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Пояснительная записка

Методические указания ориентированы на обучение студентов специальности 032101 (022300) «Физкультура и спорт», 032102 (022500) «Физическая культура для лиц с отклонениями в состоянии здоровья (Адаптивная физкультура)». Методические указания ставят своей целью обучить студентов навыкам перевода и реферирования текстов по специальности, делать сообщения и обсуждать темы, используя самые употребительные языковые средства и основные спортивные термины.

Basketball

Michael Jeffrey Jordan (born February 17, 1963, in Brooklyn, New York) is a former National Basketball Association player, by many accounts the best in history.

An unstoppable force at both ends of the floor, Jordan ended a career of 15 full seasons with a regular-season scoring average of 30.12 points per game, the highest in NBA history (fractionally ahead of Wilt Chamberlain's 30.06). He won six championships, notched 10 scoring titles, and was league MVP five times. He was named to the All-Defensive First Team more than any other player, and led the league in steals three times. In 1991, he was named Sports Illustrated magazine's "Sportsman of the Year."

Personal life

Jordan was born to Deloris and James Jordan in Brooklyn, New York but spent his childhood in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was educated at Emsley A. Laney High School and later at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a geography major.

Jordan has two older brothers (Larry and James), one older sister (Delores) and one younger sister (Roslyn). James R. Jordan is a Sergeant Major in the 35th Signal Brigade of the XVIII Airborne Corps in the U.S. Army. James R. gained certain celebrity himself when he announced, at the age of 47, that he intended to stay in Iraq until the Iraqi invasion ends. Michael Jordan currently lives in Highland Park, Illinois.

University of North Carolina

As a UNC freshman, Jordan was an exciting, but not dominant, player. He ended the 1982 year in grand style, hitting the winning shot in the 1982 NCAA championship game. By his sophomore year, he was clearly the team's biggest star; as a junior, he was named the national player of the year. He was selected by the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the 1984 NBA Draft as the third pick overall.

Chicago Bulls

Jordan played 13 seasons for the Bulls, generally as a shooting guard. But his height (6'6", or 1.98 m), skills, and physical conditioning made him a versatile threat who could also play point guard and small forward. He won six NBA Championships (1991-1993 and 1996-1998) and was league MVP five times (1988, 1991, 1992, 1996 and 1998). He was also named Rookie of the Year (1985) and Defensive Player of the Year (1988), and won the Finals MVP award every year the Bulls reached the Finals - a feat not likely to ever be duplicated. He also earned the elusive MVP triple crown (league, finals, all-star game) twice when he won All-Star MVP in both 1996 and 1998 (he also won in 1988). Only Willis Reed (1970) and Shaquille O'Neal (2000) have won all three MVP awards in the same season. In 1997, he also recorded the All-Star Game's only triple-double.

Jordan's №23 jersey was retired by the Bulls upon his retirement, and when he made his return in 1995, he did so wearing №45, the number he wore for the Birmingham Barons minor league baseball team. But he broke out his old №23 jersey

during a second-round playoff series against the Orlando Magic, and continued to wear №23 for the remainder of his NBA career.

Family tragedy

Jordan's Father, James, was murdered in August 1993. While returning from the funeral of a friend, he decided to pull over onto the side of an interstate highway in North Carolina for a nap. While he was sleeping, two local criminals killed him and stole his Lexus (a gift from Michael), but the perpetrators were quickly found because they had made several calls from his cell phone. Michael and family did not immediately file a missing persons report, because the elder Jordan frequently took long trips by himself. By the time a report was filed, James' body, found bloated and floating in a river, had been cremated per local health laws as a John Doe. Media outlets initially tried connecting James' murder to Michael's alleged gambling habit, which had been widely publicized when Michael confessed to losing tens of thousands of dollars betting on his golf games.

Michael retired from basketball two days before the 1993-94 NBA season to pursue an unspectacular professional baseball career for the Birmingham Barons, a Chicago White Sox farm team. Many interpreted this pursuit of another childhood dream as a way to grieve. He batted .202 with 3 HR, 51 RBI, 30 SB (tied-5th in Southern League), 11 errors and 6 outfield assists. He led the club with 11 bases-loaded RBI and 25 RBI with runners in scoring position and two outs. He was never called up to the majors.

He ended his basketball retirement on March 19, 1995 by rejoining the Bulls. After three more consecutive NBA titles between 1996 and 1998, Jordan decided to retire again on January 13, 1999.

Washington Wizards

In 2001, he came out of retirement a second time to play for the Washington Wizards, though his skills were noticeably diminished by age. Yet despite an injury-plagued 2001-02 season, he still averaged nearly 23 points per game. He returned for the 2002-03 season and averaged 20 points. Playing in his 13th and final NBA All-Star Game, he embarrassingly missed an uncontested slam dunk - formerly the hallmark of his career - in front of a stunned national television audience. The 2002-03 season was heralded from the beginning as Jordan's final goodbye to his fans and, true to his word, he retired for the third and final time at the season's conclusion.

At the beginning of the 2001-2002 basketball season, Michael Jordan donated his entire \$1 million salary to help the victims of the September 11 attacks.

Out of respect for Jordan's legacy, the Miami Heat retired his №23 jersey on April 11, 2003, despite the fact that he never played for the Heat. It was the first jersey the Heat retired in their then-15-year history, and it was half Wizards blue, half Bulls red.

The Olympics

Jordan played on two Olympic gold medal-winning American basketball teams: as a college player in the 1984 Summer Olympics, and in the 1992 Summer Olympics as a member of the original "Dream Team," with other legends such as Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

Boxing. History. Rules.

Boxing is a combat sport.

Fighting with the fists for sport and spectacle is probably as old as sport itself. Boxing contests are found throughout antiquity. Greek boxers would wear boxing gloves (not padded) and wrappings on their arms below the elbows, but were otherwise naked when competing. The word "boxing" first came into use in England in the 18th century to distinguish between fighting to settle disputes, and fighting under agreed rules for sport. It is now used to describe a sport in which two contestants (boxers) wearing padded gloves face each other in a "ring" and fight an agreed number of "rounds" under recognized rules. Although men have always been the most numerous participants, there are some references to fights between women during the 18th century, and women's boxing was organized again at the end of the 20th century.

Throughout the latter part of the 19th century and the whole of the 20th century, amateur and professional boxing operated in parallel. In the final quarter of the 20th century, however, amateur boxing lost much of its popular support. Traditional concerns about bruises and black eyes gave way to more serious concerns about long-term eye and brain damage. Medical checks on boxers, and medical supervision of their fights, became an increasingly important feature of both amateur and professional boxing.

Origins

18th- and early 19th-century pugilism (bare-knuckle fighting) was an important precursor of boxing in Britain. Boxing, however, probably grew most specifically out of the demonstrations held at the Fives Court and the Tennis Court in London in the early 19th century. These promotions had several features that anticipated the future sport of boxing. The boxers wore "mufflers" (padded gloves), "time" was called after a set period, and the length of the fight was predetermined. Wrestling throws were also barred. None of these features were present in bare-knuckle pugilism.

"Boxing" as distinct from any other form of fist fighting can be dated from 1867, when John Chambers drafted new rules. There were twelve rules in all, and they specified that fights should be "a fair stand-up boxing match" in a 24-foot ring. Rounds were to be of three minutes duration with one minute between rounds. Ten seconds were allowed for a man to get up if he had gone down during a round. New gloves of "fair-size" were to be worn and "wrestling or hugging" was specifically forbidden. These gloves' purpose is to protect the knuckles. An average pair of boxing gloves appears like a bloated pair of mittens, are often red, and are laced up around the wrists. The rules were published under the patronage of the Marquess of Queensberry, whose name has always been associated with them. The first fighter to win a world title under these rules was "Gentleman Jim" Corbett, who defeated John L. Sullivan in 1892 at the Pelican Athletic Club in New Orleans.

The success of boxers has always been associated with their size. In the early years of pugilism, however, there was only one "Champion", who always tended to be one of the heaviest. The term "light weight" was in use from the early 19th century and fights were sometimes arranged between the lighter men, but there was no

specific Championship for them. The terms lightweight, welterweight, middleweight and heavyweight became common during the late 19th century, but there was no universally recognized definitions of weight class. Throughout the 20th century, new weight classes were added, extending the range down to straw - weight and up to super heavy weight but with varying agreement over their definitions.

In the early days of pugilism, all fighters were "professional" in the sense that few would fight for "love" rather than money. No distinct "amateur" sport existed until 1867, when amateur championships under Marquess of Queensberry Rules were held at Lillie Bridge in London for Lightweights, Middleweights and Heavyweights. By this date, the old professional bare-knuckle "Prize Ring" was in terminal decline. It had always been against the law, but in the early part of the century it survived because it had widespread popular support and because there were many influential men who supported it. By 1867, however, the results of fights were increasingly suspect, and sometimes boxers even failed to turn up for fights. Less money came into the sport and bare-knuckle pugilism slowly died out.

Conversely, the amateur side of the sport flourished, not only in schools, universities and in the armed forces, but also in the working-class areas of the expanding urban centers.

With the gradual acceptance of Marquess of Queensberry Rules, two distinct branches of boxing emerged, professional and amateur, and each produced its own local, national and international governing bodies and its own variation of the rules.

