

## **Former Tour De France Winner Escapes Ban**

Former Tour de France winner and Team CSC manager Bjarne Riis has managed to escape a ban even though it was revealed by a report by Denmark's anti-doping agency (ADD) that he decided to ignore use of banned performance enhancing drugs by riders on the former Team CSC.

A statute of limitations for doping cases applies and no disciplinary charges can be brought as many of the revelations contained in the report are dating back more than 10 years. It was suggested by the Anti-Doping Denmark report that there would be grounds without a statute of limitations to bring doping cases forward against a number of Danish riders who have admitted either their own doping violations or where the interviews have given the investigation group knowledge about their alleged offences.

According to the 97-page report published on Tuesday, senior Team CSC members Johnny Weltz (now a directeur sportif at Cannondale-Garmin) and Alex Pedersen (former Riis Cycling Managing Director) were also aware of the doping practices.

This report was based on interviews with 50 present and former riders, aides, and officials, including the Danish rider Michael Rasmussen. In 2013, Rasmussen admitted he doped for more than a decade. The cyclist was leading the 2007 Tour de France when he was sacked by his team for lying about his whereabouts after he missed pre-race doping tests. Rasmussen, who was interviewed for two days in 2013, said he experienced a widespread use of banned cortisone on Team CSC with the acceptance of team doctors and its leaders. The former cyclist also remarked his teammate Tyler Hamilton also received cortisone.

It was revealed by the report that Bjarne Riis provided Tyler Hamilton with the number of the disgraced Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes. It was revealed that Riis told Hamilton that Fuentes is the best in the business and he is the doctor to go to for blood doping. Fuentes was not interviewed by Anti-Doping Denmark. It was also revealed in the ADD report that Riis admitted to being aware that [Tyler Hamilton](#) was working for blood doping with Dr. Fuentes and he did not act to stop it. Riis also confessed to blood doping during

his own illustrious career and said he had personal knowledge about blood doping practices.

In 2007, Riis admitted he made use of [Erythropoietin](#) (EPO), the banned blood booster, to win the Tour de France in 1996. Riis later managed CSC that later became Team [Tinkoff-Saxo](#).

The ADD report was inspired by a US Anti-Doping Agency investigation that saw Lance Armstrong getting stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and banned for life from professional cycling for doping offences. The report by Anti-Doping Denmark also included an allegation by Danish rider Bo Hamburger that Bjarne Riis asked him to acquire EPO in 2000 for German Team Telekom rider Jorg Jaksche. This allegation was confirmed by Jaksche to the ADD investigators but it was denied by Riis who said though he did coach the two cyclists, he was not aware that either of them was doping.