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Armstrong bonus withheld for now

The company that owes Lance Armstrong \$5 million for winning a record sixth consecutive Tour de France cycling race is withholding payment of the bonus, citing allegations in a French book that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

SCA Promotions points to doping allegations contained in *L.A. Confidential, the Secrets of Lance Armstrong*, published in June. Armstrong has denounced the book's claims as "absolutely untrue" and launched defamation lawsuits against the publisher and authors.

Chris Compton, an attorney for SCA, said the Dallas-based company wants to see Armstrong records before releasing the money.

"We've requested (drug) test results to disprove the allegations — clean test results that should be attainable," Compton said Thursday.

The cycling team said SCA didn't have the right to question Armstrong's wins, which were upheld by authorities.

The team hopes to resolve the dispute through arbitration.

The Miami Dolphins and Pittsburgh Steelers were investigating the possibility of moving their game to Saturday because of looming Hurricane Jeanne. The Steelers will fly to South Florida on Friday ahead of their typical travel schedule. Dolphins spokesman Harvey Greene said no decision will be made before Friday morning. Hurricane Jeanne may hit Florida's east coast this weekend.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson withdrew from next week's American Express Championship.



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personal reasons, the PGA Tour said Thursday. Mickelson said two weeks ago at the Canadian Open in addition to the American Express, he'd play tournaments in Las Vegas, Florida and The Tour Kenny Perry and Nick Price also withdrew from the World Golf Championship event.

Rutgers basketball player Shaalicia Hurns was suspended from the team after pleading guilty to tying up her roommate, Kelly Evans, for five hours during a July 10 dispute over painkilling drugs in an apartment. Hurns will receive three years' probation when sentenced next month, the prosecutor said Thursday.

Heavyweight contender James Toney (88-4-2), the reigning USA TODAY fighter of the year, is on a 11-month layoff because of an Achilles' injury to pound Rydell Booker (22-1) en route to a unanimous decision Thursday in Temecula, Calif. Toney scored an eighth-round knockdown and won 120-117 and 117-110 on the cards. ... Los Angeles Kings President Tim Lewke was fined an undisclosed amount Wednesday by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman for comments he made in a radio interview on Pasadena, Calif., station concerning the league's labor problems. Lewke told KROQ that he thought the lockout will last the entire season and called NHL Players Association chief executive Bob Goodenow a "liar." ... The state appeals court in Boston declined Thursday to allow a new trial for the convicted of involuntary manslaughter for beating Michael Gartin to death at their sons' hockey rink in 2000 in Reading, Mass. ... Ron Pierce rode Times Square changing to victory in 1:51.3/5 in the 100 on Thursday in Delaware, Ohio. ... Justin Gatlin of the USA won the 100 meters in 9.97 sec at the Super Meet in Yokohama, Japan.

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