

**DENNIS MITCHELL (US)**  
Lane 8:10.04. Fourth  
Two-year ban for high levels of testosterone in 1998. Claim that he had sex four times on night before test accepted by US Track & Field but not IAAF



**ROBSON DA SILVA (BR)**  
Lane 1:10.11. Fifth  
The Brazilian was off the pace in the 100 metres final but later claimed the bronze medal in the 200 metres, behind Lewis, who took silver



**DESAI WILLIAMS (CAN)**  
Lane 7:10.11. Sixth  
Part of the Canadian training group that included Johnson but never used drugs and is now a respected sprinting coach in his homeland



**RAYMOND STEWART (JAM)**  
Lane 2:12.26. Seventh  
Finished a distant last with leg injury. Coached several US Olympic medal-winners but given life ban in 2010 after supplying some with drugs



BIG MARTIN / GETTY IMAGES

had provided my urine sample. I left the drug-testing room and found André did not really have any reason to be in the drug-testing area. He was just going to wait for me, to see what goes on in drug testing, then leave."

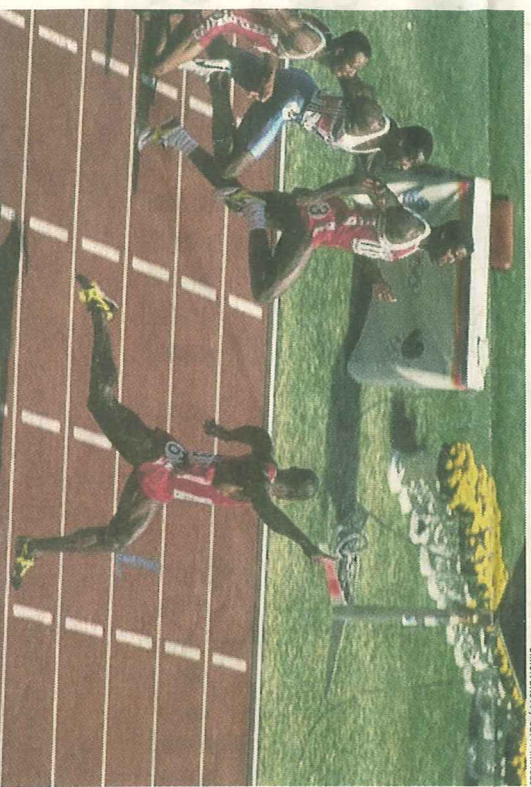
When I meet Joe Douglas I ask him about Jackson. By now Johnson's book has come out with his renewed claims that he was sabotaged — not to mention Jackson's alleged confession. The story had garnered a few column inches, but not as many as Johnson hoped. The world, it seems, has grown tired of his conspiracies. Still, though, Douglas must have been aware of what Johnson has alleged.

"What did I make of it?" Douglas asks, before suffering a coughing fit. When he recovers, he pauses. "I hesitate to give you the truth," he says. And he pauses again, staring at the table. "OK, I'll tell you the story. We wanted to make sure that he didn't take, ah, any, ah, masking agents. That everything was done legal and fair. I don't even remember how the heck... But anyway, André just sat down in the room. That's all he did."

Jackson was planted by Douglas? "I think he had a camera," he replies. "He was to take a picture of Ben if he takes anything. Any masking agents. Because I think there were some things that went on in 1987, in Rome when Johnson won gold at the World Championships. He was later stripped of that medal, too!" That was where Francis was overheard threatening to say that Johnson had gonorrhoea if they found traces of probenecid.

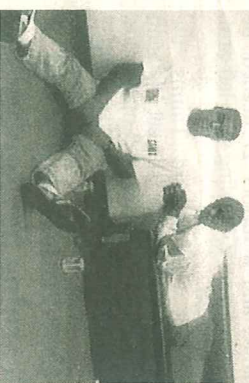
So Douglas has confirmed it: he did plant Jackson in the testing centre. But to monitor Johnson, he says, not to sabotage him. It doesn't answer another question: how did he get him in when Jackson was not a member of the US team? Douglas smiles. "We made sure he got accredited."

You must be well connected. I suggest, "Yuh," he nods, speaking softly. "I played some games..."



SHOWN BODDY / GETTY IMAGES

**Fool injection: Johnson wins the Olympic final by yards only to fail a test for an anabolic steroid. A new book features Jackson, below left, a close friend of Lewis, who is pictured in the drug testing area with Johnson, below left**



All this leaves is the man himself: André "Action" Jackson. The chairman of the Angola-based African Diamond Council — whose motto, "insist on the truth", bodes well — is not very difficult to track down.

