

Readers' correspondence

Sirs,

During the last few Olympic Games, international politics have spoiled the real meaning and interest of the Olympics. I think that the Games should not be held again until they are liberated from this influence.

I also think that the excessive costs demanded by the USSR from the United States to televise the events is another reason to stop the Olympic Games.

P.S. I also have one more comment—internationally I do not feel there is an equitable definition of “amateurism”.

*Mrs. Milford H. Goble
Roswell, NM 88201, USA*

Mr. President,

A retired Professor, I had the immense pleasure of assisting for the first time — and probably the last — at the Olympic Games, those of the XXIst Olympiad in Montreal in 1976.

I know all the problems they caused you and the IOC, and I apologise on behalf of all Canadians.

*Mrs. Rosiane Deschambault
Montreal, Canada*

To our readers

The IOC has received several letters commenting upon the “men-like” East German women swimmers in Montreal. Such comments have been made even before the last Olympic Games. We can only point out that champions are always something of a race apart, due to their constant efforts to develop themselves. We do not think that anyone can really speak of “men-like” females, or of use of drugs in this case, and indeed these girls were not the only ones of such muscular form to take part in Montreal. Such women have already participated in previous Games, even long before the discovery of the steroids, though no one seems to have made this point. We feel there is nothing worse than to insinuate, when direct proof is lacking, that someone has been beaten by something other than pure sporting ability and dedication.