

[Alberto Contador Velasco](#), the Spanish professional cyclist, who won the 2007 Tour de France with the Discovery Channel team [would rejoin Saxo Bank, the Danish team](#) have announced.

Contador was stripped of his victory of 2010 Tour de France after he tested positive for clenbuterol. He was thereafter handed over a ban of two years, which was back-dated to January 2011. The cyclist had already served a provisional suspension of about six months and would be able to ride once more on August 5.

Contador said the support received from Saxo Bank and team owner Bjarne Riis has been extraordinary and he is looking forward to getting back on the bike.

The cyclist won the 2008 Giro d'Italia, the 2008 Vuelta a España and the 2009 Tour de France; he initially won the 2010 Tour de France and the 2011 Giro d'Italia with team Saxo Bank-SunGard but was stripped of these titles after being found guilty of doping. Considered to be the best climbing specialist and stage racer in the world, Alberto Contador is regarded as one of the finest cyclists who excel in all aspects of stage racing that are needed for high places in the general classification. Nicknamed El Pistolero, Contador was nicknamed Pantani (after Marco Pantani, who is regarded as one of the best climbers of all times) because of his climbing skills.

The star cyclist was barred from competing at the 2006 Tour de France because of alleged connections with the Operación Puerto doping case along with give other members of the Astana-Würth team. Later on, all players were cleared of all charges on 26 July 2006 by the Spanish courts. In September 2010, he made an announcement that his urine sample taken on a rest day in the 2010 Tour de France contained Clenbuterol traces. The Spanish cyclist claimed his [positive test for clenbuterol](#) was caused by eating contaminated meat. Anti-doping doctor Don Catlin added credibility to the explanation provided by the cyclist by saying clenbuterol is one of the more common contaminants found in food supplements.

The Spanish Cycling Federation (RFEC) proposed a one year ban in late January 2011 on Alberto Contador but later accepted appeal of the cyclist and cleared him of all charges. In March 2011, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) and the World Anti-Doping Agency each appealed the RFEC decision independently to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and Contador lost his Tour de France 2010 title on 6 February 2012 along with losing the 2011 Giro d'Italia title. "The presence of clenbuterol was more likely caused by the ingestion of a contaminated food supplement," Court of Arbitration for Sport said in its ruling in Lausanne, Switzerland. Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, who finished second at the 2010 Tour, was given the title of 2010 Tour de France.

After the ban, five-time Tour champion Eddy Merckx said, *"It's like someone wants to kill cycling."* Oscar Perreiro called the verdict "disgraceful" and claimed Contador "is innocent."

The ban means the cyclist will miss the Giro d'Italia, the Tour de France, and the London Olympics, but he will be eligible to ride in the Spanish Vuelta, which begins August 18. With the ban, he becomes only the second Tour de France champion to be disqualified and stripped of victory for doping after Floyd Landis, the American who lost his 2006 title after testing positive for testosterone.