He responds to an e-mail with a reply that reads: "I will allow you the opportunity to (at least) explain your project as well as your intentions." When I call Jackson, he tells me: "I won't talk about this today. But what

Jackson says he's reluctant to say more, but keeps talking. He's soft-spoken and engaging. "Whatever I say, it won't change much." He says he's been called by lots of journalists, all keen to ask him about his role as the "mystery man". "I don't discuss this with Joe. I don't discuss this with Carl. I don't discuss this with Ben. The conversations I have with Carl today are conversations relevant to 2011.

"It's about Ben and Carl. I'm in the middle of this, both of these guys I speak to on a regular basis. At this point in my life, regardless of what has happened in the past, we've all grown older, we're more mature, we have reached a level of understanding, regardless of what I've done, or what has happened. I mean, we found a truce between the three of us."

There doesn't seem to be a truce between Johnson and Lewis, I say. "I mean my relationship with Carl and my relationship with Ben, not between them," says Jackson. "I don't try to push these guys together."

It seems strange that Jackson can maintain good relations with a man accusing him of sabotage.

"There are consequences to that, of course, and he has to realise that. Even still, Ben is guilty of making mistakes in terms of what he says, the people he associates with, the power he gives to other people. And regarding Carl, he really doesn't want to open this subject. He's running for public office now and he's trying to do a lot of things outside of this."

But why would Johnson continue to make his accusations?

"You have to put things in perspective. He has an underlying desire to clear his name, and he would do it at any cost. Of course, everyone is curious to know what my version is. I was very straightforward with Ben when we sat down to discuss this. In terms of him having a taped conversation, if he has a taped conversation, then let's play it."

"If you saw someone put stanozolol in your drink, show me where you actually see me doing that. Did I give him the beer? Of course I did. Was I in there? Of course I was. Was I accredited? Of course I wasn't. Did I violate any laws or regulations? No. I didn't."

Johnson had said Jackson spoke in riddles. And he does. It's difficult to follow everything he says. But it's very simple, I say. He could set the record straight on whether or not he put stanozolol in Johnson's beer in Seoul. "Of course I can say I didn't," says Jackson. "But I can also say I did, too. What's the benefit?"

*Lewis still cannot bring himself to hate Johnson, the man who tried to cheat him out of a gold medal. Twenty-four years on the American's status as the best ever is challenged by Usain Bolt. The two-time Olympic 100 metres champion ruminates on the Jamaican star's legend.*

**W**hen Lewis talks about Bolt, his speech slows down and he weighs his words carefully. "It's... interesting."

It's just... interesting. The pauses, accompanied by a narrowing of the eyes and thin smile, are so heavily pregnant that they seem about to give birth; only for Lewis to laugh and lighten the tone. "I don't follow it as much because track and field is really hard to follow in the States. I just watch the results like everyone else and wait... for time to tell. Ha!" It is clear what Lewis is implying.

When Bolt ran a world record 9.69sec at the Beijing Olympics it was, many agreed, the most thrilling 100 metres final since 1988. But the post-race reaction was quite different.

Though there was scepticism in Seoul, it was largely confined to journalists and those in the know. Twenty years later, the world knew not only about Johnson's secret, but also that three of his successors — Linford Christie, Maurice Greene and Justin Gatlin — had been discredited. Only Donovan Bailey, whose win in Atlanta in 1996 represented a moment of redemption for Canada, had survived with his reputation intact. By 2008, that was perhaps not enough for the 100 metres to retain its credibility. Lewis cites Greene as an example.

"When Maurice was running around saying, 'I'm the greatest of all time,' I said, 'Well, time will tell.'"

The similarities between Beijing and Seoul were striking. Both represented a dramatic improvement on the previous record; both were heart-stopping. But whereas in Seoul even the sceptics were thrilled by what they witnessed, in Beijing the questions followed as inevitably as the world record. For many, celebrations were checked for fear they might be premature. This was not Bolt's fault. It is the legacy of knowing that the race might not be decided by the finishing line, but in the laboratory.

This seems to be what Lewis is acknowledging when he tells us: "History defines the greatest. Time always tells. We're old enough to know that. Wait around long enough and you'll get your answers."

Still the questions are about Bolt. That must infuriate Lewis. What does he think Bolt would have to do to replace him as the best of all time? For once he is lost for words. "I mean... You... I mean... I don't even think about that. Is that his goal?"

Perhaps if Bolt successfully defends his title in London he will be regarded as the greatest ever. "It's very rare to repeat success," Lewis replies. "To win two Olympic 100 metres titles, nobody has ever done it."

"It's interesting that you say nobody's done it." I say, "because technically, you have."

