

Doping Progress Hailed By Tour De France Chief

Christian Prudhomme, the general director of the [Tour de France](#) since 2007, has remarked anti-doping measures in the recent past have significantly changed image of cycling. Prudhomme said he believes that [doping in cycling](#) is under control and that all the measures that have been taken should be enough.

The Frenchman added cycling is no longer the principal sport to provide news on the use of illegal substances. Long associated with systematic doping, cycling has been spared such close scrutiny during recent affairs that have plagued athletics, football, and the International Olympic Committee.

Till few years back, cycling was in all kinds of controversies ever since the Lance Armstrong doping scandal broke out. The disgraced cyclist, who was denied doping throughout his illustrious career, finally admitted to making use of banned substances and techniques such as blood doping, [testosterone](#), cortisone, and human growth hormone during a televised interview with Oprah Winfrey.

Prudhomme also commented there is no longer a feeling in the sport that change is necessary and said you don't see champions who come from nowhere any more. The former French journalist the absence of champions coming "out of nowhere" and the believable and mappable progress of young riders has done the job for cycling. Prudhomme said the likes of Nairo Quintana and Esteban Chaves have a pedigree, they shone on the Tour de l'Avenir and it is reassuring.

The Tour de l'Avenir is the most prestigious under-23 race in the world and both Chaves and Quintana - who have finished on the podiums of the Tour de France and the Vuelta a Espana over the last few years - performed very well in their youth. The Tour de France chief also commented that the change in communication with the sport has been a huge factor in the progress he has seen. Prudhomme said cycling was seen as a closed sport until recently but it is not anymore and people talk. Prudhomme went on to comment that cycling has been cleaning up its act and added it was not easy but it has been cleaning up its act. He also said we want sport to be perfect, while society will never be and also

said society is not full of saints or full of crooks. Prudhomme also said all the cheats and the liars on this earth did not gather up one day to decide they would be taking up cycling.

Prudhomme took charge of the Tour de France by inheriting the mantle of his predecessor, Jean-Marie Leblanc, in 2006, the year of the Operación Puerto doping scandal. Prudhomme has overseen doping scandals in 2007, 2008, and 2010 but admitted revelations about mechanical doping earlier this year was something he was not prepared for. The Frenchman called mechanical doping the "biggest challenge facing cycling." The Tour de France director said he was scared eight days before the Tour of the rumors would mar the race but was relieved after the secretary of state announced the use of thermal imaging cameras to help locate any motors being used in the peloton.