

## Mental Disorders Affect Athletes at All Levels

By William Browning, **YAHOO! CONTRIBUTOR NETWORK**

Thursday, Jul 7, 2011

The [Columbia Missourian](#) reports on the tragedy of Sasha Menu Courey, a swimmer for the University of Missouri. The 20-year-old was an excellent student athlete who her teammates always said was cheerful and upbeat.

She committed suicide June 17 on her way back home to Canada. Menu Courey was receiving treatment for borderline personality disorder ever since March. Her life didn't have to end the same way many other athletes do when feeling pressures of life.

Menu Courey's said case is nothing new to the sports world, although professional athletes are more known to suffer from mental illness rather than college athletes. The young lady's case is simply a reminder that sometimes [pro athletes have mental disorders](#) long before they enter into lucrative sports contracts.

### Mike Tyson

[USA Today](#) reported Mike Tyson suffered from depression through much of his boxing career. Even though he was successful, Tyson squandered much of his fortune and was tens of millions of dollars in debt. He tried to deal with his depression by buying stuff with his boxing fortune. One such purchase was a mansion with 38 bathrooms. He has tried to get back into boxing and still struggles with depression today.

### Jim Shea

[CNN reported](#) Jim Shea was a champion skeleton racer on the U.S. Olympic team in 2002. Just a month before he won the gold medal in Salt Lake City, Shea's grandfather died and didn't see him compete. Despite winning a gold medal, Shea was despondent at the medal ceremony. He stated in the interview he was never truly happy with anything in his life. The gold medal winner was lucky and sought treatment.

### Dave Duerson

Dave Duerson wasn't one of the lucky ones. Despite having a successful NFL career with the [Chicago Bears](#), he took his own life in February of 2011. [ESPN reports](#) he left a note that he was despondent and upset about not being able to come to terms with his depression. He won two Super Bowls, one in 1985 and another in 1990 with the Giants. His brain was donated to the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy which studies traumatic brain injuries in athletes.

### Kenny McKinley

Kenny McKinley played for the [Denver Broncos](#) in 2010 and like Duerson, killed himself [despite being a successful athlete](#). McKinley was only in his 20s when he died. He was injured in 2009 and 2010 and saw limited action in the NFL. There were no reports of emotional problems in his past and his teammates were shocked by his death. McKinley was a valued member of the Broncos' family who always had a laugh and a smile for his teammates.

### Barret Robbins

[Sports Illustrated](#) reported center Barret Robbins of the [Oakland Raiders](#) forgot to take his bipolar disorder medication just before the Raiders were to play in Super Bowl XXXVII against the [Tampa Bay Buccaneers](#). Instead of being in the football stadium to play the game, Robbins got drunk in Tijuana and was in a hospital after contemplating suicide on what would have been the biggest game of his career. The Raiders lost the game 48-21.

*Note: This article was written by a Yahoo! contributor. [Sign up here](#) to start publishing your own sports content.*

Updated Thursday, Jul 7, 2011

Top Sports Stories



Top 5 LLWS performances



Y! Sports' Miami probe



Potential fantasy stars

Sponsored Links

(What's this?)

Catchers Wearing Stickers

Read an interview with the Founder of Baseball's "Game Signs"

[FoxSportsWisconsin.com](http://FoxSportsWisconsin.com)

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%

If you owe under \$729k you may qualify for 2.90% APR Fed Refi Plans.

[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](http://www.SeeRefinanceRates.com)

How To: iOS App Testing

Proven Tips to Launch iOS Apps Free Whitepaper - Download Today

[www.uTest.com](http://www.uTest.com)

Sports Home

YAHOO! SPORTS

- NFL
- MLB
- NBA
- NHL
- Golf
- NASCAR
- Tennis
- NCAA Football
- NCAA Basketball
- NCAA Women's Basketball
- World Soccer
- WNBA
- MLS

[More Yahoo! Sports »](#)

ALSO ON YAHOO!

- Autos
- Finance
- Games
- Groups
- Health
- Maps
- Mail
- Music
- omg!
- Shine
- News
- Shopping
- Sports
- Travel
- TV

[All Yahoo! »](#)

THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Give Feedback
- Get Scores on My Yahoo!
- Play Fantasy Sports
- Subscribe to RSS News Feeds
- Citizen Sports
- Buy Sports Merchandise

Yahoo! - ABC News Network

Copyright © 2013 Yahoo! All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) - [About Our Ads](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright/IP Policy](#) - [Help](#) - [Site Map](#)