Amateur boxing

In amateur boxing (the version of the sport found at the Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games) the primary emphasis is on landing scoring punches rather than concern with doing actual physical damage to one's opponent (though it still occurs). Competitors wear protective headgear, and box for three rounds of three-minutes each. Each punch that lands on the head or torso is awarded a point. A referee monitors the fight to ensure that competitors use only legal blows (a belt worn over the torso represents the lower limit of punches - any boxer repeatedly landing 'low blows' is disqualified). Referees also ensure that the boxers don't use holding tactics to prevent the opponent from swinging (if this occurs, the referee separates the opponents and orders them to continue boxing. Repeated holding can result in a boxer being penalized or, ultimately, disqualified).

If a competitor is punched sufficiently hard to have trouble continuing the fight, and the opponent inflicted this condition with only legal blows, the match is over and the competitor still standing is declared the winner by knockout. In amateur boxing, referees will readily step in and award knockouts even if the competitor is only relatively lightly injured.

The Queensberry Amateur Championships continued from 1867 to 1885, and so, unlike their professional counterparts, amateur boxers did not deviate from using gloves once the Queensberry Rules had been published. In Britain, the Amateur Boxing Association (A.B.A.) was formed in 1880 when twelve clubs affiliated. It held its first championships the following year. Four weight classes were contested, Featherweight (9 stone), Lightweight (10 stone), Middleweight (11 stone, 4 pounds) and Heavyweight (no limit). By 1902, American boxers were contesting the titles in

the A.B.A. Championships, which, therefore, took on an international complexion. By 1924, the A.B.A. had 105 clubs in affiliation.

Boxing first appeared at the Olympic Games in 1904 and, apart from the Games of 1912, has always been part of them. Internationally, amateur boxing spread steadily throughout the first half of the 20th century, but when the first international body, the Federation Internationale de Boxe Amateur (International Amateur Boxing Federation) was formed in Paris in 1920, there were only five member nations. In 1946, however, when the International Amateur Boxing Association (A.I.B.A.) was formed in London, twenty-four nations from five continents were represented, and the A.I.B.A. has continued to be the official world federation of amateur boxing ever since. The first World Amateur Boxing Championships were staged in 1974.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, amateur boxing was encouraged in schools, universities and in the armed forces, but the champions, in the main, came from among the urban poor.

Women's boxing first appeared in the Olympic Games as a demonstration bout in 1904. For most of the 20th century, however, it was banned in most nations. Its revival was pioneered by the Swedish Amateur Boxing Association, which sanctioned events for women in 1988. The British Amateur Boxing Association sanctioned its first boxing competition for women in 1997. The first event was to be between two thirteen-year-olds, but one of the boxers withdrew because of hostile media attention. Four weeks later, an event was held between two sixteen-year-olds. The A.I.B.A. accepted new rules for Women's Boxing at the end of the 20th century and approved the first European Cup for Women in 1999 and the first World Championship for women in 2001. Women's boxing will be an exhibition sport at the 2008 Olympics, and it will become an official Olympic sport at the 2012 Olympics.

Professional boxing

Professional bouts are far longer (consisting of anything from four to twelve rounds), headgear is not permitted, and knockout wins are usually only awarded when the competitors are knocked down and stay on the canvas for ten seconds (or are repeatedly knocked down, a "technical knockout", or TKO). At any time, however, the referee may stop the contest if he believes that one participant cannot or should not continue to box. In that case, the other participant is also awarded a technical knockout win, which in the boxer's record also counts as a knockout win (or loss). A technical knockout would also be awarded if a fighter lands a punch that opens a cut on the opponent, and the opponent is later deemed not fit to continue by a doctor because of the cut. If a boxer simply quits fighting, or if his corner either tells the referee the boxer will not continue or throws a towel into the ring (signaling they are quitting), then the winning boxer is also awarded a technical knockout.

In case no knockout or disqualification occurs in professional boxing, the fight must go to the scorecards. Professional fights have three judges each, and each of the judges must use the 10 point must system: Under this system, each time a boxer wins a round in the judges' eyes, the judge gives that boxer 10 points, and the other 9, with points deducted every time a boxer suffers a knockdown or loses a point because of illegal blows. If the judge deems the round to be a tie, he or she may score it 10-10. When the fight reaches its scheduled distance, all scores are added, round by round,

to determine who won on each judges' cards. When all three judges have the same boxer as the winner, this is an unanimous decision. When two judges have one boxer winning the fight and the other one has it a tie, this is called a majority decision. When two judges have one boxer win the fight and the other judge has the other boxer win, this is called a split decision. In the case one judge gives his or her vote to one boxer, another one gives it to the other boxer and the third judge calls it a tie, this is a draw, and it is also a draw when two judges score the fight a tie, regardless of whom did the third judge score the bout for, or when all three judges scored the fight a tie.

In England, judges might score the fight under a 5-point must system instead, and they might also award half a point to the loser (example 4 and a half points) if desired, except when a world title fight is being held. Although generally referees do not act as judges, in England, referees are sometimes allowed to score too, although they cannot score in world title fights held there either.

In the rare case a fight can not go on because of an injury caused to one of the competitors by a head butt, there are different rules: If the fight has not reached the end of round three, (in some places, round four), the fight is automatically declared a technical draw. If it has reached beyond the end of round three (or four), then the scorecards are read and whoever is ahead, wins by a technical decision.

Serious injuries are far more common in professional boxing, a sport with considerable (though waning) spectator appeal, but with a large number of dubious organizations promoting "world championship" bouts and a long connection to organized crime.

In the past, matches were traditionally fought for up to fifteen rounds in professional boxing, but the tragic death of boxer Duk Koo Kim in November of 1982 after a fight with Ray Mancini began to change that. By 1988, all fights had been reduced to a maximum of 12 rounds only. With the discovery, in April of 2004, that Heavyweight Joe Mesi, a relatively new, undefeated prospect, had suffered several blood clots to his brain during a win against Vassiliy Jirov, more medical testing may be required for professional boxers. However, as of May, 2004, doctors have only said that they will look at the matter. Mesi has expressed desire to continue fighting; his critics say he could face death if he ever fights again.

However, in spite of the dangers involved, boxing may be better than the real alternative, dueling. There is some reason to believe that English gentlemen quietly promoted boxing as a humane alternative to the deadly Irish Code Duello. Certainly it was promoted by the class of English gentlemen that were prone to duel, and many observers said that dueling with pistols was too dangerous a way to maintain anyone's honor.

By 1867, when the John Sholto Douglas, 9th Marquess of Queensberry lent his name to John Graham Chambers' rules, sporting fisticuffs had become a nearly perfect replacement for dueling. It made for a satisfyingly brutal and (for the loser) humiliating fight but it was nearly impossible to cause permanent damage. One indication of this movement is that the rule-makers of the time promoted the rules for "amateurs," a code word for noblemen. Another is that swank clubs and gymnasias took it up with a will, leading to its present popularity. Another is that even now,

there is a tradition of urging hotheaded young men to "get in the ring, and work it out."

For a generation following the creation of the Queensberry Rules, bare-knuckle and glove-fights were both promoted. The bare-knuckle fights were usually held under the "New Rules" produced by the Pugilistic Benevolent Society in 1866, which had superseded the "Pugilistic Association's Revised Rules" of 1853. They were often popularly referred to as the "Rules of the London Prize-Ring".

In 1891, the National Sporting Club (N.S.C.), a private club in London, began to promote professional glove fights at its own premises, and created nine of its own rules to augment the Queensberry Rules. These rules specified more accurately the role of the officials, and produced a system of scoring that enabled the referee to decide the result of a fight. Previously, all fights ended with a knockout or, more usually, when one fighter was too exhausted to continue. It was thanks to the N.S.C. Rules that the sport emerged into one of skill rather than one of endurance. The British Boxing Board of Control (B.B.B.C.) was first formed in 1919 with close links to the N.S.C., and was re-formed in 1929 after the N.S.C. closed.

In 1909, the first of twenty-two belts were presented by the fifth Earl of Lonsdale to the winner of a British title-fight held at the N.S.C. In 1929, the B.B.B.C. continued to award Lonsdale Belts to any British boxer who won three title-fights in the same weight division. The "title fight" has always been the focal point in professional boxing. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, however, there were title-fights at each weight. Promoters who could stage profitable title-fights became influential in the sport. So, too, did boxers' managers. The best promoters and managers have been instrumental in bringing boxing to new audiences and provoking media and public interest. The most famous of all three-way partnership (fighter-manager-promoter) was that of Jack Dempsey (Heavyweight Champion, 1919-1926), his manager Jack Kearns, and the promoter Tex Rickard. Together they grossed US\$ 8.4 million in only five fights between 1921 and 1927 and ushered in a "golden age" of popularity for professional boxing in the 1920s. They were also responsible for the first live radio broadcast of a title-fight (Dempsey v. Georges Carpentier, in 1921). In Britain, Jack Solomons' success as a fight promoter helped re-establish professional boxing after the Second World War and made Britain a popular place for title-fights in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the first part of the 20th century, the United States became the centre for professional boxing. It was generally accepted that the "world champions" were those listed by the Police Gazette. After 1920, the National Boxing Association (N.B.A.) and the New York State Athletic Commission (N.Y.S.A.C.) began to sanction "title-fights". The N.B.A. was renamed in 1962 and became the World Boxing Association (W.B.A.). The following year, a rival body, the World Boxing Council (W.B.C.), was formed. The influence, internationally, of the N.Y.S.A.C. declined. In 1983, another world body, the International Boxing Federation (I.B.F.) was formed and, in 1989, this was followed by yet another, the World Boxing Organisation (W.B.O.). Each body sanctions its own title-fights and recognizes its own "champions". By the end of the 20th century, a boxer had to be recognized by four separate bodies to be the

"undisputed champion" of the world, and each year saw over 100 "title-fights" take place in up to seventeen weight divisions.

