irregularity at one or both ends in any installation, and your pros prefer "neatness," even if it can be achieved only at one end.

Not too long ago, I was at a major event where the logical (to the questioner, though I am afraid just hopelessly naive) suggestion was made that since we didn't use the run-off areas at the ends of the strips for competition, they were clearly not needed and why didn't we just cut them all off to make everything look nice and neat? The suggestion did not come from a fencer I am happy to report. Furthermore, given the usual cost-per-hour considerations that motivate pro installers, any request for an approach that might protract the process will be resisted or avoided, if at all possible. And woe betide organizers who waffle, changing their minds again and again.

A few years ago, in another of these columns, on a related subject (getting

power cables laid out safely and efficiently), I pointed out that you need to know in advance the actual dimensions of your space, verified by someone with a good tape measure, and that these figures should be set down on graph paper, with the features of the hall indicated as accurately as possible: entrances; columns, if any; overhanging balconies; the locations of the power outlets, and so forth. Then you can play with cardboard or paper cut-outs, of the appropriate dimension (I usually assume six feet wide and 60 long for a strip, and two-and-a-half by about five for a table). These cut-outs can be shuffled around, in various configurations, to give you a bird's-eye view of what your floor will look like. This is why it is important that your information about columns, doors, outlets, etc., be correct. You don't want to find that you have planned your strip layout to make access to power unnecessarily difficult. You want the possibility for a smooth flow of traffic. You don't want to find at the last minute that everything has to go eight feet "that way" to keep the referees from banging into concrete columns. You don't want to have anything that may block exit doors or be too close to them (the fire marshal will get you if you don't watch out). Anchoring your design to graph paper with its unforgiving dimensions will allow you to see whether you have enough room between the edge of the strip and the table (a meter, remember), and adequate working room for the referees.

Put your mind to it and you can easily think of other things that need to be factored in. And remember that all of this is being done in jig time and must not be so complicated that it cannot come down and go out in jig time. And it's all being done so that you can shine; aren't you proud (and maybe a tiny bit grateful)?



Blade Fencing is dedicated to providing the best equipment for less. And to help continue this tradition we are offering the readers of this magazine this special offer JUST for you!

Wear what most of the American fencing team is wearing in their competitions abroad! Our BLADE "P A T R I O T" Jacket! This sells for \$79 but for you it will be only \$56!! Or our BLADE "P A T R I O T" Knickers! This sells for \$52 but for you it will be only \$37!! Just clip this ad and send it in with your order and you will be able to get these LOW LOW prices!!

Or bring this in to our store located in New York!

245 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10001

Call our toll free number 1-800-828-5661



## FenceSmart

Low Prices All Year Long!!

Do you want to pay reasonable prices for your equipment?  
Do you want to get the most that you can out of your money?

Then come visit our website:

[www.FenceSmart.com](http://www.FenceSmart.com)

And see the many specials we have going on!

**JUST FOR YOU!**

Bring in this ad and get 10% off

ANY

Econo Weapon- Practice or Electric! Foil/Sabre/Epee!

**Fence Smart**

2933 Vauxhall Road  
Vauxhall, NJ 07088

Call us Toll Free **1-866-336-2164**

E-mail at: [service@fencesmart.com](mailto:service@fencesmart.com)  
[www.FenceSmart.com](http://www.FenceSmart.com)



# BEST FENCING WEB SITES OF 2003

By Denise Klarquist

The results are in! In recent issues of *American Fencing*, we surveyed readers for your pick as the best web site. Judging is final, you made the calls, and the results are in for the top fencing sites on the web. A few of the big draws would seem obvious, others less so, and the rest, well, everyone deserves an "E" for Effort. More revealing, though, is what this group of 22 nominated sites says about the sport itself.

The World Wide Web is ubiquitous. Even if you were not online, you'd have to be living in a cave to have not heard of Amazon or Yahoo! Nowadays we reference the web for many things, from finding the lowest price on a camera to getting the weather report. Most of us have become pretty savvy about getting around online and we have some pretty high expectations once we get there.

Fencing, on the other hand, clearly doesn't enjoy such popular recognition. While my 6-year-old nephew is adept at sending me e-cards online, he'd be hard-pressed to tell a foil from a sabre. And though my colleagues at work can defend a point of view on branding strategy, defending their flank from the point of a blade is decidedly foreign to them.

Fencing is an insider sport. To most people on the outside, it evokes an air of mystery and exclusivity. Even fencers know that it's not a sport for everyone. The best fencers are clever and creative. They're cool and direct, quick and intentional. So one would think the online expression of this sport would exhibit these traits. It seems that those who excel at understanding what it takes to wield a weapon would

appreciate the art of manipulating a mouse and brandishing a clever webtool or two.

And clearly that's true...to a point. In these winning web sites, you've chosen some great examples of sharp wit, elegant design, and clean navigation. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like there are enough examples out there given the calibre of the audience. We strive to find the shortest distance to the target—let's find the shortest distance to the key information on a page!

## The Results

A range of sites made the list—from club sites to general fencing sites to sites selling t-shirts and pommels. Not surprisingly, a lot of the nominations were a bit of self-promotion. There were no rules about voting for yourself—this is, after all, a sport that puts significant emphasis on the individual. A majority of nominated sites came in with one or two votes and after that a few with a handful of nominations. But then the field widened enormously, ending in a heated bout between two New England competitors.

### Zetafencing.com

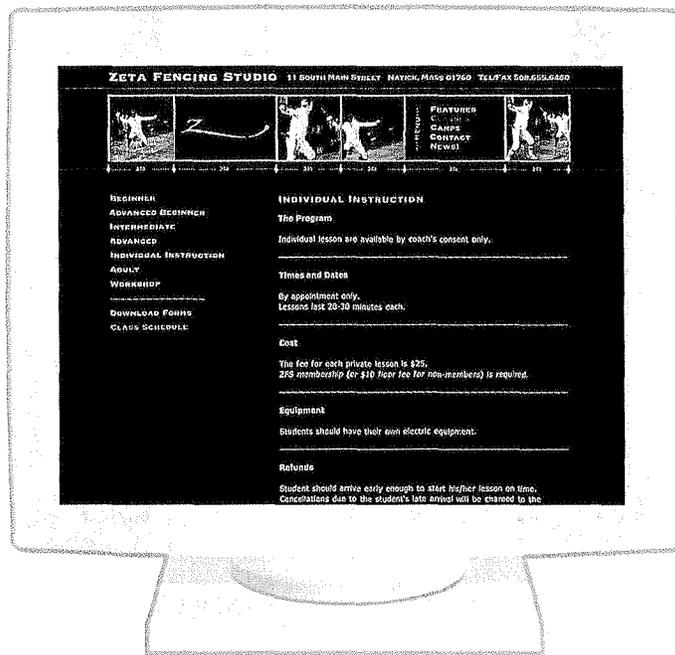
Zetafencing.com, the online presence of Coach Zoran Tulum's Zeta Fencing Club in Natick, Mass., was the clear winner overall, garnering over twice the number of votes received by its closest rival, Prisedefer.com. John Hofstetter and Mike Bouchard designed Zetafencing, and their expertise in web design is apparent in the elegant graphic design, flash intro, and intuitive navigation. While many flash intros act more as a means to exhibit the designer's fascination with animation, Zeta Fencing's site uses this tool to not only entertain, but also to offer a bit of fencing history. Most importantly, it literally defines the brand—making a clear-cut case for its name (the site opens with an etymology of "zeta") and a memorable mark in the visitor's mind. At this writing, the site still lacked a considerable amount of promised content. In fact, a number of links were dead-ends. This fact wasn't lost on the voters; many wished the site contained more tournament and club schedules. We hope that Zeta Fencing lives up to the challenge and the honor of this award and adds some much-needed content.

### Prisedefer.com

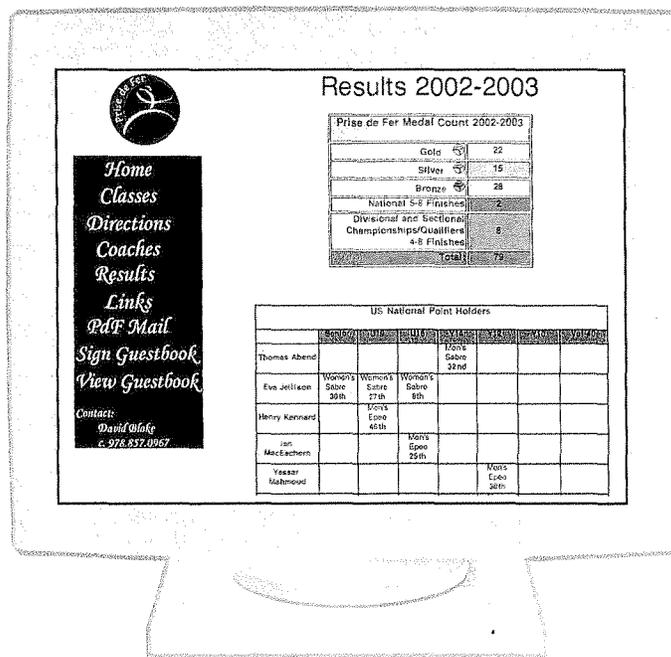
Local rivalry is a part of any sport and apparently extends into the online arena as well. As mentioned, Prisedefer.com, designed by Prise de Fer club coach Adam Blake, made a grand showing in this match, taking a strong second place. However, one wonders what judging guidelines its voters were using. I suspect a bit of love and hometown (Bedford, Mass.) loyalty played into Prisedefer.com's enthusiastic placement. While design elegance isn't one of this site's strong suits, it nevertheless offers easy navigation and one thing that Zeta's site lacks—an up-to-date results listing.

### Big4ourbritches.com

Third place is another stellar example of good site design, not to mention a great resource for those of you who want to express your love of the sport off the piste. Big4ourbritches.com offers a



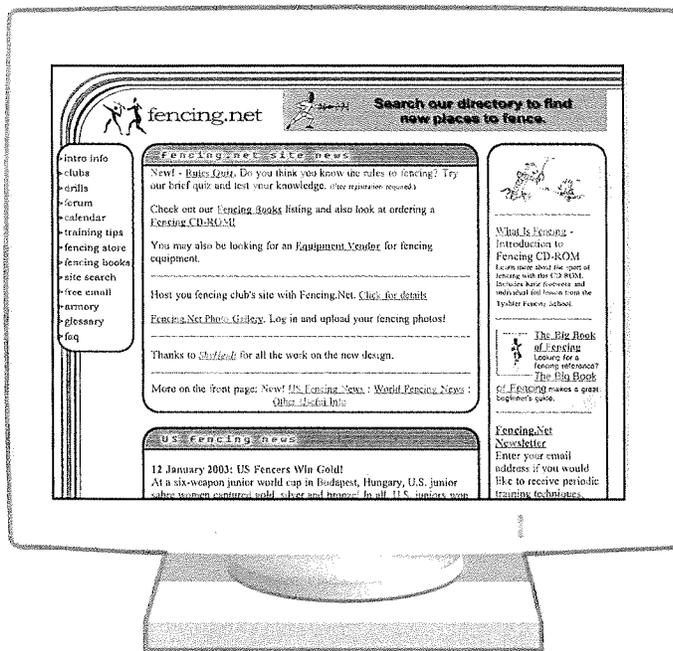
#1: One voter writes, "Awesome design, really easy to use" of the winning site, **Zetafencing.com**.



