

secured; but in our case the preparation and serving was quite different from that to which the boys are accustomed. More advance detail should be required as to preparation of diets, actual cooking of food, service and sanitary conditions, and prevention of dysentery.

**Transportation:** Buses must be used with all teams going to each stadium and leaving at the same time. Trip to Velodrome took over one hour. Late returns, due to night racing (arriving at College at 4:30 AM opening night) interfered with the cyclists' comfort and sleep. Because of the necessity for carrying bicycles from and to track, try to

arrange for station wagons (no trucks).

**Suggestions:** Teams should arrive at city of competition four to seven days ahead of opening ceremonies. After long air or ship travel, rest is needed, and daily workouts prior to competition in games is essential.

**Size of Team:** More cyclists are needed so specialists for various races can be put on strict training program many months in advance. This takes money, and more contributions, which must be forthcoming from cycling enthusiasts.

**Funds:** Our quota, though small, is always difficult to attain.

mittee selected the following six men: George V. Worth, of Fresh Meadows, L. I., N. Y.; Dr. Tibor Nyilas, of Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.; Byron Krieger, of Detroit, Mich.; Nathaniel Lubell, of New York, N. Y.; Albert Wolff, of Louisville, Ky; and Edward Vebell, of New York, N. Y.

The selection of these men permitted us to enter full teams of six fencers in each of the three team events, as follows:

**FOIL**—Lubell, Krieger, Vebell, Nyilas, de Capriles, Wolff; **EPEE**—Wolff, Vebell, Weber, de Capriles, Lubell, Krieger; **SABRE**—Worth, Nyilas, Krieger, de Capriles, Weber, Lubell.

In accordance with precedent, I was authorized, as captain of the team, to select the entries for the individual events. The first three men in foil and sabre were chosen, and the first two men in epee. Colonel Weber, on the basis of his current national ranking, rated the first spot in the epee individual event, but both he and I decided to conserve our physical resources for the sabre team event which was scheduled on the day following the epee individual.

The women's tryout, designed to qualify one competitor for consideration by the Fencing Committee, resulted in the victory of Miss Polly Craus, of Hollywood, California, whose prior record in international competition would make her a favorite for the Pan American individual championship. The Committee, however, decided that it could not select Miss Craus as one of the six competitors authorized by the USOC without dropping one of the men previ-

## FENCING

### Report of Committee Chairman

By Miguel A. de Capriles

For financial reasons it was decided to limit the size of the Fencing team to six competitors and one official, and the Fencing Committee was instructed to do its best within such limits to obtain the fullest possible participation of the US in the fencing events. The difficulty of this assignment may be gleaned from the fact that a complete team would consist of 24 competitors: six for each of the three team events for men, and six for the women's team. Three members of each team could enter the individual contests.

The Fencing Committee then recommended my appointment as amateur manager-coach, with permission to compete if necessary, and also requested authorization for Colonel Frederick R. Weber, US Army, amateur manager-coach of the Modern Pentathlon team, to compete in fencing. Approval of these requests increased the effective size of the team to eight competitors without adding to the financial burden, and eventually made possible the selection of reasonably strong teams in all the men's events by "doubling up" our key competitors.

In accordance with established practice, the Fencing Committee organized a series of tryouts throughout the country to determine the qualifications of candidates for the six regular places on the team. Three rounds were scheduled for men in each weapon. Preliminary eliminations were held in the thirty divisions of the Amateur Fencers League of America, followed by seven regional tryouts in the principal fencing cities of the United States, and a final tryout in New York on February 10, 11 and 12, 1951. For women, the final tryout was held in Los Angeles, since most of the 1950 ranking foilswomen reside in Southern California. However, for a

variety of reasons—principally because the dates of the Pan American Games did not fall within normal vacation periods—a large number of our best two- and three-weapon fencers did not compete. This situation increased the difficulty of selecting a suitable team.

In connection with the tryouts, the Fencing Committee decided to give priority to the sabre team, since three of the six members of the team which placed in the 1948 Olympics at London would be available; next, to select the top-ranking individual in foil and in epee; and then to fill in the rest of the places in the manner which would best ensure reasonable strength in the foil and epee teams. Accordingly, the Com-



Veteran Fencers ready themselves for action in successful US drive for Sabre team championship: Mike de Capriles, manager-coach of Fencing team, and Fritz Weber, manager-coach of Modern Pentathlon team.



Scene of Fencing competition in Pan American Games, Gymnastics and Fencing Club of Buenos Aires.

ously mentioned. If any of those men were dropped, the result would be seriously to weaken the strength of two of the three team entries to a point where it would be doubtful that a team should be entered in foil and epee. For this reason, and in keeping with the general instructions governing its actions, the Committee recommended instead that Miss Craus be added to the authorized number of fencers. This recommendation was accepted on condition that Miss Craus' expenses be financed by

contributions especially earmarked for women's fencing. Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain the necessary financing for this purpose, although strenuous efforts were made by members of the Fencing Committee, up to a few days before the date of the women's events.

