

OLYMPIC FEVER: CCNY'S CONTENDERS OVER THE YEARS

This summer, all eyes are on Tokyo to see if the Olympics Games, already delayed one year due to the COVID pandemic, will indeed kick off in July. We've taken a look back at our own athletic history to find City College's connection to Olympic glory.



Albert Axelrod began fencing at Stuyvesant High School and, after war service, continued at CCNY. While there he won the IFA and NCAA foil individual titles. He competed in the foil in Olympic games four consecutive times beginning in 1948, winning a bronze medal in 1960. Axelrod won

the AFLA National Championship in foil four times and was a member of 11 national championship teams. Internationally besides his Olympic bronze, Axelrod finished fifth at the 1958 World Championships, which is the first time an American foilist has reached the finals in that event. He was a member of four Pan American teams, winning a silver medal each time in the individual foil (1955-1967). A multiple gold medalist at the Maccabiah Games, Axelrod was elected to the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.



Daniel Bukantz was a fencing judge at eight Olympiads from 1952 to 1984 (except the U.S.-boycotted 1980 Games) and World Championships in 1958, 1967, and 1983. Three times, 1952, 1956, and 1960, he was both a competitor and a referee. Bukantz was

inducted into the Fencing Hall of Fame in 1978. He won the gold medal in the foil at the 1950 Maccabiah Games in Israel. He was a head referee at the 1984 Los Angeles Games. He was U.S. National Foil Champion in 1949, 1952, 1953, and 1957. In the years 1949 to 1962, his team was U.S. National Champion nine times.



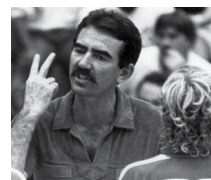
Erwin Fox '64 competed in the Maccabiah Games, referred to as the Jewish Olympics. Fox played soccer at CCNY and was selected for the games in 1965.



Pincus Sober '26, a CCNY track star, became chairman of the U.S. Men's Olympic Track and Field Committee and chairman of men's track and field committee of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). He was also chairman of the Maccabi

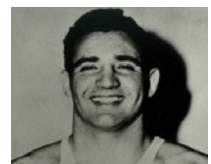
track and field committee. He went on to serve as head announcer of Madison Square Garden track meets for three decades.

Samuel Stewart '36 fenced for the US on the saber team in Berlin at the 1936 Olympics. Saber was his primary weapon, with Stewart winning several team sabre titles at the Amateur Fencers League of America Championships.



Rudy Suwara '65 was a Physical Education major, played volleyball in the 1968 Olympics, competed for the US at the 1966 and 1970 World Championships, and helped win gold medal at the 1967 Pan

American Games. He was a US Volleyball All-American for 11 consecutive years from 1964-74. Rudy played on the USA men's team that beat the Russians in 1968 at the Mexico City Summer Olympic Games. He later became head coach at U.C. Santa Barbara. He also coached at San Diego State University from 1976-91. He is a member of the American Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and received the All Time Great Player Award from the US Volleyball Association in 1976. He was also named to the USA Volleyball 75th Anniversary All Era Team for 1953-77.



Henry Wittenberg won the Olympic gold medal in wrestling in 1948, and the silver medal in wrestling in 1952. He coached the USA men's wrestling team at the Olympic Games in 1968.



He finished his career with a record of over 400 wins and only four defeats. Wittenberg was also a two-time champion at the Maccabiah Games. Wittenberg earned degrees from both CCNY and Columbia in teaching. He became a professor of physical education at CCNY after working as a New York Police Department officer. He coached wrestling both at CCNY and Yeshiva College.

Swimmer Jane Katz '64

was a member of the 1964 US Synchronized Swimming Performance team in Tokyo, Japan, and helped pioneer Synchronized Swimming as an Olympic event. Her achievements as a Masters competitive, long distance, synchronized, and fin swimmer have earned her All-American and World Masters championships.

She coached and taught swimming at CUNY for nearly 45 years, and was named the 2004 City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Coach of the Year.

Katz earned her Bachelor's degree at CCNY in physical education, then received a Master's degree in Education

Administration from NYU and a master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation for Aging at Columbia University where she also completed her doctorate in Gerontology.

She competed in the 1957 Maccabiah Games at the age of 14, winning the 100m butterfly. From 1974-87, she was the U.S. Masters Synchronized Swimming National Solo Champion. At the 2017 Maccabiah Games, at the age of 74 her 15th Maccabiah, she won gold medals in both the 200m free and 100m back, as well as silver medals in the 50m free and 200m breast.

In 1976, Katz became the first woman to be admitted to the City College of New York Sports Hall of Fame.