Although women fought professionally in many countries, in Britain the B.B.B.C. refused to issue licenses to women until 1998. By the end of the century, however, they had issued five such licenses. The first sanctioned bout was in November 1998 at Streatham in London, between Jane Couch and Simona Lukic.

It is the professional side of boxing, however, that has produced the celebrities whose activities the public has generally followed. In the period between bare-knuckle pugilism and post-Queensberry boxing, Jem Mace was important. He carried many of the traditions of the old London Prize-Ring, but promoted the use of gloves and helped to popularize the sport in the United States and Australia. In the post-Queensberry era, the first British fighter to achieve superstar status was Bob Fitzsimmons. He weighed less than 12 stone but won world titles at Middleweight (1892), Light-heavyweight (1903) and Heavyweight (1897) and fought his last bout at the age of fifty-two.

Successful fighters have provoked fierce local pride. The best example was Jimmy Wilde, a Welsh Flyweight who won the world Flyweight Championship in 1916 and held it until 1923. He once had a sequence of eighty-eight fights without defeat. Between 1911 and 1923, he won seventy-five of his fights by a knockout. He was idolized in Wales, where they commonly believed him to be the best boxer, pound-for-pound, that ever lived. He was described as the "Mighty Atom" and "the ghost with a hammer in his hand". Freddie Welsh (Freddy Hall Thomas), from Pontypridd, won the Lightweight title in 1912.

The Scots had a similar pride in Benny Lynch, a Flyweight from Glasgow, who held the world Flyweight title in 1935 and again in 1937. Over the years, Scots have had great success at this weight; Jackie Paterson won the title in 1943 and Walter McGowan in 1966. Ken Buchanan won the Lightweight title in 1971 and Jim Watt in 1980. In Northern Ireland, Rinty Monahan held the Flyweight title from 1947 to 1950 and Barry McGuigan won the W.B.A. Featherweight title in 1985.

England, too, had its successes at the lighter weights. Among the Flyweights, Jackie Brown won the title in 1932, Peter Kane in 1938 and Terry Allen in 1950 and Naseem Hamed in the 1990s.

The Welsh had their own featherweight legend Jim Driscoll. His nickname was "Peerless Jim", he was born in the onetime Irish "slum" of Newtown. Jim was the first outright winner of the Lord Lonsdale Belt. Jim had prolific wins of the British, Empire and European titles. Jim is considered by many to be the best pound for pound fighter of all time.

Britain has had other popular world champions. In the 1930s, Jackie Berg won the Light-Welterweight title; in the 1940s, Freddie Mills won the Light-Heavyweight title; in the 1950s and 1960s, Randy Turpin and Terry Downes won Middle-Weight titles; and in the 1970s, John Conteh and John Stracey won the Light-Heavyweight and Welterweight titles respectively. With so many title-awarding bodies in the 1980s and 1990s, the public became unsure about who actually was the champion. Nevertheless, the successes of Nigel Benn, Chris Eubank and Joe Calzaghe continued

to bring extensive media coverage to boxing and sustained a considerable public following.

The most popular boxers, however, have not always been the world titleholders. Just fighting for the world title in the Heavyweight division can bestow celebrity status, as was shown by Henry Cooper, who twice unsuccessfully fought Muhammad Ali in the 1960s.

Britain had to wait 100 years to have its first Heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons lost his title in 1899. Lennox Lewis became undisputed champion in 1999, having first gained the W.B.C. title in 1993. Frank Bruno held the W.B.C. world Heavyweight title shortly between 1995 and 1996, after beating the man who beat Lewis, Oliver McCall. He lost it to Mike Tyson in a rematch of their 1989 title bout.

Sue Atkins (alias Sue Catkins) helped to pioneer women's boxing in Britain in the 1980s, but without any official recognition. The first British woman to be issued with a license was Jane Couch from Fleetwood, who won the Women's International Boxing Federation (W.I.B.F.) Welterweight title in 1996. Most experts would agree, however, that it was the Christy Martin-Deirdre Gogarty world championship bout, also in 1996 that helped women's boxing popularity grow internationally. Weeks after defeating Gogarty by a six round decision, Martin was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

Outside the United Kingdom, of course, boxing has also produced many celebrities on a worldwide basis. Muhammad Ali of Louisville, Kentucky, United States, often recognized and self-appointed as The Greatest, is probably the best example.

Medical authorities around the world have consistently argue for a ban on boxing (or at least the changing of the rules to prevent blows to the head) because of the brain damage found in large fractions of professional boxers, but such calls have not been successful, both on civil liberties grounds and the argument that banning boxing would lead to underground, illegal bouts with far fewer safety regulations than currently.

In Mississippi City, on February 7, 1882 the last heavyweight boxing championship bare knuckle fight took place.

In 2004, female boxer Ann Wolfe surpassed Henry Armstrong (until then the only man to hold world titles in three divisions simultaneously), by becoming the only boxer ever to hold world titles in four different categories at the same time. A rule preventing men from holding titles in more than one weight class at the same time is in place since soon after Armstrong held his three titles.

Great Boxers

Muhammad Ali [Cassius M. Clay]

Muhammad Ali [Cassius M. Clay]

b. Jan. 18, 1942, Louisville, KY

Fight-by-fight Record

The colorful and controversial Ali began taking boxing lessons when he was twelve years old at the urging of a Louisville policeman he talked to after his bike was stolen. As a high school student, he won the national Golden Gloves middleweight championship in 1959 and 1960 and the AAU national light heavyweight title in 1960, and then went on to a gold medal in the Olympic light heavyweight division.

Under his given name, Cassius Clay, he had his first professional fight on October 29, 1960. Before his sixth professional bout, against Lamar Clark on April 19, 1961, Clay predicted a 2nd-round knockout and was right. He continued making predictions, often in rhyme, and making them come true until March 13, 1963. On that date, he won a questionable 10-round decision over Doug Jones after predicting a 4th-round knockout.

Clay was a heavy underdog when he met Sonny Liston for the heavy weight championship on February 25, 1964, at Miami Beach, FL. But he won the fight when Liston failed to come out for the 8th round, claiming a shoulder injury. In a rematch on May 25, 1965, Clay knocked Liston out with a “phantom punch” that few observers saw in the 1st round at Lewiston, ME.

Shortly after becoming champion, Clay announced that he had become a Black Muslim and changed his name to Muhammad Ali. He defended the title eight times in the next twenty months. In the meantime, he had refused induction into the Army. As a result, his license was revoked by the New York State Boxing Commission, his title was stripped, and he was sentenced to five years in prison for draft evasion.

While the conviction was being appealed, Ali was inactive for more than two years and announced his retirement early in 1970. He returned to the ring shortly afterward, knocking out Jerry Quarry in the 3rd round on October 26, 1970, at Atlanta. After a court ordered New York to restore his license, he fought the new champion, Joe Frazier, at Madison Square Garden on March 8, 1971. Frazier won a brutal 15-round fight on a unanimous decision.

The U. S. Supreme Court overturned his conviction on June 29, 1971, and Ali won the North American Boxing Federation’s championship by knocking out Jimmy Ellis in the 12th round less than a month later. He lost it on a 12-round decision to Ken Norton, regained it by outpointing Norton in 12 rounds, and then beat Frazier on a 12-round decision to gain a world title fight against George Foreman, who had also beaten Frazier.

Ali knocked Foreman out in the 8th round on October 30, 1974, at Kinshasa, Zaire, in the first heavyweight championship fight ever held in Africa. He was named fighter of the year by Ring magazine. He and Frazier shared the 1975 award after their celebrated “Thrilla in Manila” fight on October 1, when Ali won with a 14th-round knockout.

After ten defenses, Ali lost the title to Leon Spinks on a 12-round decision February 15, 1978, but regained it for a third time with a 15-round decision on September 15. He then announced his retirement.

He came out of retirement for another championship fight, against Larry Holmes on October 2, 1980. Holmes knocked him out in the 11th round. Ali retired for good after losing a 1981 decision to Trevor Berbick.

“Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee,” a phrase coined by corner man Drew “Bundini” Brown, aptly described Ali’s remarkable combination of speed and power during his prime, when he fought at about 210 pounds.

Record: 61 fights, won 56, 37 by KO; lost 5, 1 by KO.

Lennox Lewis

Despite a reputedly high, undisclosed personal wealth, Lennox Lewis remains one of the most likeable sporting personalities of this century. Lennox Claudius Lewis was born in Stratford, London on 2 September 1965.

His names could not be more aptly chosen as Lennox is Gaelic and means 'chieftain' and Claudius was a Roman emperor who conquered Britain. The younger of two children, the 6ft 5in champion was by no means born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His humble beginnings however did not mar his determination to make his mark in society. It could be said that Lennox's boxing career started early, as he was always involved in some scrap or other as a child. When asked though, he says that he was "never interested in it as a sport- not for a long time. For years all I wanted to be was a fireman". His continual use of his fists was to herald a significant change in his life, as both he and his mother Violet immigrated to Canada when he was twelve years old, having been separated for five years. He compiled a successful Canadian amateur record that was to climax with the knockout of Riddick Bowe in the 1988 Seoul Olympics where he boxed for Team Canada. Interestingly enough, Bowe, after capturing the heavyweight championship from Evander Holyfield in 1992, refused to fight Lennox again and as a result was stripped of the WBC title. It was then awarded to Lewis. Lewis made his professional debut at The Royal Albert Hall, in England on June 27, 1989 and proceeded to seize 20 victories - 17 being by straight knockouts. While focusing on his career as a boxer, Lewis decided to put something back into the community and in 1994/5 opened up The Lennox Lewis College in east London. He wanted to create opportunities for young black people, especially males, whose inherent talent often went unrecognized. Unfortunately it has recently closed due to lack of support from the appropriate authorities. However, during its lifespan a number of young people benefited from being associated with it. Exhibiting fierce loyalty, by retaining his original staff throughout, and not being lured away by the flamboyant Don King, heralds Lewis as a sporting figure worthy of being highly respected by all. His illustrious career heightened, when in March 1999 he fought Evander Holyfield to gain the three international title belts. The fight was declared a draw, which was seen as a travesty by most of the boxing fraternity, including Lewis himself.

