

BOOK REVIEWS

THE OLYMPIC MARATHON

By David E. Martin and Roger W.H. Gynn. Published by Human Kinetics, Illinois, USA. Price: US\$27.95, plus postage. ISBN: 0-88011-969-1. Reviewed by Ian Buchanan.

David Martin and Roger Gynn, the authors of the acclaimed *The Marathon Footrace* (1979) have excelled themselves with their latest publications and their new book fully lives up to the promise of its subtitle, *The History and Drama of Sports Most Challenging Event*.

The *History* and the *Drama* are related in an informative and entertaining style and are supported by comprehensive statistics including the name of every competitor who ever started in an Olympic marathon. For most of these competitors the authors traced their exact date of birth and the only first names missing are those of some of the Greek runners in the early Olympic races.

It is not possible within the context of this review to mention all the features included in an excellent book of more than 500 pages, maps of each Olympic course are included, major developments in the years between the Games are well covered and such items as, for example, the fact that Italian-born Gaston Strobine (USA) won an Olympic bronze medal (1912) in the only marathon he ever ran are revealed.

This is an outstanding book on Olympic history and I recommend it to all who share my interests.