"I said else," says Lewis sharply. "Nobody else has done it." He forces a laugh. "I don't look at it that way, some people might. The reality is, if Ben hadn't cheated, I'd have won. I'm really proud of that race in Seoul. It goes up there with the top ones because everyone could've chosen to get on drugs to try to beat Ben, because we all knew he was on it. But we chose not to do it. So the right people got the medals and the right people won."

So his memory of the race isn't sullied at all. "Not really," he shrugs. "My father died in 1987 and the last thing I told him was I'd win that medal back. And when I crossed that line and originally Ben was in front, I went over to shake his hand and he kinda looked away and he was boastful and everything. And I knew he was dirty. So therefore I made him shake my hand."

Their rivalry did contain a pantomime aspect, he says. It was cultivated but that served him and Johnson and the sport. "What the sport needs is rivalries," says Lewis. "I enjoyed all of that. I understood the importance of that. I worked it."

"I mean," Lewis adds, "the Ben thing, everyone's like, 'You must hate him.' I say, 'What, are you kidding me? That guy made me so much money it's ridiculous.'"

### Sport Exclusive book extracts

#### Life in the fast lanes



**BEN JOHNSON (CAN)**  
Lane 6-9/79, Disqualified  
Tested positive after final in 1988 and received a two-year ban. Returned for 1992 Games but failed another test in 1993 and received a life ban



**CARL LEWIS (US)**  
Lane 3:9/90 OR, Cold  
Documents revealed that Lewis tested positive for a stimulant at the Olympic trials in 1988 but the US Committee cleared him saying the use was "inadvertent"



**LINFORD CHRISTIE (GB)**  
Lane 4:9/97, Silver  
Found guilty in 1999 of using nandrolone after a meeting in Germany. Claimed that he had "pretty much retired" and denied wrong-doing



**CALVIN SMITH (US)**  
Lane 5:9/99, Bronze  
The only man of the first five whose career has never been tarnished by drugs. Has claimed he deserved the gold medal. Now an English teacher

# 'Did I hand beer after Seoul final? Of course'

I want you back please! Full

The new book by **Richard Moore** reveals the fascinating, tangled web of intrigue behind one of the most famous drug busts in sport – the 100 metres final at the 1988 Olympic Games



On September 24, 1988 Ben Johnson captivated all observers with a stunning victory in the 100 metres final in a world record time to end the debate over who — he or Carl Lewis — was the fastest man on earth. Johnson's eyes bulged madly as he crossed the line. Two days later the world was shocked again.

Since Alexandre de Mèrode's letter, on behalf of the IOC medical commission, was hand-delivered to the Canadian Olympic team's headquarters in the athletes' village at 1.45am, it was opened by Carol Anne Letheren, the team's chef de mission. It stated that Ben Johnson's sample had tested positive; it didn't name the substance detected in his urine. Letheren started blankly at the letter but kept the contents to herself. As dawn broke over Seoul, she spoke to William Stanish, Canada's chief medical officer, and Dave Lyon, the athletics team manager.

At Zam Lyon was dispatched to Charlie Francis's apartment. Lyon didn't beat around the bush. "We've got to get over to the commission," he told Francis. "Ben's tested positive."

When Francis entered the team headquarters he met Letheren and Stanish. Francis was genuinely baffled, which reassured his colleagues. They assumed his surprise came from his confidence in Johnson.

But Francis's mind was processing quite different information. He was thinking about Johnson's final steroid cycle, and concluding that he had stopped taking them in plenty of time before Seoul, that the drugs would have cleared his system, they always did. It made no sense.

The man at the centre of the storm was still in the Hilton Hotel, oblivious. Johnson lay in bed in suite 2718. Francis didn't want to tell him yet. Instead, at 10am, he, Lyon and Stanish drove to the anti-doping laboratory, where they met Manfred Donike and

Arnold Beckett, in their capacity as members of the medical commission. Beckett confirmed that a banned substance had been detected. "But before we tell you what the substance is," he said to Francis, "can you think of anything that might have caused it?"

Francis replied that he couldn't. The metabolites found in Johnson's urine, Beckett then told him, were stanozolol; the substance for which Donike had developed a test with the help of his guinea pig, Don Catlin. This baffled Francis even more: his athletes had been on estragol, not stanozolol.

By now, Johnson was being driven to the laboratory. He had a note from Jamie Astaphan, confirming that he was not taking any banned substances. "He was less upset than I might have expected," Francis observed. "A lot less upset than I was."

Johnson was quizzed by Beckett for fifteen minutes. Though Don Catlin has said that athletes will sometimes admit to having taken something

illegal when they visit the lab after a positive test, Johnson stuck to the mantra Francis had drilled into all his athletes: "Deny, deny, deny." But he did say that there had been a third party in the anti-doping room.

