

# Opinion: Does Tour de California lose clout without Armstrong?

By John Schumacher, Sacramento Bee

The Amgen Tour of California has displayed a deft touch in tweaking its route for the sixth annual pro cycling race.

Adding Lake Tahoe? A game changer. Returning to the Central Coast for a postcard ride down Highway 1? Breathtaking. Following the Solvang time trial with a Stage 7 climb up Mount Baldy? Dramatic.

But as cycling fans await the May 15-22 race – Stage 2 finishes at the state Capitol on May 16 – a bigger question hovers over the event.

Will Lance Armstrong compete?

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