

## SHOULD STEROIDS BE BAN IN SPORTS? BOB HAZELTON

*I would like to start by saying it's a privilege being here today and being a part of getting this drug off the street and out of our schools. I've learned that the public has very little knowledge about the dangers of this drug. Older people will take it because they were told it helps them to work out harder .The only time for anyone should use this drug is when a Doctor prescribes it for medical reasons so they can monitor for the patients safety. Steroids are as dangerous as heroine, cocaine and crack. The use of steroids has been around a long time even going back to the 30s when Germany was using it with their troops and has been use in every sport to enhance performance.*

*I started boxing in 1969 and won 7 straight fights. My eighth fight was with George Foreman. The fight was stopped in the first round as Foreman was beating me. The referee stops the fight from cuts and knowing the size of Foreman the I could have been hurt permanently. After the fight, my managers decided I should go to England to train. While I was in England a doctor there prescribe a drug called dianabol at the time I question why I needed a prescription and his answer was it was a high potent vitamin pill but had ingredients that require a prescription. He added this would help my performance and gain weight. I question him about it and he told me it was as safe as taking vitamins.*

***I found out later that it was anabolic steroids. At the time there was no information on the side affects of this drug.***

***The first few years were great for me. I gained 40 pounds and was winning a majority of my fights. But three and a half years later I started having pain behind my calf sometimes the pain was so severe that it hurt to walk. I went to a few Doctors to see if there was something going on that could be more than a muscle pull. I never though that the steroids I took were destroying my body. The steroids took on a bigger roll and I started taking injections along with pills. The steroids were working my weight was around 240 pounds. It was all muscle but the pain and my endurance was poor. I was scheduled to fight the European champion. I knew the leg would never handle roadwork, but I would get up every morning and try to run couple of miles for endurance. After 200 hundred yards my leg was so swollen their wasn't any feeling through the leg. The worst thing about the fight was I beat him for three rounds, but the leg just couldn't hold the weight. I was so angry for once I was close to having part of my dream come true, but the referee stop the fight because of the 3 knock down rule. When he made the statement the fight was over tonight for me it was over forever. I made my way to the dressing room as I was taking a shower and the first my managers said to me was Bob you need to find a new job. They turn and walk away. No one ever asked how I was feeling or if I was O.K. I felt I had no reason to exist and the pain in***

***my leg was unbearable. This was the second time in my life I thought about leaving this world as a failure. The most important thing in some people life is to succeed. I decided I needed to make something happen and let people know a little more about how this drug that makes all these little men fell like big and strong he-men.***

***Well their another sight affect we don't talk about and that is changing personality not only the roid rage but also a hate that far passes what your every day person can imagine. My medical problems had started and the first was to open the left leg like filleting a fish and try to do a vein by-pass to get more circulation. It was working but the same time I felt I needed to go back into the gym and continue using steroids. I missed having the surge from steroids.***

***I still had no direction in my life. I started picking up jobs as bodyguard work for big name Rock -n- Roll bands and this was keeping me in the fast lane. I had a few surgeries from 1981 through 1985. They consisted of vein by passes to a filter being place in my Vienna cava to stop blood clots going to my heart and lungs. I really don't think any of you understand how deadly and crippling this drug can be. The one thing that's makes our youth sit up and take notice and is blood and guts. One night in 1986, was the beginning of the major problems with my legs. I knew***

***one day something dramatic was going to happen, but I didn't know if I could handle it. During this time I was a bodyguard for one of the biggest rock and roll bands in the country. They were on tour and I was sitting on some large traveling trunks and talking to the leader of the band discussing what to do after the last set. I wasn't in a lot of pain but as I got up to get them ready to go on stage, Eddy said why was my left leg wet. I sat back down to raise my tights up to see and that's when I notice my calf had split down the middle. A gray black liquid was oozing from the opening. The leg had very little circulation and the tissue was breaking down. I knew it was only a matter of time before I would lose my leg. Two weeks later my first amputation took place. It was tough but my choices were live or die! My mother is very close to the best healer there is. I spent 6 months training and learning to walk with a prosthetic. I kept myself in shape hoping one day something would let me know where I was heading.***

***I can say it's was difficult to think about putting another pill down my throat or injecting any more steroids in my body but it happen. I started taking steroids and because I was offer another body guard job with another rock group. They were going to England to perform. I had drop some weight and I didn't feel the way I used to, so I thought I would just take start the steroids again. I didn't use no more than 3 shots in 3 weeks and the right leg had***

***broken down to where I had no circulation from the knee down to the foot. I had so much pain one night I was taken to the hospital where I was told I had gangrene and there was no way to repair the leg. I would have to have my leg amputated to save my life. I spent 3 months in the hospital fighting off infections. I remember one night in fact it was midnight and the nurse had to call the doctor to let him know the dressing was off. The surgeon shows up in less than an hour. He sat at the foot of the bed and stared at me. Then he looks away for a minute and said in a low pitched voice I wish I never did this surgery. I knew this was getting to him and the infection never seems to get better. I can say three days before Christmas of 1988 I ask to go home because I felt better. I could tell the fever was breaking but the infection was still there. The day before Christmas Eve the doctor came in for his morning rounds. He checks my leg and called in his nurse. I could tell by his reaction that it was good news. He said, Mr. Hazelton your infection is gone.***

***But, this wasn't the end of all the damage this enhancing miracle drug called anabolic steroids did to my body. I've had over 49 surgeries on both legs. I don't let the surgeons put me to sleep when I have a revision on my legs. I have a spinal block, so I can still know what's going on. The steroids cause the bone to be soft and it easy to crack or splinter. I can always smell the tissue***

***burning when they cauterize the arteries and I can smell the bone when their cutting it to put a flap over the end to protect it from breaking anymore. Listen this is skimming the surface of what going on. I've tried to get private people out there to let me set up learning material. I haven't touch on what happens to females on steroids. I haven't touch on what happen when you buy on the black market what you're in store for. I spent one month in the hospital with a 6-inch diameter and 2 inch deep infection in my hip. It was the worst smelling infection. I got this infection after shooting what I though was steroids and turn out to be armor all.***

***As far as adding any more problems there are too many to list but steroids deplete bodies and in the long run the problems far out weigh the temporary highs of performance.***