"I knew something was funny — that guy in the testing room must have messed me up," said Johnson. Beckett asked if he knew who the mystery man was, and Johnson replied, "It was a tall black guy." (He apparently didn't remember the name Andre Jackson until years later.)

Beckett had also asked Francis about the "mystery man". "It was a white guy," said Francis. "Come on," said Beckett. "Get your story straight."

Despite the hopelessness of the situation, Dick Pound appeared on Johnson's behalf and mounted a passionate defence. He opted not to identify a single cause or explanation. As Pound says: "I'm explaining about the lack of security and the informality in the doping control station, and the presence of this mystery person, and saying there was too much opportunity for something to go wrong."

Mr Pound, would you be interested in the scientific results of the tests?" "And I tell you, if you're a lawyer, you know you're dead at this point," Pound says. "I said: 'I'm not sure, but our chief medical officer might.' And I look over at Stanish, our medical guy, who's about that colour."

Pound points to the white walls in his office. "What have we just heard?" he asked. "What we've just heard is that, not only did they find stanozolol in the urine, but his entire renal cortex function is so depressed that it's clear this is not the first time he's used this stuff."

After almost three hours, the commission found against Johnson, and told the Canadian contingent they would recommend his disqualification. The next day, before the official

announcement and Johnson's disqualification, Letheren had to retrieve his medal. Letheren had become fond of Johnson, even slightly protective. In the company of Francis and Stanish, she went to room 2718.

They found Johnson with his mother and sister, both of whom were sobbing. Ben had broken the news to his mother. Gloria Johnson recalled the scene years later for a BBC documentary: "He said to me: 'Mom, guess what? I test positive.'"

"I said, 'Oh no — that can't be.' And he lay down in the bed, his hands crossed behind his head, and he stretched out. I said: 'Don't worry, everything is going to be OK.' That's all I could say to him at that moment."

Also in the room were the agent Larry Heidebrecht, already counting the lost millions (\$10 million in 1989), according to Heidebrecht, \$25 million over the course of his career), and a stunned Jamie Astaphan. Francis quietly asked him whether Johnson

could possibly have taken stanozolol. Astaphan responded by shaking his head. Johnson, meanwhile, was the calmest person in the room, according to Francis. "He hugged his mother and said: 'Come on, Mom, nobody's died.'"

Letheren became emotional when asking for the gold medal, which Johnson had given to his mother. "Ben, this is very hard for me to do," said Letheren, "but I have to take back the medal."

"Here it is," said Johnson. "I can't lose something I never owned." Ben was very co-operative," said Letheren. "He didn't really say anything. It was like a waker: it had that sense of grieving, and pain, and probably some anger. And, I would suggest, some denial and disbelief."

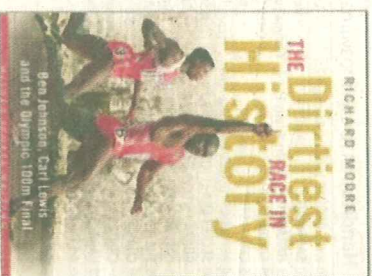
When Francis mentioned the sabotage theory during the Dublin Inquiry it prompted a flurry of media interest. A newspaper-driven manhunt was launched. A Canadian businessman offered \$10,000 if the "mystery man" came forward and testified. But Jackson didn't come forward.

As far as Lewis was concerned, there was no mystery. His book is explicit: "The mystery man is Andre Jackson, the friend who stayed with my family in Seoul... I've known Andre for about five years. He loves to travel, so he often shows up for track meets. He has become friends with a lot of people on the track circuit. Seoul was one of the few trips Andre actually planned ahead. Usually, he just shows up."

"I'm not sure how Andre got into the drug-testing area. Either he had one of my passes for admission to the area or he got one from an Olympic official. The passes were amazingly easy to get considering how strict the overall security was. Anyway, I was surprised when I looked in the waiting area and saw Andre sitting with Ben. Once I

#### The key players

Charlie Francis Johnson's coach who has claimed the sprinter had used estragol but not stanozolol  
Andre Jackson Athletics fan and Lewis's friend who was present for Johnson's post-race drugs test  
Joe Douglas Lewis's agent who ensured that Jackson gained entry to the drug-testing area  
Jamie Astaphan The physician who provided Johnson and others with performance-enhancing drugs  
Dick Pound Canadian lawyer who spoke in Johnson's defence but, ironically, later became president of the World Anti-Doping Agency  
Charlie Dublin Chief Justice of Ontario who chaired a Royal Commission on drug use in athletics  
Prince Alexandre de Mèrode Chairman of the IOC medical commission



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