

## **Kreuziger Admits Working With Banned Ferrari, Sidelined By Tinkoff-Saxo**

[Roman Kreuziger](#) (Saxo-Tinkoff), winner of the 2013 Amstel Gold Race, has admitted to working with disgraced doctor Michele Ferrari. Kreuziger said he consulted the doping doctor from the autumn of 2006 through 2007.

Kreuziger claims that he was unaware that the controversial doctor had been banned. The cyclist said he believed Ferrari was one of the best coaches in the world and remarked he never doped. Ferrari has been banned twice for doping, including the [Lance Armstrong doping scandal](#).

In 2002, Michele Ferrari was prohibited from working cyclists in Italy after allegations that he assisted riders to dope with [Testosterone](#), EPO, and other banned methods or products.

Kreuziger was considered one of the biggest talents of the sport after winning the 2004 Junior Road World Championships and the 2008 Tour de Suisse at the age of 22. He won the 2009 Tour de Romandie after completing his first Grand Tour after finishing 21st in the Vuelta a España. Kreuziger won the Giro di Sardegna in 2010, finished third in Paris-Nice, and finished 9th overall in the Tour de France.

In June 2013, UCI first notified Kreuziger that Cycling Anti-Doping Foundation regarded his data as suspect and the rider subsequently informed his team. The team's press release said Kreuziger was adamant that he never used doping methods or substances and added the team was satisfied through its own medical staff and independent verification that Roman's blood profile had valid medical and scientific explanations other than the use of doping methods or substances and this was subsequently confirmed by the expert opinions Roman shared with the team.

Former Liquigas teammate of Kreuziger, Leonardo Bertagnolli pointed to Kreuziger in an affidavit dated May 18, 2011. Bertagnolli remarked he know many of his teammates went to Ferrari because we talked about it and the team knew: Franco] Pellizotti, Roman Kreuziger, Enrico Gasparotto, and Francesco Chicchi. A Saxo-Tinkoff representative remarked at that time that the team will support Kreuziger and let the national federation decide.

The Czech professional road bicycle racer for UCI ProTour team Team Tinkoff-Saxo was sidelined by his Tinkoff-Saxo team in June 2014 after he faced doping allegations. The team, in a statement published on its website, said the Union Cycliste Internationale is likely due to instigate disciplinary proceedings against (Kreuziger) arising from an alleged violation of its anti-doping rules due to abnormalities detected in his biological passport in 2011 and 2012. Meanwhile, Kreuziger denied he had taken any forbidden substances or used any forbidden methods and said that an independent inquiry concluded that his passport values were due to causes that were not due to the use of doping substances or methods.

The UCI's Cycling Anti-Doping Foundation (CAFD) alleged that the blood passport profile of Kreuziger, when he rode for Astana, demonstrated abnormalities from March to August 2011 and from April 2012 until the end of that year's Giro d'Italia.

Kreuziger pending further details is off the Tour team and will not compete in any other events. The rider will however not receive a provisionally suspension unless ordered by the UCI or the Czech federation.