

Backup Sample Confirmed Schleck's Positive Test

Tags: Frank Schleck, diuretic, Tour de France, Andy Schleck, Alberto Contador, Xipamide, performance enhancing drugs, cycling

Frank Schleck had tested positive for a banned diuretic at the Tour de France, according to the backup sample. The Luxembourg rider, however, maintained his innocence and said he has not doped.

“The result of the counter test was positive but for me nothing changes,” Schleck said in a statement. “I just know that I did nothing wrong!”

On Tuesday, the RadioShack Nissan Trek leader was pulled from the Tour after the International Cycling Union said he had tested positive on July 14. His first positive test jolted this year's Tour de France besides reviving the doping allegations that have long tarnished the image of cycling.

Schleck said after the first positive test if the backup sample eventually confirmed it, then a complaint would be filed “against an unspecified person for poisoning.” In a statement on Friday, he made no mention of poisoning or a legal complaint but remarked he was determined to find out how the diuretic, Xipamide, had turned up in his system.

“Since I didn’t take anything, I assume it must have been given to me by someone,” Schleck said, suggesting that he could have consumed the banned substance “through an accidental contamination, or it could be caused by something that is not yet known to me.”

Born on 15 April 1980, Schleck is a Luxembourgish professional road bicycle racer for UCI ProTeam RadioShack-Nissan. He is the older brother of Andy Schleck, winner of the 2010 Tour de France. Some of Frank's greatest achievements include winning a blue riband mountain stage in the 2006 Tour de France that finished on the Alpe d'Huez, the 2006 edition of the Amstel Gold Race classic, an alpine stage of the 2009 Tour de France, and finishing in the sole company of his brother Andy Schleck and Alberto Contador.

The 32-year-old said he has witnessed the backup sample analysis at the WADA-accredited anti-doping laboratory in Chatenay-Malabry south of Paris and said he vowed to “continue my search to find out how the substance could have entered my body,” after seeing the test positive.

The World Anti-Doping Agency defines “specified substances” like Xipamide as those that are “more susceptible to a credible, non-doping explanation” and the diuretic is classified as a specified substance and does not require a provisional suspension. According to the *“Dictionary of Doping”* by Jean-Pierre de Mondenard, a French expert, athletes who dope usually take diuretics such as Xipamide for masking other [banned performance enhancing drugs](#), or as a supplement for weight loss.