



SUPERSTAR -

SUPERCHEATS

6 X 60

OFF
THE FENCE

For each honourable way to succeed, there are a dozen ways to cheat in order to get there. Over thousands of years of sport, cheating has been as certain as trophies, medals and prize money.

No sport is immune: athletics, American football, horse racing, boxing, baseball, cycling and even curling! Almost as soon as humans started playing sports competitively, they started to cheat. They cheated for glory, for money and sometimes for reasons that are hard to understand.

From the fiendishly clever, to the outright bonkers, to the blatantly obvious, tapping into years of global archive footage, this series entertains through the many and varied ways athletes and countries have tried to cheat over the years. There's the winner of the New York City marathon who hopped in a car part of the way, the boxer who laced his gloves with plaster of paris and the fencer who wired his sword to trick the scoreboard.

As well as sharing an alarming amount of tales involving swapping bodily fluids and doping, the series will take viewers through the use of illegal equipment, bribes, playing dirty, faking injuries, wearing disguises, dodgy referees and ball tampering and will explore how the most surprising historical incidents have changed the regulation of sport.

Superstar - Supercheats will be an entertaining, eye-opening and nostalgic trip through the history of cheating in sport. With an equal measure of humour and serious overtone **the stories will be brought to life by sport's biggest commentators and athletes**, while also delving into considerable worldwide archive, comedic animation and some reconstruction.

Below are examples of some of the 100s of stories we will use in this returnable series of 6 X 60' globally accessible episodes for distribution in multiple markets.

EPISODE 1

EQUIPMENT FIDDLING



ANTONIO MARGARITO'S PLASTER OF PARIS

In 2009, Antonio Margarito's wraps were confiscated by officials after a suspicious substance was found inside his gloves. Shane Mosley's corner noticed Margarito's gloves had too much wrap, and called for the review.

The substances were identified as "Plaster of Paris" and a substance that hardens when wet. Basically, it turned Margarito's gloves into blunt-force instruments. Margarito received a suspension.



SAMMY SOSA & ALBERT BELLE BAT CORKING

Perhaps under the constant pressure of a big-money contract and a home runs race, Sammy Sosa was discovered as a cheater. When Sosa hit an inside fastball, his bat shattered into pieces, exposing cork in the barrel. Sosa claimed it was a practice bat that accidentally got mixed into his game time rotation. Sosa was suspended and his already fleeting reputation was further tarnished.

We also tell the story of bat corker Albert Belle. A well-known power hitter for Cleveland Indians in his day, Albert had a bat confiscated during pregame by an umpire suspecting bat corking. The umpire put the bat in his locker intending to examine it later.

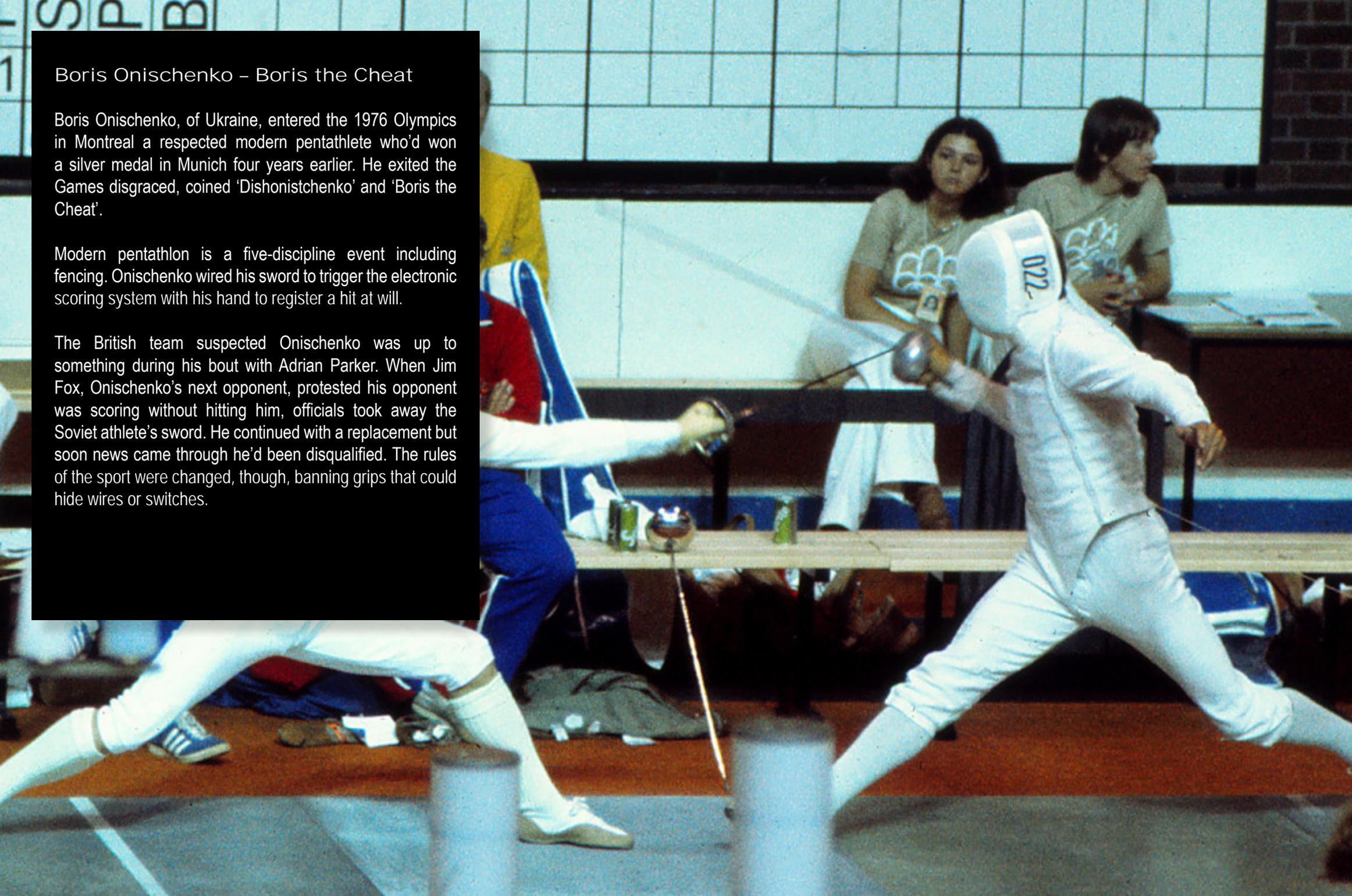
The Indians knew the bat was corked and dispatched pitcher Jason Grimsley to the vents above the locker to swap the bats. Grimsley dropped down from the vent and replaced the bat but swapped it with the bat of a teammate Paul Sorrento with his name clearly printed on the bat. Belle was suspended for seven games, and of course the incident has "gate" at the end of it, being nicknamed the "bat gate" incident.

