

## **Oprah Appearance Backfired For Lance Armstrong**

In what was meant and seen as an attempt to restore his image has turned otherwise for Lance Armstrong. His recent confession on the Oprah Winfrey talk show has backfired.

According to polls carried out by [SurveyUSA](#), Armstrong has suffered a sharp drop in public support after the two broadcasts. It was revealed that a total of 63 percent who were contacted believe that the disgraced and banned cyclist can no longer regain his reputation when contrasted to just 21 percent who see it as possible. The worst part is that only 17 percent felt that the banned cyclist, who was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and Olympic bronze medal, was completely honest in his answers to Winfrey in what was publicized as a no holds barred interview. In other words, the cyclist simply failed to come across as plausible.

Before the interview, the support for Lance Armstrong had seemed to be rising with 49 percent of Americans in October of last year believing that he should get his medals back. The dissatisfaction about his career, earlier this month, had dropped to 37 percent that showed that there was more sympathy – or at least tolerance - for him.

The SurveyUSA poll was carried out on Tampa Bay residents, but similar polls done in Portland and San Diego demonstrated the same findings. A YouGov poll in Europe showed that 81 percent of German respondents remarked that the Armstrong admission didn't show sincere repentance while 88 percent people believe that the Oprah Armstrong interview would not do anything to help resolve the doping situation. The sole consolation for Armstrong is that a slight majority of people are of the view that a lifetime ban on the cyclist is too harsh. A total of 52 percent people felt that Lance should be able to ride again at some point, compared with 45 percent who would give a firm no to that idea. Those who said the cyclist should be given a second chance also remarked that the disgraced cycling champion should have to wait for a considerable length of time.

In another development, USADA chief executive Travis Tygart said in a statement that the doping confession of the cyclist finally acknowledged that his cycling career was built on a powerful combination of doping and deceit and is a small step in the right direction and Armstrong must testify under oath about the full extent of his doping activities if he is sincere in his desire to correct his past mistakes.

Tyler Hamilton, who helped USADA exposed Armstrong, said the cyclist is still lying about testing positive at a race in 2001 and claims the Union Cycliste Internationale covered up the result. Hamilton added that he was not sure why Lance is owning up to some things and not owning up to others. Martial Saugy, then director of a Swiss drug testing laboratory, has also told Tygart that he was ordered by the world governing body of cycling to meet with Lance Armstrong and team boss [Johan Bruyneel](#) to explain how to beat tests for blood booster Erythropoietin (EPO).