

## Pony Tails

The final stage of the 1989 Tour De France would be an individual time trial. The individual time trial is known as the “race of truth”, since there are no teammates or team tactics to help a rider. French Champion Laurent Fignon held a solid over 1 minute lead over American Greg Lemond going into this final time trial stage of the almost month long event. As the cameras switched between the two competitors, Lemond was obviously having the ride of his life while Fignon was struggling. At the finish, Fignon crossed the finish line and fell off his bike in exhaustion and learned he had lost the 21 day 2100 mile race by a mere 8 seconds! This was the closest margin of victory in the history of the event. Following the event, there was a lot of analysis on what had caused Fignon’s defeat. The most plausible explanation came from an aerodynamics expert who placed the blame on Fignon’s trademark pony tail that you could see flapping in the wind throughout the race. The scientist proved mathematically that the pony tail could easily account for a minute or more of extra drag over the 21 days of racing and it was his conclusion that the pony tail had caused the loss.

There are many little things that can slow us down in this life. Perhaps a possession, a wrong relationship or a hobby, are taking time that we need to invest elsewhere. Some of these things are not wrong in them selves but can divert us from our primary goals. The writer of Hebrews admonishes us:

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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