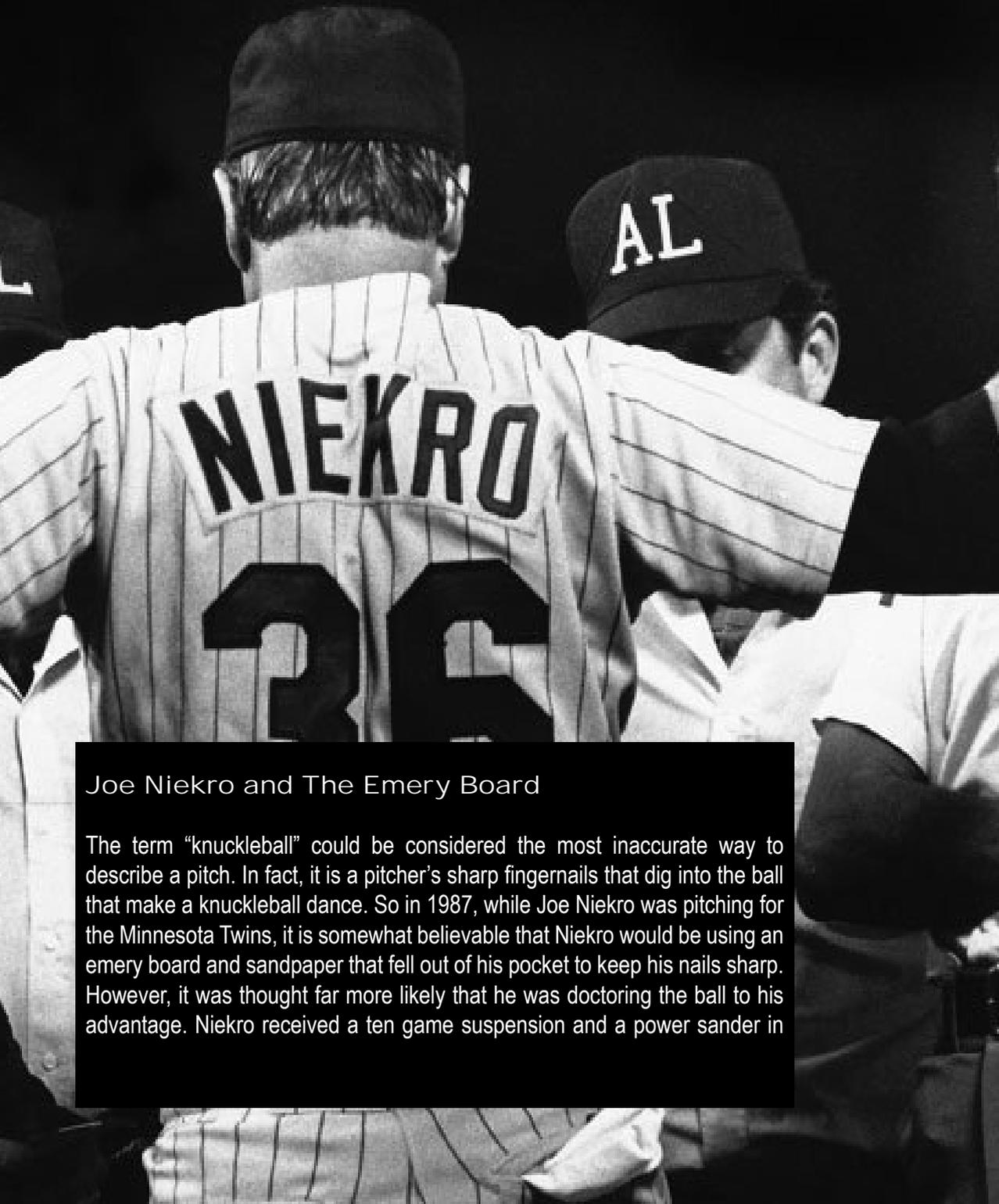
Boris Onischenko – Boris the Cheat

Boris Onischenko, of Ukraine, entered the 1976 Olympics in Montreal a respected modern pentathlete who'd won a silver medal in Munich four years earlier. He exited the Games disgraced, coined 'Dishonistchenko' and 'Boris the Cheat'.

Modern pentathlon is a five-discipline event including fencing. Onischenko wired his sword to trigger the electronic scoring system with his hand to register a hit at will.

The British team suspected Onischenko was up to something during his bout with Adrian Parker. When Jim Fox, Onischenko's next opponent, protested his opponent was scoring without hitting him, officials took away the Soviet athlete's sword. He continued with a replacement but soon news came through he'd been disqualified. The rules of the sport were changed, though, banning grips that could hide wires or switches.





Power on through - mechanical doping

The first confirmed use of “mechanical doping” in the sport was discovered at the 2016 UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships when one of the bikes of Belgian cyclist Femke Van den Driessche was found to have a secret motor inside the seat shaft.

Some sources claim that motorized doping has occurred before in professional cycling, but that it has gone undetected or unproven. It is seen as part of a larger effort by athletes in many sports to gain mechanical advantage in competition. In May 2010 former rider Davide Cassani demonstrated a motorised bicycle on Italian TV, claiming similar bikes had been used by some professional cyclists since 2004. The discovery of a motor resulted in a substantial up-tick in the level of scrutiny focused on bikes. The UCI has purchased scanning equipment.

