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BACKGROUND MATERIAL BASED ON [REDACTED] INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] INTERVIEW CONDUCTED [REDACTED]
2003

ONE FORMER RIDER CLAIMS LANCE AND PHIL ANDERSON OFFERED HIM AND HIS TEAM \$50,000 NOT TO TRY IN WEST VIRGINIA STAGE RACE IN THE SECOND OF THE THREE RACES WHICH GAVE LANCE HIS \$1m. BONUS?

I don't remember that, [REDACTED] the West Virginia race. In the final race of the three, the US Pro Championships, he definitely paid money to some Italian guys who were in the break. I don't know how many were in the break, maybe five or six, and there were maybe two Italians in the six. He wouldn't have been too sure of beating the European guys but if he could be sure they would not chase him, then it would not have been hard for him to win. I don't exactly know [REDACTED] and it was over ten years ago. I do remember at some future race Lance having two shoe boxes, full of money, and handing it over to the Italians. It might have been \$50,000. Basically it was supposed to be \$1m. but if it was cashed in immediately, it became \$600,000, and then after taxes and other stuff was taken out of it, it was a million down to nothing.

There was a lot of hassle about the division of the money. How much the guys in West Virginia should get as opposed to those [REDACTED] riders who were competing at the same time in Europe. Norm Alvis was the guy in [REDACTED] team who took care of the division of the money. I think the custom at the time was that everything went into the pot and was divided up amongst everybody at the end of the season on the basis of how many race days [REDACTED] had been involved in. After this, it might have changed to a situation where 50% was divided amongst those who competed in the race where the money was won and then 50% was divided up amongst the whole squad.

WHAT WAS YOUR MEMORY OF THE YEARS AND THE PRESSURE ON THE MOTOROLA RIDERS TO BEGIN A MEDICAL PROGRAMME?

Och was freaking out at the scene. In his eyes [REDACTED] weren't performing. He was really thick about it. I remember after Milan-San Remo, he was screaming [REDACTED]. This was the Milan-San Remo won by Furlan, who just bombed clear and no one could touch him. Furlan was Gewis, the team that Ferrari was looking after. Axel Merckx was the only who made it to the front group. Of course I didn't know until later that Axel was seeing Michele. Then at Liege-Bastogne-Liege, Phil Anderson was the only one [REDACTED] close to the front group and Och was so pissed [REDACTED] were getting killed in races, there was nothing [REDACTED] could do. Though we were talking about getting on a programme, Och wanted nothing to do with this. He didn't want to threaten the Motorola sponsorship because it was stipulated in the contract that if there was any positive drug test, the sponsorship was immediately over. So he would not have anything to do with it, if we were talking about it he would leave the room. The team

were never going to supply it or anything like that. That was never going to happen. We knew that whatever we did, we would have to organise for ourselves.

In the [redacted] Tour de France [redacted] and I believe the team was pretty much 100% clean then. Maybe some individual guys were doing stuff without me knowing it but that would have been one or two guys. [redacted], for sure, he knew what was going on and I heard later that he was doing tons of stuff. There was a lot of pressure on the riders because the [redacted] and Och was trying to get it renewed or trying to come up with a new sponsor. He was yelling [redacted] upset that [redacted] performance as a team was dismal. I remember him screaming about McKinley living in the centre of Paris. I genuinely did not know about the extent of EPO use and within our team nobody knew who or what or why things were happening.

Definitely, I remember that Lance in particular was tired of getting his ass kicked and he was in favour of doing something about it. From my memory this started happening in 1995. It was like 'you're getting your butt kicked, it's time to step up and get on the same start line as everyone else.'

But it wasn't that easy. At that time there was absolutely no control of EPO use. No 50% haematocrit level that would have limited its use. So for us, in terms of knowing how much to use, we were lost. It was also very expensive.

The difference with Lance and the rest of us was he had to be successful. He didn't want a career that wasn't massively successful. It was like 'We need to step up. What are you doing? You've got to get on a programme.' If you were not doing this, you couldn't bike race, it was as simple as that. At some one-day race in the spring, it might have been 1994, Sean Yates heard that these Italian guys had a centrifuge and he went up to their room to have the haematocrit level of his blood analysed. His haematocrit level was 41 and they told him he might as well go home and go back to bed because with that haematocrit level, he had no chance of winning. But Yates had a different mentality, he didn't care, he didn't want to do that stuff. He was content to be the go-to guy. He was amazing, so, so, strong.

