

Symposium reveals Drug use an ethical question

by Brian Lennox

At a recent symposium on *Drugs and the Athlete*, the goal was not to find the solutions to drug abuse in sport. Instead, the emphasis here was on informing members of the sporting community about the problems of drug abuse and how to combat it. Steroids were the main drugs being discussed. Certainly, since Ben Johnson lost his gold medal at Seoul the issue of steroid abuse has received extensive coverage.

Rather than discuss the scientific questions of steroid use Dr. Stanish clearly believed that drug use in sport was and is an ethical question. According to Stanish, Chief Medical Officer of the Canadian Olympic team, the Ben Johnson scandal has put the fabric of Canadian sport into question. In combating the steroid problem Stanish believes one of the keys is to find out the motivation behind drug use. Is it the pressure to win that forces athletes to use steroids to enhance their performance? If it is says

Stanish, then Sport Canada in the future must clearly state what are the goals of Canadian Olympic athletes. Stanish maintains that "Canadian athletes are receiving conflicting messages from Ottawa". In 1983 then federal sports minister, Otto Jelinek stated that Canada would be a world leader in drug testing of its Olympic athletes. But in 1986 Jelinek told Canadian athletes they must be ranked in the top eight in the world to receive funding. To many athletes they face choices of not receiving funding from the federal government or take steroids to improve their world ranking.

Brian Langley vice president for the Canadian Track and Field Association presented his group's position on drug use. The CFTA has been under attack since the Johnson incident and subsequent revelations that other track and field athletes were also using steroids. Langley pointed out that the CTFA has in the past been in favour of improving drug testing

facilities in Canada. However, the cost involved in improving laboratory facilities are expensive and sport organizations do not have the money required. "If we are to be a world leader in drug testing then we will have to pay for it," concluded Langley. Langley and Frank Garner,

from being ranked 33rd in the world to sixth. Dreschler was 26 years old and her cause of death was the toxic reaction to the steroids.

Garner, used numerous experiences to illustrate the wide use of drugs in international sport.

the eastern bloc. The Hungarian coach had forewarned Garner of this in 1984 when he told Garner that Belgium did not have proper blood testing facilities.

Garner readily admitted the Canadian women's team cannot compete with such drug-fortified eastern bloc athletes.

Former pro football player Ken Clark and dietician Pam Lynch were especially concerned that too many young high school athletes were using steroids. Clark admitted that steroid use was prevalent in football but he believed the drug problem reflected society in general.

The symposium was very informative and each panel member saw there was a need for more discussion on steroid use and how to combat the use of performance enhancing drugs. Each agreed it was an ethical question and that if we could be more aware of the motivation to use drugs we will be closer to solving the dilemma of drugs in sports.

“panellists say many high school athletes using steroids.”

former national canoe team coach, used some personal experiences with steroids and other drug in their discussions. Langley commented on Brigette Dreschler, a West German pentathlon competitor who used steroids. Dreschler used between 24-37 different substances to enhance her performance. As a result, in one year she jumped

He recalled that in 1984, one Hungarian coach told him the Soviet-boycotted Olympics in the canoe competition would be "clean" without the eastern bloc there. Next year, at the World championships in Belgium every Olympic Canoe champion from 1984 was beaten almost all by eastern bloc athletes. In fact, of 39 medals awarded 38 were won by

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Men's b-ball beats St. FX

by Chris Murray

The Dal Tiger's basketball team upset favoured Saint Francis Xavier by an 85-77 margin last Friday at the Dalplex. The biggest factor in the game according to coach Bev Greenlaw was that "We took X by surprise in the first 15 minutes, they didn't think our young team could play so well this early in the season."

The pattern for the first and second halves were similar. In the first half the Tigers took the lead by a wide margin and then watched St. FX close the gap to eight points at the half. Greenlaw wanted his team to build an early


lead in the second half as well and they did by scoring quickly to forge a 14 point difference. This was enough to hold off an increased level of intensity from St. FX and assure the victory.

Coach Bev Greenlaw says although no one mentions the fact, the Tigers are a young team and are still lacking experience. This problem is being handled by allowing nine to ten players to get into each game for most of the season. When playoff time comes and a player is called off the bench, the experience will be there to handle the game situation says Greenlaw.

The defence played consistently throughout the game in the eyes of the coach, but the offence stalled in the early going. "Players didn't move well later in the game which resulted in more dribbling and the tendency of the offence to break down.

"St. FX, he explains, was the team expected by many to capture first place in the division, got most of their points in the transition part of the game as well as turnovers by the Tigers. Greenlaw says the Tigers, despite the turnovers, had good shot selection for the entire game.

Leading scorers for the Tigers were Paul Riley and Will Verbeek with 21 points each. Riley and Oscar Martens contributed defensively with seven rebounds each and rookie centre Dean Thibodeau added five of his own. The coach says the way the team played "surpassed most expectations" and the rookies played well. The next game for the Tigers is November 22 when they travel to Acadia. the coach sees this as another tough contest: "Playing Acadia at Acadia will be a true test".



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Dal swim teams rack up victories

by Susan Hall

The men's and women's swim teams were victorious this past weekend at the season's first AUSA Invitational swim meet hosted by the U. of New Brunswick Brunswick. Both teams won by comfortable margins over the conference's four other swimming universities: UNB, Mount Allison, Acadia and Memorial.

Individual event winners were Kathy Josey in the 200 free, Dee MacKenzie in the 400 IM, Maria MacPherson 100 and 200 BR, D'Arcy Byrne 400 and 1500 free, Erik Kerasioris 100 free, and John Duncan 400 IM, 200 fly and 200 free. The Tigers' next meet, the last before Christmas, will be at Dalplex against Acadia, on Dec. 2 at 7:00pm.