



Steroids and Doping in Sports: A Reference Handbook (Contemporary World Issues)

By David E. Newton

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Emphasizing the controversy over performance-enhancing drugs in sports today, this book examines all aspects of steroid use on the human body across history, from ancient China and India to modern-day professional athletics.

- Provides an extensive history on the use of performance enhancing drugs in athletics and sports, as well as in everyday life, from ancient civilizations to the present day
- Spotlights the current controversy regarding whether steroids should be permitted in sports competition
- Presents an in-depth discussion of potential health and psychological effects of steroid use, and identifies the pro and con arguments concerning steroid use in sports, athletics, and other settings
- Derives information from source documents on laws and court cases as well as reports on steroid use

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Editorial Review

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With the 2014 suspension of popular baseball player Alex Rodriguez, steroid use among athletes is once again front-page news. This new addition to ABC-CLIO's Contemporary World Issues series offers readers an overview of the health and ethical issues facing athletes and sports officials. The first section of the book covers the background and history of performance-enhancing drugs. Apparently, this is not a new issue. The author notes that ancient Greek competitors consumed bull testicles because they were thought to improve performance, and long-distance runners have cheated by using cars and subways for part of the race. It seems that the desire for a competitive edge is deeply rooted in the athlete. A detailed discussion of the discovery of testosterone and its related derivatives as well as its effects on the human body introduces readers to the subject. A look at some of the better-known athletic scandals follows. These include the use of anabolic steroids in Nazi Germany, increasing use from the 1950s through the 1980s, and the BALCO scandal, which cost many baseball players their careers. There are arguments for and against the use of steroids, arguments about their legalization, a discussion of their legitimate use by transsexuals undergoing transition, and a look at steroid abuse. There are profiles of people and organizations involved in the issue: for example, Barry Bonds, José Canseco and the I Won't Cheat Foundation. Statistical tables, primary source documents, a resource list, a chronology, and a glossary complete the work. Black-and-white photographs and drawings supplement the text. This is a useful resource for anyone seeking an introduction to the issue of athletic doping. --Barbara Bibel

Review

"This book, part of the **Contemporary World Issues** series, is an effective, manageable, and well-documented handbook for both quick reference and more thorough, thoughtful examination of the contentious and still timely topic of performance-enhancing drugs and sports. . . . Overall, a valuable resource, providing succinct overviews, current references, handy reprints, and balanced viewpoints. . . . Highly recommended." - **Choice**

"This new addition to ABC-CLIO's **Contemporary World Issues** series offers readers an overview of the health and ethical issues facing athletes and sports officials. . . . This is a useful resource for anyone seeking an introduction to the issue of athletic doping." - **Booklist**

"Secondary and higher education students as well as the public will benefit from this authoritative volume. All libraries need Newton's latest work on their shelves." - **ARBA**

About the Author

David E. Newton is the author of more than 400 textbooks, encyclopedias, workbooks, and other educational materials, primarily in the field of science and math.

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