

# Mr. Avery Brundage wins

his first law-suit as President of the International Olympic Committee in a libel-case against the French Weekly: *Le Miroir des Sports*.

*According to the Tribunal of the Seine, it is not within the power of the International Olympic Committee to decide whether an athlete is an amateur or not.*

On October 1st 1959, an action was brought before the 17th Court of the *Tribunal Correctionnel* of the Seine in Paris, when it heard a libel charge lodged by Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee against the newspaper: *Miroir des Sports (But et Club)*. This newspaper published an article clearly libellous, fact that was recognized by the Tribunal in its sentence of judgement. Mr. Brundage's case was brilliantly defended by a Barrister-at-law Me René Bondoux of Paris (wellknown also for his qualities at fencing). The two editors cited, Mr. Verrière and Mr. Massot as well as the author of the libellous article Mr. André Chassignon have each been condemned to a fine of Fr. 100,000.— and Mr. Brundage obtained the one franc for damages he claimed.

We publish below a synopsis of the judgement as it was given on October 22nd 1959. Owing to lack of space, we refrain from giving all the reasons adduced by the Court and We keep strictly to the essentials of the case.

*Tribunal Correctionnel of the Seine*  
*17th Court*  
*Sitting of October 22nd 1959.*

Mr. AVERY BRUNDAGE, plaintiff (Me René Bondoux, barrister-at-law).

DEPARTEMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION  
c/ Messrs. Marcel Verrière, Henri Massot, André Chassignon, and the publishing firm: 'Editions Sportives françaises' (Me Pierre Veron, barrister-at-law).

## JUDGEMENT

Whereas Mr. Avery Brundage has brought an action before this Court, inculpatng Messrs. Marcel Verrière, Henri Massot and André Chassignon, the first two are charged with libel against a private party and the third of aiding and abetting in this offence.