Joe Niekro and The Emery Board

The term “knuckleball” could be considered the most inaccurate way to describe a pitch. In fact, it is a pitcher’s sharp fingernails that dig into the ball that make a knuckleball dance. So in 1987, while Joe Niekro was pitching for the Minnesota Twins, it is somewhat believable that Niekro would be using an emery board and sandpaper that fell out of his pocket to keep his nails sharp. However, it was thought far more likely that he was doctoring the ball to his advantage. Niekro received a ten game suspension and a power sander in



EPISODE 2 DRUGS

The Dirtiest Race in History

'I'd like to say my name is Benjamin Sinclair Johnson Jnr and this world record will last 50 years, maybe 100.' So said Ben Johnson after trimming four-hundredths of a second off the world record to finish first in the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Within hours, though, his triumph was transmuting into one of the great Olympic scandals. In the Olympic Doping Control Centre, Dr Park Jong-Sei found that a urine sample taken from the first four finishers contained Stanozolol, a dangerous anabolic steroid... it was Johnson's.

Carl Lewis, Britain's Linford Christie and Calvin Smith were each promoted one place to fill the final medal positions as the disgraced Johnson, stripped of his gold, flew out of Seoul, feebly protesting his innocence. Johnson raced at the next Olympics after serving a two-year suspension, but was banned for life in 1993 after he tested positive again.

However, the race earned its infamous nickname due to drug use by several other competitors in the race. Johnson himself claimed it wasn't really cheating if everyone else was on drugs and he had a point. Carl Lewis who was given Johnson's gold medal had himself tested positive for banned substances prior to the Olympics and Linford Christie who was upgraded to the silver medal also tested positive for pseudo-ephedrine.

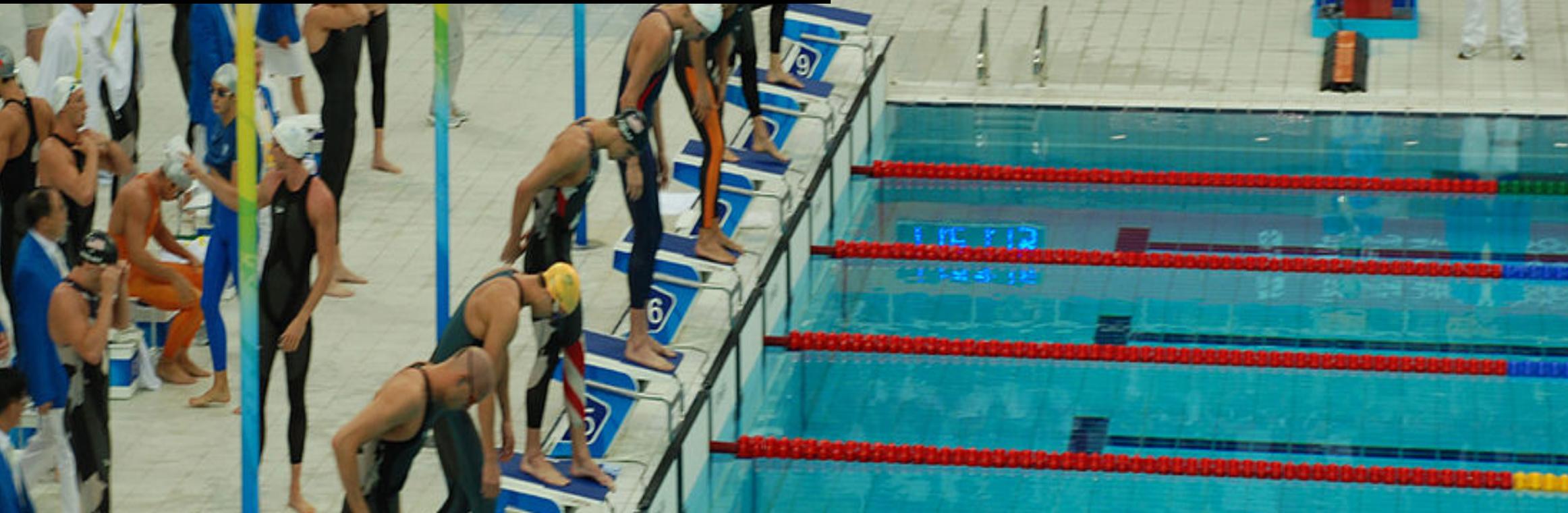


SWIMMING - GERMAN DIP INTO STEROIDS

For much of the 1970s and '80s, East German women swimmers dominated their opponents. Notably, at the 1976 Games in Montreal, they won 10 of the 13 events and set 8 world records; in comparison, they'd won no gold medals at the previous Games. Accusations of steroid use became common, though no swimmers tested positive.

In 1991, however, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it was revealed that East Germany had run a state-operated doping program for its athletes, with the female swimmers producing the most-notable results. In most cases, the athletes had been unaware that they were being given banned substances.

It is believed over 10,000 German athletes were on doping programs for the Olympic Games from 1968 through the early 80s.





SHAWN MERRIMAN LEADS LEAGUE IN SACKS... AND STEROIDS

In 2005, Shawn Merriman was selected in the first round of the 2005 NFL draft. He did not disappoint and went on to lead the league and was awarded Rookie of the Year.

He was handed a four game suspension in 2006 after testing positive for steroids in successive tests. While he came back strong in 2006 he never regained the form shown in his rookie year showing the true effects of steroids.

The incident led to the passage of a rule that forbids a player who tests positive for steroids from being selected to the Pro Bowl or winning any performance awards in the year in which they tested positive. The rule is commonly referred to as the "Merriman Rule."



MARION JONES TESTS POSITIVE AND IS HEADED TO THE CLINK

American sprinter Marion Jones was the golden girl at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, where she became the first woman to win five track-and-field medals at a single Games.

But her image quickly tarnished. Allegations of steroid use had long followed Jones, and in 2003 she was implicated in a federal investigation involving illegal steroid distribution by a laboratory named BALCO.

Jones denied the claims, but in 2007 she pleaded guilty to lying to federal investigators about her drug use and admitted to having taken steroids. All of her results since 2000, including her Olympic titles, were annulled. She later served six months in prison.

FLOYD LANDIS - CYCLING'S DOPING WHISTLEBLOWER

When Floyd Landis won the 2006 Tour de France the celebrations were short lived as Landis was quickly embroiled in a doping scandal. Further testing proved his guilt and he was stripped of his title.

