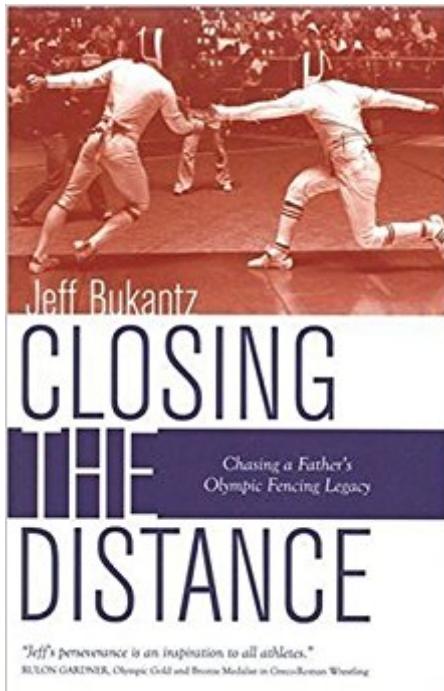


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# Closing The Distance: Chasing A Father's Olympic Fencing Legacy



## **Synopsis**

Closing The Distance is a memoir that reveals the trials and tribulations Jeff Bukantz encountered while following in his father's legendary footsteps. Throughout the book, the author provides insight about the highs and lows of competing in the Olympics, including inside stories about the 2004 Athens Olympic Games where he led the American Fencing Team to its first gold medal in 100 years. Besides the unique experiences of the author, the memoir takes a heart-warming look at the powerful force of family and the competitive human spirit.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,790,808 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #186 inÂ  Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Fencing #469 inÂ  Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Olympic Games #1489 inÂ  Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Reference

## **Customer Reviews**

As a former fencer of 25 years ago and a recent return to competitive fencing, I came across Jeff Bukantz's book by accident. Flipping through the pages, I was intrigued by his father's accomplishments. When I noticed that he was a CCNY alumnus, I definitely was hooked - being one myself from a later generation. Mr. Bukantz's book for me is approached from two levels. First, his personal relations with his famous father and his attempt to deal with that give great insight into human nature. It transcends the world of fencing and applies to any profession. I would rate that part of this book 5 stars. The second level of the book deals with competitive fencing from the inside. This part is not very appealing and is worthy of only 1 star. My average rating therefore is 3. It seems that Mr. Bukantz decided to use this book to justify his bad behavior on the strip by attacking his opponents and naming names. In one instance, he cites how it is un-sportsman like to hit an opponent after "halt" is called in fencing. In this book however, he did exactly that in at least 3 instances where he denigrates his opponents and colleagues in a forum where the other person

does not have a voice to respond. (in effect, he has committed the sin of attacking someone "after the halt".) I don't know Mr. Bukantz personally and I have not crossed sword with him since I fenced epee and in an earlier time than his active fencing days. However, I do know some of the other people he writes about personally. I must cite at least in one instance that he attacked my friend and teammate of 30 years and it is without merit. I was a team member at CCNY Varsity fencing and I can attest to the fact that his innuendo regarding my friend is false.

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