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Did You Know?

Truth, Consequences and Mechanical Doping

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Prologue: Those who follow my articles regularly will note that this article is not the promised story about the best advice that I ever gave. Sorry. I will get back to that story later. Promise. This article does relate to advice in a way - just not mine. This article is really about choices, consequences and sorrow.

Here you go:

Did You Know? An elite cyclocross racer was just recently banned from racing for six years. No, the ban was not for doping. Well, actually it was – just not for the kind of doping that has been so common place. This racer was banned for the first known case of mechanical doping. Mechanical doping. An electric motor discovered in this young woman's bicycle. Really. And now she is banned.

Everything about this story bothers me. A lot. It has bothered me ever since I first read about it in March. The racer is just 19 years old.

Imagine what drove her to make such an indelible decision. How did it happen? Why such a fateful choice?

Yes, she had an explanation and I would like to believe it. The wiser more cynical part of me ... the part that has practiced law for nearly twenty years ... will not lay silent. There are just so many problems with her story. So many details that are unexplained. And of course, she didn't try to defend herself. Rather than fight, as perhaps most innocent people would, she retired ... at just 19 years old. The attorney in me will not simply accept.

This story recalls some advice that was given to me many times and so long ago by a favorite uncle. A voice of experience which said "don't get into any trouble that you can't get out of." As someone who gives advice for a living, I often marvel over this simple statement. It recognizes that most of us will make a few poor choices ... especially when young. It also counsels to be wary of consequences that are long lasting. It was great advice for a young person at that time at least. (For the record. No, I do not give this advice today. It's not the point of this article. Stay out of trouble. Period.)

Continued...



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In the case of this young racer, a decision was made apparently and the consequences will not be undone. She got into trouble that she cannot get out of. A career is over and she may never escape the stigma of being the first case of mechanical doping ... or at least the first to be caught.

Yes, I am sorry for this person. I feel for her and wish that she had an uncle like mine. But yet, I also feel for all of the other racers who raced against her. For those who compete every day cleanly and honestly. For those who endure the suffering of hard training over long months and in all conditions just for the love of the sport and for the chance to compete ... and maybe win. I feel for all those who finished behind this racer but did not decide to cheat.

Everything about this story bothers me. And I hope it never happens again.

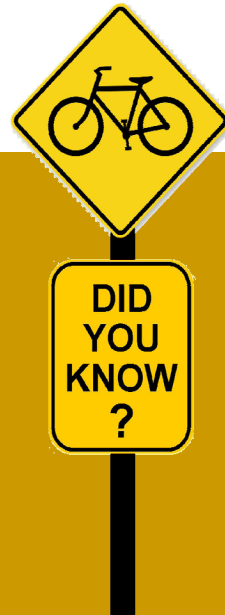
Until next time (when I tell the very personal story about how "it's not a disability")

Do you need legal counsel?



Bicyclists have unique rights and duties under the New York Vehicle and Traffic law. As such, bicycling accidents are not exactly the same as the average automobile accident or negligence claim and they should be evaluated thoughtfully and handled in light of these differences. Resolving a bicycling accident claim can be an arduous and challenging undertaking that requires dauntless advocacy. After all, at the end of the day no one hires the litigation attorney to be a nice guy. Success requires setting realistic goals, intelligent tactics, meticulous preparation and seasoned, confident counsel. My experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in and out of the courtroom along with my ferocious advocacy have made me a sought-after attorney for corporations and individuals alike. I assist my clients with determining their needs and goals. Together we generate strategies designed to achieve the best outcomes possible – all the while keeping the economics of litigation in mind.

How can I be of service to you?



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