

Michael Rasmussen Confesses To Years Of Doping

Retired Danish professional bicycle racer, [Michael Rasmussen](#), has admitted to doping for 12 years. The cyclist who competed in road racing and mountain biking revealed he has been cooperating with authorities, including the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) about his drug links and cheating past.

The cyclist, who won the best climber classification in the 2005 and 2006 Tour de France, told a press conference that he was quitting the sport immediately. Rasmussen remarked that he had provided extensive details to Danish and Dutch authorities, the US Anti-Doping Agency, and the World Anti-Doping Agency, in a series of secret interviews in Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

The 38-year-old Rasmussen was thrown off the 2007 Tour de France for failing to reveal his whereabouts to drug testers before the month-long race. He ticked off a cocktail of drugs he used from 1998-2010 and was riding for various teams such as CSC-Tiscali and Rabobank at the time. Michael Rasmussen admitted to using EPO, cortisone, insulin, human growth hormone, and blood transfusions and said he know he cheated and lied and cheated other riders and accept his punishment. The Danish cyclist said he is no longer carrying a heavy burden like he have done for the last many years and is happy that he don't have to sit and lie anymore when he is being asked about his past. Surprisingly, Rasmussen never tested positive throughout his cycling career, but served a two-year suspension for the deception over his whereabouts.

He claimed that he was in Mexico when he was in Italy and missed three drug tests and intimated at the time that he lied about his whereabouts because he was cheating on his wife. It was reported that year that Rasmussen had used extensive amounts of EPO and growth hormones and would carry five bags of blood transfusions for emergencies if he was suddenly called upon for a blood test, although the claims were denied by him at that time.

The cyclist was first accused of doping allegations when his former agent, Stefan Matschiner, admitted blood doping his athletes and triathletes up until 2008. Matschiner claimed he supplied blood products to some former clients of Eufemiano Fuentes, the tainted doctor involved in the [Operación Puerto doping scandal](#).

Anti-Doping Denmark said Michael Rasmussen has confessed to having used doping throughout most of his career, including in 2007 when he wore the yellow jersey in the Tour de France and when he was unavailable for out-of-competition testing in the crucial period before the race. The

Danish cycling federation confirmed USADA is seeking further testimony to shore up future arbitration hearings against US Postal director Johan Bruyneel and the team doctor Pedro Celaya.

Rasmussen, like disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong, fought his drugs sanction, and took his sponsors, Rabobank, to court to gain performance bonuses. The cyclist now faces a reduced ban of two years, down from a possible eight-year sanction, for his cooperation with authorities and his team sponsors are planning to use him as an example to promote clean sport while he has retired from cycling.