Despite his disappointment Lewis kept his dignity and proceeded to concentrate on reclaiming what everyone thought was rightfully his. On 13 November 1999 he defeated Holyfield. Finally his quest to unify all three championship titles - the IBF, WBA and WBC - has been attained, making Lewis the second British born boxer in 100 years to hold all three belts. In recognition, Lewis has been awarded an honorary

doctorate by the University of North London for his services not only to sport but also the community in the education of disadvantaged young people. Regarded as the corporate world's 'most wanted' endorser, he recently launched his own line in fashion wear. Along with Muhammad Ali and Rocky Marciano, Lewis's name is recognized the world over. Such is his universal appeal that China wants to stage his next fight. Canada, Japan and South Africa have also placed their bids. Undoubtedly, Lennox Lewis is a champion of the world. More importantly, he is the people's champion!

Michael Gerard Tyson

Michael Gerard Tyson (born June 30, 1966, New York City, USA) is a professional boxer. His once immense promise and skill in the boxing ring has been hampered by a series of criminal charges.

Early years

Born in New York City, Tyson is a boxer with a respect and knowledge of his sports history, and its most vicious practitioner. Tyson was in and out of juvenile detention centers and many experts contribute his viciousness and aggressiveness in the ring from this age.

One story is told of Tyson running into a bully that killed one of Tyson's beloved pigeons that he took care of and Tyson beat up the kid and showed the anger that he has displayed his whole lifetime. Stewart knew the respected trainer Cus D'Amato and in 1980 D'Amato was introduced to the boy.

Boxing career

The 5-foot 10-inch (178cm) 227 pound Tyson made his debut in the professional ring on March 6, 1985 in Albany, New York. He won the fight in a single round. He had a further fifteen fights in 1985 winning them all by knockout, and almost all in the first round. He fought twelve times in 1986, cutting a dangerous path through improving ranks of journeyman fighters and already attracting attention and courting media controversy. On November 22, 1986 Tyson was given his first title shot, fighting Trevor Berbick for the WBC heavyweight title. It took Tyson two rounds to become, at age 20, the youngest heavyweight champion ever.

In 1987 Tyson defended his title against James 'Bonecrusher' Smith on March 7 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He won on a unanimous points decision and added Smith's WBA title to his existing belt. 'Tyson mania' in the media was becoming rampant. He beat Pinklon Thomas in May with a knockout in the sixth round. On August 1 he took the IBF title from Tony Tucker, winning on points to become "undisputed heavyweight champion of the world". His only other fight in 1987 was in October against the 1984 Olympic champion Tyrell Biggs, a workmanlike performance from Tyson ending with a seventh round TKO.

Tyson had three fights in 1988. He faced an aged and flabby Larry Holmes on January 22 which finished with a fourth round TKO. He fought an even flabbier Tony Tubbs in Tokyo in March, fitting in an easy two round demolition amid promotional and marketing work. On June 27 he produced a good performance against Michael Spinks, which lasted fractionally over 90 seconds before his KO. But Tyson's problems outside boxing were starting to gain prominence too, his marriage to Robin

Givens was heading for divorce, and his future contract was being clawed over by Don King and Bill Cayton.

In 1989 Tyson had only two fights amid personal turmoil. He faced the popular British boxer Frank Bruno in February in a below-par fight over five rounds and managed a one round knockout of Carl Williams in July.

By 1990 Tyson had lost direction, his personal life was in disarray and he was not training well. In a fight on February 11 with the little regarded James 'Buster' Douglas he lost to a tenth round KO and despite the protests of his manager over a 'slow count' in the eighth round Tyson lost all his belts to Douglas. Tyson's two other fights in 1990 were confidence regaining first round Kos.

In 1991 Tyson fought Donovan "Razor" Ruddock twice, once in March and again in June. These fights were notable because of Tyson's bizarre "jailhouse" talk towards his opponent. He told Ruddock, "Everyone knows you're a transvestite and you love me. I'm gonna make you my girlfriend. I can't wait to get my hands on a pretty thing like you". There was some controversy over the first fight which Tyson won in the seventh round but at the second fight, which Tyson fought while waiting for a match against the new champion Evander Holyfield, Tyson won on points.

Tyson went on trial in Indiana charged with the rape of a 1991 Miss Black America Contest contestant named Desiree Washington on January 27, 1992 Tyson was found guilty of the rape on February 10 and imprisoned for 3 years. (Under Indiana law, a defendant convicted of a felony must begin serving his prison sentence immediately after the sentence is imposed) As a result, Tyson did not fight again until 1995.

As a Get-out-of-jail opener he won within one round against Peter McNeeley in August and beat Buster Mathis Jr. in three in December. In March 1996 Tyson regained one belt, winning the WBC title from a lumbering Frank Bruno in three rounds. In September Tyson won back the WBA in 93 seconds from Bruce Seldon, having paid Lennox Lewis \$4 million dollars to 'step-aside'. On November 9 however he faced a tougher challenge in Evander Holyfield, fighting over eleven rounds. Holyfield won with a TKO to become a three-time world champion.

Tyson did not fight again until June of 1997 when there was a hugely anticipated rematch with Holyfield on June 28 for the WBA title. Tyson was disqualified in the third round, when, after losing his temper over a head-butt from Holyfield and coming out without his gum-shield, he bit a chunk from Holyfield's ear. When the referee, Mills Lane, warned him, Tyson went for Holyfield's other ear. On July 9 Tyson was banned from boxing for one year and fined \$3 million.

In January 1999 Tyson fought the South African Frans Botha and while Botha initially controlled the fight Tyson landed a single good punch in round five that put Botha down. On February 5 Tyson was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, fined \$5,000, and ordered to serve 2 years probation and perform 200 hours of community service for the August 31, 1998 assault on two people after a car accident. He served nine months of that sentence. On his release he fought Orlin Norris in October, where in a farcical scene Norris claimed to have twisted his ankle in the first round and refused to fight on.

In 2000 Tyson had three fights. The first was staged in England and against Julius Francis, although some fans considered the pre-fight arguments about whether Tyson should be allowed into the country more entertaining than the second round KO of Francis. He also fought Lou Savarese in June in Glasgow, winning in the first round, and in October the notoriously dirty Andrew Golota, winning in round three, a result that was changed to no-contest after Tyson failed a fight-related drug test. Tyson fought only once in 2001 beating Brian Nielsen in Copenhagen with a seventh round TKO.

Tyson sought to fight Lennox Lewis in 2002 in Nevada, but the Nevada boxing commission refused him a license to box as he was facing possible sexual assault charges. Tyson's remarks to Lewis were more vicious than anything he had ever said before. "I want to eat your heart and then eat your children" he screamed. A scuffle at a press conference finally removed any chance of a Nevada fight. The fight actually occurred in June in Memphis, Tennessee. Tyson lost in the eighth round by knockout.

On February 22, 2003, Tyson beat fringe contender Clifford Etienne 49 seconds into round one, once again in Memphis. The pre-fight was marred by rumours of Tyson's lack of fitness and that he took time out from training to party in Las Vegas and have a new facial tattoo.

In August 2003, after years of financial struggles, Tyson finally filed for bankruptcy. His bank account has been said to have a total of only 5,000 dollars. Amid all his economic troubles, he was named by Ring Magazine at number 16 among all time best hitters in boxing history in 2003.

On July 31, 2004 Tyson faced the unregarded Englishman Danny Williams in another 'come-back' fight staged in Louisville. Tyson dominated the opening two rounds. The third round was more even, with Williams getting in some clean blows and also a few illegal ones, for which he was penalized. In the fourth round Tyson was surprisingly knocked out, Williams put in over twenty unanswered punches and left the dazed Tyson slumped against the ropes. This was Tyson's fifth career defeat. Tyson tore the ligament in his knee during the first round. He underwent meniscus surgery four days after the fight. His manager Shelly Finkel claimed that Tyson was unable to throw meaningful right hands after the knee injury.

Tyson's record stands at 50 wins, 5 losses and 2 no contests, with 44 knockout ins.

In 1989 Mike was awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Overseas Personality Award. Mike Tyson added to his record one damaged car in Scottsdale, Arizona after a night of drinking and was arrested.

Kostyua Tszue vs. Zab Judah

Kostya Tszyu, now the undisputed Junior Welterweight champion, won the biggest fight of his life to this point and proved his tremendous punching power by knocking out talented Zab Judah. Tszyu was stunned a few different times in the first round by Judah, but kept coming at Judah in the 2nd round and caught him with a huge right hook. Referee Jay Nady quickly stopped the fight after Judah struggled to

get up and with the controversy surrounding the stoppage, there will no doubt be a demand for a rematch, but don't expect one. People had to twist Tszyu's arm to get him in the first time, I just don't see it happening again. Also, Tszyu said after the fight that Judah said winner takes all and that means no rematch. Since Judah, Tszyu beat up on two older, but solid fighters as Ben Tackie and Jesse James Lejia.

