

Blind Spots In The News

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Roger Clemens



Roger Clemens had everything going for him: sports hero, future baseball hall of famer, rich, admired. He seemingly had life on a string.

Then he was accused of taking performance enhancing drugs. A Congressional investigation into the use of illegal drugs by professional athletes named him as one of several famous athletes who had taken performance enhancing drugs in their careers.

The accusation alone was a blow to his good name. If true, this accusation would irreparably tarnish his reputation. More than that, it would end all his hopes of ending up in Cooperstown, the crown jewel of a storied career in major league baseball.

Roger vigorously denied it all from the beginning. As of this writing, he still denies any involvement. Even after his friend, teammate, and fellow pitcher Andy Pettitte himself

admitted taking performance enhancing drugs and named Roger as one of the people with whom he took them, Roger still denied it.

Roger went before a Congressional panel and, alongside his accuser who steadfastly insisted he had injected Roger with the drugs and had the evidence to prove it, continued to deny ever using the drugs.

No one but those involved including Roger knows the truth at this point. But Roger has repeatedly shown his blind spot in his repeated denials of using drugs to enhance his pitching performance. His polarization on independent risking – paying attention only to himself and not the others involved – has led to the feelings that he “doth protest too much.” Much of the luster of his career has already been lost due to the angry and dismissive attitude that he has shown – regardless of whether or not the accusations are true.

Only time will tell whether or not he is also polarized on theoretical thinking – creating a separate reality in which he convinces himself that he didn’t take the drugs when he really did. Sometimes the scary reality of a situation causes people to deny the reality exists – until it comes crashing down under its own weight.

When Roger testified at the Congressional hearing, he did so under oath. Now there is an FBI investigation into whether or not he lied to the panel. Everyone believes that either he or his accuser lied as they told diametrically opposed stories – both could not be telling the truth. If Roger actually told the story that his theoretical thinking polarization created for him, he may end up paying a bigger price than merely the loss of his reputation – he could be facing the loss of his freedom.

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