

FIE COACH PROGRAMME, SABRE

Observations, Learning and Thoughts

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27. Second Intention

Put simply, second intention is where you make your opponent think you are preparing to do one thing and then surprise them by something else. In defence for example, you could search for the beat, but then take a stop hit. Or you could feint a counter attack to draw the attack and deal with it with distance. In this next series of videos the set-up is via the use of point-in-line (PiL).

To begin with, the coach sets the conditions for when to feint the PiL. He does this by preparing low, but bringing the point up at the beginning of the final attacking actions, giving the student a clear indication of when to feint. Latterly it is the fencer who takes a more controlling role by determining themselves when to feint.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwleiiGhpG4&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=152>

I like the way the coach settles the fencer before making the attack. It is important that the feint is under control because reducing the distance and drawing the attack is quite a stressful proposition on its own. The hits in this exercise are beat-cheek, beat-belly. The coach has to “offer” both those targets realistically: the first one being caught on preparation; the second one trying to parry an anticipated beat-head counter attack.

In this next video, the student is prepared well to feint point in line and on the coach’s attack, to deliver a beat-belly cut.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny102UEdWKA&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=153>

These are the preparatory exercises lead nicely to the crux of this lesson. So far it has been very one dimensional. The coach does this, the fencer does that.... In this next video, the fencer prepares the second intention, but they are then confronted with a number of possible responses from the coach. In this lesson, either a preparation, stepping with the blade forward (drawing the beat as before), or an indirect attack necessitating a parry. With two or more options, we now have the basis of a game from which a number of coaching possibilities arise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJrXnl4GTtE&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=154>

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