

S P O R T S

Lawyer blasts leak of Bonds' testimony

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The leak of Barry Bonds' grand jury testimony in the investigation of a steroid-distribution ring was an attempt to smear the San Francisco Giants slugger, his lawyer said Friday.

Bonds testified to a grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn't know they were steroids, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Friday.

Bonds told the federal grand jury last year that Greg Anderson, his personal trainer and childhood friend, told him the substances he used in 2003 were the nutritional supplement flaxseed oil and a rubbing balm for arthritis, according to a transcript of his testimony reviewed by the Chronicle.

The substances Bonds described were similar to ones known as "the clear" and "the cream," two steroids from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative at the center of the steroid scandal.

Bonds' attorney, Michael Rains, said the leak of the testimony was an attempt to discredit his client. Grand jury transcripts are sealed and the Chronicle did not say who showed them the documents.

Rains described Anderson and Bonds as close friends who had been training together for about the last four years.

"Greg knew what Barry's demands were. Nothing illegal," Rains said at a news conference in Oakland. "This is Barry's best friend in the world. Barry trusted him. He trusts him today. He trusts that he never got anything illegal from Greg Anderson."

Even if the substances Bonds took were steroids, Rains said they were not banned by baseball at the time and the slugger believed they were natural. Bonds also maintains the substances did nothing to aid his rise as one of the game's greatest home run hitters, Rains said.

"Barry was tested several times this year and the results of those tests were negative," said Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris. "He put together statistically one of the most remarkable seasons ever," Borris said in an interview. "There are people in this world whose sole purpose is to try and figure out ways on how to undermine the accomplishments of others."

Giants spokesman Blake Rhodes said the team wouldn't comment and directed all questions to the commissioner's office.

Tony Serra, Anderson's lawyer, said Anderson "never knowingly provided illegal substances to anyone."

The revelation of Bonds' grand jury testimony was one of a series of developments in the BALCO probe, which led to indictments against four men in February.

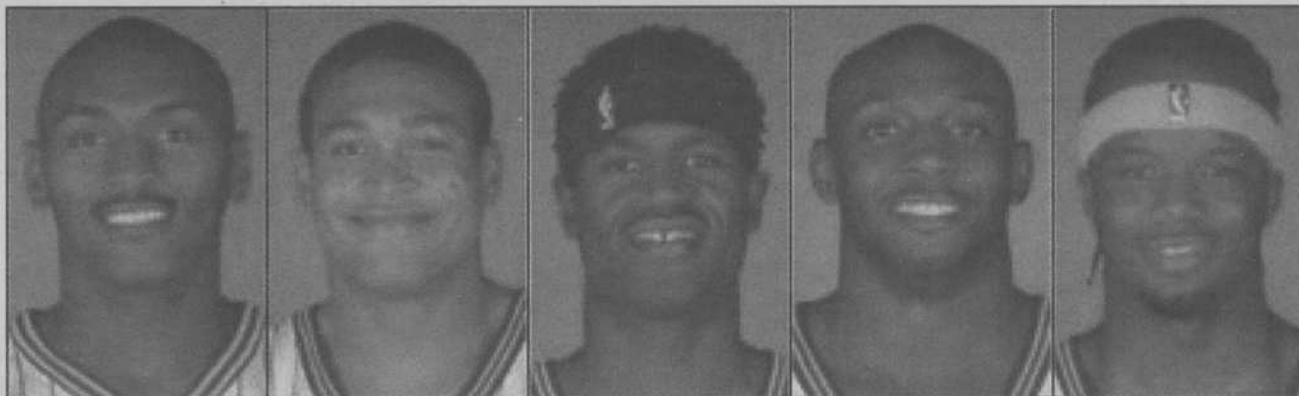
ABC News and ESPN the Magazine interviewed BALCO founder Victor Conte, one of those charged in the case, and he said that he watched Olympic track star Marion Jones inject herself in the leg with human growth hormone. Jones' attorneys denied she ever used performance-enhancing drugs. Conte's interview with ABC's "20/20" program aired Friday night.

Dozens of elite athletes testified before the grand jury last year, including baseball stars Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, and track stars Marion Jones, Kelli White and Tim Montgomery.

But Bonds is the biggest star of all, the holder of baseball's single-season home run record of 73 in 2001 and the man who could break Hank Aaron's career homer mark of 755 as early as next year. Bonds ended last season with 703 homers and won his record seventh NL Most Valuable Player award.