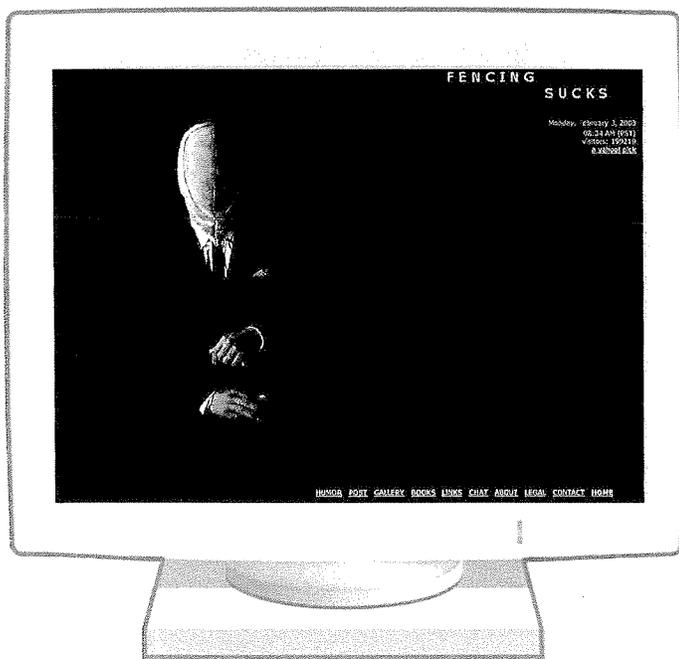
#2: **Prisedefer.com** is admired for "incredibly up-to-date information for fencers."



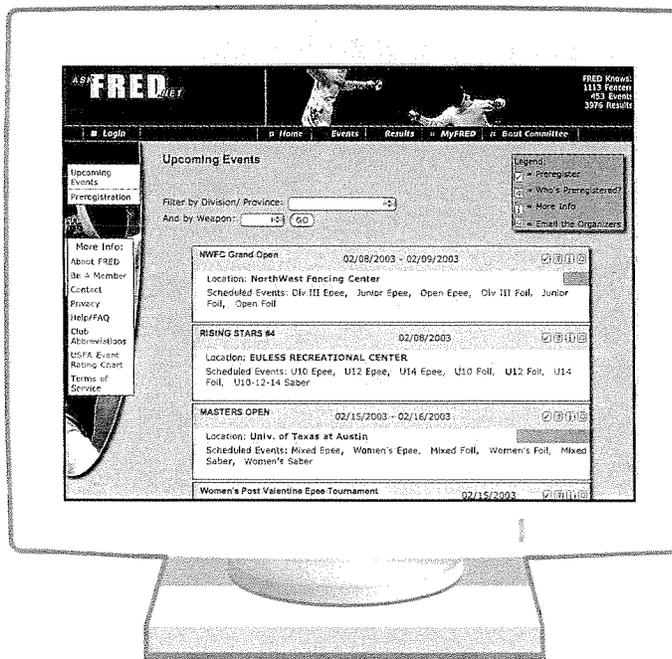
#3: In addition to **Big4ourbritches.com**'s site, one voter likes the merchandise: "The shirts really rock!"



#5: **Fencing.net** has a very active message board and provides "a great introduction to the sport."



#4: One voter for **Fencingsucks.com** concludes, "Who are these guys? It's totally inappropriate. That's why I'm voting for it."



#6: **AskFred.net** "has schedules, collects pre-registrants, lists results, sorts results ... everything."

large selection of mainly t-shirts. The site is built to be easy for anyone to use, offering flash or html viewing options. The graphic design of the site is fun, the writing is clever, the navigation super-simple, and the overall attitude consistent throughout, right down to the merchandise itself. One suggestion made was to include a listing of tournaments where the company sells its wares.

### **Fencingsucks.com**

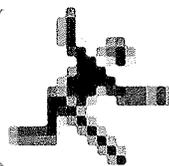
Controversy seems to show up in many a winner's circle and this competition is no exception. Fourth place goes to Mount Rose, MN's Fencingsucks.com, a site it seems the voters either love or love to hate. Personal opinions about the content aside, we must hand it to the developers of this site, as it is well deserved of its recognition in this competition. Clean—actually, sparse—graphics, layout, and navigation get you right where you want to go in this site, whether it's to read scathing commentary or download pix of your favorite female swordmistress. The site designer, Saugen Sie, clearly respects the intelligence (and twisted humor) of the fencing community, offering a venue for opinions (and there are many), but also an extraordinarily thorough resource for the sport, including a considerable number of links to lists, schedules, glossaries, and publications. All of you fledgling web designers, take note: five fonts in 15 different colors isn't necessarily the best way to make a site stand out. A lot can be said for simple black and white, as Fencingsucks.com demonstrates.

### **Fencing.net and AskFred.net**

Honorable mentions go to Fencing.net and AskFred.net, for fifth and sixth place. Simple and clean with exceptional amounts of up-to-the minute information, both of these sites showcase the best of what the Internet offers—lots of information at our fingertips.

Congratulations to all who participated in this competition: the nominees, the winners, and you, the readers, who cast the votes. We all know from experience that being the best doesn't mean kicking back to enjoy the rewards of winning. There is always a talented competitor waiting in the wings to challenge us and steal our glory, and so it goes in this online arena as well. May those of you hoping to conquer the web world of fencing recognize and learn from those cited here and plan your strategy to beat the best. And may those of you who arrived on top be humbled by the enthusiasm of your challengers and work to maintain your edge.

*Denise Klarquist is the director of marketing and design for Che-skin, a design research and consulting firm in the San Francisco Bay area. She manages web design and branding and eagerly shares her opinions, writing and editing articles on both topics. After briefly studying fencing in California and France, Klarquist remains an enthusiastic friend of the sport.*

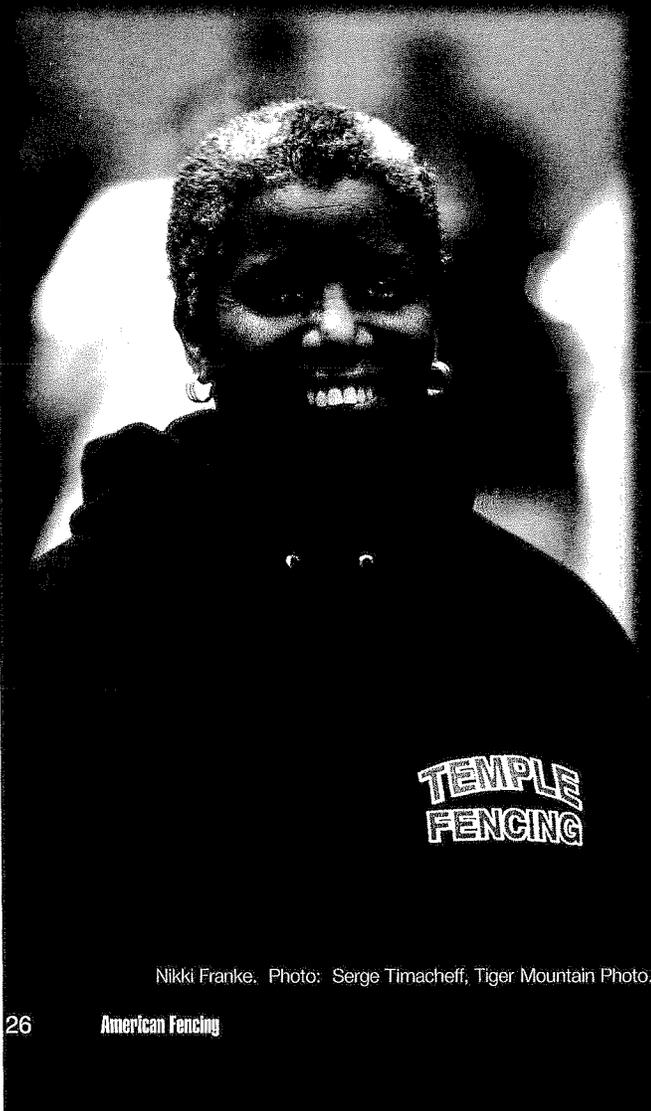


## **The Final Ranking**

1. Zetafencing.com
2. Prisedefer.com
3. Big4ourbritches.com
4. Fencingsucks.com
5. Fencing.net
6. AskFred.net
  
7. Esgrimamex.com
7. USFCA.org
7. USfencing.org
  
8. Sallepouj.com
8. Wearefencing.com
  
9. Blademasters.org
9. Escrime-tv.com
9. Fencesmart.com
9. Fencewestchester.com
9. Fencingonline.com
9. Onondagafencers.org
9. Santelli.com
9. Swordhistory.com
9. Swordsmart.com
9. Tacomafencing.com
9. Thebaycup.org

# NIKKI FRANKE

By Nathaniel M. Cerf



Nikki Franke. Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

---

**FOUR** *halls of fame*  
**THREE** *academic degrees*  
**TWO** *Olympic teams*  
**ONE** *NCAA team championship*

---

Remarkably, the list of accomplishments above barely even begins to describe the career of Temple University's women's foil coach and public health professor Nikki Franke. Yet Franke, who was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame this past October, believes there is more to life than just fencing. Family, education, and a commitment to her community are equally, if not more important to her. "One of the things that fencing has allowed me to do is to share my knowledge not only with my Temple University athletes, but also with young people through the Black Women in Sport Foundation," she said during a recent interview.

Born at Harlem Hospital in New York, Franke says that she was just an "ordinary kid." She was always active and athletic, a trait that sometimes got her in trouble. Example: After undergoing surgery to straighten her spine when she was 10, not even a body cast could slow her down. "I did get caught playing stickball with my friends on the block," Franke said, "at which point my doctor sent me to a convalescence home to recover—so they could keep an eye on me."

Her father died when she was five, so her mother had to work;

Franke spent the remainder of her post-convalescence home recovery with her grandmother, who also home-schooled Franke. Money was tight, but they weren't poor. "The love, values and support I received from my family were the most important things a kid could receive," Franke said.

In high school she played basketball and tennis. It wasn't until her senior year that she started fencing. Franke thought she'd try it because "it seemed like something that would be different." She took to fencing like a sword to its scabbard and began to compete in school and other tournaments. One of the friends she made at a tournament convinced her to attend Brooklyn College and join Denise O'Connor's fencing program there. "College fencing was a big thrill for me," recalled Franke. "I immediately felt like I was a part of something, and the team got along very well."

O'Connor was Franke's first well-known fencing coach and taught more than just the basics of the sport. "She took us under her wing and guided us to great heights," Franke said. "She taught us not just the game of fencing, but what it meant to have a coach who looked after you and cared about you."

While Franke was successful at fencing and loved it, her studies came first. In 1972, she completed her bachelor's degree in health and physical education with honors. Her goal was to become a high school teacher in New York, but she also wanted to earn her master's degree. With O'Connor's encouragement, Franke pursued an assistantship from Temple University in Philadelphia. "Little did I know that I would remain at Temple, go on for my doctorate in public health, and become not only their first head coach but also a tenured faculty member," Franke said.

Once in Philadelphia, she met and began training with Maestro Lajos Csiszar. "It was under his guidance that I began to train and compete more seriously," she said. At the same time, Franke started Temple's first women's foil team. Her graduate school years were busy ones spent studying, training, teaching and coaching. She even found the time to fall in love and get married when she graduated in 1975. She and her husband, Norman, spent their honeymoon on a cross-country camping trip to attend nationals in Los Angeles.

Competitively speaking, 1975 was a great year for Franke. She won the national foil championship and later won the silver medal in women's foil at the Pan American Games in Mexico City. She also made the U.S. Olympic team for the 1976 Games in Montreal. "Being at the Olympics is a feeling I will never forget," Franke said. "The feeling you have walking into a stadium with your country and hearing the crowd is unbelievable. Living in the Olympic Village and meeting people from all over the world is wonderful."

