

Steroids: Cheating or part of the game?



From the Bleachers

Nick Barron
Staff Writer

Finally, it all makes sense. With an article in last week's *Sports Illustrated*, former major leaguer and MVP Ken Caminiti divulged that he was a steroid user while he was a player, and he estimates that nearly ninety percent of all Major League Baseball players are currently taking some type of performance-enhancing drug.

So as run production in baseball has jumped higher than a Michael Finley dunk, and managers, players and analysts have tried to figure out the cause of this phenomenon, it now all makes sense.

In the last decade, there has been a handful of major leaguers who, reportedly past their prime, begin to bang out power numbers that they hadn't obtained since t-ball. Records that had stood since baseball was played in knickers have fallen, all within the last 10-15 years.

Even the reigning home run king, Barry Bonds, used to be a scrawny outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates, but in the last five years he suddenly bulked up and has belted out dingers like a church league softball all-star.

Major League Baseball, and by that I mean the players, managers and even those from Commissioner Bud Selig's office, speculated that the increased scoring in games was due to more rigorous weight training by players. They even blamed the baseball itself, saying it was made differently from its ancestors, now more solid and easier to hit farther.

But with Caminiti's whistleblowing came an SI article, and with that article came other players' comments on steroid use in baseball. And finally, now that the cover has been blown, players are admitting that their peers are popping more pills into their

mouth than a coked-out schizophrenic.

This scandal could turn into baseball's version of Watergate. Did Selig know about the steroid use in baseball? If so, what was the depth of his knowledge? Who else in Selig's camp knew about this?

If it could be proven that Major League Baseball knew about the use of performance-enhancing drugs, and even encouraged it for the sake of more home runs, which could mean more fans, this could be quite the scandal.

But there is one thing that may be lacking in this equation of a scandal, and that is that someone has to give a damn. Watergate would have just been another break-in, or gotten swept under the rug, if the American public didn't care.

So the issue isn't whether or not baseball players use steroids. Because we know that they do. It isn't even if steroids should be banned or tested. Before baseball would take such drastic steps as making players pee in a cup, it would make sure that its fan base, those that make the league what it is, really care about the subject.

If it were discovered and proved that Mark McGwire was using steroids in 1998, when he broke Roger Maris' home run record, I would feel betrayed. McGwire's accomplishments would become less significant, and if he had to cheat to knock off Maris, I would have rather have Maris claim title to the record.

Yet am I alone in this belief? Judging by what I know of San Francisco Giants' fans, they wouldn't care if Bonds were using steroids last year when he belted out 73 home runs.

With all that is starting to rage on in baseball, with talk shows and columnists trying to uncover what could be the biggest scandal in baseball since Shoeless Joe Jackson and his fellow White Sox gambled on the World Series, there is one thing that the media cannot do, which is make the people care.

All the ESPN analysts and Sports Illustrated columnists cannot make the public care about steroid use in baseball. I guess people like home runs and tossing aside their consciences for the sake of cheap thrills.

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FCA: a huddle of service

ELENA BORYSKA

Sports Editor

Service- noun. "1. an act of helpful activity. 2. the supplying of any articles, commodities, activities, etc., required or demanded." These definitions sum up what Clackamas' Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) has been doing with their time: serving others. It is for all of their selfless actions and frequent meetings that the group won the honor of being named Co-College Huddle of the Year along with Linfield College.

The awards banquet was held on Monday, May 20, at Grace Community Church in Tualatin. The only other awards that were given out were the High School Huddle of 'the Year, Student Athlete of the Year for both high school and college, as well as Coach of the Year.

The winner of the High School Athlete of the Year award was Ashley Walbridge from Reynolds High School, who is a CCC recruit. Walbridge was one of the first people who was signed for next year's volleyball team, where she will play outside hitter. Besides being the head volleyball coach, Kathie Woods is also the adult leader of FCA, and knows what an important factor that Walbridge will be on and off the athletic floor.

"We're really looking forward to her for volleyball," Woods said. "We're just excited to get her and proud of her for getting Oregon's FCA Athlete of the Year Award."

The Cougars brought 1,300 cookies to the student-athlete banquet, but have also stayed consistently busy throughout the year, participating in camps, retreats and just hanging out.



Contributed by Kathie Woods

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an active club that participates in fun events, as well as service opportunities. It is for these reasons that they were awarded the College Huddle of the Year award, along with Linfield.

"We've been at various events helping. We help at the Quarterback shootout, we go to camps...., Woods said. "It's the involvement that helps get them the honor of College Huddle of the year."

The club meets every Thursday in the club room in Randall, but the group will also occasionally meet for a barbeque or bowling. They average about 12-18 people, but at one point had 25 people.

"FCA is a very active club. We do a lot of fun things," Woods said. "Plus with the weekly meetings that we have, along with Bible studies and devotions, it's just a good time. The purpose of our group is for fellowship and to stay out of trouble, and to hang around people in a positive environment."

This year's leader of the club was Amy Klusmann, who will be moving onto Western Oregon in the fall to pursue a degree in education along with fellow FCA member and volleyball teammate Sarah Entenman. Klusmann's leadership was a big part of the

success of this club and her absence will certainly be felt next year.

"She's our leader. She's been very much involved," Woods said. "Ashley will have some big shoes to fill."

While Western Oregon doesn't have an FCA club established at this time, Klusmann and Entenman are both considering the possibility of starting one up. As this year's leader, Klusmann knows the advantages to being involved in a club like this.

"We have a core group of people that come every week now and it's cool to see them every week and see them grow in their relationship with Christ," Klusmann said. "It's a good confidence builder for myself, too."

"I'm very proud of the group. They work hard to do that and I'm proud of their commitment and dedication to their faith and expressing it here at Clackamas," Woods said. "To get recognized for that is really kind of nice."

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