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The secret world of doping

Al Jazeera investigates whether sports heroes are linked to drugs

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The dark side: The secret world of sports doping

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Al Jazeera investigation raises questions about whether sports heroes are linked to performance-enhancing drugs.

[Al Jazeera Staff](#) | 29 Dec 2015 13:18 GMT | [Sports doping](#), [Sport](#), [Drugs](#), [Corruption](#)



Al Jazeera Investigates - The Dark Side



Correction: 12/28/15: *An earlier version of this article reported on an allegation about possible links between Ryan Zimmerman and Ryan Howard and human growth hormone. The substance alleged was Delta 2, not HGH.*

Inside a hotel room in Austin, Texas, a pharmacist advises a professional athlete on taking performance-enhancing drugs.

"One anabolic, and I can give you something to use right now, is this Delta 2 stuff. It's a steroid. There's a bunch of football players who take this," he tells Liam Collins, a British hurdler reporting undercover.

In another conversation, a Vancouver pharmacist poses a question to the same athlete.

"Have I doped people? Oh yeah. And no one's got caught because the system is so easy to beat. That's the sad fact."

[UPDATE: The dark side: Recording backs Al Jazeera report](#)

Later, a Naturopathic doctor explains how he would destroy medical records if investigators came looking for them.

"I can just document everything not in this chart but on my own chart. And if somebody ever comes sniffing for it, it's very easy to just delete and say no, this is the real chart. If say, WADA [World Anti-Doping Agency] comes sniffing around."

Normally these conversations take place behind closed doors, but a new investigation by Al Jazeera is bringing them to light. Liam Collins, working on behalf of Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit, spent six months undercover investigating the murky world of performance-enhancing drugs - what athletes refer to as "the dark side".

"For me, it was an opportunity to be the guy, to go undercover, and make a change," said Collins. At 37, he competes as a hurdler at an international level. For the investigation he claimed that he was making one last push for the Rio Olympics and was willing to do "whatever it takes" to get there.

The investigation has exposed the crucial role of pharmacists and doctors in creating and prescribing programmes of performance-enhancing drugs designed to cheat the testing system. It also raises questions about some well-known athletes in American football and baseball who the medical professionals claim to work with.

The athletes and medical professionals who responded to requests for comment denied any wrongdoing. This includes Peyton Manning, a football player for the Denver Broncos, whose wife, one pharmacist alleged, was supplied with human growth hormone.

That pharmacist, Charlie Sly, has disavowed [his](#) statements to Collins that were caught on hidden camera. In a follow-up email, he said that when he spoke with Collins he "was in no state of mind to be making any coherent statements as I was grieving the death of my fiancée."

Manning in an interview on Sunday on ESPN emphatically denied [that](#)

that he has ever used performance-enhancing drugs. He also said he is "sick" that his wife, Ashley, "is being brought into this."

Regarding his treatment in 2011 for a severe neck injury, the Denver Broncos player said: "I busted my butt to get healthy.

"Time and hard work was my best medicine," Manning said. "It stings me [that] whoever this guy is says that I cut corners, I broke rules to get healthy."

Manning said he used a hyperbaric chamber, received 35 days of treatment to enhance blood flow in his muscles, and had nutrient therapies. "All under coach authorisation," he said. "Anything else this guy is insinuating is complete garbage."

In a statement, the Broncos said: "Knowing Peyton Manning and everything he stands for, the Denver Broncos support him 100 percent. These are false claims made to Al Jazeera, and we don't believe the report."

Dr Dale Guyer, the head of the Guyer Institute in Indiana, where Manning received treatments, also denied the allegations [in](#) a statement to sports website Bleacher Report on Sunday.

Sly also named baseball players Ryan Zimmerman, of the Washington Nationals, and Ryan Howard, of the Philadelphia Phillies, raising questions about whether they use the hormone supplement Delta 2. Both have denied [the](#) allegations.

In a statement to the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday [in](#), Zimmerman and Howard's lawyer William Burck said: "The extraordinarily reckless claims made against our clients in this report are completely false and rely on a source who has already



recanted his claims." The Nationals also issued a statement  in support of Zimmerman.

The Phillies subsequently issued a statement supporting Howard, calling him "an extremely well-respected member of our team and an outstanding contributor to our community". The team said it will "fully cooperate with any investigation conducted by Major League Baseball and will refer all further questions to them concerning the Al Jazeera report."



The dark side: Recording backs up Al Jazeera report

Source: AJAM

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Joe

2 days ago

Your attempt to create controversy is pathetic, and detestable. If you want to be an iconclast, you need incontrovertible facts. Go back to school.

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0 0



Helen Jones

2 days ago

Those studying this article might be interested to learn more of Liam Collins's background:-

<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/celebritymoney/article-2409740/Britains-Got-Talent-star-Liam-Collins-handed-bankruptcy-ban-duping-investors-property-scam.html>

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Alan

3 days ago

The first side affect of taking performance enhancing drugs is that you become a pathological liar. Look at dear old Lance A. How many years did he lie and lie...?

Any one on here that watches sport that does not recognise when they are on or taking the "Juice" knows nothing about the subject.

It is also obvious that a lot of comments on here about Al Jazeera are from people totally ignorant about the news company and what it stands for.

Of the top five fastest 100 mtr times ever, 4 of the five have been Banned for doping. The fastest, a man who can beat every cheat has not been tested as positive, how? why? Is he that much faster without drugs ? I for one doubt it. What I do not doubt is everything that was said and produced and presented by Al Jazeera. Well done !

I say, and I hope WADA wades in and sends the liars and suppliers to jail. Next stop Rugby Union and League which the BCC has already reported on - but I guess they just made that up for ratings in NZ and Oz.....!!!!

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Alexander Kripigans

6 days ago

Please permit me to use this medium to assist those in need of financial help.

I want to recommend a reliable lender called Mustafa bin Abdullah who lent me \$45,000 without hassle.

I feel I should share this with you and everyone that uses this website. As you may know, there are many scam activity on the Internet, I have been a victim a couple of times. I know of a lender who will give you a

loan and you will not have to lose your money during the process. Contact me and I will give you instructions for free. Whatsapp, sms or call me: +1 (409) 999 3242 email: kripgansa@gmail.com

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Michael Orlando

6 days ago

Great reporting!

Reply Share

0 0



Paul Longhouse

6 days ago

One of the oldest lines in sport is, "If you're not cheating, you're not trying." In today's world, cheating is the new norm and media handlers for people in the public eye teach their charges what to say and how to respond if and/or when they get caught. This usually comes out as righteous indignation which, if you've been around, is the same tactic wrong-doers use to avow their innocence when they get caught.

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1 1



jamal james

6 days ago

in a way doping should be legal. you pay an arm and a leg for good seats, only to watch a half as show due to players being hung over the day of the match.

Reply Share

0 1



Kurt Olsen

7 days ago

AJ should stick reporting on the Kardashian/Jenner circus. They deserve each other.

Reply Share

1 0



Harry

7 days ago

This story was supposed to establish AJ in the American television market, but to be credible..... you must be credible. AJ in the US ends up where it started with the negligible AI Gore's Current TV that nobody ever watched.

Reply Share

2 0



Dfgd

7 days ago

Sports doping = Qatar paying \$\$\$millions to buy the 2022 World Cup!

So when will AJ do a report on this?

Reply Share

6 0



Michael

7 days ago

John Elway killed JonBenet Ramsey. He told me so.

Reply Share

0 0

BARRY



7 days ago

I am trying to figure out the rationale for AJ sticking with their story. Their main source has recanted. The head of the Guyer Institute has said it was not true, so...where's the beef. This is a reputable news organization with a lot at stake when it comes to credibility about issues far more meaningful, and yet while they print the denials, they, themselves, fail to speak one way or the other really about why it is they do not back off from it, other than to report it is what it is. Strange.

