

## NEWS OF THE WORLD

### BELGIUM

\* An Institute of Sports Medecine has just been created on the initiative of a team of specialists. Provisionally located in the premises of the Clinique Sainte Anne d'Anderlecht, it has been in operation for the use of clubs since the middle of February.

#### *The XXIIth Games of the Free Teaching at Louvain*

\* After the withdrawal of the Lebanese organizers, the International Sports Federation of the Catholic Teaching has confided all the arrangements for this multi-sports meeting to the Belgian town of Louvain. The events will take place from the 6th to the 16th August 1969, except for the football matches which will be held in Barcelona (Spain) from the 5th to the 16th April.

### BULGARIA

\* *Amalgamation of clubs in the capital*

A spectacular reorganization has led to the re-grouping of the various sports societies of Sofia into four clubs: AKADEMIK basically for students, C.S.K.A. SEPTEMBERIISKA SLAVA (amalgamation of the central Army Club and the September Club), LEVSKI SPARTAK and the G.S.K. SLAVIA, the outcome of the amalgamation of the well-known Slavia and Locomotive Clubs. New blood will therefore be brought into Bulgarian sport.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

\* *The next AIPS Congress in Bratislava in Way*

The management committee of the International Association for Sports Press (AIPS) met in Luxembourg on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Luxembourg Association. From the report on the press organization of the Mexico Olympic Games, presented by the Secretary General, the committee has extracted various passages to be thoroughly

examined by the organizers of larger important meetings. The 1969 congress of the Association will be held from the 5th May in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. H.R.H. the Grand Duke of LUXEMBURG, member of the International Olympic Committee and the Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte have received the members of the management committee in the presence of Mr. Paul WILWERTZ, burgomaster of Luxemburg and president of the Luxemburg Olympic Committee.

#### ENGLAND

\* *A step towards the liberation of Sundays*

The Sunday Entertainment Bill which has governed the Sunday lives of the English since 1625 is in the process of being revised.

In fact recently the House of Commons has announced itself in favour of the adoption of a Bill which will sweep away the centuries of tradition. Amongst other things, this will have an important effect on Sunday sports activities.

#### GERMANY

\* The Grand Prix for sports literature for the best German article of the year is awarded to the journalist Hans BLICKENSORFER, for 1968, as for 1966 and 1967.

#### ITALY

\* The Cortina Festival of Sports Films which in a few years has discovered how to recognize the value of cinematographic works on sport will begin on the 15th March. Fifty films from twenty seven countries will be shown and it will be opened by Mr. Giulio ONESTI, member of the IOC and president of the Italian National Olympic Committee.

#### JAPAN

\* *“Sport is also a powerful derivative of the worries of everyday life. Most young Japanese play baseball, which is now considered a real national sport; they go swimming and play table tennis, and take part in other physical exercise such as athletics, rugby, rowing, horse riding etc. In*

*winter skiing is extremely popular and even the numerous trains leaving Tokyo at the end of each week for the nearby Japanese Alps have difficulty in guaranteeing transport for the countless would-be skiers . . .*

*. . . Those already ripened by age and for whom any violent sport is forbidden, golf for them has become very popular and this widely practised sport is far from being considered, as in Europe, a luxury sport."*

This brief description of sport in Japan was part of a recent speech made by the Japanese Ambassador in France, and published in the bulletin of the Japanese Consulate in Geneva under the title of "Japan Today".

#### RUMANIA

\* At Miercurea Ciuc, the picturesque region where in winter the country's lowest temperatures are recorded, several sports events will take place under the theme of the 40th anniversary of the first Rumanian Ice Hockey team.

#### SWITZERLAND

\* 6892 visitors in 1968 to the Sports Museum in Basle . . . The 1968 report has revealed this impressive figure and points out that it surpasses by 34 that of the preceeding year. It brings to mind the interesting exhibitions on sport in ancient and modern Mexico, graphic art and the Olympic Games, fencing in art.

#### FROM THE VATICAN

\* *Pope Paul and sport*

*"Sport is an ascetic exercise for the practice of fraternal charity and for spreading concord and peace among men".* These words were pronounced by the Pope while addressing members of an Italian women's basketball team. He added that popes have always been *"paternally interested in sports"*, underlining *"its human values of loyalty, self-control . . . as a foundation of spiritual values"*.

WALES

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*To come to the aid of the Welsh Amateur Sportsmen*

On the 24th February, the Welsh Council for the Commonwealth Games launched an appeal with the aim of collecting £20,000 per year. This fund will go towards helping the development of sport, improving the equipment and increasing international exchanges.

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