Despite returning after serving a two year ban his name became synonymous with doping. When he was denied entry to a race in 2010, Landis finally admitted his guilt but blew the whistle on the systemic problem of doping that was plaguing cycling.

He named golden boy Lance Armstrong as one of the most prolific cheats. Armstrong denied the allegations but the truth caught up with him and thanks to Landis, one of sports greatest ever cheats was exposed.

HORSING AROUND

Humans aren't the only ones tested for illegal drugs at the Olympics. Horses competing in the equestrian events are also scrutinized, and at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing the horse Camiro, ridden by Norwegian Tony André Hansen, tested positive for capsaicin. Although commonly used for minor injuries in a topical ointment made from chilli peppers, capsaicin can be a stimulant and is thus on the list of substances banned by the Olympics. Hansen and Camiro had won bronze in a show-jumping event but were stripped of the medal.



EPISODE 3

THE GREAT PRETENDERS



DORA RATJEN AND HIGH JUMP

At the 1936 Olympics despite her best efforts German high jumper Dora Ratjen finished fourth narrowly missing out on a medal. Two years later Ratjen's hard work had paid off as she won gold and set a new world record at the European Athletics Championships in Austria. However, on September 21 Ratjen took an express train from Vienna to Cologne and was stopped by a detective who demanded to see some identification after a passenger had claimed a woman on the train was, in fact, a man. Fearing legal action being taken, Ratjen confessed that she was actually called Heinrich. Heinrich was stripped of the women's world record and promised to retire from the sport.



TUNISIAN MODERN PENTATHLON TEAM

In the 1960 Rome Games the Tunisian modern pentathlon team got off to an epically poor start. To start off, each member fell off their horses, followed by another athlete almost drowning and then another disqualified from the shooting section because he accidentally almost shot a judge. To ease off the humiliation, during the fencing competition they simply sent their best fencer back for each part, hoping the fencing mask would be a good enough disguise. Believe it or not, this cheating attempt failed, and the entire team was thrown out of the games.

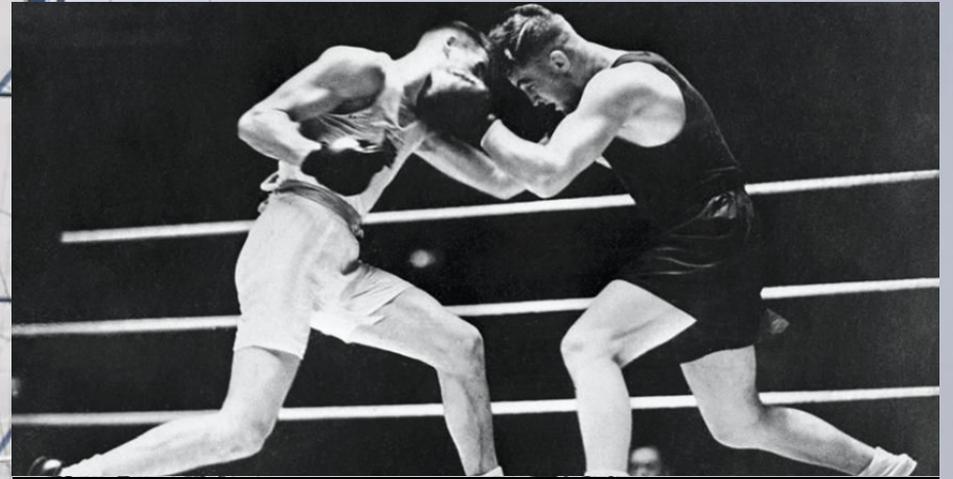
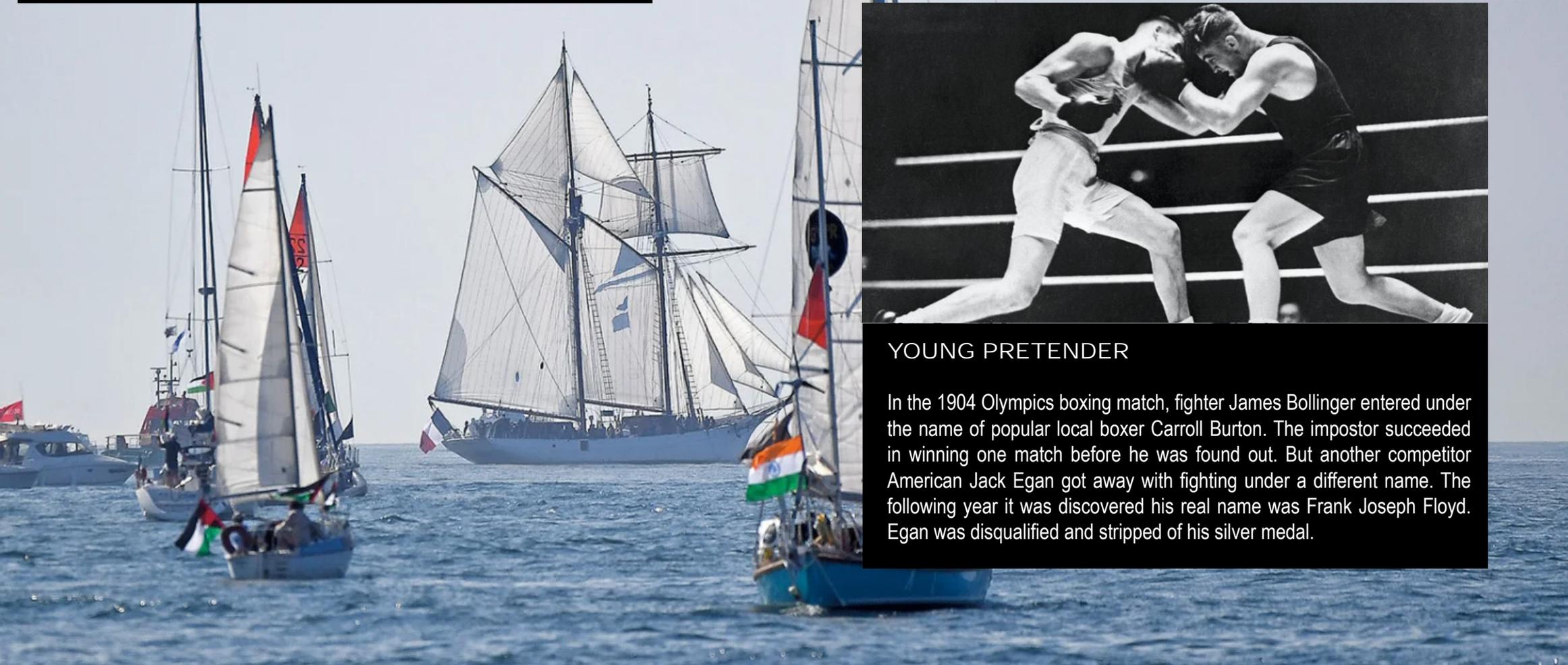
MADELINE AND MARGARET DE JESUS

