

Metro  
interview



▶ Lance Armstrong just won't quit — and that's a good thing.

# 'No mountain stage ... can compare to cancer'

► Today is World Cancer Day ► Metro speaks with Lance Armstrong on his personal struggle ► Advice from the cycling legend: LIVESTRONG

No athlete dominates his sport like Lance Armstrong. But in 1996, the 25-year-old world cycling champion's career nearly ended as he was diagnosed with Stage 3 testicular cancer. Armstrong survived and went on to win the Tour de France a record seven consecutive years. Today Armstrong runs the Armstrong Foundation, which supports cancer victims and survivors around the world.

**Your cancer is now in remission. How does it affect your daily life?**  
I appreciate my life in a completely new and better way. Cancer has also allowed me to give back to my community and now the world in a way that I

**"While I was being treated, I truly began to grasp the magnitude of cancer."**

LANCE ARMSTRONG



would never have imagined. Cancer put suffering and pain and fear in perspective. Cancer gave me a purpose and a lot to live for.  
**How many cancer drugs do you have to take every day?**  
None.  
**Women openly talk about breast cancer, but men find talking about testicular cancer very hard. Were you ever embarrassed to talk about it?**  
Yes. At age 25, I had won the World Championships, the Tour Du Pont and multiple Tour de France stages. Then I was told I had cancer. Like most young, healthy men, I ignored the warning signs, and never imagined the seriousness of my condition. But then my competitive spirit took over. I declared myself not a

cancer victim but a cancer survivor. I got really angry and became interested in fighting cancer; not just my own, but cancer in general.  
**When will we have a world where cancer is no longer considered an almost death sentence?**  
Today. One-third of all cancer incidents are preventable and one-third treatable with early detection and proper resources.  
**In the past you've hinted at running for governor of Texas. Are you still interested?**  
No. Right now I'm focused on winning an eighth Tour de France and reducing the global cancer burden.

**ELISABETH BRAW**

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