

# Steroid masker to be banned

AUSTIN (AP) — A chemical that can mask the results of steroid tests could be added to the NCAA's list of banned substances as early as next month, according to the organization's chief of drug testing.

The chemical, epitestosterone, made by the Sigma Chemical Co., is reportedly finding its way into the black market where some athletes use it to beat steroid detection tests.

Alan Luther, a reserve lineman for the Longhorns, was charged with possession of a controlled substance after police found a small vial labeled "epitestosterone" in his car, the Austin American-Statesman reported Sunday.

Charges against Luther were dropped after tests affirmed that the chemical was epitestosterone rather than testosterone, which is illegal. Luther said he used epitestosterone to treat his inflamed shoulder.

Epitestosterone is not available by prescription and has no medical use, said Dr. William Taylor, a specialist in anabolic steroids. But the drug can be used to camouflage the level of the hormone testosterone, a steroid banned in all sports.

"If an athlete has 24 hours notice, he can beat the drug test every time by using epitestosterone," Taylor, a spokesman for the College of American Sports Medicine, said.

"Athletes are very savvy, and this is just another example of it," said Frank Uryasz, NCAA director of sports sciences. "We're always faced with the problem that athletes know what to use and when to use it."

The NCAA's Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects will meet in January to discuss adding different drugs to the banned list. Uryasz said he will bring up the topic of epitestosterone.

Luther declined to name the doctor.

# Big names to test free agent market

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Brett Butler, Dave Smith and National League ERA leader Danny Darwin are finally free to go. So are Jack Clark, Jack Morris and Charlie Leibbrandt.

In all, 15 players became instant free agents Friday as part of the collusion settlement.

Some, such as Dave Henderson and Gary Gaetti, are likely to stay put. Others, like Butler, Darwin and Smith, probably are gone.

The Los Angeles Dodgers wasted no time in contacting Butler.

"The Dodgers are my dream team," Butler said. "I wanted to play for them when I became a free agent in 1987."

The Dodgers already have Darryl Strawberry, Kal Daniels and Hubie Brooks in the outfield. But none of them are center fielders and Butler would fit in nicely.

Butler has two years left on his contract with San Francisco. But the Giants signed free agent Willie McGee this week at the winter meetings, fully expecting Butler to leave.

Butler has shown interest in playing closer to home in Atlanta. Either way, all new-look free agents have until Jan. 29 to work out a contract with a new team, or keep the ones they have.

Henderson, who started ahead of McGee for Oakland in the World Series, would like to remain with the Athletics.

Henderson's agent, Doug Baldwin, expects to talk to the Athletics within a few days and hopes to have a deal by Jan. 1.

Gaetti and the Minnesota Twins have gotten along too. Agent Jim Bronner he's had preliminary talks with the Twins, but plans to look at all options.

Darwin and Smith, teammates in Houston, will probably find new homes.

"I expect the bidding to be significant and serious," said Randy Hendricks, who with his brother, Alan, represent both players.

Clark could wind up in Boston. He lost his job as San Diego's first baseman when the Padres traded for Fred McGriff.



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Entries for these events opens January 14, 1991 (the first day of Spring classes) and closes on January 22, 1991.

\*The Exercise Class closes on January 25, 1991.



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### Polo Teams

The Texas A&M Men's Polo Team played Oklahoma University Saturday, December 1 at Dick Freeman Arena. They lost by 1 point in a very close and exciting game. The TAMU Women's Polo Team won by forfeit against Oklahoma University. They are in first place going to the Regionals on March 10, 1991. Good luck!

### Basketball Officials Wanted!

No experience necessary! Good pay and flexible hours. The orientation meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 14, 1991 at 6:00 p.m. in 267 G. Rollie White. The second meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. in 267 G. Rollie White. For more information, stop in at the Recreational Sports Office in 159 Read or call 845-7826.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Department of Recreational Sports!

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