Like something out of a Hollywood movie, Puerto Rican twins Madeline and Margaret de Jesus attempted to outsmart the 1984 Los Angeles Games. When Madeline hurt herself while competing in the long jump, she sent her identical twin sister Margaret to compete in the 4x400 meter relay. Once the chief coach of the Puerto Rican Olympics team discovered what they'd done, he pulled out the entire team from the Olympics.

DONALD CROWHURST SAILS TO INFAMY

Crowhurst, a British businessman, entered into the 1968 Golden Globe Race, a single-handed, round-the-world yacht race. What made his decision to enter the race so sensational was the reality that Crowhurst had no serious sailing experience.

Crowhurst used radio reports, claiming he was well ahead of the competition. In reality he'd docked in the South Pacific with his boat well off course. The actual leader of the race, Nigel Tetley, fearing he was too far behind, was forced to abandon ship, despite in reality being far ahead of the field. However, the plan failed miserably, and Crowhurst couldn't save face. Crowhurst committed suicide due to grief over the event.



YOUNG PRETENDER

In the 1904 Olympics boxing match, fighter James Bollinger entered under the name of popular local boxer Carroll Burton. The impostor succeeded in winning one match before he was found out. But another competitor American Jack Egan got away with fighting under a different name. The following year it was discovered his real name was Frank Joseph Floyd. Egan was disqualified and stripped of his silver medal.

HOWARD J. LAMADE
STADIUM

DENNIS LEWIN BROADCAST BOOTH

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL - DANNY ALMONTE AND THE "AGE-GATE" CONSPIRACY

The Little League World Series prides itself on young, clean competition with implications to the future. So in the 2001 LLWS, there was pandemonium when a coach falsified Danny Almonte's birth certificate, Almonte pitching with puberty on his side. The 14-year-old could throw 70 mph, which is the equivalent of a 92 mph major league fastball. Almonte was mowing down the 12-year-olds he was pitching to, and it created an outcry for the integrity of the game. It turns out another team had hired a private investigator to discover the true age of Almonte.



BOXING'S PARK SE-HUN DEFEATS ROY JONES, JR.

During the Gold Medal match of the 1988 Olympics, Park Si Hun was getting dominated by Roy Jones, Jr. in front of his home crowd.

However, in a shocking 3-2 decision, Hun was handed the victory despite him only landing 32 to Jones Jr's 86. Later, German police files would reveal payoffs and bets that gave Hun the victory.

The judges admitted they scored in favour of Hun to placate the home crowd. The scandal led to an investigation of other questionable Olympic decisions that had been made and eventually 2 of the 3 judges from the fight were banned for life.

