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One of *WOMAN ALIVE*'s  
regular contributors

**Stuart Weir** (see his article on golfer Bernhard Langer on page 8) has recently published a book (price £4.99), which takes a look at the role of sport – and its superstar champions – in today's society.

Sportspeople today are, as the title says, *More Than Champions* – as demonstrated by Marshall Pickering's decision to put a photograph of Olympic gold medallist Sally Gunnell on the front cover. Sally is not a Christian and is not mentioned in the book – but as she is one of Britain's best-known sports stars, the publishers decided her face was more likely to draw attention to the book than a lesser-known, but Christian, athlete like Jonathan Edwards.

Sally was, apparently, annoyed at being featured on the cover; and Stuart Weir, a director of Christians in Sport, was equally unhappy, taking pains to point out in the organisation's magazine that he was not responsible for the decision.

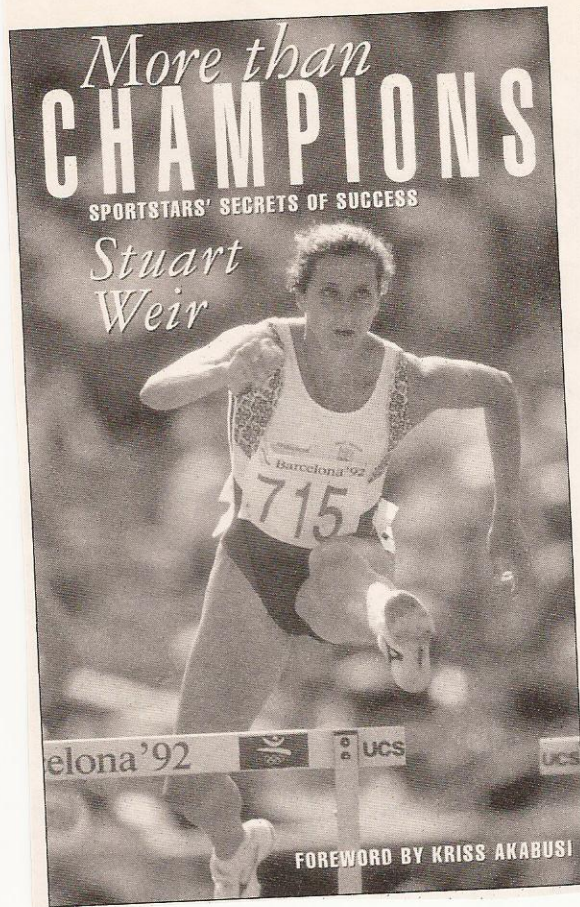
Inside the controversial

sport as a gift from God, and is critical of those who abuse it – including people who attend a sports event to evangelise, eg, by spending all day kneeling by the golf tee with their John 3:16 banner in the

hope of catching the TV camera rather than enjoying the event for its own sake.

It's an interesting book for sports fans, though I felt that one or two issues – drugs, for example –

were dealt with rather sketchily. American sport also featured heavily, which may help sales on their side of the Atlantic, but I'm not sure baseball is of much interest to the average Briton. ■



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cover is a comprehensive guide to the problems faced by sportspeople in general and Christians in particular – the pressures to win, the temptation to take performance-enhancing drugs, the question of

Sunday competition. It asks whether God cares who wins, examines the role of sports chaplains, and takes a look at churches which organise sporting activities.

The author regards