

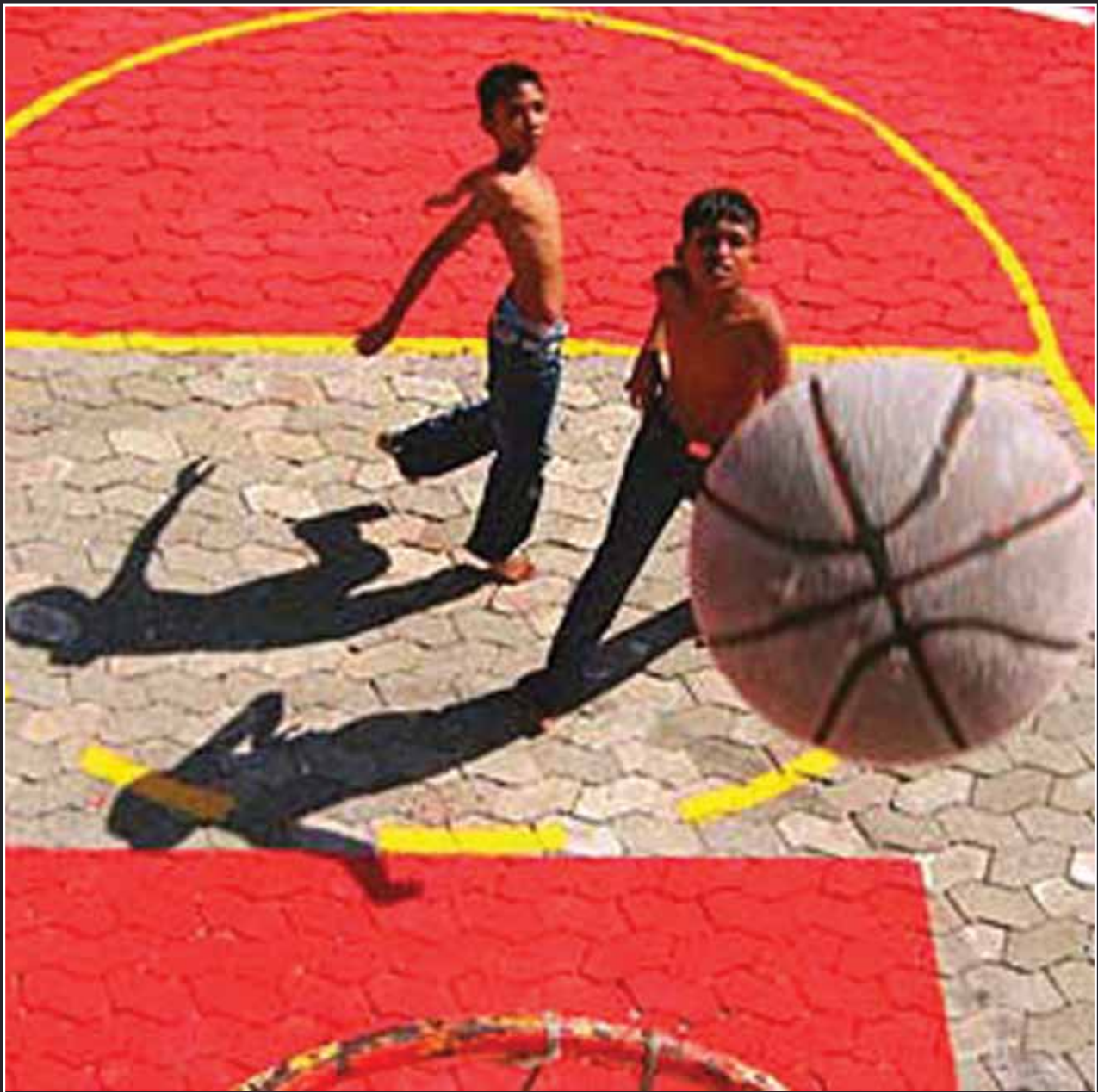


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

the **UNESCO**
Courier

September 2006 • ISSN 1993-8616

SPORTS WINNING AT ANY COST?



SPORTS: WINNING AT ANY COST?

Sport touches all parts of society in every country around the world. We are all physically active at some level and sport contributes to a broad range of social and development goals. However, sport is not without its problems as the scandals surrounding the 2006 Tour de France demonstrated.

Children practicing basketball before a competition.



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WINNING AT ANY COST?



UNESCO supports physical education and sport in educational settings and also promotes the International Convention against Doping in Sport. This issue of *the UNESCO Courier* takes a closer look at sport and what it means to work towards a better sport. **3**

DYING TO BE PERFECT



hundreds of adolescents dream of becoming sports stars. More and more are deciding to use anabolic steroids to improve their chances. For 17-year-old Taylor Hooton, this decision eventually cost him his life. **8**

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Sport touches all parts of society in every country around the world. We are all physically active at some level and sport contributes to a broad range of social and development goals. However, sport is not without its problems as the scandals surrounding the 2006 Tour de France demonstrated.

WINNING AT ANY COST?



