

PREFACE

The Interface Between Sport Psychiatry and Sports Medicine



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Guest Editors

Psychiatrists have worked with athletes for many years. Their involvement in professional sports teams has been primarily focused on working with the perennial issues of substance abuse and substance abuse prevention. It was not until 1992, however, that the International Society for Sport Psychiatry was created, with Dan Begel as its inaugural president. Since then, active involvement with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association has also been fostered, as has psychiatric participation within the sport psychology and sports medicine fields.

There have been many developments in this emerging field. Among them, raising awareness of the potential problems in women's gymnastics during the 1996 Olympics in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Tofler, Stryer, and others, and International Society for Sport Psychiatry (ISSP) immediate past president Ron Kamm's work with transitional issues in ex-boxers in the New York/New Jersey area.

The foundations of sport psychiatry literature have been gradually laid down. First, with the publication in 1998 of the *Clinics of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* issue on sport psychiatry guest-edited by Ian Tofler, with the encouragement of editor Melvin Lewis. The first textbook, *Sport Psychiatry: Theory and Practice* (Norton press), edited by Daniel Begel and Bob Burton, the first two ISSP presidents, came out in 2000, and has had a galvanizing effect on developing further interest in the area. As empirical research continues to lag, the editors hope this new issue will help encourage further contributions.

The editors have brought together a strong collection of authors for this issue, which we hope and trust will facilitate the interface, communication, understanding, and sense of collegiality between sports medicine physicians and sport psychiatrists in the practical day-to-day work with youth, college, and professional athletes and in the academic arena.

In this issue, the athlete is considered from the points of view of the initial interview, the developing athlete, and the normal, nurturing, and potential pathogenic contributions of the family and other systems involved in achievement-by-proxy situations with the child and adolescent athlete. Psychopathology that can develop in conjunction with sporting participation, including attention deficit disorder, substance abuse, depression, suicidality, and eating disorders, are all introduced or re-examined from a psychiatric perspective for the sports medicine professional.

Golf, one of the most influential sports in the past decades, is reinterpreted from a psychiatric standpoint, and hypnosis as a form of performance enhancement is reconsidered.

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