Football

The greatest football clubs.

AC Milan is an Italian football club. Based in Milan, they play in red-and-black stripes and black shorts, giving them the nickname *rossoneri* ("red-blacks"). The second most successful club in Italian soccer history, they won the Serie A 17 times and Coppa Italia five times.

The club was founded in 1899 as the Milan Cricket and Football Club by Alfred Edwards, a British expatriate. In honour of its origins, the club has retained the English spelling of its city's name, instead of changing it to the Italian Milano.

The team's current stadium is the 85,700 seater Giuseppe Meazza, also known as the San Siro. The stadium is shared with Internazionale (also known as "Inter"), the other major football club in Milan. AC Milan supporters use "San Siro" to refer to the stadium because Meazza was a star player for Inter.

Historically, AC Milan (usually referred to as "Milan" in Italy) was supported by the city's working classes and trade unionists, while Inter was mainly supported by the more prosperous. However, in recent years, the clubs have seen a significant reversal in supporter bases. Milan is now owned by conservative media magnate and current Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, while Inter is now owned by a centre-left businessman.

Famous players have included: Cesare Maldini, Sandro Salvadore, Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Franco Baresi, Giovanni Trapattoni, Roberto Donadoni, George Weah, Roberto Baggio, Zvonimir Boban, Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Costacurta, Cafu, Andriy Shevchenko, Filippo Inzaghi, Jean-Pierre Papin, Dejan Savicevic, Alessandro Nesta.

Real Madrid Club de Futbol of Spain is the world's most successful football club for the 20th century, rank by the governing body of international football FIFA, just ahead of Manchester United. Formed on March 6, 1902, it competes in the Spanish first division or Primera División, from which it has never been relegated since the formation of Spain's national league in 1928. The club was originally named Madrid Club de Futbol, but were allowed to use the title Real after King Alfonso XIII of Spain gave the club an official blessing in June 1920.

The team play in an all-white uniform, which is the origin of their nickname *Los merengues*. Their home stadium is the Santiago Bernabeu, which was founded on December 14, 1947. It has a capacity of 85,000 spectators and its field measures 106x70 meters.

Since the middle of the 20th century, Real Madrid has consistently been ranked as one of the top football clubs in Europe. It has won the European Cup more times than any other club, winning the first five European Cups. The rivalry between Real

Madrid and FC Barcelona is legendary, and draws as much from Spanish politics as it does from footballing matters; Real Madrid were the favoured club of Spanish dictator General Franco and it was alleged in some quarters that results were manipulated to their benefit by him.

In recent years, Real Madrid has become famous for signing some of the world's best footballers, giving the club a new nickname of Los galacticos. This trend began shortly after Euro 2000 with the world record £37.5m acquisition of Portuguese playmaker Luis Figo from FC Barcelona, who had risen to prominence with some influential displays in the tournament. He was joined the following year by then two-time FIFA World Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane from the Italian side Juventus, again for a world record fee - this time approximately £47.5m. The following season, they purchased Ronaldo, top scorer in the 2002 FIFA World Cup, for around £28m from Internazionale.

In the summer of 2003, their target was David Beckham, captain of the English national side, who signed from Manchester United for approximately £25m. Cynics argued that this particular development had as much to do with finance as football, with the Beckham brand ensuring increased revenue from merchandising. However, Beckham made a good start with Madrid, despite their relative underachievement in the 2003/2004 season (finishing fourth in the Primera Liga).

This poor display led to the sacking of coach Carlos Queiroz, who had also made the trip to Madrid from Manchester United in 2003 after leaving his position as assistant manager at the English club.

Real's main target in the 2004 off season was Patrick Vieira; the club made an offer of £23.1m. to English Premiership champions Arsenal for his services. Arsenal rejected Real's overtures, and Real instead made two surprise signings, of Liverpool's Michael Owen and Newcastle's Jonathan Woodgate, who hasn't played a single match since being signed.

Greatest Football Players

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, KBE (born October 23, 1940), nicknamed Pele, is a former Brazilian football player, considered by many to be the finest player of all time. He was an exceptionally versatile footballer, two-footed, an extremely successful goal scorer, highly skilled at dribbling and passing, and having remarkably good defensive skills for a striker.

He was born in Tres Coracos, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Pele started his football career in Santos in 1956, at the age of 15, and played in his first international match only ten months later. Ever loyal to his local club, he stayed with Santos for his entire career. In 1958, Pele became the youngest ever World Cup winner in Sweden at 17. He played in two more Brazilian World Cup-winning teams, in 1962 and 1970. The 1970 team, featuring famous players like Rivelino, Jairzinho, and Tostro, is considered one of the greatest selections ever to compete in a World Cup. He missed most of the 1962 and 1966 World Cups due to injuries sustained in the early stages of the tournament.

In 1967, the two factions involved in a civil war in Nigeria agreed for a 48-hour ceasefire so they could watch Pele play an exhibition game in Lagos. After his retirement from Brazilian football on October 3, 1974, he joined the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League. He played his last game as a professional on October 1, 1977 in front of a capacity crowd at Giants Stadium against his old club, Santos; he played the first half with the Cosmos and the second half with Santos. The exhibition game was sold out six weeks beforehand. He also played a friendly match with the Lebanese club Nejmech in 1974.

Pele is in third place in the list of all-time top scorers in World Cup play, with 12 goals, and he is the only player who won three World Cups with his team. He ended his career with a total of 1281 goals out of 1363 games, becoming one of the most prolific goal scorers ever. In his 92 appearances for the Brazilian team, he scored 77 goals.

He was awarded Brazil's Gold Medal for outstanding services to the game, before becoming Sports Minister in 1994. In 1997, he was given an honorary British knighthood.

He was voted athlete of the century by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1999. He is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. Nowadays, Pele is almost certainly the most famous man in football, with his nickname being recognized even by those unfamiliar with the sport.

Pele is the first sports figure featured on a video game with the Atari 2600 game Pele's Soccer.

Ronaldo Luis do Lima (b. September 22, 1976), simply known as Ronaldo, is a Brazilian footballer who is widely considered to be one of the best strikers of all time.

Ronaldo's talent was first spotted as a 14 year old by Brazilian World Cup winner Jairzinho whilst he was coaching amateur side Sao Cristovao. Jairzinho quickly recommended Ronaldo to the Brazil youth team, he also ensured that the talented youngster signed for his own former club, Cruzeiro Esporte Clube, when he was old enough to sign a professional contract.

In 1993, aged 16, Ronaldo had already scored 59 goals in 57 matches for Brazil's under 17 squad. By 1994 he had joined the squad of the national team, but didn't get to play a single minute on the pitch of the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the USA.

In 1996 - 1997, Ronaldo played arguably his best season, scoring numerous spectacular goals for FC Barcelona. One of them, a solo goal against Compostela, is considered one of the most amazing goals in football.

Chosen the World's best player in 1996 and 1997, he had a disappointing performance during the 1998 World Cup, scoring only 4 goals, and losing the final to host team France after suffering a mysterious fit in the night before.

The fit's circumstances still remain unclear and a source of speculation. He then moved to a club he considered more promising and more respected: Inter Milan. Fans all over the world jumped the bandwagon and supported the world's most glamorous footballer, receiving praise from the Italians all over.

Ronaldo's fame grew as he was constantly in the action for the Italian juggernauts. In April 1999, Ronaldo married Milene Domingues. The marriage lasted 4 years and ended in a divorce.

A year later, he severely injured his right knee and was out of the game for several months. During his first comeback in 2000, he managed to play a few minutes during a league game against Lazio before injuring his knee for a second time.

After 2 operations and 20 months of rehabilitation, Ronaldo managed a comeback during the 2002 FIFA World Cup. He claimed the Golden Boot by scoring 8 goals during the tournament (and tied with Pele for a Brazilian record 12 total World Cup goals), leading Brazil to win an unprecedented fifth World Championship. In 2002, he was awarded the title of the World's best soccer player for the third time, and transferred from Inter Milan to Real Madrid after frequent disputes with current Inter Milan coach Hector Cuper.

On June 2, 2004, Ronaldo scored an unusual hat trick for Brazil against archrivals Argentina in a CONMEBOL qualifier for the 2006 World Cup. He scored all of Brazil's goals in a 3-1 win via penalty kicks.

As of 2004, Ronaldo is still playing football, and is still considered one of the world's best strikers.

Car Races

Formula I (Rules)

A Formula One race takes place over an entire weekend, with free practice on Friday, two qualifying sessions on Saturday, and the race on Sunday.

Free Practice Sessions

The event usually begins on Friday (except in Monaco where it begins on Thursday) with two free practice sessions, from 11:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 15:00, for the drivers to learn the circuit and for the teams to experiment with their cars to figure out the best settings for the particular track. Further free practice sessions will take place on Saturday from 9:00 to 9:45 and from 10:15 to 11:00; during events in North America the Saturday free practice sessions will take place from 8:00 to 8:45 and from 9:15 to 10:00.

Qualifying Sessions

On Saturday at 13:00 (except in North America where the starting time is at 12:00) and on Sunday four hours before the start of the race, the qualifying sessions take place, both of which use the same format of allowing each driver to set one "flying lap" time on an empty track. The first session classification determines the order of running in the second qualifying session, with the fastest time in the first session running last in the second session. A driver or car that sets the fastest aggregate times qualifies at the front of the grid and is said to be in pole position. There are typically races in other FIA series (such as Formula 3000) over the weekend to keep crowds entertained.