© UNESCO / D. Houton

Two children living on opposite sides of the globe faced obstacles in their personal quests to excel at sport. Growing up poor in the outskirts of Maputo (Mozambique), Maria Mutola was told that she could not continue to play soccer because of her gender; in Houston, Texas (United States), Taylor Houton's baseball coach told him that he wasn't strong enough to play on his high school's team. The two children reacted differently in the face of these challenges. Maria changed codes and went on to become an Olympic Gold Medalist runner; Taylor turned to anabolic steroids to increase his muscle mass and died violently at 17 years of age.

UNESCO supports physical education and sport in educational settings and also promotes the International Convention against Doping in Sport. This issue of the UNESCO Courier takes a closer look at sport and what it means to work towards a better sport.

Sport mirrors society

"We should see sport is a microcosm of society," says Paul Marriott-Lloyd of the Unit for Physical Education and Sport in UNESCO. "Like in society, good things happen and bad things happen in sport. The only difference is that every move is played out on our television screens or on the back pages of newspapers around the world."

We are fascinated by professional sports and successful athletes. Entire nations sit glued to their television sets during the Olympic Games or a World Cup tournament.

Much at stake in the Tour de France

189 riders from 21 teams competed for a total prize package of 3,200,000 euros for the 2006 Tour de France. This is divided up amongst various categories with the overall winner receiving 450,000 euros.

Millions of young people dream of one day emulating their sporting heroes. And then we are shattered when we discover that the achievements of our idols, such as baseball player Jason Giambi or sprinter Justin Gatlin, were the product of doping.

Winning at any cost?

Winning at any cost may mean surmounting almost unbeatable odds like Maria Mutola. It is also exemplified by the Argentinean Club Atlético Defensores del Chaco who rose from the slums of the Buenos Aires suburbs to compete in the first street soccer World Cup, held in Germany this summer in parallel to the FIFA World Cup.

But the need to win at any cost can also lead to doping. Taylor Houton turned to anabolic steroids because he saw his high school classmates using them and thought that performance enhancing drugs were the key to victory.

Taylor Houton died at 17 after using anabolic steroids.



Street football match between Argentina and Brazil.

Elite athletes in a variety of sports fall victim to the same temptation. In today's headlines, we are reading about the scandal surrounding 2006 Tour de France Champion Floyd

Landis who has since tested positive for elevated testosterone levels and Marion Jones whose A sample has allegedly tested positive for the blood booster EPO (erythropoietin). In the 1970's and 1980's, East

Germany ran a state-sponsored doping programme that involved an estimated 10,000 athletes.

There are a number of reasons why athletes use performance enhancing drugs and methods. It can be considered a product of the competitive sporting environment and an erosion of sporting ethics. "There is a lot of money, 'fame and fortune', in high-level sport," Paul Marriott-Lloyd explains. "And that shapes how some people approach the game. Unfortunately there can be a perverse incentive for people to cheat."

Edna Yahil.

Doping has entered into the public consciousness with the announcement that 2006 Tour de France Champion Floyd Landis has tested positive for elevated testosterone levels. Fans worldwide are wondering, was this year's race nothing more than a sham?

THE DOPE ON CYCLING

Tour de France Champion Floyd Landis's positive test for elevated levels of testosterone cannot be written off as simply a case of publicity. Landis will face a tribunal where he will be called on to explain the presence of synthetic testosterone and likely faces a two-year ban from all sport. However, he responded to the positive test results defiantly, proclaiming, "I was the strongest man in the Tour de France and that is why I am the champion." Going further, he vowed, "I will fight these charges with the same determination and intensity that I bring to my training and racing. It is now my goal to clear my name and restore what I worked so hard to achieve."

Cycling has been saddled with doping allegations, scandals and deaths for years, but only within the last decade have they made front-page news. In 1998, authorities apprehended the Festina Team masseur at the Franco-Belgian border with more than 400 doping products for the team's riders in the Tour de France. During the en-



High levels of testosterone were found in Floyd Landis' blood after he won the 2006 Tour de France.

During investigation it was not only revealed that the Festina Team was involved in systematic doping with a range of drugs to boost their performance, but also that a number of other teams were implicated in this dangerous practice. Ultimately seven of the original 21 teams and at least 89 of the original 189 riders were barred from the race.

The 2006 Tour de France was

meant to be a new beginning. However, just weeks before the start, a major doping investigation in Spain called Operacion Puerto implicated 58 riders, amongst them the favorites Jan Ullrich, Ivan Basso and Francisco Mancebo, in an organized blood doping ring. These riders were removed from the Tour before it began along with six other riders who were implicated by

"I was the strongest man
in the Tour de France
and that is why
I am the champion."

Floyd Landis

the Tour Organizers who sought to give this pinnacle cycling event renewed credibility. This effort was entirely undermined by Landis's failed drug test.

