

Undermining cycle sport

a critical review of anti-doping initiatives in advance of
and during Tour de France 2007

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Crying down the problem



‘In my opinion EPO is a problem that is much bigger in journalist’s imagination, than it is among cyclists. I will maintain we have proof that the use of EPO is not nearly as widespread as people tend to believe’

(Hein Verbruggen: October 1997)

1998 Cycling got all the focus on doping it did *not* want



A significant number of athletes resort to performance enhancing drugs...



...but both clean and doped athletes generally agree that anti-doping measures are necessary



'I will do anything to make sport clean. And if that means that I have to pee in a cup 20 times a year, then that's a price I am willing to pay. What is frustrating is that we do it, but it isn't done in other places.'

(international elite athlete)

Kelli White at Play the Game 2005



‘those who do use drugs are not bad people, we just have made a bad mistake’



'I cannot stand to see Jan Ullrich being made a scapegoat of in relation to Operatiçion Puerto. He is a good person with a great character.

(Bert Dietz on why he confessed to doping)

Former Telekom riders still active in the cycling business who confessed to have used doping in the 1990s

Bjarne Riis



Christian Henn



Brian Holm



Erich Zabel Rolf Aldag

Consistency?

Christian Prudhomme



Virenque

Riis

Zabel



Kim Andersen

The Rasmussen scandal



All whereabouts information is confidential so, from a legal point of view, the same counts for warnings that are related to it. That is the first argument. The second is that **a warning is private information without any public interest**. Therefore these warnings must be kept undisclosed. That is how I see it as a legal expert.
(Jens Ewald, Head of Anti Doping Denmark)

Cycle sports' promotion of high moral standards appears to be produced primarily for aesthetic purposes

‘The exclusion of riders involved in Operación Puerto prior to the race had no legal basis in the Pro tour teams’ Code of Ethics’
(Jens Ewald: Head of Anti Doping Denmark)



Ullrich



Basso



“Do you really think you could manage a race like Bordeaux-Paris on a bottle of mineral water?”

Anquetil 1967



“My closets now will be empty of syringes and prohibited substances. The majority of racers have resorted to drug product, and those who refuse to admit it, are liars”

Dietrich Thurau 1989



“In retrospect, we were living in a fools Paradise.”

“Who, among those viewing at the time, can forget the Danish professional Bjarne Riis's savage series of attacks on the road climbing to the ski station at Lourdes Hautacam when he won the 1996 Tour. That pale, sweating face and those staring eyes, and the huge gear he was pushing as he destroyed his rivals? No one could watch that without thinking, "What is he on?"”

(Matt Seaton: 2002)





If the Festina affair revealed that doping had been more or less neglected by the press; the scandals in recent years suggest that it is now the very rationale for anti-doping that is being neglected. Spurred by the press the ideal of a level playing field is being undermined – as the Rasmussen scandal unveiled.