Sports fans, this philatelic journal knows the score

Among the many journals that are published for topical collecting specialties, one that stands out is the Journal of Sports Philately. This quarterly journal is actually a full-color glossy magazine roughly the size of this issue of Linn's Stamp News.

The journal is put out by the nonprofit Sports Philatelists International, an affiliate member of the American Philatelic Society.

Each issue covers a variety of sports subjects as they relate to stamps and postal history. Feature articles in the current summer issue take the reader through tennis, golf, snowboarding and surfing, and also visit the Far Eastern Championship Games and first-day covers of the United States 1932 2¢ Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games stamp.

Norman F. Jacobs leads off in this issue with an article that takes stock of "mistakes and curiosities in the design of tennis stamps and postmarks."

You might think there can't be that many tennis-related philatelic design problems, but Jacobs points out 60 examples in his fully illustrated 10-page article, ranging from technical mistakes in portraying the tennis court and net to misspellings of the names of wellknown tennis stars.

And consider the 1964 Togo 100-franc airmail stamp celebrating the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Summer Games with an action pose of a tennis player sizing



What's the problem with showing a tennis player on a 1964 Olympics stamp? A recent article in the Journal of Sports Philately explains.

up his next shot (Scott C43).

The problem is that when the stamp was issued, the last Olympic tennis competition had taken place in 1924, and it only returned as a demonstration sport in 1968.

Tennis wasn't on the Olympics schedule at all in 1964.

Patricia Loehr's tribute to golfer Arnold Palmer in the same issue begins with firstday cancels and recent commemorative postmarks for the U.S. forever stamp honoring Palmer issued March 4 (Scott 5455). It continues with a history of Palmer's life and career, well documented by a large number of historic and recent covers, stamps and postmarks.

Editor Mark Maestrone adds a regular column that points out recent articles in other publications that celebrate the same combination of sports and philately, including France's Esprit: Sports et Olympisme, Germany's IMOS Journal and Italy's Phila-Sport.

There's also a membership news page and a showing of recent U.S. commemorative cancels

You can find out how to join Sports Philatelists International by visiting online at www. sportstamps.org. The site also includes philatelic resources, information about the society's handbooks and more. **I**

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