Too good to be true

The public is left reeling because Landis's Stage 17 victory was the highlight of the Tour. After a miserable performance in the previous Stage that dropped him to 11th place, Landis flew over the mountainous Stage 17 to finish well clear of the leaders. It was an inspirational performance, the most heroic feat seen in recent years. To now learn that banned drugs made this possible is heartbreaking. Cycling fans are left with nothing but emptiness as another hero like Olympic Gold medalist Tyler Hamilton is found to



Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso in the 2004 Tour de France. Ullrich and Basso were among the 58 riders implicated in an organized blood doping ring on the eve of the 2006 race.

have duped them and the sport by taking drugs.

Having been dismissed by his former racing team sponsored by Phonak and now facing hip replacement surgery, one can almost sympathize with Landis. The race may well have been the capstone to a career or a chance to emerge from

the shadow of his former teammate, Lance Armstrong. Instead he faces the ignominy of being the first Tour winner to be stripped of the title due to doping and lengthy legal processes. Alternately he has the chance to set the record straight about the culture in cycling and the pressures of professional sport.

The cycling world faces renewed criticism to deal with the drug problem inherent in their sport. Although cycling has the most publicized problem with doping in sport, Pat McQuaid, President of the International Cycling Union, states that they are working hard to stamp out drug cheats. "Cycling is at the forefront of the fight against doping," he says, citing that the biggest challenge is to "eradicate the institutionalized doping." It is all too easy to blame the cheating athletes and not the system which creates them. Change is required at all levels within this sport. The administrators, managers, coaches and team doctors need to take ownership of problem of doping and do all that is required to remove this cancer if the sport is to survive.

Why is doping such a problem?

Asked his opinion about what leads athletes turn to doping, McQuaid blames society. "For athletes to have different ideals than the rest of society is being a little bit overly optimistic," he quips. And maybe McQuaid isn't too far off the mark. After all, we live in a society where most strive for fame and fortune and where medical remedies are readily available. Unfortunately fundamental values and ethics like honesty and integrity have been lost somewhere along the way.

Other sports are not immune to the problem of doping in sport. This is apparent with the revelation that Justin Gatlin, joint 100-metres world-record holder, has recently tested positive for elevated testosterone levels just like Landis. Football, Baseball, Tennis and Triathlon also have dealt with this problem.

The incontrovertible fact seems only to be that doping is a constant

A history of doping

Today, "dope" means
an illegal drug, especially
cannabis or heroin.
Where did this term
come from?



Nineteenth-century Dutch settlers in South Africa were familiar with an alcoholic liquid extract from grape skins which Zulu warriors drank to heighten their strength and endurance before going to battle. Called "dop", this concoction was also used for entering into a trance at religious feasts. From there, it made its way into the mainstream Dutch language as "doop" (meaning "sauce") and "doopen" ("to adulterate, to dip") and, towards the turn of the 20th century, it was borrowed by the English language where "doping" was first associated with the illegal drugging of racehorses. And from English, it was a short hop towards other languages, the French "dopage", the Spanish "dopaje", and the list goes on. Even today, "dop" is still used in Afrikaans to denote an alcoholic drink.

José Banaag

Sources: World Anti-Doping Agency;
The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English
Etymology, 1996.

reality in sport. It has reached the point recently where every fan has to ask himself what he can believe in and whether sport holds the same luster as a source of inspiration for all.

Matthew Quigley,
in Sacramento, California (USA).

Parallel to million dollar soccer contracts, rigged games, doping problems, blows with the head and red cards, a new style of soccer playing is emerging and it goes beyond the sport itself. Street soccer is gaining ground and popularity in many developing countries and aims at creating a social network in difficult neighborhoods.

STREET FOOTBALL IN PASO DEL REY



South American street football final match in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

The Club Atlético Defensores del Chaco, based in Paso del Rey, West of Buenos Aires, is reachable through a highway where golf clubs and private country clubs lie side by side with slumps.

Almost an hour away from the Argentinian capital by bus, the Fundación Defensores del Chaco's head office is located among shanty houses and half tared streets. This is where 1500 young men and women play handball, volleyball, basketball, and above all soccer in a different way.

This year, the Defensores Club represented Argentina in the first street soccer World Cup ever. It took place in Germany this year, parallel to the FIFA World Cup and with street soccer's specific rules. Meetings are organized in uncovered spaces, either in fallow fields or in open air grounds and games are played without a referee – which

would be the dream of most official teams, but in this case, is aimed at promoting dialogue. In street soccer, it is up to the players in both teams to decide on the score in a third half-time, once the game is over. The final result depends not only on goals, but also on things such as “clean” playing, comradeship and respect of the adversary.

“We don't care whether these young players become successful athletes, or great artists. What counts is that they turn into people who generate solidarity within our community.”

Fabian Ferrero.

Chauvinism no longer holds true either, as two women have to be on the field at all times in each team of seven players. But street soccer's most genuine quality is its social goal: “We don't care whether these young players become successful athletes, or great artists. What counts is that they turn into people who generate solidarity within our community”, explains Fabián Ferrero, who founded the Defensores Club twelve years ago with Julio Jiménez.

