

Drugs taint AUAA football

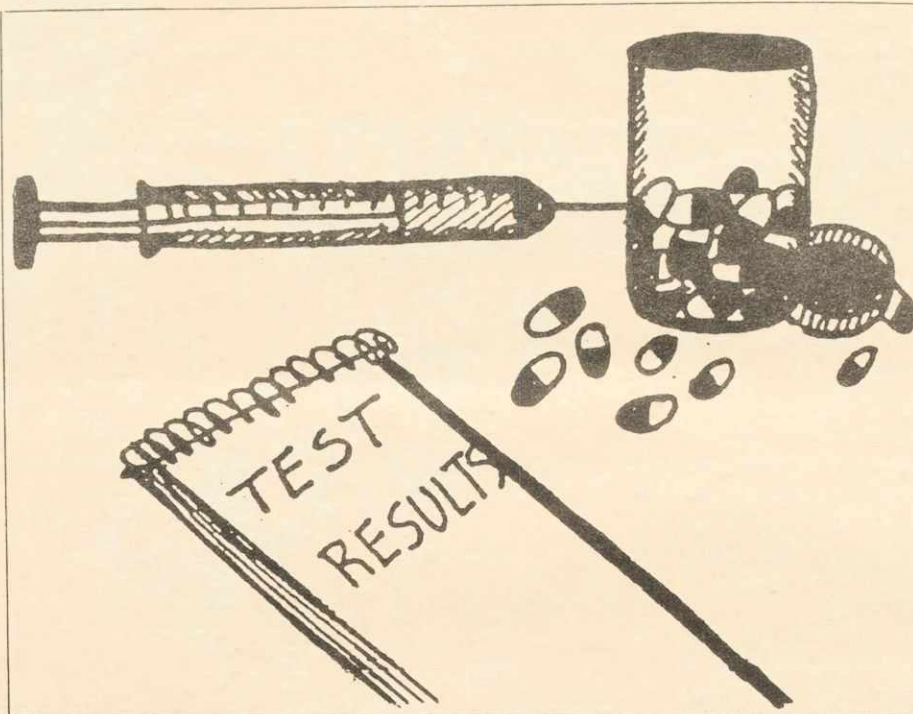
Ben Johnson was 'banned for life' from competitive running just a little over two years ago by the federal ministry governing sport. They must have meant the life of a goldfish however, for a little over a month ago Johnson ran his first post 'lifetime ban' race at the Hamilton Indoor Track and Field Meet.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

Well now the whole drugs in sport issue has again resurfaced, a little closer to home; this time the message that drugs in sports are o.k., is being sent by the Canadian Football League.

The Halifax *Chronicle Herald* recently reported on a story of Acadia University football player Anthony Hannem having tested positive to a random drug test done by the CIAU. Approximately one week later another article appeared in the same newspaper, listing the players in the AUAA that had been asked to go to the CFL evaluation camp. Sure enough one of the six players mentioned was Anthony Hannem. Although it must be made clear that Hannem has not yet been found guilty of steroid use, (a second test needs to be done) it is doubtful that if he is found to have used steroids for sure, it will change the way the CFL scouts look at him.

Hannem, a native of Cape Breton, was an all Canadian linebacker, a finalist for the CIAU defensive player of the year in 1989,



and a good pick to make the CFL. If he is found guilty of using steroids, the message that will again be sent to young football players in Canada is that if you want to make it to the pros, you can enhance your chances by using drugs.

Sources that asked to be unnamed, including a teammate of Hannem's and a

former teammate, have confirmed that there is a lot more steroid use in the AUAA football league than most people are lead to believe. One source claimed that nearly all linemen and linebackers who make the pros from Canadian universities are either on steroids or have been on them at one time.

Part of the problem stems from the compe-

dition Canadian players face from their neighbors to the south. After the NFL takes the top few players that they want from the thousands of hopefuls at American universities, there are still hundreds more who flock to Canada for their shot at playing pro football. For many, who only went to university on scholarship to play football, making the pros is their only option. If they did finish their degree at all, the job market for basket weavers is not great.

Only about one per cent of all CIAU football players are ever tested, and according to sources the penalties for being caught are not nearly as great as the rewards. Once you make the CFL, the chances of being caught or punished, if you are caught, are even smaller. A current player in the CFL, who also refused to have his name used, indicated that drug tests do take place during training camp in the summer, but everyone knows when they are coming, and they are very easy to cheat on. He indicated that not only are steroids a problem, but so are cocaine, crack, LSD, and marijuana, especially among the American players.

In recent years the CFL has been in some difficulties, to say the least, and it would be a shame to see it have to fold. What is even more a shameful is the fact that the CFL is ignoring the problem of drugs in sport, and by doing so, sending the wrong message to Canada's youth.

Rob Corkum

Tigers are down to last gasp

by Kevin Barrett

Heading into last weekend's games, Bev Greenlaw, coach of the Dalhousie Men's Basketball team was not about to let himself or his team get caught up in the hype surrounding the AUAA playoff race.

Entering the weekend action, the Tigers were 4-7 and had an out-

side chance of reaching the post season party. However, the Tigers, being in sixth place in such an evenly balanced conference, would need a minor miracle for things to fall into place. Five of the last six games against the conferences top teams were on the road, and the young Tiger team would have to win them all.

But to qualify for the AUAA

championships at the Metro Center March 9-10, they would need some help from other teams. As it turned out, Dal lost to St. Francis Xavier and UCCB, and are now virtually eliminated. However, this does not mean the team has not accomplished the goals it set for itself at the start of the season.

"The goal of the team at the start of the season... which remains unchanged, was to build a proper foundation and attitude for this squad," said Greenlaw.

Dalhousie had also missed the playoffs in 1990 and only had four players returning from the '90

and Concordia, and a narrow loss to SMU in the Dal Classic, people went 'crazy' with post season talk. It would have been easy for Greenlaw to deviate from his goals but he resisted.

"We have played extremely well at times, and we have developed a great attitude for a team that missed the playoffs last year and had no new kids that were considered blue-chip prospects," said Greenlaw.

Coach Greenlaw reflected on the team's performance in light of elimination:

"I want to stress that no matter what happens, we have not nor will we give up. We will work as hard or harder than we have before. With a team that is as first year oriented as ours, it takes time to develop but we are convinced that we will play our best ball of the season in these last games," stated the determined Greenlaw.

Dal had defeated SMU last Tuesday 82-79 in a game that featured a strong defensive stand in the last seven minutes by the Tigers to record the victory. After a couple of tough seasons all wins are important but even more so against SMU. "Seeing themselves win right now is hard and the win over SMU was good psychologically," said Greenlaw. This was apparent, as with less than a minute to go, the Tigers were high-fiving each other and looking very much like things were coming together.

Despite the disappointing

"We will not give up"

team, causing experts to forecast a last place finish for Dal, possibly without a single victory.

According to Greenlaw, this was probably a fair assessment. "We only had four guys that had ever worn a CIAU uniform. Dean Thibodeau was the veteran as a junior, Shawn Mantley played a bit in '90 but David Pacquette and David Chaisson saw very little action last year," stated the coach.

After a couple of impressive wins over #1 ranked teams St. F X

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weekend results, the conviction that Greenlaw had in the development of his team was encouraging. The Tiger future is maturing on the court right now and while they have had trouble in the past season, there is much to look forward to.