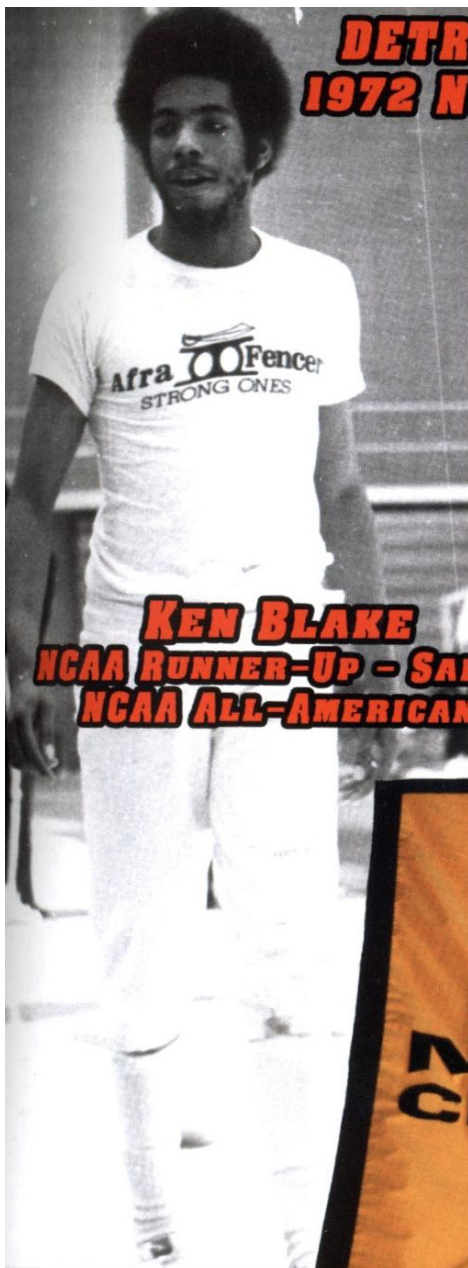
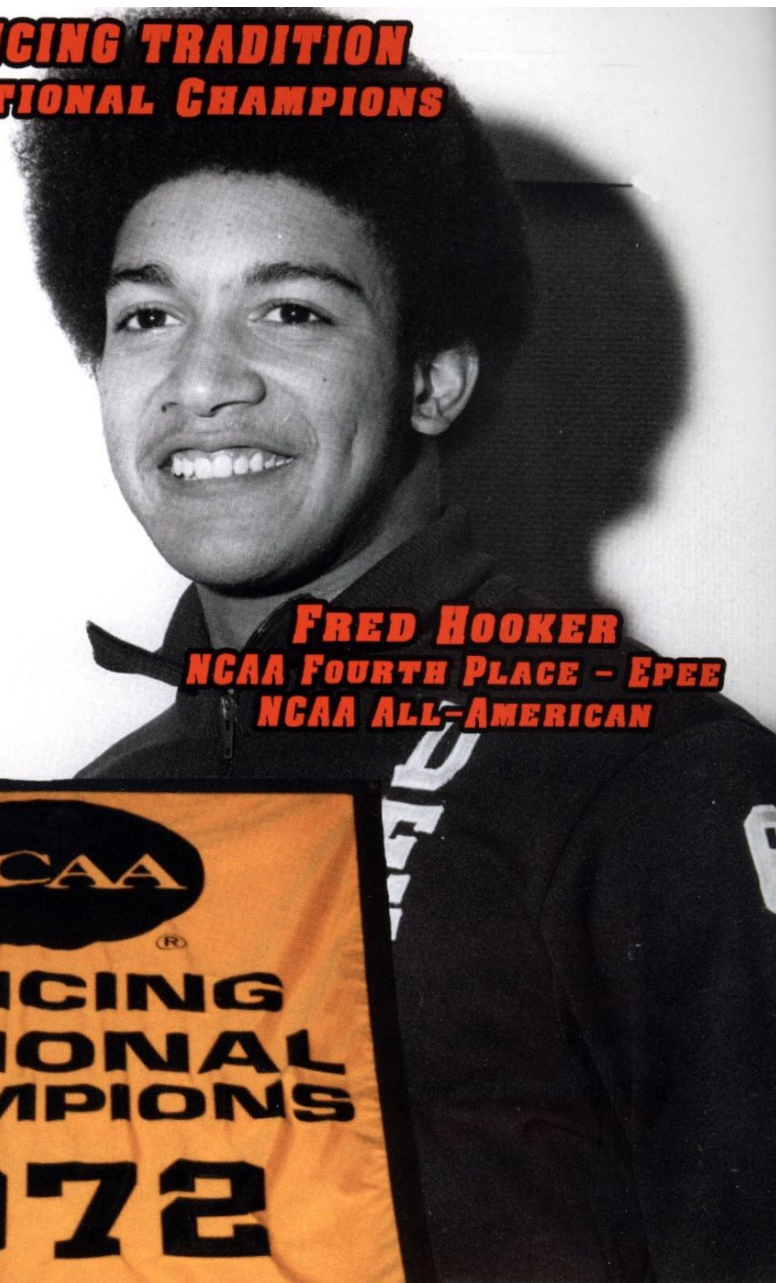


