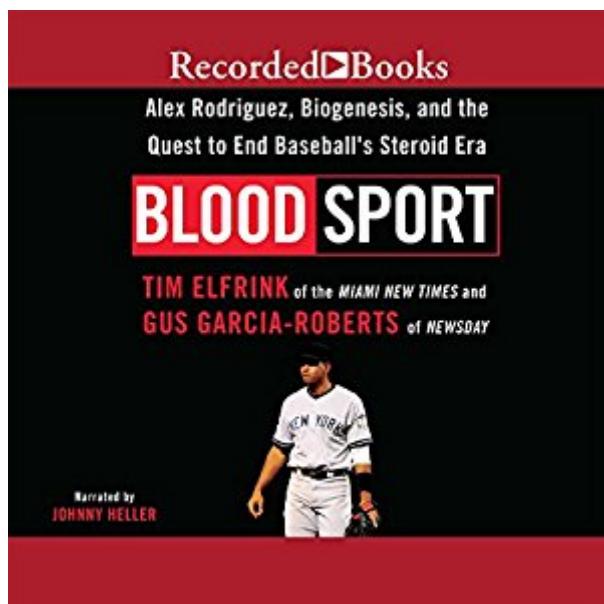


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# Blood Sport: Alex Rodriguez, Biogenesis, And The Quest To End Baseball's Steroid Era



## Synopsis

The definitive, deeply revelatory, and wildly dramatic story of the Alex Rodriguez and Biogenesis scandal, co-written by the reporter who broke the story. All Porter Fischer wanted was the \$4,000 Tony Bosch owed him. But Bosch would not pay him back, so he swiped Bosch's Biogenesis ledgers as collateral. Fischer eventually examined the lists of clients and treatment plans revealed in the ledgers and saw what he really had: proof that major and minor sports figures came to the Miami antiaging clinic for anabolic steroids, human growth hormones, and other illegal drugs. That included one of the greatest sluggers in modern baseball history: three-time MVP Alex Rodriguez. When Fischer showed those notebooks to Tim Elfrink, an investigative reporter at Miami New Times, it sparked one of the wildest - and costliest - sports scandals ever. In *Blood Sport*, Elfrink teams up with Gus Garcia-Roberts, an investigative reporter at New York's *Newsday*, to finally tell the full story. A-Rod, an obscenely talented and wealthy, self-destructive man, is one of the book's central figures. The tale is rooted in the unique tropical lawlessness of Miami, a city populated with muscle-bulging crooks, spray-tanned fake doctors, and millionaire athletes looking for any chemical advantage. And it's a chronicle of America's latest mad quest for a fountain of youth - a billion-dollar obsession with HGH, a drug with uncertain benefits, and even hazier risks backed by a mountain of lobbyist dollars. Seven years after *Game of Shadows* let audiences experience the characters and drama inside baseball's performance-enhancing-drug scourge, *Blood Sport* will demonstrate that the steroid era never ended. It evolved.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Blood Sport" is about far more than Alex Rodriguez, Biogenesis, and PED's. It's also about a culture in sports that promotes cheating for the sake of self-aggrandisement and the almighty dollar. Thoroughly researched by authors Tim Elfrink and Gus Garcia-Roberts, "Blood Sport" offers a blow-by-blow description of the history of the events that eventually led to the suspensions of some 15 Major League ballplayers, most notably the season-long (2014) suspension of Alex Rodriguez. Although a well-documented, detailed, and accurate account of these events, the book reads more like a piece of well-written fiction, in which intrigue, back-alley deals, robberies, and double-crossing all play their role in bringing these suspensions about. In the end, no one emerges as a hero, certainly not the players who were guilty of trying to circumvent baseball's ban on PED's, nor shady characters such as Tony Bosch, whose clinic supplied players with various banned substances, nor, for that matter, the agents of Major League Baseball, whose heavy-handed tactics, payoffs to witnesses, and legally questionable practices display the same win-at-all-costs mentality that has led so many players to take drugs to gain an edge over their competitors. Not only does "Blood Sport" provide a detailed account of the story that culminated in the suspensions of Rodriguez and others, but it also goes beyond professional baseball. Although of secondary importance to the main story, we read of the use of PED's at the high school and college level as well (particularly at the University of Miami, which is located right across the street from Tony Bosch's clinic), and the use of such substances in other sports is also noted. Elfrink and Garcia-Roberts are to be commended for their thorough research and their objective reporting. Although they make moral judgments from time to time, they do not let these get in the way of the story or color the reader's perception. Their background as newspaper reporters has stood them in good stead in making the finished product such a fascinating read.

I love reading these books. Mainly because I'm a baseball fan, but also I like understanding human nature. You have public personas and players say things such as "I am not here to talk about the past", but what really happened? Like these players think we are stupid. Any kid behaves a certain way when being dishonest. ANY parent can spot it immediately. And yet these grown men think they are fooling us. This book in particular was very intriguing because of all of the behind the scenes shady character and investigation. Car breakins, stolen files, backstabbing. It was interesting to read about Bosch background and what makes him tick. Every person in this whole saga is so damn self centered. I was rolling with laughter at certain parts because of how immature Bosch is. He is a 2 bit con, hustler who has no intention of ever earning an honest living, yet not a

hardened enough criminal. He was proud of himself for beating the system. His nicknames of players in his notebooks. Nelson Cruz is "Mohamed"? Lol. I can picture Bosch thinking himself clever. And referring to PEDS as "food"? Lol. Very clever. "Please distribute the food to the players and collect \$\$." And Braun claiming he hired Bosch for \$30,000 instead of consulting a legit lab. Good one. We believe you Ryan. ;) And yet a multimillion \$ athlete is willing to associate with him? Wow, what lack of character is in these professional ballplayers.

This is an excellent piece of investigative work. Tim Elfrink did yeoman work on the Biogenesis case, and he should be proud. This book details everything you need to know about the scandal. Elfrink and Garcia-Roberts give fair treatment to both A-Rod's side and MLB's side. You'll see just what lengths both sides went through to win their case. The book contains some blunders, though. The section about Rod Scurry contains two errors. It said he overdosed on cocaine "after a terrible spring training outing." By April 7, the date of his overdose, the regular season had begun. Also, the book says Scurry "washed out of the league in 1986." Not true, although not entirely false. While he didn't pitch in the majors in 1987, he did return in 1988. There are some editing mistakes too, like repeated words and spelling mistakes (Example: Aaron Rodgers' last name is misspelled "Rogers"). Had it not been for these errors, I would give this book five stars. Still, it's a very good read.

Recommended to baseball fans.

Fascinating, thorough investigation by two smart reporters. Obviously did tons of legwork, lots of details everywhere that give you a great picture of who you're dealing with.

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