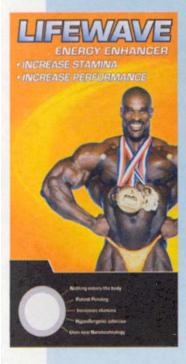


THE JUMP

NEXT...



CHAKRA THERAPY

Jocks will do anything for an edge. Enter the LifeWave Energy Enhancer, a tiny adhesive patch containing amino acids, oxygen and glucose that is said to interact positively with a person's natural electromagnetic field. "They act like energy antennas," says creator David Schmidt, "telling the body to burn fat instead of carbohydrates, producing twice the energy." Don't laugh; athletes ranging from Stanford women swimmers to Troy State footballers swear by the patches. "We just had our best season ever," says Trojans strength coach Richard Shaughnessy. "Our guys had as much energy in the fourth quarter as they did in the first. The only thing different was the patches." LifeWave is meant to be worn on wrists, ankles or shoulders, points used in Eastern medical practices such as acupuncture. But there's reason to be wary, not least because LifeWave is not sold in stores but rather through multilevel marketing (salespeople who recruit more salespeople who recruit more salespeople and so on). That means the jocks praising the product may have a financial stake in your buying it. Meanwhile, the NCAA has asked Troy State not to give the Enhancer to players (citing concerns about the amino acids). Still, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency tested the patches and found no banned substances. And Shaughnessy, who doesn't sell LifeWave, says the genie is already out of the bottle. "I'm getting calls from Alabama, Auburn, LSU, the Steelers, the Dolphins. It's just taken off." -DOUG MCINTYRE