

Baseball, Steroids & Hypocrisy

Submitted by a Baseball Fan
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When I was kid, youth sports didn't offer the options we have today. If a kid came from a less scaredy-cat home, you had LynVets football. Far more popular was our Ozone-Howard Little League, the sport of our youth was baseball. In addition to playing baseball, my generation collected and flipped baseball cards. It was the generation before baseball cards became collector's items. After that, flipping was finished. G-d forbid a card gets scratched and lose it's 'mint' condition. On top of that, I knew my stuff. Played Stratomatic, read my Baseball Encyclopedia, had the first copies of the American League Redbook & National League Greenbook from the Elias Sports Bureau. Yes, I cried when Seaver and Matlack lost games 6 & 7 to the Oakland A's in the 1973 World Series. I'm a baseball fan.

This steroid issue is bugging me. What bugs me is the blame game. Through media hype, congressional hearings and I believe 'the juice', Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens have become bulked up piñatas smacked around endlessly. While they've earned their scorn, there is much more blame to go around. Every real fan with a brain in their head felt McGwire & Sosa were taking something while breaking the Roger Maris home run record. If every average fan knew, I'm certain multi-millionaire, billionaire owners and Congress members knew. You know what? They didn't care. Obviously the fans didn't care. After a strike/ cancelled World Series soured fans, the McGwire/Sosa home run race was putting butts back in the seats. That's what the owner's cared about. Not steroids. The home run Derby continued as Bonds smashed

McGwire's record. The butts continued to fill seats at record levels. You know why? Because no matter how disgraceful we're being told this steroid issue is, the vast majority fans aren't offended by it.

Is taking steroids cheating? I'd agree steroids is cheating IF, you broke the league rules or the law when you took them. Wasn't the former movie star, current Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger a heavy steroid user? Not only didn't steroids hurt his career, they made his career. Is Arnold thought of as a cheater, a possible criminal for his steroid use? Such a ridiculous question, there's no need to answer. I wonder if Congressional members have as much desire to pound the gavel at Governor Schwarzenegger as they are at Bonds, Clemens, BASEBALL etc... During the Clemens Congressional hearings a Congressman put Roger's feet to the coals, rightfully questioning his meeting with a long lost nanny. Roger met with the nanny prior to investigators even though he knew they wanted to question her. A definite conflict. Clemens and players were scolded further for the baseball's unofficial buddy system where everyone keeps their mouth shut. Yet, there hasn't been a fuss made that Clemens was signing dozens of autographs for Congress members and staff. Like one article I read said, 'that's like OJ signing a football during the trial for Judge Ito.' Are you kidding me? Yet when I searched and searched I couldn't find one Congressional name who took these autographs. Why? I'll tell you. Congress put up their own wall of silence. They quickly realized this was a conflict of interest no-no. Since no Congressperson had the guts to pound the gavel at them self, I'll pound it here for them. Oh, the hypocrisy.

One Congressman tried to make sense of why Congress is involved in this steroid

issue. That was a good idea. Many were wondering with a deadly war ongoing, a self inflicted mortgage/economic crisis, health care and gas prices out of control and other pertinent issues going on, why is Congress involved with this (and investigating Patriot's spy gate scandal) in the first place? He said that the good is that steroids are now out in the open. He says steroid use amongst teenagers is starting to decline. I agree that's all good. My concern

is always the kids. My question is what took Congress so long? I graduated high school in 1982. Kids were taking steroids back then. It's been prevalent ever since. Why did it take bright lights and media hype for Congress to get involved? If Congress wants to feel good about itself for getting involved in the steroid issue their 20-30 years too late. Let the record state that when it comes to the baseball steroid issue, there is multiple blame to go around. See you next month.