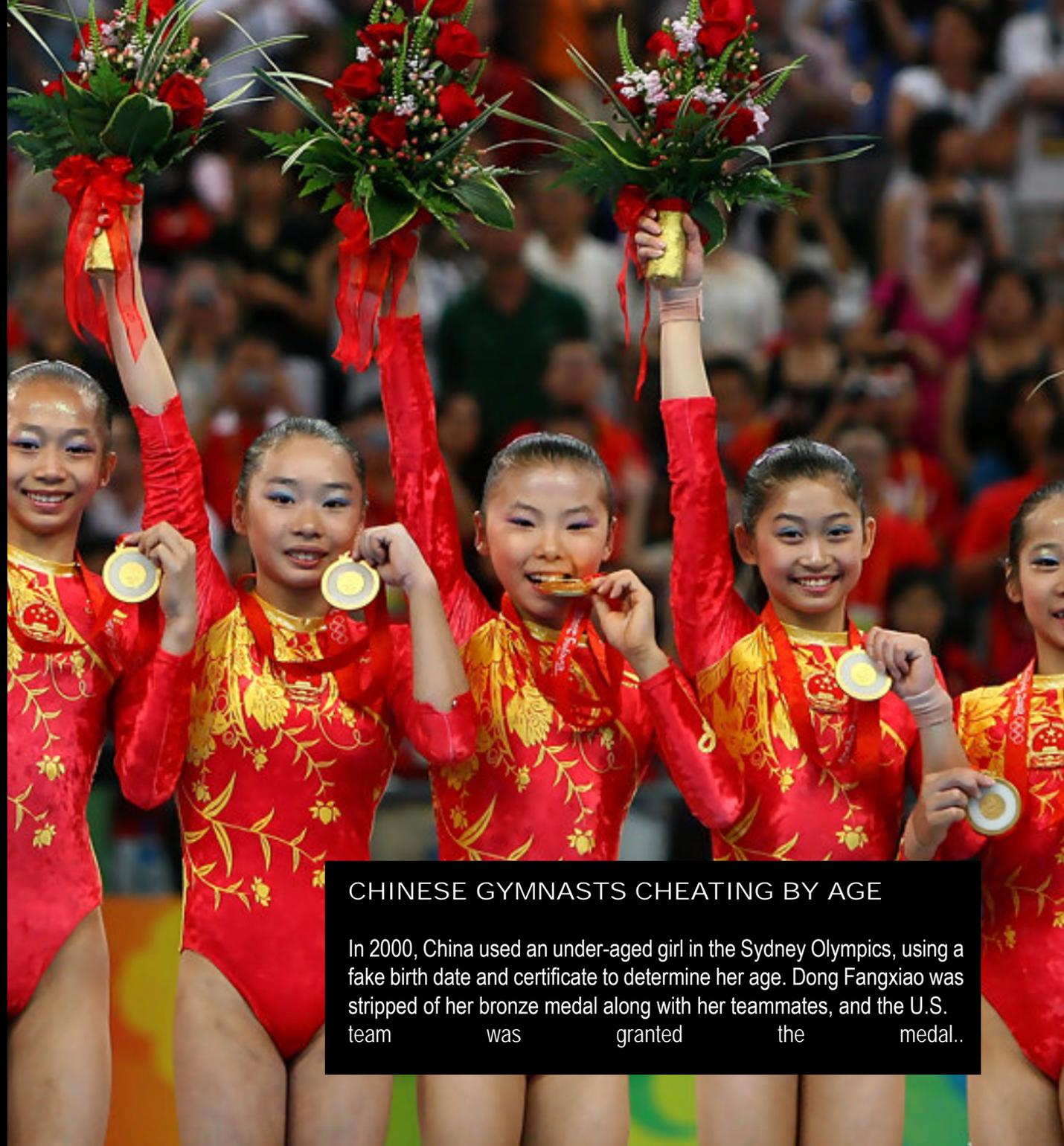




THE 2000 SPANISH PARALYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM

At the 2000 Paralympics the Spanish basketball team stormed their way to gold. However, not all was as it seemed. An investigation found that of the 12 team members only 2 of them actually suffered with the intellectual impairment that qualified them to play whilst the other 10 had no form of disability.

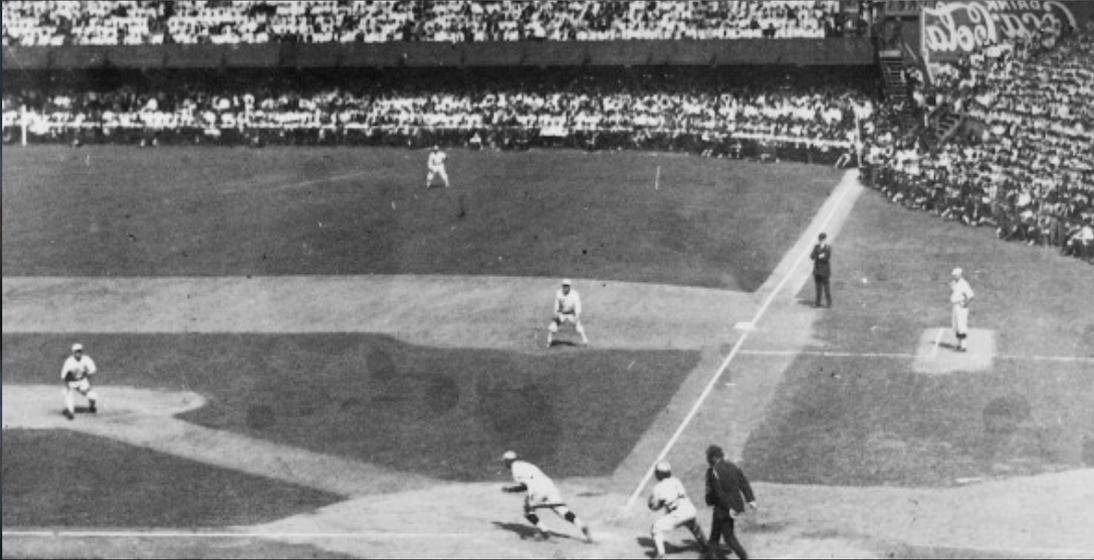
The shocking revelation was made after an undercover Spanish journalist uncovered the truth and 13 years later the head of the Spanish Paralympic team was found guilty of fraud.



CHINESE GYMNASTS CHEATING BY AGE

In 2000, China used an under-aged girl in the Sydney Olympics, using a fake birth date and certificate to determine her age. Dong Fangxiao was stripped of her bronze medal along with her teammates, and the U.S. team was granted the medal..

EPISODE 4 MATCH FIXING



CHICAGO WHITE SOX BASEBALL TEAM: THROWING THE 1919 WORLD SERIES

It became known as the Black Sox scandal after 8 Chicago White Sox were charged with accepting money from gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series, won 5-3 by the Cincinnati Reds.

The gamblers, including former boxing champion Abe Attell, promised \$100,000 for the fix. The following year a Chicago grand jury investigated. Some of the 8, including 'Shoeless' Joe Jackson, confessed to the jury.