The experience was made even sweeter by the presence of her entire family who went to Montreal to watch her. "They were my supporters throughout. It was great sharing the moment with

them." In the end she finished 23rd, higher than the rest of the American women. The performance only inspired her to train even harder for the 1980 Olympics. She explained, "I wanted to not just make the '80 team, but have one of the best American results ever."

Franke spent the next four years training more seriously than

---

"To work so hard for four years, earn a spot on the [Olympic] team and then have someone else take it away was very hard to take."

---

before. In 1979 she was inducted into her first hall of fame—her alma mater, Brooklyn College. She also took silver in the Pan American Games in Puerto Rico and realized her dream of making the 1980 Olympic team. But that dream was soon dashed when President Jimmy Carter persuaded the United States Olympic Committee to withdraw from the Moscow Olympics to protest the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. "To work so hard for four years, earn a spot on the team and then have someone else take it away was very hard to take," Franke said. "It was more frustrating because you had no say and you knew the government's actions would not change anything that was going on."

So, instead of dominating at the Olympics, Franke went on to win her second national championship.

Franke then began to focus more on coaching than on competition. She had two children, Aisha and Hasani, and earned her doctorate in public health from Temple. Eventually, she became a tenured faculty member. Yet fencing and coaching remained very important in her life: "I...would not feel fulfilled if I weren't also coaching."

And coached she has. While her teams have racked up many victories and honors, the biggest may have been winning the 1992 NCAA women's foil championship. "That was a very special team with some very special individuals," Franke said. "They were a bunch of 'no-names' who were very talented and very dedicated, but most of all, they were true fighters. They never gave up. They were always there for each other and, consequently, good friends."

In talking with Franke, it seems that much of her coaching philosophy is imbued with the lessons her mother and grandmother taught her at a young age: treat others like she herself

would like to be treated, and keep an open mind and heart for everyone. "I will work with anyone who wants to dedicate themselves to being the best fencer they can be," she said. "Our team consists of some very experienced fencers, but it also consists of walk-ons who have never fenced before college."

Franke also shares her sense of community and family with her team. "A team is much more than a group of individuals who show up at the same time for a competition," she explained. "It's a group of people who support each other, truly care about each other and want the best for each other. The whole is so much more than the sum of its parts." This attitude may account for her popularity and success with her students. It is also reflected in the honors that she began to receive starting in the mid 1990s.

"You must allow yourself to make mistakes and learn from them, and not be too hard on yourself."

In 1995 Franke was inducted into the Temple University Hall of Fame, and in 1998 she was inducted into the United States Fencing Association's Hall of Fame. In 2002, the Women's Sports Foundation honored Franke with a place in the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame. "The greatest significance, to me, of these wonderful honors is the recognition it gives to our sport," she said, adding that these awards "give me an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the support I've received from my family. Without my mother's support from the very beginning during high school and college, and my husband's support throughout the time I was going to graduate school, coaching and teaching up until the present day, and my crazy work hours, none of this would have been possible."

Despite the accolades, Franke is not one to rest on her laurels. She is actively involved with Philadelphia's Black Women in Sport Foundation, which reaches out to urban youth by teaching them sports (such

as fencing, tennis and golf) that they might otherwise not have the chance to learn.

"The more we can expose young people to this marvelous sport the better," she said. "It's all about opportunity. It shouldn't be about money." Franke would like to see more programs, like Black Women in Sport and the Peter Westbrook Foundation, that reach out to kids by providing not only exposure to new sports, but exposure to positive mentoring and relationships as well. "There are so many talented kids out there who just need good leadership, good mentors and good programs in order to excel in their lives. It takes so little to touch someone and truly make a difference in the direction of their lives."

Franke offers this advice to aspiring competitive fencers: "Attitude is most important. You must enjoy what you're doing. You must allow yourself to make mistakes and learn from them, and not be too hard on yourself. You must keep fencing—or any sport—in perspective because it's something you do, not who you are. In this age of specialization, I still think it's important to have several interests and play other sports as well. Being involved in different activities (and) sports helps you grow as a person and allows you to surround yourself with a diverse group of people."

Franke's own plans for the future are simply "to keep doing what I'm doing for as long as it continues to be rewarding and, most importantly, *fun*."

*Nathaniel Cerf is captain and coach of the University of Montana fencing club.*

## CANDLEWOOD FENCING CENTER

*"it's escrime"*

### SUMMER INTENSIVE CLINIC 2003

Choose 1-2-3 or 4 weeks!

July 21-26 July 28-Aug 2 Aug 4-9 Aug 11-16

Orest Stetsiv, Laslo Stankovich, Aleksandr Ulanovskiy, Serge Gritsaev, Oleg Stetsiv, Tom Ciccarone

\$300.00 per week—multi-week discounts available

#### Clinic Curriculum:

Advanced Footwork and Bouting—Daily Tactical Lectures  
Individual Lessons Every Day for Every Student

Pre-registration and payment deadline—June 15, 2003

Host families available upon request—Late registration is available. Easily accessible from Connecticut, Westchester/Putnam/Dutchess Counties in NY!

Visit our web site at: [www.candlewoodfencing.com](http://www.candlewoodfencing.com) for registration forms and details

Candlewood Fencing Center  
272 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810  
Tel: (203) 778-0808 Fax: (203) 778-0026  
Email: [fencore@aol.com](mailto:fencore@aol.com)

Visa/MC

AMEX

# THE GRADUATE

## How to Survive Post-Collegiate Fencing

by Eric Rosenberg

**T**here are five stages in the career of a top fencer. During the primary developmental stage, seven- to eleven-year-old beginners learn basic technique and have fun while the addiction to fencing takes hold. Next is the early competitive stage, when precocious eleven- to fifteen-year-olds build experience, improve their skills, conquer their peers and dare to dream of grandiose future triumphs. In stage three, physically mature young adults begin to challenge the “alpha fencers.” They stake their claims to national rankings and spots on world teams, while enjoying the unfettered freedom and blissful irresponsibility of academic life. And then, almost without warning, stage four hits them right between the eyes.

Up until that moment, all fencing activities and tools of the trade are lovingly underwritten by indulgent parents committed to the success and happiness of their “work-in-progress” progeny. But when college ends, in most cases so does the gravy train. Parents expect their fencing offspring to become independent and, horror of horrors, pay their own way. Suddenly, our post-graduate must confront the following imperatives: getting a job and establishing a career; paying rent, taxes, credit card bills; balancing professional, personal, and athletic pursuits; budgeting for thousands of dollars in fencing-related expenses.

Many clubs and coaches have worked successfully with young athletes and their parents through the preliminary stages—just count the number of medals our cadet and junior fencers are winning at international competitions and world championships. However, our top post-collegiate fencers receive nowhere near the level of financial support that their equally successful European and Asian counterparts do. Of equal significance, they lack the guidance, information, opportunity, and experience necessary to construct a path to success as adult competitors. If U.S. athletes are to breach that final gap and win Olympic and Senior World Championship medals, the USFA, major clubs, coaches, and successful post-competitive fencers must help cobble together the resources, networks, career opportunities, and financial aid needed to achieve this goal.

For those athletes contemplating a run for a national or Olympic team, here are some basic considerations. High-level achievement involves three factors: motivation, opportunity, and ability. Any American aspiring to international success must be motivated, fully aware, and prepared to assume the sacrifices—



career, financial and personal—necessary to reach this level. They must be willing to locate wherever the optimal training conditions exist. No fencer

can be successful without a top coach rooted in an established training infrastructure that is populated with strong sparring partners. Perhaps most difficult, they must be willing to realistically evaluate their talent and potential. An analysis of past international results (on the junior and senior level) is a reasonable starting point. A good coach/fencing mentor can assess past performance and potential with respect to future ambitions. Unfortunately, I have seen self-deluded individuals who, lacking perspective, wound up in the frustrating chase of an unattainable dream. Along the way, they sacrificed career and educational opportunities that were forever lost.

**H**ow do you begin putting together a plan? The first step is organizing a support team. Every athlete needs a dedicated group of qualified, respected individuals around them to inform, guide and evaluate. This team is invaluable in developing and executing your training and life plan. The roster should consist of personnel and associations with the following functions:

- ▶ **Coach** (current or prospective)—constructs a long-term training/competition plan geared toward specific goals; supervises all aspects of day-to-day training; sets performance benchmarks; periodically reviews and evaluates results; provides tactical support at competitions; plays psychologist, cheerleader, confidant, and advocate when necessary.
- ▶ **Parents**—provide perspective, as well as emotional and a limited level of financial support.
- ▶ **Fencing Mentor**—an older fencer who knows the ropes and can objectively evaluate and give advice with regard to progress, potential, and problems.
- ▶ **Career Mentor**—a guide for your professional career who can help harmonize the demands of a training and competi-

tion schedule with work, and who can advocate for and promote your interests in the workplace.

- ▶ **Club**—often the confluence of all resources (material, emotional and financial) to facilitate success, and provides a network of role models and club members who can assist in myriad ways.
- ▶ **Employer**—shapes a career path; offers flexible work schedules; supports athletic goals.
- ▶ **Sponsors**—provide funding or “in-kind” training support.

Once this roster is in place, planning should start well in advance of college graduation. Many top fencers are in a position to vie for national teams while still attending college (and in some cases, high school). In the past, several have opted to take an academic leave of absence so they could devote full time to training and competition, particularly during the latter part of the Olympic quadrennial. Prolonging one’s tenure in college (especially in light of the current economy and job market) is not a bad option. A list of national or Olympic team memberships is an impressive addition to any future job resume.

Whether you’ve graduated or taken a leave from college, find the best place to train. Choose from among the acknowledged epicenters of fencing in the United States that best suit your needs. Club networks can be instrumental in helping you find an affordable place to live and, in some cases, employment. Some fencers opt to live and train abroad. Traditionally, Eastern Europe and Germany have been the destinations of choice for a number of successful expatriate Americans. Compared with the United States, living expenses and training costs are often significantly lower. However, maintaining a support system and getting a job can be problematic. Most top foreign-born U.S. coaches maintain ties to fencing establishments in their countries of origin. They are best able to set up an optimal overseas training situation.

An intensive fencing regime is comparable to 20-25 hours per week of vigorous manual labor. Add this to a job with a conventional 40-hour work week, factor in extensive international travel, and you have the formula for exhaustion and burn-out. Serious fencers must negotiate (with help from their career mentor) part- or flex-time schedules that make it possible to function effectively in both their athletic and professional careers. (Present your employer with a marketing kit, as outlined below.) The more an employer becomes involved in your quest, the greater the potential level of support. Written acknowledgements of appreciation from the USFA and national coaches, documented successful per-



An intensive fencing regime is comparable to 20-25 hours per week of vigorous manual labor.

formances, positive public relations references in the press, and innumerable thank-you’s go a long way toward cementing a symbiotic relationship with business organizations. Alternatively, some fencers have been able to bundle several fencing-related part-time and seasonal jobs (coaching, group lessons, refereeing, armory, etc.) that pay enough to cover training and living expenses. Established clubs are the best employment agencies for these positions.

Fundraising is another critical element in the equation. Build a marketing kit based on a resume of your fencing results and a detailed long-term training plan with an accompanying itemized budget. Include letters of reference from national coaches, as well as any press clippings or PR material in your mother’s scrapbook. *You* are the product and, as they say in marketing circles, “Let’s put lipstick on this pig.” If selling is not your strength, recruit a friend or parent to be your principal sales rep. Effective networking, even at the earliest stages of your career, can lead to funding. College alumni, club mates, friends and family are all potential sources of leads in our “six degrees of separation” world. Just as with

employers, the more you involve them in the quest (and follow up with thanks), the more helpful they can be. Support can come in many forms. In-kind contributions, such as frequent flyer mileage, equipment, room and board etc., can be just as valuable as cash in hand. One caveat: never become arrogant, inconsiderate, oblivious, or ungrateful, and never burn bridges. Sponsor relationships are difficult to build, and easy to wreck.

