

Netherlands

Attention for "fair play"

by Ihr. R.C. W. von Bose, Netherlands Olympic Committee Director

After two years of intensive organisation and preparation, the Netherlands Olympic Committee has implemented its "fair play" project in high level sport last year.

What was the object ?

There is an increasing occurrence of aggression in top-level sports, not only on the field but also among the crowds, and declining respect for official authority (referee/jury/linesmen). The growth of commercial interests is also stimulating the desire to "win at all costs" using doping, often at serious detriment to the athletes' health.

We are horrified at this development and feel called upon, at least in our country, to bring the public and the sporting world to their senses, and we believe this can be done by stimulating interest in fair play. In a sports context we see this as not only observing the rules, but especially respecting the opponent, the referee and oneself.

However, we do not wish to exaggerate and over-praise this idea of fair play by awarding

prizes for what should, after all, only be natural behaviour.

Our aim is to encourage the discussion among our youth of fair play in high level sports which often constitute the training ground for future social behaviour. We hope to coordinate our efforts with those of the Dutch educational authorities and have already outlined our draft proposals in the Olympic Review N^o. 170, December 1981.

Our project will have three main themes :

- Youth Olympic Days
- The Olympic Sports Quiz '84
- The booklet "How Sportsmanlike is Sportsmanlike ?"

Youth Olympic Days

A Youth Olympic Day has been organized in each of Holland's 12 Provinces, for boys and girls born in 1968 or later. Excellent co-operation was achieved between the Netherlands Olympic Committee and the provincial sports councils, who took care of the adminis-



Team sports were organised on the same day in the twelve provinces.

tration of the day, and the provincial representatives of sports associations who organized the various sports events.

In order to approach the subject of fair play from all possible angles, a very wide choice of sports was made: handball, soccer, hockey, athletics, swimming, gymnastics, judo, cycling and equestrian sports, thus involving team sports, individual sports, direct contact sports, sports with and without aids, and sports in which the competitors are dependent on a jury. The winners from each sport will form the Provincial Youth Olympic Team which will compete in the National Finals to be held on May 26th 1964, National Olympic Day.

Approximately 13 000 people throughout Holland were directly involved in the Youth Olympic Days, not to mention the many enthusiastic volunteers.

The 12 Provincial Youth Olympic Days were undoubtedly a success and all concerned welcomed this initiative by the Netherlands Olympic Committee to further local sport.

Olympic Sports Quiz '84

A '2-hour sports quiz on general sports knowledge, rules of the game and the history of Olympic sports will be televised by the Dutch broadcasting company NCRV on 16th April 1984.

Magazine advertisements will invite over 30 000 sports clubs in Holland to enter teams of 5 boys and/or girls born in 1968 or later to participate in the quiz. The victorious team in each province will compete in the National Quiz to be held on the National Youth Olympic Day.

The booklet "How Sportsmanlike is Sportsmanlike ?"

A booklet aimed at promoting discussion of fair play and advising parents and youth leaders on how to lead a discussion on this subject, has been prepared by Mr. A. Buisman of the Department of Philosophical and Historical Pedagogy of the State University of Utrecht. The subjects covered are: rules, tactics, aggression, equal opportunity, and attitudes toward the referee, and the booklet encourages readers to form their own opinion of what is fair and unfair.

Television

Television and radio will also play a big part in familiarizing the whole of the population with our project. Each Provincial Youth Olympic

Day will be allotted a 40 minute broadcast by NCRV, and the National Final will be given several hours' coverage. Fair play will also be discussed by NCRV's radio programme for youngsters.



Television introduces the project of Youth Olympic Days to the general population.

Funds

Financial support for our project has been generously given by local trade and industry, the Dutch authorities and the International Olympic Committee. The Youth Olympic Days are thus sponsored by private concerns, the Sports Quiz '84 is largely financed and organized by a computer company, and the government grant enables us to distribute 20 000 of our booklets free of charge.

International Youth Olympic Days

We believe that a similar project is also feasible on an international scale with international competitions, concentrating on the motto of fair play, and would be very happy to make available the knowledge and experience we have gained through our own Youth Olympic Days.

The Dutch experience has also expressed its willingness to co-operate by approaching international television companies - proof of the excellent relations between sports and television in our country, a very important factor in our aims. Communication is, after all, the key factor to fair play.

R.C.W.