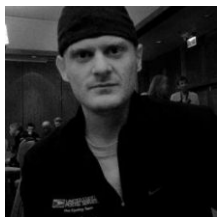


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By: Ovidiu Panzariu, Sports Editor



Landis' Hip Operation - a Success

His surgery went fine and he'll start recuperation as soon as possible

Floyd Landis can ride a bicycle as a normal sportsman from now on. His right hip operation went down successfully and the American should start the physical recovery any time now. The surgery was performed in San Diego, California, by Doctor David Chao. Landis did undergo 2 previous operations on his right hip, but this one is believed to be the last. Soon after the Toru de France ended, Landis promised that he would take some time off from cycling competitions and take care of his body. Landis' hip-deficit was discovered by his teammates during this season's Tour de France. Soon after losing more than 10 minutes in the 16th stage of Le Tour to Oscar Perreiro and Carlos Sastre, he revealed the French media that he had a broken hip. The accident took place in his home town - Murietta, California - in 2003. He crashed during a cycling practice session and broke his right hip. He has tried to fix it ever since, but the operations he underwent so far had a temporarily effect. Floyd Landis entered a forced vacation earlier this summer, after his Tour de France victory. After testing positive for a high level of testosterone - soon after the 17th stage, where he made a remarkable comeback in the competition - the American was suspended from all international competition. More, he was sacked by his Phonak team soon after the doping scandal and had to sit off the cycling world. He is still trying to prove his innocence, despite Tour de France officials already blasting him of "dirtying the competition".