Historically there were often an excess of cars that wished to compete in F1, so teams had to pre-qualify for the opportunity to race and "DNQ" (Did Not Qualify) was a common designation. With the huge costs the possibility of not racing is no longer practical and the organization that runs the championship (FOCA) sells the

right to compete at F1 races to teams. Each team usually runs two entries in each race.

Race

The race itself, held on the Sunday afternoon, begins with a warm-up lap, after which the cars are assembled on the starting grid in the order they qualified. They then go on the signal of the starting light system, which consists of five lights mounted above the start/finish line which light up at one second intervals. After a random length of time (no more than a few seconds) the red lights all go dark, at which point the race starts. Races are a little over 300 kilometers (180 miles) long, though occasionally some races are truncated due to special circumstances. However, no race will go on for longer than two hours.

Drivers usually stop for fuel and to change tyres at least once, and possibly two or three times. Timing pit stops with reference to other cars is crucial - if following another car but unable to pass, drivers will pit early in the expectation that when they rejoin the race they will land in clear track where they will be able to drive as fast as they can go, and thus make up overall time and pass the other car "in the pits".

At the finish of the race, the first-, second-, and third-placed drivers take their places on a podium, where they stand as the national anthem of the race winner's home country and that of his team is played. Dignitaries from the country hosting the race then present trophies to the drivers and a constructor's trophy to a representative from the winner's team, and the winning drivers spray each other and the fans with champagne. The three drivers then go to a media room where they answer questions in English and their native languages.

Points are awarded to drivers and teams exclusively on where they finish in a race, with the winner receiving 10 points, the second place finisher 8 points, third 6, fourth 5, fifth 4 and sixth 3, seventh 2 and eighth 1. The winner of the annual championship is the driver (or team, for the constructor's championship) with the most points.

Despite being the pinnacle of racing in terms of budgets, and driver skill, Formula One racing has often been accused of being unexciting when compared to less-prestigious categories. The differences in driver ability are usually dwarfed when compared to the relative speed of the different makes of cars, and on-track overtaking is very rare due to the aerodynamics of trailing cars being adversely affected by the car in front (making overtaking only possible by very risky and thus rarely-taken chances, or a much faster car trailing a slower one).

The sport is lesser known in the United States than either their mostly-domestic open-wheeler racing series (at the moment there are two major ones, IRL and Champcars) or NASCAR, but in terms of budgets and global TV audiences F1 is bigger than all three. Estimates for Ferrari's racing budget in 1999 were around 240 million USD, and even tailender Minardi reportedly spent 50 million.

Estimates of TV audiences are around 300 million per race.

Ayrton Senna da Silva

Ayrton Senna da Silva (March 21, 1960 - May 1, 1994), better known as Ayrton Senna, was a Brazilian racing driver who won the Formula One world

championship three times. His death in 1994 is still mourned by Brazilians and he remains one of the most beloved Formula One personalities, although during his career he was a rather more controversial figure that subsequent accounts have tended to portray.

Senna was born in San Paulo. As the son of a wealthy Brazilian landowner, he quickly developed an interest in motor racing. Encouraged by his father, a racing enthusiast, Senna got behind the wheel of his first kart at the age of four. He entered carting competition at the legal age of 13. In 1977, he won the South American Kart Championship.

Heading for Europe in 1981, he entered the British Formula Ford 1600 competition, which he won. He also adopted his mother's maiden name, Senna, as da Silva is a very common name in Brazil. In 1982 Senna combined the British and European Formula Ford 2000 Championships, winning both. In addition to winning the prestigious and high profile Macau Grand Prix, Ayrton saw off the challenges of Martin Brundle in the 1983 British F3 championship and secured a seat with the Toleman-Hart F1 team in 1984. His talents did not go unnoticed, especially after he impressed at the Monaco GP under wet and difficult conditions. The next year, Senna joined the Lotus team and won his first GP at Estoril, Portugal under treacherous conditions.

McLaren career

In 1988 Senna joined the McLaren team with Alain Prost as his teammate. The foundation for a fierce competition between Senna and Prost was laid, culminating in a number of dramatic race incidents between the two. This culminated in the notorious 'professional foul' committed at the beginning at the title-deciding Japanese Grand Prix in 1990, when Senna simply drove Prost off the track in an act of breathtaking cynicism. For this act, Senna has sometimes received criticism for introducing a "video game" mentality of "win at all costs" into the sport, a legacy that reverberates through the career of his natural successor, Michael Schumacher.

On the track, Senna could be ruthless at times, showing extreme determination and precision, especially in qualifying, a discipline he had mastered like no one before (resulting in a record 65 poles). In the wet, Senna was unchallenged, and in 1993 at the European GP at Donington Park, Senna demonstrated his exceptional wet driving skills by humiliating his opponents at the wheel of an inferior car. When the first lap was over, after overtaking 4 cars, he became race leader. Senna won the Monaco GP six times, a record in itself, and a tribute to his skills.

Death: In 1994, Senna finally left the ailing McLaren team for the top team at the time, Williams-Renault. He failed to finish his first two races, despite taking pole position at both events. On May 1 1994, he took part in his third race for the team, the San Marino GP. Senna yet again took pole position, but would never finish the race. He was leading the race when he went off the track in the Tamburello curve and did not survive the injuries sustained by the subsequent frontal collision with a concrete retaining wall. He was 34 years old.

In 2000, he was posthumously inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame.

In 2001, a television documentary called "Going Critical: The Death of Ayrton Senna" was screened on the UK's Channel 4. The program considered the available data from Senna's car to reconstruct the sequence of events that led to the fatal crash. The program concluded that an unusually long safety-car period had reduced the pressures in Senna's tyres, thereby lowering the car. As the car entered the Tamburello bend, it bottomed-out and the loss of the ground effect led to a sudden reduction in downforce, and hence grip. As Senna instinctively corrected the resultant slide, the downforce and grip suddenly returned, and Senna effectively drove off the circuit. The program came to the ironic conclusion that if Senna hadn't been such a great driver, his reactions to the slide wouldn't have been as quick, and he might have survived the crash.

There are other causes to be considered - Senna did not like the position of the steering column relative to his seating position and had repeatedly asked for it to be changed. That weekend, he was particularly upset by the death of Roland Ratzenberger in practice, which forced the issue and even caused him to consider retiring. He had spent his final morning in meetings with fellow drivers, determined by Ratzenberger's accident to take on a new responsibility for driving through safety changes in F1. Patrick Head and Adrian Newey agreed to modify the steering column and many surmise, based on video evidence of Senna turning the wheel left and right with no movement of the front wheels, that steering failure was the cause of the crash.

The Williams team was entangled for many years in a court case with the Italian prosecutors over manslaughter charges, but they were found not guilty and no action was taken against Williams. In 2004, the case is being re-opened.

His death was considered by many of his Brazilian fans to be a national tragedy. Senna is buried at the Morumbi cemetery in Sro Paulo, his hometown. Off the track, Senna was a deeply religious and compassionate man. After his death, his family created the Ayrton Senna Foundation, an organization with the aim of helping poor and needy young people in Brazil and the world. As a result, Senna continues to impact the world today.

In 2004 (when, ten years after his death, the Brazilian media revisited the entire life of Senna), a book called "Ayrton: The Hero Revealed" (original title: "Ayrton: O Heryi Revelado") was published in Brazil. The book recalls several passages of Senna's career, and adds a lot of never written before information about his personal life. As the title suggests, the book "reveals" the human side of a hero.

Track and Fields. Great athletes

Frederick Carlton "Carl" Lewis (born July 1, 1961) is an American athlete. He has won 10 Olympic medals, of which 9 are gold, from 1984 to 1996. Also he has won 8 world championship's gold medals, and 1 bronze, from 1983 to 1993. Carl Lewis is considered the greatest athlete of all time by many people. Although Carl was born in Birmingham, Alabama, he grew up in Willingboro, New Jersey, in the Philadelphia area. At age 13, Lewis started to compete in the long jump. With his

high sprinting speed, he also performed well in the sprint events. In 1980, Carl was selected for the US Olympic team, but the American boycott of the Games in Moscow delayed Lewis' debut. The following seasons, Lewis set seasons best performances in the 100 m and long jump. At the inaugural World Championships in 1983, Lewis won his first major titles, achieving victory in the 100 m, long jump and the 4 x 100 m relay events.

This made him a great favorite for success at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Also entering the 200 m, Lewis sought to equal Jesse Owens' performance of 1936 by winning these four events, which he did.

After he had repeated his 1983 performance at the World Championships in Rome in 1987, he was set for four more golds at the 1988 Olympics. However, things did not all go his way. He won the 100 m, but only after Ben Johnson had been disqualified for a doping offence. It has since become known that Lewis himself had failed a drug test before the games, although he was subsequently cleared by the IAAF. In the 200 m, he was surprisingly beaten by compatriot Joe DeLoach. The 4 x 100 m relay team was disqualified in the heats (with Lewis not even running) due to a bad exchange. Lewis had no problems defending his long jump title and headed an all-American podium.

After 1988, Lewis' dominance in the sprint events began to wane, though his long jump performance was still excellent. However, he was challenged in that event as well, as compatriot Mike Powell won an exciting duel at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, in which the legendary record of Bob Beamon from 1968 was finally broken.

