

Ivan Basso To Receive Tour De France 2005 Title

Ivan Basso, who recently returned to cycling after a two-year doping ban, could soon be receiving the Tour de France 2005 title after the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) stripped seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong of "all competitive results from Aug. 1, 1998 through the present."

This would also mean that Alex Zulle (convicted of using the blood-boosting EPO drug) would be receiving the 1999 jersey, Jan Ullrich would receive the 2000, 2001 and 2003 jerseys, and Joseba Beloki would get the 2002 jersey. Interestingly, both Ullrich and Beloki were involved in a massive drug investigation in Spain.

This means that the USADA is keen to punish a player who "may be" doping (Lance Armstrong) even though the agency has no drug testing proof against him and the anti-doping agency would take all his titles and distribute them to cyclists who were also accused of doping or unfair sport practices. This is surely a personal vendetta by the USADA against Lance in which it can punish one who "may have" doped, and reward one who doped.

Ivan Basso would surely be thanking his stars for claiming the 2005 title. Born on 26 November 1977 in Gallarate, Province of Varese, the Italian professional road bicycle racer is presently racing with UCI ProTeam Liquigas-Cannondale. Considered to be among the best mountain riders in the professional field in the 21st century and one of the strongest stage race riders, Basso is a double winner of the Giro d'Italia, having won the 2006 edition and the 2010 edition of the Italian Grand Tour whilst riding for Team CSC in 2006 and for Liquigas in 2010.

In the 2002 edition of the Tour de France, he won the white jersey (the award presented to the best-placed rider in the general classification under the age of 25) and finished 11th overall. In the 2004 Tour de France, Ivan Basso looked impressive and won stage 12 ahead of eventual winner Lance Armstrong, his first victory since 2001.

The cyclist was suspended by his Discovery Channel team in 2007 because of a reopened Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) investigation into involvement of the Italian cyclist with the Operation Puerto blood doping ring. According to allegations, the Italian cyclist was allegedly given blood doping by the Dr. Fuentes in a Spanish clinic. Basso was acquitted on 27 October 2006 for any involvement in the Operation Puerto events by the committee because of insufficient evidence.

Basso announced on 9 November 2006 that he was joining Lance Armstrong's former team, Discovery Channel. The team however suspended him in April 2007 and announced that Basso would be released from his contract. The Italian cyclist was suspended for two years after he admitted to contacting Dr. Fuentes' clinic with the intention to engage in blood doping. The suspension ended on October 24, 2008 and Basso made a return to racing two days later in the Japan Cup, where he placed a close third behind Damiano Cunego and Giovanni Visconti.

Ivan Basso would now receive the 2005 Tour de France title after the US Anti-doping Agency banned Lance Armstrong for life and stripped him of all his seven Tour titles.