

QUOTATION OF OUTSIDE OPINIONS...

SPORTS MANIFESTATIONS AND MONEY

The professional cycling race "Tour d'Europe 1955." *victim of speculation*, had to be cancelled on account of the demands claimed by the cycle manufacturers.

On the other hand, one million French francs have been claimed as a guarantee by a team supposed to be "Regional."

(*L'Equipe*, Paris, 19. 8. 1955.)

DOPING

In Europe this problem is being discussed more and more since it became known that the professional racing cyclist Malléjac had been doped while participating in the Tour de France. An incident which caused Mr. Joinard, President of the International Cycling Union to intervene (rightly so and most judiciously) by bringing an action against an unknown party for using drugs with regard to this racing cyclist. As was to be expected, no sooner had he recovered from the evil effect of the doping, the competitor in question denied having been doped and lodged a counter-claim!

(All the Sporting Press.)

BRIBERY

It would take too long to comment in full on the serious affair concerning the bribing of football players (and referees too it seems) which occurred at the time of the last professional Football Championship in Italy. An identical case of bribery has occurred within the Parisian Football Club "Red Star."

Czechoslovakian Football has also been experiencing glaring abuse. The Spartak-Unicod Club of Olomouc has just been penalized for attempting to buy two players members of the Spartak-Sternberg team. The State Department for Physical Culture and Sports of that country has just suspended the club of all activity for a period of two

months. The responsive directive powers of this club who were mixed up in this affair have been asked to resign.

(*N. R. L.*, Lausanne, 21. 8.1955.)

WHERE ARE THE "PURE AMATEURS" ?

We have always entertained a real doubt concerning the amateur status of the cycling racing cyclists who are not... professionals. (Frascati, Italy, July and August 1955.) World Championship shows once more that amateurs in the strict sense of the word, are few and far between. The Italian cyclists have actually been trained on the track, coached and licked into shape for about *two months* beforehand. The French team was mobilized a fortnight before the fateful date of the opening of the race (Why not ? 15 days' preparation is not out of the way for training an amateur to a race ? Ed.) In actual fact and without taking anything away from the triumph of the Italians there as been only one really pure amateur starring in this event, the Dane Eric Andresen, 23 years old, a farmer in the suburbs of Copenhagen.

(*Lelio Rigassi*, « Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne 8, 30. 8. 1955.)

WHEN PROFESSIONNALISM HELPS AMATEURISM !

Dr. Ryotaro Azuma, President of the Japanese Olympic Committee (and Member of the I.O.C. for Japan) is worrying about Melbourne. In fact, Japanese sport gets no subvention at all from the Government and one has to find the right way to get the necessary funds for sending a delegation to Australia. Fortunately professional organizations have just informed that they will surrender part of their receipts in favour of the creation of an Olympic Fund.

(Marcel Hansenne, « *L'Equipe* », Paris, 18. 10. 55.)