

Reports of doping cover-up in athletics

18th August, 2015



An article in the British newspaper The Sunday Times claims that around a third of the world's top athletes at a major event cheated by using drugs. The newspaper says a study was carried

out during the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea in 2011. It showed that 29-34 per cent of the 1,800 competitors had used performance-enhancing drugs in the previous 12 months. Reporters say that the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) knew about the report but blocked its publication. The study was conducted by Germany's University of Tübingen. The IAAF said there were many things wrong with the report. It added that it is in discussions to help publish it one day.

The details in the report are a huge shock to the athletics world. The Sunday Times reports that one-third of the medals in endurance races at the Olympics and World Championships were won by athletes who had very unusual blood readings. The World Anti-Doping Agency said on Friday that it would investigate the claims in the report. It said an independent commission has already started work on this. The lead author of the report, Dr Rolf Ulrich, told The Sunday Times that he and his colleagues were ordered not to discuss their research or the report. He said: "It's because the IAAF is blocking it. I think they are stakeholders with WADA and they just blocked the whole thing."

Sources: BBC / ESPN.com / ninemsn.com.au

Writing

Drugs should never be used in sport to make performances better. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

article / athletes / cheated / drugs / study / performance / publication / discussions / details / endurance / races / blood / independent / investigate / colleagues / blocked

True / False

- A British newspaper had an article about a drugs cover-up. T / F
- The article claimed a third of athletes at an athletics event used drugs. T / F
- The article said researchers looked at over 2,000 athletes. T / F
- The IAAF said it does not want to publish the report. T / F
- The details in the report were not a surprise to the athletics world. T / F
- The article said a third of medal winners had unusual blood readings. T / F
- The World Anti-Doping Agency will not act on the details in the report. T / F
- The researcher thinks athletics chiefs are blocking the report. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. article | a. obstructed |
| 2. top | b. done |
| 3. carried out | c. entire |
| 4. blocked | d. very big |
| 5. wrong | e. report |
| 6. huge | f. strange |
| 7. unusual | g. co-workers |
| 8. investigate | h. best |
| 9. colleagues | i. look into |
| 10. whole | j. incorrect |

Discussion – Student A

- How much do you like athletics?
- What were you like at athletics at school?
- What is your favourite athletics event?
- What do you think of people who cheat in sports?
- How difficult is it to stop people cheating in sports?
- Should medal winners return their medals if they used drugs?
- How easy is it to believe in world records?
- What is wrong with performance-enhancing drugs in sport?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. An article in the | a. help publish it |
| 2. around a third of the world's | b. enhancing drugs |
| 3. a major | c. his colleagues |
| 4. performance- | d. to the athletics world |
| 5. it is in discussions to | e. British newspaper |
| 6. a huge shock | f. of the report |
| 7. endurance | g. claims in the report |
| 8. investigate the | h. top athletes |
| 9. The lead author | i. races |
| 10. he and | j. event |

Discussion – Student B

- What should happen to athletes who are caught cheating?
- Is it more exciting if athletes take drugs and break records?
- Why do you think the IAAF don't want the report to be published?
- Which is better, athletics or other sports?
- Would you like to be an athlete?
- Why are some people good at athletics and others aren't?
- Which is better – the 110 metres or the marathon?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of IAAF?

Spelling

- An leictra in the British newspaper
- the world's top tealsthe
- oereanfpmrc-enhancing drugs
- in the poureivs 12 months
- etdccnodu by Germany's University
- it is in sondsisucsi to help
- The atistde in the report
- medals in dunerneca races
- very uuulsna
- it would snteaetvig the claims
- The lead artohu of the report
- discuss their cheserar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. a	5. j
6. d	7. f	8. i	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – 100 metres

You think the 100-metres is the best athletics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): marathon, the pole vault or the javelin.

Role B – Marathon

You think the marathon is the best athletics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): 100-metres, the pole vault or the javelin.

Role C – Pole vault

You think the pole vault is the best athletics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): marathon, 100-metres or the javelin.

Role D – Javelin

You think the javelin is the best athletics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): marathon, the pole vault or 100-metres.

Speaking – Track and field

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| • 100 metres | • hammer throw |
| • javelin | • 1,500 metres |
| • marathon | • pole vault |
| • high jump | • 400-metre relay |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.