

# Local Fencers Find Gold

Submitted By Velizar Iliev

**F**arah Lee-Elabd, representing Team USA3, won the gold medal in the team competition at the 2013 Cadet European Cup in Klagenfurt, Austria on October 26.

Her team won the preliminary round against Ukraine (45-43), and then defeated Serbia (45-38). In the semi-finals, they came up against another American squad, Team USA2, where the San Antonian and her teammates pulled off a 45-38 upset win.

In the gold medal round Farrah and her teammates faced Romania. When Farrah stepped into the fencing strip as team anchor (the last team member to fence), her team was losing (37-40). However, with great focus and determination, she was able to reverse the losing score to win the bout 45-43.

The following day, Farrah competed in

the women's individual event and placed 13th out of 174 fencers, losing in the quarter final round (12-15) to the Ukrainian Inna Brovko, who ended up taking the gold medal. With this result, Farrah earned enough points to move from 11th to 5th place in the Cadet Women's Epee national ranking for ages 17 and under.

Farah, a sophomore at Saint Mary's Hall, also won a Gold medal in Cadet Women's Epee division for 17 years and under on Sunday, December 15.

There she competed against 102 of the top female cadet epee fencers in North America, and in the finals she beat Kasia Nixon (Los Angeles, CA), who is currently the number one US rated fencer in the division.

Farah has qualified to compete with Team USA at the 2014 European Cadet Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden next month.

Saint Mary's Hall sophomore Robin Cheong represented Team USA and competed at the 2013 Cadet European Cup in Chalons, France on November 23.

Robin participated in the men's individual event and placed 15th out of 170 fencers. Robin is currently ranked number 7 in the nation in Cadet.

Both Farrah and Robin at age 15 have goals to move into the top three in the nation so they can qualify for the 2014 Cadet World Championships in Bulgaria.

London Olympic medalist Kelley Hurley (San Antonio, Texas) won her fourth individual gold medal on Friday, December 13 in Dallas at the 2013 North American Cup which included fencers competing in Division I, Cadet, and Veteran events.

Kelley, a two-time Olympian, claimed the title for Division I Women's Epee by defeating Isabel Ford (Salem, OR) by a



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Velizar Iliev, Farrah Lee-Elabd and Viktor Svatenco gather after Farrah Lee-Elabd won a gold medal in Austria.

score of 15-9.

Claudine Barjak, another Olympian Fencing club competitor, took the 5th place finalist medal in the Veteran-40 Women's Epee.