

Frankie Andreu Responds To Ban On Armstrong

A professional from 1989 to 2000 and a member of the US Postal Service team's roster during the first two Tour de France victories of Lance Armstrong in 1999 and 2000, Frankie Andreu, has expressed surprise that a fighter on the field like Armstrong has decided not to fight the doping charges against him.

Frankie Andreu is a former professional cyclist who was the team captain of the U.S. Postal Service cycling team along with Lance Armstrong in 1998, 1999, and 2000. He admitted that he was introduced to performance enhancing drugs in 1995 while he was riding for Motorola.

Andreu said while discussing the ban of Armstrong that Lance is a fighter and the fact that the U.S. Anti-doping Agency (USADA) has enough information to strip him of his Tour de France titles is surprising.

In 2010, Frankie Andreu and his wife Betsy told a federal agent investigating the case of Armstrong and other cyclists that Lance admitted to using performance enhancing drugs in a hospital room while battling cancer in 1996, which was vehemently denied by Armstrong.

In 2006, Frankie and his wife were called to testify under oath at a civil suit between Armstrong and SCA Promotions in a case where the underwriter (SCA Promotions) refused to pay a bonus of \$5 million for his sixth Tour victory because of allegations Armstrong had used banned substances in order to win. At the hearing, the Andreus testified that Lance admitted to using a list of substances, including [growth hormone](#), cortisone, EPO, anabolic steroids, and testosterone to his doctors. In the same, the primary doctor of Lance submitted an affidavit that he had never seen any evidence that indicated that the cyclist admitted to taking performance enhancing drugs.

In an article appearing in the New York Times in 2006, Lance Armstrong said Betsy lied because "she hates me" and Frankie lied because "he's trying to back up his old lady." The statement of Armstrong also suggested that the wife of Frankie Andreu may have got confused with possible mention of his post-operative treatment that included anabolic steroids and EPO, which are routinely prescribed to counteract wasting and red-blood-cell destroying effects of intensive chemotherapy.

Frankie added that Armstrong's statement accusing USADA of unconstitutional witch hunt left him unimpressed and added that the efforts of the anti-doping agency is to punish dopers and he fully supports that. He added that doping bans by USADA to cheaters would send a pointed lesson to all the riders that the sport is changing and it is for the better. Frankie remarked that only riders can clean up cycling and added, *"There's always going to be the guy who denies and denies that he's ever used something,"* Frankie said. *"Nobody really knows what that guy is really doing when he goes home and closes the door."*

Armstrong, in replies of accusations of drug use, said he has been tested hundred times for performance enhancing drugs. He only tested positive for positive for cortisone at the 1999 Tour but was not penalized after he produced a prescription from a doctor that the cortisone was in a skin cream he used for saddle sores.