At the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, another duel between the two was decided in favor of Lewis, winning his third consecutive Olympic long jump title. Lewis also ran the last leg of the American 4 x 100 m team. In the years that followed, Lewis did not win any major titles. In 1996 - aged 36 - he made a strong comeback in the long jump event, and made a bid for a fourth consecutive Olympic title. Lewis succeeded with remarkable ease, becoming only the third Olympian to win four consecutive titles in an individual event - the two others being Al Oerter (discus throw 1956-1968) and Paul Elvstrum (yachting, 1948-1960). Lewis and Oerter are the only two to have won the same event at four consecutive Olympics; Elvstrum won in two different events. If Lewis would have qualified for the 4 x 100 m team, he could have won his tenth Olympic gold, surpassing his countryman Ray Ewry as the most successful male Olympian. Carl Lewis recorded a single called "Break It Up" in 1987 with his band Carl Lewis and the Electric Storm. Lewis retired after the Atlanta Olympics and is now an actor.

Sergey Bubka

Sergey Bubka started pole vaulting as young as nine. In 1978, aged 15 Bubka moved to Donetsk, Ukraine with his coach Vitaly Petrov. He entered world athletics in 1983 when he won the event in Helsinki with 5.70 metres (18 feet 8 inches). In the years that followed, Bubka set new standards in pole vaulting. He cleared 6.00 metres (19 feet 8 inches) on 13 July 1985 in Paris. This height had long been considered unattainable. Bubka improved his own record little by little. In 1988 he achieved 6.06

metres in Nice, France. This increased the suspense whether he could beat the 6.10 metres mark at the Olympic Games in Seoul in the same year. He somewhat disappointed, but still won the gold medal with 5.90 metres (19 feet 4 inches).

Bubka increased the world record by 21 centimetres (8 inches) in the 4 years between 1984 and 1988, more than other pole vaulters have achieved in the previous 12 years. He was the first athlete ever to jump over 6.10 metres in San Sebastián, Spain in 1991. Surprisingly Bubka failed to place in the subsequent Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. He set the current world record of 6.14 metres in 1994 after some commentators have already predicted the decline of the great sportsman. In 1996 Bubka qualified for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, USA, but an injury prevented him from taking part in the games. The key to Sergey Bubka's success was his speed and strength. This enabled him to use poles that were longer and stiffer than normally used. This resulted in better catapulting action. He was also noted for his technique, gripping the pole notable higher than his competitors.

He was awarded best sportsman of the Soviet Union for three years in a row from 1984 to 1986.

Since 2002, he is a member of the Ukrainian Parliament and its committee on questions of youth policy, physical culture, sport and tourism.

Hockey Rules

Ice hockey, known simply as "hockey" in areas where it is more common than field hockey, is a team sport played on ice. It is known as the fastest team sport in the world, with players on skates capable of going high speeds along with shots of the "puck" sometimes going over 100 mph (160 km/h).

Game

The objective of the game is to score goals by playing a hard rubber disc, the puck, into one of the goal nets placed at opposite ends of the playing surface called a rink. The players may control the puck using a long stick with a blade that may or may not be curved, at one end. Players may also redirect or kick the puck with a skate (but not kick it into the goal) or with the hand (without closing the hand or passing to a teammate in the offensive zone). A player scoring three goals in a single game is said to have scored a hat trick, thus named because fans celebrate the accomplishment by throwing their hats on the ice. If the three goals are scored consecutively, the player is said to have scored a natural hat trick, although this expression has fallen out of common usage.

A team consists of at most 23 players of whom two have to be goaltenders. At most six players from each team may be on the ice at the same time. Usually one of the six is a goaltender (or goalie) who wears special protective equipment and is positioned in front of the net. The goaltender is allowed to immobilize the puck with his hands or body. Doing so is called "freezing" the puck, and results in a face-off. The other five players are divided into three forwards and two defensemen. The forward positions are named left wing, center and right wing. Until recently forwards typically were played as units or lines, with the same three forwards always playing together. It is becoming common, however, for only the wingers to play together

consistently. The Defensemen usually stay together as a pair but may change less frequently than the forwards. Another innovation in lineups was the torpedo system which the Swedish briefly toyed with; it consisted of four defensive role players, and a "torpedo" player who cruised near the blue line, even when the play was in the team's defensive end. The four defensive players would then essentially play the game as they would a power play, hoping to capitalize on a quick liberating pass to their torpedo, to give him a one on zero opportunity. This innovation provided them with limited, and has largely been dropped, as opponents found ways to declaw the system.

Ice hockey is a fast-paced game, and player substitutions may happen every few minutes or less, often during game play. In fact, line changes spaced around a minute apart are often deemed ideal to allow players to conserve enough energy to last the entire game. The boards surrounding the ice help keep the puck in play, and play often proceeds for minutes without interruption. When play is stopped, it is restarted with a face off. There are two rules of play in ice hockey that limit the movement of the puck: offside and icing.

The remaining characteristics of the game often depend on the particular code of play being used. The two most important codes are those of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) and of the North American National Hockey League (NHL), often considered the world's top professional league. North American hockey codes tend to bear much more resemblance to the NHL code.

Penalties

In men's hockey, but not in women's, a player may use his hip or shoulder to hit another player if the player has the puck or has just passed it. This use of the hip and shoulder is called body checking. Not all physical contact is legal, as there are many infractions that a player may be assessed a penalty for. His team would have to play without him for a short amount of time, and the other team would have a power play.

Tactics

An important defensive tactic is checking; attempting to take the puck from an opponent or to remove the opponent from play. Fore checking is checking in the other team's zone, back checking is checking while the other team is advancing down the ice toward one's own goal. Stick checking, sweep checking, and poke checking are legal uses of the stick to obtain possession of the puck. Body checking is using one's shoulder or hip to strike an opponent who has the puck or who has just passed it.

When a player directs the puck towards the opponents' goal he or she is said to shoot the puck. A one-time shot is a shot, which redirects a pass towards the target by striking the puck immediately rather than receiving the pass and shooting in two separate actions. A deke (short for decoy) is a feint with the body and/or stick to fool a defender or the goalie. Head manning the puck is the tactic of always passing to the player farthest down the ice.

A team that is losing by one or two goals in the last few minutes of play may elect to pull the goalie, that is, removing the goaltender and replacing him or her with an extra attacker on the ice in the hope of gaining enough advantage to score a goal.

However, this tactic is extremely risky, and as often as not leads to the winning team scoring a goal in the empty net.

Although it is officially prohibited in the rules, at the professional level fights are sometimes used to affect morale of the teams with aggressors hoping to demoralize the opposing players while exciting his own team. Toronto Maple Leafs owner Conn Smythe famously observed "If you can't beat 'em in the alley you can't beat 'em on the ice."

Periods and overtime

A game consists of three periods of twenty minutes each, the clock running only when the puck is in play. In international play, the teams change ends for the second period, again for the third period, and again after ten minutes of the third period. In North American play, the last change is omitted.

Various procedures are used if a game is tied. In tournament play, North Americans favor sudden death overtime, in which the teams continue to play until a goal is scored. In regular season play in the National Hockey League, the teams play a single five-minute sudden death overtime period, with the added stipulation that each side can play with a maximum of five players (four skaters and a goaltender) on the ice during the overtime. A regular season game that is tied after the overtime ends tied. International play uses an overtime period followed by a shootout if the score remains tied after the extra period; the shootout consists of five players from each team taking penalty shots against the other team's goaltender until one team has the preponderance of successful shots.

Women's hockey

Women's hockey is one of the fastest growing women's sports in the world, with the number of participants increasing 400 percent in the last 10 years. While there are not as many organized leagues for women as there are for men, there exist leagues of all levels, from the National Women's Hockey League to Olympic teams to recreational teams.

The chief difference between women's and men's hockey is that body checking is not allowed in women's hockey. After the 1990 Women's World Championship, body checking was eliminated because women in many countries do not have the size and mass seen in North American players.

WIMBLEDON

People all over the world know Wimbledon as the centre of lawn tennis. But most people do not know that it was famous for another game before tennis was invented. Wimbledon is now a part of Greater London. In 1874 it was a country village, but it had a railway station and it was the home of the All-England Croquet Club. The Club had been there since 1864. A lot of people played croquet in England at that time and enjoyed it, but the national championships did not attract many spectators. So the Club had very little money, and the members were looking for ways of getting some. "This new game of lawn tennis seems to have plenty of action,

and people like watching it," they thought. "Shall we allow people to play lawn tennis on some of our beautiful croquet lawns?"

In 1875 they changed the name of the Club to the "All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club", and that is the name that you will still find in the telephone book. Two years later, in 1877, Wimbledon held the first world lawn tennis championship (men's singles). The winner was S. W. Gore, a Londoner. There were 22 players, and 200 spectators, each paid one shilling. Those who watched were dressed in the very latest fashion — the men in hard top hats and long coats, and the ladies in dresses that reached to the ground! The Club gained £ 10. It was saved. Wimbledon grew. There was some surprise and doubt, of course, when the Club allowed women to play in the first women's singles championship in 1884. But the ladies played well — even in long skirts that hid their legs and feet.

The Wimbledon championships begin on the Monday nearest to June 22, at a time when England often has its finest weather. It is not only because of the tennis that people like to go there. When the weather is good, it is a very pleasant place to spend an afternoon. The grass is fresh and green, the players wear beautiful white clothes, the spectators are dressed in the latest fashion, there may be members of the Royal Family among them, and there are cool drinks in the open-air cafes next to the tennis courts. Millions of people watch the championships on television.

