

THE OUTER

SHOCK! SCANDAL!

CHEER UP, TIGER: you're not the only sports hero who fell in a heap. Although if John Daly is giving you advice, you know you're in trouble...



TIGER WOODS

THE HERO Hero? A god. A clean-living, shy, married-with-kids, down-home, regular, untouchable, sanitised, superstar billionaire.

THE SCANDAL From the moment he thumped gently into a fire hydrant, the mask was ripped from his battered face like the fairground owner in Scooby Doo. As allegation after allegation dragged the Tiger image towards Cheaptown, there was a feeling that, while the unreality ride had been interesting, could we all get off now?

SHOCK VALUE Huge. It's like your dad revealing he's really your mum. If he'd sat down with a crack team of screw-up experts and drawn up plans to destroy his life, he couldn't have done it better.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT Woods sat in a dark room, looked at the smouldering wreckage, and reflected that OJ could at least escape it all on the golf course.



MICHAEL VICK

THE HERO Vick was the projects kid made good: a successful quarterback with the Atlanta Falcons, Pro-Bowl appearances, a raft of corporate endorsements and everything going well.

THE SCANDAL In 2007, we learnt that, instead of the usual pastimes of playing PlayStation and chasing booty, Vick was an integral part of a dog-fighting ring and, in fact, fronted up most of the betting money.

SHOCK VALUE White-bread America was scandalised. You can get away with almost anything but being nasty to doggies. NFL chief suit Roger Goodell called it "not only illegal, but also cruel and reprehensible".

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT Vick was suspended from playing, ended up in jail and succeeded in throwing his fortune away in world record time. His name is now a byword for the ugly side of sport, but at least he's back playing.



MIKE TYSON

THE HERO During the late-1980s Iron Mike was less a hero than the invincible warrior from planet Fear. The big shock was his 1990 loss to Buster Douglas due to overconfidence and undertraining. It was just the start of a long series of big steps down, until...

THE SCANDAL In 1992, beauty contestant Desiree Washington said Tyson had raped her in his hotel room. The jury believed her. He went to jail for three years.

SHOCK VALUE The grisly courtroom details and the state of Tyson's personal life was enough to make the most hardened sports fan drop his beer.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT Revenue of Tyson's fights actually went up, as people realised he was capable of anything. In 1997, he bit Evander Holyfield's ear as his career spiralled into the ground, he managed to lose all his money and chalked up too many comedy mishaps to list. "I've wasted my life," is his generous assessment.



OJ SIMPSON

THE HERO A celebrated NFL running back, whose career was upshifting nicely into film work. They always said he had a bit of a temper, though...

THE SCANDAL The first hint that things might not be well was footage of Simpson's Ford Bronco being slowly chased along a freeway by the entire Californian police force. His ex-wife and her friend had been found dead, he was in the frame, and trial by jury and TV was coming down the pike.

SHOCK VALUE Makes Woods' alleged adventures with porn stars and waitresses look like the Wiggles go to Fluffyland. Dazed viewers saw weeks of murder and brutality unfold. Followed by OJ's eerie grin as he was let off.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT Simpson slid past the legal case, but lost his fortune in a civil suit. He played golf like a lonely zombie for a few years, before he was jailed for a bungled hold-up and the key thrown quietly down the nearest drain.



JOHN DALY

THE HERO If "to err is human", Daly may be the most human of all of us. Somewhere inside his fat frame is a fantastically talented golfer, but after his breakthrough victory in 1991, it was quickly obvious this southern boy had a whole lot of other things going on. None were willpower.

THE SCANDAL Which one? The domestic violence? Drunkenness? Insane gambling? Traffic violations? He wrote the shortest, most honest and incident-packed sports autobiography ever, but even after it went to print, the entertainment continued.

SHOCK VALUE Nil. When he was found passed out drunk in front of Hooters, everyone just hoped he was OK.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT After three divorces, and continuing to keep Marlboro, Jim Beam and the Hershey corporation afloat on his own, Daly got gastric bands, lost a bucket of weight and gained a new girlfriend. And everyone still hopes he's OK.