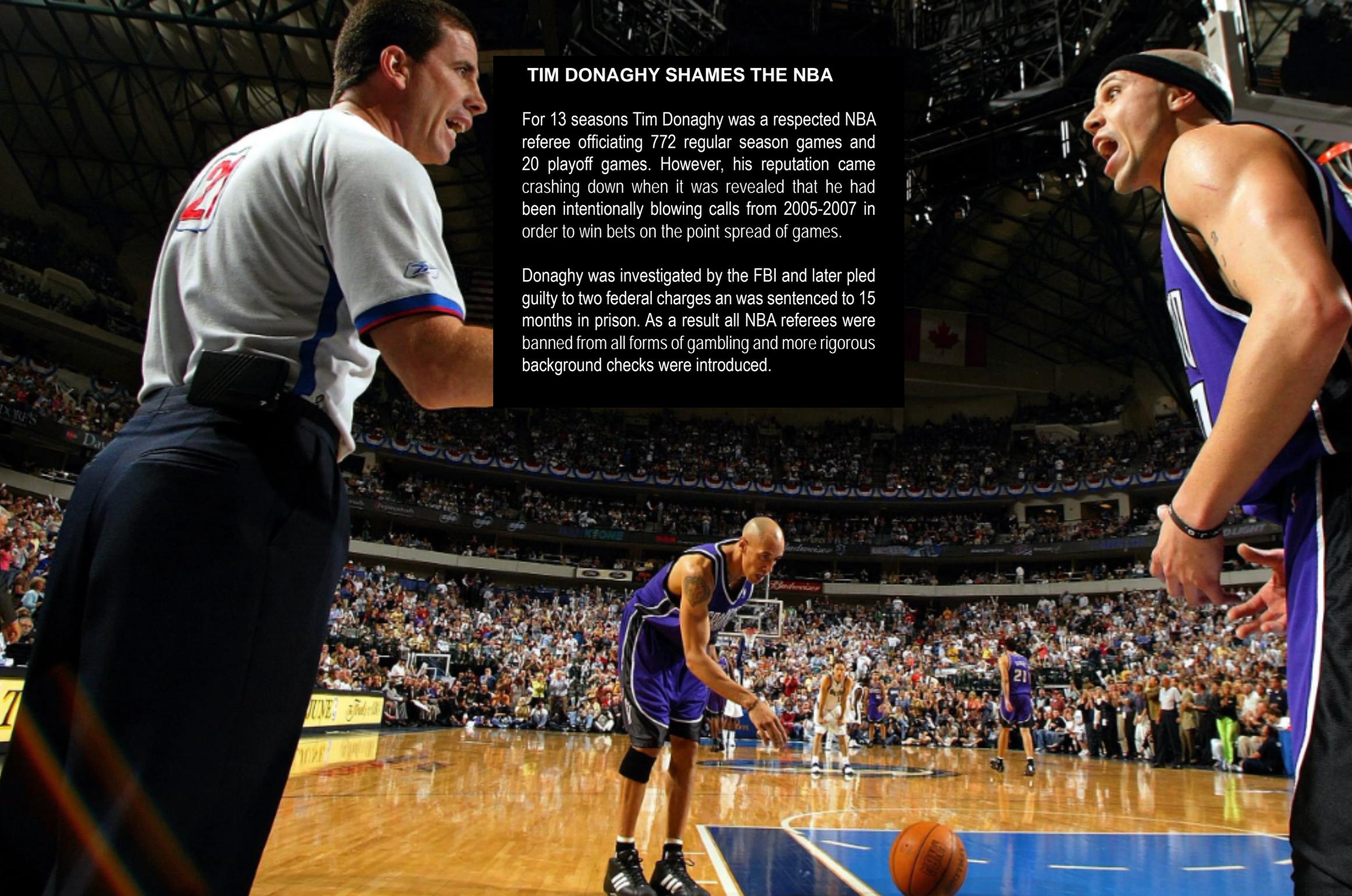
They had been told no action would be taken against them, but were immediately suspended. On their way out, a young boy is said to have called out to Jackson: 'Say it ain't so, Joe.' (The phrase became one of the most famous in American sporting history, though Jackson later claims the incident never happened.)



GALACTIC-OH NOS

When French police dug up an envelope full of francs in the backyard of Valenciennes player Christophe Robert in 1993, they uncovered the 'smoking gun' in one of football's most scandalous episodes. Robert alleged that he and team-mate Jorge Barrachaga were offered a bribe by Marseille - the reigning European champion - midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie and general manager Jean Pierre Berenes to throw what was the league-deciding game.

Marseille, a team of galacticos put together by flamboyant owner Bernard Tapie and featuring the likes of Eric Cantona, Didier Deschamps and Rudi Voller, won the match 1-0. That tainted league title would be the last thing Marseille won for a while. They were stripped of their 1992-1993 championship, relegated to the second division and barred from all European competition, denying them the right to defend their 1993 UEFA Champions League title and did not return to the top flight of French football until 1996.

A photograph of Tim Donaghy, an NBA referee, on a basketball court. He is wearing a white referee shirt with the number 27 on the back and dark blue pants. He is looking towards a player in a purple jersey who is shouting. The background shows a large arena filled with spectators.

TIM DONAGHY SHAMES THE NBA

For 13 seasons Tim Donaghy was a respected NBA referee officiating 772 regular season games and 20 playoff games. However, his reputation came crashing down when it was revealed that he had been intentionally blowing calls from 2005-2007 in order to win bets on the point spread of games.

Donaghy was investigated by the FBI and later pled guilty to two federal charges and was sentenced to 15 months in prison. As a result all NBA referees were banned from all forms of gambling and more rigorous background checks were introduced.

MARIE REINE LE GOUGNE SELLS OUT – ICE SKATING

Le Gougne became known for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games figure skating scandal. Although four other judges also placed Yelena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze ahead of the crowd favorites Jamie Salé and David Pelletier in the pairs free skating, Le Gougne was immediately singled out for suspicion by TV commentators. When she returned to the hotel, she was confronted by the chair of the Technical Committee. Le Gougne broke down saying she'd been pressured by the head of the French federation, Didier Gailhaguet, to put the Russians first as part of a deal to give the ice dancing gold to the French ice dance team.

But in the following days, she issued a number of contradictory statements and retractions.

Both Le Gougne and Gailhaguet were eventually suspended from the sport for three years by the International Skating Union.



CALCIOPOLI 2006

It was the scandal that ripped apart Italian football and it started when Italian police uncovered an elaborate network of match-fixing in both the Serie A and Serie B.

Prestigious clubs, including AC Milan, Fiorentina, Lazio and Reggina, were exposed in the elaborate ruse, which involved referees being used to influence the outcome of matches.

The hardest hit were the jewel in the crown of Italy, Juventus, who were relegated to Serie B, stripped of their 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 titles, kicked out of the 2006-2007 UEFA Champions League and forced to play three matches behind closed doors. Fiorentina was also barred from Europe that year, while Milan lost 30 competition points.

EPIISODE 6

SHORTCUTS TO VICTORY

FRED LORZ: MARATHON CHAMPION WHO TRAVELLED BY CAR

The marathon at the St Louis Olympic Games of 1904 was held over a hilly course in the middle of a scorching afternoon. Small wonder only 14 of the 32 starters made it to the finish.

First home, after 3 hours 13 minutes, was New Yorker, Fred Lorz, who was immediately proclaimed the winner. He had already been photographed with Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the President, and was about to be awarded the gold medal, when word got out that he'd covered 11 miles sat in the passenger seat of a car.

