

Frank Schleck Resumes Racing After Doping Ban

Cyclist [Frank Schleck](#), the ex-RadioShack Nissan Trek leader who tested positive for banned substance at 2012 Tour de France, has denied being a drug cheat. Schleck made this statement after arriving in Australia to resume racing after a ban of twelve months.

Frank Schleck was banned by the Luxembourg Anti-Doping Agency for testing positive for Xipamide during the Tour de France in 2012. At that time, the cyclist remarked of course he is disappointed by the verdict that has just been announced and added he thinks that the decision to suspend him during one year is too severe considering the fact that the Council acknowledged that he unintentionally consumed a contaminated product. Schleck added unfortunately the provisions of the UCI are such that an involuntary contamination is sufficient in order to pronounce a punishment. He however expressed satisfaction by the verdict by saying he is however relieved that the judges acknowledged that the present is not a case of doping and that he had no intention to enhance his performance. Schleck went on to add that this is very important for him, his family, for his team and all those who support him.

The Tour de Suisse and Amstel Gold champion will make a comeback with the [Santos Tour Down Under](#), a UCI WorldTour cycling race, in Adelaide in January. The 33-year-old Luxembourger will head the new-look team Trek Factory Racing alongside new Australian signing Calvin Watson from January 19-26 in the WorldTour season opener.

Known as a strong rider in the hilly one-day classics and contender in the Grand Tours, Franck Schleck was banned from 14 July, 2012 and his ban expired on 14th of July 2013. Frank missed the [Tour de France](#) 2013 that started on June 29.

Schleck remarked first of all he wanted to start (the season) straight away, so he had the option between Argentina and Australia, and Australia has a big passion and commitment for cycling, there are great people over there who love cycling and that's why he is really excited to go there. Frank's brother and former Tour de France champion, Andy (who was handed the 2010 Tour title after Spanish winner Alberto Contador was disqualified for a positive doping test), will not be returning to Adelaide and will instead attend a team training camp in Spain. Franks said Andy told him a lot about it, he said it's a greatly organized race, it's really warm though and you've got to fight the heat and jet lag but he said you will enjoy the race, and he checked the parcours and they made it hillier and harder so he is looking forward to it.

Frank Schleck also remarked the team also wanted him to go to Australia to represent a strong team and he strongly believes he will be all right, and he will do his best to get a nice result. He also remarked he is all excited and happy to race again there are going to be a lot of guys who are going to be fresh for the first race of the season.