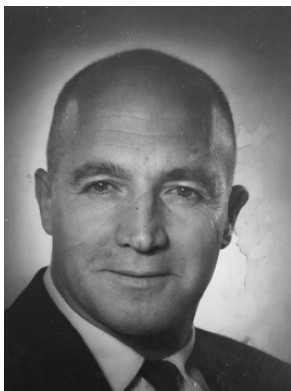


Anthony J. (Tony) Orsi (1913 - 2000) was an influential fencing coach trained as a young fencer by the legendary Olympic Gold Medalist and **Hall of Famer** Giorgio Santelli. In 1967, Tony opened his own private fencing club in Rutherford, New Jersey and with the blessing of Giorgio called it the **Santelli Fencing Academy**. During its time, it was the only full-time fencing club in New Jersey. Tony's motto for his club was: "*Where young champions get their start and coaches get results.*" Tony coached many young fencers who became High School State Champions, Nationally Ranked Fencers, National Champions, Olympians and Hall of Famers, including:

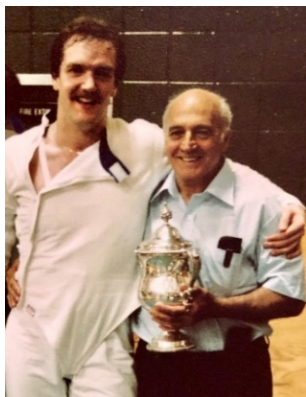
Donna Stone (Women's Epee): U.S. Fencing Hall of Fame, 3X National Champion, World Cup & World Championship Finalist

Lee Shelley (Men's Epee): U.S. Fencing Hall of Fame, 3X National Champion, 2X Olympian, Junior World Championship Finalist

Steve Griffiths (Men's Epee): 2X World Championship Team, Junior World Championship Team, 2X NJ High School Champ



Tony Orsi



Lee Shelley with Tony Orsi holding the Men's Epee National Championship Trophy



Gladys & Tony Orsi at Santelli Fencing Academy

Successful high school coaches such as Sam D'Ambola (**Hall of Famer**) from Essex Catholic High School, Bob Titus from Ramapo High School, Charlie Bosco from southern New Jersey, and others, would bring their fencers to train and bout for free at Tony's club. Dean Cetrulo (**Hall of Famer**), member of the 1948 Olympic Bronze Medal Sabre Team, would bring his students to train at the club.

Tony was a "Coach's Coach". He trained 16 coaches of New Jersey High School Teams and 8 coaches of New Jersey College Teams. The knowledge he passed on continues to this day.

Tony was a champion for Women's Fencing. In the 1960's he started The Orsi Open, a premier national Women's Foil event, which continued until 1990. Some of The Orsi Open Champions such as Denise O'Connor (**Hall of Famer**) and Nikki Tomlinson Franke (**Hall of Famer**) went on to the Olympics and Pan American Games.

Tony also sponsored the first New Jersey Division Women's Sabre and Women's Epee events in the late 1970's.

In addition to coaching, Tony served as National Secretary of the Amateur Fencers League of America (AFLA), the organization now known as USA Fencing.

Tony organized and ran two major fencing championships. He was Chairman of the 1958 World Fencing Championships in Philadelphia and the 1964 U.S. National Fencing Championships in Atlantic City. Tony earned an FIE Director's Rating, making him one of the few Americans to have such a distinction in that era.

Tony officially "retired" from coaching in 1985. But in 1992 he went back to coaching part-time until 1998 when physical limitations forced him to stop.

Upon his passing at age 86, the Santelli Fencing Equipment Company honored Tony by presenting his widow Gladys and daughter Sabina with a Ceremonial Weapon that had belonged to Giorgio Santelli.

After a lifetime of dedication, service and success in American Fencing, Tony Orsi is deserving of a place in the U.S. Fencing Hall of Fame.