

Brasher criticizes

(from *l'Équipe, Paris*)

One recalls the excitement caused by the attitude adopted by two eminent British personalities General Montgomery and Lord Alexander when they pronounced themselves in favour of holding *open* Olympic Games accessible to amateurs and professionals alike. On this occasion, it is a personality belonging to the British sporting world, the Olympic champion of the 3,000 metres steeple-chase: Chris Brasher who happens to make a similar request and renew the proposition.

The former fellow-member of the Bannister-Chataway team has become a journalist and it was in the great weekly London paper the *Sunday Observer* that Chris Brasher analysed the present position of amateurism. In this article, he admits the fact that the *amateurs* in at least five sports can easily live on the sport they practise.

These sports are cricket (which is specifically a British sport), equestrian sports, football, skiing and tennis...

Moreover, there are others who are of the opinion that athletic sports can be added to this list of sports, as any rate as far as *star performers* are concerned. They go as far as to say that the only sports which are 100% amateur in Britain nowadays are rowing and field hockey...

Chris Brasher concludes his article by saying: 'I do not know any better examples of sportsmanship than Pancho Gonzales, Stirling Moss, the cricketer Denis Compton, Stan Matthews or Regie Harris, yet all of them are professionals and as such earn their living by performing and practising their respective sport where they are truly first rate, but they practise it imbued with the genuine spirit of true sportsmanship.'