Incident 5: The 10 000-metre final (Barcelona, 1992)

Since the 1970s, African runners from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Morocco have tended to dominate middle-to-long-distance running events. The Olympic 10 000-metre final at Barcelona was no exception.

The final was a very exciting race with close competition between a Kenyan and a Moroccan runner. The race was a very tactical affair with the lead being taken first by one and then by the other several times. When about nineteen laps had been completed, the Moroccan runner mysteriously pulled wide on a bend, allowing the Kenyan runner to pass through on the inside.

The point of this tactic was soon revealed, as up ahead of the two runners, waiting to be lapped, was another Moroccan runner. This second Moroccan refused to let the Kenyan pass him and the Kenyan was "bumped around" so that he had to break his stride, change direction, and lose some of his rhythm. As a result, the Kenyan runner only made second place.

The crowd strongly disapproved of the Moroccans' tactics and voiced their disapproval. Eventually, the winning Moroccan runner was disqualified, but he was reinstated after an appeal from the officials of the Moroccan team. When he received his gold medal, the crowd jeered and booed him.