But this bugged Lance, it eat into him. He was not content to be beaten by guys who he might have been better than. He started putting big pressure on Max and Och. Max Testa didn't want to get into that. He knew about it but he didn't want to get into it. He tried to convince us there was a natural way to ride well, that we didn't need the shit other teams were using. You would tell him about the pain in your knee having travelled down into your calf, he would say that was good, it proved it was on its way out of your body. But in the end, he was forced into being involved because as guys started doing stuff, Max had to look out for them and make sure guys wouldn't fuck themselves up. If you had a problem from the stuff you were taking, it was a case of see the team doctor. Take some iron, take some pre-foliac, Max would try to direct us back to normal, legal stuff.

But what you have to realise was that everything was so secret. You could be sharing a room with a guy and not know what he was doing. You would find out eight months later, 'hey, you never told me that at the time?'

HOW DID LANCE END UP GOING TO MICHELE FERRARI?

He was definitely frustrated by what was happening in the sport, frustrated also by the fact that Och and Max just weren't going down that road. By now Lance was living in Nice and would sometimes train with Tony Rominger who lived in Monaco. Lance and Tony got to know each other, Tony was coming towards the end of his career, he had worked with Michele for a number of years and so Lance began to see Michele.

My memory is that Lance began working with Michele in the winter of 1994, that is before the start of the 1995 season. I say this because I have a memory Lance being really bulked up at the start of the 1995 season, if that was the season he got into a duel with Jalabert in Paris-Nice. Look at the photographs of him from that Paris-Nice, he is huge. He had clearly been on a programme during the winter, human growth hormone, who knows what else. At that time, he was quite open about it with his [REDACTED], for us he would lay it out on the bed, joke about it, tell us this was growth hormone, this was something else, and he would inject the stuff there and then. I suppose [REDACTED] this wasn't something he did for everybody.

"Man," I would say, 'you're nuts."

He had pills for the first third of the race, pills for the middle of the race, pills for the final part of the race. He had pills that had to be taken during the day, pills that had to be taken at night. Then in 1996 he quit the Tour because he wasn't feeling well, it was raining and although we didn't know it at the time, one testicle was swollen. That was the thing, he never complained. He was a stubborn guy. From that tour he went home and trained really hard, the Atlanta Olympics were coming up and he wanted to win the gold medal.

[REDACTED] PEDRO CELAYA?

[REDACTED] Pedro, he was a nice guy. Pedro was knowledgeable about everything related to the medical programme. But so too was Max knowledgeable, but Pedro wasn't as conservative as Max. He understood that to be competitive you had to take certain things but he was careful about it. He wouldn't let riders take too much out of the medical supplies. "No, you took that two days ago, you can't take it again."

HOW UNEASY WAS HE DURING THE CONTROVERSIES AND RAIDS DURING THE 1998 TOUR DE FRANCE?

He was panicked by it, no doubt about that. He was really worried. I remember being told that a lot of stuff was flushed down the toilet. I don't know if it was all illegal stuff, because even with the legal stuff you can't have too much of it, but I am sure there was some illegal stuff there.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE GUY CALLED 'DENIS' OR 'DENYS' WHO WAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO JOHNNY WELTZ [REDACTED]

Oh yeah, he was a complete bonehead. Useless. On the Tour of Luxembourg in 1998, [REDACTED] team meetings and completely exclude him, even though he was [REDACTED] director for that race. He was a friend of Johnny's, a French guy.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT LANCE QUITTING THE 1998 PARIS-NICE?

I thought at that moment he had quit cycling for good. Before the race [REDACTED] decided Hincapie was leader and [REDACTED] waited and [REDACTED] on the righthand side of the road, and he just swung over to the left side and stopped. 'He's done with cycling for good,' I thought. Back at the hotel, he said "you guys don't understand" and he was right. How could we understand what he had been through, we had not had cancer, hadn't been through chemotherapy. So it was a case of "okay, man, do whatever you want." So went off to Boone with Bob Roll and when I next heard [REDACTED] "I want to do the US Pro Championships," he said. Things had changed and he was keen to come back.

THE CONTRACT THAT LANCE STARTED ON WITH US POSTAL WAS NOT VERY BIG, \$150,000 AND ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR EVERY WORLD CUP POINT EARNED AFTER THAT?

Yeah, he kind of felt that Thom (Weisel) had screwed him on the contract. The European teams had said no to Lance, unprepared to take the risk with someone who's had cancer. So Thom had got him cheap and Lance wanted to screw Thom for every point he earned that year. [REDACTED]

THE SWITCH FROM JOHNNY WELTZ TO JOHAN BRUYNEEL, DID YOU SEE IT COMING?

I don't think Johnny was a super directeur sportif but [REDACTED] he was okay. I think the staff found him difficult to work with. He would insist on something just for the sake of insisting, and wouldn't back down even when it was perfectly obvious he should back down. But [REDACTED] he was alright. If anything, he was not demanding enough with the riders. Johnny and Lance didn't get along and if you didn't get along with Lance, it was difficult to change that. You get into the bad books, you stay there.

I never saw Johan as [redacted] next directeur. I mean I didn't [redacted] know he and Lance were friends, didn't [redacted] know they knew each other particularly well. [redacted] but beyond, not really. It was obvious that Johnny wasn't going to survive because Lance didn't want him as directeur. I remember discussing with Lance who might take over as director. Sean Yates was a possibility, Lance respected Sean who had been a brilliant team rider and was a very good guy. Another name being talked about was Steve Bauer but he was doing other things at the time and wasn't really available.

There is no doubt but that the Lance-Johan relationship began at the 1998 Vuelta. Lance did the Vuelta to see if it was feasible for him to think of winning the Tour de France. That's how the Vuelta fit into the puzzle. Lance wants respect, and if Johan was clever enough to work on Lance's ego, that was the way to go. If it is true that Johan told Lance he could see him in the yellow jersey on the Champs Elysees, then Lance was going to react positively to that.

EVEN THOUGH JOHNNY WAS DIRECTEUR, LANCE WAS THE DECISION-MAKER?

In many ways, yes.

Lance was a very good leader. He didn't want us eating the crunchy muesli because it was all held together by sugar, so it was replaced by a more wholesome muesli. We used to have cookies in the hallways of our hotels, so we could snack. He took those away and said they should be replaced by pieces of fruit.

He would say "right guys, this is what we're going to do." He would involve people in that way. If he turned up at a hotel he didn't think was good enough, he would insist that all of us were moved to a better hotel. He could be very charismatic. He would thank [redacted] if they did something to help out, thank [redacted] who did their job, he was very good at getting the best out of people. Good at playing the game.

He was also tons of fun to joke around with. [redacted] knew he was a better bike rider than [redacted]. He earned far more and he would babble on about the porche he had just bought, or the property he was about to buy but it was more excitement than bragging. It wasn't like he was trying to play the big guy.

He would deal in stocks and talk about what this had made and what that had made. He used to ring these two guys in Austin, at the time the stock market was great and we were all investing a little but, by our standards, he was into big numbers. He would be on the computer and on the telephone all the time. When the stock market turned, he lost some money, maybe \$50,000, something like that, by his standards, not much.

WHO RUNS THE US POSTAL TEAM NOW?

It used to be Tailwind Sports but they don't do it anymore. It is now some company called "Cycling Services" or some name like that. It is a company owned by Johan Bruyneel and his partner, a Belgian called Gert Duffy. I am not sure but Lance has a stake in the company. Johan actually owns US Postal's team bus and leases it out to the team. What Cycling Services does is run the operation in Europe. They are in charge of hiring European staff, running the entire operation in Europe and for that they are paid by US Postal.

WHERE DOES BILL STAPLETON'S COMPANY CAPITAL SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT FIT INTO THINGS?

Bill's company acts for Lance in all his commercial deals. His job is to get sponsorship for Lance. Bill also acts for Tyler. He has some golfers and some singers in his portfolio and he recently bought out the rights to a music festival in Austin. Again, Lance could have a stake in this company.

ONE FORMER STAFF MEMBER OF US POSTAL SAYS THE RIDERS, AT LEAST THOSE RIDERS IN THE TOUR DE FRANCE, PAID \$2000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES BOUGHT BY THE TEAM?

