

Sports

Ag trainer lauds drug program

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

The drug-testing policy by the Texas A&M athletic department is one of the most extensive programs in the nation, said the trainer in charge of testing.

Karl Kapchinski said the program instituted by Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill four years ago concentrates on education and habilitation of the drug user.

"We do a more extensive job of trying to educate our kids than probably any other school, not only in the (Southwest) Conference, but we're probably doing one of the best jobs in the nation," Kapchinski said. "I don't know many schools that are testing both their men's and women's programs."

Kapchinski said it would take several pages to list all the drugs the Athletic Department tests for, but "street" or "recreational" drugs like marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and barbiturates are the drugs it is most concerned with.

"We could detect marijuana pretty safely within a two-week period," Kapchinski said about the drug he finds most often in the urine samples of A&M athletes.

"Cocaine (can be detected) anywhere from 48 to 72 hours and most other drugs are (about the same), other than possibly those that are stored in the fat of the body, like marijuana.

"The other ones are basically water soluble and not fat-stored.

Here is an outline of the Texas A&M Athletic Department's drug testing policy:

- All athletes are tested in the fall and after spring break.
- Every week during the fall and spring semesters athletes are tested randomly. Usually, 10 to 15 percent of the team is selected for testing. Each sport has different selection procedures.
- If an athlete tests positively for drug use, the test is sent by an outside laboratory to be verified.
- If the laboratory verifies the test, the athlete may have counseling session with Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill or the head coach of his or her sport. In addition, the parents of the athlete are notified. A clinical psychologist also meets with the athlete.
- The athlete is tested once a week after the initial test. If the athlete tests positively a second time, he or she may be suspended and may undergo more therapy as well as weekly testing.
- If the athlete tests positively a third time, dismissal could be in order.

Therefore, they pass through the system."

But how big of a problem is drug use in A&M athletics?

According to both Kapchinski and Women's Athletic Director Lynn Hickey, not as much of a problem as the public is led to believe.

"In our situation, we don't have a rampant drug problem," Hickey said. "I think with the pressure right now, a lot of things are happening in athletics. With the kind of publicity the athletic programs are getting, you almost have to have some kind of system if something (drug-related) does occur."

Hickey said drug use in A&M women's athletics is "almost zero," and Kapchinski couldn't estimate the men's percentage, but said it is quite a bit lower than the

20 to 25 percent national average claimed by Dr. Robert Murphy of Ohio State last Tuesday.

"If (Murphy's percentage) were the case, we'd be catching a lot more kids," Kapchinski said.

Both Hickey and Kapchinski agree drugs are not strictly a "male" or race issue.

Assistant Athletic Director John David Crow said although A&M's numbers are low, "If you have one (athlete) smoking a joint, you have a drug problem."

"When I say we have a drug problem, I'm not sure we have a drug problem compared to a lot of places. Certainly it surprises me. It just dumbfounds me to know that a youngster (uses drugs)."

Another person surprised by drug use is Men's Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf, who said

he was shocked when two of his players were arrested for marijuana possession in January.

Guard Todd Holloway, who later had the charges against him dropped, and guard Don Marbury, who was given a probation sentence, were arrested outside Calvert, six miles northwest of Hearne.

"It was the first one I knew about," Metcalf said. "But now, I don't know. Hey, that happened a week before I found out about it. A Dallas newspaper called me and told me about it. I didn't know it happened."

The incident changed the team's drug-testing policy.

"I ran into my first problem in January when Todd and Donnie were caught," Metcalf said. "It really caught me by surprise. We didn't do random testing any more."

"From that time on, we tested the entire squad. We eliminated our problem right then. (Drug testing) is a heck of a deterrent."

But entire team testing would be cost-prohibitive, Kapchinski said, adding that testing each athlete every week would run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Kapchinski said the Sherrill plan, which is the model for Texas Tech's new drug-testing plan, was for the most part a one-man creation.

"Coach Sherrill did all the work — it was his brainstorming," Kapchinski said. "He knew what he wanted to accomplish out of it."

NFL drug testing gains mixed reviews

(AP) — Members of the Houston Oilers say the NFL should have a strong drug program, but some players disagree with Commissioner Pete Rozelle's solution.

"The way he's gone about it is typical," Houston nose tackle Mike Stensrud said. "He announced it without talking to the players. Two guys (Don Rogers and Len Bias) overdose, and I think he's putting a Band-Aid on the problem for the public."

Quarterback Warren Moon noted that the drug issue was a bargaining point in the most recent agreement between the team owners and players.

"If you change it now, there's a problem because it means we have no power as a union," Moon said. "The public will look at it like the players don't want a program, which is wrong."

"The players do want a pro-

Players Association to challenge NFL drug program with grievance

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — National Football League Players Association President Gene Upshaw on Tuesday accused NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle of "making a grandstand play" by mandating random drug tests for players.

The union, meanwhile, filed a grievance to block the plan which

is scheduled to be implemented when the players go to training camp this month.

Upshaw, who said the players are "not willing to accept that the drug problem has gotten any worse," called the grievance the first step in what could be a legal challenge to the program announced Monday by Rozelle.

the tests should not be performed unless there's a reasonable suspicion.

"The people who suspect you and decide to give you a drug test should be educated about the

signs of drug use," Williams said. "Just because a guy drops a pass, misses a tackle or falls asleep in a team meeting doesn't mean he's doing drugs."

