Technical Notes on "Olympiad"

This was a "corrupted" videotape. That is, the tape was damaged prior to use or faulty in its manufacture or perhaps there was a foreign object in the recording mechanism of the capiera.

After the tape was shot it was viewable through the camera in which it was recorded but because the tape was corrupted, damage appeared as a continuous band of "static" on the color image and the soundtrack.

A piece of equipment called a time base corrector was then used to transfer the tape. In this process of stabilizing and re-recording the video image the time base corrector imposed another series of artifacts - image flares, freeze frame, all over jagged patterns - that appear as after-effects in the final video. In addition, the time base corrector was only able to process and record the video signal in black and white with no sound.

Thus, certain interventions using the available technology have transformed the effects of a damaged tape into a crucial structuring principle which becomes a striking aesthetic component of the finished work.

Lutz Bacher 1998