

## Driesell raises controversy with statements on cocaine

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Former University of Maryland basketball coach Lefty Driesell says his remarks that cocaine can enhance the performance of athletes have been misinterpreted.

Driesell, who resigned under pressure last fall following the cocaine-induced death of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, said he never intended to imply he knew of any basketball players who used recreational drugs to help them perform better, nor to say that cocaine is good or helpful in the long run for an athlete.

Driesell said Sunday at a conference on drugs in sports at the University of Rhode Island that research he did 30 years ago led him to believe that cocaine can help athletic performance. He noted that four of the top players in Atlantic Coast Conference history — John Lucas of Maryland, David Thompson of North Carolina State and Walter Davis and Phil Ford of North Carolina — were admitted drug users.

"I'm a firm believer that, if you know how

to use cocaine and use it properly, it can make you play better. . . . I really believe cocaine can be performance-enhancing," Driesell said.

On Tuesday, Driesell told The Baltimore Sun, "I am violently opposed to the use of cocaine. It is highly toxic and usually becomes addictive. That was the conclusion of my study. But during the study, I was told that cocaine was a performance enhancer, that it might help for a night — but that it would do more harm than good in the long run."

"Why did the NCAA test everybody for drugs during the recent basketball tournament?" he continued. "I don't think they tested to prevent use of cocaine for social reasons. They did it because it enhances a player's performance. That's the same reason they test for drugs at the Olympics."

Some members of the athletic community lashed out at his comments.

Ohio State basketball Coach Gary Williams said the four players Driesell mentioned were

great, "but they didn't have to have any drug to play like they did in their primes. Every one was torn down by using cocaine."

"You can die. Three great players — Bias, Don Rogers (of the NFL's Cleveland Browns) and now that kid at Texas-El Paso (basketball player Jeep Jackson) — have died in the last year. . . . I can't believe Lefty could say it is performance enhancing."

Nor could Dr. Anthony Daly, major-league baseball's medical and drug-testing consultant and the medical director of the 1984 Olympic Games.

"That's unbelievable," Daly said Tuesday of Driesell's comments. "He must have had a lot of experience with cocaine, because that's not what's medically known."

"The only part (of what he said) that is correct is that people who take cocaine feel good about themselves, but only for a while. There's a certain euphoria. But that rapidly wears off. It lasts about 20 minutes."

"At first, you feel better about yourself. But you have to take a lot to feel really good,

and then when you do that, you can't feel good about yourself anymore."

"You get a rapid heart rate. It tends to reduce endurance and your concentration gets poorer."

"People who take it during games are not even sure where they're playing," Daly said. "It's the most addicting drug known to man. Of every three people who try it, one will become addicted to it."

Jack Zane, Maryland's sports information director, had no comment yesterday on Driesell's statements. He said Athletic Director Lew Perkins plans to meet with the former coach early next week, after Driesell returns from a convention in Orlando, Fla.

"Mr. Perkins wants to point out they were Mr. Driesell's personal comments," and not the opinions of the university, Zane said. Vice Chancellor A.H. "Bud" Edwards said Tuesday he wanted a clarification of Driesell's remarks.

"Our reasons are kind of fundamental. We're basically interested in the health of the

individual who is taking drugs," he said. "It's a detriment to health, I think that's clear."

Driesell said Tuesday he was shocked by reaction to his comments, and thought most people were aware the drug gives false short-term expectations to athletes.

Driesell has advocated drug testing to discourage drug abuse by athletes and also to prevent dependency on gamblers who might use an athlete's drug use to fix games.

Driesell saw the worst scenario develop on his own team a year ago when Bias died of cocaine intoxication two days after being taken in the first round of the NBA draft by the Boston Celtics.

Driesell said he would not be surprised if cocaine use had affected the outcome of college basketball games.

"That's not the only reason I'm in favor of drug testing," Driesell added. "The FBI agents I have talked with have said that people who are into cocaine are sitting ducks, easy targets for gamblers or other criminals."

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## McEnroe withdraws from tournament

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — John McEnroe withdrew from a Wimbledon grass court tuneup tournament yesterday, with organizers saying he was suffering from a leg injury.

The organizers of the Scottish Championships also said two other seeded Americans, Aaron Krickstein and Zina Garrison, would skip the tournament.

Garrison is bothered by a leg injury that forced her to miss the recent French Open. Her status for Wimbledon, beginning June 22, is doubtful, organizers said.

Krickstein has decided to skip all grass court tournaments from his schedule, the organizers said.

The tournament still has its top seeds, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the men's field and Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in the women's draw.

Seeded players are to join the tournament with quarterfinals today, when Lendl plays.

Two London-based national newspapers, the Times and the Daily Mirror, had reported yesterday that McEnroe was physically "not right yet" and would skip the Edinburgh event.

The Times also quoted McEnroe as saying the pressure building on his family was "intolerable" and that, while he accepted the blame for some of his trouble with tennis officials, "I just never seem to get a break."

The Times and the Mirror said McEnroe had practiced on grass courts in New York after his first-round elimination from the recent French Open and decided to skip Scotland.

"Physically I am not yet right. . . . My legs are still giving me a lot of trouble," McEnroe told the Times.

The seventh-ranked American complained of a leg injury after walking off the court during the final of the World Team Cup tournament in West Germany last month.

The head of the Men's International



John McEnroe

Professional Tennis Council, Marshall Harper, is investigating that incident and could suspend McEnroe for up to one year if he finds the American violated certain rules.

With various reviews and appeals, Harper said two weeks ago, no final decision on McEnroe would be made until after Wimbledon, which starts June 22.

McEnroe said his behavior in West Germany and the MIPTC investigation were on his mind.

"I made a mistake," he said, repeating a statement he made in Paris after his first-round loss to Horacio de la Pena. "I was hurting physically, but given a couple of minutes to think about it, I wouldn't have left the court."

"But I have got to put that behind me and I only wish Marshall Harper would conclude his investigation so I could focus on Wimbledon. At the moment, I am finding that hard to do."

McEnroe, who took a six-month break from tennis a year ago, said he was "getting beaten down by it all."

"I keep wondering whether I really need it, because the pressures on my family are becoming intolerable," he told the Times. "I know I bring a lot of it on myself but I am also unlucky in many ways. I just never seem to get a break."

McEnroe said he would play in a charity match in Dublin early next week.

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