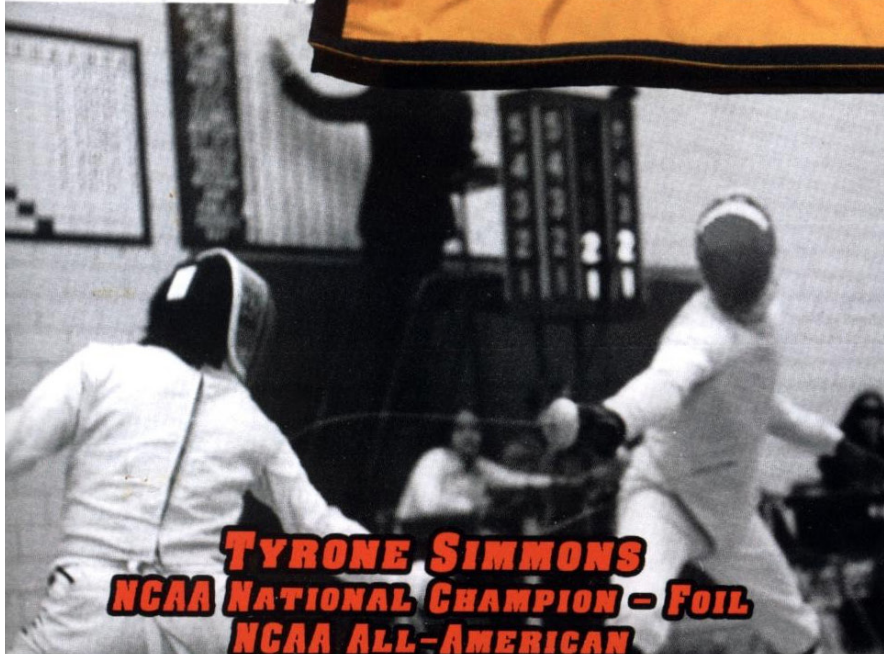
**DETROIT FENCING TRADITION
1972 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**



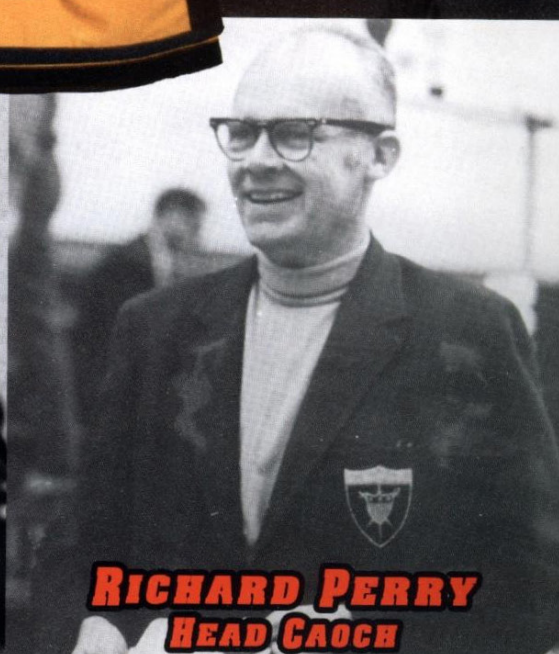
KEN BLAKE
NCAA RUNNER-UP - SABRE
NCAA ALL-AMERICAN



