Fencing school has home in Southfield

touch the other five times is the winner of a bost.
Fencers don't compete with deadly intent. But don't let that fool you into thinking they're not serious.
"It's very serious," said William Goering of West Bloomfield. "You've got so many things to think of."
A member of FAM-S, Goering is also the executive vice president of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

FENCING HAS BEEN a somewhat obscure sport in the United States. In fact, about the only noteriety it had for a long time was that Holden Caulfield was the manager of the Pencey Prep School fencing team in "The Catcher in the Rye." That and the old image of swashbuckling Errol Piyna slanbing his way through movies like "The Sea Hawk."

But it is starting to get some notice, especially in the Detroit area. The Wayne State University fencing team, under the tutelage of Maestro Istvan Danosi, recently won its second consecutive NCAA men's fencing championship.

Maestro Danosi, a native of Hungary, is the guiding light behind the Fencing Academy of Michigan. He brought FAM to Southfield three years ago after moving from Detroit and Birmingham.

Last year the FAM fencers won the

national foil club team title, finished second in epec and third in sabre.

"With that result," said Charles Schneider of Livonia, FAM club president, "you could say we had the best club in the United States." Schneider, a lawyer, said he started fencing while attending high school in Long Island, NY. He received a scholarship to Wayne State and competed on the Tartars' first national championship team in 1973.

Schneider's development in fencing roughly parallels Danosi's. He started fencing at the age of 4 in Hungary because it was a required subject in military school. He kept up with fencing while attending a sport and physical education institute, and he eventually received a master's degree.

Fencing is actually a very safe sport — according to fencers.

according to reneers.
"It's probably much less dangerous than other sports," said Goering. "You can twist an ankle, but as far as being hurt or cut with a weapon — we wear protective equipment, and we're very careful about the safety rules.

"On an overall basis," he continued, "it's a very safe sport because we rec-ognize the danger and we protect our-selves."

BOTH SCHNEIDER and Goering said fencing is a very intellectual sport. Schneider, as a matter of fact, compared the mental aspect of the sport to chees— two players making probing moves, trying to draw the other out, searching for weak spots. And boh men said this aspect of the sport enables fencers to compete long, after their physical skills have deteriorated.

after their physical skills have deterionated.

"It's a lifetime activity," said-scheider. "It's a sport you can take with you into your old age."

To prove his point, Schneider said one of the club's members was in his row.

FAM draws its membership from points as far flung as Windsor and Ann Arbor. The club is open to any fencer.

FAM also offers beginner's lessons at 350 for 10 weeks.

The club meets from 6-9 p.m. Thes-

received a master's degree.

GORING TOOK a slightly different route. He started as an undergraduate at Vale.

"I went up to the gym," he said, "and there was this funny little coach up there and he said 'Are you a freshmant'. He stuck a foil in my hand and I've never given it up.

Goering eventually found his way to the sabre, a weapon in which he is ranked 15th nationally.

Part of feening's appeal, part of its mystique if you will, is the element of one on one, mano a mano competition.

"There's nothing like feening in that respect except boxing," said Goering.
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Here's some fencing info

end when one fencer scores five touches — except the epee, where there is the possibility of a tie at five. In that case, the bout continues until a decisive

touch is scored.

THE FOIL is a light weapon with a flexible rectangular blade and a simple bellguard protecting the hand. Touches with a foil are scored only with the point on the torso — the trunk of the body minus arms, legs and heard. In foil competition, the fences face each other along a narrow strip. Each foil is connected by a wire to an electronic scoring system. Each fence wears a metallic jacket, also connected to the scoring system. Each fencer wears a metallic jacket, also connected to the scoring system, which cover just the scoring area. Any touch on the jacket depresses the tip of the foil, completes a circuit

and causes one of two colored lights to flash on, signaling a touch against one fencer. A touch-off target merely depresses the point without completing the full circuit, causing a white light to flash on which stops the action. In the case of simultaneous touches, the point is awarded to the fencer who in the opinion of the bout director had right of way — that is, to the fencer who initi-ated the action.

THE EPEE is a heavier weapon than the foll with a larger bellguard and a stiff triangular blade. Touchew with an epee are scored with the point coly on any part of the body. from the soles of the feet to the top of the head. Competitors with the epee do not wear a metallic jacket, but their weapons are connected to an electronic scoring system. Any touch depresses the weapon's point and causes a colored (Continued on page 4B)

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