“We started this club because we couldn't stand seeing these children and youngsters sitting at street corners with nothing to do”, Fabián recalls. “We live in a complex area, where 250.000 inhabitants are spread out in 15 neighbourhoods of working class families who often have 5 to 6 children. Since the tanneries closed in the nineties – and these were the main source of labor



Streetfootball in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

– unemployment has left the neighborhood completely shattered. Violence, resulting from a lack of space for education and entertainment has given way to blatant apathy, desolation and desperation. The State has been completely absent, so we urgently decided to do something.”

In Paso del Rey, as in most places in South America, throwing a soccer ball and letting it roll on the ground will get children rushing from all directions and ready to kick it, as shown by the ground-breaking initiative “Soccer for Peace” (“Fútbol para la paz”) created in Colombia. The “Soccer for peace” initiative was

instigated after the assassination of Andrés Escobar – a professional soccer player who shot an accidental auto-goal in a game against the United States at the 1994 World Cup in Los Angeles. Fabián and Julio started taking time from their own work schedule to train youngsters. “When I was a teenager, the hero in the neighbourhood was very often the toughest bully, the most reknown thief, the one that took the most drugs”, Julio Jiménez recalls. “Now, those who decide to play in our team, those who choose to train and fulfill the Club’s requirements are respected,” he adds.

With time, and thanks to its athletic successes and funding from several national and international organizations, the Club has developed several other activities and now counts a variety of sports, a folkloric music group, a weaving workshop, a painting studio, a percussions group, a first aid health center as well as a legal center, which aims at facilitating access to legal support for the Paso del Rey community. In addition to the youth teams, housewives and retirees also take part in some of Defensores’ activities. And aspirations do not end here: in a neighborhood of 250.000 inhabitants with a single primary school where 1.800 students are packed in three classrooms of 4, the Fundación has already purchased land in order to build an additional school this year.

Rumbo in South Africa in 2010

The recipe undeniably works: by the end of 2005 the South America Street Soccer final, promoted by UNICEF and UNDP, was played in the middle of the 9 de Julio Avenue - Buenos Aires’ main artery - while at the “Other World Cup” in Germany this year, 22 teams from the five continents were present. But when it comes down to it, what is the difference between this type of soccer and the traditional eleven player soccer teams, with winners and losers? Matías who is a second year student of Economics and a member of the Defensores team that participated in the Germany Street Soccer World Cup, has it all figured out: “In traditional soccer, competitiveness and interests at stake are such that it ends up generating more violence.” Those who witnessed the insults, head kick and expulsion, which took place during the France-Italy final during the 2006 World Cup in Germany know all too well that the facts unfortunately confirm Matias’ words.



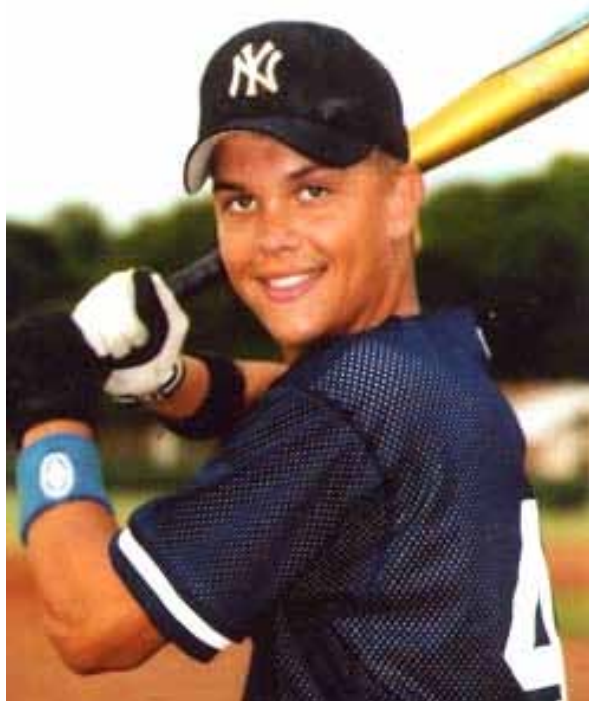
Streetfootball in Buenos Aires (Argentina). The “Obelisco” monument can be seen in the background.

Lucía Iglesias Kuntz,
in Buenos Aires, (Argentina).

Thousands of adolescents dream of becoming sports stars.
More and more are deciding to use anabolic steroids to improve their chances.
For 17-year-old Taylor Hooton, this decision eventually cost him his life.

DYING TO BE PERFECT

© UNESCO/D. Hooton



Taylor Hooton playing baseball shortly before his death.

Taylor Hooton of Texas (USA) was a popular boy who played on his school baseball team and did well in classes. But Taylor felt pressure to be even better.

"When Taylor was 16, his baseball coach told him he needed to get bigger to move up in the team ranks," his father, Don Hooton, recounts. The 6' 2", 180-pound young man saw only one option. "

Taylor started using anabolic steroids in early 2003. His father immediately noticed wild mood swings and took him to a psychiatrist. Soon, Taylor admitted to steroid use and promised to stop. Hooton and his wife thought they'd dodged a bullet, yet that summer Taylor stole a laptop computer. His parents decided to not allow him to drive his truck or hang out with friends for two weeks as a punishment.

500,000 to 600,000
American high schoolers
have used steroids,
says Charles Yesali.

