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# Carlos Sastre Wins Tour de France

Celebrations and scandals found at race's finish line

By **Maureen Ker** | July 28, 2008

PRINT



Carlos Sastre nears the finish line of the Tour de France at the Champs Elysees in Paris. (Photo: ©Philippe Perusseau/NewsCom)

Carlos Sastre of team CSC won the 95th Tour de France Sunday, becoming the third Spaniard in a row to win the world's most well-known cycling race. This is Spain's 11th win at the premier cycling competition.

Long considered the journeyman of cycling, Sastre had participated in eight Tour de France races. His best previous finish was third, in 2006.

"The team has done everything to make this Tour as easy as possible for me, and even as we came to Paris for the final stage, they continued to work for me," said Sastre. "It's a great atmosphere now, and I know that relief has set in and now everyone is happy."

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During the race's final leg, Sastre rode into Champs-Élysées, France's most famous boulevard. He later sipped celebratory champagne.

"It's very moving," Sastre said of his victory.

Sastre, 33, managed to fend off Australian Cadel Evans by finishing 58 seconds ahead of his opponent to claim the yellow jersey.

Bernhard Kohl of Austria came in third. Kohl also claimed the polka dot jersey awarded to the best mountain climber. The white jersey—best young rider—went to Andy Schleck, 23, also of team CSC, which itself won the overall team award.

Cheating From Start to Finish

A cloud of scandal hung over the conclusion of this year's Tour de France, however. Numerous cyclists were kicked out of the race because they tested positive for having used illegal substances, also called doping.

Early on in this year's race, three riders were removed from the race after they were busted for drugs. The entire Spanish team Saunier Duval-Scott pulled out of the race after its Italian leader, Riccardo Riccò, tested positive for drugs.

Dmitriy Fofonov, a rider from Kazakhstan, tested positive for a "very heavy dose" of heptaminol, a banned stimulant meant to enhance the rider's performance. Announcement of Fofonov's disqualification came only minutes after Sastre was crowned the winner.

Fofonov of team Credit Agricole was the fourth rider to get busted for drugs this year at the tour. He had bought the substance on the Internet to treat cramps and had forgotten to inform his team doctor.

Fofonov was immediately fired by his team.

"I am completely demoralized," said Jimmy Engoulvent, Fofonov's teammate. "We are professionals—whether it is EPO or a stimulant, it's the same thing. He should not have taken it."

The grueling 23-day competition has had many doping scandals in the past.

Two years ago, the competition was rocked by news that high-profile winner American Floyd

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I spent five hours with butcher Don today, cutting and packaging beef for my dogs for the Serum Run. Exactly how much meat are we talking about? For 20 days on the trail, I will feed approximately 300 pounds of beef to my dog team. I may not need it all, but it is best to be prepared with extra in case we are delayed by a storm.

**Serum Run 2007**

It is a sunny day in Galena, with temperatures as high as -10Â° F. This feels like a heat wave after the cold we have endured over the past week. Weâ??re enjoying the sun while it lasts, as the forecast calls for more cold.

**The New Face of Indy Racing**

When Danica Patrick was 13, she raced go-carts and dreamed of being a race-car driver. Now 23, she's made history, finishing fourth at the Indianapolis 500 in May and becoming the first woman to hold a lead in the race.

Landis tested positive for synthetic testosterone. That steroid hormone is used to enhance athletic performance. Landis was later stripped of his title, marking a low point for the sport.

This year, in an attempt to prevent a repeat of previous years' scandals, the riders were rigorously tested throughout the 2,212-mile race by the French Anti-Doping Agency. Riders were tested at odd hours to prevent cheating, and most were tested daily.


"The fight against doping has made enormous progress," said Tour de France Director Christian Prudhomme. And despite the racers caught doping this year, he is optimistic about the tour's battle against performance enhancing drugs.

Sastre also made a stand against doping.

"I believe in clean cycling because I am clean," said Sastre. "I know all the sacrifices I have made. In the world, there are cheats and there always will be cheats. There are also people who know how to sacrifice and who know how to do the work in a clean way. In our generation and in our society, we cannot eliminate the cheaters, we can only fight hard to reduce them."

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**




Read today's story and answer the following question.

	<p>Numerous cyclists were caught using illegal performance-enhancing substances -- or doping -- during the 2008 Tour de France. It's not the first year that this has happened. Two years ago, American Floyd Landis won the race and then was caught having used performance enhancers. Doping has been a problem in most sports over the past few years. What do you think should happen to an athlete if they are caught doping? What kind of action should the sports world take to stop doping from happening?</p> <p><b>Tell us what you think on the <a href="#">Scholastic News Online Blog!</a></b></p>
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