# Athletic Supporters

These two sports starlets are stepping up to the plate to talk tough about AIDS. Michelle Tan gets game and the scoop.

November 1, 2000 By Michelle Tan

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**Zab Judah**
**22 years old**
**Brooklyn, NY**

**Record**: Junior welterweight world champion boxer. Out of the ring, he donates time and money to Brooklyn's Mother Hale House, which cares for positive kids.

**Position**: Mouthpiece for House of Groove's "Please Groove Responsibly" campaign. Safer-sex kit includes an XXL condom and an Altoid Mints sampler for that extra-fresh feeling.

**Motivation**: "I know a lot of cats who are positive, and it touched my heart," Judah says.

**On deck**: Judah hits televisions in November on BET's *Teen Summit*; PSAs for New York City's Hot 97 hip-hop radio station are in the works.

**Val Whiting**
**28 years old**
**Wilmington, DE**

**Record**: On hiatus from the WNBA. Began the Val Whiting Foundation in '98 to fund programs for young women of color.

**Position**: The former Detroit Shock forward combines her girls' basketball league with HIV and sex ed.

**Motivation**: Stats say it all to a player: Delaware ranks 8th in AIDS cases and black women age 13-24 represent half of new infections nationwide. "Initially, I wanted to help young girls build self-esteem," Whiting says. "But those numbers made me rethink our mission statement."

**On deck**: Her career is up in the air, but HIV ed will still score points at her B-ball league.

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