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The Riposte

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LT. SANDS REGAINS EPEE TITLE

Lt. Thomas J. Sands won the Metropolitan Epee Championship by defeating Jose de Capriles 3-1 in a fence-off at the Salle d'Armes Vince in the early morning hours of February 12th after seven hours of competition. Sands, who had suffered two losses through the preliminary rounds and one in the final rallied to defeat the previously unbeaten de Capriles 3-2 after trailing 2-0 with 2 minutes to go in the regular final pool. He then regained the title he had held in 1934 and 1935 by again scoring over his fellow-Olympian in the fence-off.

Third place went to N.Y.U.'s inter-collegiate champion, Ted Gold, by virtue of his 3-0 victory over his French rival Pierre Netter. John R. Huffman, who scored over Sands in the final, was fourth and Jean V. Grombach tied with Netter for the fifth place.

Thirty-four contestants were on hand at the beginning of the tournament, and as only two strips could be run simultaneously, the semi-final round was not started until after 11:30 P.M. The

(Continued on page 2)

MISS LLOYD KEEPS GRECO TROPHY

Miss Marion Lloyd, of the Salle d'Armes Vince, won the Greco trophy after a fence-off with Miss Ottilie Foy, Greco Fencing Academy. The cup, presented in 1933, has now been retired by Miss Lloyd by virtue of her victories in 1933, 1936 and 1937. Mrs. Dolly Funke, also of the Greco Fencing Academy, came third after losing to Miss Dalton and Mrs. Foy.

Mrs. Foy, although one of the older fencers, has not been active in recent meets, so her appearance in the finals was something of a surprise, specially since she qualified from the semi-final by defeating Miss Maria Cerra who was favored to place among the top-notchers.

ARMITAGE WINS METROPOLITAN SABRE CROWN

Norman Armitage, national champion, regained the Metropolitan Sabre Title at the Salle d'Armes Vince on February 18th, with 4 wins and 1 loss in the final pool. His conqueror, John R. Huffman, who won 5-0, took second place, and Jose R. de Capriles defeated Ervin S. Acel for the third place in a fence-off after they had ended the final in a perfect tie in bouts and touches received and given. Miguel A. de Capriles and Nicholas Muray were the other finalists.

Two members of the Olympic team were eliminated on touches in the semi-final. On the first strip, Huffman and J. de Capriles qualified easily, but a triple tie for the third place between Acel, Bruder and "Jimmy" Castello was resolved in favor of Acel by the margin of 3 touches. The feature of this pool was Jimmy Castello and his fencing. He defeated Bruder and Acel and carried Huffman to a 5-4 decision. However, a loss to Jim Hutchinson 5-4 in the last bout deprived Castello of a place in the final. In the second pool, M. de Capriles and Armitage each won 4 bouts, and a triply tie in victories between

(Continued on page 2)

MISS DALTON WINS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Miss Madeline Dalton, former Inter-collegiate Champion, won the National Jr. Foil Championship on February 15th at the Fencers Club by scoring 8 wins in 9 bouts in the final round-robin. Her only conqueror was Miss Barbara Cochrane who finished fourth with 6 victories.

Miss Maria Cerra won the silver medal over Miss Mildred Stewart, when both finished with 7 wins, but Miss Cerra had received only 23 touches to her rival's 26.

Miss Carol Alessandroni, ranking highest among junior women fencers, and an overwhelming favorite to win, fenced well below her best form and finished fifth with five wins. Mrs. Dolly Funke and Miss Dorothy Grimmelman followed with 4 and 3 wins respectively.

THE RIPOSTE

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PHILADELPHIA FENCERS CLUB'S 40th ANNIVERSARY.

The 40th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Fencers Club, second oldest in America, was celebrated at the Salle d'Armes of Major William J. Hermann on February 20th with a series of tumbling and fencing exhibitions. Colonel Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, President of the Club, and Major Hermann acted as officials in charge of the interesting program.

The fencing exhibitions began with a foil lesson by the famous George Santelli to Jose de Capriles, and reached a climax with the sabre lesson and bout between Professor Santelli and John R. Huffman, which brought the distinguished audience of civilians, army, navy, and marine officers to their feet in thunderous applause. Among the participants in the varied exhibitions were Miguel de Capriles, who fenced epee with his brother and with Albert Keiser, of Philadelphia; and sabre with Charles F. Kolb; J. Brooks B Parker, who engaged in a fine sabre bout with Huffman and a lesson with Santelli; Professor Ricardo West, of the home club, who engaged in a foil bout with William J. Hermann Jr. after the latter had given a masterful performance in tumbling; Frank Goodfellow, the veteran champion, who fenced Jose de Capriles in epee; Jay Stockhardt, of West Point, and Haywood Maloy, of League Island Navy Yard, who exhibited with the foils.

