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| Pumping Up with Drugs? |

Football has always been extremely important at Blackburn State University. The school is known for its aggressive, offensive team. The coach, Milton Smith, has been at the university for 15 years and has an impressive win/loss record. This year there were some problems with the team. Coach Smith couldn’t figure out what was wrong. The recruiting had gone very well, and he had a strong and well-trained team, but they weren’t winning. Then he read an article about Human Growth Hormone (HGH) and its use in physical training.The article said that recombinant DNA (rDNA) had been used for creating human hormones for years. Since the late 80s, Human Growth Hormone had been created by this process. The drug has made it possible to treat children born with a deficiency of growth hormone and has been used very successfully. But, parents of children without the hormone deficiency came to doctors asking for the drug to make their children taller. These children were not abnormally short, but they were on the short side of the normal curve.At the end of the article was a small blurb about the effect of HGH on building muscle bulk in a training program. There were no side effects because HGH is a naturally occurring substance and the body can metabolize it well. Coach Smith thought it might be good for his team.1. What should Coach Smith do? List three things.2. Should the College be told if the coach decides to suggest the hormone to his players?3. The HGH has to be administered by injection. Who should perform the injections?4. If a player doesn’t want to take the HGH, what should Coach Smith do?5. Coach Smith has already approached a drug company manufacturing HGH. The company will donate the drug and test the players for side effects. Should the coach agree to this? Why or why not? 6. What are the legal ramifications of using HGH on his players?7. What are the medical ramifications of using HGH on the players?  |

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