The following morning, Taylor begged his mother not to punish him. "Taylor came in and had a couple tears in his eyes," says Houton. "But his mother didn't budge."

"So he reached over and squeezed her hand, went upstairs and hanged himself."

Pressure to be the best

Taylor is just one of hundreds of thousands of teens who abuse steroids.

Steroids suppress the body's ability to produce testosterone. When a user cycles off, it takes the body a few months to return to normal and severe depression can occur.

There are no exact numbers on adolescent suicides related to steroid withdrawal, but Hooton says it is not uncommon. "I've probably talked to two, three dozen parents... the same exact thing that happened in our home happened to them, it's usually violent."

"We live in a world... [where] it's better to be a winner and to be attractive. These drugs can help you in both," says Dr. Charles Yesalis, an authority on teen steroid use at Penn State.

According to , 500,000 to 600,000 American high schoolers have used steroids. "Nobody takes



Taylor Hooton attending a baseball game.

just one shot of steroids, so when I say a half a million kids, that means those kids have cycled on these drugs," he says.

The use of drugs to improve performance or body image is a serious problem for teens around the globe. Frédéric Donzé of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) notes that while there are no comprehensive international statistics, it is a serious problem. "No sport and no country are immune."

The accessibility of the drugs is also alarming. Dr. Lyle Micheli of Boston's Children's Hospital, found that teens obtain steroids at gyms. He says there is an underground black market, and finding steroids over the internet is even easier.

Many teens know that steroids are dangerous. But teens are often motivated to use them by the pressure to excel in sports or to look good. "Parents and coaches are putting too much pressure on young kids -- it's overwhelming," Yesalis says.

The marathon continues

According to a 2003 National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey, 6.1% of young people in grades 9-12 throughout the United States had tried steroids without a doctor's prescription. Hooton believes that education will lead to prevention. "It goes from educating kids to know that this is a dangerous

drug to educating parents like us."

But it is not so easy. Professional baseball players like Jose Canseco, Jason Giambi and Raphael Plameiro have used steroids. Hooton reflects, "It's back to role models. I don't care what a professional baseball player is doing... unless my 16 year old kid is looking up to him. [Kids think] 'if its ok for them, why isn't it ok for me?'"

Another pressure source: American universities offer scholarships for sports excellence. Steve Abudato, an Emmy award-winning anchor in New York, writes "bigger, stronger and faster - (it's) a perceived edge that may help them secure athletic scholarships to college, at the risk of destroying their bodies."

American schools are starting to catch on. New Jersey recently implemented high school steroids testing program. Proposals for such programs are cropping up across the United States.

Don Hooton says this is a good sign. "It wound up that you had this secret stuff going on amongst the kids. We know for a fact now, five out of the 15 boys on the team were doing steroids - it may have been as many as nine. As a society, nobody seemed to be aware that this was going, and that it's as dangerous as it is."

Michelle Won,
in Los Angeles, California (USA).

Key steroids dates

It may seem as though steroids are suddenly all over the news. In fact, they have been used by athletes for over half a century.



1935 – Charles Kochakian, a graduate student at the University of Rochester in New York succeeds in isolating anabolic steroids.

1940s – Steroids are used in limited quantities on recuperating soldiers wounded during the Second World War.

1950s – Russian weightlifters begin the use of steroids in sports competitions.

1960s – John Ziegler, a doctor from Maryland (United States), pioneers the use of steroids on American weightlifters. Athletes in other sports soon follow.

1963 – France is the first country to pass anti-doping legislation.

1968 – The Olympic Games introduces drug tests at the winter games in Grenoble and the summer games in Mexico.

José Banaag.
Sources: Encyclopaedia Britannica;
World Anti-Doping Agency

East Germany became a sporting powerhouse overnight at the 1972 Olympic Games and continued to dominate the international sports arena throughout the 1970's and 80's. The secret to its success?
A state-sponsored doping programme that involved an estimated 10,000 athletes.

DOPING FOR GLORY IN EAST GERMANY



© AFP-EPA-DPA/Wolfgang Kumm-STF

Heidi Krieger took so much male hormone felt like a man. She later underwent a sex change operation and is now known as Andreas Kriege.

East Germany's sporting system was dubbed the "Miracle Machine" as the communist nation of 16 million people became an Olympic power to rival the Soviet Union and the United States of America which had populations 18 times bigger.

But the country's sports stars paid a high price for their remarkable success.

"They stole our souls and turned our bodies into mere objects," says Ines Geipel, a former sprinter and long jumper.

Geipel, and an estimated 10,000 sportsmen and women like her, were victims of a comprehensive state-sponsored doping programme, forced to take steroids to allow them to train harder but which had dramatic side-effects.

In the second half of its 35-year

"They stole our souls
and turned our bodies
into mere objects."

Ines Geipel

history, the German Democratic Republic consistently finished among the top three nations at summer and winter Olympic Games.

There were suspicions about its medal haul for years, but it was only after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and Germany was reunited a year later that athletes and swimmers came forward to admit that their achievements were fuelled by drugs.

