

Movement Again Launched for Break-Up of College Fencing Group

PLANS UNDER WAY FOR FENCING SPL

Supporters of Present Set-
Fear That Non-Ivy College
Will Be Eliminated

STRONG OPPOSITION CITI

Difficulty Might Develop Ov
Officiating—N. Y. U. Took
2 Team Championships

By ARTHUR J. DALEY
Once again the Intercollegiate Fencing Association is facing crisis in its affairs. A movement several years ago to freeze out non-ivy colleges in order to establish a strictly Ivy College competition died aborning. But that same specter has been resurrected so that well-wishers of the future welfare of the association are presently worried.

The new movement proposes have the I. C. F. A. join with Bushnell's Central Office for Eastern Intercollegiate Athletics, with athletic directors at the various member colleges assuming control instead of the present alumni volunteers. Presumably the league would eliminate its non-ivy brethren and the annual championships would be transferred to a college site.

Malcolm Farmer, the Yale director of athletics, called a meeting at New Haven last week to discuss the future of the organization, one that has been an incubator for forty-five years of the Amateur Fencers League of America and of American Olympic teams. What happened there is shrouded in secrecy but even some of the Ivy representatives of the I. C. F. A. fear the worst.

The Chief Development

This was the most startling development of the annual championships of the organization at the Hotel Astor over the past week-end. Once more New York University won two of the four team championships including the most important one, the three-weapon trophy.

Oddly enough, there was never any talk of a break-up in the league until the Violet began to take a dominating role a half dozen years ago.

In one respect, this intercollegiate association is different from any other one in existence. The tie-up between the I. C. F. A. and the Amateur Fencers League is so close that it almost is hard to see where one starts and the other ends. The same group that competes and officiates in the A. F. L. A. handles all the officiating and runs the affairs of the I. C. F. A.

Although practically every one of them is a college graduate, each seems to have divorced himself from the provincialism one usually finds in sport of pulling blindly for his own college to win. They gaze on the collegiate picture from a broader viewpoint, with the greater good of the whole more important than the greater good of the few.

An Unfortunate Position

That is why there is opinion among the majority in opposition to the proposed movement. But they consider themselves in an unfortunate position in one respect. If they follow their own inclinations they can be removed by their athletic directors.

But meanwhile they have proposed strong arguments against any change from the present order. The first is that they have \$1,700 cash in the treasury, \$1,200 in trophies, an Iron Man Trophy of unestimated value and are financially solvent. Any college breaking away would lose all equity in these holdings.

The second is that officiating in fencing is far more technical and irreplaceable than in any other sport. Approximately fifty officials were necessary for the intercollegiates, every one of them a volunteer. A break-up in the I. C. F. A. might find a new organization without enough officials to carry on.

As Graduate Secretary Hugh Alessandrini of Columbia pointed out in a circular letter to all the athletic directors involved, Yale had trouble in securing three officials for dual meets. Obviously a championship meet on a campus might find unsympathetic officials refusing to make the trip at their own expense. An experiment five years ago of holding the title meet at Philadelphia was a terrific financial failure.

