

# Gatlin Hopes Campbell-Brown Not Hastily Judged

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Justin Gatlin realizes that to some his reputation will be forever tarnished by a positive test for excessive testosterone in 2006.

That's fine. He served his four-year suspension and no longer worries about critics.

The American sprinter hopes that judgment on Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown following her suspension for a positive test is reserved until everything is examined.

"When you see someone who has such a stellar pedigree like hers, from youth age to now, you have to sit and wait and watch what happens," said Gatlin, who will run in the first round of the 100 meters on Thursday at U.S. Championships. "I wish the best for her."

Campbell-Brown, the reigning 200-meter world champion and three-time Olympic gold medalist, was suspended by Jamaica's national federation on Tuesday pending an investigation into a

positive drug test. Jamaican officials said Campbell-Brown tested positive for a banned diuretic at a meet on the island in May.

Campbell-Brown's manager, Claude Bryan, recently said the accusation came as a "shock to her," and the sprinter is determined to clear her name.

Gatlin has steadily regained his form since returning in July 2010 from his ban, capturing a bronze medal in London last summer. He maintained that his positive test back in 2006 was caused when a massage therapist rubbed a testosterone-like cream onto his legs.

"Not talking really about my case, but in general, I want the audience to understand that yes, there are people out there who are doping on purpose. And then you have athletes out there who are victims as well," Gatlin said. "It's a wide variety of things that can happen to an athlete that can lead them to be a victim."

As for restoring his reputation, he

said he's not focused on that.

"In track and field, one thing you learn is you're judged by your performance," Gatlin said. "No matter how often I say I'm innocent or not me, I have to go out here and perform. I knew I had to come back and run 9.7. I knew I had to come back and win a gold medal indoors. I knew I had to come back and make the Olympic team. These are things I had to do because those are things I did before anything happened to me in a negative light."

"I always have to remember that there's always going to be critics out there, always going to be haters that are going to look at me or anybody else like the Veronica situation in a negative light."

**LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION:** Sanya Richards-Ross is used to cameras trailing her around the track.

But in her own home? Now that's been an adjustment.

Richards-Ross has her own reality show — "Sanya's Glam & Gold" — set to

debut July 25 on the WE television network. And while it may not be as provocative as, say, the Kardashian sisters, Richards-Ross promises the six hour-long shows will be entertaining. The series touches on her training, recovery from toe surgery, relationship with her husband, NFL football player Aaron Ross, and how she handles being business partners with her sister as they run a salon in Austin, Texas.

"The premise of the show is that I'm an Olympic champion, and I have that same standard off the track," said Richards-Ross, who captured gold in London last summer in her signature event, the 400. "I push family really hard to be the best, to be on this journey. It was really an awesome experience."

Richards-Ross may not be running at full speed this week thanks to her stubborn toe. She underwent surgery in September to shave the bones in her right big toe, which had been rubbing together and causing increasing pain for more than five years. She was scheduled

to return to training in two months.

Only, it's taken a lot longer. "The good news is the last few weeks of practice have gone really well," she said. "I've come a long way. Now, I'm able to run on it. I've put spikes on a couple of times. I'm happy at least now there's light at end of tunnel."

**OF MERRITT:** Lately, hurdler Aries Merritt has spent more time on a bike than in the starting blocks. It was the only way he could keep up his training.

Merritt, the world record holder in the 110-meter hurdles, has been dealing with a nagging right hamstring injury for quite a while. It started out as a cramp and turned into something more. He saw a specialist in Germany, who detected a tiny rupture in the hamstring.

"It's been a test of my patience," said Merritt, who set the world mark of 12.80 seconds a month after winning Olympic gold in London. "I've learned over the years you have to be patient for things to come full circle. I'm ready to hit it full tilt again."

## Savage: UCLA's Plutko, Vander Tuig Deserve Their Due

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — UCLA coach John Savage says it's about time for Adam Plutko and Nick Vander Tuig to get their due.

The Bruins' formidable 1-2 pitching combo doesn't receive the same fanfare Gerrit Cole and Trevor Bauer did a couple of years ago. Few do. After all, Cole was taken No. 1 overall in the major league draft and Bauer No. 3.

The star of the UCLA staff is side-arming reliever David Berg, who was Pac-12 pitcher of the year, first-team All-America and Stopper of the Year.

But Plutko and Vander Tuig, who aren't even third-team All-Americans, have been hard to miss at the College World Series. Each allowed one run on four hits in seven innings in 2-1 victories, with Plutko doing it against LSU on Sunday and Vander Tuig against North Carolina State on Tuesday.