**M**y original thesis stated that there were five stages in a top fencer’s career, and for anyone counting, I lingered on number four. Stage five is “give back.” Many of the top fencers from previous generations, like USFA President Stacey Johnson, Peter Westbrook with his highly successful foundation, and some of my mentors—Olympians Albert Axelrod, Jamie Melcher and John Nonna—have contributed their time, experience and resources giving back to the sport after completing their competitive careers. Others have served as coaches, team captains, referees, tournament organizers, and club officers. Their example has proven to me that without stage five, no fencing career is ever truly complete.

*Eric Rosenberg is the president of the Fencers Club in New York City, spearheading its youth development program for over 25 years. He also works closely with the Peter Westbrook Foundation.*

# Ten Questions (and Answers) About Tournament Coaching

by Paul Soter

I have read with great interest the recent articles by Jeffrey Bukantz, chair of the Fencing Officials Commission (FOC), describing the referee's-eye view of fencing tournaments. As a coach, I have found these articles extremely helpful. In this spirit, I'd like to offer a view from the coach's perspective.

I should note at the outset that relations among referees and coaches are better now than they have been in years—maybe better than ever. A new group of referees has grown up with the new group of coaches and they expect coaches to be actively involved at tournaments. In addition, the level of consistent officiating is higher than ever. Because of this, most coaches know that most referees get most calls right, and it is easier for them to accept the bad calls that are part of the game.

Still, conflicts arise. Here are ten issues as I see them:

## Question #1: Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

The referee does not care about the outcome of the bout. The coach does. We need to understand that coaches and referees have fundamentally different goals, but also fundamentally common interests—both want every bout to be perfectly officiated because, over time, this leads to the most predictable outcome. Coaches can train their fencers to control predictable outcomes; it is the unpredictable that we have trouble with.

Dialogue between coach and referee is frequently necessary. These interactions should be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect. As a coach, I believe the referee should respect my professional status and consider my input, and I become offended when this does not occur. On the other hand, the coach who routinely baits or picks fights with referees is a discredit to our profession. His conduct makes all coaches' jobs harder—a referee who has been mistreated by one coach is less likely to listen to another coach.

## Question #2: Where Does the Coach's Job End?

Some say that the coach's job is done when the fencer gets to the strip. I disagree. Part of coaching involves reminding the fencer to focus on learned skills in the heat of combat, and to suggest solutions to the fencer out of the repertoire that the coach and fencer have developed. If this is done in a manner that is not disruptive or disrespectful to the opponent, it is not only permissible, but an essential part of coaching.

## Question #3: What Do They Really Do in Europe, and Who Cares?

Internationally, coaches are generally permitted to be near the strips, and they are permitted to provide verbal or visual advice to their fencers as long as the effect is not disruptive. In addition, noisy cheering from teammates and spectators is extremely common and is generally encouraged as part of the FIE's efforts to popularize the sport.

If we want American fencers to continue to do better and better internationally, referees must allow them to compete in this way at home. Unless American fencers learn to benefit from strip coaching before they arrive on foreign soil, they will be at a disadvantage in places where such coaching is not only allowed, but the norm.

## Question #4: What About the Out-of-Control Coach?

Unfortunately, some coaches are unable to work within these reasonable parameters. There are coaches who are habitually disruptive, out of control, and abusive to the referees and the fencers. This type of behavior is counterproductive in the long term; the habitually out-of-control coach spits in the soup that all the coaches have to drink. When a referee has been aversion-trained to interactions with coaches, it makes legitimate communication that much more difficult.



In the end, it is the fencer who must ultimately take responsibility for controlling the bout, including controlling what the referee sees. When a coach constantly blames the referee's calls for the fencer's losses, he sends the fencer a message that the sport is an exercise in futility.

#### Question #5: What About the Out-of-Control Referee?

Equally disappointing are referees who are unable to accept the coach's role on the strip. The coach needs to know what the referee saw, or thought he saw, to be able to advise the fencer. A wise referee realizes that answering a question or clarifying a call is part of the official's job.

As a coach, I respect referees who are willing to change a call and admit an error even if it is a coach who brings it to their attention, or who respectfully disagree with a coach's opinion, saying, "I'm sorry. I didn't see it that way; I'll watch for it. *En garde.*" The coach may fume, but he should realize that the best thing to do is to give the referee room to breathe so that maybe he will make the next call the way the coach sees it. Refusing to acknowledge the coach's existence, or the fact that he might have a legitimate point, is just going to raise the tension level for everyone, including the referee, and increase the likelihood of a confrontation.

Coaches and referees should try to resolve differences with civility, but if a referee is behaving inappropriately and will not be reasoned with, the referee should expect that it will escalate beyond the strip. It is not inappropriate for a fencer to refuse to resume fencing until the issue is resolved by the bout committee or the FOC person in charge of assigning referees.

#### Question #6: Who Is This Guy, Anyway?

The quality and training of referees varies greatly, as does the quality and training of coaches. The FOC has made great strides in standardizing and implementing referee training, but referees still have varying levels of experience and ability. Coaches and referees need to be aware of each other's backgrounds, but they should act according to what is happening on the strip rather than by their preconceived ideas about each other.

Coaches who never concede that a particular referee did a good job in a bout, and referees who never concede that a particular coach might be right about a call, are both foolish and bad for the sport.

#### Question #7: . . . and Why Is He Saying These Terrible Things to Me?

Referees: Please consider the possibility that the coach may be right when she says you are missing something. Coaches watch 20-30 hours of fencing every week, and sometimes they see things you don't. Be open to changing the way you watch for the action they have pointed out.

Coaches: Expect what is reasonable, according to the experience level of the official. If a referee isn't seeing an action the way you see it, advise your fencer accordingly.

Making the referee feel persecuted seldom improves his judgement.

Both referees and coaches contribute to the quality of the fencing when they can communicate on the strip. Referees are often more careful when a coach is present. Not biased, not influenced, not susceptible, just more careful—and that is good for everybody.

#### Question #8: What Difference Does It Make?

I will now disclose a secret of the coaching profession: strip coaching has absolutely no effect on the outcome of most bouts. And neither does refereeing. In most cases, if there were no referee, the fencers would nod and gesture at each other, and it would come out the same. Likewise, I estimate that stripside work with a fencer affects only about one pool bout and one DE in a tournament. But you never know which one it will be!

Since neither referee nor coach knows when that will happen, both need to be as alert as possible and trying as hard as they can all the time, just like the fencer. As a coach, of course, I hope that my strip coaching will make the difference, and that the refereeing will not, but both of those outcomes depend on coaches and officials doing their best, 100 percent of the time.

#### Question #9: How Can It Be Fair When the Other Fencer Doesn't Have a Coach Here?

That's not my problem, and not my fencer's problem. Just because the other fencer's coach isn't doing his job doesn't mean I shouldn't do mine.

#### Question #10: Why Do You Object to My Enforcing the Rules?

The rules are a means to an end: making the fencing fair and a good experience for the fencers.

Referees: Please don't use a bout as an opportunity to display your knowledge of arcana. Let the fencers fence. Call halts, use cards, issue directives when you must to facilitate the fencing, and not when doing so is disruptive and irrelevant to the fencing.

Coaches: Don't be too clever with the rules. If you distract the referee by asking for enforcement of picayune things, you are asking for trouble. If you repeatedly ask the referee to watch the fencer's feet, don't be surprised when he misses a parry-riposte. Your idea of a perfectly refereed bout should be one in which the referee pays attention, works hard, and does his best, just like your fencer.

And when that happens, win or lose, you should let both the fencer and the referee know that they have done a good job.

*Paul Soter is the U.S. national coach for men's epee. He is also the head epee coach of the Golden Gate Fencing Center in San Francisco. He is a former 2-rated referee, and has refereed through the round of 16 at the Heidenheim World Cup.*



# TOURNAMENT highlights



Columbus NAC epee action. Nicolas M. Testerman (Oregon) v. John A. Moreau (South Texas). Photo: Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

## NAC DIVISION I/VETERANS I Columbus, OH, December 6 - 8, 2002

### DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE

(173 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Sobieraj \*, Michal (POLAND)
2. Wiercioch\*, Adam A (POLAND)
- 3.T Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T Thompson, Soren (SO. CALIF.)
5. Tikhomirov\*, Igor (CANADA)
6. Kelsey, Weston S (COLORADO)
7. Greenhouse, Rashaan O (METRO NYC)
8. Gurevich \*, Anton (ISRAEL)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(89 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Burke, Jessica B (CENTRAL PA)
2. Iagorashvili, Mary Beth (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T James, Kamara L (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Suchorski, Kristin Fo (CAPITOL)
5. Tar, Marie-Soph (CAPITOL)
6. Pelletier \*, Marie-Eve (CANADA)
7. Campbell, Lindsay K (METRO NYC)
8. Walton, Kerry E (NORTHEAST)

### DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL

(131 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLND)
2. Kellner, Dan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Kfir, Nitai (ISRAEL)
- 3.T McGuire\*, Joshua J (CANADA)
5. Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
6. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
7. Wood, Alexander (CENTRAL CA)
8. Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)

### DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL

(76 Competitors - top 29 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Khouade \*, Irina (RUSSIA)
2. Angelova, Anna I (BULGARIA)
- 3.T Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
5. Smart, Erinn L (METRO NYC)
6. Luan\*, Jujie (CANADA)
7. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
8. Kryczalo \*, Alicja M (POLAND)

### DIVISION I MEN'S SABER

(100 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Lee, Ivan J (METRO NYC)
2. Morehouse, Timothy F (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Crompton, Adam (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)
5. Lasker, Terrence L (COLUMBUSOH)
6. Smart, Keeth T (METRO NYC)
7. Paul, Jason M (SO. CALIF.)
8. Raynaud, Herby (METRO NYC)

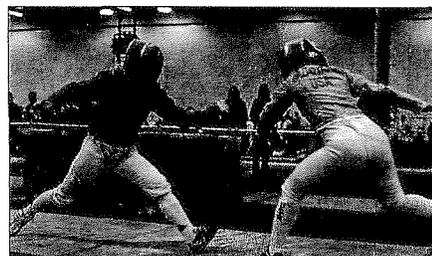
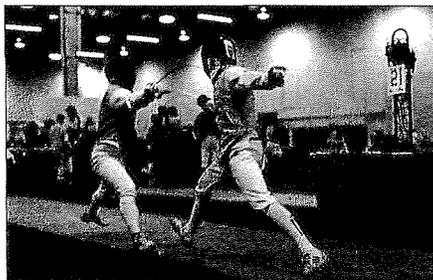
### DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER

(74 Competitors - top 26 earn points)

Group A4 competition

1. Gaillard, Amelia (GEORGIA)
2. Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Bond-Williams \*, Louise (GRTBRITAIN)
- 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
5. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
6. Crane, Christina (GEORGIA)
7. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
8. Jemal, Alexis D (METRO NYC)

# TOURNAMENT highlights



Columbus NAC. Clockwise from top: Photo by Joseph Streb; Testerman v. Moreau, photo by Serge Timacheff; Tiger Mountain Photo; Cody Mattern (Oregon) waits for another jacket after his was impaled, photo by Serge Timacheff; Michael Marx and Paul Soter, photo by Serge Timacheff; sabre competition, photo by Joseph Streb; Ana L. Moore (Western WA), photo by Serge Timacheff.