MEN'S GRECO TROPHY

The annual foil tournament for the Greco trophy will be held at the new Greco Academy on March 11th at 7:30.

SANDS WINS METROPOLITAN EPEE

(Continued)

preliminary round saw the elimination of the defending champion, Hugh V. Alessandrini, when he lost to Netter and Gold by 3-2 scores. The absence of M. de Capriles Tracy Jaekel and J. Barnack detracted somewhat from the quality of the tournament which developed into an interminable marathon. The outstanding performances, aside from that of Sands, were Jose de Capriles' string of 12 consecutive wins, and Joan Grombach's 7 victories and 2 ties in his first 10 bouts, although the latter tired toward the end and suffered successive defeats in his last 4 bouts. Gold and Netter fenced steadily through the competition. Von Munchhausen had a fine record of victories until his last 4 bouts of the semi-final, when lack of patience lost him a chance to reach the final. Princeton's two representatives, Sarnoff and Parmentier, showed good form through the preliminaries and semi-final, as did Kavis Kapner of the U.F.C. and Normal Lewis of N.Y.U. George Thompson after a fine first round performance, tired in the semi-final winning 2 and losing 3 bouts all by a single touch.

ARMITAGE WINS SABRE TITLE

(Continued)

Murray, Stewart and Bruce Wallis, was resolved in favor of Murray by the margin of one touch. Stewart had the distinction of beating Armitage 5-2, but a 5-1 loss to Murray was fatal to his chances.

Throughout the competition, the lack of expert officials was keenly felt, as several times a bout was lost by a contestant who had not been touched at all in the decisive exchange. At one time or another Huffman, M. de Capriles and Murray were the victims, and the situation was not conducive to the best fencing on the part of the contestants. Until defeated by Acel on a phantom decision, Huffman had swept through 8 bouts without a loss.

There is little doubt that the length of the Metropolitan competitions in all respects operated to discourage the attendance of officials. It is to be hoped that steps will be taken next year to ameliorate the situation.

GRECO SALLE HAS FORMAL OPENING.

The formal opening of the new Greco Salle on February 21st was featured by a series of exhibitions preceding an informal dance. Professor Anthony Greco personally displayed his versatile talents, giving a lesson to his well-known pupil, Mrs. Dolly Funke, and later engaging in a short bout with her; fencing epee with Leo Nunes in a beautiful display of the best Italian school in that weapon, and as a closing event of the program, fencing a long and brilliant bout with his professional friend and colleague, George Santelli, in the sabre. However, the event that most interested the audience, which included the best known figures in American fencing, was Professor Greco's sabre lesson to seven-year old Leon Schechter, which brought frequent rounds of applause as the young swordsman unerringly followed the master's instructions even in the most complicated phrases.

Among the other participants in the exhibition were Jose de Capriles and Pierre Netter in epee; John Huffman, in sabre; and Miss Marion Lloyd and Miss Barbara Cochrane in foil. Robert Marcy announced the events, which were directed by Harold Van Buskirk, president of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

COLUMBIA WINS YALE TROPHY

The annual Washington's Birthday sabre tournament held at Yale on the same plan as the Washington Square Cup was won by Columbia's team of Bruce Wallis, Robert Drake, and Leo Wise, with 22 points. Yale nosed out the defending champions, N.Y.U., on touches after each had won 21 points. The Hartford Fencers Club was fourth with 20. The Yale JV, two Yale freshman teams, the New Haven Commercial High, and Hopkins Grammar School completed the field of ten teams.

Bruce Wallis was the high scorer, with a clean sweep of 9 bouts. Viscidi of Yale, Kirschner of N.Y.U., and Roudakoff of Hartford, each won 8.

U.F.C. RETAINS EPEE CUP

The Washington Square Cup, for epee teams, was won for the second successive year by the University Fencers Club. This tournament, conducted on the pool system which has been adopted for the Intercollegiate Championships, attracted a record field of 15 teams, but the quality of the competition was below standard, as half a dozen ranking epeeists failed to appear.

The U.F.C. team accumulated 34 points out of 42 bouts, Miguel and Jose de Capriles each winning 13 and Kevin Kapner 8. The young Saltus Club trio of Ellison, Gordon, and von Munchhausen performed brilliantly to win second place from another young team, the Fencers Club, of Driscoll, Skrobisch, and Williams. The New York Athletic Club team of Grombach, Netter, and Thompson, favored as the leading challengers, managed to tie the U.F.C. midway through the 8-hour session, but after that only Thompson was able to keep up with the blistering pace of the winners.

Among the high spots of the meet were the performances of the de Capriles brothers; the early record of von Munchhausen; the close fight between Gold and Randall, intercollegiate epee rivals on the first pool; the well-balanced teams from Saltus and Fencers Club; and the remarkable showing of the only member of the "50-plus" club, E.A. Berumen, in the second pool.

