

Further developments on the basketball fracas at Helsinki

The aftermath of the disgraceful attack on a basketball referee at the Games of the XV Olympiad in Helsinki last summer, which was reported in *Olympic Bulletin* N° 38, is well worth relating since it is such a commendable example of true Olympic sportsmanship. One will remember that this attack was made by players and supporters of the team from Uruguay. It was, of course, denounced by the Fédération Internationale de Basketball Amateur and by the Comité Olimpico Uruguayo. Those attackers, who were identified, were severely penalized.

Now comes a letter from the referee, Vincent P. Farrell, who was the victim. He relates that a few months after the attack he was visited by two representatives from Uruguay, who made a special trip to his home in order to offer an apology and to inquire about his health. They told him that the Uruguay

Federation felt very badly about the affair and hoped that he would some day visit Uruguay so that they might make amends. « I told them all that was not necessary and wrote a nice message to them later thanking them and making a firm plea for the high ideals of sportsmanship. »

This Spring when Mr. Farrell was acting as referee at the Worlds Basketball Championship for Women in Chile, he received a cablegram from Uruguay with a warm invitation to referee the South American Championship in Montevideo. While he was unable to accept, he was most happy to receive this friendly gesture. « I am writing this to you because I honestly feel that good results are coming about as a result of the scrap and although to me it is finished and over with, these other developments are of interest to all concerned. »