

GOUGH MAY GO PROFESSIONAL: FEDERATION ENQUIRY PROMISED

~~Sept 27th '68~~
Oct 17th '68

A POSSIBILITY that Mexico 1968 may see the last Irish Olympic fencing team seems to have arisen from the year long feud between U.C.D. fencer, Larry Gough and the Irish Fencing Federation. According to Gough, Ex-Garda Commissioner, Paddy Carroll who is Secretary of the Irish Olympic Council has assured him that after the Games there will be a full inquiry into the Federation but that due to its limited following, its expense and now the present unpleasant situation it is possible that no more fencing teams will travel with Irish Olympic athletes.

J'ACCUSE!

Gough, last year Captain of the U.C.D. fencing club has been loud all Summer in his protestations against what he terms unfair and victimising treatment by the Federation. During the vacation he has made efforts to publicise his case both in the press and on radio. This included his securing a full-page spread from the Sunday Mirror in which he stated his case. Gough alleges that he has been discriminated against in the selection of the Mexico team and in the process he has been suspended for life by the Federation.

BRILLIANT

There can be little doubt of Larry Gough's ability when it comes to fencing. Having started in 1964 at Salle Duffy in Sandy-mount he came to the U.C.D. club



in 1966. In that year U.C.D. for the first time won the Irish Epee Championships. Later on he fenced in the European Championships in Heidenheim and from there was invited to Turkey. He accepted and was partnered by Pdraig Breathnach on this trip.

SELECTION

Gough now claims that his fencing qualifications are higher than those of any who have been selected for Mexico in that none of these have ever been placed in an International competition (while he has been) and he claims

further that the method of selection of the team is open to question in that two of the selectors seem to have selected themselves.

It is of course quite possible that the Irish Amateur Fencing Federation have a perfectly plausible explanation for these phenomena, and if they have it might well be in their own interests to make it known to the general public. Their present attitude of indifferent silence does nothing for their public image.

COACHING

Meantime Larry Gough told *Campus* of his plans for the future. Subject of course to his academic commitments he hopes to turn professional and thus change his classification so far as the Federation is concerned. At present he is coaching a number of Dublin clubs but of course his suspension here means that he would not be able to rejoin a fencing club in an amateur capacity.

It would be possible for him to go to Britain and do a three year course which would enable him to become a Professor of Fencing, though for the moment he does not feel particularly like leaving Ireland. In the meanwhile we can only await the return of the Olympic teams from Mexico and hope that an investigation into the whole affair does in fact come about.