**Presentational and Linguistic Features**

Remember, this is not a feature spotting exercise. You must consider the effect

and impact on the reader.

|  |
| --- |
| **Now read Source 2, the article and the picture which goes with it called, ‘Fallen ‘heroes’’ from Bristol University’s Independent Student newspaper.**    **3. Explain how the headline and picture are effective and how they link to the text.**  **(8 marks)** |

**Fallen ‘heroes’: can we still trust our sporting idols after recent**

**events?**

Author: Ollie Grant (Epigram, Bristol University’s Independent Student Newspaper) March 5th, 2013

Tiger Woods, Lance Armstrong and Oscar Pistorius. These three sportsmen were once at the top of their respective fields and were regarded as ‘untouchables’; they were idols who we all looked up to and who could seemingly do no wrong. Yet, in November 2009 the world learnt that Tiger Woods, the world’s best golfer and renowned family man, had cheated on his wife on various occasions. Last year saw Lance Armstrong, seven-time winner of the Tour de France, being charged with using performance-enhancing drugs. And now, South African Olympian, Paralympian and worldwide sporting icon, Oscar Pistorius, is facing a charge of the premeditated murder of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. As yet another negative story of a supposed role model hits the headlines, can we trust our sporting heroes anymore?

The Armstrong case is particularly shocking. The American cyclist overcame testicular cancer, which had spread to his lungs and brain, before going on to win the Tour de France seven times. Yet his story is a tale of deceit. The illegal substances that he took contributed to all 7 of his Tour de France wins. Whether he would have won them without resorting to cheating no one can be sure, but he has most probably prevented various cyclists who played by the rules from reaching the pinnacle of their sport through his selfishness. In his recent interview with Oprah Winfrey, Armstrong spoke of his goal to ‘win at all costs’, but in his attempt to gain a competitive edge, he crossed the line and was eventually exposed as a fake. Armstrong has tarnished not only his own reputation, but that of his sport. With each case of cheating in a sport such as cycling, the profession gets knocked down further and the credibility of those who stayed clean is called into question.

When discussing the case of Pistorius, one has to tread carefully. The multiple Paralympic champion may well be found innocent. However, his reputation is, for now, all but ruined. If he is found guilty, the sporting world will be facing another case of a fallen hero; a man who until shocking events unfolded, was idolised and admired the world over.

All of these men had arguably achieved greatness as sporting legends, enjoying glorious careers and worldwide fame. Yet they have all gone on to erode some of the public faith in our sportsmen and women. The likes of Roger Federer, Sir Chris Hoy and Michael Phelps remain, yet great reputations are coming and going at an alarming rate.

Woods and Armstrong forgot the value of being truthful, in regards to their private life and their sport respectively, and although it is unwise to speculate over the death of Pistorius’ girlfriend, it seems that we may have now witnessed the latest in a long line of sporting heroes losing the trust and respect of those who held them dear

