



sports roundup

IT WASN'T TOO SURPRISING to have a highly-placed official of the Soviet Union come out with a statement the other day to the effect that his nation would have to broaden its base of "athletic endeavor" during the next four years if Russia expected to "maintain its supremacy in the Olympic Games of 1968."

Actually, no country can officially "win" the Olympic Games because there is no official scoring system whereby an official "winner" can be established. But the Russian press apparently used a system based on the first six finishers in all events at Tokyo last fall to claim "supremacy" for the Soviet Union. Curiously, Adolph Hitler's propagandists used the same system at Berlin in 1936 to put Nazi Germany at the top of the list.

United States athletes won the most gold medals at Tokyo, 36, compared to 30 for the Russians, but the Russians earned the most medals, 96 to 90. Scoring 3-2-1 for gold, silver and bronze medals, the United States would have been a close victor over Russia, 188-187. Using the 5-3-1 system employed in most dual track meets, it would have been 286-278 in favor of the Yanks.

But no matter what system is used, no nation can officially claim "supremacy" in any Olympic Games. Only individual athletes can win Olympic championships.

In this regard, it is interesting to note that back in 1924 and 1928 when Paavo Nurmi and his Finnish compatriots were sweeping the distance races, someone devised a scoring system based on the ratio of gold medals won to population. Little Finland "outclassed" the big United States on this basis. Under this system, either the Bahamas or Ethiopia, with one gold medal each, probably would have "emerged victorious" at Tokyo!



DAVIS FAMILY REUNION--Some 30 members of William and Mary Davis family recently attended reunion dinner at Second Baptist Church here as guests of Depriest and Ranzo Davis. Seated above are William and Mary Davis of Fordyce, Ark. Their sons and daughter (standing from left) are Daniel, Oakland, Calif.; Cecil, Ranzo and Depriest, Las Vegas; Juanita, Berkeley, Calif.; Clophes and Emeri, Las Vegas, and W. C., Reno.



CHRISTMAS PLAY CAST--Young people of Upper Room Church of God in Christ presented "The Essence of Christmas" on Christmas night. From left are Billy Chapman, Dolores Ware, Barbara Lisby, Godfrey Johnson, James Clark, Marlon (Tony) Wright, Fran Coleman, James Chapman, Brenda Tate, Brinda McKenney, Lavonne Coleman, Yolanda McKenney, Arthur Chapman, Sarah Jackson and Carlton Wright. Arthur Chapman, young man with a bright future, wrote play. Carlton Wright, who is preparing for ministry, directed.

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