

Pearson Expresses Disappointment At Doping Scandal

Olympic hurdles champion Sally Pearson has expressed her disappointment at the doping scandal that has gripped top sprinters [Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay](#).

The 26-year-old Pearson, who won the 2011 World champion and 2012 Olympic champion in the 100 meters hurdles and a silver medal in the 100m hurdles at the 2008 Summer Olympics, said it is disappointing that these things happen, but it's good that WADA or whatever doping agency is keeping on top of the athletes. She added it is a shame that you have to talk about it and comment or have an opinion on it as you can be quite close to these athletes at the same time.

The reigning world and Olympic 100m hurdles champion added that we like to compete cleanly and fairly and also remarked that you've just got to keep going and working hard and being really diligent about what goes into your body and who you trust.

World and Olympic triple jump gold medalist Christian Taylor, a teammate of Gay's on the US team, said it is unfortunate for the sport that we even have to discuss it but added that it is good to have these organizations to stay on top of things from a sports standpoint. American high jump star Brigetta Barrett, the Olympic silver medalist in the London Games, remarked that it was always shocking when your heroes have fallen and you don't expect these people to have positive tests. Barrett urged for a better distribution of finances among athletes to close the gap that causes possible desperation. Justin Gatlin, the 2004 Olympic 100m champion who went on to serve a four-year doping ban, remarked it never crossed my mind that they were doping and added that you have to make sure you're responsible for what's going into your body.

Meanwhile, Olympic discus thrower Traves Smikle from Jamaica became the latest casualty of doping but remarked that he did not knowingly ingest a banned substance. The discus thrower remarked he regretted the "hurt and embarrassment" his failed test caused a country that is still digesting news of positive tests from two high-profile sprinters and another discus thrower. The [Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission](#) (JADCO) notified Smikle of the positive test after his urine sample from the Jamaica National Trials in June returned an adverse analytical finding. Smikle joined former world 100 meters record-holder Asafa Powell, Olympic 4x100m relay silver medalist Sherone Simpson, and fellow discus thrower Allison Randall, as athletes from Jamaica to confirm doping violations from the Jamaican trials.

In a statement, Smikle said he is very saddened and surprised personally by these findings, as he has never attempted to cheat and have always considered himself an ambassador for the sport

and a strong supporter of drug testing. The 21-year-old Smikle has requested analysis of his 'B' sample said he and was willing to work with the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission in any investigation to get this matter dealt with in the best way possible.

In another development, Olympic discus thrower Allison Randall acknowledged receipt of the Jamaica Anti-doping Commission's (JADCO) notification of her adverse finding for a banned diuretic but denied knowingly taking a performance-enhancing substance.