FRED HOOKER
NCAA FOURTH PLACE - EPEE
NCAA ALL-AMERICAN



TYRONE SIMMONS
NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPION - FOIL
NCAA ALL-AMERICAN



RICHARD PERRY
HEAD COACH

1972 NCAA National Champions

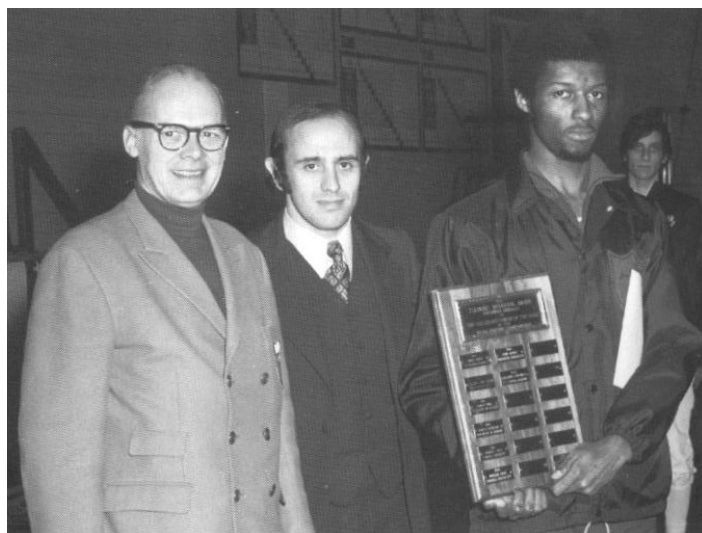
The Detroit Titans have seven fencers, Dan Cantillon, William Giovan, Fred Hooker, Greg Kocab, Pat McDonald, Tyrone Simmons, and Gerry Surowiec, as well as former head coach Richard Perry in the Titans Hall of Fame. Three fencers (and Perry) are from the 1972 men's fencing team with the honor of being the only team from the University of Detroit Mercy to win a team national Championship that took place in Chicago, IL that year.

Detroit served notice to the rest of the country that they were a team to be reckoned with posting a 19-1 record on the season. Foilist Tyrone Simmons led Detroit with a 43-4 dual meet record on the season. Ken Blake finished the dual season at 46-6 in the sabre, while Fred Hooker went 33-11 in the epee.

Detroit held a slim 49-48 lead over Columbia following the first day of competition, and Simmons vowed that he was "...not going to let them even hit me."

Day-two saw Detroit fence beautifully as Simmons went undefeated in the foil, scoring 115 touches to just 32. Hooker and Blake combined to post a 35-11 record in the epee and sabre. Detroit ended the competition with 73 points, three ahead of New York University and seven in front of Columbia.

Simmons ended up winning the foil competition, Blake took second in the sabre, and Hooker captured fourth in epee. In addition to being the first trio of African-Americans to win the fencing crown, all three members of the squad earned All-America honors.



1972 (L-R): Head Coach Richard Perry, Assistant Coach Stan Sieja, Tyrone Simmons. Simmons is being awarded the Illinois Memorial Award which is presented annually to the College Fencer of the Year.

Simmons was also the NCAA Foil Champion in 1971 and was named as the Illinois Memorial Award winner both years presented annually to the College Fencer of the Year. He was a member of the 1972 Olympic Team and also the 1971 Gold Medal U.S. Foil team at the Pan American Games. He posted an outstanding three-season record of 126-10 for a winning percentage of .927.

Perry had an amazing 228-96 record in his first 18 years as head coach of the fencing team. He was named the National Coach of the Year in 1971. He coached five All-Americans and two U.S. Collegiate Fencers of the Year during his career.

Hooker was an All-American epeeist in 1972 and placed fourth that year in the NCAA Tournament as an individual. He was seventh nationally in 1970 and again in 1971, the year where the Titans finished third as a team. He was the co-captain of the National Championship team and left with a sterling career record of 173-37, good for a winning percentage of .832. His 173 career victories, and the 46 he recorded in 1970, both set school records in the epee.



1972 All-Americans (L-R) Ken Blake, Tyrone Simmons, Fred Hooker