

## Adidas suspends sponsorship of athlete Tyson Gay

17<sup>th</sup> July, 2013



Picture: Creative Commons via doug88888 on Flickr.com

Sportswear manufacturer Adidas has suspended its sponsorship of U.S. sprinter Tyson Gay after the athlete failed a drugs test. Mr Gay, 30, is the joint second-fastest man ever over 100 metres and the fastest man in the world this year. He tested positive for a banned substance in an out-of-competition test on May 16. An Adidas spokesman said: "We are shocked by these recent allegations. Even if we presume his innocence until proven otherwise, our contract with Tyson is currently suspended." The sportswear giant had been sponsoring Gay since 2005. It has the right to terminate the contract, "if the athlete is found guilty of the possession or use of drugs or any other prohibited substance".

Gay is currently waiting to hear the results of his B-test, following the illegal stimulant being found in his initial A-test. He told reporters on Monday that he did not knowingly take part in any doping programme. He said: "I don't have a sabotage story. I basically put my trust in someone and was let down. I know exactly what went on, but I can't discuss it right now." He said he was still optimistic about the future, saying: "I hope I am able to run again, but I will take whatever punishment I get like a man." News of Gay's positive test emerged shortly after another sprinter, Jamaica's former 100m world record holder Asafa Powell, was also revealed to have failed a drugs test.

Sources: BBC / ESPN / NBC Sports

### Writing

*Adidas is wrong to suspend Tyson Gay's sponsorship before all test results are known. Discuss.*

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*sportswear / sponsorship / athlete / drugs test / allegations / banned / innocence / illegal / doping programme / sabotage / trust / be let down / optimistic / punishment*

### True / False

- Adidas has announced its sponsorship deal with Adidas is over. T / F
- Gay failed a test immediately after running in a world race in May. T / F
- Adidas said it believes Gay is guilty. T / F
- Adidas has sponsored Gay since 2005. T / F
- Gay is now waiting to find out the results of a follow-up drug test. T / F
- Gay said he has no knowledge of any doping programme. T / F
- Gay vowed to fight any punishment he receives. T / F
- Another top sprinter failed a drug test just before Gay did. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. manufacturer | a. presently   |
| 2. suspended    | b. hopeful     |
| 3. substance    | c. illegal     |
| 4. allegations  | d. consciously |
| 5. prohibited   | e. maker       |
| 6. currently    | f. penalty     |
| 7. knowingly    | g. claims      |
| 8. trust        | h. put on hold |
| 9. optimistic   | i. faith       |
| 10. punishment  | j. material    |

### Discussion – Student A

- Is it OK for a sports star to say they didn't know?
- How can athletes make 100% certain that no prohibited substances enter their body?
- How do you think Usain Bolt feels about all this?
- How do you think the person Gay trusted let him down?
- Do you think Gay will run again in international events?
- What punishment should Gay get if he's found guilty?
- What damage have Gay and Powell done to athletics?
- What questions would you like to ask Tyson Gay?

## Phrase Match

- |                                        |                            |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the joint second-                   | a. until proven otherwise  |
| 2. we presume his innocence            | b. and was let down        |
| 3. sportswear                          | c. stimulant               |
| 4. It has the right to                 | d. take part in any doping |
| 5. drugs or any other                  | e. fastest man ever        |
| 6. illegal                             | f. what went on            |
| 7. he did not knowingly                | g. terminate the contract  |
| 8. I basically put my trust in someone | h. I get like a man        |
| 9. I know exactly                      | i. prohibited substance    |
| 10. I will take whatever punishment    | j. giant                   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'doping'?
- What do you think of athletes who use illegal substances?
- How surprised are you at the news of 2 top sprinters failing drug tests?
- Is Adidas right to suspend Gay even though he hasn't been proven guilty?
- What should happen to Gay's records and medals if he is guilty?
- How much of a risk do companies take when they sponsor sports stars?
- How many top sports stars do you think use illegal stimulants?
- Should Gay face trial for dishonouring the contract with Adidas?

## Spelling

- Sportswear uanruecmrfat Adidas
- shocked by these recent otniglaaels
- presume his inneccone until proven otherwise
- It has the right to ineattemr the contract
- the osessonisp or use of drugs
- ... or any other hiiebordpt substance
- illegal tanulmtsi
- I don't have a tbeasgao story
- he was still icpuiomtst about the future
- I will take whatever ntiuspehmn I get
- News of Gay's positive test degmree shortly
- rlevaede to have failed a drugs test

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. g	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. i	9. b	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Tyson Gay

You believe you are innocent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them it is impossible for any athlete to understand what is in the food and training supplement you get. Someone you really trusted let you down. Ask to be given a second chance.

### Role B – Athletics chief

You think Gay should be banned for life if he's found guilty. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them also you will start the biggest anti-doping measures any sport has ever seen. Tell them athletics is the most important sport in the world too to be kept clean.

### Role C – Adidas boss

You are tired of sports stars turning to performance-boosting substances. Tell the others three reasons why. If Gay is innocent, you want to sue him. Tell the others three reasons why. You think so many sports stars use drugs it is simply better to allow anyone to use anything.

### Role D – Tyson Gay fan

You are angry with Adidas for suspending Gay. Tell the others three reasons why. You want Adidas to support him, especially when he hasn't even been found guilty yet. It's not Gay's fault. He should not get banned. Athletes are not scientists – they don't know what's inside food and medicine.

## Speaking

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put who would most shock you for drug use at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- an Olympic sprinter
- a pilot
- a famous actor
- a religious leader
- a police chief
- a leading surgeon
- your country's leader
- the head of the U.N.

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.