

“He is a smart fencer...”

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Fencing Champ Zheng Prepares for Phoenix

By: Tyler Skoczylas

Standing there, he waited. “En garde,” the referee, formerly called a “director” or “president of the jury,” said.

The two unmasked opponents salute each other. Then, they salute the officials and audience. With their masks down they get mentally prepared. This was it. He’s been here before, but it doesn’t matter. No matter how many times, each time is different. The opponents were different, but one thing always remained. The pressure. He was under all the pressure he could imagine. “No matter what happens,” Marcus Zheng [29] said. “I always try harder.”

With this dedication, Zheng became the 72nd Y12 ranked fencer nation wide. “Marcus achieved an impressive accomplishment by being ranked #12 in the national rankings for their age group (Y10) last year,” his mom Cathy said. “He is working hard to earn higher ranking this year in Y12. We are so proud of the effort Marcus has put into fencing and

the results he has achieved. It’s wonderful to see Marcus succeed and be recognized for his achievement.”

According to his coach Ann Marsh-Senic, a three-time Olympian who competed in the ‘92, ‘96 and 00’ Olympics, “Marcus is a smart fencer who uses distance and timing to trick his opponents into missing or falling into his defensive parries. He has grown tremendously in the five years he has fenced with Renaissance Fencing Club. [He] is a smart fencer who uses distance and timing to trick his opponents into missing or falling into his defensive parries. In fact, he has grown so much he has qualified for the National Championships in his own age category, as well as the next older age group Y14.” Starting when he was eight, Marcus has improved his skills as an athlete and an individual. “Fencing is a sport that involves split-second decisions and quick reflexes, so the results are very unpredictable. I have seen his growth and I’m very excited to watch

him compete,” his mom said.

“I have mixed feelings while watching Marcus fencing. I’m very proud to see Marcus love fencing and work hard to compete all bouts. But I’m also worried that he could be frustrated if he lost the bout. No matter win or lose, we would always support and encourage him.” After receiving qualification for both the National Championships in the Y12 and Y14 age groups, as Coach Ann mentioned, Marcus and his family will be traveling to Phoenix, Arizona for the competition. “Please join us in wishing Marcus the best of luck in the upcoming tournament,” his mom said.

New CK Club Introduces Fundamentals

By: Luke Mamou

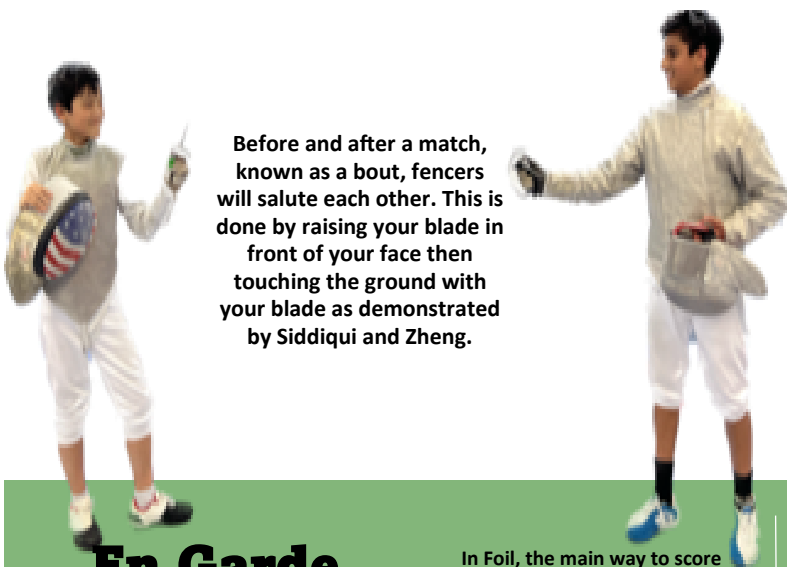
It originated in the medieval times, then was offered in universities and is now in our middle school.

“I thought if we could introduce the basic skills, strategy and rules that would be a great start,” said PE teacher Razmig Boghikian, who decided to bring fencing to the students after school. “The sessions were great, and the students for both girls’ and boys’ middle schools showed a lot of enthusiasm and picked up many of the skills in a brief time.”

With thirteen MSB and MSG students, Boghikian created an environment to not only learn the basics of the sport but also the opportunity to find joy.

