

Sports editorial: Fighting the drug war by Bruce Denis

Though the war against drugs is being fought primarily in innercity districts, two important steps have been taken recently to combat the drug problem in the sports community.

The Canadian Olympic Association (COA) is proposing a plan that would allow random drug testing of athletes in the Olympic programs of their respective sports. Also, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is ready to institute blood testing at the Olympic games.

The COA proposal has been met with some disagreement. Athletes claim that random testing throughout the year would infringe on their privacy and freedom. Also, there exists the fear of being tested while taking common, over-the-counter drugs such as cold remedies and wake-up pills which contain banned substances such as ephedrine and caffeine.

The success of an Olympic class athlete depends on the quality of his or her training. Hence, a simple cold can have a lasting effect on the performance of the athlete. To avoid interruption on their regular training schedules, athletes use over-the-counter, pick-up drugs that restore their ailing bodies to normal. Although athletes can challenge any action taken by the COA for drug use, their image is tarnished for good. An eternal element of doubt hangs over the athletes head.

Despite these shortcomings, the proposal is just what Canada needs to restore its pure image. No one can argue that the use of drugs has become widespread in the sports community. The Ben Johnson incident focused the attention of the world on Canada. We were eternally branded as cheaters and have since become a microcosm of the drug problem.

Like many other athletes, Johnson's use of anabolic steroids was blatant. A careful schedule of pills and masking drugs allowed him to attain the maximum benefit from synthetic muscle builders. Though traces of the steroids could easily have been detected at any time during his training, Johnson's doctors made sure the drug would be dispelled from his blood before competitive events. This system worked all but one time.

Our national image has been tarnished ever since. Random drug testing throughout the year may help Olympic athletes think twice about injecting more than just mineral water and pasta. Admittedly, Canadian athletes find it difficult to compete on an international level without these drugs. However, artificial performance enhancers are not the answer. By passing this proposal, the COA may just save Canada from another "Johnson" disaster and restore some sort of dignity to our country.

The IOC's agreement to test all athletes through blood samples should also help lessen the use of drugs on a global level. It is considerably easier to detect alien chemicals in an athletes body through blood testing. Also, masking agents such as probenecide, which is a popular (but banned) means of masking anabolic steroids, are more easily detected in the blood than in urine samples.

Hence, if blood testing is introduced in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, athletes will have to begin thinking twice about performance enhancing drugs. Though the testing will not put an end to the use of drugs in sport, it should lower the extent to which they are used.

The only negative aspect of blood testing at the Olympic games is that it is costly and time consuming. However, this seems to be a small price to pay considering the increase in drug related incidences at the last two Olympic games. Drug violations mean trouble for both the athlete and the IOC.

Though it may be some time before drug use in sports is controlled, these two plans are a serious attempt at beginning the process. Hats should be tipped in the direction of the COA for making a huge step towards controlling its athletes. A step that puts us one ahead of the rest.

The Stanley Cup will be visiting Fredericton on Monday as part of its 100th anniversary tour. It will be on display at the New Brunswick Hall of Fame on Queen Street. That's right, the same Stanley Cup Mario Lemieux hoisted after last years playoffs. The same cup that Guy Lafleur stole from the Canadien's dressing room and later left on his front lawn in St. Agathe, Quebec. The festivities will begin with a celebrity breakfast featuring Jacques Lemaire, Pete Kelly, Danny Grant and STU hockey coach Al MacAdam, all of whom have won the Stanley Cup. Oh yeah, Frank McKenna and Brad Woodside will be there too. Tickets are \$10.00 each. For more info, call the Hall of Fame at 453-3747.

What has become of the NHL All-Star game? Why didn't Ed Belfour show up? The ridiculously high score of 16-6 for the Wales conference epitomizes the frivolity of the game. It used to be a big event, a showcase for NHL stars and an exciting game of intense hockey. Now it's a vacation for the stars and a shooting gallery for those few who actually want to be there. Another oddity was NBC's coverage of the game; certainly an americanization of hockey. Maybe they should have watched Hockey night in Canada a few times before deciding on their format for presentation.

Campus recreation Serving the campus community

Intramural Sports

Co-ed Sports Co-ed volleyball

Captains and managers check the bulletin board outside intramural office for dates and times of rescheduled games.

Men's Sports Men's indoor soccer

Check the bulletin board outside the intramural office for an extended schedule.

Ice hockey

The inter residence hockey tournament was played last weekend and the competition was very steep. We had seven teams enter this year, but of course we only ended up with two teams in the final, those being Aitken and Neville. Neville went on to defeat Aitken in a hair pulling final. Neville scored with 6 seconds left in the game to win the inter-residence championship by a score of 4-3. Good luck to the teams who make the playoffs in the I.M. Hockey League, which will begin in March.

Referees

Would the following refs drop by the intramural office to pick up their ball cap.

John Fitzgerald	Dean Moriarty
Stephan Hachey	Bruce Noble
Jon Kenyon	Tony Reccord
Jason Lewis	James Ryan
Aaron Mason	Keith Taite

Standings

Co-ed volleyball

Recreation- Blue division

	G	W	L	PTS
Surveyors	5	5	0	15
Bed Mates	5	3	2	11
Voyagers	4	3	1	10
Ditch Pigs	4	3	1	10
McLeod	4	1	3	6
Carnot Cycles	3	1	2	5
Mggie Machine	3	0	3	4
MacKenzie	3	0	3	3

Toxic Death	4	1	3	6
Atom Smashers	4	1	3	6
Hard Drivers	5	0	5	5
Bed Springs	3	1	2	5

Co-ed volleyball Competitive

Red division

	G	W	L	PTS
ME Turbos	5	4	1	13
Bridges	4	4	0	12
Vanier	5	3	2	11
Recreators	4	3	1	10
Taint Meat	4	2	2	8

	G	W	L	PTS
Islanders	5	4	1	13
Rivermen	3	3	0	9
Thumpers	5	2	3	9
DBTC	5	2	3	9
Mighty Ducks	4	2	2	8
La Kort Kings	4	0	4	4

On campus this weekend

Black Bears wrestling

Saturday, Feb. 13
AUA Championships (L.B. Gym)

Red Devils hockey

Friday, Feb. 12
vs. MTA (7:30 pm at AUC)

Red Rebels volleyball

Friday, Feb. 12-14
AUA League Tournament (L.B. Gym)

VARSAITY-MANIA

Sunday, Feb. 14
vs. UDM (2:00 pm at AUC)

Pepsi/Pizza Hut Player Profile

Terry Pomeroy

UNB Black Bears
Height: 5'6" Weight: 118lbs

Stats and major accomplishments:

Two time National champion, 91-92 AUA
Champion, 1992 Black Bear rookie of the year.

Hometown: Oromocto, NB

Hobbies: Sport card collecting

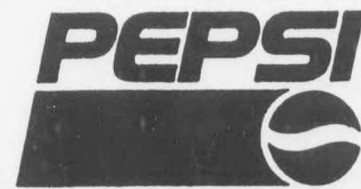
TV Show: Midnight Sportsdesk

Favorite Team: Chicago Bulls

Favorite Athlete: The Great One

Future Aspirations: Olympian in '96 or 2000

People don't know I'm... "Really a nice guy"



Terry Pomeroy

SEE TERRY AND THE REST OF THE BLACK BEARS IN ACTION THIS WEEKEND AS UNB HOSTS THE AUA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS