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McGwire's power supply

I breathed a sigh of relief when I read a story (Oct. 23 *News & Record*) about the death of world record sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner. According to the published results of a toxicology report, FloJo's death was the result of complications associated with an epileptic seizure, and there was no evidence of drug use in her death. FloJo's image has been cleared, but what about the image of new home run king Mark McGwire? During the 1998 season, McGwire earned 70 home runs, breaking a record held by Roger Maris for 23 years. That's a remarkable feat. But what is disturbing is that McGwire has admitted to using a variation of a steroid testosterone, "Androtenedione", also known as "Andro". Andro, which is one molecule short of being testosterone is not illegal and is classified as a dietary supplement. McGwire also takes "Creatine", another muscle-building supplement not banned by the Major League Baseball Association. Both supplements are supposed to raise testosterone levels, just like the banned steroids, but baseball is the sport that allows steroids, and McGwire and others seem to be taking advantage of that privilege.

KENYA A. SAMUELS
Editor

The only illegal substances banned by MLB are "prescription drugs without a prescription," and anything illegal such as cocaine, marijuana, amphetamines, opiates, and PCP. Steroids have been banned in the NFL, NBA, NCAA and by the International Olympic Committee, and they should be banned by MLB for good reason. They are dangerously addictive drugs that can cause major internal problems and eventually become fatal. It could be that McGwire needs to reevaluate his power supply before it is too late.

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The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Bennett Banner staff.

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The newspaper produced by and for the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College

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STUDENT OPINION POLL: Bellespeak

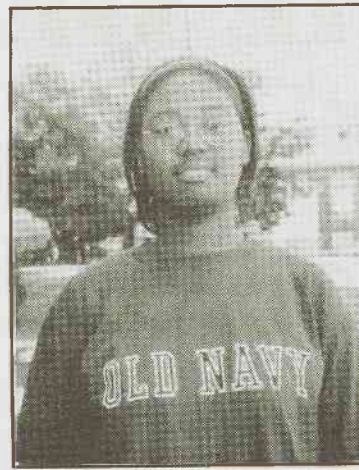
Do you think it is appropriate for athletes to use legal drugs to enhance their performance? Photos by Marie Smith, Staff Photographer.

The new home run king McGwire takes Creatine, another muscle-building supplement not banned by the Major League Baseball Association.



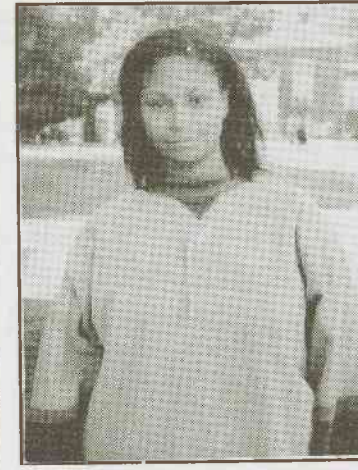
TRINA SEABROOKS MATTHEWS
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: SOCIAL WORK
HOME: WASHINGTON, D.C.

I don't think athletes should be able to use drugs to enhance their abilities unless playing time is divided equally. If not, then it's not fair to the other athletes.



BETTY THOMPSON
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: MUSIC ED.
HOME: WASHINGTON, D.C.

I don't think athletes should be able to use legal drugs to enhance the muscular ability. It wouldn't be fair their competitors.



LAUREN MELTON
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
HOME: NEW YORK

In time the usage of the drug is going to affect them not just in playing but in every day life.



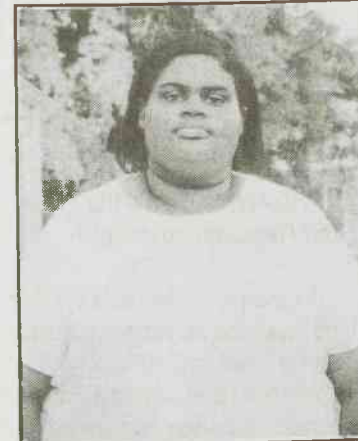
NATSHA CARTER
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: COMP. SCIENCE
HOME: NEW YORK

Athletes should not use legal drugs to enhance their ability because if they are true athletes everything should come naturally.



CHERYL CHESNUT
CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: MASS COMM.
HOME: NEW YORK

I believe God gives a person what he or she needs to perform. Besides, with lots of practice and modification people can do whatever they set their minds to do.



CHASSIDY MOORE
CLASS: JUNIOR
MAJOR: BIO./PRE. MED
HOME: VIRGINIA

Athletes should not be able to use legal drugs to enhance their performance because their performance is the one chance to show their physical abilities.