

# Avery Brundage: His Impact on International Competition for Women

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In this paper, a study was made of four areas. General biographical information was examined. Brundage's stance on amateurism was explored. Specific conflicts with female Olympians were studied and Brundage's general role as a sports leader was explored. These four areas were then analyzed relative to Olympic competition for women and the possible influence that Brundage had upon such competition. The following postulations appear warranted on the basis of this research. (1) Brundage reflected the socio-cultural views toward athletics for women prevalent during his formative years in the early twentieth century. (2) Brundage's attitudes toward the amateur ideal were strongly influenced by his personal success as an athlete and businessman prior to 1928. (3) The 1912 Olympics in which Brundage participated as a member of the U.S. track team was the single most important event in the crystalization of Brundage's values and attitudes towards Olympism and athletics. In conclusion, Brundage's role as a sports leader can be divided into two distinct periods. During the first period, prior to 1948, evidence suggests that Brundage had a positive effects on increasing opportunities available for national and world class women athletes. In the post-1948 period, evidence suggests a negative influence on the part of Brundage in increasing opportunities for female athleticism on the international level.



Head table at Seward Staley Address: Ron Smith, Alan Metcalfe, and Guy Lewis