

One Person Cheats, Everyone Loses

In October 2007, gold-medalist runner Marion Jones made a startling admission. She admitted that she used steroids while competing in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Steroids are a banned substance for

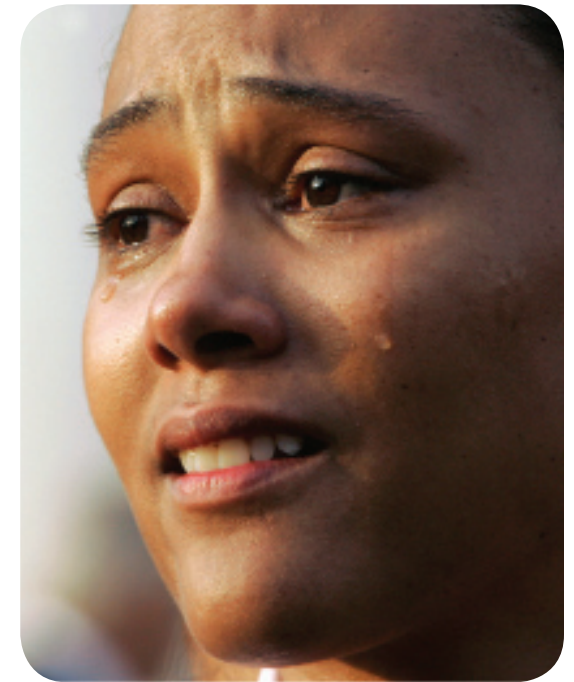


Marion Jones crosses the finish line to win the gold medal in the 100-meter race at the 2000 Olympics.

Olympic athletes. Jones's confession meant that her records would be stricken and her medals would be taken away.

At the Sydney Olympics, Jones won three gold medals and two bronze medals. One of the golds and one of the bronzes were from relay races. Because Jones was part of those races, her teammates were also forced to give up their medals.

All in all, eight teammates were directly affected by what Jones did. Indirectly, all the Olympic runners from Sydney—in fact all the athletes of the world—were affected. Without Jones competing, the outcomes of those races could have been completely different. Olympic Chairman Peter Ueberroth said, “It’s very unfortunate, but your



Jones cries as she explains to reporters that she lied about using performance-enhancing drugs.

result involved cheating, so the result is unfair to the other athletes of the world.”

In his closing remarks, Ueberroth assured sports fans everywhere. He said, “We have a responsibility to compete fairly. That’s our system, and that’s the way we’re going to live.”