## VETERAN MEN'S ÉPÉE

(80 Competitors - top 64 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Moreau, John A (SO. TEXAS)
2. Ihara \*, Bruce T (CANADA)
- 3.T Van Dyke, Frank A (NEVADA)
- 3.T Varney, John (WESTERN WA)
5. Flint, James E (PHILADELPH)
6. Reith, William E (NORTH OHIO)
7. O'Dowd, Andrew J (PHILADELPH)
8. Schneider, Charles J (MICHIGAN)

## VETERAN WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(35 Competitors - all earn points)  
Group B2 competition

1. Frye, Mary P (PHILADELPH)
2. Asher, Valerie (CAPITOL)
- 3.T Ream, Jann L (IOWA)
- 3.T Runyon, Cindy (SAN BERNAR)
5. Graziano, Lisa D (COLORADO)
6. Telles, Anna (WESTERN WA)
7. Duthie, K. Maria (INLAND EMP)
8. Balot, Agota (NEW JERSEY)

## VETERAN MEN'S FOIL

(60 Competitors - all earn points)  
Group B2 competition

1. Loper, James (GEORGIA)
2. Lutton, Thomas W (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Biebel, Joseph E (WISCONSIN)
- 3.T Douraghy, Jamie M (SO. CALIF.)
5. Piatkowski-Nazarro, Marek W (SO. CALIF.)
6. Krauss, John W (NORTHEAST)
7. Patterson, Jan M (WESTERN WA)
8. Herman, Ronald J (IOWA)

## VETERAN WOMEN'S FOIL

(32 Competitors - all earn points)  
Group C2 competition

1. Verhave, Michelle A (WEST-ROCK)
2. Balot, Agota (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Keller, Nina G (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Walton, Yvonne R (NORTHEAST)
5. Vines, Kristin A (TENNESSEE)
6. Whitehurst, Mercedes A (WESTERN WA)
7. Offerle, Judith A (ILLINOIS)
8. Schifferle, Kathryn L (NO. COAST)

## VETERAN MEN'S SABER

(42 Competitors - all earn points)  
Group B2 competition

1. Korfanty, Edward (OREGON)
2. Reilly, Philip (OREGON)
- 3.T Jacobson, David H (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Remete, Tomas A (GOLDCST FL)
5. Kizik, Val (INDIANA)
6. Toth, Istvan (SO. CALIF.)
7. Baker, Keith L (VIRGINIA)
8. Goering, William A (COLORADO)

## VETERAN WOMEN'S SABER

(21 Competitors - all earn points)  
Group B1 competition

1. Eyre, Jane E (S. JERSEY)
2. Mazorol, Lydia F (NEW MEXICO)
- 3.T Pernice, Robin J (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Turner, Delia M (PHILADELPH)
5. Newstrom, Mary K (MINNESOTA)
6. Stopak, Deb M (VIRGINIA)
7. Nicolau, Doty (ALABAMA)
8. Comes, Rita (CENTRAL CA)

# DUEL IN THE DESERT | Las Vegas, NV, January 3 - 5

## OPEN FOIL

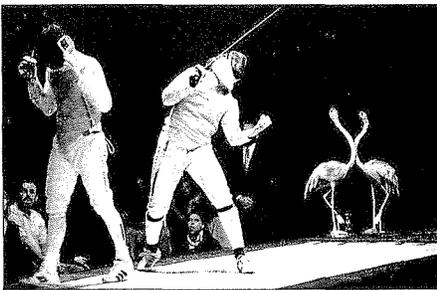
A-4		
1	Cedric Anen	SO. CALIF.
2	Al Carter	SO. CALIF.
3T	Ramil Endriano	PHILLIPINE
3T	Eric Dew	NORTH CA
5	Chun Ming Chang	SO. CALIF.
6	Scott Sugimoto	SO. CALIF.
7	Gregory Donaker	CENTRAL CA
8	Jerry deRaad	NORTH CA

## OPEN EPEE

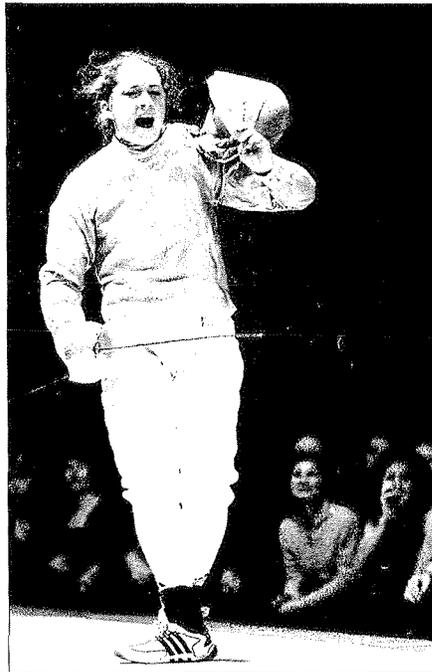
A-4		
1	Cody Mattern	OREGON
2	Nicolas Sallembien	CENTRAL CA
3T	Seth Baldwin	OREGON
3T	Eric Hansen	NORTH CA
5	Doug Thistlewaite	SAN BERNAR
6	Trevor Chang	SO. CALIF.
7	Alejendro Castillo	SO. CALIF.
8	Phillip Gerring	NORTH CA

## OPEN SABRE

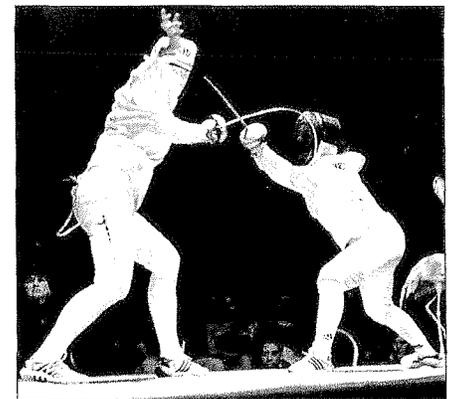
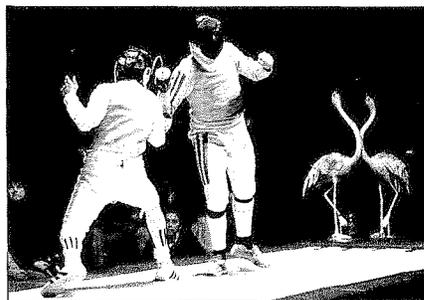
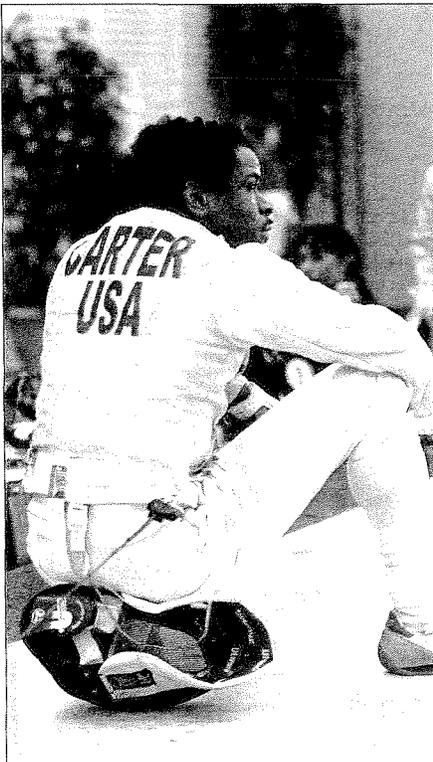
B-2		
1	Dmitriy Guy	SAN DIEGO
2	Michael D'Asaro Jr	SO. CALIF.
3T	Jeremiah Runyan	SAN DIEGO
3T	Joshua Runyan	SAN DIEGO
5	John Wolff	GEORGIA
6	Jonathan Pearlstein	CENTRAL CA
7	Daniel Milgram	CENTRAL CA
8	Mark Kindrachuk	PHILADELPH



Duel in the Desert 2003. All photos, except as otherwise noted, courtesy of Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo. Clockwise from top: Cedric Anen (Luxembourg) v. Sean McClain (Central CA) in men's foil; Anen and director Janusz Bednarski (photo by Amy Timacheff); sabrist Eileen Grench (Mt. Valley); Anna Garina v. Felicia Zimmermann (Western NY) in women's epee; Anen v. McClain; Al Carter of So. Calif. (photo by Amy Timacheff); Eileen Grench.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SERGE TIMACHEFF, TIGER MOUNTAIN PHOTO.



# TOURNAMENT highlights

## WOMEN'S FOIL

B-2		
1	Allison Rush	COLORADO
2	Justine Aw	SO. CALIF.
3T	Margaret Fagan	NORTH CA
3T	Tammy Lee	NORTH CA
5	Nele Foellmer	SO. CALIF.
6	Chelsey Howell	SW OHIO
7	Aileen Cahco-Everett	NORTH CA
8	Tara Chang	SO. CALIF.

## VETERANS' FOIL

A-1		
1	Heik Hambarzumian	NEVADA
2	Marek Piatkowski	SO. CALIF.
3T	Mike Dawson	NORTH CA
3T	Jamie Douraghy	SO. CALIF.
5	Bryant Haynes	NEVADA
6	Paul Bessey	ILLINOIS
7	David Drake	SAN DIEGO
8	Andy Robinson	NEVADA

## WOMEN'S EPEE \$500

1	Felicia Zimmermann	V5
2		D4
3		D3
4		D3
5		V5
		D

## WOMEN'S SABRE \$500

1	Meghan Everett	V5
2		V5
3		D0
4		D3
5		D4
		D

## WOMEN'S FOIL \$500

1	Felicia Zimmerman	V5
2		V5
3		V5
		V

## WOMEN'S EPEE

A-2		
1	Anna Garina	UKRAINE
2	Evelyn Scarborough	AK-LA-MISS
3T	Amy Fortune	SO. CALIF.
3T	Holly Buechel	NEW JERSEY
5	Penny Segal	SO. CALIF.
6	Janel Obenchaine	NORTH CA
7	Cynthia Erickson	SO. CALIF.
8	Paige Fox	COLORADO

## VETERANS' EPEE

A-1		
1	Eli Delgado Jr.	NEVADA
2	Kenneth Lattin	OREGON
3T	Alfred Cherry	S. JERSEY
3T	Phillip Gerring	NORTH CA
5	Frank Van Dyke	NEVADA
6	Joel Spielberg	S. JERSEY
7	Lisa Dobloug	CAPITOL
8	Stanley Westrick	ORANGE CST

## MEN'S FOIL \$1,000

1	Anna Garina	D4
2		V5
3		V4
4		V4
		D3
		V

## MEN'S SABRE \$500

1	Dmitriy Guy	V5
2		V5
3		D2
4		D2
5		V5
		V

## MEN'S EPEE \$1,000

1	Ingo Grausam	D3
2		D0
3		D1
		D

## WOMEN'S SABRE

B-1		
1	Meghan Everett	CENTRAL CA
2	Eileen Grench	MT. VALLEY
3T	Heidi Runyan	SAN DIEGO
3T	Sarah Walsh	NORTH CA
5	Liz Enochs	NORTH CA
6	Rita Comes	CENTRAL CA
7	Leslie Taft	SAN BERNAR
8	Elizabeth Earls	NORTH CA

## VETERANS' SABRE

E-1		
1	Scott Knies	CENTRAL CA
2	Wang Yung	WESTERN WA
3T	Paul Hicha	ARIZONA
3T	Rita Comes	CENTRAL CA
5	Jesse Dogillo	CENTRAL CA
6	David Lee	MT. VALLEY

