

SPORTS

THE ATHLETE

People tell me that I'm an athlete
And I hope that the description's right.
Because that's what I've aspired to be
And that's the goal on which I set my sights.

What it takes to deserve that name
I have pondered over in my mind.
Will it come only when I gain fame?
Will the answer be elusive and hard to find?

I asked myself these questions when I was young
Now those days are over and gone.
Fortunately time has brought the answer to some
Others have been answered by the roar of the throng.

An athlete should be one of a strong and proud breed
Yet humble and grateful for his ability.
Willing to sacrifice self-pleasure wherever the need.
Able to accept victory with humility.

When his playing days are over and done
His moments of glory passed away.
He should pass a proud heritage on to younger ones
And a sense of direction which won't lead them astray.

Finally, he should leave the field of competitive play
With good memories of those this path led him to meet.
A better man for the price he paid
Grateful for the privilege of being an athlete.

