

INTERVIEW

Personal dialogue between
PL USA Magazine and the
Sport's Greatest Names.

ED COAN

interviewed by Mike Lambert, Editor, Powerlifting USA



Mike: What was your reaction when you received the first notice on the drug test from Austria?
Ed: It was complete shock. I knew I had to have the B (sample) tested because it was unaffordable to me that the A would be positive for anything. The ball started rolling from there.

Mike: What's been the history of your appeal efforts?
Ed: The first appeal took place at the Junior World's in September (97). I flew there with my attorney. We had a meeting with the Disciplinary Committee: James Canniffe, Robert Wilkes, Helner Koberich and a Slovakian gentleman. After we left they went around a bit and decided against it. James Canniffe came up to us afterwards and said, "You will appeal this again to the Congress, won't you?" I was voted down so I would have to go to the Congress. After that it was information gathering from every person I could think of to call, from Jim Wright, who used to be DiPasquale, and everyone else.

Mike: On which points do you dispute the test results?
Ed: The IPF has adopted comprehensive and detailed regulations regarding their drug testing, but it failed to follow the regulations they have put in practice. From the start, you're appointed a steward, a person you stays with you after you lift until you go to drug testing. If you have to do awards or take pictures with people, this guy stays by your side, gets your gym bag, gets you stuff to drink; everything else. That person cannot be a coach or lifter in the meet for obvious reasons. My steward was actually a fellow lifter who had coached his brother, whom I had just defeated. That was the first problem. In the

OFFICIAL RESULTS - 1996 MEN'S WORLD POWERLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS - Salzburg, Austria, November 13-17, 1996. The following lifters were tested and found to be positive: Jon Gunnarsson (ISU) - 90 kg - Nandrolone, Ed Coan (USA) - 110 kg - Testosterone (T/E greater than 10) According to current IPF By-Laws 5.02 (e) 1, the lifters are suspended from international competition and setting records. Gunnarsson for a period of two years commencing November 13, 1996 and Coan for life.

The following lifters were tested and found to be negative: Norway: Carl Christoffersen, Poland: Andrzej Staniszek, Roman Szymkowiak, Russia: Victor Baranov, Rif Gadzev, Vladimir Markovskiy, Sweden: Magnus Kusurina, Ukraine: Vasily Kurtskiy, Dimitry Soloviyov, Yuri Spivov, Indonesia: Sutrisno, Japan: Daisuke Midote, New Zealand: Derek Pomana, USA: Dan Austin, Gene Bell, Wade Hooper, Kirk Kanowski.* (from IPF Newsletter 4/97)

the A and the B sample, which I think is kind of minor, but it is another rule they broke. I have a copy of a professor Rod Bitton, whom I had sent over to oversee my B sample processing, from England. He's an expert who helped a female track and field athlete, who had an incredibly high T/E ratio, defend herself against the IOC, and she won. He said there was no way this should be upheld. He says the A sample was open on three occasions. The first time they opened up my sample, they came back with a 7 to 1 ratio. They said that was just a preliminary test. Well, I came back with a 7 to 1 ratio and then the next time they opened up the sample it came back as 18 to 1, that's on huge increase, a 200-percent increase. If that's a preliminary test just to see something, then how can it vary so greatly? The difference in my T & E from my A and B sample vary marginally, but a lot of the other hormones/steroids, from the A to B, vary at incredible rates of 100 to 200 nanograms per mL over the testing period from November 28th to December 4th. It all doesn't make sense. Something's obviously wrong.

After I presented my first appeal at the Junior Worlds, Arnold Bostrom and Helner Koberich both came up to me and said how good it (the appeal) was and that it was so good that now they know what not to do again. These are people that voted you down and they're admitting they made the mistakes, but they try to get away with it by saying everything is small. It's ridiculous. The rules are not there just to protect the lifter. They're to protect the organization and the integrity of everything.

I am just completely dumb-founded at having to try to defend myself. I admitted my past guilt. In 1985 I was guilty as sin. I had taken Deca, I admit it. I took it way before because I had torn a pec - and it showed up. The next time, John Moody told me my appeal would be heard. When I got there they wouldn't even second the motion to listen to my appeal. What could I do. I just stood up and left. It doesn't do you any good to argue with people. If they don't want you there, they're going to get you out, one way or another.

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Ed making his appeal to the '97 IPF Congress. Ed would like to thank Quad's Gym, Herb Lande, Inzer Advance Designs, his training partners, and anyone else who supported him during his effort to appeal his suspension.

Mike: I understand there's additional opportunity for you to appeal this matter to a court in Switzerland, and you've done that.
Ed: We sent our briefs in. My attorney said that after the Court of Arbitration for Sport gets your stuff, they read it over, and they notify the IPF. Then the IPF has a certain number of days to get their petition in. They missed their deadline, so the Court granted them an extension, to April '88, or something. I got a lift not passed, I never screamed and yelled. I've always showed good sportsmanship. I don't know what the deal is here.

Mike: Maybe we'll find out April 8th, or sometime after that.
Ed: Hopefully. In the meantime, I think there may be a provision in the Court of Arbitration for Sport that states they might reinstate me until this is over with. That would help out because then I could qualify for the USAPF Nationals. They have out of contest testing, so I will be able to prove myself by being tested as many times as they choose to. Their main tester, Dennis Brady, is in Chicago. That's not far from me. He can show up any time.

Mike: What if that were to not work out?
Ed: I would probably have to be on the USPF. I'd prefer to go to a federation whose rules agree with regarding equipment use. After I'm unindicted, so to speak, I do plan on lifting. I've got some good lifts left in me.

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Mike: Good. You're not injured?
Ed: I'm pretty darn healthy at the moment. When I woke up this morning, I got on the scale and I was 237. I think I could weight 240 at the Nationals. I should still be able to total 2300 there. I've got all show that I've still got it. With all the testing they do, I'll be able to prove myself.

Mike: Marty Gallagher has written a book about you that deals with the drug testing issues and almost everything else about your life that's going to be on the market shortly. What do you think readers of that book will be the most surprised to learn about you?
Ed: Probably that I'm normal. When I get on an platform, I'm Ed Coan, the lifter. I lift a lot of weight compared to a lot of people. What lift is what I lift. If you can deadlift 550 and that's all you can do, that's fantastic. My weights are just a little higher. I've got kids that help in the gym that don't even deadlift 400. One of my training partners just finally quitted and deadlifted over 500 and that's what I'm looking for. Everyone's basically the same. I just lift more weight. I've been around for a long time. I have a knack for this. I've picked up a lot of knowledge that I'm able to share. I'm a regular guy. I was born a little weaker so you can see really worked hard. I learned from my mistakes. There weren't a lot of people to help me. I had to search for the information. They'll come a day when someone out-lifts all my records, and he will probably have learned from all the things that I learned from the people that came before me, like Paolitto, John Kuc, and the others. I learned everything there was to learn, and then I tried it. Everything comes from the people before you. People try to say that I'm the greatest lifter in the world. That's a crock of crap. Inaba has won more World Championships than me, and he had a bunch of obstacles to overcome over the years, with injuries, travel and everything. He's the greatest lifter in the world, by far. Just because I lift a lot of weight doesn't make me the greatest lifter. It involves longevity.

Mike: What do you do. This is just me. What you see is what you get. Try not to make a decision until you meet me.
Mike: Well said. One other thing. If you had a chance, would you do anything different in your powerlifting career?
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