In addition, after consultation with the International Fencing Federation, the Amateur Fencers League of America urged that the Organizing Committee of the Pan American Games appoint Tracy

Jaekel, of the US, as a member of the Technical Directorate of the Pan American Games. Jaekel was a member of this administrative body for the 1948 Olympic Games, and of a similar committee for the Central American and Caribbean Games in 1947 and 1950, and his experience was deemed invaluable for the Games in Buenos Aires. The Fencing Committee then requested permission for Jaekel to travel with the team, on condition that his expenses be separately financed. Jaekel was appointed to the Technical Directorate by the Argentine Organizing Committee, under authority of the International Fencing Federation (FIE), and the necessary funds were raised by his personal efforts and the cooperation of several members of the Fencing Committee.

On all these matters, the action of the Fencing Committee was taken in New York by a unanimous vote of the nine members present on February 12, 1951. These members were Norman C. Armitage, Warren A. Dow, Robert S. Driscoll, Dernel Every, Tracy Jaekel, J. Brooks B. Parker, Captain Richard C. Steere, USN, Colonel Fred R. Weber, USA, and Miguel A. de Capriles, Chairman. The absent members were Alvar Hermanson, of Chicago; Harold Van Buskirk, of Houston; and Ferard Leicester, of San Francisco.

## FENCING

### Report of Team Manager-Coach

By Miguel A. de Capriles

The performance of the US Fencing team at the First Pan American Games in Buenos Aires was most gratifying. Our small team of eight men set a competitive record which will be hard to surpass in the future. It won two of the three men's team events, and placed second in the third. It won one of the three men's individual events, as well as one second place, two thirds, one fifth, and two sixths. Every member of the team won at least two competitive medals, including a gold one; four men won three medals, and one man won four. At that, we sacrificed two scoring chances in the individuals by entering two instead of the three men permitted in foil and epee; this was done because in international fencing the team competitions are given much greater weight than the individuals, and we had to conserve the energies of men who had to fence on a team in another weapon the following day.

Even on the unofficial Olympic point-scoring system (10-5-4-3-2-1), which does not give adequate weight to team victories, the performance of the team

was noteworthy, since every entry both in the team and individual events earned points for a total of 52. The only comparable performance was that of Argentina, whose point score in the men's events was slightly higher (56), by virtue of the fact that it entered the full permissible strength in all events; but two Argentines were shut out of the point-scoring zone in the individual events, and our results in the team competitions were better.

The competitive results are summarized in tables incorporated in this report.

Gratifying as the competitive performance of the team should be to all who are interested in United States fencing, it was not the most important achievement of our fencers at Buenos Aires. We knew beforehand that the United States, on the basis of its performance at the 1948 Olympic Games, should be rated as the strongest non-European fencing country.

What was vastly more satisfying was the buoyant team spirit of our representatives, and their unflinching courtesy and sportsmanship which earned for the

United States not only the respect which our competitive strength commanded, but also the admiration and affection of our opponents.

Symbolic of our best in fencing and in sportsmanship was our champion sabreman, Dr. Tibor Nyilas, who earned three gold medals. He was, by common consent, the outstanding fencer at Buenos Aires. His scintillating swordsmanship, and complete control, even in moments of highest tension, captured



Tracy Jaekel  
Member of Fencing Technical Directorate,  
Pan American Games

the hearts of the hostile Argentine audience and his victory in the sabre individual was warmly applauded. At the conclusion of the tournament, Paul Anspach, the official delegate of the FIE awarded to Dr. Nyilas the special FIE medal for outstanding sportsmanship, the greatest honor awarded at Buenos Aires.

The results of the Pan American Games confirmed the position attained by the United States at the 1948 Olympic Games in London as the strongest non-European fencing country in the world. The Argentine fencers are very good and very numerous, but the United States, without using much of its top strength, was able to outscore them in the team events.

However, the general quality of the opposition was far lower than that which prevails at the Olympic Games. Our veteran team was able to coast much of the way, knowing in advance that the number of crucial matches would be small. It is only for this reason that a small team, relatively old in years, could do so well.

The members of the team were in great demand as judges and directors, due to the world-wide reputation of

US fencers for competence and fairness as officials. Special mention should be made of the service rendered by George Worth as director in many of the foil events. He also was the deputy captain of the team, and an energetic and efficient assistant manager.

