



Marion Jones, right, shown in tears while addressing media Friday in White Plains, N.Y., has given back the five Olympic medals she won in track and field at the 2000 Sydney Games in Australia. In the background is Jones' mother, Marion Toler. Jones admitted to using steroids.

Sprinter returns Olympic medals

SEATTLE (AP) - Her reputation is gone, and so are Marion Jones' Olympic medals.

Jones on Monday gave back the five medals she won in track and field at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and agreed to forfeit all other results dating back to Sept. 1, 2000, further punishment for her admission she was a drug cheat.

The three gold medals and two bronzes were turned over by her attorneys in Austin, Texas. The medals are en route to U.S. Olympic Committee headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., and USOC officials intend to return them to the International Olympic Committee.

"We've done what we can," said Jim Scherr, USOC chief executive officer. "We caught the person who was not clean. We've got the medals in our possession, and we will return them to IOC."

Fielding a clean team is a priority for a country trying to improve its image in the Olympic movement — and win the right to host the 2016 Games — and USOC Chairman Peter Ueberroth pledged Monday that the United States will have a drug-free team at next year's Beijing Olympics.

After long denying she ever had used performance-enhancing drugs, Jones admitted Friday she had taken the designer steroid "the clear" from September 2000 to July 2001. "The clear" has been linked to BALCO, the Burlingame, Calif., lab at the center of the steroids scandal in professional sports.

Jones' admission came as part of her guilty plea to lying to federal investigators about using steroids. Jones, 31, will be sentenced Jan. 11, and prosecutors had suggested to her the prison term would be a maximum of six months.

It will be up to the IOC and track-and-field's governing body, the IAAF, to decide what to do with Jones' medals. She won golds in the 100 meters, 200 meters and the 1,600 relay, and bronze medals in the 400 relay and long jump.

Though there is precedent for punishing only one member of a relay team, Scherr and Ueberroth encouraged the other Americans to give back their medals, too.

Jearl Miles-Clark, Monique Hennagan, LaTasha Colander-Richardson and Andrea Anderson all won golds as part of the 1,600-meter relay. Torri Edwards, Chryste Gaines, Nanceen Perry and Passion Richardson were on the 400-meter relay team.

"We would impress upon those athletes to return their medals to the IOC if that is within their conscience to do so," Scherr said.

Edwards and Gaines have served doping bans since the 2000 Olympics.

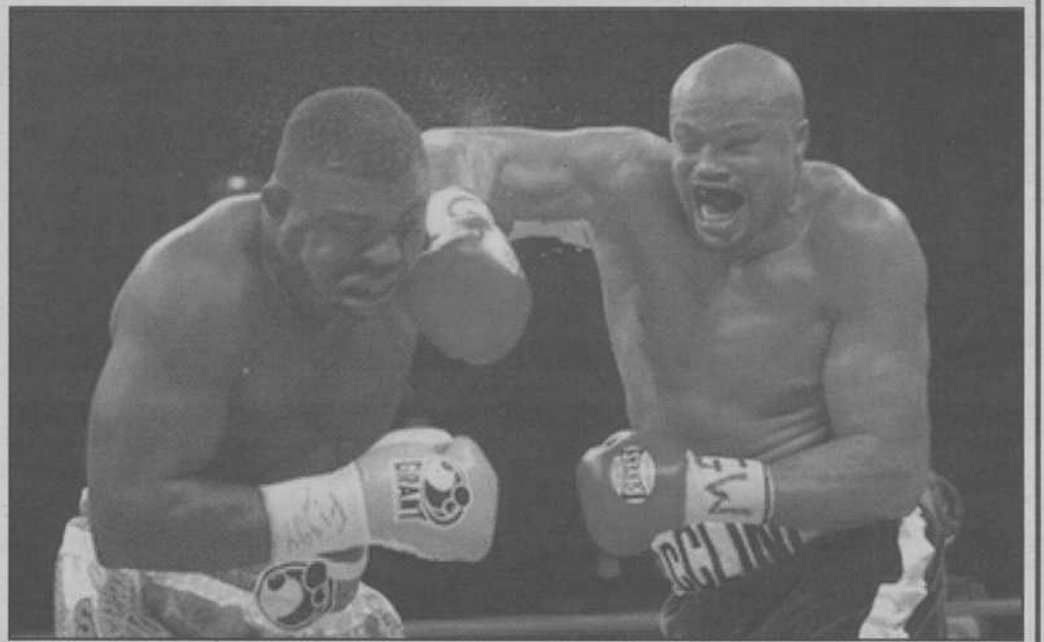
"It's our opinion when any sporting event is won unfairly, it's completely tarnished and should be returned. The relay events were won unfairly," Ueberroth said. "It's very unfortunate, but your result involved cheating, so the result is unfair to the other athletes of the world."

Though Jones announced her retirement after the court hearing, she accepted a two-year ban Monday and agreed to forfeit any results dating back to Sept. 1, 2000. That includes the two golds (200 and 400 relay) and silver (100) she won at the 2001 world championships in Canada.

Jones stands to lose more. Scherr said the USOC plans to go after Jones for prize money it awarded her, about \$100,000.

PETER PREVAILS

Jameel McCline lands a right on Samuel Peter of Nigeria during their WBC Heavyweight Championship bout, on Saturday at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Peter survived three knockdowns en route to a 12-round unanimous decision over American McCline to cement his WBC interim heavyweight title.



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