

Danish Cyclist Admits To Doping

Nicki Sorensen, the former Tinkoff-Saxo rider, has admitted that he doped during the first part of his career. The former professional cyclist said he doped in the initial stages of his career, which was more than a decade ago. This admission came a day ahead of the release of a report into doping in Danish cycling between 1998 and 2015.

Sorensen said he told Anti-Doping Denmark of his experiences and admitted to doping to ease his conscience and because he also wanted to help the sport of cycling. According to reports in Danish media, Sorensen admitted to doping during the 2004 Olympic Games.

The cyclist, who won four Danish National Road Race Championships between 2003 and 2011, denied Bjarne Riis, his former team principal, had encouraged him to do so. Sorensen said it was his own decision to dope. Interestingly, Riis won the 1996 Tour de France but he admitted in 2007 that he used Erythropoietin (EPO, the banned blood booster) to secure victory. Riis admitted to using EPO from 1993 to 1998, including during his 1996 Tour de France victory. The cyclist also admitted to taking [human growth hormone](#) and cortisone.

In 1999, Nicki Sorensen turned professional with Team Chicky World. Later, he joined Team Fakta before joining CSC-Tiscali, where he would spend the remainder of his career.

The 40-year-old Sorensen is now a sport director at the Tinkoff-Saxo team. The four-time Danish national champion and a Tour de France stage winner will be named in an impending report from Anti-Doping Denmark (ADD) that also investigated former Tinkoff team boss [Bjarne Riis](#). ADD is relying heavily on the testimony of [Michael Rasmussen](#), the former Tour de France yellow jersey wearer.

In a book, the former Tour de France king of the mountains Michael Rasmussen provided complete insights about his doping practices. Rasmussen also claimed in the book "*Yellow fever*" that systematic doping was going on his former CSC-Tiscali team and team owner Bjarne Riis was fully aware of what was going on. The former cyclist also disclosed

that it was his impression that almost all riders used doping and added he got systematic injections with cortisone to ride faster and delay fatigue.

In the book, the ex-cyclist disclosed that the team doctors constantly monitored blood values for monitoring hematocrit values during the season to find out which riders used EPO and which riders were in danger of getting caught. Rasmussen also accused Nicki Sørensen of doping. Rasmussen said both of them lived in the same hotel and Nicki told him rather desperately that he had been unable to find EPO or growth hormone. At this point of time, Rasmussen said he calmed Nicki and sed a CSC car and drove to a known pharmacy and bought EPO and growth hormones.

In a team press statement, Tinkoff-Saxo said the team has a deep-rooted anti-doping culture that is implemented throughout the entire team. It was added that the team was convinced at the time and remains of the view that Sorensen has conducted himself fully in accordance with this culture over the past decade of working with the team.