

Repercussion of the ski incident

Whilst the World Ski Championships came to an end at Chamonix, The World Cyclo-Cross-country Championships started at Esch (Luxemburg). The Authorities of that country refused visas of entry to the nationals of East Germany. The Cycling Federation of Democratic East Germany sent a telegram of protest to the International Cycling Union against this measure, demanding to hold these Championships in another country. This request was, of course, not granted and the Championships took place without the East German cyclists. One really begins to wonder if the latter do not take advantage of a situation which has become almost general, by posing as victims, and if they do not use it as a pretext for launching a political demonstration on a large scale? But on this occasion they cannot be accused to have started the trouble by mixing politics with sport. Let us be frank about this, it is the Occidentals who have blundered. This constant reference to the 'Wall of Berlin' is essentially a political affair and has nothing to do with sport.