

BY NICOLAS ANTONIADIS

SPORTS AS A SPECTACLE AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A FEW WORDS INSTEAD OF A PREFACE	15
INTRODUCTION	
THE HISTORY OF SPORTS	21
SINCE THE TIME OF HOMER	27
- Sports in the Ancient Times	
Similarities and Differences	33
- Sports as described by Homer	39
- The Archaic era	
The great competitions	40
(a) First phase	41
(b) Second phase	43
(c) Third phase	45
OLYMPIA	49
THE GAMES DURING THE ARCHAIC PERIOD	59
- The end of the Games in the Archaic Period	73
THE GAMES DURING THE HELLENISTIC TIMES	77
GAMES AND COMPETITIVE SPECTACLES	
DURING THE ROMAN ERA	
- The Roman spectacles (Ludi)	82
- The end of the Roman sovereignty	84
- Sports and politics during the Roman Era	85
THE GYMNASTIC COMPETITIONS IN THE BYZANTIUM	87
PHYSICAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
IN THE MEDIEVAL TIME	
PROFESSIONALISM IN SPORTS	
- The professionalism of the Ancients in Athleticism	101

SPORTS AS A SPECTACLE AND THEATRE	107
- High-level athletes and art	107
- Sports as a spectacle and Theatre	111
- Differences among theatre, art and sports	114
- Functions of the Sports Spectacle	. 119
(a) The function of counterbalance	120
(b) The function of conveying aggressiveness	121
(c) The function of political distraction	122
(d) The function for the social adjustment	
CHAMPIONS NOWADAYS	127
- From heroes to gladiators	129
- Worship	
- Idols for one day	132
- The status of a high level athlete	134
SPORTS PRESS	
SPORTS AND PHILOSOPHY	139
SUCCESS AND FAILURE	145
THE SYMBOLIC DEATH	151
SPORTS AND WOMEN	155
SPORTS - POLITICS AND COMMERCIALISATION	165
- Politics in Sports	165
- Olympic Games and Money	168
- Commercialised Olympics (1896 - 1936)	169
CONCLUSION	175
- The future of Sports	178
- The end of the Olympic Games	179
3	
RIRLIOGRAPHY	181

A FEW WORDS INSTEAD OF A PREFACE

Attempting to depict precisely the wide range of feelings, thoughts and reactions of an athlete, is a very difficult task.

The effort of athletes, lonely and painful, always provokes emotions that contribute, in a catalytic way, to the formation of their character and, later, of a healthy member of our society.

I have very often experienced those feelings, through happiness and unhappiness, through satisfaction and disappointment, through recognition and controversy.

Nicolas Antoniadis, an amazing athlete of his time, opted for the rough, full of hardships, lonely road of the **«idealistic** athlete».

His motto had always been the **fair play**, far from selfish motives and interests, **he went into the orbit of an athlete - prototype**, a living example for the generations to come.

In this orbit he managed to forge his own character, incompatible with trivial interests, and that is expressed in this book.

Looking through these pages I realise that my own feelings, during my life as an athlete have been depicted in them, as well as those of my present life, as a coach, as the efforts of a coach are also lonely and melancholic.

Reading this book made me smile because I was able to find truth in them, and guidelines for everyone.

It is a book in which athletes can trace and find themselves, while it finds the way to protect them and lead them through

safer paths, as it is well known that the feelings of athletes are very delicate.

In short, this book, a pioneer of its kind, might become the Gospel of athlete-fighters, since the readers, through the experiences and selflessness of the author, can profit greatly, by strengthening their souls and explaining feelings they might have never dared to express!

I am certain that this book, a kind contribution to the wonderful word of those who practise sports, by a wonderful person and fighter, will catch on, as it deserves.

Athens April 15th, 2003

Yannis Ioannides

