USA's Barnes, Mitchell suspended for steroid use

Barnes could face a life suspension if his second sample is also positive

By Bert Rosenthal

NEW YORK — Two of the biggest names in U.S. track and field — shot putter Randy Barnes and sprinter Dennis Mitchell have been suspended indefinitely for drug use, The Associated Press learned today.

Barnes, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist and the world indoor and outdoor record-holder, and Mitchell, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist in the 100 meters, were cited by the sport's world governing body for failing drug tests April 1.

Barnes, who could face a life suspension, was tested in Charleston, W.Va., and Mitchell in Gainesville, Fla.

Mitchell is president of USA Track and Field's Athletes Advisory Committee, the athletes' voice in the national governing body, which has taken a hard stance against drugs.

His suspension was handed down last week and represents his first drug offense.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation did not officially announce the suspensions, and the precise terms of the punishment have yet to be determined.

These are two of the most prominent suspensions in track and field, following Ben Johnson at the 1988 Olympics, Butch Reynolds in 1990 and Mary Slaney in 1997.

Johnson is banned for life. Reynolds served his suspension and is now competing. Slaney was cleared and is also running

spokesman Giorgio IAAF Reneiri said today from Monaco that Barnes and Mitchell tested positive during out-of-competition samples.

So far, only the A samples have been tested, Reneiri said. However, that is sufficient for the IAAF to levy a suspension.

If their B samples are positive, the IAAF will then rule on the severity of the punishment pending a hearing by USATF. If the B sample is negative, they are cleared.

Barnes could be banned for life because this is his second offense. He was suspended for two years starting in 1991 for the banned substance methyltestosterone at a meet in Malmo, Sweden, in 1990. This time, the substance is androstenedione, a banned nutritional supplement, Reneiri said.

Mitchell tested positive for testosterone. If found guilty following the B sample, he probably would receive a two-year ban.

Reneiri did not know the level of testosterone found in Mitchell's sample. The allowable ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone (another natural substance) is 6:1. Anything above that level merits an investigation.

Mitchell's suspension was handed down last week, after he finished fifth in the Goodwill Games 100 and ran the second leg on the winning U.S. 400-meter relay team at Uniondale.

Mitchell was entered in the U.S. Open at Edwardsville, Ill., Saturday night, but was a late scratch without explanation by meet organizers. It now turns out, the IAAF would not allow him to compete because of the ban.

Reneiri said the IAAF asked Mitchell to "give some medical explanation" for the findings.

"A few days ago, the explanation was received and the doping commission decided to suspend the athlete," Reneiri said.

The five-member commission is headed by Arne Ljungqvist of Sweden and includes vice chairman Frank Greenberg of the United States.

Jill Pilgrim, a lawyer for the US-ATF in Indianapolis, could not confirm or deny any of today's de-

was immediately available for comment.

Barnes, 32, set the world indoor record of 74-4 1/4, at Los Angeles on Jan. 20, 1989, and set the world outdoor record of 75-10 1/4 at Westwood, Calif., on May 20,

He also was the Olympic silver medalist in 1988, the world championship silver medalist in 1993 and bronze medalist in 1995, and the U.S. champion in 1989, 1993, 1996 and 1997. At the 1997 world championships, he failed to qualify for the final, finishing 14th.

Mitchell, 32, finished fourth in the 1998 and 1996 Olympics, third in the 100 at the 1991 and 1993 world championships, and was a gold medalist on U.S. 400meter relay teams that took gold medals at the 1992 Olympics and 1993 and 1995 world championships. He also ran on four U.S. relay teams that set world records between 1991-93.

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Tuesday, July 28, 1998 ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) (March 21 to April 19)

If your energy is feeling blocked, ask a good friend for some insight. Once your eyes are opened, an unpleasant pattern will begin to dis-

TAURUS

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
The future looks positively glowing. Surround yourself with a little high-brow culture, such as an opera, and your intellectual horizons will broaden.

GEMINI

Be prepared for some unexpected visitors, most likely close relatives. Should domestic disputes arise, a third party should be called in to

(June 21 to July 22)

Whether you are a woman, or just in the company of women, female energy will be running high. For now, creativity and practicality are twin sisters.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Remember that other people are
not your tools to command. A good
friend or relative will call upon you
to reassess values that you hold dear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
If you've been toiling behind the scenes patiently, make sure to get out in the timelight. People will recognize you for the brilliant inventor

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

If you try to steer events in the wrong direction, you will endanger your reputation as a leader. Don't

clutch at straws if a situation throws

you off-guard.
SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
You will delight in giving far more than receiving. Generous gestures, happily performed, will go a long way in improving your public image. SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) While your world view may be quite different from that of your employer, you will for once see eye to eye. Make sure that your efforts are

capricorn

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Talking about the deeper meaning
of life will help clear your mind of
more mundane worries. You have the vision to make complex tasks seem easy.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

A friendly ear will help cure your current lack of motivation. If you take time to redefine your goals.

take time to redefine your goals, you'll be surprised at how they've

PISCES

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
If attached, you will find that your time is not your own. Making concessions to a partner's desires will be more enjoyable than you expected. YOU BORN TODAY often sell yourself short with your insecurities, despite your many talents and abilities. People respect and admire your fine mind and sense of humor more than you realize. Others can more than you realize. Others can rely on you to act practically and

Birthdate of: Bill Bradley, politician; Jim Davis, cartoonist; Rick Wright, musician.

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