



Photo: Jim Merrithew, Athlete Information Bureau


### Fair play in action

Nevertheless, a number of top athletes are giving the campaign their full backing. One of the Commission's most effective initiatives has been the appointment of Ambassadors for Fair Play from among the sports fraternity to act as role models for young people.

They include Sylvie Bernier, who won the three-metre diving event at the Los Angeles Olympics; Gaetan Boucher, holder of four Olympic medals in speedskating; Mike Bossy, former professional hockey player; and decathlete Dave Steen.

'I've always been very conscious of the fact that kids look up to professional athletes,' says hockey star Mike Bossy. 'If you're going to have that kind of influence on kids, you have to act and speak responsibly.'

The Commission's efforts appear to be having the desired effect. A number of National Sports Organisations have implemented rule changes to discourage violence and dangerous play, particularly in those sports most prone to outbursts of aggression. Coaches and officials are being made aware of the issues, and examples of good sportsmanship are being recognised.

The Canadian Olympic Association and the Coaching Association are following the Commission's lead in stressing the importance of fair play. While it may not be possible to effect a complete change in attitudes overnight, the seeds of the fair play movement have been planted and Canadian sport is likely to emerge healthier and more enjoyable as a result. 

## Working party starts process of reviving Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games have been under threat for some time. But now a Canadian initiative to revive and strengthen them is getting underway.

This follows acceptance of a proposal – put forward by Canada at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kuala Lumpur last year – to set up a Committee of Experts, or Working Party as it is now called, to resolve some of the Games' political and financial problems.

The Working Party will be holding its first meeting in London in June of this year. Its chairman is Roy McMurtry, former Canadian High Commissioner to the UK. The Working Party will prepare an interim report for publication in the autumn; it will then submit a series of final recommendations to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in the autumn of 1991.

One of the Working Group's first responsibilities will be to identify the main problems affecting the Games and to suggest how they can best be resolved. Among the other topics contained in the original Canadian proposal, which the Working Party will also consider, are:

- a Sports Trust, to generate and manage funds for Commonwealth sports development;
- the operation and structure of the Commonwealth Games Federation;
- the sport-development needs of the developing members of the Commonwealth;
- a Hosting Assistance Programme to make it more feasible for developing countries to bid successfully for the Games. 