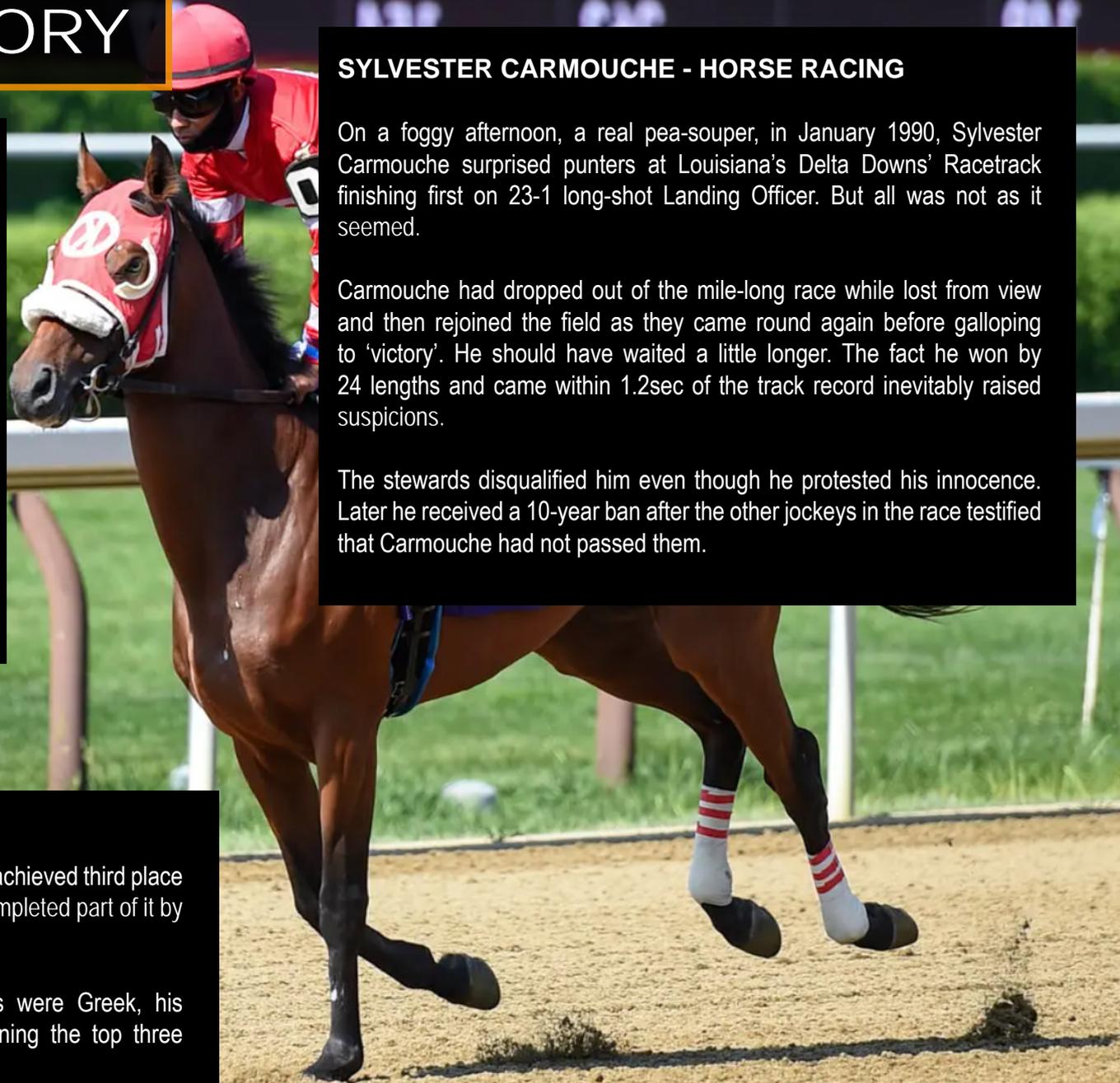
The crowd's acclaim rapidly turned to abuse. Although Lorz claimed it was a practical joke, he received a lifetime ban, which was later lifted.



SPIRIDON BELOKAS

Another Olympic Marathon cheater, in 1896 Spiridon achieved third place in the race, only for it to be discovered that he had completed part of it by horse and carriage.

He was disqualified, and as the first two winners were Greek, his disqualification deprived the host country from winning the top three prizes in the race.



SYLVESTER CARMOUCHE - HORSE RACING

On a foggy afternoon, a real pea-souper, in January 1990, Sylvester Carmouche surprised punters at Louisiana's Delta Downs' Racetrack finishing first on 23-1 long-shot Landing Officer. But all was not as it seemed.

Carmouche had dropped out of the mile-long race while lost from view and then rejoined the field as they came round again before galloping to 'victory'. He should have waited a little longer. The fact he won by 24 lengths and came within 1.2sec of the track record inevitably raised suspicions.

The stewards disqualified him even though he protested his innocence. Later he received a 10-year ban after the other jockeys in the race testified that Carmouche had not passed them.



Rosie Ruiz's Boston Marathon Short-cut

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line in the Boston Marathon. Her time was the fastest ever recorded in Boston and the third fastest of all time! She was crowned with the laurel wreath, and lauded as the fastest woman in Boston. However, suspicions quickly mounted against Ruiz. The men's winner noticed Ruiz could not recall things that most runners know by heart such as intervals and splits. Others noted that Ruiz appeared to have not broken a sweat and that her time from her previously claimed marathon had improved by 25minutes.

Further investigations found that there was no evidence of Ruiz having finished the New York marathon she claimed to have completed. Others came forward claiming to have seen Ruiz on the subway when she should have been running the race. With all this evidence the race committee stripped Ruiz of her title 8 days after she had claimed it, concluding that she had joined the race from the crowd just a few hundred feet from the finish line.



OFF

THE FENCE

Off the Fence Productions is an award-winning producer of factual television and theatrical documentaries.

We have created more than 500 hours of television content for a wide range of international broadcasters including History Channel, MTV, BBC, Channel 4, Discovery, MSNBC, PBS, Netflix, National Geographic, A&E, Smithsonian Channel, The Weather Channel, ZDF, Arte, and France Televisions.

The creative team have been recognised by more than 80 awards, including Royal Television Society, Emmy, Golden Panda and Grand Teton.

Our Netflix film 'My Octopus Teacher' recently won an Academy Award and a BAFTA for Best Documentary.



ACADEMY AWARD



BAFTA



EMMY



ROYAL TELEVISION



GREEN SCREEN



GOLD PANDA



JACKSON HOLE