

## **Armstrong Will Confess To Doping, Says Schleck**

Tour de France winner Andy Schleck admits he is eagerly awaiting Lance Armstrong's U.S. television interview on January 17 and will be fascinated to know how the disgraced cyclist will deal with his fall into disgrace.

Armstrong may win back some of his old fans through a candid interview with Oprah Winfrey on her cable TV network, Schleck says. However, he says that he is not sure if the Texan rider will admit to making the use of performance enhancing drugs during his career. Schleck said while arriving in Adelaide to prepare for the Tour Down Under that he does not believe that Lance Armstrong will go out there to say that he is innocent and didn't do anything. He added that media and pressure on him will not make it easy for him to tell the truth after so many years. Schleck added that he believes that he will do the interview for a good reason and remarked that he was stunned by revelations made by USADA against Armstrong of doping. The Luxembourg star said we knew three or four years ago that the Lance Armstrong era was not the cleanest in cycling so far.

The New York Times last week reported that the disgraced cyclist is considering publicly admitting that he used banned substances in an attempt to make a return to competitive sport in marathons and triathlons. The Tour de France 2010 winner, Schleck said there is also a possibility that the 41-year-old Armstrong still believed he was innocent and had done nothing wrong.

Schleck won the event after Alberto Contador was disqualified for doping and the cyclist will be competing at the season-opening Tour Down Under for the first time. This season will be crucial for the future of cycling, said Schleck but added that expecting the sport to be clean will still not be completely possible. He further added that there are cheaters in every sport but they get caught in cycling, which is a good thing.

Schleck's Radioshack Leopard Trek team will not include Frank, his elder brother, who is waiting the outcome of a disciplinary hearing after testing positive for a banned diuretic at last year's Tour de France.

Meanwhile, Tour Down Under race director Mike Turtur said he couldn't see Lance admitting to widespread doping and added that a confession would lead to other matters and said he however will be interested as anyone else. Turtur added that it was going to happen sooner or later so we might as well get it done now and be done with it when asked if he was concerned by the timing of the Armstrong interview coming a week before the start of this year's Adelaide race.

British cyclist David Millar has expressed concern over what he believes will be a "stage-managed" appearance of Armstrong with Oprah Winfrey. The broadcast will be the first interview of the cycling ever since he was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles after the US Anti-Doping Agency said he helped orchestrate the most sophisticated doping program in the history of cycling.