

Jesse Owens and his wise Comments

Jesse Owens who won four medals at the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936 (100 m., 200 m., distance and relays 4x100 m.) expressed his opinion in the course of an interview when he said that nationalism must absolutely disappear from olympic contests which must regain their individualistic character if they are to subsist. LET US DROP ONCE FOR ALL THE POINT SCORES BY NATION, he pursued: only Olympic champions ought to be recognized and nobody else, furthermore let us abolish all national point scoring. The fault lies with the journalists who take the trouble to establish tables of points, publish them, then announce afterwards the name of the country which has, on principle, won the Games. This state of affairs should not exist because Olympism is a contest between individuals.

If you wish to have an idea of the true Olympic spirit, pay a visit to the Olympic Village reserved to the athletes. ALL THE DIFFICULTIES ARE CAUSED BY THE OFFICIALS, for athletes never talk of national rivalry on the cinder track.

Jesse Owens went on saying that he is opposed to State controlled Olympic teams: 'Let the competitors shift for themselves, they are quite capable of managing things for themselves'. A. M. Owens is now 46 years old; we congratulate him for his wisdom.

In view of the forthcoming Games in Rome, we reproduce herewith the following information for the benefit of the press

concerning the Olympic Rules which stipulate:

SCORING OF POINTS

The Olympic Games are a contest between individuals. They are designed to be a joyous festival of the youth of the world. The competitors give of their best, strive to win if they can, and if not, rejoice with the victors.

The Games are not, and must not become, a contest between nations, for this would be entirely contrary to the spirit of the Olympic Movement and would surely lead to disaster. There is therefore no official score, and tables of points are without authority. In actual fact, tables of points are really misinformation because they are inevitably inaccurate. To be correct they would have to be weighted, since it is

certainly unfair to give the winner of the marathon or decathlon, a winning gymnast pistol shooter or yachtsman, and a winning football or basket-ball team the same score.

Moreover, to be fair the factor of population should be considered, and if careful analysis were made it would be discovered that many small nations have won far more Olympic medals on a 'per capita' basis than the larger countries.

Normal national pride is perfectly legitimate, but neither the Olympic Games nor any other sport contest can be said to indicate the superiority of one country or of one political system over another. One of the objects of the Olympic Games is to build international good will, and efforts made to pit one nation against another in this or any other similar manner must be severely censured.
