

THE OLYMPIC GAMES :  
MORE THAN A RACE FOR MEDALS (1)

"The Olympic Games were not revived by the Baron de COUBERTIN merely to give contestants a chance to win medals and to break records, or to entertain the public, or to provide for the participants a stepping stone to a career in professional sport and certainly not to demonstrate the superiority of one political system over another.

His idea was that they would :

1. Bring to the attention of the world the fact that a National programme of physical training and competitive sport will not only develop stronger and healthier boys and girls but also and perhaps more important, will make better citizens through the character building that follows participation in properly administered amateur sport.
2. Demonstrate the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship which could be adopted with great advantage in many other spheres of activity.
3. Stimulate interest in the fine arts through exhibitions and demonstrations, and thus contribute to a broader and more well rounded life.
4. Teach that sport is play for fun and enjoyment and not to make money, and that, with devotion to the task at hand, the reward will take care of itself. The philosophy of amateurism in contrast to that of materialism.
5. Create international amity and good will, thus leading to a happier and more peaceful world.

*(1) We thought it might be a good idea to publish these two extracts from statements made by Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE, President of the International Olympic Committee. In the light of present circumstances, would it not be desirable to reread these ?*

Not everyone can visit Olympia. You who have had the good fortune to spend some days in the serene ambiance of this beautiful valley, among the sacred stones of the ancient temples, must have absorbed some of the true principle of the Olympic Movement.

As disciples of this philosophy, which stands for what is right and stands against what is wrong, you can carry the message with you when you return to your homes and thus help to create that happier and more peaceful world envisioned by the Baron de COUBERTIN.

Avery BRUNDAGE  
Olympia, 1963

## SPORT IS THE OPPOSITE OF WORK (1)

Inasmuch as we are dealing with sport and with sport only, we must remember what sport is. According to the dictionary, sport is a pastime and a diversion; it is play; it is action for amusement; it is something opposed to work; it is free, spontaneous, joyous; it is an activity for recreation. The minute sport becomes anything more than this, it is work or business, and not sport. Sport, if it is truly sport, is purely incidental to, and does not interfere with, the main business of life. It is an avocation; not a vocation.

Most athletic competition is by boys and girls, by young women and young men. For many quite obvious reasons they must not be given an exaggerated idea of the importance of sport. It must not be allowed to interfere with the acquisition of an education, or with the pursuit of a trade or a profession. To keep sport in its proper place is one of the obligations of the governing bodies of amateur sport.