

OLYMPIC TRACK STADIUM - LIVE BROADCAST FROM IOC PRESIDENT:

“For years, trials over various uses of performance enhancement have threatened to shut down Olympic competition. This year, the Olympics Committee hopes to serve all athletes more fairly in the first Divided Olympics. Natural athletes are still subject to zero-tolerance policies and will compete separately from the new Modified Division. The Modified Division permits any technological or neurological enhancement that allows athletes to regain normal physical functioning and allows limited steroids to support those enhancements. We’d like to thank Moscow for hosting the record number in attendance.”

Jmou Kaschula looked up as a roar erupted from the crowd of 25,000 inside the stadium. He had just received a gold medal for the 400-meter dash, setting a speed record for his native South Africa. But this clamor was not for him. It was for the modified athletes entering the stadium. Teenagers screamed and shined LED photos of their favorite “Superletes” onto the stadium’s holo-walls. Sky-cams flashed and a large number of protestors chanted against the “Superletes” even though Russian security had confiscated all their video projections. Jmou sighed. The mass of media and armed security wasn’t what he had expected for his first Olympics. At that moment, Jmou spotted his father, sprinter Sameer Kaschula, marching in. Jmou’s thoughts were interrupted when a reporter from the web portal, *Gazeta.com*, motioned to him.

Reporter: “Welcome back to nonstop coverage from the 2040 Olympics here in Moscow. We are witnessing history today as the modified athletes take the field for the first Divided Olympics. We have just finished the stunning 400-meter final, won by 20-year-old Jmou Kaschula. Jmou’s father, Sameer, who left retirement at age 54, is now warming up for the Modified Division of the same race. Although they are competing separately, still the biggest question on everyone’s mind is: “Who is faster?” Jmou, you just ran an outstanding race. How do you feel about your father trying now to *beat* your time?”

Jmou: “Well, I’m hoping Dad will run a great race, of course. He was my first and best coach. He hasn’t raced competitively for more than 20 years, and he’s excited to be out there again. But it’s still very tense in the stadium, and the crowds and delays are definitely affecting the athletes.”

Reporter: “Most of these delays are caused by the thousands of bio-ethics protestors who have come from around the world, protesting the safety and ethics of Modified athletes and the advantage that technologically advanced countries might have in this Division. As you can hear from the stadium, the supporters of the “Superletes” are just as vocal. Let’s remind our audience of the kind of modifications that we will see today. Sameer Kaschula has had his knee cartilage rebuilt with microscopic carbon nanotubes, and his polymer tendons and joints are backed by a wireless monitoring system inserted behind his ear. His main threat in this race is Russia’s favorite “Bear” Barsukov, who had his quadriceps and hamstrings injected with ILGF (insulin-like growth factor) in order for his 6’6” frame to withstand more impact. Russia is known for growing superior athletes and is hoping to do well in all the modified competitions. As a natural athlete, Jmou, you have rejected all forms of doping and enhancement. What is your take on all this expensive tampering with the body?”

Jmou: “Well...it’s a difficult question. I just want athletes to be safe. There’s a lot of pressure to be stronger and faster, but that doesn’t mean you can tear up your body and then fix it with robotic parts or chemicals. I hope young people understand that modifying is a last resort.”

Reporter: “One of the main questions for the IOC is if this division embraces the Olympic Games’ fundamental principles which require, ‘mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair play.’ We’ve asked FPS teams to use the first three steps of their six-step model to generate challenges, develop an underlying problem, and produce solution ideas to analyze the first Divided Olympics.”