



News Release

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Recovered steroid abuser educates students, coaches and parents

Columbus, OH – Mark McGwire and Marion Jones, a few of the many individuals whose lives drastically changed because of a decision to not admit their faults and confess to anabolic steroid use. However, where are the stories about the steroid abusers who choose to openly admit their wrongs? What about the news of people who have learned from their experiences and have grown to be a better person? Today, a recovered steroid abuser, is using his first-hand account to educate student-athletes of the damages caused by this drug and to advocate against steroid use.

CEO of the Athletic Scholarship Corporation, A.J. Hodel, is often speaking for an award winning anti-drug program presented by SporTech. Hodel shares his story of the fifteen year struggle he overcame and the way learning from his experiences both help in his current profession and have made him the outstanding individual he is today.

SporTech was founded in 1993 by drug free American record holder and National Collegiate Champion weightlifter, Ari Sherwin. Sherwin designed the educational anti-drug program entitled, “Drugs in Sports...A Losing Game” to emphasize the importance of living a healthy drug free life.

“When I was competing, I heard of the increase in the drug use among kids,” stated Sherwin. “I felt obligated to teach students about the side effects of performance enhancing drugs, but I also wanted to highlight the benefits of being drug free, and teach kids that you can be successful while staying off the juice.”

Hodel is the first previous steroid user speaking with SporTech and Sherwin is both eager and excited to see the effects of the presentation.

“A.J. is very upfront and honest about his previous drug abuse and he is sincere and passionate about helping student-athletes. He will be able to connect with young athletes who are using or thinking about using,” said Sherwin. “With AJ, we can target a different type of audience and reach out to kids in a new and effective way.”

Hodel used steroids for roughly fifteen years, and realizes the extremities that occur due to the abuse of this drug. He believes his testimony will reach out to not only student-athletes but also to parents and coaches who may be more naive to the liveliness and intensity the issue.

“I want to educate parents and coaches on how accessible the drugs really are, and how hard it is to get a kid to stop once they are on them,” stated Hodel. “It is important to learn more information than what comes from reading a book, I want to use my story to help a kid stop completely, or prevent them from using at all.”

Hodel also believes that parents and coaches need to step in and address the issue head on, versus waiting to deal with the problem once an athlete is already using.

Today, Hodel offers top-notch recruiting services nationwide and helps student-athletes reach the next level with a positive drug free approach. With the pressures and challenges student-athletes face, Hodel hopes his story inspires individuals to completely eliminate the performance enhancing drug temptation from their lives.

“Having these experiences has helped me relate to kids who are already using, they confide in me like a big brother,” said Hodel. “I have helped some athletes get help and stop using, making coming out and admitting to my problem a good thing.”

Athletic Scholarship Corporation is a nonprofit organization committed to efficiently showcase the talents of high school student-athletes nationwide. The sports professionals and technology providers at ASC advise coaches and recruiters to help programs of all sizes find a well-rounded group of student-athletes. For more information, visit www.athleticscholarshipcorp.com.

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