

# Face-off: steroid use in baseball

## Steroids add entertainment 'Roids ruining competition

Delzell  
Clackamas Print

are they your problem? Steroids: ever used them? My point being and the recent controversy involving Bonds is irrelevant to the game and minor league baseball and the person.

played sports my whole life and I have used steroids once. I was a freshman in school, and two of my sports "friends" came up with wanted to "roid" up so possibly make the varsity football

walked away without thinking twice caring. What they put in their body was their own stupid decision. I didn't want so I didn't care. I also don't care for so I shut up and let them deal with it.

to say this: baseball players are being scrutinized for performance enhancing drugs. The government shouldn't be in MLB business because the MLB is a League Baseball, not government business. With steroid storybooks flying off the shelves, why should the government be involved? The media set up a breeding ground for high profile players such as Canseco to off their steroid use?

In recent baseball news, five minor league players were suspended on April 18 for performance enhancing drugs. On April 19, four more minor league players were suspended, with one suspended for a drug of which I please don't get me wrong, I'm not a doctor, I'm just an original sports fan who doesn't care if these players get up on 'roids.

If players are using drugs of abuse suspend them, and send them to a treatment program. Don't let the media blitz ball players who are trying to creep-up on a come-up in the game they love. Most players who have been suspended are in the minor leagues and with 27.4 percent of MLB players born out of the U.S., opportunities may be limited for some, making them more susceptible to steroid use. A number of countries, including Mexico, also legally sell steroids through prescriptions.

Steroids have been around for years. Some of the MLB's greatest moments have been completed by performance enhancing drugs. Remember Mark McGuire, remember Sammy Sosa. Major league fans gushed for a year over these two, and now the MLB and the U.S. government want to suspend minor and major leaguers who are looking for an extra edge in recovery time.

If we continue to allow the government to take over sports, then we are in a state of sports annihilation. With bigger things to worry about in the world, why would one care if meatheads want to 'roid up'?

According to USA Today, home runs are being hit at an average of 2.4 per game up 26 percent from 2005 along with a scoring pace of 10.1 runs per game, an eight percent increase from last year.

With 2006's barrage of homeruns, and runs in general, who's to say the players haven't already found a way around the steroid testing? If players want to 'roid up, set up a different league with different standards and see which one survives.

Now take that to your ball park and smoke it.

Mike Guidice  
Sports Editor

Chicks aren't the only ones who dig the long ball. I too enjoy the homer just as much as the next person, however, it loses its appeal when you find out that the reason the player is able to hit the ball so far is because he has illegally been taking steroids.

This is cheating, plain and simple. The players that use these drugs gain an unfair advantage over the rest of the athletes. They exemplify all that is dishonest and dirty, and it shows the lack of respect they have for the game of baseball as a whole.

In a recent survey almost 80 percent of professional baseball players polled believed that steroids played some kind of role in record-breaking performances by high profile players. Almost 30 percent said they thought that illegal performance-enhancing drugs were a "major contributor" to recent statistical achievements. When even the teammates of the guilty players are coming forward and admitting that this is a real issue you know that the problem is serious.

Bary Bonds went from a gangly base stealer with the Pirates to a bulked up 73 homerun hitting force with the Giants. Sammy Sosa is another case of rags to riches, as much as it hurts me to say since I'm from Chicago. Sosa, once a mediocre power hitter with the White Sox, came to the Cubs where he got his swoll on and proceeded to join the nationally recognized homerun chase with yet another obvious user, "the Incredible Hulk," a.k.a. Mark McGwire.

Steroids and other performance-enhancing supplements have jaded the game and left many fans and players unhappy. Many

are demanding that many records should be published with an asterisk next to the names of steroid users. This is a legitimate argument considering that some players would not have been remotely as successful if they had not been juiced. As exciting as a 550-foot walk-off homerun is, it kind of takes away from the awe and beauty of it when you know the source behind the seemingly endless supply of power in the hitter's upper body.

Jose Canseco is one of the worst types of athlete, and person for that matter. Canseco was one of the more obvious steroid abusers during his playing days, even admitting it once he had retired. To make matters worse, he recently came out with his own book, "Juiced," where he snitched out many players for also using illegal performance-enhancing drugs. After ruining his own life and legacy he took down his fellow teammates - a truly selfish and cowardly move.

Believe it or not, there are actually crazies who propose that the MLB just make steroids legal for all, or even give users their own league separate from the real athletes. This is a bad idea for a variety of reasons. Steroids are not only illegal, but are a serious detriment to ones health in the long run. Allowing steroids in MLB would send the message that baseball is above the law, and would even encourage players to seriously subject themselves to health risks.

"As much as this opens yet another Pandora's box, I think all sports have the moral obligation to erase any records linked to banned or illegal performance-enhancing drugs," said Keith Strudler, a professor of sports communication at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "This goes beyond the simple concept of justice - which is clearly relative and impossible to guarantee - but is critical in maintaining the integrity of the game."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

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## Baseball: results, upcoming games

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## Track

The following are a few highlights from the Western Oregon Twilight track & field event which took place on April 28.

### Women's 400-meter relay

1st place: 1:00.86  
(Luda Lukashova)

### Men's triple jump

1st place: 13.72m  
(Kraig Holland)

### Men's shot put

2nd place: 14.94m  
(Rhys Perkins)

### Men's 4x100-meter relay

2nd place: 42.68  
(Sean Kelly, Kraig Holland, Mike Jenkins, Sean Nacoste)

### Women's 500-meter run

2nd place: 19:14.8h  
(Lyndsey McKillip)