

Beautiful protest

TO THE EDITOR:

If you are a Black American and watched the Olympics this past week, you would have been proud of the black unity demonstration by trackmen Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

Both these men dared to expose white America as it really is and to show the black people of America they should be proud of being black.

By wearing black gloves, socks, and not looking at the American flag they showed their feelings for the systems of white America and the strife of the black people. For their actions the "white" Olympic Committee suspended Smith and Carlos for the Black Power demonstration and for bringing politics into the "pure" Olympics.

To get down to the facts, nothing was

said about the conflict between Russia or the Czechs bringing their political issues into the Olympics or for that matter the Mexican student revolt which has put the Olympics on an unstable foundation. Everyone tries to put the political factions in the "background." But, two black men proud to be black, but apparently sad to be Americans did their thing for black freedom.

Whether Smith or Carlos were right or wrong is not the point, they did it not for themselves, but for black people everywhere. As a black athlete here at Iowa State, I think the demonstration was beautiful. It made me proud to be part of this black generation and movement and to be a black athlete.

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