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Mexican-American Junior Chamber Of Commerce

July 27, 1960

ROBERT CONS IS
ANOTHER MEXICAN
AMERICAN THAT GOT
THE WORKS AS USAL
?

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United States Olympic Association, Inc.
Biltmore Hotel
43rd and Madison
New York 17, New York

Gentlemen:

We have recently read, with alarm, the announcement by your Committee that John J. Kelley has been included on the Marathon Squad and that Robert Cons of Culver City, California, will not compete in the Olympic Games other than as an alternative.

It is our understanding that the Marathon Committee, composed of five representatives from Boston, New York, Chicago, California and Virginia, had decided that the Marathon Squad would be chosen on the basis of the best scores of three in the Marathon Trials held in Boston in April and in Yonkers in May.

Mr. Cons, through great personal sacrifices, expended large sums of money and time for the purpose of preparing for and participating in these Marathon Trials, and that he qualified as one of the three best scores as a result of his participation in these Trials.

BOB RUNS
19 to 20 MILES
A DAY
BESIDE
GOING to work
Every Day

We further understand that the report of the Marathon Committee was submitted to the Track and Field Committee, which is composed of twenty-two men from all over the United States and that this Committee met in Bakersfield, California, and approved the report of the Marathon Committee and certified the selection of the three members of the Marathon Squad, which included Robert Cons.

That subsequently the Olympic Executive Committee of the United States Olympic Association, Incorporated, in spite of many, many years of precedent to the contrary, reversed the recommendation of the Marathon Committee and of the Track and Field Committee. We also under-

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stand that, prior to your action which was announced on Monday, July 25, 1960, the Olympic Executive Committee sent post cards to the various members of the Track and Field Committee requesting a reconsideration of their prior decision. We have been informed that Mike Portanova of California had not received his post card until Saturday, July 23, 1960, and that Jess Mortenson, also of California, had not even received his post card when he learned of the announcement of your Committee.

We view, with shock and dismay, the actions of your Committee and we feel that any inspiration that the Olympic Games may instill in the hearts of our youth has been seriously diminished if not destroyed.

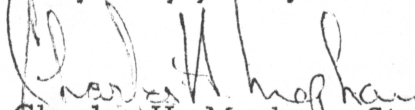
We invite your attention to the case of Harrison Dillard, who was unable to compete in the Olympics in 1948, although he had been undefeated for three years prior thereto in sixty-eight events.

Our Organization is extremely proud of Robert Cons and, prior to your recent decision, we had already arranged a banquet in his honor to be held on August 10, 1960, at the Carioca Cafe in Los Angeles, California. We do not intend to change any arrangements that have been made for this banquet and full honors will be bestowed upon Robert Cons, as he justly deserves. However, we cannot restrain ourselves in saying that if the present decision of your Committee is not changed, prior to this banquet, you may be assured that, along with bestowing justly due honors, there will be a vigorous and heated protest concerning the entire United States Olympic Association, Incorporated.

Mr. Cons has served his Country well in the Korean War and was wounded and received the Silver Star and the Purple Heart as a result of his valor. No-one will dispute that he served his Country in order to protect the institution of "fair play" and equality. The epitome of the entire Olympic Games is fair play and we feel that you have overlooked this most vital element in your recent action.

We respectfully hope that we will hear from you in the near future and that you will again reconsider your actions.

Very truly yours,


Charles H. Mephram, State Director

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COPIES TO DR H. GARCIA VICENTE XIMENES JOSE ALVARADO