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The Worst Olympics

This writer would like to be devoting this space to a word of congratulations to Canadian athletes who had gone abroad this past month and returned with Olympic honours. . . . Sadly, we cannot do this! Canada with a few paltry points to show for sending some 107 individuals to the Games in London has a second in canoeing and fifth in sailing.



Debbie Brill goes over the bar in her own particular way, head first, feet last.

A. We have six who made the Olympic standards, and we will take three out of those six. We haven't had that kind of depth in the past. The possibility of a medal is pretty good.

Q. *What countries are strongest in track and field?*

A. The Americans should come out on top. They didn't rank too well last year in some of their events, but they seem to get mobilized every four years and come up with something. The Russian team, strangely enough, has been — well not ex-

actly on the decline — but they certainly haven't been showing the kind of strength they showed five, six or eight years ago. The big surprise could be East Germany, their women in particular are far ahead of everybody else.

Q. *Are new records likely this summer?*

A. I think there will be some track records broken this year, I think a few records are ready to go, the 400-metre is probably one and the 800-metre another, quite conceivably the 1,500 and 5,000 could go.

Debbie Returns After Thinking Things Over

There is — in spite of everyone's good intentions — a certain tension associated with high level sports. It irritates many young athletes and devastates some. Ms. Debbie Brill is one of the world's best high jumpers. She did not enjoy the 1972 Olympics and she decided enough was enough. But she changed her mind — a little. The article below includes quotes from The Summer Before, a film produced by COJO (Comité Organisateur des Jeux Olympiques de 1976) and The Royal Bank.

Debbie Brill was once the third best high jumper in the world. Five years ago she became a national heroine when she was the first Canadian girl to jump six feet. She had developed a unique style which was considered suicidal in the beginning but was later accepted as the Brill Bend.

"Instead of going over sideways I started to turn around and started to go backwards. I really didn't have any control over it; it just did it all on its own. I didn't realize I was doing this strange kind of jump. I got over to Oslo and this was the

first international meet I'd ever been to. I started jumping and all those people in the stands started laughing at me. . . . I was really shy and the fact that they were laughing at me just freaked me right out. I never wanted to jump again. I was always crying."

When Debbie went to Munich in 1972 Canada was hoping for a gold medal. Debbie finished eighth and a lot of Canadians were disappointed.

"That was part of it, I really didn't like the whole idea that people expected me to win or that they thought I should win, otherwise it didn't matter. It seemed to me that that was one of the most important things about it, I wasn't mentally prepared for it at all. I just wanted to get it over with. I stepped off that field and I vowed I would never jump again . . . and I didn't jump for almost two years after that. I was just sick of it."

Sometime during this period Debbie decided she wanted to go back and try again.

"I spent a lot of time on my own. I examined