Many say they had no idea they were being given anabolic steroids by doctors; they were usually told the pills were vitamins. Secret files released after reunification showed that children as young as 10 were given them.

Amazing physical transformations

The drugs, especially the infamous Oral-Turinabol steroid, altered muscle structure, caused voices to deepen and promoted male pattern hair growth and changes to genitalia.

The most infamous case is Heidi Krieger, who won the European shot putt title in 1986. She was given so much male hormone to develop the muscles to excel in her discipline that by 1997 Heidi looked and felt like a man, and underwent an operation to



© UNESCO
East-german athletes reigned over swimming competition for several decades.

complete the sex change. Today she is known as Andreas Krieger.

Other female athletes were rendered infertile, while those who gave birth often had children with defects.

Now some former sportswomen want their tainted records to be erased.

Ines Geipel was part of the 4x100 metres relay team of her club SC Motor Jena which set a national record time of 42.20 seconds in 1984. It has never been beaten, but Geipel had her name removed from the record books and says the time should be wiped too.

"That record is poisoned by doping," she says.

Petra Schneider, a swimmer who won a gold and a silver medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, has made a similar call because her performances were influenced by steroids.

She describes her national record for the 400 metres individual medley, which has stood for 24 years, as "a relic of the past". "I want the record books to be wiped clean," she says.

Results, but at what cost?

The goal of the doping programme was to show the supposed superiority of the communist system through sporting glory.

Until 1968, West German athletes outperformed their East German counterparts. The turnaround was dramatic. The East German regime began planning years in advance to spoil West Germany's so-called coming-out party, the 1972 Munich Olympics.

East Germany won 20 gold medals at those games, finishing third behind the Soviet Union and the USA and a significant seven golds

ahead of West Germany.

East Germany was placed second in the medals' table at the 1976 Montreal Olympics with 40 gold medals, bettered only by the Soviet Union. Eleven of the golds came from athletics and 11 from swimming and all but two of those winners were women.

It was also the second biggest medal winner at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, which was blighted by the US-led boycott. At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the East Germans finished second behind the Soviet Union, winning 37 golds.

Some officials from the former East Germany claim that doping was not a major factor in its success and point to the fact that athletes from the country continued to win medals even when part of the united German team.

"It is almost impossible to compensate for the physical and mental suffering they endured."

Otto Schilly

But criminal trials and research, especially that done by Professor Werner Franke and Brigitte Berendonk, have shown that organized doping was a crucial element of the system.

In 2000, Manfred Ewald, East Germany's most senior sports official, and Manfred Höppner, the head of its sports medicine service, were given suspended jail sentences of 22 months and 18 months respectively for their part in the doping programme.

And in September last year, 193 former East German sportsmen and women were each awarded compensation of 10,400 euros by the German state for being forced to take drugs.

The Interior Minister of Germany at the time, Otto Schilly, said: "It is almost impossible to compensate for the physical and mental suffering they endured."

Guy Jackson,
in Berlin (Germany).



© UNESCO
Runner getting set for a speed race.

Maria Mutola's childhood dreams of becoming a football star were dashed because she was female. Not one to give up, she switched sports and eventually became an Olympic gold medalist in athletics.

MARIA MUTOLA

THE RUNNING WONDER FROM MOZAMBIQUE



© Fondation Maria Mutola

Maria Mutola.

As a young girl, Maria Mutola was more interested in playing football than studying. She would frequently skip class to go kick the ball with the boys from her poor neighborhood in the outskirts of Maputo (Mozambique).

Maria had a remarkable talent for dribbling, running fast and scoring goals, and -- despite her parents' opposition -- she dreamed of becoming a professional football player. "One day, when I was 14 or 15 years old", she recalls, "the coach of the Aguia d'Ouro football club was passing through my neighborhood and, after watching me play for a while, invited me to join his team."

"Being the only female player brought me a lot of problems, but I always tried to just concentrate on playing good football."

Maria Mutola

Maria's participation in the city's football championship was a great success, but widely contested by the other teams. "Being the only female player brought me a lot of problems, but I always tried to just concentrate on playing good football."

Aguia d'Ouro went on to win the city's championships in 1987, but the losing team in the final filed a formal complaint to FIFA against the use of a female player in official competitions.

FIFA allowed Mutola's team to keep the trophy. But the 15-year old was nevertheless devastated, as she understood that she would never be allowed to pursue a career as a professional football player.

What she didn't know was that this episode would not be the end, but merely the beginning of an extraordinary journey in the world of sport.

"We have so many great athletes,

“We have so many great athletes, but we have a culture that doesn’t support sports. I had to send her to America because that was where she would improve the most.”

José Craveirinha

but we have a culture that doesn’t support sports. I had to send her to America because that was where she would improve the most.” - José Craveirinha

From football to athletics

Maria’s ordeal made the headlines and grabbed the attention of José Craveirinha, Mozambique’s most renowned poet and a passionate athletics fan. After watching her play football, he knew she had the potential to be a great runner. He gave her a pair of training shoes and introduced her to his son Stélio, a track and field coach.