The records of all the teams scoring better than half of the possible points follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	Total
1. U.F.C.	13	8	13	34
2. Saltus Club	10	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Fencers Club	10	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. New York A.C.	8	8	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. N.Y.U. "A"	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Salle Santelli	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	24
7. Columbia	8	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
8. New Haven "A"	7	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
9. Yale "A"	9	8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$

Columbia received 47 hits as against 54 for New Haven. Other team records were CCNY "A", 19 $\frac{1}{2}$; Yale "B", 18 $\frac{1}{2}$; N.Y.U. "B", 15 $\frac{1}{2}$; Composite 10; New Haven "B" 8; Greco Fencing Academy 7.

THIS AND THAT FROM HERE AND THERE

WASHINGTON

The Fencers' Ball, a high spot in Washington social life, took place at the University Club on the night of George Washington's Birthday. The gay event, attended by prominent members of the diplomatic corps, notable statesmen, and many charming ladies accompanied by gentlemen in civil and military attire, sparkling with jeweled sabres and glistening steel blades, was one of the greatest of its kind ever staged in Washington.

Messieurs Clovis Deladrier and Joseph Fiems, maitre d'armes of the Naval Academy, presented the Grand Salute in colorful costumes of the Sixteenth Century. This was followed by demonstrations of the "Stroke of Jarnac" and the "secret sword trick" of the Duke of Nevers.

An elaborate program followed, interspersed by dancing. Outstanding on the program was the Song of the Sword of Spain sung by Mr. Carl Donaldson. Drama was present in a short skit from Cyrano de Bergerac enacted by Mr. George Hayes and Mr. Walter E. Blount Jr. The skill of the ladies was demonstrated by Mrs. E. Emerson, and Mrs. Lt. G. N. Johansen, Miss Henrietta Crosley, and Miss Aida Principe.

The Navy triumphed over Army when Commander E. W. Broadbent, U.S.N., defeated Captain S. L. Connor, U.S.A. in a closely contested foil bout 5-4. An interesting bout of the evening was a sword and dagger duel between Don Alfredo Nazario and Dom Jigues Hohz.

The event that provoked most of the applause was the agile and spectacular samurai swordplay demonstrated by Suyenoshin Kawata and Sarato Yamashita of the Tokyo Dojo of Kodokan.

The climax occurred when Major E.L. Dyer and Rough Rider Edwin Emerson, astride high chairs, with flaying sabres, tried to remove one another's colorful plumes mounted high on the masks. The Rough Rider lost his plume, but it is understood that a real bout astride horses will take place in Rock Creek Park some time this week.

ENGLAND

Miss Kathleen Hughes-Hallott, well known fencer from Detroit and member of the Canadian Olympic Fencing Team, has been staying in England. Miss Hughes Hallott recently won the Cercle d'Eserime Handicap competition held in London, and was presented with a silver spoon bearing the Club Badge on the handle. Miss Hallott is making the most of her opportunity and has been practicing under the expert guidance of the famous Professor Gauthie.

ILLINOIS

The Illinois Division is now well under way and we will soon be able to report several of its more important meets. A special meet was run recently for high school fencers. Sem High School contributed the largest number of entries, sending 11 men to the meet, and Kenneth Peterson carried its colors to victory. Second place went to Earl Simanek, of Lane, and third to Albert Lilienthal of Lake View. The fencing as a whole was quite good and it is hoped that an annual meet of this sort will do much to enhance fencing in Chicago.

The Big Ten Conference is well under way, and Chicago and Illinois University are leading at present. The Individual Championships will be held on March 13th. at Northwestern University.

SAN FRANCISCO

The University of California took home the Junior Foil Team trophy with 23 wins and 13 losses. The Olympic Club was runner up with 22 victories, and the San Francisco Y.M.C.A. placed third with 16.

The Junior Sabre Team Title was won by the Funke Fencing Academy with the remarkable score of 26 wins and 1 loss. Second honors went to the Army and Navy Y.M.C.A. with 14 wins, while the Olympic Club was right behind with 13.

Harry Mortimer defeated William O'Brien 5-4 in the fence-off for the Junior Foil Individual title. Mortimer comes from the Olympic Club and O'Brien represented the Funke Fencing Academy. Third Place went to Fletcher Dutton of the Olympic Club.

XIV. DIRECTING

The Right of Way (4)

In my last article, I indicated that the director can help develop American fencing to the European level by a strict observance of the International Rules of the Right of Way, especially as far as the stop-thrust, remise, and redoublement of attack are concerned. There is another paragraph in the F.I.E. rules which should be considered. It reads:

"One of the most difficult cases to judge occurs when there is a stop-thrust which has a doubtful time advantage against the final thrust of the composite attack. In general, in such a case, the double touch is the result of the simultaneous fault of both fencers, which justifies the director in placing them back on guard without a decision. The fault of the attacker is indecision, slowness, or the lack of efficacious feints; the fault of the defender is delay or slowness in executing the stop-thrust."