The team was fortunate in having the

good counsel of J. Brooks B. Parker, of the International Olympic Committee, at several critical stages in the tournament. We were also fortunate in having Tracy Jaekel on the Technical Directorate, where his experience and good sense were of inestimable value for the proper conduct of the fencing program.

#### LEADING PERFORMERS—INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

##### Men's Foil

1. Felix Galimi (A)
2. Rodriguez (A)
3. Lubell (US)
4. Fulvio Galimi (A)
5. Ramos (M)
6. Krieger (US)
7. Menendez (Cuba)
8. Blando (Colombia)
9. Alessandri (B)

##### Sabre

1. Nyilas (US)
2. Worth (US)
3. Molnar (B)
4. Huero (A)
5. Aguero (A)
6. Krieger (US)
7. Pomini (A)
8. Lopez (Vcn.)

##### Women's Foil

1. Irigoyen (A)
2. Antequeda (A)
3. Rositto (A)
4. Mayora Dueña (M)
5. Ziboroff (B)
6. Xavier (B)
7. Herzog (B)

##### Epee

1. Villamil (A)
2. Ramos (M)
3. Vebell (US)
4. Saucedo (A)
5. Wolff (US)
6. Damasio (B)
7. Amaral (B)
8. Simonetti (A)
9. Meraz (M)
10. De Leon (Pan.)



Fencing Team: (l. to r.) Miguel A. de Capriles (manager, coach, competitor), Fred R. Weber, Tibor Nyilas, Edward Vebell, Albert Wolff, Nathaniel Lubell, Byron Krieger, George Worth.



Sabre Team awards: (1. to r.) 2 Argentina, 1 US, 3 Brazil.

## FINAL STANDINGS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Foil

1. United States
2. Argentina
3. Cuba
4. Mexico

### Epee

1. Argentina
2. United States
3. Cuba
4. Mexico
5. Brazil
6. Chile

### Sabre

1. United States
2. Argentina
3. Brazil
4. Cuba

## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Country	Foil Team	Men's Foil (Ind.)	Women's Foil (Ind.)	Epee Team	Epee Ind.	Sabre Team	Sabre Ind.
Argentina	x	x (3)	x (3)	x	x (3)	x	x (3)
Brazil	x	x (2)	x (3)	x	x (3)	x	x (3)
Chile	x	x (3)		x	x (3)	x	x (3)
Colombia	x	x (3)		x	x (3)		
Cuba	x	x (3)		x	x (2)	x	x (2)
Guatemala		x (3)		x	x (3)	x	x (2)
Mexico	x	x (3)	x (1)	x	x (3)	x	
Panama	x	x (2)		x	x (3)	x	x (1)
Paraguay				x	x (3)		x (2)
Peru						x	x (3)
United States	x	x (2)		x	x (2)	x	x (3)
Venezuela		x (2)			x (1)		x (2)
(12) Total	8	10 (26)	3 (7)	10	11 (29)	9	10 (24)

## US COMPETITORS' COMPOSITE SCORES: TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Competitor	Bouts Fenced	Foil Team W-L	Foil Indiv. W-L	Epee Team W-L	Epee Indiv. W-L	Sabre Team W-L	Sabre Indiv. W-L	Total Bouts W-L
Krieger	73	10-8	6-5	4-4	x	12-6	12-6	44-29
Lubell	57	18-2	9-4	11-8	x	4-1	x	42-15
Wolff	55	5-3	x	17-10	14-6	x	x	36-19
Vebell	45	11-1	x	5-6	15-7	x	x	31-14
Nyilas	37	5-3	x	x	x	10-1	16-2	31-6
Worth	36	x	x	x	x	15-2	16-3	31-5
de Capriles	36	5-5	x	9-6	x	8-3	x	22-14
Weber	32	x	x	20-6	x	6-0	x	26-6
Totals	371	54-22	15-9	66-36*	29-13	55-13	44-11	263-104*

\*Double Defeats

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY Performance of US Individual Entries

Competitor	Place	Prelim. W-L	Semi-Final W-L	Final Round W-L	Fence-Off W-L	Total Bouts W-L
<b>FOIL: February 28, 1951 (26 competitors)</b>						
Lubell	3rd	excused	3-2	6-2	—	9-4
Krieger	6th	excused	3-0	3-5	—	6-5
<b>EPEE: March 4, 1951 (29 competitors)</b>						
Vebell	3rd	5-1	4-3	6-3	—	15-7
Wolff	5th	5-0	4-2	5-4	—	14-6
<b>SABRE: March 7, 1951 (24 competitors)</b>						
Nyilas	1st	3-9	6-0	5-2	2-0	16-2
Worth	2nd	4-0	6-0	5-2	1-1	16-3
Krieger	6th	4-0	5-2	3-4	x	12-6