“My first training with Stélio didn’t go very well,” remembers Maria. “I wasn’t used to running so much, and after that session I couldn’t even sit down. I didn’t show up to practice for a whole week!”

But Craveirinha didn’t give up on her. “The Poet came to my house,” Mutola says. “He convinced my parents that athletics could open a lot of doors for me.”

Craveirinha was right. Just a few months after her first workout, Maria Mutola won a silver medal in the 800m at the 1988 African Championships. That same year, she represented Mozambique at the Seoul Olympic Games.

In 1990, she won a scholarship from the International Olympic Committee to study and train in the USA. “It is truly a sad thing,” Craveirinha said at the time, “We have so many great athletes, but we have a culture that doesn’t support sports. I had to send her to America because that was where she would improve the most.”

Throughout the 90s, Maria Mutola became one of the world’s

elite track athletes, dominating the 800m, 1000m and 1500m in major championships.

Her crowning achievement came at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, when she brought home Mozambique’s first ever Olympic gold in the 800m.

In 2003, she was awarded the world’s biggest prize in athletics, a one million dollar jackpot for 6 consecutive wins in the Golden League competitions of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

That same year, Maria was appointed Youth Emissary for the United Nations Development Programme, in recognition of her outstanding career in athletics.

The Mutola Foundation

After almost 20 years of dedication to athletics, Maria believes she still has a lot to do for sport. That is why she has created the Maria Mutola Foundation, which funds education and athletics for underprivileged children.

Since 2001, the Foundation has permitted over 30 Mozambican young athletes to participate in international competitions. It also works on the integration of sport and other socio-cultural activities in school curricula, and is planning the construction of a professional training centre in Maputo.

“All kids in Mozambique should be able to have a Craveirinha in their lives,” says Maria Mutola, “someone who believes in their talent and is willing to support them. That’s what my foundation is for.”

Three years ago, the Mutola Foundation sent Carina Pinto to study and train in the USA. “She now attends the New York University and will graduate in two years”, Maria says with pride. “The day she receives her diploma will be a great victory for me.”

At 34, Maria Mutola is a national hero and one of Maputo’s avenues has recently been named after her. When asked about her legacy, she says humbly “I am proud that my program is now helping so many

young athletes. All I want is for kids to understand, like I did 25 years ago, that the combination of education and sport can be the key to success.”

Maria Boavida,
in Paris (France)

Women in the Olympics

The first modern Olympic Games in 1896 were not open to women. However, 19 athletes participated in the next Olympiad, held in Paris in 1900, representing a modest 1.6% of the total participants.

It was not until the 1970s when the presence of women made a significant increase.

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Tokyo, 1964

683 women athletes
(13% of total)
7 women’s sports
(19% of total)

Los Angeles, 1984

1,567 women athletes
(23% of total)
14 women’s sports
(23% of total)

Athènes, 2004

4,306 women athletes
(41% of total)
26 women’s sports
(28% of total)

José Banaag

Sport timeline

Some key dates on UNESCO's actions in physical education and sport.

By José Banaag.



1947

An international conference at UNESCO's Bureau of International of Education considers giving greater importance to physical education in secondary schools.

1952

The General Conference, at its seventh session, authorizes an enquiry among Member States and international organizations in order to improve sports for educational purposes.

1956

A comparative study entitled "The Place of Sport in Education" is published.

1959

UNESCO cooperates with the Government of Finland in organizing an international conference in Helsinki on the contribution of sports to the improvement of professional abilities and cultural development.

1965

The Director-General awards the first Pierre de Coubertin International Fair Play Trophy to Italian bobsleigh racer Eugenio Monti.

1976

The first international conference of ministers and senior officials responsible for physical education and sport meets in Paris (France).

1978

The General Conference adopts an International Charter of Physical Education and Sport. It also sets up an intergovernmental committee to orient and supervise UNESCO's activities in this field, and an international fund to promote the development of such activities.

1983

The Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport recommends measures to be taken with regard to medical problems and doping and requests competent authorities to continue their research into sports violence.

1988

An international conference of ministers responsible for physical education and sport meets in Moscow (ex-USSR) and stresses the need to uphold the ethical and moral values of sport.

1991

The General Conference amends the International Charter adopted in 1978, by introducing a new article targeting abuses such as doping, violence at sports events, excessive commercial exploitation and precocious intensive training.

1999

The conference of ministers and senior officials responsible for sport and physical education meets in Punta del Este (Uruguay) and expresses concern

over unethical behaviour, in particular doping, and urges all countries to take concerted action.

2001

David Douillet, French Olympic triple medallist in judo, is nominated UNESCO Champion for Sport.

2003

A ministerial round table issues a final communiqué on behalf of 103 Member States and 20 organizations, noting the danger of doping to public health and requiring a concerted response to it.

2004-2005

Representatives from over 95 countries begin extensive consultation meetings towards the drafting of an anti-doping convention.

2005

The General Conference adopts the International Convention against Doping in Sport.

