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Letters (continued)

In support of athletes

I am enclosing a copy of a letter written to *The Globe and Mail*, Jan. 25/82.

Although the *Gateway* is anti-elitist (as evident by your stand on the raising of athletic fees) at the local level it would be my hope that they recognize the plight of the elite athlete in Canada.

There are countless opportunities for our very young, inexperienced athletes in Edmonton and across the country.

As our athletes become more talented, their costs skyrocket and the time commitment becomes significant. All too often these factors become prohibitive. Their first alternative is to flee to the U.S. on scholarships. All too often, and I know this is hard to believe, the coaching they receive is inadequate and the competition demands are so great that their careers end.

Even those who stay in Canada are faced with a decision upon graduation; either live a life of financial insecurity imposed by their training and competing schedules or give up track and field and enter their working careers. And this decision comes at age 21 or less before they have reached their athletic potential. Debbie Brill is indeed an anomaly. Most of the time we send "children" to compete against adults. When they do not win a medal Canada reacts poorly and resents the money that has been spent (only in the preceding year!) in an effort to buy a medal.

My hat goes off to the Debbie Brill's and Diane Jones - K's who have persevered and stayed in the sport. How long will an lan

Newhouse (ranked in the top 10 in the Commonwealth) continue to make the personal sacrifices required for so little in return?

K.R. Dearborn,
Grad Studies

Globeating

Richard J. Doyle,
Editor-in-Chief,
The Globe and Mail





Sir,

On Jan. 23, Debbie Brill set a world record in the indoor high jump. This was the third best jump by anyone, anywhere, in the history of the event. The *Globe and Mail* recognized the event with only a picture on page 18! The Superbowl Game of Jan. 24 made the front page with a picture of Charlie Young, Bo Harris and Jim LeClair! In the sports section the Canadian public was treated to extensive coverage of the Superbowl game itself and a number of sports stories from around the world. Granted these are all newsworthy items. As a sports enthusiast, I was very interested in reading them but they pale in comparison to Miss Brill's accomplishment, and we are denied the opportunity to read of it. The feat was incredible and certainly of the utmost interest to the Canadian public, and to track and field enthusiasts around the world. Your shoddy treatment of this event is inexcusable, particularly for a publication which proclaims itself as "Canada's National Newspaper".

Debbie Brill is somewhat of an anomaly. Too many of our athletes cease competition before they reach their potential. As demonstrated by your editorial decision to almost ignore her performance, they know their accomplishments will receive minimal recognition. Of course every four years we give them a sweat suit and then decry their efforts when they fail to win an Olympic medal. How hypocritical! Financially they will receive minimal support from any level of government. It is revealing and ironic to learn that Miss Brill competed that night only in the hopes of eventually winning a maximum \$5000 award from an American oil company (Mobile Oil) to help finance her athletic career. This is 1/20th of the amount paid to Clifford Olson as a blood ransom! How deplorable! If one of our most outstanding Canadian track athletes in history is treated this way, is it surprising that so many of our promising young athletes become discouraged and disillusioned? I think not. I, for one, am embarrassed, ashamed and disgusted with the treatment accorded them.

Sincerely,
K.R. Dearborn

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