

“The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad - Tokyo 1964” : a remarked publication

Press review

Vernon Morgan, “Reuter”, London

“...There are two hundred photographs to give a lasting record of the many outstanding performances and human incidents of these games. A team of thirty-six of the leading international sports writers have written their impressions not only of the Games generally but of each individual sport... It is the duty of the Organising Committee of each Olympics to produce an official record of the Games. Individual Olympic Committees also publish their own books on these games, but this is the first time that such a work has been produced on the Summer Olympics. It is outstanding and the finest of all Olympic publications... There is no male or female, who was in Tokyo or who even saw the Games on television, that will not find much pleasure in it. The International Olympic Committee is to be congratulated...”

“Evening Standard”, London

“...Fascinating is the word for the colour photographs contained in the latest book about Tokyo Olympics published this week. Brilliant reproduction presents these photos at their best, and this applies to the black and white photography too. In all there are nearly 200 prints. ‘The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad - Tokyo 1964’ is available in either English or French text. Published by the International Olympic Institute of Lausanne, it naturally includes all the detailed results of the Games as well as special articles by international sports writers...”

James Coote, “Daily Telegraph”, London

“All the colour and pageantry of the last Olympics can be found in ‘The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad - Tokyo 1964’ published under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee. Admittedly this publication is costly at £4. 11s., but it provides value for money. There are hundreds of colour plates exquisitely reproduced, with articles by many of the leading correspondents who travelled to Tokyo to cover the Games. The complete official Olympic results are included, and to make these more interesting for non-statisticians, every one of the 20 sports competed in has authoritative commentaries. This is no dry account of the most stimulating Olympics ever staged. However many times you read this book, you will still want to read it again.”

“World Sports”, London

“...The pictures form the highspot of the volume. Some are magnificent... Writers such as Neil Allen, Rex Bellamy, Brian Glanville, Doug Ibbotson and Doug Gardner make the most lasting contributions. But perhaps the most profound piece of writing comes from the pen of a German Rudolf Hagelstange (*Olympic Diploma of Merit in 1963 - Ed.*), whose subject is ‘Japan, Mirror of the Olympic Idea.’ I found his anecdote about a crowd of people standing round the Olympic Flame at three o’clock in the morning most moving. Hagelstange writes : ‘What the world outside Japan may frequently regard as a routine matter — the journey of the flame from the old to the new Olympia — was considered by the people a sacred act. Here the mystery of the flame found devotees... the Japanese has a more elementary, a more compelling relationship with tradition than the European. To us, tradition is often no more than a dead fire, but to him tradition is not the preservation of ashes but the tending of a flame.’ ”

“The Times”, London

A journalist, trying to capture the magic of the transient world of sport with mere words, can only feel frustration at first sight of the illustrations to *The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad, Tokyo, 1964* (I.O.C., Mon-Repos, Lausanne, £4 15s.). Rarely have so many outstanding sporting photographs been assembled between covers.

All sports writers, it seems, are sentimentalists, however tough the face they present in the public prints. ...We learn, it took the grace of a Soviet woman gymnast to bring tears from one hardened reporter. Sport, says the message of this magnificent volume, can be a minor art.