

Fränk Schleck Free To Race From July

Fränk Schleck will be free to return to professional cycling over a period of three months on July 14, 2013 after it was confirmed by the World Anti-Doping Agency that it would not challenge the one-year ban handed to the Luxembourgish professional road bicycle racer for UCI ProTeam RadioShack-Leopard.

The rider tested positive for Xipamide during the Tour de France in 2012 and will miss out on this year's Tour de France. The world governing body of cycling, the UCI, advised the cyclist on July 14, 2012 of an Adverse Analytical Finding in a urine sample collected from him at an in-competition test as the WADA accredited laboratory in Châtenay-Malabry detected the presence of the [diuretic Xipamide](#) in Schleck's urine sample.

Xipamide is a prescription-only and orally administered diuretic drug that is also known as Diurexan. It is usually recommended by medical practitioners to help patients deal with high blood pressure. Sportsmen and others use it to help remove traces of banned substances prior to a doping control. It falls into a special category of substances under the World-Anti Doping Code called "Specified Substances."

The Luxembourg Anti-Doping Agency's disciplinary Board could have issued a maximum two-year penalty, but went with one year after noting the extremely low amount of the banned substance. At that time, Schleck said in a statement that he was disappointed by the verdict but relieved that the judges acknowledged that the present is not a case of doping and that he had no intention to enhance performance as this is very important to him, his family, team, and all those who support him. The Agence Luxembourgeoise Anti Dopage (ALAD), Luxembourg's national anti-doping agency, said that Schleck had failed to provide an adequate explanation of its presence and the cyclist decided not to appeal against the ALAD's ruling. The anti-doping agency, in its ruling announced on January 30, said the cyclist had not ingested the substance intentionally and hair analysis carried out didn't reveal any evidence of doping. It also said that Schleck's biological passport was not suspicious.

The decision of the UCI and WADA not to take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport means Fränk Schleck, the older brother of Andy Schleck, winner of the 2010 Tour de France, can target the [Vuelta a España](#) that begins in late August.

The cyclist won a blue riband mountain stage in the 2006 Tour de France which finished on the Alpe d'Huez, the 2006 edition of the Amstel Gold Race classic, and an alpine stage of the 2009

Tour de France, finishing in the sole company of his brother Andy and Alberto Contador. His past is not free from controversies as one day prior to a decisive penultimate stage of the Tour de France 2008 he was accused by the German daily newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* to have a contact with the infamous Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes in December 2005.

Meanwhile, his brother Andy of RadioShack-Nissan is said to have been more seriously injured in the Critérium du Dauphiné crash than thought before and will not be able to ride in this year's Tour de France. It was revealed by examinations that Andy had fractured his pelvis and will be out for six weeks.