"I really think they're two of the most underrated players in the country, and I think they're showing that right now," UCLA coach John Savage said.

Plutko (9-3, 2.29 ERA) is in his third year as a starter and in his second as the Bruins' No. 1. Vander Tuig (13-4, 2.31) was the Bruins' closer as a freshman and has been starting for two years.

Plutko is more consistent than overwhelming with a fastball in the high 80s to low 90s. He was disappointed when he slipped to the 11th round in the recent draft, where he was selected by the Cleveland Indians.

Vander Tuig came back from Tommy John surgery in high school to become the San Francisco Giants' sixth-round pick. He touches the low 90s with his fastball and possesses a wicked changeup.

"I really kind of look at them almost like professionals right now in the sense that their work habits in between starts, their conditioning, their throwing programs, their bullpens — they're well-schooled. We would never be in the position we are without those two guys."

UCLA is in control of its bracket. The Bruins need a win over North Carolina or North Carolina State on Friday night to reach next week's finals. If they lose Friday, they would play a rematch Saturday, with the winner advancing to the finals. Savage has not announced his pitching plans, though Grant Watson (8-3) is next in line.

Vander Tuig said Cole and Bauer were great role models for him and Plutko. Cole is 1-2 in three starts with the Indians, and Cole is 2-0 after making his major league debut for Pittsburgh on June 11.

"Going back to my freshman year, seeing Gerrit and Trevor kind of having that Friday-Saturday rotation there. You see how they kind of act through the year, and they were good teammates with each other," Vander Tuig said. "Adam and I just saw that and we kind of built off each other."

**SIGHT-UNSEEN SECOND BASEMAN:** Oregon State coach Pat Casey took a leap of faith last year and signed an infielder he had never seen play and who was on crutches when he met him.

That infielder, Andy Peterson, started his 64th straight game at second base when Oregon State played Indiana on Wednesday night.

Casey said one of his friends in coaching told him that he should recruit Peterson out of Santa Ana Junior College even though Peter-

# Spitfire, Golden Girls Split



Yankton Spitfire's Lizzy Bye rips the ball during opening game of the team's softball doubleheader with the Norfolk Golden Girls on Wednesday at Yankton's Riverside Park. Yankton took the first game, with Norfolk taking the nightcap. The score of both games was 5-4.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton Spitfire and Norfolk Golden Girls split their girls' softball doubleheader on Wednesday, each winning 5-4 at Yankton's Riverside Park.

In the opener, Yankton scored the victory behind a double, a single and two RBI from Lizzy Bye. Abby Schulte posted a two-run single. Haley Hinseth and Brooke Loecker added run-scoring hits in the victory.

Katie Koletzky earned the win, striking out four.

In the nightcap, Norfolk earned the win as time expired in the bottom of the fifth.

Jessica Wirth had two hits and a RBI, and Elly Mueller had a run-scoring double to lead Yankton. Schulte and Andi Sprakel also had doubles. Koletzky and Paige Thiemann added hits.

Bye took the loss, striking out six.

The Spitfire travel to Wayne, Neb., on Tuesday

## Xtreme 12-2, Diamond Thunder 9-3

The Yankton Xtreme split with Diamond Thunder in girls' softball action on Tuesday at Riverside Park.

In the opener, Traia Hubbard and Alix Peterka each drove in four runs with a double and a single as Yankton won 12-9. Lexie McCorkell had a triple, a single and two RBI. Emily Bye and Madie Cordell each had two hits. Grace Roy had a hit and two RBI. Bailey Peterka, Holly Mines, Emily Oswald and Taylor Weber added hits.

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# Peterson Back In Routine, With A Bit Of Rest

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Adrian Peterson was inside working out while the Minnesota Vikings went through minicamp on a warm Wednesday afternoon.

Any time the NFL MVP is absent from drills, no matter how deep they are in the offseason, there's an unmistakably missing presence even with 89 other players on the roster and dozens of coaches and staffers surrounding the practice fields at Winter Park.

But this is precisely when the Vikings believe they can spare the time for Peterson to rest. The last year and a half, after all, has been quite the whirlwind of pain, grueling work and eye-popping gain.

There's no telling if Peterson will be able to top himself in 2013, after falling 9 yards short of setting the league's single-season rushing record. Given his swift comeback from reconstructive left knee surgery and that brilliant performance last fall, the prospect of similar feats in the future will be automatically routed to the "possible" folder rather than stuck in the "pipe dream" file.

