

Frankie Andreu 'Doped For The Majority Of His Career', Says Armstrong

On Monday, the transcript from a recent Lance Armstrong testimony became public following the filing of court documents by the US Federal Government. This transcript revealed that Armstrong, the former seven-time Tour de France winner, alleged that his former teammate [Frankie Andreu](#) "doped for the majority of his career".

Frankie Andreu was a domestique in his 12 years as a professional cyclist and was a worker bee whose primary job was to assist a top rider like Lance Armstrong win.

Frankie denied the allegation and said the testimony of the disgraced cyclist was "completely false". Frankie admitted to a limited amount of doping during his career in 2006 and added he raced for the majority "completely clean". Andreu remarked a lot of riders made bad choices in that time and he was one of them and added that he was taking Erythropoietin (EPO) off and on. Andreu also revealed he was introduced to [performance enhancing drugs](#) in 1995 and took EPO for "a few races."

Frankie revealed his introduction to performance enhancing drugs came in 1995 when Armstrong and he were with the Motorola team. Frankie said some of the riders from the team felt that they were unable to compete with some European teams that had rapidly improved and were rumored to be using Erythropoietin. The top riders of Motorola asked their doctor, Massimo Testa, now a sports medicine specialist at the University of California at Davis, about the safety of EPO as more than a dozen young riders in Europe had died mysteriously of heart attacks. Dr. Testa gave [literature about Erythropoietin](#) to each rider in case any of them decided to use it on their own. Dr. Testa said he wanted riders to be educated and urged the riders not to take the drug.

Steve Swart, one of Armstrong's teammates, has admitted using Erythropoietin while riding for Motorola. Swart discussed his time with the team in the book "L.A. Confidential: The Secrets of Lance Armstrong," that was published in 2004, only in French. Roberto Heras of Spain, another former lieutenant of Armstrong, tested positive for EPO and served a suspension of two years. Pavel Padrnos, one of Lance Armstrong's United States Postal Service teammates, was summoned to appear before an Italian tribunal and face accusations about taking illicit substances during the 2001 Giro. In 2004, Tour de

France Tour director, Jean-Marie Leblanc ejected Stefano Casagrande of the Saeco team and Martin Hvastija of Alessio for suspected doping. The cyclists were associated with an Italian doctor, Enrico Lazzero, in an investigation of doping at the 2001 Giro d'Italia.

EPO is a synthetic hormone that boosts stamina by improving the body's production of oxygen-rich red blood cells that can last several weeks or more.

Frankie and wife Betsy revealed to the world that they saw Lance Armstrong telling a doctor in October 1996 that he had taken performance enhancing drugs. This hospital admission came three months after the Atlanta Olympics and three years before his first Tour de France title and more than 16 years before Lance admitted to doping during his career.

The testimony of Lance Armstrong was part of a pretrial deposition in a US Federal Government whistleblower case brought forward by former teammate Floyd Landis. Armstrong faces the risk of losing up to \$100 million.