

A Press Communiqué...

Published on January 27th 1960 replies (unwittingly) to some insinuations expressed last year by a French Weekly, which was sued in a libel-case which the President of the International Olympic Committee won when the Newspaper was condemned by the 17th Court of the Tribunal Correctionnel of the Seine in Paris, referring to the situation of the recordman Elliot (Australia).

This Press reports the following:

ELLIOT CHIEF CONCERN ARE HIS STUDIES AND HE HAS NO TIME TO TRAIN FOR ROME

The Australian Herb Elliot, recordman of the 1500 metres in 3'36" and of the 1000 mile in 3'54"5, has been acknowledged as the best athlete of 1958. He encountered some financial difficulties in the course of last year which seem to have affected and modified his situation.

Married since last May to a former Beauty queen, Anne Dudley, Elliot who is expecting a child to be born soon, she and her husband live in one of the Melbourne suburb.

He recently had to exchange his car for a motorcycle, much to the surprise of his admirers. His financial problems reside in the fact that the double world recordman Elliot insists on pursuing his studies and refuses to have anything to do with situations offered him which would be only a blind.

'Sport is only a side-show in my life, my chief object is to go on with my studies. Thanks to a bursarial grant I obtained from my employers, I hope to go and study at Cambridge University after competing in the Olympic Games.

My wife and child will come with me and remain in England for the three years I shall be up at Cambridge. In the meantime, I find it extremely hard to devote myself to both: athletic training and studying.' In spite of this statement somewhat pessimistic, Australian sport experts look upon Elliot as one of the Australian athletes most likely to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games of Rome.