## MEN'S FOIL \$1,000

1	Sean McClain	V5
2		V5
3		D2
4		D2
		V
		D

## MEN'S SABRE \$500

1	Dmitriy Guy	V5
2		V5
3		D2
4		D2
5		V5
		V
		D

## MEN'S EPEE \$1,000

1	Ingo Grausam	D3
2		D4
3		D3
		D
		V

## NAC YOUTH I Saratoga Springs, NY, January 3 - 5

### YOUTH-14 MEN'S EPEE

(74 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C2 competition

1. Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
2. Sulat, Nathaniel (NORTH CA)
- 3.T French, Peter R.N. (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Harder, Sean C (SO. CALIF.)
5. Seroff, Andrew R (CENTRAL CA)
6. Jones, Tristan K (NORTHEAST)
7. Smith, Dillon S (GULFCST TX)
8. Hirokawa, Jonathan D (PHILADELPH)

### YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S EPEE

(38 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

Group C2 competition

1. Dessureault\*, Marie-Mich (CANADA)

### YOUTH-14 MEN'S FOIL

(142 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C3 competition

1. Getz, Kurt A (WEST-ROCK)
2. Perkins, Samuel H (NORTH CA)
- 3.T MacDougall, Forrest N (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Yuh, Oung-Jo (WEST-ROCK)
5. Wicas, Graham E (PHILADELPH)
6. Wright, Bagley (METRO NYC)
7. Gurrieri, John M (S. JERSEY)
8. Parkins, Benjamin B (GULFCST TX)

### YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S FOIL

(76 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C2 competition

1. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)

### YOUTH-14 MEN'S SABER

(72 Competitors - top 32 earn points)

Group C2 competition

1. Rudnicki, Alexander (NEW JERSEY)
2. Spear, Jeff (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Murphy, Max D (KANSAS)
- 3.T Stetsiv, Andrew (METRO NYC)
5. Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
6. Reid, Leonon J (MT. VALLEY)
7. Kelly, Sean M (KENTUCKY)
8. Brett, J. Cameron (NEWENGLAND)

### YOUTH-14 WOMEN'S SABER

(34 Competitors - top 16 earn points)

Group C2 competition

1. Wozniak, Dagmara (NEW JERSEY)

2. Cook, Meagan B (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
5. French, Kayley A (NORTH TEX)
6. Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
7. Finkel, Tess O (METRO NYC)
8. Bassa, Francesca (GULFCST TX)

#### YOUTH-12 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(48 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group C2 competition

1. Parker, Jonathan M (SO. TEXAS)
2. Culley, Matthew R (NORTH OHIO)
- 3.T DeLeeuw, Peter M (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Hawrot, James E (NEWENGLAND)
5. Sumner, Eric T (CENTRAL CA)
6. Gable, Colin H (METRO NYC)
7. Boyle, Andrew E (CONNECTCUT)
8. Kaull, James T (CAPITOL)

#### YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(19 Competitors - top 8 earn points)  
Group D1 competition

1. Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
2. Bhinder, Amrit K (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Bassa, Francesca (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Henvick, Allison M (NORTH CA)
5. Oliva, Andrea L (PHILADELPH)
6. MacLeod, Shelby M (MINNESOTA)
7. Peterson, Amanda (NEWENGLAND)
8. Donnenberg, Elizabeth (GULFCST TX)

#### YOUTH-10 MEN'S ÉPÉE

(15 Competitors - top 8 earn points)  
Group D1 competition

1. Picou, Antonin R. (CAPITOL)
2. Miller, Jeffrey E (COLORADO)
- 3.T Jae, Kyle A (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Tice-Lewis, Maxwell L (N.CAROLINA)
5. Witte, Zion K (GULFCST TX)
6. Fahmy, Jared R (NORTHEAST)
7. Lynch, Jonathan M (GEORGIA)
8. Peterson, Philip C (CENTRAL FL)

#### YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(12 Competitors - top 4 earn points)  
Group E1 competition

1. Donnenberg, Elizabeth (GULFCST TX)
2. Wheeler, Diamond (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Gomez, Marissa F (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Loomis, Hannah J (UTAH/S.IDA)
5. Ameli, Nik Nik (N (NEVADA)
6. Gladnick, Kane (PHILADELPH)
7. Hohensee, Dianna E (NEWENGLAND)
8. Stephenson, Anne D (CAPITOL)

2. Pensler, Arielle R (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)
- 3.T Hurley, Courtney L (SO. TEXAS)
5. Baskies, Meredith S (NEWENGLAND)
6. Marchand\*, Julie-Anne (CANADA)
7. McDermott, Catherine (GULFCST TX)
8. Wacker, Jessica B (CENTRAL CA)

#### YOUTH-12 MEN'S FOIL

(125 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group C2 competition

1. Glick, Brandon (NORTH CA)
2. Castellani, Enzo R (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Meinhardt, Gerek L (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Simmons, Alex C (NORTH CA)
5. Bentley III, Frederick (KENTUCKY)
6. Willette, David G (NORTH CA)
7. Howard, Marcus A (PHILADELPH)
8. DeSmet, Ariel A (OREGON)

#### YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S FOIL

(57 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group C2 competition

1. Hirschfeld, Rebecca C (METRO NYC)
2. McDermott, Catherine (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Etholm, Alexandra (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)
5. Hartman, Grace T (MINNESOTA)
6. Henvick, Allison M (NORTH CA)
7. Stein, Ariel M (METRO NYC)
8. Baumgardner, Zoe K (METRO NYC)

#### YOUTH-10 MEN'S FOIL

(53 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group C2 competition

1. Khoshnevisan, Christophe (NORTH CA)
2. Miller, Jeffrey E (COLORADO)
- 3.T Meyer, Bill L (KANSAS)
- 3.T Pensler, Alexander (ILLINOIS)
5. Caldwell, Turner B (NORTH CA)
6. Castellani, Caetano R (NORTH TEX)
7. Kaneshige, Brian K (NEW JERSEY)
8. Nunziato, Robert M (METRO NYC)

#### YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S FOIL

(34 Competitors - top 16 earn points)  
Group D1 competition

1. Yuh, Hyun-Kyung (WEST-ROCK)
2. Hawrot, Kathryn G (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Prescod, Nziigha E (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Van Son, Elizabeth (WESTERN NY)
5. Baden, Lucy M (CENTRAL CA)
6. Ameli, Nik Nik (N (NEVADA)
7. Bernstein, Kathryn E (COLORADO)
8. McPhee, Hanna (NEWENGLAND)

2. Siebert, Lillian (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Kraujalis, Marina L (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Sachs, Elizabeth (NORTH TEX)
5. Wieronski, Anna (NEW JERSEY)
6. Wieczorek, Martyna E (NEW JERSEY)
7. Miller, Alison A (ILLINOIS)
8. Maxfield, Bethany G (NEWENGLAND)

#### YOUTH-12 MEN'S SABER

(40 Competitors - top 16 earn points)  
Group C2 competition

1. Ochocki, Aleksander (NEW JERSEY)
2. Mahaffey, Harrison H (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Berliner, Dan (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Thompson, Bobby B (OREGON)
5. Reid, Leonon J (MT. VALLEY)
6. Buell, Garrett T (WISCONSIN)
7. Shirmohammadi, Bardya H (VIRGINIA)
8. Jones, Zachary E (MT. VALLEY)

#### YOUTH-12 WOMEN'S SABER

(28 Competitors - top 16 earn points)  
Group D1 competition

1. Vloka, Caroline N (NEW JERSEY)
2. Miller, Alison A (ILLINOIS)
- 3.T Aksamit, Monica (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Kadree, Shalewa Ha (GEORGIA)
5. Stone, Anne-Eliza (ILLINOIS)
6. Rudnicki, Marie H (NEW JERSEY)
7. Atamian, Narine (METRO NYC)
8. Doyle, K Allison (HUDS-BERKS)

#### YOUTH-10 MEN'S SABER

(16 Competitors - top 8 earn points)  
Group D1 competition

1. Stone, Robert L (ILLINOIS)
2. Guo, Alexander (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Cucinelli, Brian P (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T Spear, Will (HUDS-BERKS)
5. Mills, Michael L (NEW JERSEY)
6. Shipp, Royce J (UTAH/S.IDA)
7. Dershwitz, Philip C (NEWENGLAND)
8. Wiest, Michael E (OREGON)

#### YOUTH-10 WOMEN'S SABER

(14 Competitors - top 8 earn points)  
Group E1 competition

1. Daukszewicz, Nicole (NEW JERSEY)
2. Ford, Tasia (HUDS-BERKS)
- 3.T McPhee, Hanna (NEWENGLAND)
- 3.T Pernice, Erica (NEWENGLAND)
5. Golden, Krystyna G (S. JERSEY)
6. Stone, Gracie (ILLINOIS)
7. Ricks, Kaleigh (HUDS-BERKS)
8. Kolasa, Natalie E (S. JERSEY)

## NAC DIVISION I/JUNIOR/WHEELCHAIR I San Diego, CA, January 17 - 20

#### DIVISION I MEN'S ÉPÉE

(190 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Viviani, Jansson J (METRO NYC)
2. Horvath, Arpad (HUNGARY)
- 3.T Demirchian, Gagik M (SO. CALIF.)
- 3.T Tikhomirov\*, Igor (CANADA)
5. Kelsey, Weston S (COLORADO)

#### DIVISION I MEN'S FOIL

(165 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Tiomkin, Jonathan C (LONG ISLAND)
2. Kellner, Dan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
- 3.T Kfir \*, Nitai (ISRAEL)
5. Anen, Cedric R (LUXEMBOURG)

#### DIVISION I MEN'S SABER

(91 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
2. Lee, Ivan J (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Parker, G. Colin (COLUMBUSOH)
- 3.T Whitmer, Darrin S (METRO NYC)
5. Rogers, Jason N (SO. CALIF.)

# TOURNAMENT highlights

6. Buckley, Michael (CANADA)
7. Tissot \*, Samuel (CANADA)
8. Tausig, Justin D (METRO NYC)

## DIVISION I WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(99 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Trzopek, Katarazina (POLAND)
2. Eim, Stephanie (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Garina\*, Anna (UKRAINE)
- 3.T Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
5. Roytblat, Raven John (METRO NYC)
6. Iagorashvili, Mary Beth (SO. TEXAS)
7. Rurarz-Huygens, Livia D (CAPITOL)
8. Campbell, Lindsay K (METRO NYC)

## JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(83 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Cox, Charles (NORTH CA)
2. Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Henderson, Jason V (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Hurme, Tommi K (SO. TEXAS)
5. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
6. Bratton, Benjamin E (METRO NYC)
7. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
8. Howard, Greg E (INDIANA)

## JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(67 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

1. Guy \*, Joanna A (CANADA)
2. Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
- 3.T Brendler, Kaela J (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)
5. Sullivan, Sharon L (WESTERN NY)
6. McGarry, Erin Laine (SO. TEXAS)
7. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
8. Leighton, Eleanor T (INDIANA)

## WHEELCHAIR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(6 Competitors)  
Group E1 competition

1. Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
2. Collman, Peter D (GEORGIA)
3. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
4. Sikorsky, Steven (KENTUCKY)
5. Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)
6. Boatwright, Tony K (GEORGIA)

## WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(6 Competitors)  
Group E1 competition

1. Morel\*, Sylvia (CANADA)
2. Gilmore, Susan E (OKLAHOMA)
3. Hickey, Carol A (GEORGIA)
4. Alexander, Kristine A (GEORGIA)
5. Lanier, Lisa D (GEORGIA)
6. Frederick, Theresa H (ST. LOUIS)

6. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
7. McClain, Sean (CENTRAL CA)
8. Allen\*, Nicolas J (CANADA)

## DIVISION I WOMEN'S FOIL

(80 Competitors - top 29 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Khouade \*, Irina (RUSSIA)
2. Zimmermann, Iris T (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
5. Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
6. Zimmermann, Felicia T (WESTERN NY)
7. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
8. Ament, Andrea E (NORTH OHIO)

## JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

(102 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
2. KirkGordon, Dimitri (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
- 3.T Woodhouse III, Enoch O (NEWENGLAND)
5. Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
6. Landreville \*, Alexis (CANADA)
7. Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
8. Snyder, Derek (SO. CALIF.)

## JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

(87 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

1. Cross, Emily R (METRO NYC)
2. Luitjen, Cassidy C (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Foldi \*, Julia (HUNGARY)
- 3.T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
5. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
6. Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
7. Leahy, Jacqueline (METRO NYC)
8. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)

## WHEELCHAIR MEN'S FOIL

(4 Competitors)  
Group E1 competition

1. Rodgers, J. Scott (GEORGIA)
2. Rodriguez, Mario (GULFCST TX)
3. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
4. Calhoun, Mark A (GEORGIA)

## WHEELCHAIR WOMEN'S FOIL

(5 Competitors)

1. Hickey, Carol A (GEORGIA)
2. Gilmore, Susan E (OKLAHOMA)
3. Lanier, Lisa D (GEORGIA)
4. Alexander, Kristine A (GEORGIA)
5. Frederick, Theresa H (ST. LOUIS)

6. Morehouse, Timothy F (METRO NYC)
7. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
8. Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)

## DIVISION I WOMEN'S SABER

(80 Competitors - top 30 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Zagunis, Mariel L (OREGON)
2. Jacobson, Sada M (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Bond-Williams \*, Louise (GR BRITAIN)
- 3.T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
5. Jacobson, Emily P (GEORGIA)
6. Wright, Carolyn M (VIRGINIA)
7. Jermal, Alexis D (METRO NYC)
8. Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)

## JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

(78 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Ghattas, Patrick E (OREGON)
2. Crompton, Adam C (NEW JERSEY)
- 3.T Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
- 3.T Momtselidze, Mike (COLUMBUSOH)
5. Clement, Luther C (KANSAS)
6. Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
7. Farr, Ian G (OREGON)
8. Zagunis, Marten R (OREGON)

## JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

(63 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A2 competition

1. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
2. Baratta, Emma L (METRO NYC)
- 3.T Eiremo, Annika M (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Thompson, Caitlin A (OREGON)
5. Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)
6. Sabbath\*, Shena (CANADA)
7. Ward, Rebecca C (OREGON)
8. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)

## WHEELCHAIR MEN'S SABER

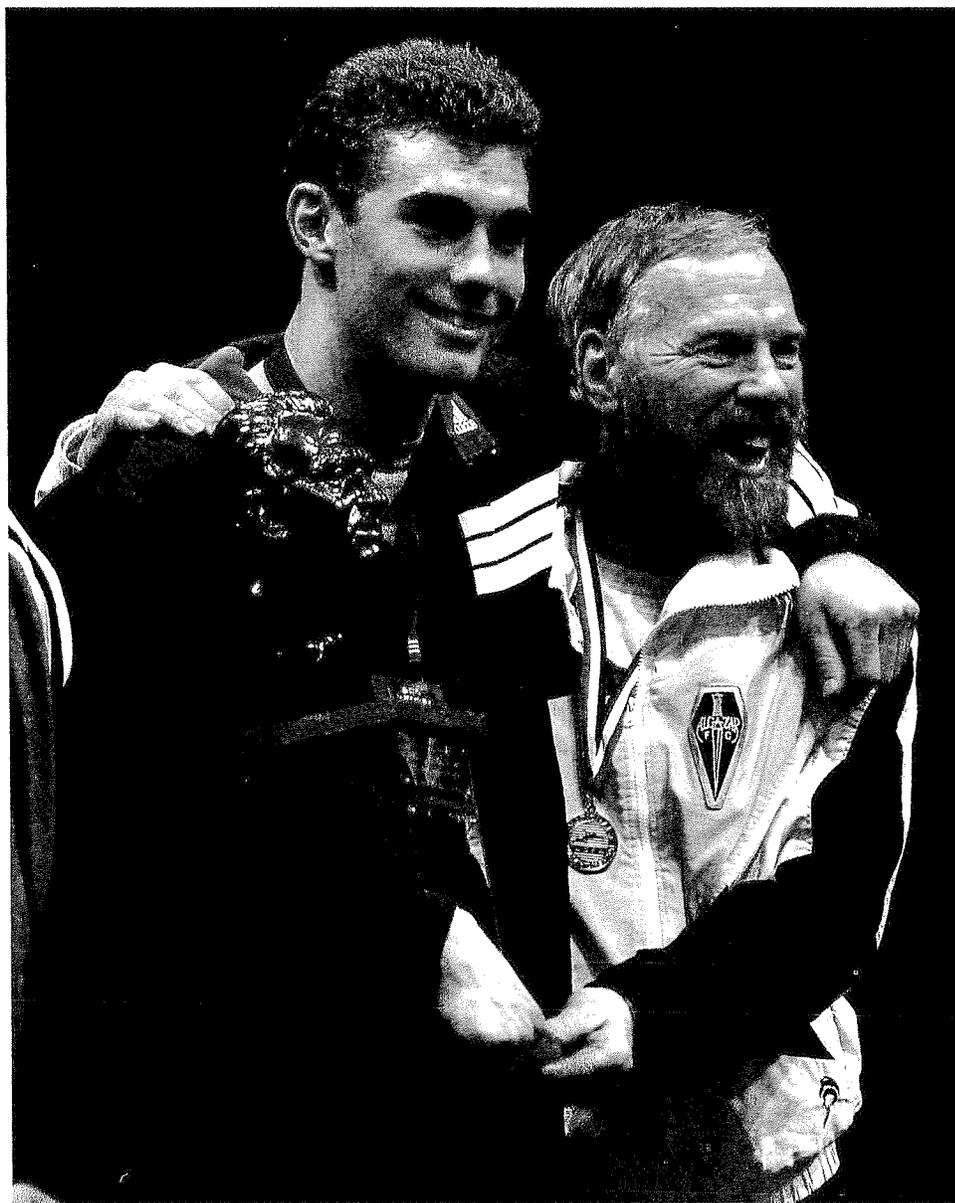
(7 Competitors)

1. Rodriguez, Mario (GULFCST TX)
2. Shumate, Sean (KENTUCKY)
3. Sikorsky, Steven (KENTUCKY)
4. Collman, Peter D (GEORGIA)
5. Moreno, Gerard E (SO. CALIF.)
6. Lovejoy, Curtis (GEORGIA)
7. Calhoun, Mark A (GEORGIA)

---

## JUNIOR OLYMPICS | Colorado Springs, CO, February 14 - 17

---



Junior Olympics 2003. Benjamin Solomon, above with coach Bill Reith, accepting his trophy for winning top honors in Junior Men's Epee. Solomon is a freshman at Princeton. This is his second gold for Junior Men's Epee. Photo: Serge Timcheff, Tiger Mountain Photo.

### JUNIOR MEN'S ÉPÉE

(178 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

1. Solomon, Benjamin J (NORTH OHIO)
2. Henderson, Jason V (NEW JERSEY)
3. T Hurme, Tommi K (SO. TEXAS)
3. T Verigan, William R (NEW JERSEY)
5. Moody, Jimmy W (COLORADO)
6. Sherrill, Teddy R (METRO NYC)
7. Lee, Martin J (CENTRAL CA)
8. Smith, Dwight A (METRO NYC)

### JUNIOR MEN'S FOIL

(220 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A4 competition

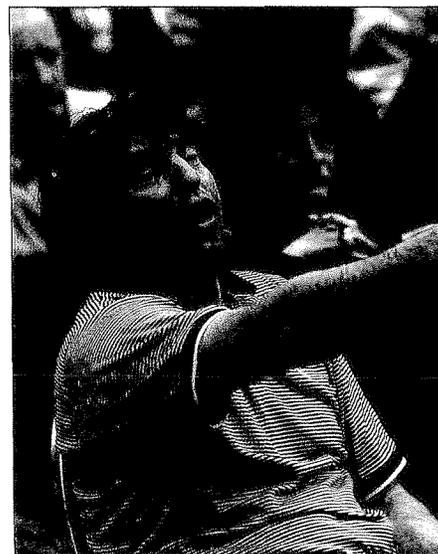
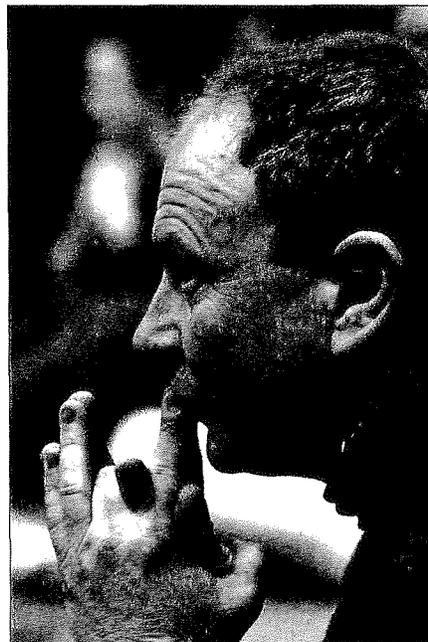
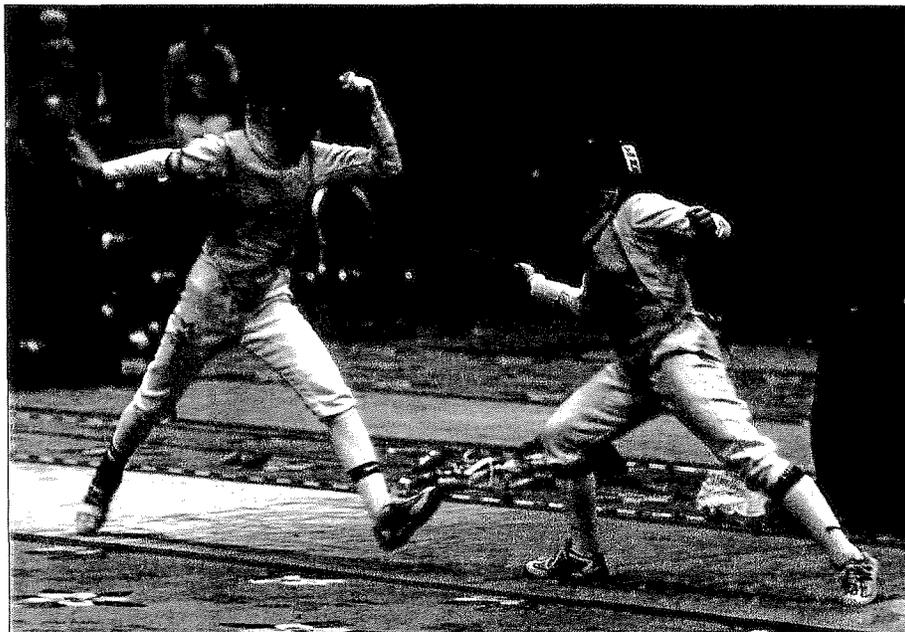
1. Galligan, Michael J (GULFCST TX)
2. Sinkin, Gabriel M (WESTERN NY)
3. T Gerberman, Steven B (GULFCST TX)
3. T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
5. Bras, Alejandro (NEWENGLAND)
6. Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
7. Sinkin, Jeremy C (WESTERN NY)
8. Miller, Chris J (KANSAS)

### JUNIOR MEN'S SABER

(113 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

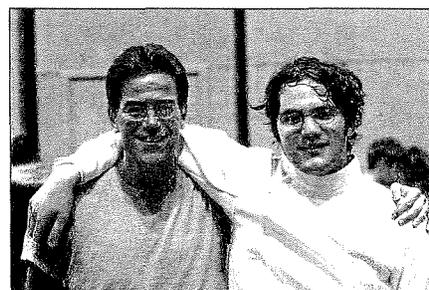
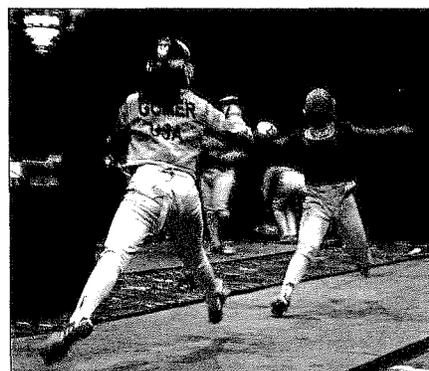
1. Douville, David A (GEORGIA)
2. Williams, James L (MT. VALLEY)
3. T Kragh, Sam E (MINNESOTA)
3. T Zagunis, Marten R (OREGON)
5. Friend, John F (KANSAS)
6. Zich, Matthew D (METRO NYC)
7. Krul, Alexander (SO. CALIF.)
8. Lin, John K (NORTH TEX)

# TOURNAMENT highlights



PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
SERGE TIMACHEFF,  
TIGER MOUNTAIN PHOTO.