In short, the touch must be annulled when both fencers are wrong -- and the gist of their fault is slowness or delay. This paragraph does not appear in the American abridgment of the rules, at the present time, with the result that an American director is often confronted with faulty attacks (delayed direct attacks, wide composite attacks, all of which are necessarily slow and indecisive movements), and with faulty stop-thrusts, remises, and redoublements of attack. His only basis for throwing out both hits is that he has no clear view of the right of way -- and this basis is unsatisfactory because it assumes that the director is somewhat at fault in not being able to reconstruct the phrase d'armes clearly enough to make a decision one way or the other. Actually, of course, the fault is with the fencers, and the paragraph I have quoted should be included in our rules.

Consider then the effect of the application of this paragraph and of the other I have mentioned. Delay in the attack opens the way for a valid stop-thrust; delay in the riposte gives the right to the attacker to remise or redouble.

Consequently, the conventional sequence of play, in the phrase d'armes, must be rapidly and decisively executed in order to retain the advantage of the right of way. Likewise, even against a faulty attack, the stop-thrust, the remise, or the redoublement, must be clearly and decisively executed; or else the worst that the first offender can get is a double touch.

The importance of decisive actions in the bout cannot be too strongly emphasized. All the members of the American Olympic Team agree that our team was practically the equal of the best European teams in technical development; the main difficulty our team encountered was the faster and more decisive tempo of their principal opponents. In foil, for example, only Joe Lewis fenced with the speed and decisiveness of the Europeans, and he was by far our most effective individual star.

This brings up another question about directing which has a clear influence upon the manner in which a bout proceeds. The European directors, in addition to their adherence to the points previously discussed, practically compel the fencers to fence with speed and decision by their manner of giving the commands: On Guard, ready, play! -- AND by calling "HALT!" to the action whenever it lost its decisive character.

Perhaps the most colorful director in the world is the famous Italian, Anselmi, whose "snappy" and exciting method of conducting the bout does much to improve the quality of the fencing and the enjoyment of the spectators. Consequently, when I had the honor to officiate at the Olympic final in sabre, and he was in the audience, I was very much interested in his criticisms. The only unfavorable one was to the effect that I did not halt the phrase d'armes quickly enough -- and this despite the fact that I had been calling "halt" much sooner than is the custom here. For this reason I wish to take this point more in detail in my next article. It seems to be the chief point of divergence between the European and American customs of directing.

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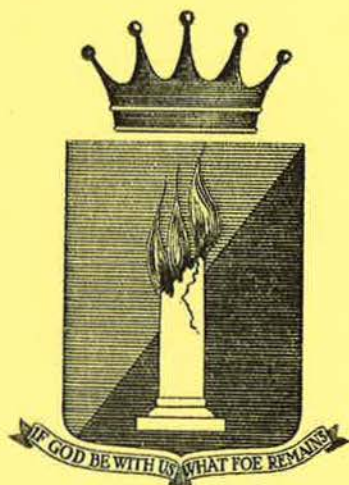
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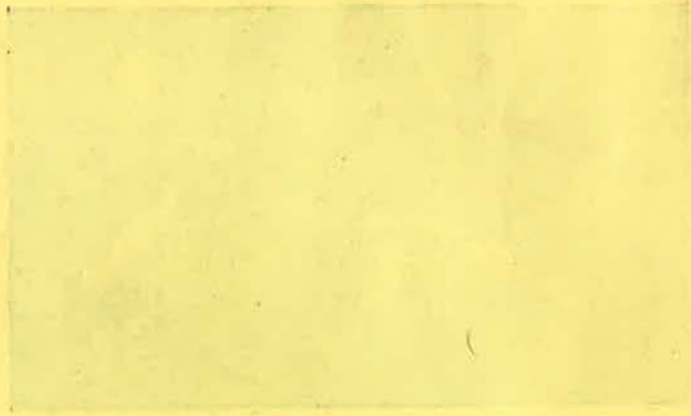


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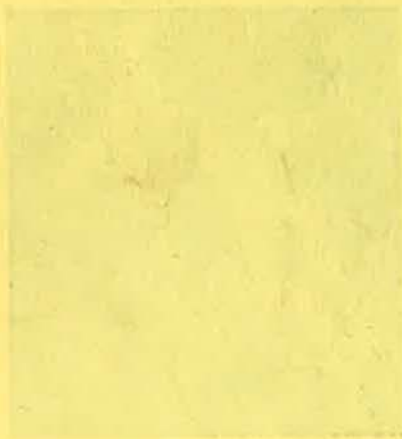
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