Great Russian Tennis Players

Marat Mikhailovich Safin (Tatar: Marat Mixail ul Safin; b. January 27, 1980) is a Russian (ethnic Tatar) tennis player who started his professional career in 1997. He is one of the top tennis players in the world and is known for his big physical presence, mercurial talent and aggressive power play.

Tennis Career

Born in Moscow, Russia, Safin is the son of top ten tennis player Rausa Islanov and Misha Safin, and is the brother of tennis player Dinara Safina. Misha managed the local Spartak Tennis Club where Safin trained in his youth aside several up and coming tennis players, including Anna Kournikova, Elena Dementieva, and Anastasia Myskina. At age fourteen he moved to Valencia, Spain, to access advanced tennis training programs, which were not available in Russia.

Safin gained the attention of the tennis establishment in 1998 with his consecutive victories over Andre Agassi and the defending champion Gustavo Kuerten at the French Open.

Safin held the No. 1 ATP ranking for a brief period of 9 weeks during 2000. In that year, he won his first Grand Slam tournament at the US Open by defeating Pete Sampras in straight sets and was immediately hailed as the new star to dominate tennis in the future years. However he failed to live up to the hype and succumbed to inconsistent performances, generally commented to be a result of his notoriously volatile temper. In addition he suffered a succession of injuries that affected his game and, in 2003, resulted in his absence for the majority of the season.

Safin has reached three more Grand Slam finals, all in the Australian Open in the years 2002, 2004 and 2005. He has cited nervousness as the reason for the loss in the first of them, and physical exhaustion for the second. He reached his third Australian Open final in 2005 by defeating top-ranked Roger Federer in an epic five set thriller, showing unusual calmness and superior shot selection to match Federer stroke for stroke. He later described the encounter "a brain fight". Safin's phenomenal win snapped Federer's 26-match winning streak and put a dent in his supposed invincibility. Safin is widely recognized as the player who can test Federer the most with his talent and his arsenal of powerful shots. Safin later defeated Lleyton Hewitt in the final to secure his second Grand Slam event after a five-year break from the first one.

Safin has won five ATP Tennis Masters titles during his career. His first was in 2000 when he won the title in Toronto, Canada. He holds a record-tying three (2000, 2002, and 2004) wins in Paris, France, and one in 2004 in Madrid, Spain. In 2004, Safin reached the Semifinal of the Tennis Master's Cup in Houston, but was defeated by Roger Federer, 6-3, 7-6(18). The second-set tiebreak was the third tiebreak of the score 20-18 the Open Era.

Safin has attributed his recent revival and his more consistent performance to the calming presence of his new coach Peter Lundgren, saying that "I never believed in myself before at all, until I started to work with him." Lundgren was formerly a coach of Roger Federer, but they parted ways at the end of 2003. Safin hired Lundgren in the following year.

Safin is a popular figure among both fans and commentators. His tendency to become overly emotional during matches, credited for several of his losses, has resulted in spontaneous court behavior. He is noted for having smashed numerous rackets and, at Roland Garros in 2004, pulled his shorts down to his thighs after winning a point in a third round match against Felix Mantilla. This behavior, and the support he receives from legions of female fans, has resulted in Safin receiving distinction as a player capable of generating celebrity for a sport which experiences slumps in popularity.

Russian teen becomes Wimbledon champion

Teenager Maria Sharapova stunned champion Serena Williams 6-1 6-4 in the Wimbledon final on Saturday to become the first Russian to win a singles title of the championships

The 17-year-old also became only the second Russian woman to win a grand slam title, less than a month after Anastasia Myskina became the first at Roland Garros.

Sharapova giggled in disbelief at her achievement after her 6-1, 6-4 thrashing of Serena Williams in the women's final on Saturday, Reuters reported. "Serena, actually I have to take this away from you for one year, I'm sorry," said the gobs-macked 17-year-old, clutching the famous Venus Rosewater Dish on Centre Court.

"I know there are going to be so many more moments when we're going to play. I'm sure we're going to be here another time and hopefully many more times in other grand slams, fighting for the trophy, so thank you for giving me a tough match but I'm sorry I had to win today."

Sharapova, the first Russian to win Wimbledon, tried to call her mother in the United States on court but could not get through on the mobile phone her father Yuri threw down to her "It keeps switching off, I don't know what's wrong with it," she said. "I was trying to phone my mum." She thanked her parents and paid special tribute to her father, who took her to the United States when she was seven. "I know how tough it is to watch," she said. "Playing is a lot easier, believe me. I owe him so much."

Sharapova said she would definitely be celebrating despite not feeling quite well. "I caught a cold but I hope I will feel better", she said. Serena was gracious in defeat despite seeing her dream of third successive title shattered. "It wasn't my day today but Maria played a really great match. Congratulations on your first grand slam," she said with a cheery smile.

Doping in Sports

In sports, doping is generally the use of performance-enhancing drugs, such as anabolic steroids or EPO, particularly those that are forbidden by the organizations that regulate competitions in a certain sport. Some doping substances, however, are permitted in low doses (alcohol and caffeine). Another form of doping is "blood doping," this can be described as a blood transfusion from one person to the other. Blood transfusions are reported to boost endurance by pumping oxygen-rich red blood cells to the muscles. Also considered "doping" by many is the use of substances that mask other forms of doping. The use of performance-enhancing drugs is not a new phenomenon: athletes have been using various substances for centuries. Ancient Greeks, including Olympic champions, would use sheep's testicles.

The first modern incident of doping was in 1865, when Dutch swimmers used stimulants. In the late 19th century European cyclists were using substances like caffeine and ether-coated sugar cubes to reduce pain and delay fatigue. In the 1904 Olympics, Thomas Hicks (USA) won the marathon at St Louis and collapsed. It took hours to revive him; he had taken brandy mixed with strychnine to help him win his gold medal.

In most sports, controls such as urine and blood tests are now being made to check for doping among top-level athletes.

Doping is often considered a form of unfair competition; also, many forms of doping can be hazardous to the athlete's health, with symptoms sometimes not occurring until after their career. Doping may, in some jurisdictions, lead to criminal charges, especially if it involves the illegal usage or prescription of prescription drugs or even narcotics.

In 1998, a major doping scandal erupted on the Tour de France. In the past couple of years a new form of doping has been reported, it's gene doping. This is

starting to form a larger threat because of recent advances in gene therapy. This gene doping would be very difficult to detect and when used it will last for many years. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has already asked scientists to help find ways to prevent gene therapy from being used in the future.

Blood doping - another drug war

The quest for better athletics through chemicals goes back a long time. In 1972, before steroids were banned, 68 percent of Olympic athletes admitted using them. During the 1970s and '80s, East Germany's huge doping program produced legions of highly successful, but oddly mannish female swimmers and track stars. In 1976, the year the Olympics started drug testing, East Germany bagged 11 of 13 women's swimming medals.

After the Berlin Wall fell, some East German sports doctors moved to China. In the 1994 Rome Olympics, Chinese women swimmers accepted 12 gold medals at ceremonies while onlookers protested by waving syringes. Twenty seven Chinese women have flunked drug tests since 1990, more than the total from all other nations. One way to look at the problem is to gripe about "tainted athletes." On the positive side, the rise of doping is a sign of progress. As medicine identifies the molecular basis for health and disease, it presents athletes with new ways to improve their performance - some legal, some not.

The tip of the hypodermic? Many of the most popular new compounds are identical to natural chemicals made by the body, which makes sure detection difficult or impossible. It was one of those undetectable drugs, erythropoetin or EPO, that caused the latest stink in Europe. Biker Marco Pantani, AKA the Pirate, was close to winning the Giro d'Italia, a multi-day race in his native Italy, when he failed a test intended to catch users of EPO.

EPO is a genetically-engineered version of a natural hormone made by the kidney that stimulates bone marrow to make red blood cells. synthetic EPO is sold as a rescue medicine for treating anemia in end-stage kidney disease, when production of EPO declines. Because red blood cells carry oxygen to the muscles, and because bikers need a huge amount of oxygen during their arduous sport, raising the number of red blood cells can theoretically improve performance. Here's a description of the origin of synthetic EPO. In the past, bike racers tried to increase the number of red blood cells by removing their own blood, storing it, and transfusing it back just before a race. Nowadays, this gory process of "blood doping" has been replaced by genetic engineering. Athletes simply inject EPO, which causes the body to make the cells. Since EPO is a naturally occurring hormone, testing for it would detect anyone, not very helpful for identifying doped athletes. Unable to measure EPO itself, the mandarins of international cycling at Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) rely on a surrogate test that measures the density of cells in the blood. Blood, as you'll recall, is composed of cells - mainly red, but also white and serum and other liquids that help the cells flow. A study from the 1980s, before synthetic EPO, showed that bike racers' blood averaged a cellular content of 43 percent, so the UCI decreed that anybody with a level above 50 percent would be disqualified for taking EPO.

On June 5, 1999, Pantani, with a cellular content of 52 percent, was ejected from the Giro d'Italia. In a June 11 report in VeloNews, the great cyclist defended his record: "'I am a clean rider,' the 29-year-old Italian told a much-awaited press conference. "My conscience is clear. I have nothing to do with doping. I am one of the few riders in the world who doesn't have a personal trainer. I don't need doping to win races, I need hill climbs". it's true that detecting EPO is tricky, since training at high altitude also increases the number of red blood cells. EPO is not the only genetically engineered compound that could help cyclists and other endurance athletes on the market. Growth hormone, which stimulates the growth of bones and muscle, became so popular that some athletes took to calling the 1996 Atlanta Olympics the "Growth Hormone Games."

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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

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