

# TARNISHED GOLD

# Professor Spotlight

## Dark clouds dampen olympics

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This August, as athletes from 202 countries descended on Athens, scandal and controversy already hung heavy in the Olympic air. Greece, hoping to earn gold in track and field, watched its hopefuls be pulled out of competition just days before their events due to missed drug tests.

Weeks before the Games, U.S. Olympian Marion Jones



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Paul Hamm poses for a picture with the silver and bronze medalists after receiving the gold.

was named in a doping scandal involving the same company linked to San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds. As the competition began,

several Olympians participated and won medals only to have them stripped away after failing drug tests.

Even while the drug scandals hung over Athens, controversy of a different kind was still to come. As the world watched the men's gymnastics all-around competition, one young man's story was being written. Paul Hamm, who fell during the vault, was now in contention to take the gold. In a sports moment for the ages, Hamm turned in a spectacular performance to bring home the gold. Less than a day after this marvelous performance, his world began to come crashing down. A gymnast from South Korea, who finished third, was not judged correctly on one of his performances. The media immediately began to pressure Hamm to give up his gold. Trying to ignore the press, Hamm performed a few days

later in the high bar competition. Inciting yet more controversy, a Russian gymnast was the recipient of yet another judging mistake. The gymnast was given a mediocre score and was knocked out of medal contention by Paul Hamm, who took the silver.

He was made public enemy number one by the people in Athens. The president of the International Olympic Committee wrote Hamm after the Games to suggest he give up his medals. The president of the United States Olympic Committee politely told his colleague at the I.O.C. where he could stick his suggestion.

Hamm's life will never be the same. Other people's mistakes ruined what should have been the one of the greatest moments of his life. He had trained his entire life for this opportunity and then had his achievements put into question, which is wrong. He will forever be questioned about whether he really deserved the medals he earned in Athens. These are questions he should never have to answer.

Hamm's trouble at the Olympics only made the bad Olympic situation worse. It's a shame that after waiting four years and listening to the hype of the Olympics, the Games were ruined by clueless judges and athletes willing to cheat to win.

By Sharon Fufero, Staff Reporter and Eric Thomas, Assistant Editor  
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He's been spotted in flip-flops, jeans, and his infamous "black sheep" tie. The tie, covered in all white sheep except for one that sticks out like a sore thumb, may give some indication about the man behind the wardrobe.

It has to be Charles

to know the ins and outs of Middletown.

"I'm giving the Brownstone [Café] a recess. I overdosed on the Brownstone," Kupfer said. "And I always thought it would be nice if Middletown developed into a college town."

Kupfer has become wildly popular on campus since his arrival from Michigan State, where he taught as a graduate assistant. His classes have ranged from topics on

"I love my kids, and I love my students. I wouldn't change a thing."

-Dr. Kupfer

Kupfer's quirky personality that makes him a favorite among students.

Dr. Charles Kupfer is a little different. Unceasingly easy to get along with, Professor Kupfer's classes take on friendly discussion rather than traditional lecture and notes. Known to occasionally bunny trail from course material to the Texas Longhorns, among other things, Kupfer always has something interesting to say, and gives students equal opportunity to comment on the subject at hand.

Kupfer, an American Studies professor and program coordinator at PSH, has been around this area for a few years, long enough

sports and its impact on society to talking about the 1990's from a social-political point of view, a class he is teaching this semester. Mixed in have been classes on the family and also American history from 1877 until present day.

His says the topics are a clear indication of just who Charles Kupfer, the person, is.

"The courses are a reflection of my personality. I respond best to autonomy," Kupfer said, who promotes individuality in his classes for both course material and students. "I don't respond well to people looking over your

Please see Kupfer on 8

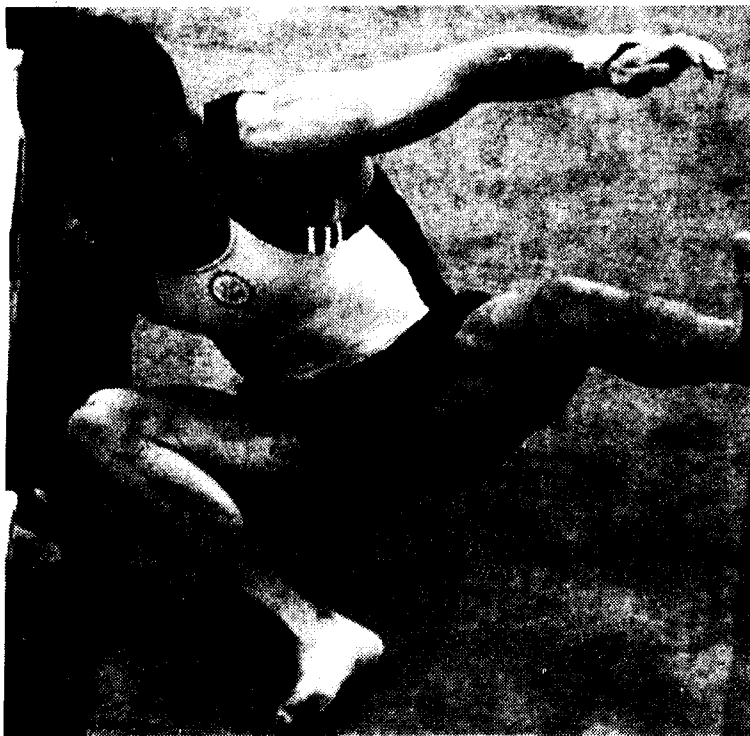


Photo from News Day.com

Paul Hamm takes a nasty fall off the the vault that almost cost him his gold medal.



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