

Point in Line

A USFCA Email Newsletter

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Paul Pesthy

Hall of Famer, Olympian and Coach Paul Pesthy passed away after a lengthy illness at his home in Bulverde, Texas.

In recent years, he coached youth fencers as well as international champions. He also served, in the recent past, as National Women's Epee Coach.

Pesthy was USFA/AFLA national epee champion in 1964, '66, '67, '68, and '83. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic Fencing team (1964, '68, '76, and '80) as well as a member of the U.S. Olympic Modern Pentathlon team (1964, '68). Pesthy won a silver medal in Modern Pentathlon in the 1964 Olympics. His other awards included a World Team Bronze in 1962 and '63, IFA epee champion (1964) and while at Rutgers University he was NCAA epee champion (1964, '65). Pesthy was inducted into the USFA Hall of Fame.

Interview with Ed Korfanty, By Simone Barrette

Question: What were your expectations for the event? Did you feel confident you could win? Were you nervous?

Answer: "We had a very good season. The girls proved themselves throughout the season by performing at a high level. Their seedings going into the Olympics were 1, 2 and 5, so I expected a top position, but there is always a lot of pressure, so, of course, I was nervous. I believed in them, but there are always so many factors."

Question: There must have been a lot of pressure on your fencers. How did you help them cope/deal with this pressure?

Answer: "All three of the girls are experienced fencers. They already knew how to manage themselves, but I helped them by helping them prepare. We did a lot of preparation for the event."

Question: What do you think about US fencing? Are we getting stronger or is Europe just getting weaker?

Answer: "Of course we are getting stronger. The reason is our coaches come from Europe and the current European fencers are the US's next generation of coaches. Plus, the number of fencers in the US continues to grow creating a good environment for improvement of US fencing."

Question: What do you think the US Coaches Association can do to help coaches in the United States?

Answer: "The most important things a coach must have are love to the fencing, ability to preserve their dreams, and will for hard work. A must love fencing and remember why they started coaching because they have to work towards a goal like having a fencer win the Olympics. It takes a lot of patience and work for both the coach and fencer to reach that level. No matter how much you want it, you cannot expect to achieve it immediately. The coaches association can help coaches by helping them achieve these three things."

Question: When you fencers swept the medals, were you happy or relieved? What were your emotions?

Answer: "It fulfilled my dream. I was very happy!"

Question: What is your advice to fencers who want to achieve this level?

Answer: "Fencers must have dedication. They must believe they can win. And, they must work very hard."

Question: What obstacles stood in your way?

Answer: "Fencing for the Olympics is a very specific situation. It is hard to keep fencers in the United States interested in fencing with distractions, such as, college. In Europe, it is not unusual for college-age fencers to take a break between high school and college to train or travel, but that does not happen in the United States. Therefore, we lose fencers at an early age. There is also the disconnect between NCAA, FIE, and USFA fencing. Fencers who decide to both go to college and keep up their training have trouble because the NCAA program is so different from the international program.

Mark your calendar!

United States Fencing Coaches Association

2009 National Conference & Annual General Meeting

July 24 - 26, 2009

San Diego Fencing Center

Escondido, California

Conference Information at www.usfca.org

On-line Registration at www.askfred.net

Congratulations! To the following members who passed the practical test at the 2008 AGM. Coaches must first pass the online written exam. Our new Moniteurs include:

Jill Feldman	foil & sabre
Josh Keatley	foil & sabre
Rolando Balboa	foil
Charles Astudilo	foil, sabre & epee
Miyako Derose	foil & sabre

The USFCA also has a new 3 weapon Master. Special congratulations to Rick Thompson who previously passed the Prevot written exam and then submitted his thesis which was approved. Reported by: Rob Handelman, D.C., Maitre d'Armes, Chairman of the Certification and Accreditation Board.

USFCA Website Update!

Here's a brief update on the website features:

All current members should have access to the "Members" menu when they log on. If anyone is having problems with their login, password or access, please send an email to support@usfca.org, and we'll respond as quickly as possible.

The on-line payment had some problems, but is back up and running. This allows new and renewing members to pay on-line for membership and exam registration using a secure link. Most major credit cards are accepted for this.

Lots of coaching information has been added to the site, with more to come.

All members should login in and update their profile with the club contact information. (Log in and then click on the user name on the left hand side of the screen).

The certification information has been revised and updated. The Certification and Accreditation Board has released a new version of the USFCA Glossary, which is on-line. Shortly, new study guides and more information to prepare for certification will be available.

A new email system has been implemented. This will allow the officers to easily send information (like this newsletter) to both current members and subscribers to the website. The new system should also decrease the likelihood that a USFCA email will be tagged as "spam."

Our membership information is being maintained in a central database, used for the website membership. This information is secured, and will be used ONLY for USFCA purposes.

Feedback on the website is always welcomed, as well as articles, references or copies of materials we're missing (old copies of the Swordmaster, for instance). Please send emails to support@usfca.org with suggestions or materials!



**Be sure to check out the new USFCA website
at:<http://www.usfca.org/>**