

Battle-Scarred Olympics Rocked By Reports Of Payoffs

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The 1968 Olympics, already plagued by black power demonstrations, were rocked again Wednesday by disclosure that officials were investigating reports of payoffs to athletes in return for the use of equipment at the Mexico City games.

"Indications that payoffs have been made to athletes of virtually all countries," said Dan Ferris, 79-year-old secretary emeritus of

the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union and newly-elected member of the powerful Council of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Ferris estimated that the payoffs range from \$500 to \$6,000 and added, "The matter is being thoroughly investigated. The investigation centers around those athletes who did not see fit to notify their superiors of the payments."

Ferris said he understood the matter first was brought to light when an athlete told his officials of a payoff by a company, and turned the money back.

The acting executive director of the U. S. Olympic Committee, Everett Barnes, said his executive board was investigating the reports.

If a medal-winning athlete were found to have accepted money, his name could be deleted

from the record books and his medals taken away.

Such was the case with Jim Thorpe, America's famed decathlon winner in 1912. Thorpe was stripped of his medals because he was reported to have played semiprofessional baseball before his participation in the Olympics.

A similar stir over equipment scandal came on the heels of the black power demonstrations that previously rocked the Olympics.

Two U.S. track stars, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, were suspended and sent home after a demonstration on the victory stand.

Meanwhile, the American team, which until Wednesday had taken all but two of its Games-leading 29 gold medals in track and field and swimming-diving competition, scrambled for prizes in other events.

Bill Steinkraus, a 43-year-old Olympic equestrian veteran, led the way with a gold medal-winning performance in the individual horse jumping contest. The Noroton, Conn., book editor, com-

peting in his fifth Olympics, was Snowbound to victory over the 17-jump course, finishing with four penalty points.

The Olympic championship basketball game between the United States and Yugoslavia Friday night will be telecast live to the United States by the American Broadcasting Company starting at 11 p.m. EDT, it was announced Wednesday.

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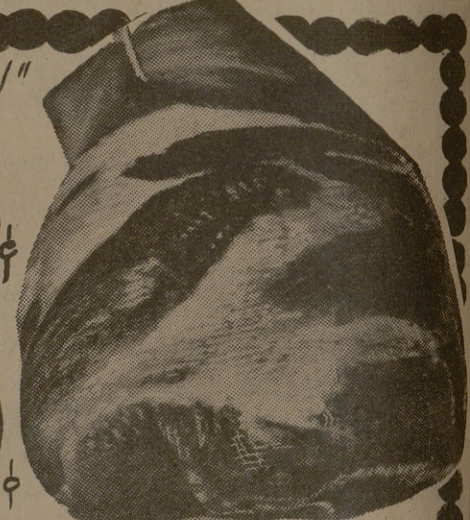
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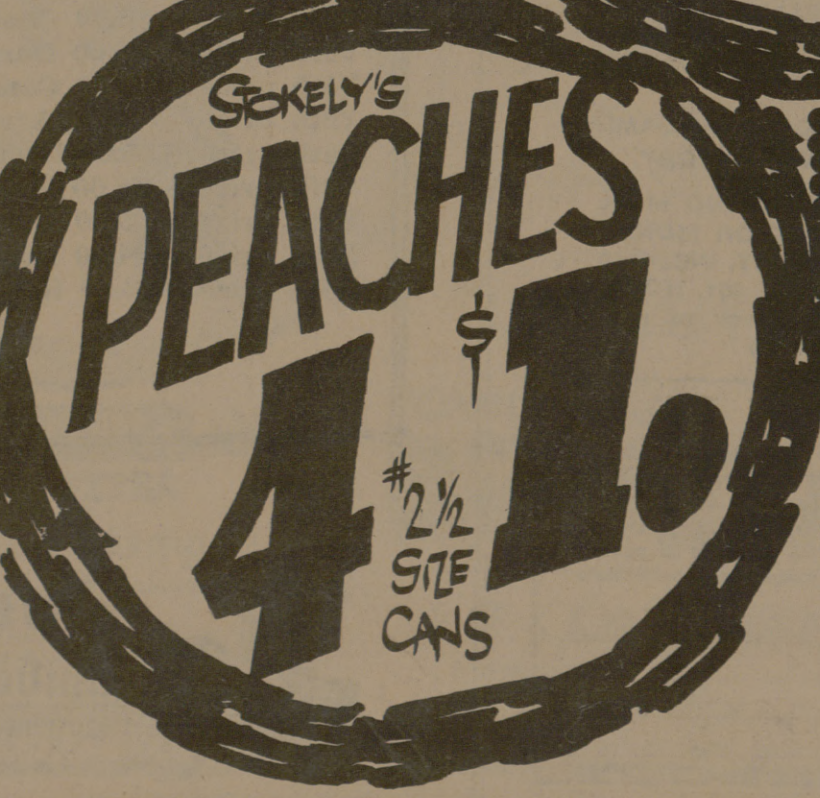


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