Sportspeople who used drugs

The 1904 Olympics in Saint Louis (USA) is famous for its marathon. The first competitor to finish was Fred Lorz … but Lorz cheated! He ran the first 14 km of the race, but then he got into his friend’s car! Unfortunately, the car broke down and Lorz had to run again. He still finished first, but he was disqualified.

The second competitor to finish was Thomas Hicks. But by modern standards he cheated, too! He took brandy and some strychnine. At the time these drugs were not illegal, so Hicks kept the gold medal!

During the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, the Danish cyclist Knud Enemark Jensen died after a 100 km race. Doctors found that he had amphetamines in his body. Amphetamines are very dangerous and after Jensen’s death the IOC started to test athletes for them.
The most famous athlete to use drugs in modern times is the Canadian Ben Johnson. He won the 100 m race at the Seoul Olympics (South Korea) in 1988. After the race, tests showed that he had anabolic steroids in his body. He lost his gold medal.

Lance Armstrong, an American cyclist, won the Tour de France seven times between 1999 and 2005. In 2013 he admitted that he used drugs and blood doping to help him win. In the past doping was very common in cycling and Lance Armstrong was not the only cyclist to use drugs.