

Under Armour Shareholder Meeting Question
David Almasi, Vice President
National Center for Public Policy Research, May 9, 2019

I'm David Almasi of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

For last year's LGBT Pride Month, Under Armour tweeted a quote from transgender hockey player Harrison Browneⁱ in which Browne expressed a desire to "inspire"ⁱⁱ other transgender athletes. It also promoted your special Pride Edition HOVR Sonic shoe. You offered this shoe in both women'sⁱⁱⁱ and men's^{iv} versions. I'm wondering if you or someone on your staff here today can let us know which version Browne was wearing or should wear. For the record, Browne's pre-retirement Canadian National Women's Hockey League stats are 5-foot, five-inches and 128 pounds.

I don't need to explain to anyone here that having the proper gear is vital to an athlete's performance. What I would like for you to explain is how a company dedicated to providing the proper gear can also be all-in for advancing transgender activism in sports. Whether it be those special-edition gender-binary shoes, to saying you'll "flex [y]our economic, cultural and spending power"^v to push diversity and inclusion, to your financial support^{vi} of the trans-norming Athlete Ally^{vii} group, how can you expect to maintain fairness in athletic competition when transgender inclusion inherently and unfairly alters the field of play?

For example, two transgendered student-athletes in Connecticut came in first and second in female statewide competitions in 2018^{viii} and 2019.^{ix} At least one of them admitted that the male-to-female transition creates an advantage^x over biologically female competitors. Tennis legend Martina Navratilova, a member of the LGBT community, called this sort of advantage "cheating."^{xi} Parents in Connecticut expressed concern that "[t]he girls athletes are at the physical disadvantage compared to the transgender female" competitors.^{xii} This can disadvantage these girls in awards, college admissions and scholarships.

And what of Harrison Browne? The smallest member of the NHL, Rocco Grimaldi, has two inches and 55 pounds on Browne.^{xiii} Browne can't compete, and thus can no longer play pro hockey, what was once a "true passion."

How can Under Armour support, through its influence and its profits, practices that are inherently unfair to the sporting community – and to biological women in particular?

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ⁱ <https://theathletic.com/333877/2018/04/30/looking-forward-harrison-browne-first-openly-transgender-pro-hockey-player-retiring-to-take-next-step-in-his-transition/>

ⁱⁱ <https://twitter.com/UnderArmour/status/1010900612903526400>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.underarmour.com/en-us/womens-ua-hovr-sonic-pride-edition-running-shoes/pid3021780>

^{iv} <https://www.underarmour.com/en-us/mens-ua-hovr-sonic-pride-edition-running-shoes/pid3021779>

^v <https://about.underarmour.com/community/diversity-and-inclusion>

^{vi} <https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2018/06/15/how-under-armour-is-supporting-pride-month.html>

^{vii} <https://www.athleteally.org/about/>

^{viii} <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/News/transgender-athletes-speak-parents-petition-change-policy-compete/story?id=56071191>

^{ix} <https://www.foxnews.com/sports/transgender-high-school-athletes-spark-controversy-debate-in-connecticut>

^x <https://www.foxnews.com/sports/transgender-high-school-athletes-spark-controversy-debate-in-connecticut>

^{xi} <https://www.outsports.com/2019/2/17/18227992/martina-navratilova-trans-athletes-are-men-competing-as-women-is-unfair>

^{xii} <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/News/transgender-athletes-speak-parents-petition-change-policy-compete/story?id=56071191>

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