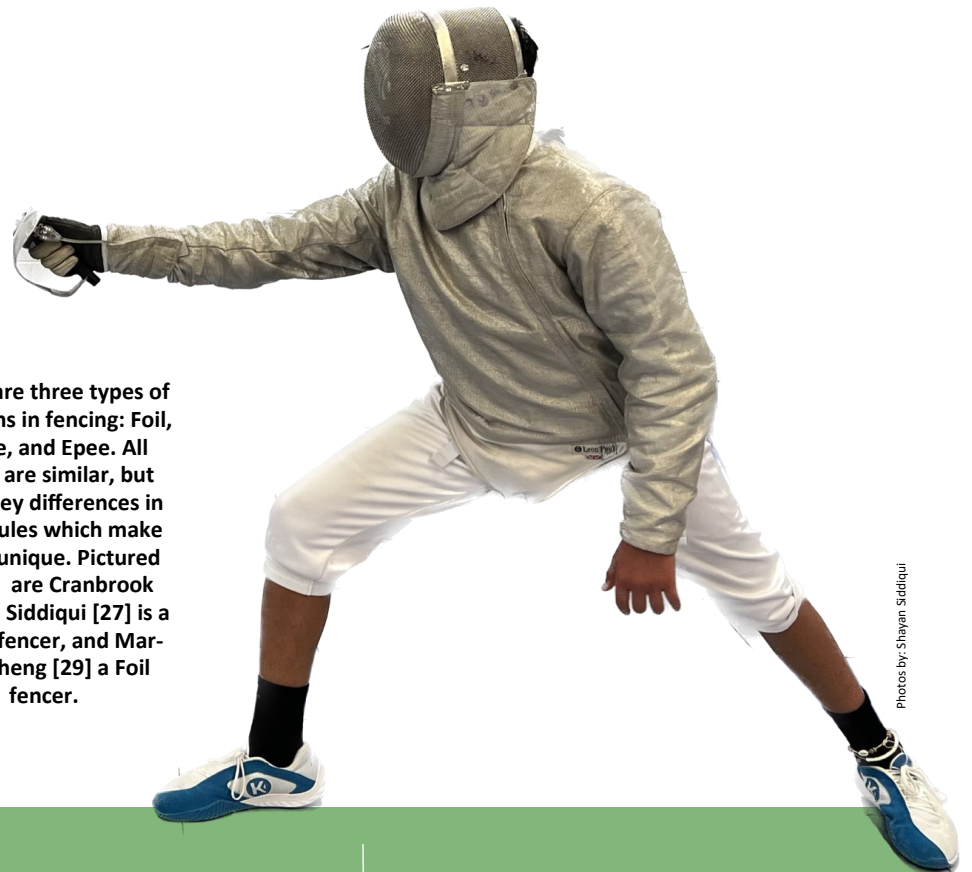
“I learned a lot about how the sport works,” Douglas Craig [27] said. “Instead of just seeing people smack each other with sticks during the Olympics, I understood who was winning or who was better overall.”

Reflecting on the experience, Boghikian said that he believes the sessions were a success. Looking to the future, he is hoping to find some other schools in the area to compete against. “It seemed like the students liked it,” he said.



Before and after a match, known as a bout, fencers will salute each other. This is done by raising your blade in front of your face then touching the ground with your blade as demonstrated by Siddiqui and Zheng.

There are three types of weapons in fencing: Foil, Sabre, and Epee. All three are similar, but have key differences in their rules which make them unique. Pictured (side) are Cranbrook Shayan Siddiqui [27] is a Sabre fencer, and Marcus Zheng [29] a Foil fencer.



Photos by: Shayan Siddiqui

En Garde, Ready, Fence!

Graphic and photos by: Shayan Siddiqui

Zheng and Siddiqui demonstrate three common stances in the sport.

In Foil, the main way to score points, or touches, is by thrusting your blade into the abdomen of the other fencer. Zheng demonstrates what this looks like.



This stance, known as a Lunge, is a stance in Foil, Sabre, and Epee. When attacking an opponent, fencers will often lunge to make contact with a target. For Sabre, the target area is anywhere waist and above. Meanwhile for Foil, the target area is just the stomach region.



This action is known as a Parry. It is a well-known form of defense in fencing and is done by blocking an opponent’s blade from making contact with you. Each type of Parry has a different number associated with it, and the current Parry Siddiqui is in is known as “Parry 5” in Sabre.



Information from Renaissance Fencing Club