

We continue to publish some of the many comments evoked by the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad last summer at Los Angeles. This month we have chosen the reactions inspired by the actual events and the hope of seeing new disciplines added to the program :

Mr. Lefranc, of Toulouse (FRA) told us of his enthusiasm for track and field which is, according to him : *"the pre-eminent sport of the Olympic Games. Each competition is a lesson of courage, of concentration which gives us the athlete. It is also an model of respect and of elegance. Television profits from the opportunity, unforgettable, to demonstrate its capacities for creating images which are works of art."*

Mr. Guillermo Morales (MEX) congratulates the Organising Committee of the Games for having *"the good idea to plan the marathon for the final day. This event, without a doubt the most demanding physically, is very popular and the public (of which he was a part) was able to follow the action on the course and watch the closing ceremony on television in the ecstasy of a single day."*

Mrs. Müller (FRG) compares synchronised swimming with figure skating saying that: *"These two disciplines make use of the same athletic mastery to create a show close to an art"*. That is not the opinion of Mr. Frank Lameira (USA) who, although he enjoys it, he does not *"consider synchronised swimming as a true sport"*. He would prefer that *"table tennis be instituted as a medal sport"*.

"Women's judo has reached the required limits to qualify as an Olympic sport" writes Miss Karen Briggs (GBR) *"It should be given a chance"*. She continues : *"I have won three European Championships and a World Championship (under 48 kg), where do I go from here ? Do I retire ? My only ambition left is to compete in the Olympic Games"*. Mrs. Martha Pezzula Mann (USA) is disappointed : *"The fact that the 20 km and 50 km walks got a pitifully small amount of coverage paled in the light of the fact that the network never showed any of the medallists being given the awards they worked so hard for and deserved"*.

The Federation of Handicapped Individuals (USA) writes : *"We wish to express our appreciation for including events for the 'physically challenged in this year's Olympics and hope that these events will be continued. The disabled want to become an integrated part of this international event for peace and goodwill"*.

Mr. V. Coppini (MLT) congratulates the IOC on introducing the use of protective helmets in boxing, describing it as *"like the reappearance of the sun after six months' absence"*. In his letter, Mr. Coppini cites the British Medical Association's recent study on boxing and brain damage and says that the results are *"enough indictment against further pursuance of boxing as a sport"*.

Finally, Father Eugene Joseph Bettinger (USA), recognising the problems encountered by the Olympic Movement during the past three Olympiads, has sent us his impressions in a poem. Here we publish the two last verses :

*... Be it Montreal, Moscow or Los Angeles,
the results prove to be quite the same
for when Third Worlders, Westerners, Easterners
stay away
the Olympics loose the meaning of their name,*

*Return to the Spirit of '96 and its place of birth
abandon hostile wanderings of crass sites of pay
make permanent and neutral a sports haven of Earth
come home again to Olympia and forever its message
relay !*