It is uncertain what punishment, if any, Bonds could receive from baseball, which didn't have penalties for steroid use until last year.

Bonds said he never paid Anderson for drugs or supplements but did give the trainer \$15,000 in cash in 2003 for weight training and a \$20,000 bonus after his 73-homer season.



ARTEST

HARRISON

JACKSON

JOHNSON

O'NEAL

5 Pacers, 5 Fans charged in brawl

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) - Five Indiana Pacers players and five fans were charged Wednesday for fighting in the stands and on the court at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons last month.

Players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson were all charged with one count of assault and battery, a misdemeanor that carries up to three months in jail and a fine of up to \$500. Jermaine O'Neal, a three-time NBA All-Star, was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

All the fans were charged with misdemeanor assault and battery, including Pistons star Ben Wallace's brother, David. Bryant Jackson also was charged with felony assault for allegedly

throwing a chair into the fray, Oakland County prosecutor David Gorcyca said. He faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

Gorcyca singled out spectator John Green, who faces two assault counts and, the prosecutor said, "in my mind single-handedly incited this whole interaction between the fans and players and probably is the one that's most culpable." Green is accused of throwing a cup at Artest, splashing him and sparking the melee.

John Ackerman and William Paulson, each facing an assault charge, also were accused of throwing cups in players' faces. In addition, two men were charged for walking onto the court at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Police said other fans could be

charged, too. James W. Burdick, Jackson's lawyer, said it was "unfair and inappropriate" to charge his client.

"The problem is this: a few crazed drunken fans who created a chaotic situation," Burdick said. "Steve responded in a way that he thought was necessary to protect himself and protect his friends."

Walter Piszczatowski, Harrison's lawyer, said: "David was acting as the peacekeeper throughout that evening. He was trying to make sure everybody was safe."

With less than a minute left in the Pacers-Pistons game Nov. 19, Artest fouled Ben Wallace on a drive to the basket. Wallace responded with a hard, two-handed

shove to Artest. That sparked an initial skirmish, and then Artest retreated to the scorer's table while calm was restored by the officials. But then Artest was hit by the cup, and he stormed into the stands, throwing punches as he climbed over seats.

Jackson joined Artest and threw punches at fans, who punched back. O'Neal hit a fan who was on the court.

Two days later, NBA commissioner David Stern suspended Artest for the rest of the season. Jackson was banned for 30 games, O'Neal for 25, and other players received shorter suspensions.

The players' union is appealing the suspensions of Artest, Jackson and O'Neal, and a grievance hearing is scheduled for Thursday in New York.

N.J. boxing commissioner claims racial bias

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's boxing commissioner has accused the state attorney general and others with racial discrimination, charging that they have unfairly diminished his influence.

The boxing chief, Larry Hazzard, also complained that his power at the state Athletic Control Board was given to Gerard L. Gormley, the brother of an influential state senator.

Hazzard, in a lawsuit filed recently in state Superior

Court, also claimed he was blamed for a decrease in boxing in the state and a related loss of revenue. Hazzard and Attorney General Peter C. Harvey are Black; Gormley and his brother, state Sen. William L. Gormley, R-Margate, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, are White.

Harvey's office had no comment on the lawsuit, which was reported Friday by The Times of Trenton.

The commissioner of the Athletic Control Board,

which oversees boxing and other combative sports, was put under the supervision of the attorney general's office and the director of the Division of Gaming Enforcement in 1992.

An investigation that year following the death of a boxer led to the creation of Gormley's post as chairman, the lawsuit said.

In 2002, the board was put under the sole supervision of the attorney general's office and many of Hazzard's duties were reassigned to

Gormley, the suit said. Gormley had held the position since 1986, but it was part-time until 2002, when the Legislature upgraded it and gave him an \$80,000-a-year salary.

Hazzard, 60, of Edison, complained and his staff was reduced to a "minimum skeleton crew," the suit said. He is paid \$105,000 annually.

Gormley, 67, of Ventnor, resigned in March to settle an ethics complaint stemming from his practice of providing free fight passes to friends.

Sports Pace

(Continued from Page 15) ing his mark in history.

That would have been an advantage to him because finding an advantage goes with sports. Erik Morales forced his opponent Marco Antonio Barrera to wear his favorite gloves, the Winning brand. Barrera won the fight, but he said Winning gloves hurt his hand. Morales thought he had the advantage. That's what every athlete wants: to have the advantage over the adversary. That's sports.

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