

Sports

Johnson finds new life A year later, track star is clean

TORONTO (AP) — A year ago, hundreds of journalists waited impatiently for the world's fastest human to arrive for his post-race news conference at the Olympic Games.

Ben Johnson had just lowered his world record of 9.83 seconds to 9.79 in winning the 100-meter gold medal. And he had beaten his bitter rival, Carl Lewis, the defending Olympic champion — just like he had done a year earlier in setting the world record at the World Championships in Rome.

Olympic Stadium came alive. Hundreds of Canadians in the stands yelled and screamed and cried. It was Canada's first gold medal of the Games.

"I did not expect to go this fast," Johnson said. "It was nice."

Lewis, who finished a distant second in 9.92, suggested Johnson was on steroids. He was accused of sour grapes.

Then Johnson was late for his date with the media. Officials explained, he apparently was having trouble producing a urine sample for drug testers.

In a small room in the stadium, Johnson drank 10 beers and waited almost two hours for his uncooperative, dehydrated system to provide the urine sample.

When Johnson finally met with the media, he said, "The gold medal is the most important thing. Anybody can break my world record, but the gold medal is mine."

It wasn't his for long.

Less than 36 hours later, there was trouble.

Carol Anne Letheren, head of the Canadian team, received a letter from the International Olympic Committee saying that Johnson had tested positive for the banned steroid Stanozolol.

She and other Canadian officials met with a stunned Johnson and coach Charlie Francis at the Seoul Hilton. Johnson and Francis denied any wrongdoing.

Later that day, a second test of Johnson's urine was performed. The result again was positive. Meetings were held between Canadian and IOC officials, with the Canadians suggesting Johnson was the victim of sabotage.

But the IOC rejected the argument, pointing out the test results indicated a pattern of long-term steroid use. Early on Sept. 27, at another meeting in the hotel, Johnson's gold medal was taken back — the medal he had dedicated to "my Mom and all the people of Canada."

At a news conference a few hours later, Letheren said Johnson was in a state of shock. "He was not comprehending the information we were giving him," she said.

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Stanford's Hinckley a player of the week.

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Southern Cal quarterback Todd Marinovich, Stanford linebacker Rob Hinckley and Arizona kicker Doug Pfaff were named Monday the Pacific-10 Conference players of the week.

Marinovich, a freshman from Balboa, Calif., completed 14 of 22 passes for 246 yards and four touchdowns in the Trojans' 42-3 rout of Ohio State. One of the TD passes went for

87 yards, the longest in USC history.

Hinckley, a senior from Walnut Creek, Calif., made 11 tackles as Stanford held Oregon to 59 yards rushing and 272 total yards in an 18-17 upset of the Ducks.

Pfaff, a senior from Torrance, Calif., earned special teams honors for the third time this season by kicking two fourth-quarter field goals, including the game-winner from 35 yards with 1:01 remaining, as Arizona beat Washington 20-17.

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

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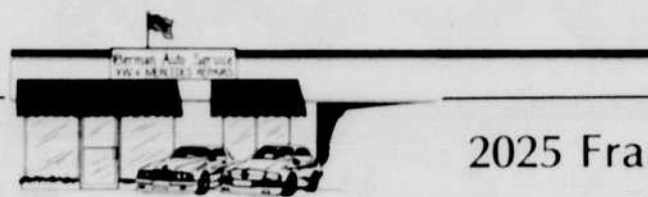
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