

In Memory of
Ronald Weaver
1933 – 2015

Ronald Weaver Ph.D. was drafted into fencing as well as the US Army. During the Korean War a buddy who had fenced sabre on the New York University varsity team chose Ron as his sparring partner. Even though Ron was badly beaten in every round, his life-long passion for fencing nevertheless took root.

After his army service Ron attended Ohio State University where he became captain of the varsity team in his junior and senior years under coach Bob Kaplan. He competed for a spot in the 1960 Olympics, but lost the alternate sabre position by one touch. He did not travel with the team to Italy but instead remained in New York and studied with Maestro Giorgio Santelli, who made Ron a fencing master at the conclusion of his studies.

After a term as assistant coach at Ohio State (1960-1963), Ron was recruited as head coach of the fledgling North Carolina State University fencing team (1964-1969). There he was proud to have both a men's and women's fencing team at a time when many US universities did not. He was instrumental in the formation of a fencing conference of southeastern schools including University of Tennessee, Duke, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State and others.

During the nine year time starting in 1964 he earned a masters and doctorate in psychology, which he felt served as the natural extension of the mental game of fencing. Ron coached fencers at Montana and Montana State while also performing his day job of overhauling the mental health system for the state of Montana.

When he returned to his Ohio roots in 1986 he found that fencing was still tightly bound to Ohio State University – there was no fencing program open to non-OSU students. Ron and two other fencing coaches, Bruce Gillman and Michael Shearer, revived the moribund Columbus Ohio Division USFA and brought fencing in central Ohio to the masses. Today there are many independent fencing clubs in the Columbus Ohio Division, in part due to this outward expansion.

Ron will be missed for his passion for fencing, his warmth and his willingness to teach anyone who wanted to learn. He was a coach, a mentor and a friend to columbusfencing.

