

## muscle physiology lecture 26

### anabolic steroids

unnecessary risk for harm and social coercion that facilitates it.

- in most major sports, steroids are likely to be a requisite component of elite competition but you are not obligated in any way to compete @ that lvl.

may get minor side effects from doses of steroids - part of the game,

just like 300lb men tackling you - nobody is forcing you play.

average length of nfl career is three years - due to injuries. in 1991

1.5 million play football and 1.2 million injuries are caused by football

steroids are the game "want to be in nfl but don't want to take steroids"

same as "want to play but don't want anybody to hit me." not forced.

steroids make sports unfair - engender an unlevel playing field.

many things give unlevel playing field - money, DNA, etc. can't change.

genes determine so much and there is nothing you can do to change it

unfair - law that only allows athletes, price (if one can afford but

another athlete can't) if legal price is unfair. money and genetics

are the most unlevel playing field. ex: rich kid with private

coaches and better equipment versus poor kid with nothing. this

unfairness applies to every sport but nobody cares & the sport does

not care either. if poor kid used steroids - "unlevel playing field"

steroids contravene the spirit of the sports we cherish. this

argument involves the purity of sports with implications of virtue.

we want something remarkable - junky sports events are watched.

boring to watch people do what you can do. poetic argument

about the soul of sports but history of sports has never been

clean. ancient greeks used plant seeds and potions, even the

horses in chariot races were drugged. nothing inherently

valuable about any sport - it is entertainment.