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4008 Ramsey Avenue, Austin,
Texas, 78756 USA,
May 23rd, 1989,
512- 452- 0537

Dear Joe,

Thanks for yours posted May 19th and arriving here yesterday the 22nd May. As you may observe, I am hastening to reply--- my usual wont. PLEASE No encomiums, just shoot up a few rockets and fire off half a dozen cannon or so. You may, if you wish, raise a flag, too.

I was getting a tad worried about the shot of the Weider Offices and crew I wondered if it had arrived, if it had got cut up in the clutches of some demon machine the Post Office appears to be using in series ranks these days.

When you return it, would you be so kind as to send me an extra copy AND let me know your cost and I'll reimburse with my usual prompt despatch.

Re your calling The Wunderkind and being told he was out of town to the end of this week. Yesterday at Noon, sharp, the phone rang and a charming latin American voice at the other end asked if I was MR SMITH. (such is fame.) and I said I was indeed that celebrity. She said MR WEIDER has asked me to send you a complimentary copy of M&F and FLEX. Way in the background I heard the voice of THE MASTER BLASTER so I said "Is that Joe's voice I hear?" She said "NO, HE IS DUE IN AN HOUR." I being a British Gentleman and not desiring to all the lass a liar replied, "give him my good wishes and thank him" and the young chambermaid she would

Joe is adept at the brush off. I KNOW.

I am not surprised that Bart didn't reply. I wrote him, just for old times sake and did get replies but in them there was every indication of not desiring to maintain contact. They were brief, even brusque. So I just didn't reply to the last letter I got from him. He has entirely cut himself off from things weight training and in a way I can understand why. He too, as was I, treated somewhat cavalierly by The Wunderkind.

Glad you liked the Ray Van Caeft bit. I am more than happy to let you have such stuff. After all, what are friends for but to help one another.

I agree with you that the so called "moderns" think little of the past OR the future. They only think of HERE AND NOW AND ME ME ME. It is a pity, but small wonder they have this attitude; they are, alas, one more manifestation of the greedy, competitive and money hungry culture we now live in.

The Paris stuff shocked me. Never, in all my close to 70 years in the sport have I seen such blind crass, & incredible editorial stupidity. I just can't think of any reason why Balik published this bilge, this utter garbage.

Forget about Rader. His attitude was solely religious, and religion, for my money has caused a trillion times more trouble than women and rum. I would think more of Rader's stance if he opposed or objected to it on legal or MORAL grounds--- and there is little morality in religion.

I saw the shot on the cover--- for some strange reason Balik now is