

## The Trouble with Lance

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As the author of the [Cheating Cycles](#), I am still utterly shocked that Lance has been exposed in this way. I am also incredibly disappointed. Worse still, when I look back at the last 20 years of Tour de France podium finishers, nearly every one of them has been implicated with, or has admitted to using performance enhancing drugs. In fact, from 1992 to 2002 there are only 4 out of the 30 podium finishers who are untainted and clean.

Having followed the Tour over those 20 years, it pains me that other greats like 5 time champion Miguel Indurain are embroiled in cheating. Unfortunately for us all now, we can only look back on those 20 years in the same way that we look back on Olympic performances from the 1980s when the Eastern Bloc countries dominated – we can have no faith in the results. So widespread is the problem in cycling that the governing body can't even nominate a winner for those years that Armstrong has been stripped of his victories – there are no winners only losers.

I don't see any way out now for Armstrong. How can he come clean? Maybe like former Tour winner Floyd Landis he truly believes his own lies or actually feels like he is the one who has been wronged. When Landis finally confessed, we all breathed a sigh of relief. I doubt Armstrong would be afforded the same reaction. He will be seen as duplicitous, a liar of monumental proportions. But how can he keep denying the indefensible? Worse still, if he eventually comes clean will he claim that he had been dealt such a tough blow (by advanced cancer) that he had to take drugs to level the playing field?

I feel like we have all been taken for a ride. After having invested so much emotion and faith into his achievements, into him, it is impossible not to feel deflated. Personally, I spent over 100 nights, sitting up till 2am watching his exploits and cheering him on. I wanted to believe in him. It feels like a good friend has lied to me. The reality is he has lied to everyone.

There are no winners and we are all the poorer.



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