

THE CASE OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS.

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What's Your Take?

- What sport do you think has the biggest drug problem?
- Are you concerned by the idea that elite athletes are using drugs?
- Are you worried that athletes are taking recreational drugs?
- What would your reaction be if Barry Bonds, or Marion Jones, or Jerry Rice, or Mia Hamm, or Andre Agassi, or Lance Armstrong tested positive?

The *sport ethic and the ethos* of high-performance sport (Coakley, 2001)

- Cluster of norms and related behavioral practices that people use to define what it means to be an athlete
 - Athletes make *sacrifices* for the game
 - Athletes strive for distinction: This relates to *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. (faster, higher, stronger)
 - Athletes accept risk and play through pain
 - Athletes accept *no* limits in pursuit of possibilities

Deviance in Sport

- Deviant *overconformity*:
Deviant overconformity occurs when athletes accept without question and to an extreme degree the norms of the Sport Ethic
- Why do athletes engage in deviant overconformity?
 - Participation and competition exhilarating
 - Likelihood of being rewarded increases!
- Who is most likely to overconform?
 - lower self-esteem or higher need for approval
 - achievement in sport as only way to get ahead
 - rationale that “everyone else is?”

Social Processes in Elite
Power & Performance Sports – Does it
Lead to PED Usage?

- Bonds athletes in ways that *normalize* over conformity to the sport ethic (hazing for example)
- Separate athletes from the rest of the community while inspiring awe and admiration among community members
- Lead athletes to develop a sense of arrogance, separateness, and superiority (*hubris*)

Drug use in sport: One form of deviance

- Many cases of usage constitute a form of deviant over conformity
- The use of performance enhancing substances occurs *regularly* in high performance sports
 - Use is filtering down to college and HS sport
- Such substances will be used as long as athletes *believe* they will enhance performance
- American society has become reliant on pharmaceutical solutions for health problems



"DON'T WORRY, HONEY - MOST OF THESE ARE LEGAL, SOME CAN'T BE TESTED FOR, OTHERS MASK THE ONES THEY CAN TEST FOR, AND SOME ARE TOO NEW FOR THE TESTS!"

We must *also* consider the following:

- Performance-enhancing vs. recreational drugs
- Elite vs. recreational sport
- Adult vs. adolescent/minor use
- Sport by sport
- *These different cases and populations may present the need for different sorts of arguments*
 - *No universals in ethics!!!!*

Difficulties in defining “performance enhancing” drugs

- Defining what constitutes a “performance enhancing substance” is difficult
- Defining what is natural or artificial is difficult
- Defining what is fair when it comes to the use of science, medicine, & technology in sports is difficult
- Determining what is dangerous to health is difficult
- Studying and testing for substances is constrained by ethical and legal factors

Doping in sport

- IOC defines doping as:
 - the use of an expedient (substance or method) which is profoundly harmful to athletes’ health and/or capable of enhancing their performance
 - the presence in the athlete’s body of a prohibited substance or evidence of the use thereof or evidence of the use of a prohibited method

Why do people dope?

- Research and development
 - Recent emphasis on *self-medication*
- Fascination with seeing where *evolution* might go
- Rationalization or “*resourcing*” of the body
 - Means/ends instrumental reason
- Quantification of results (small measurable increments)

Waddington’s (2000) model of doping & sport-I

- The development of drugs in sport is a social process, and thus *cannot* be understood outside of particular social contexts!
 - Two largely autonomous sets of processes have contributed to the current situation
 - Sport is NOT sequestered from larger societal trends.
- *Medicalization of life & sport*
 - Processes once seen as natural have become *pathologized*, including pregnancy, aging, illness, ED, etc. (with huge profits at stake)
 - In sport, top athletes are increasingly reliant on sport medical profession and sport sciences in general
 - Increasing number in medical profession who take sporting body as problem to be solved

Waddington's (2000) model of doping & sport-II

- *The professionalization, politicization, and commercialization of sport*
 - Post-WWII hyper-politicization (Africa, Russia, Cold-War, German teams etc.)
 - Corporate sport raised reward structure (more \$ *and* more pressure!)
- So, we must understand the intimate relationship between sports medicine and athletes, and how it is embedded into the larger corporatized structure of elite sport
 - *Festina Affair example of 1998!*
 - *Soigners-as-dopers*
 - *Collective fund skimmed off top of winnings!*

Rationale for the prohibition of performance enhancing drugs in sport:

- Cheating and Unfairness:

Promotes an unfair advantage.

But is it only cheating if there is a rule prohibiting it? If no rule – no cheating! What about fairness? Is it only fair if I am playing by the rules? Who determines what is considered “fair”?

Rationale for the prohibition of performance enhancing drugs in sport:

- Harm: Does taking performance enhancers harm the athlete, other athletes, or society in general?
 - Athletes: Argument is “paternalistic” in that we don't tend to legislate morality in other realms of life so why sport? Sports themselves are pretty dangerous (Boxing for example) but we don't ban it. Some doping has NO negative side-effects! Why ban them??

Rationale for the prohibition of performance enhancing drugs in sport:

- Harm to Others: Doping is seen as “coercive” because in order to compete, I must use drugs too. But isn't elite sport already coercive? If I am to compete I also must ride my bike 500 miles a week or swim 3 hours a day.

Rationale for the prohibition of performance enhancing drugs in sport:

- Harm to Society: Doping harms society and especially children who look up to athletes as role models. What about other harmful behaviors like drinking, smoking, and sex? We don't ban those for adults because they may send negative messages to kids, so why performance enhancers!
- Harm caused by bans: What about enforcement of doping bans? Is it a violation of one's civil rights to be tested "unannounced"?

Rationale for the prohibition of performance enhancing drugs in sport:

- Perversion of Sport:
Doping should be eliminated because it perverts the purity of the game. Perhaps, though, since all sport is "created" that doping practices are just the next evolution of sport and not a perversion at all! How can we know for sure?

Rationale for the prohibition of performance enhancing drugs in sport:

- Unnaturalness and dehumanization:
Unnatural to take performance enhancers but what constitutes "unnatural" in the first place: Is sporting equipment for example?? And, what about stuff that occurs "naturally" like testosterone or one's own blood? What about the dehumanization argument? What constitutes "human"? Who gets to draw the line over what is or is not acceptable?

Ethical issues surrounding drug testing:

- Related issues involve:
 - privacy
 - content of the banned list
 - methods used (Armstrong Affair)
 - penalties for testing positive – consistent or political?
- The invasion of privacy: Because "in-competition" tests are largely ineffective, random, unannounced, out-of-competition testing is needed (RUT)
 - Training vs. performance enhancement
 - Consequences may be legal outside of sport.

Some Possible Solutions?

- Critically examine hypocrisy in elite sports
- Establish rules indicating that risks to health are undesirable and unnecessary in sports
- Establish rules stating that injured athletes must be independently certified as “well” before they play
- Uphold definitions of courage and discipline that promote health
- Make drug education part of health education
 - Create norms regulating use of technology
 - Critically examine values and norms in sports
 - Teach athletes to think critically
 - Provide accurate and current information **to parents,**