Yeah, I definitely remember that being the case one year. Two thousand dollars sounds about right. That doesn't sound wrong. The trouble was explaining the cost of the medications to the sponsor. The amount we paid would have been towards the cost of normal stuff and for some stuff that wasn't legal.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE UCI DELIBERATELY CALLED KEVIN TO DOPE CONTROL IN THE 1999 TOUR DE FRANCE SO THAT THEY FOREWARN LANCE OF THE NEWS OF HIS POSITIVE TEST FOR CORTISONE?

No. [REDACTED], I knew nothing about that. All I could tell was that Mark and Johan were getting all uptight. Something was definitely going on. But it didn't seem that big a deal [REDACTED] like it all blew over quickly.

THERE IS A STORY THAT LANCE ASKED HIS SOIGNEUR TO GET WOMEN'S MAKE-UP ON THE DAY BEFORE THE START OF THE 1999 TOUR SO HE COULD COVER THE SYRINGE MARKS ON HIS ARM?

Yeah, I do remember that. There was a spot on Lance's arm that was bruised. That can happen with an injection, if it doesn't go in properly it can leave a bruise and it's a dead give-away.

WHY DID LANCE WANT TO COVER IT UP? COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN A VITAMIN INJECTION OR A MARK FROM HIS GLUCOSE INTRAVENOUS DRIP?

No. B-12 injections are into the ass. Glucose drips are into a vein lower down on the inside of the arm. EPO is injected high up on the arm, where Lance had the bruise

mark. That's why he wanted it covered up. Some guys inject EPO into the stomach, it only has to get under the skin, but most guys injected into the arm.

ANY PARTICULAR MEMORIES OF THAT 1999 TOUR DE FRANCE?

One very vivid memory. We used a product on that race that was injected. I don't know what it was. I asked Luis (del Moral, the team doctor) what it was and was told it was a different type of liver-cleaner or something that would help me to flush my legs. But the thing about this substance was that the syringe was wrapped in silver foil. That wasn't something I had ever seen before and somebody told me this substance could not be exposed to light. I remember getting it a few times early in the tour, it wasn't given at night but soon after the stage end, it was given on the bus.

Why was it wrapped in foil? Looking back I have often thought this was the secret drug. Yet Pascal Derame wasn't going at all in that tour and he would have had the substance as well. Peter Meinhart wasn't going that well either. The following year, 2000, that stuff that needed the foil wrapping wasn't there. The foil would be wrapped around that part of the syringe that contained the substance, like it wasn't over the plunger or the needle, just the barrel containing the liquid.

HOW MUCH DID MARK GORSKI KNOW ABOUT THE MEDICAL PROGRAMME?


I don't know if he knew that much but he couldn't have been entirely ignorant. He only came to Europe once or twice a year and in the beginning I think he thought he was running a normal programme.

HOW DID LANCE AND JOHAN GET ON WITH MARK GORSKI?

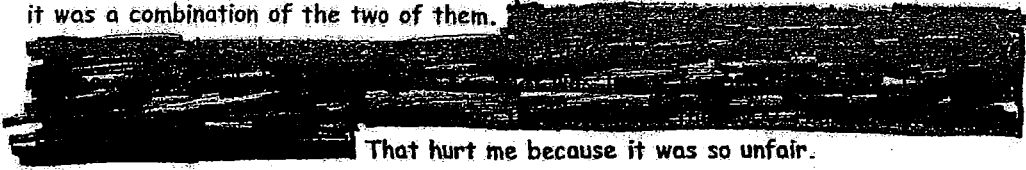
They didn't like him. Because he was overseeing them, he could over-rule them on certain points. It was said that he resigned, it was said he was sacked. But basically they got rid of him. There was something about he not getting the same level of commission in 2003 that he had got in previous years for bringing in sponsors and that he had messed up on some deals. I don't know for sure. But when he was out of the picture, Johan and Lance didn't have anyone to answer to.

THERE WAS A DIARY THAT EMMA O'REILLY BELIEVES WAS TAKEN FROM HER RUCK-SACK AND READ, DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORY OF THAT?

I don't know if it was Jimbo (Jim Docherty, the soigneur friend of George Hincapie) or Johan who found it. I think it might have been Jimbo. We were told that it had been left on the bed in Emma's room and that's where it was found. Johan didn't show us the diary but he told us she wrote mean things about us, loony things.



You never knew for sure who was making the decisions, Johan or Lance, but you sensed it was a combination of the two of them.



That hurt me because it was so unfair.

[Ends.