2005

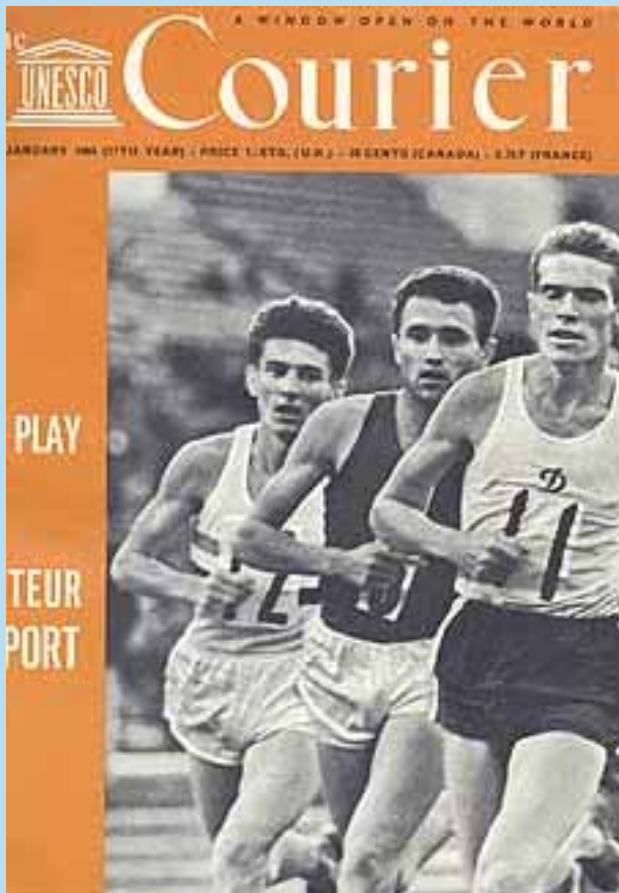
The United Nations General Assembly proclaims 2005 International Year for Sport and Physical Education.

2006

UNESCO and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) sign a memorandum of understanding, further strengthening their close working relationship.

The Courier looks back

Since it began publication, The UNESCO Courier has devoted articles and issues to various aspects of sport. Here is a glimpse at some of them:



Issues

The competitive world of sport December 1992

Sport has become synonymous with top-flight competition, rather than a form of play and a means of education. This competition has resulted from excessive concentration on a limited number of spectacular events, a process which has in turn exposed sport to ever-greater attention from business and the media.

People at play May 1991

The amount of importance attached to spontaneous play can tell us much about the basic features of a culture. In industrialized societies, games and sports are often at the mercy of the profit motive, but other societies have been more successful at preserving the innocence of play.

Fair play and the amateur in sport January 1964

Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympic Games in modern times. A hundred years after his birth in 1863, this issue assesses his crusade to dignify and invigorate sport, to make it independent and adapt it for its educational role in today's world.

Articles

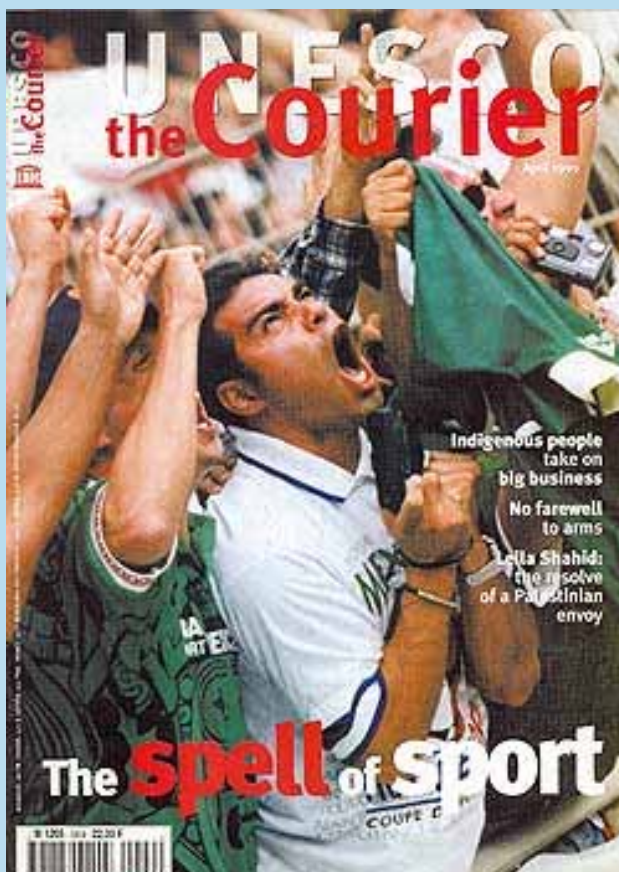
Tim Crabbe, who lectures in sport sociology at Britain's Sheffield Hallam University, presents two articles on the problem of racism in European football matches.

“Garlic, knives and banners: football’s racist faces” November 2000

“A tricolour triumph?” November 2000

“The spell of sport” April 1999

This dossier offers two roles of sport: as an escape route from discrimination for women, the disabled, ethnic minorities and the poor and as an outlet and crucible for national, religious and intercommunity conflicts.



José Banaag



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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The UNESCO Courier is published
by the United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
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75352 Paris 07 SP, France
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