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# Anti-doping agency won't ban oxygen tents

Last Updated Sat, 16 Sep 2006 21:58:10 EDT  
[CBC Sports](#)

The World Anti-Doping Agency has decided it won't ban hypoxic chambers until further studies can determine their health implications.

Hypoxic or hyperbaric tents and chambers are used by many athletes to create high-altitude conditions and boost oxygen-rich red blood cell counts.

On Saturday, WADA ruled the chambers enhance performance and violate "the spirit of sport," but chose not to add them to the list of banned substances and methods for 2007.

"It doesn't mean we approve it," said Dick Pound, WADA head and Canadian IOC delegate.

Hypoxic tents came to national attention in 2003 when Canadian cyclist Genevieve Jeanson blamed the use of the tents for a failed doping test,



World Anti-Doping Agency head Dick Pound says the organization won't be banning oxygen tents until further studies can be conducted. (Associated Press)

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which showed an unusually high red blood cell count.

"I intend to review my use of an oxygen tent, based on appropriate professional advice," she said in 2004. "I've used the tent for four years and I've come to believe that it does me good."

Pound said Saturday he wants the IOC to look into the health effects of using the tents to ensure they are safe for athletes.

WADA's scientific director, Olivier Rabin, said side-effects of using the chambers could include altitude-sickness, sleep disturbance and a possibly adverse effect of the immune system.

Pound also said he was pleased by the decision by former members of Lance Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service cycling team to admit they used the performance-enhancing drug EPO before the 1999 Tour de France.

"I hope [such honesty] continues and we certainly encourage it," he said.

Pound has been a vocal critic of Armstrong and in June dismissed a report clearing the seven-time Tour de France winner of doping allegations.

Armstrong later sent the IOC a letter asking for Pound to be "expelled" from the organization.

*With files from the Associated Press*



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Shawn Graham's Liberal party will form a majority government in New Brunswick after taking 29 out of 55 ridings on Monday and leaving the Tories with 26 seats.  
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U.S. President George W. Bush is expected to denounce Iran and Syria Tuesday at the UN, hours before Iran's controversial president speaks to the world body.

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[Hungarian police clash with protesters over government lies](#)

Protesters stormed the headquarters of Hungarian state television in Budapest Tuesday and forced it off the air briefly after the prime minister admitted lying about the economy during an election campaign in April.

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Hundreds of mourners have gathered at a church in Montreal's east end, where funeral services for 18-year-old Anastasia De Sousa got underway at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

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[Canada's military back on world stage: PM](#)

Sending Canadian troops to Afghanistan has turned Canada's military into a better fighting force and put Canada on the world stage, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said.

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Playgrounds are a major source of injuries and young children in particular need close supervision, the Canadian Medical Association said in a reminder aimed at parents and caregivers.

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[SNL creator, Starowicz win GGs for performing arts](#)

Lorne Michaels, creator of long-running TV show Saturday Night Live, has won a Governor General's performing arts award for lifetime achievement.

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[Final Fantasy grabs Polaris Music Prize](#)

Final Fantasy's CD He Poos Clouds won the inaugural \$20,000 Polaris Music Prize for best Canadian album of the past year.

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[Bodybuilder, actor Mickey](#)

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Bodybuilder-turned-actor Mickey Hargitay, one-time husband to 1950s Hollywood bombshell

Jayne Mansfield and father of award-winning actress Mariska Hargitay, has died. He was 80.  
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[Shuttle landing delayed because of weather, unknown object](#)

NASA has delayed the landing of the space shuttle Atlantis until Thursday, due to the weather outlook for Florida and the appearance of an unknown object outside the orbiter.

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[Toshiba recalls laptop batteries](#)

Toshiba is recalling 340,000 laptop batteries worldwide made by Sony Corp., the latest in a series of problems for the company.

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[Microsoft to go head to head with YouTube](#)

Microsoft Corp. is hoping to tap the explosive popularity of online video sharing by joining startups such as YouTube and major internet rivals with its own video service called Soapbox on MSN Video.

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[Inflation rate eases to 2.1%](#)

Canada's annual inflation rate slipped to 2.1 per cent in August, thanks to a slowdown in the rise of gasoline prices, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

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[Housing affordability continues to erode: RBC](#)

Canada's housing affordability deteriorated for the third consecutive year, according to a study by RBC Economics.

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[Chrysler cuts 3Q shipment forecast by 90,000 due to ample inventories](#)

Chrysler will cut deliveries to dealers by 90,000 vehicles in the third quarter, as falling sales of trucks and SUVs have left it with bloated inventories.

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A woman faces weapons-related charges in the shooting of a Toronto-born basketball player and four of his Duquesne University teammates, according to court documents.  
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[Yankees beat Burnett, Blue Jays](#)

Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter hit two-run home runs as the New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-6 on Monday.  
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Josh Scobee kicked three field goals as the Jacksonville Jaguars blanked the Pittsburgh Steelers 9-0 on Monday.  
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