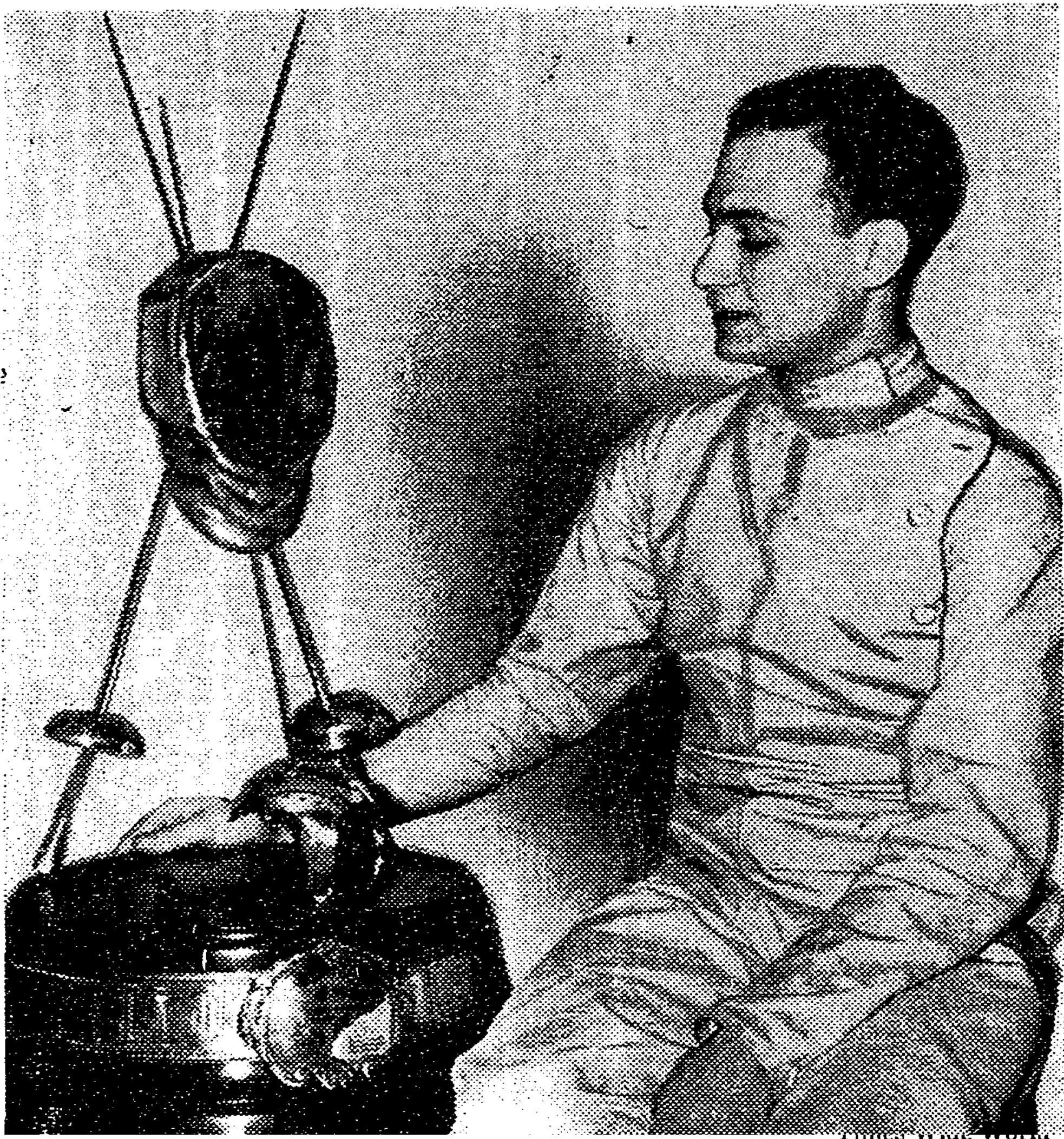
Prevailed Upon to Stay

The fencers also feel that their sport, being a minor one, cannot be run by anyone other than persons like themselves, vitally interested in the growth of the game. Alessandrini wanted to resign as graduate secretary (top-ranking job in the organization) last October, but he was prevailed upon to stay as a means of circumventing a movement for dissolution. Incidentally, the constitution requires a two-thirds vote for dissolving the group.

There also is talk of first expanding the organization to take in St. John's, Seton Hall, Wayne, Southern California and other dueling centers, with the Ivy group later withdrawing to make its own compact league.

The championships themselves over the week-end were excellently run by Alessandrini, Miguel A. de Capriles and their committee. N. Y. U. won both the three-weapon and the saber trophies, Navy the épée and Yale the foils. The individual winners were Danny Bukantz of City College in foils, Midshipman Harry Foley of Navy in épée and Cadet Lieutenant Don Thackeray of Army in saber.

Odds and ends of the tournament: Fredric March, a fencer in the picture, "Buccaneer," was an interested spectator all day Saturday. . . . Joe Sonnenreich, N. Y. U. épée man, spent the last three weeks touring the Midwest with the debating team. . . . The tournament lasted approximately twenty-six hours, thirteen hours a day. . . . 594 bouts in all were fenced. . . . Julio Martinez Castello, the N. Y. U. coach, proved his worth by winning with a team that had not a single standout performer on its roster. . . . It was a tribute to his ability.



N. Y. U. CAPTAIN WITH PRIZE WON BY TEAM
Jack Gorlin, whose saber helped the Violets capture three-weapon trophy at intercollegiate fencing tournament.