Cowboys Coach Tom Landry said he expected the independent testing to begin July 13 when veterans are scheduled to report to training camp.

"Any program that helps players with a problem has to be good," Landry said.

Dallas linebacker Jesse Penn said it does not matter if some see Rozelle's policy as an invasion of privacy.

"He's the commissioner and he makes the rules," Penn said. "If you can't abide by the rules, you need a new occupation. I'm sure it's not the way the Players Association wants to handle it, but I think they'll come to terms, hopefully."

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Goodwill Games

Bubka vaults 19-8³/₄; controversy mars 1,500 run

MOSCOW (AP) — Pole vaulter Sergei Bubka soared through the Moscow night to a world record of 19 feet, 8³/₄ inches Tuesday at the Goodwill Games, where competition assignments and a Pentagon decision brought controversy.

One U.S. track official described the assigning of Soviet runners to heats where they would have the most advantage as "international bush league."

On only his third jump of the warm, muggy night at Lenin Stadium, Bubka, his face intense as he waited at the end of the runway, flipped easily over the bar to add one-half inch to the mark he set in Paris last July 13.

In one of Tuesday's earliest events, another Soviet athlete, cyclist Ericka Salumae, chopped .005 seconds off her world mark with an

11.489-second clocking in a qualification run for the women's 200-meter sprint.

American athletes won three gold medals in track — Johnny Gray in the men's 800 and Pam Marshall in the women's 200, along with the women's 1,600-meter relay team — to raise the their total for the games to 25. The Soviets won six golds on Tuesday to take over the lead with 28.

The overall medal count after Tuesday's competition stood with the Soviet Union leading the United States 86-74.

Concern was voiced Tuesday by some U.S. athletes and officials that the host team was getting an unfair advantage in some events.

The men's 1,500 was split into two sections at the last minute, with the top American miler, Steve Scott,

placed in the faster section, in which strategy and physical contact from other world-class runners made his job more difficult.

He finished second in his group and third overall while a relative unknown, Pavel Yakovlev of the Soviet Union, won the supposedly slower second section in a time good enough for overall victory.

The runnerup, who beat Scott in the first heat, was Soviet Igor Lomonosov.

Scott's time was 3 minutes, 40.31 seconds, compared with Yakovlev's 3:39.36.

"I have never seen a meet like this," Scott said. "Sure, I was second in my heat and I was beaten by a Russian, but according to them I was beaten by two Russians and that makes it twice as bad."

USFL: Supplemental draft was destructive

NEW YORK (AP) — The USFL, in its \$1.69 billion federal antitrust suit against the NFL, contended Tuesday that the NFL held a supplemental draft of USFL players in 1984 in an effort to destroy the younger league.

USFL attorney Harvey Myerson said of the 76 players chosen in the supplemental draft, 39 signed with NFL clubs. Players from the Canadian Football League were also chosen in that draft.

Myerson said, during the cross-examination of Tex Schramm, the Cowboys president and general manager lied when he testified Monday that the NFL did not sign any USFL players who were still under contract.

Myerson's contention was that the

NFL was drafting and signing players while USFL contracts ran through Nov. 1.

Schramm, however, contended that the players contracts expired at the end of June and became eligible when the players played their last games of the USFL spring-summer season.

Myerson pointed out that two former USFL players, Todd Fowler and Maurice Carthon, had signed with NFL clubs while still under contract with their USFL club. He added the Cowboys held conversations with Herschel Walker, the New Jersey Generals running back, whose USFL contract expires in 1989.

"You knew that testimony was false when you gave it," Myerson said.

Major League Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division					East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	53	29	.646	—	New York	55	24	.696	—
New York	46	37	.554	7 ¹ / ₂	Montreal	44	36	.550	11 ¹ / ₂
Cleveland	43	36	.544	8 ¹ / ₂	Philadelphia	40	40	.500	15 ¹ / ₂
Baltimore	43	38	.531	9 ¹ / ₂	Pittsburgh	33	46	.418	22 ¹ / ₂
Toronto	44	41	.518	10 ¹ / ₂	St. Louis	33	47	.413	23 ¹ / ₂
Milwaukee	40	40	.500	12	Chicago	32	46	.410	24 ¹ / ₂
Detroit	39	42	.481	13 ¹ / ₂					
West Division					West Division				
California	44	37	.543	—	San Francisco	45	37	.549	—
Texas	44	38	.537	1/2	Houston	45	38	.542	1/2
Chicago	37	43	.463	6 ¹ / ₂	San Diego	42	40	.512	5
Kansas City	37	45	.451	7 ¹ / ₂	Atlanta	41	42	.494	4 ¹ / ₂
Minnesota	36	46	.439	8 ¹ / ₂	Cincinnati	37	43	.463	7
Seattle	36	49	.424	10	Los Angeles	37	45	.451	8
Oakland	32	53	.376	14					

Late Games Not Included

Tuesday's Games

Seattle 8, Toronto 5
Boston 8, Oakland 7
New York at Texas, (n)
California at Milwaukee, (n)
Cleveland at Chicago, (n)
Detroit at Minnesota, (n)
Baltimore at Kansas City, (n)

Late Games Not Included

Tuesday's Games

Houston 4, Montreal 1
Cincinnati 5, New York 4, 10 innings
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 2
St. Louis at Los Angeles, (n)
Pittsburgh at San Diego, (n)
Chicago at San Francisco, (n)