"Last year was a true test for me. And it made me realize that I can be working even harder than I was previously. So, yeah, I've been working extremely hard with that goal of coming back and being better than I was last year," Peterson said

earlier this spring. "That's always my mindset: finding ways to improve and coming back better than I was the year before."

After signing Greg Jennings and trading up to draft Cordarrelle Patterson in the first round, the Vikings have a stronger group of wide receivers for still-developing quarterback Christian Ponder. Because of that, they'd like to rely a little less on Peterson this season.

"Adrian will be the first person to tell you: He'll trade in a 2,500-yard rushing season for a Super Bowl ring. It's not imperative that he rushed for 2,000 yards, or 2,500 yards, for us to win. We want to be a

balanced attack," coach Leslie Frazier said. "Our offense is always going to run through Adrian, but we want to be able to pass the ball better than we did a year ago."

For Peterson, life is a bit more balanced these days, too. Last summer, his knee rehabilitation was the primary focus. During the winter, he was recovering from sports hernia surgery. Now, he's in normal mode again. So he's added to his off-the-field pursuits, renewing his contract with Nike and signing up to be a pitch man for Castrol Edge motor oil and the EpiPen

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# Baseball Roundup: Post 12 Juniors Split Twinbill



Yankton shortstop Austin Johnson corrals a ground ball during the opening game of Post 12's junior Legion baseball game against Sioux Falls West on Wednesday at Riverside Field. The teams split the twinbill.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton and Sioux Falls West split a twinbill in American Legion junior squad action on Wednesday at Riverside Field.

Yankton scored three in the bottom of the sixth to take the opener 6-5. Sioux Falls West scored three in the top of the seventh to claim the nightcap 7-4.

In the opener, Austin Johnson had two hits, and Alex Crandall and Greg Hauer each doubled to lead Yankton. Adam Walter had a hit and two RBI. Brady Hale and Will Steward each had hits, with Steward scoring twice. Brad Ulmer walked twice and scored twice in the win.

Ben Cameron pitched six innings for the win, with Hale pitching a scoreless seventh for the save.

In the nightcap, Ulmer went 3-4 with a double and scored three of Yankton's four runs. Walter doubled and singled, Lightner had two hits and Johnson added a hit in the effort.

Crandall took the loss in relief of Johnson, who pitched the first five innings.

The Yankton junior squad will join the First Dakota Post 12 var-

sity squad at the First Dakota Classic, beginning Friday at Riverside Field.

## Tabor 11, Corsica 1 (7)

TABOR — Blase Vanecek struck out seven over six innings, and the Tabor offense did the rest in an 11-1 victory over Corsica in American Legion baseball action on Wednesday.

Kodi Larson doubled and singled, and Ross Kortan and Nathan Bares each had two hits for Tabor.

Derik Denning and Dustin Bultje each had two hits for Corsica.

Vanecek held Corsica to four hits, and Larson struck out the side in the seventh to end the game for Tabor.

Tabor hosts Parkston on Monday. Start time is 7 p.m.

## S.F. East 7, Yankton 3

Despite a 3-4 effort by Mitch Gullikson, Yankton dropped a 7-3 decision to Sioux Falls East in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday at Riverside Field.

Andrew Hummel went 2-3 with a double, and Brad Ulmer had two hits and two runs scored for Yank-

ton. Tanner Termansen took the loss for First Dakota Post 12.

Yankton, 5-8 overall and 1-2 against region opponents, hosts the First Dakota Classic beginning Friday at Riverside Field.

## Amateur

### Avon 10, Lesterville 0

AVON — Avon's Zach London allowed just two hits over seven innings, and helped his own cause by reaching base four times in helping the Bards to a 10-0 victory over Lesterville in South Central League amateur baseball action on Tuesday night.

The game was originally scheduled for June 9, but was postponed.

London had one hit, but walked twice and was hit by a pitch for Avon. Dan Bures had a double and drove in four runs. Nick Honke added a hit and two runs scored in the win.

Cody Ulmer and Darren Svacina had hits for Lesterville.

London struck out six and walked one in the win. Steven Stanage took the loss.

LESTERVILLE \_\_\_\_\_ 0 2 6  
AVON \_\_\_\_\_ 10 0 2  
Steven Stanage, Tim Sternhagen (6) and Cody Ulmer, Zach London and Dan Bures