HANSIE CRONJE

THE HERO As South Africa emerged from the political and sporting desert in the early '90s, batsman, then captain, Cronje was its symbol: dashing, honest, handsome, talented, honest...

THE SCANDAL In 2000, the beloved captain was taped having a more than casual chat with some bloke from a betting syndicate. He admitted to not being "entirely honest", which to be honest, wasn't being entirely honest. He was up to his ears in match-fixing, even tempting other players to do the same. Cue trial, disgrace, ban, but...

SHOCK VALUE Cronje may be South Africa's OJ, but the shock was so great many remained in denial. In 2004, he was voted the 10th-greatest South African. Ever. Ahead of Steve Biko.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT In 2002 his plane out of Johannesburg got lost in cloud and crashed into a mountain. Or, he was murdered by the forces of evil. Whatever.



PAUL GASCOIGNE

THE HERO The greatest English footballer of his generation, the zany, attacking midfielder lit up Italia 90 and was the idol of the terraces.

THE SCANDAL Less of a scandal, than the slow realisation that Gazza wasn't just zany – he had a mental illness. Once past his peak, his life descended into alcoholism, gambling, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder and he was finally sectioned.

SHOCK VALUE Minus 128. Initially everyone just hoped he didn't end up like George Best (ie, alcoholic then dead). Now there's a feeling that, while the journey may be slightly different, the destination will be the same.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT At the time of writing, he has just been arrested for a drunken rampage. By the time you read this, he could have been arrested for another one. And on it goes.



NATHAN BAGGALEY

THE HERO In 2005, *Alpha* was so impressed with just how darn fit the Olympic medal-winning kayaker was, we asked him for tips. Turns out the one tip he forgot was "take a bunch of steroids".

THE SCANDAL The scandal was not so much the 2005 steroid bust, but just how stupid Baggaley continued to be in the next few years. His ban was nearly up, when police found mucho drugs and cash in his car; he was tried for manufacturing and supplying ecstasy, as well as using local kids to distribute it, like a Sherlock Holmes villain.

SHOCK VALUE After the initial bust, the rest of the caper was more weird and interesting, than shocking. Not content with being the Gold Coast's Mr Big, he even found time to nick a surf-ski from Byron Bay Surf Club.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT Nine years in the clink. Try checking his website in 2016 and see if there's news.



NICK D'ARCY

THE HERO Not much of a hero, but the Brisbane butterfly merchant was a fast-improving prospect, who was on his way to the Beijing Olympics.

THE SCANDAL The night he was named in the Olympic squad, D'Arcy was so overjoyed he punched former Comm Games swim champ Simon Cowley in the face, leaving him with a shattered nose, eye socket and jaw.

SHOCK VALUE As D'Arcy's brain slowly cranked around to the knowledge that instead of going to Beijing he might go to jail, national coach Alan Thompson put up a fabulous defence of his star: "He is a young man who is just like a lot of young men around, who enjoys himself."

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT D'Arcy didn't make the Olympics – or jail, getting a suspended sentence. Swimming Australia dropped him like a short-tempered rattler, but have since decided to give him another chance.



TONYA HARDING

THE HERO In another life, figure skater Harding would be famous for her triple axel. She won silver at the Munich World Championships, ahead of fellow American Nancy Kerrigan.

THE SCANDAL As Kerrigan left the practice ice for the 1994 US Champs in Detroit, a shadowy figure ran up behind her and began beating her about the knees with a baton.

SHOCK VALUE As *Blades of Glory* taught us, there's more to figure skating than twirling and smiling, but the allegation that Harding, her ex-husband and her bodyguard had hired someone to knock her main rival, was surely going too far.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT Banned from skating, Harding's life turned trashier than an afternoon of *Maury Povich* re-runs. There were the tattoos, the tell-all book, the sex-tape, the truck crash, and the boxing career, which was not a good look for her. After three fights she realised she had asthma and quit.



PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES CROUCHER (D'ARCY); AP/GETTY IMAGES (CRONJE, GASCOIGNE, OJ TYSON); GETTY IMAGES (VICK, WOODS); ADAM HEAD (BAGGALEY); PHIL HILLIARD (DALY); CRAIG STRONG (HARDING).