

## Spoilsport politics

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Sir: It is sad that Beijing wasn't chosen to host the 2000 Olympics. Everything was ensured by China to win its bid until politics was mixed with sports. The bias of western nations towards developing countries virtually sealed the fate of Beijing before the crucial voting took place at 'Monte Carlo'. While the US Senate passed a resolution against supporting China in its olympic bid, Britain chose to highlight the human rights violations in China thus denying them a chance to host the greatest carnival on the earth. Many other developed countries also followed suit. Finally during voting it was battle between developed and developing (Asian) nations. Finally the support of the developing nations was just not enough for Beijing to win the bid. The human rights violation defeated China's bid by a wafer thin margin of 2 votes.

If this is the best example of politics in sports at the international level, the scenario in our national sports is no better. Politics has become an integral part of Indian sports. It is playing havoc from rural level sport to awarding of Arjuna awards in the national sports. The kind of harm which Indian sports has suffered due to this politicking is showing itself in the humiliating performances of India at the international level. Let politicians wakeup to realty and clean the sport field in India.

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