

## Roger B. Cummings

Roger started fencing in the early 1960's as a freshman in high school. His first coach was Fencing Master Anthony Scafati, one of six masters in the United States at the time, who taught him the classic Italian school of foil. Later in the 60's he continued working with Bob Titus and the New York Fencers Club's Michel Alaux. In 2000, the *Newark Star Ledger* selected him as one of the top boys' fencers of the 1960's decade.

Roger began his coaching career at Rutgers University in the 1970's. During the following years he worked with several well-known coaches.

- Tony Orsi (Hall of Fame) – provided a different perspective to the sport and to the working relationship between fencer and coach. He taught him how to draw parallels between fencing and a student's everyday activities.
- Giorgio Santelli (Gold Medalist and Hall of Fame) - taught Roger the concept of recognizing a fencer's strengths and reinforcing them which has contributed to many of Roger's coaching successes.
- Ion Drimba (Olympic Gold Medalist) - helped Roger develop an "outside the box" approach to fencing which was his first deviation from classical training.
- Jerzy Grzyski (Hall of Fame) – provided the psychology of motivating high-performance fencers
- Walter Stegmüller (German Head Coach) – taught him techniques for coaching international fencers
- Paul Soter (US National and Olympic Epee Coach) – taught him the German National Training System of coaching

Roger's constant search for new and different techniques has kept him innovative and allowed him to adapt to his students' needs ranging from club members through high school and college fencers to international fencers. This is the foundation of his coaching success as well as never forgetting that fencing may be hard work but should be fun!

### Coaching

- Rutgers University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ Girls Division 1 Head Coach
- Ramapo High School, NJ Girls Head Coach
- Ramapo High School, NJ Boys Coach
- US Military Academy at West Point
- Club coaching since 1973 – Santelli Fencing Academy, Masters, Modified Academy of Fencing

### Achievements

- Inducted into the New Jersey High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Only fencing coach to be so honored
- NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Fencing Coach of the Year-
- Served 2 terms as President of the NJ Interscholastic Fencing Coaches Association
- Instructor/Rater for the National Referee Development Program
- Lifetime member of the United States Fencing Coaches Association

### Student Achievements

- Qualified FDU fencers to the NCAA regional and national championships 10 of his 11 years
- FDU received NCAA National ranking twice
- Coached - FDU record holder for most victories in one year and second highest victories overall
- Won multiple NJ High School Girl's State, District, Santelli, and individual championships
- Coached – Junior Olympic, Junior Pan Am Champion and Olympic Team Bronze Medalist
- Coached – Fencer who holds the Pan Am record for the highest number of medals received
- Coached – Veteran Saber World Champion
- Coached – 2 winners of the NIWFA individual tournament