Reply Share 1 reply 5 0



Dfgd

7 days ago

This is Aljazeera, a propaganda outlet for radical islamists. If you expect serious journalism, you'll have to go elsewhere.

Reply Share 6 0



Harry Mazal

7 days ago

AJ in trouble for making accusations without proof. Excellent journalism..... Not

Reply Share 6 0



Jawaid Manzoor

7 days ago

Look at this useless sport cricket and how it has swelled to make slumdog millionaires.

Reply Share 1 0



Jawaid Manzoor

7 days ago

Sports today is big business....athlete is the instrument who is wilfully placed in for self destruction. At the end they lose their shirts and rendered crippled for their remainder. Get real.

Reply Share 0 0



RadicalCaveman

7 days ago

I believe Al Jazeera. Charlie Sly, you lie. Grieving does not make a person attribute a whole pattern of criminal activity to himself. He certainly didn't sound incoherent on the video.

The report is highly credible on its face, given the evidence it presents, regardless of how much smoke defenders of the sports establishment--and of the doped status quo--may blow.

Reply Share 1 reply 0 3



Harry Mazal

7 days ago

AJ was just trying to get their viewing numbers up in the US. Not very successful and zero credibility

Reply Share 5 0



Curtis Crimmins

8 days ago

Al Jazeera is the National Enquirer of the Arab world...most them are like that...the worst investigative

journalism in the world...I hope Manning sues the Burkha off the owner, management and founders...they seriously put out the biggest bull propaganda in the guise of real news....The Jews are responsible for this investigation will be their defense.

Reply Share 1 reply 4 1



David Laidig

7 days ago

You don't watch AJ do ya?

Reply Share 2 1



Dfgd

8 days ago

One key thing to remember about Al Jazeera (=the Osama bin Laden network) and their so-called 'investigative reports'. They always turn out to be DEAD WRONG. A classic example was when their 'investigative reporters' claimed that Yasser Arafat was killed via plutonium poisoning. After investigators from Russia and France proved that that was BS, Aljazeera shame-facedly buried the story.

No one takes this Arab outlet seriously. No one.

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Curtis Crimmins

8 days ago

unfortunately the arab world takes this drivel seriously...the UK does too...if al jazeera can blame the jews for doping in pro sports this will become the number one news story in the world.

Reply Share 1 reply 4 1



David Laidig

7 days ago

Just as serious as Faux huh?

Share 2 2



Frank McKenna

8 days ago

Where there is smoke, there is fire. This report seemed credible and believable to me. The Manning thing is problematic as he is vehemently denying it yet there is no reason his wife should have been receiving those substances. Good report. Not surprising in the least but fascinating to watch.

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Nomar3311

8 days ago

What this report shows is lack of reporting integrity and just putting anything out there to get ratings

Reply Share 1 reply 9 2



Harry

7 days ago

AJ ratings in the US ??????

Reply Share 0 0

Max Barry



8 days ago

I am no real fan of Manning but what AJ does not say is the Sly was an intern at that company for 3 months.

There is no secondary support for Sly's allegations. On this type of allegation no real journal or editor would ever allowed this to be published.

One of the shoddiest pieces of trash ever written.

Reply Share 1 reply

3 3



David Laidig

7 days ago

He was there in 2011

Reply Share

1 1



Ethel Gould

8 days ago

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.....> www.works-online45.com

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Denzil Browne

8 days ago

As Manning said, "Absolute garbage"

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4 3



Eric Leon

8 days ago

Al Jazeera should stick to reporting on Shias and Sunnis killing each other. Americans won't care when their reporting is proven false.

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6 4



Lloyd Guthrie

8 days ago

Very shabby reporting...causes concern re the veracity of other stories...

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