

# VICTOR CONTE AND MARGARET GOODMAN: THE CRUSADERS

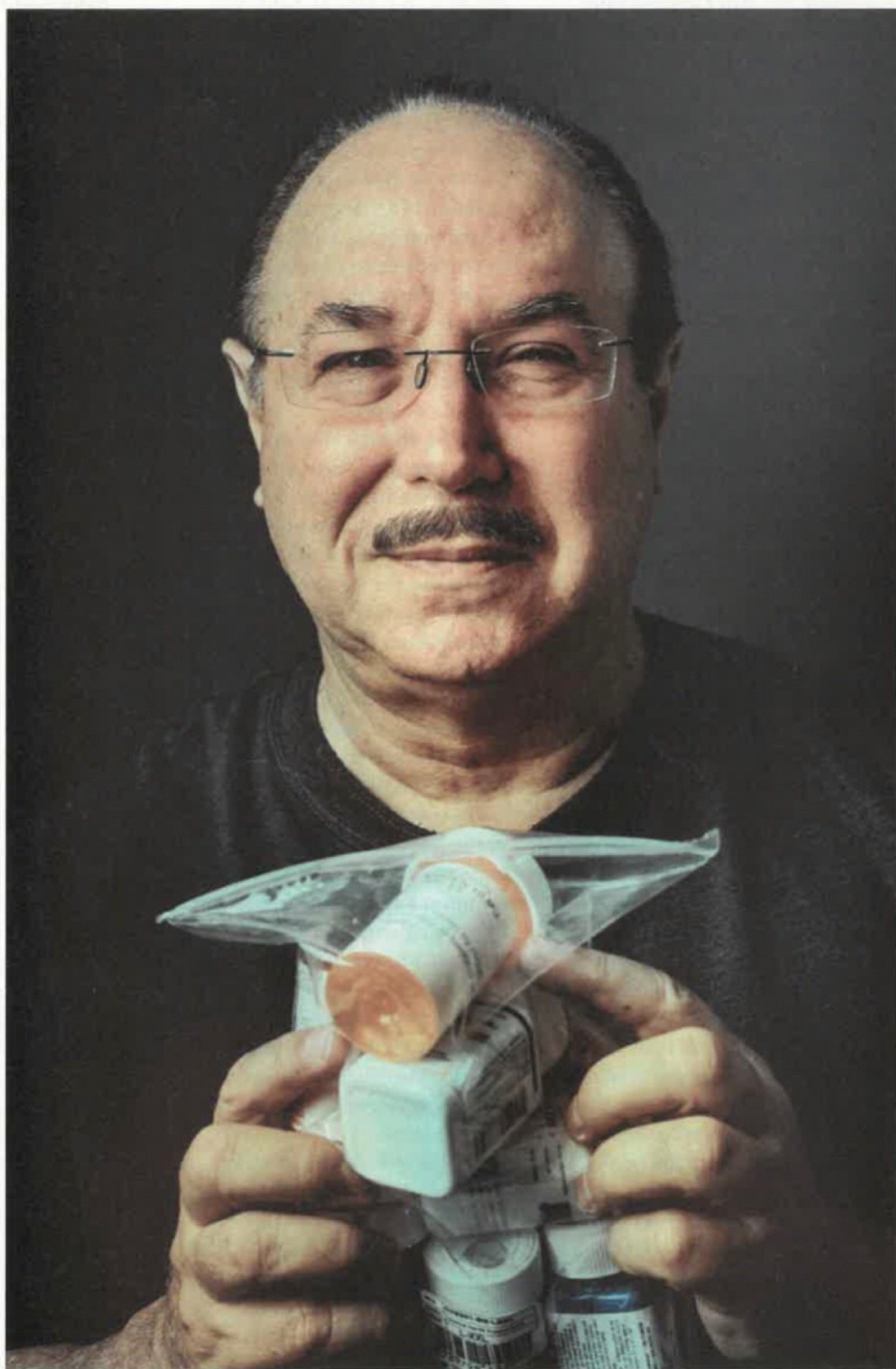
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WOJTEK URBANEK  
TEXT BY THOMAS HAUSER

## THE FACE OF BOXING

**Victor Conte and Margaret Goodman** have markedly different pasts.

Conte was the founder and president of BALCO and at the vortex of several well-publicized PED scandals. He spent four months in prison after pleading guilty to illegal steroid distribution and money laundering in 2005. Since then, he has become a forceful advocate for clean sport, education and reform. He now works with athletes as a conditioner and nutritionist at a cutting-edge facility in San Carlos, California, known as SNAC (an acronym for Scientific Nutrition for Advanced Conditioning). Conte is also a valuable asset for those who are trying to rid boxing of PEDs because of his knowledge of how the performance-enhancing drugs game is played and his willingness to share his knowledge.

Goodman is a neurologist with a private practice in





Las Vegas. She served for years as chief ringside physician and chair of the medical advisory board for the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Many of the reforms that she pushed for during her tenure are now accepted by the boxing community as essential to protecting the health


and safety of fighters. More recently, Goodman founded and is the current CEO of the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association. VADA is recognized worldwide as the most effective and honest PED-testing entity in boxing.

Fighters know that Conte will get them into the best condition possible

by honest means. And they know that Goodman will oversee comprehensive state-of-the-art drug testing to ensure a level playing field when VADA's services are retained.

"Victor and Margaret were two very different subjects," Wojtek Urbanek recalls. "With Victor, I photographed him in his hotel room. When I got there, he opened the door and shook my hand and right away made me feel welcome. He's very smart – a genius, really – and a great storyteller.

"I photographed Margaret at a boxing writers dinner in New York when she got an award for long and meritorious service to boxing. She sat down in front of the camera, and I felt like a painter when I looked through the lens at her blue eyes and red hair. She seemed fragile in some ways and very strong in others. What impressed me most was the respect that everyone at the dinner had for her. People there really appreciated what she is doing for boxing.

It was a little like photographing royalty." 

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