2003 Junior Olympics. All photos courtesy of Serge Timacheff, Tiger Mountain Photo. Clockwise from top left: Hannah Thompson (Western NY) v. Doris Willette (Northern CA) in women's foil; Gary Copeland; Sophie Gomer (S. Jersey) v. Sophie Eustis (New England) in women's sabre; Fred and Teddy Sherrill; Teddy Sherrill (Metro NYC) v. Benton Heimsath (South TX); Sorin Saitoc.



## JUNIOR WOMEN'S ÉPÉE

(112 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

1. Szarwark, Catherine (TENNESSEE)
2. Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
3. T Rubin, Alexie A (SO. CALIF.)
3. T Schneider, Ruth B (WESTERN NY)
5. Inman, Irena W (NORTHEAST)
6. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)

## JUNIOR WOMEN'S FOIL

(149 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

1. Thompson, Metta K (WESTERN NY)
2. Thompson, Hannah M (WESTERN NY)
3. T Mouk, Julia C (METRO NYC)
3. T Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
5. Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)
6. Abdikulova, Zoya (ILLINOIS)

## JUNIOR WOMEN'S SABER

(96 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

1. Providenza, Valerie C (OREGON)
2. Phillips, Lauren (NEW JERSEY)
3. T Baratta, Emma L (METRO NYC)
3. T Ward, Rebecca C (OREGON)
5. T Davis, Anika L (MT. VALLEY)
5. T Gaillard, Amelia F (GEORGIA)

7. Willock, Lauren W (KENTUCKY)
8. Leader, Brittany A (INDIANA)

**CADET MEN'S ÉPÉE**

(138 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A2/B3 competition

1. Sherrill, Teddy R (METRO NYC)
2. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Heimsath, Benton (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Saitoc, Tudor C (LONG ISLND)
5. Smith, Dwight A (METRO NYC)
6. Stallings, William M. (SO. TEXAS)
7. Kenney, Clayton K (COLORADO)
8. Apostolides, Jason J (LONG ISLND)

**CADET WOMEN'S ÉPÉE**

(93 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A2/C3 competition

1. Byerts, Keri L (WESTERN NY)
2. Finlayson, Kaila (OREGON)
- 3.T Hurley, Kelley A (SO. TEXAS)
- 3.T Leader, Brittany A (INDIANA)
5. Howell, Kristin M (SO. TEXAS)
6. Henderson, Danielle A (NEW JERSEY)
7. Kantor, Rachel M (OREGON)
8. French, Christa M (NORTH TEX)

7. Austin, Anne E (MICHIGAN)
8. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)

**CADET MEN'S FOIL**

(193 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A3 competition

1. Kershaw, Clinton E (MT. VALLEY)
2. Chinman, Nicholas S (COLORADO)
- 3.T Lee, Vincent K. (CENTRAL CA)
- 3.T Meyers, Brendan J (METRO NYC)
5. Berkowsky, Ronald W (S. JERSEY)
6. Hodges, Teddy H (KANSAS)
7. Chang, Chun Ming (SO. CALIF.)
8. DiNapoli, Emerson T (CENTRAL CA)

**CADET WOMEN'S FOIL**

(128 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group B3 competition

1. Willette, Doris E (NORTH CA)
2. Emerson, Abigail A (NORTHEAST)
- 3.T Glasser, Allison D (NORTH CA)
- 3.T Rush, Allison A (COLORADO)
5. Finkel, Kelsey J (METRO NYC)
6. Goldfeder, Artemisia (WESTERN NY)
7. Arpke, Kalina N (KANSAS)
8. Ross, Nicole (METRO NYC)

7. Grench, Eileen M (MT. VALLEY)
8. Liebing, Rachel (UTAH/S.IDA)

**CADET MEN'S SABER**

(98 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group B3 competition

1. Berkowsky, Jonathan E (S. JERSEY)
2. Lin, John K (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Ahn, Steve J (NORTH TEX)
- 3.T Wolff, John A (GEORGIA)
5. Vongries, Alexander (MINNESOTA)
6. Bielen, Andrew H (PHILADELPH)
7. Wang, Brian G (NORTH TEX)
8. Spear, Jeff (HUDS-BERKS)

**CADET WOMEN'S SABER**

(75 Competitors - top 32 earn points)  
Group A2/C3 competition

1. Schneider, Daria H (NEWENGLAND)
2. Grench, Eileen M (MT. VALLEY)
- 3.T Borrmann, Sarah V (OREGON)
- 3.T Sitek, Zuzanna (NEW JERSEY)
5. Jellison, Eva (NEWENGLAND)
- 6.T Davis, Anika L (MT. VALLEY)
- 6.T Ward, Rebecca C (OREGON)
8. Parker, Sarah J (GEORGIA)



*The Philosopher's Choice*

Triplette Competition Arms is happy to offer you our Super Duty lame for Foil or Saber in six new exciting colors. Choose from Blue, Sky Blue, Green, Gold, Red, or Rose, or the traditional Silver. Same great price, same great fit! Call us for yours today.



**Triplette Competition Arms**  
101 East Main Street, Elkin, NC 28621  
336-835-7774 [www.triplette.com](http://www.triplette.com)

# SPOTLIGHT

the up-and-coming and the already there  
by cindy bent



**KELLEY HURLEY**

*Currently ranked 1st in Cadet, 2nd in Junior, and 7th in Senior.*

**EVENT:** Women's Epee  
**HOMETOWN:** San Antonio, Texas

**BIRTH DATE:** April 4, 1988  
**HEIGHT & WEIGHT:** 5'9", 135lbs.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Warren High School  
**CLUB:** USA Pentathlon  
**COACHES:** Tracy Hurley, Paul Pestchy  
**COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS:** Member, 2002 Cadet World Championship Team; 2002 Under-19 National Champion; 2003 Junior Olympics: silver in Junior and bronze in Cadet.

**FAVORITE SWASHBUCKLER MOVIE:** *Count of Monte Christo*

**FAVORITE TYPE OF BLADE:** One that works.

**WHO INSPIRES YOU?** My mother.

**FENCING HERO?** My mother.

**YOUR BEST OR FAVORITE BOUT SO FAR?** Versus a Russian in Prague Senior A—to make the round of 32.

**YOUR WORST OR LEAST FAVORITE?** The next one I lose.



**BRENDAN MEYERS**

*Currently ranked 1st in Cadet, 1st in Junior, and 5th in Senior.*

**EVENT:** Men's Foil  
**HOMETOWN:** New York, N.Y.

**HEIGHT & WEIGHT:** 5'8", 152lbs.  
**BIRTH DATE:** April 29, 1988  
**SCHOOL:** Professional Children's School, 7th Grade  
**CLUB:** Fencers Club (NYC)  
**COACH:** Mikhail Petin

**OF INTEREST:** Plays baseball, soccer, football. Won the Presidential Athletic Award for Fitness for his school.

**HOW I STARTED:** Brendan's been fencing for four years. "I always wanted to fence, ever since I can remember. I nagged my parents for two years before they let me start."

**COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS:** World Championships 2002: bronze medal, Under-17. National Championships 2002: bronze for Under-20. Junior Olympics 2003: bronze in Under-20 and Under-17; 2003 Cadet Intl,

Osnabruck, Germany, silver medal.

**FAVORITE SWASHBUCKLER MOVIE:** *The Princess Bride*

**FAVORITE TYPE OF BLADE:** BF Miraging

**WHO INSPIRES YOU?** My coach.

**FENCING HERO?** Jon Tiomkin—since I started fencing.

**YOUR BEST OR FAVORITE BOUT SO FAR?** 15-14 to make top 8 in Cadet Worlds with Andrea Baldini (ITA).

**YOUR WORST OR LEAST FAVORITE?** Y-10 National Championships in 1999. I ripped a groin muscle and lost the DE.



**KEETH SMART**

*Smart is currently ranked #1 in the world, the first U.S. fencer ever to achieve such success (see the "News" section in this issue for more details).*

**EVENT:** Men's Sabre  
**HOMETOWN:** Brooklyn, N.Y.  
**HEIGHT & WEIGHT:** 6'0", 155lbs.  
**BIRTH DATE:** July 29, 1978  
**COLLEGE:** St. John's University, graduated 2001 with a degree in finance  
**OCCUPATION:** Finance Specialist, Verizon.  
**CLUB:** Peter Westbrook Foundation  
**COACH:** Dr. Aladar Kogler  
**HOW I STARTED:** Followed sister Erinn's lead after parents saw article about Westbrook Foundation.  
**OF INTEREST:** Younger sister, Erinn, is also a fencer on the national team. Keeth plays tennis and basketball, and also enjoys mountain biking.

**COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS:** Member of 2000 U.S. Olympic team, finished 30th individ. Participated in five World Championship teams and two World University Games. Won the 2002 National Championships. Member of 1999 Pan American Games team, winning a bronze. NCAA sabre champion in 1999 and 1997. Highest-ranked U.S. fencer of all time.

**FAVORITE SWASHBUCKLER MOVIE:** *The Empire Strikes Back*

**HOW DO YOU MENTALLY PREPARE FOR A TOUGH BOUT?** I generally prepare for a tough bout by reading a magazine, listening to music, or just talking with my friends—anything to clear my mind.

**FAVORITE TYPE OF BLADE:** Russian sabre blades—they are light, cheaper than German blades, and generally last a decent amount of time.

**ADVICE FOR A YOUNG FENCER:** If you are patient and work extremely hard, your results will eventually come. Keep

in mind no one was automatically ranked number 1; they had to work at it. Also, on any given day even the champion can lose to a beginner, so believe in yourself and anything can happen!

**WHO INSPIRES YOU?** My sister Erinn—her dedication and hard work in the sport motivates me to practice and compete harder.

**FENCING HERO?** As a youngster I tried to combine the styles of Peter Westbrook, Mikail Sankofa (Mike Lofton) and Bob Cottingham.

**YOUR BEST OR FAVORITE BOUT SO FAR? WORST BOUT?** My favorite tournament was at the 2001 NCAA Championships when my school won the national title and all of my friends were able to share in the joy of winning. My worst bout was when I came in second in the Canadian circuit to my good friend Herby. Instead of acting like a gracious loser, I acted like a spoiled brat and a sore loser.