

6/15/2000	<i>New York Times</i>	" 'I think we need a test [for EPO],' Armstrong said, 'but it needs to be solid and fair. I hate to think we could have false positives and see our sport thrown back into all that baloney again. There's not nearly as much of that stuff used as people are led to believe. From all my experience on all the teams I've been on, this is overblown. Besides, the percentage of red blood cells fluctuates drastically according to the effort you put in. Mine is generally 43 or 44 percent, but if I train for three or four weeks at altitude it could go up to 50 percent. So there's a problem there.' "
6/30/2000	<i>Associated Press Online</i>	"Leblanc said cyclists will provide urine samples during the race, even though a test for the performance-enhancing hormone erythropoietin (EPO) hasn't been approved yet. The samples will be used once the test gets the green light which could be as far off as two or three months."
9/26/2000	<i>San Diego Union-Tribune</i>	" '(Testing's) met with relief,' said Armstrong, no pun intended. 'Cycling's been criminalized and singled out in this issue. It's not just a cycling problem; it's a sports issue. Blood test, skin test, I don't care. It's good, because it validates your performance. If you have too good a ride, people say you're doped.' "
11/9/2000	<i>Austin-American Statesman</i>	Referring to French investigation: "We are absolutely innocent. Our team will stand on its morals and record of being an anti-doping team." "Armstrong said he has heard of actovegin, but that he nor any of his teammates have used the drug."
12/13/2000	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	" 'Here's the bottom line to everyone: I'll start by saying that we are completely innocent,' Armstrong said on his personal Web site Tuesday. 'We run a very clean and professional team that has been singled out due to our success. I will say that the substance on people's minds, Activ-o-something, is new to me. Before this ordeal I had never heard of it, nor had my teammates.' "

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