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“An Olympic athlete is not a lowly instrument used to gain international prestige, an object to be bought and sold on the market, a commodity to be used and then thrown into the garbage. Athletes are, first and foremost, human beings, with mothers and fathers, spouses and children, brothers, sisters, friends and fans as well as pride in the recognition they have earned through their efforts and extraordinary merit. They have honor, above all, honor. Those who have never competed for money have competed and triumphed for honor alone. Honor is worth more than life, because life without honor is meaningless”.

References to the original: [Discurso pronunciado por el Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz en el Programa Especial sobre el Movimiento Deportivo Nacional e Internacional, el 3 de septiembre de 1999](#)

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