

What other People say...

Sport and Politics. (Extracts.)

Sport is always ahead of politics and here it proves it.

At Helsinki in 1952, we had already observed an easing of the tension in sport long before statesmen, a few months later, transformed it to a general easing of the situation.

In Germany, where East and West have **met** on common ground by agreeing to form an unified team to be sent to the Melbourne Games, sport is well ahead of the actual reality of everyday life.

Recently, a football match has taken place in the Spanish capital between a Yugoslav team (Partizans) and a Spanish team (Real of Madrid). It is not beyond the bonds of possibility that this meeting between sportsmen opens the doors to discussions of a different and more friendly nature. It unlocks the door which has been bolted for over ten years. Did the International Olympic Committee for its part, not grant recognition to the Olympic Committee of Democratic China (Peking) long before UNO contemplated the possibility of doing so?

It is doubtful if politicians paid any attention to this prodigious happening. It is wiser to suppose that they attach comparatively little importance to sport, in which case they may prove to be wrong: Anything that unites instead of dividing, in whatever sphere it may operate, is worth upholding.

Sport is an universal language uniting all peoples. There are others per example:

art or literature (which also figure on the programme of the Olympic Games, Ed.) but these, whether we like it or not, do not appeal to the heart of the masses so readily...

"L'Équipe" de Paris, 1. 12. 1955.

Let us condemn the Practice of Doping

Youth must realize that care of the body is not an end in itself but that it must be adapted to the intellectual and moral improvement of the mind. It must understand that the practice of sport must not prevent anyone, whether artisan or student, from fulfilling his obligations as a citizen, but should indeed contribute at least indirectly, as a restorative of energy and facilitate their observance. It must convince itself that no motives can prevent the sportsman from observing the common moral law with its three-fold object : family, society and self. In this last aspect, one must deplore the error of claiming the right to dispose unconditionally of his body and thereby to submit it to obvious risks and to exhausting efforts, or else, in order to obtain results that are beyond his own natural forces to ABSORB GRAVELY NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES. SUCH IS THE CASE WHEN CONSUMING HIGHLY STIMULATING DRUGS WHICH BESIDES BEING LIKELY TO CAUSE HARM OF A POSSIBLY IRREPARABLE NATURE TO THE SYSTEM, ARE LOOKED UPON AS A KIND OF FRAUD BY SPECIALISTS. In such cases, the responsibility of spectators, organisers and the press is very serious when they encourage this risky practice.

(H. H. Pius XII, October 1955.)

Athletic Records will be broken in Melbourne !

It would take some imagination to believe it ! The American Review "American Science" devotes a long study to the meteorological conditions which are likely to prevail during the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne (end of November to the beginning of December), it foresees that, in the jumping and throwing contests, the results likely to be obtained will be appreciably superior to those obtained at Helsinki in 1952. The American Review thinks that Melbourne's position being nearer to the Equator than

Helsinki is more favourably situated, so that the centrifugal forces caused by the rotation of the earth are stronger than in Finland. The same Review foresees that the performances achieved at Helsinki will be improved by 12 cm. in the hammer, 15 cm. in the javelin and by 4 cm. in the high jump. The Review goes on to say in conclusion of its forecasts, that life would be much simpler... if the earth had a different shape ! (This was written in all seriousness ! Ed.)

(Quoted by the "Tribune de Lausanne", November 1955.)