

Dwain Chambers Interview

Dwain Chambers is a British 100m sprinter. He has won medals on the international stage numerous times and is one of the fastest European sprinters in the history of recorded athletics. In October 2003, he tested positive for the banned steroid THG and received a two-year athletics ban, and a lifetime Olympic ban. MYPs and online forum members quizzed Dwain about sport, drugs and his future plans.

“I would not say that I have been lucky as I served my suspension. I am now trying to get on with my career.”

What would you say has been your greatest athletics achievement?

The European relay gold in the 4 x 100 in 2006 was one of the most memorable achievements.

Which other athlete or sports person, do you most respect and why?

Christian Malcolm. He is a great athlete and a loyal friend.

Sometimes when a person does something wrong they can't live it down. Considering that you have experienced it, what advice would you give to people that want help overcoming their past demons?

The advice that I would give is don't make the same mistakes twice.

I fully respect you as a sportsman. As an ambassador what advice would you give towards all budding sportsmen?

My advice would be to train smart and never give up on your dreams.

Do you feel lucky to have broken a very important regulation in your job and to be let back into it? Others in other lines of work would not be so lucky.

I would not say that I have been lucky as I served my suspension.



I am now trying to get on with my career.

Do you think that your contribution to the sports authority's investigation into illegal drugs should have been enough to let you compete in Beijing? Also will you be trying to qualify for the London Olympics?

It was not my intention to get into the Beijing Olympics on the back of helping the authorities, I would have helped anyway. 2012 is a long way away. I am just taking each year as it comes.

How big an impact do you think drug use might have on London 2012, especially after Beijing 2008?

The sport will be a lot cleaner in 2012.

Seeing as how people who use drugs to cheat at sport can get a financial reward in the form of sponsorship and prize money, do you think that the UK should take the same stance as Italy and charge any athletes who use drugs with fraud?

I don't think fraud would be an appropriate charge as the sentences are custodial. I think we need to get to the root of the problem before dishing out punitive sentences.

What do you hope to achieve with the rest of your athletics career?

My goals are to medal in the next two World Championships. I will then take a view on London 2012.

What are your plans after athletics?

To enjoy more time with my family and coach, educate and inspire young athletes.

Questions were asked by Khansa Taha, Matt Christodoulou, Joe Lee, James Johnson, Sam Wood and Sylvester Okombo

*Dwain Chambers' autobiography **Race Against Me** is due to be launched on 2nd March 2009.*