

## **My Credibility Is Not Very High, Says Bjarne Riis**

In an interview with Danish television channel TV2, [Bjarne Riis](#) has admitted that he was complicit in the use of doping products at Team CSC when he was the director.

Riis also admitted he blood doped himself during his career and knew that Tyler Hamilton was blood doping with disgraced Spanish doctor Dr. Eufemiano Fuentes. The Danish former professional road bicycle racer, who won the 1996 Tour de France, said he is well aware of the fact that his credibility is not very high.

The former cyclist made these remarks after a 97-page Anti-Doping Denmark report concluded that Bjarne Riis, former Riis Cycling managing director Alex Pedersen, directeur sportif Johnny Wertz (now a directeur sportif at Cannondale-Garmin), and many Danish former riders all violated anti-doping rules. None of them will however face disciplinary action due to the World Anti-Doping Agency's eight-year statute of limitation rule in force at the time.

The ADD report also disclosed that the ex-coach gave the telephone number of the Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes to Tyler Hamilton.

The report published by ADD was based on interviews with present and former riders, aides, and officials, including rider Michael Rasmussen. The interviews were conducted by telephone or email with people involved in cycling since 1998.

Rasmussen, who was interviewed for two days in January 2013, admitted in 2013 that he doped for more than a decade. In 2007, Rasmussen was leading the 2007 Tour de France and was sacked by his team after he lied about his whereabouts when he missed pre-race doping tests.

During the investigation by Anti-Doping Denmark, Riis spoke to ADD and admitted to blood doping and confirmed he had personal knowledge about practices related to blood doping. It was also revealed during the investigation that he had requested Danish rider Bo Hamburger provide [Erythropoietin](#) (EPO) to Jörg Jaksche. Riis also said there was a widespread use of Cortisone at Team CSC without medical justification. Riis, nicknamed The Eagle from Herning, said there are some things in the report that he does not agree with but he will not elaborate on them. The ex-cyclist said the report concluded that he failed as a leader and he confirmed and regret that deeply.

Later, Riis issued a statement to repeat his feelings of failure and regret and said he supports recommendations of the ADD report. The former professional cyclist said he believes the ADD recommendations could make a critical contribution for the future of cycling. Riis also went on to add that he is absolutely convinced that cycling as a sport is much cleaner today, partly due to the Biological Passport.

[Bjarne Riis](#), the former general manager of Team CSC, admitted on 25 May 2007 that he used banned substances to come first in the 1996 Tour de France. The Tour reconfirmed his victory in July 2008 but with an asterisk label to indicate his doping offences. Following the 1998 Tour de France, Riis acquired the nickname of Mr. 60 percent to suggest he has used doping. The 60 percent is an allusion to a high level of red blood cells that indicate EPO usage.