

# New indictment against Barry Bonds unsealed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal prosecutors have unveiled a revamped indictment against Barry Bonds, but the career home run leader's lawyers say nothing has changed.

"Barry Bonds is innocent," the player's lead attorney, Allen Ruby, said after his client was once again

charged with lying to a grand jury and hampering the federal government's doping investigation.

Bonds originally was indicted in November by a federal grand jury on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice.

On Tuesday, a grand jury handed up a superseding in-

dictment charging him with 14 counts of making false declarations to a grand jury in 2003 and one count of obstruction of justice. No new lies were alleged.

"It's exactly the same," Golden Gate University law professor Peter Keane said. "It's two ways of saying it's lying, and there's really no substantial difference between what he was charged with then and what he is charged with now."

Following a motion by Bonds' lawyers to dismiss the case, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston in February ordered prosecutors to rewrite the indictment because multiple alleged lies were lumped into single charges.

The case against Bonds remains built on whether he lied when he told the grand jury that his personal trainer, Greg Anderson, never supplied him with steroids and human growth hormone.

Bonds' next hearing already had been scheduled for June 6 before the new indictment was unsealed, but Ruby said it is unclear whether Bonds' will be expected to enter a plea then. Ruby said Bonds will appear in court to plead not guilty to the new charges.

The Major League Baseball Players Association said last week it was investigating whether to file a collusion grievance against teams for

not pursuing Bonds, who became a free agent when the Giants decided they didn't want him back after 15 seasons.

The 43-year-old outfielder, a seven-time NL MVP, says he wants to play this year. His agent claims no team has made an offer for the 14-time All-Star. Bonds hit 28 homers last year to raise his total to 762, seven more than Hank Aaron's previous record.

## Plea deal made in Sean Taylor death

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Professional football player Sean Taylor had been dead for three days — time enough for Miami-Dade County investigators to center their inquiries around a group of young men from Lee County.

In an interview room with a homicide detective on the last day of November, one of those men, Venjah Hunte, kept saying he didn't know why he was being questioned.

Hunte, a Fort Myers resident who had just turned 20, said he didn't know the other young men who, like him, would soon be arrested. They would all be charged with the armed burglary of the Palmetto Bay home of the Washington Redskins safety, Taylor. They would all be charged with first-degree murder in the shooting that left the rising star bleeding on the floor near the entrance to the bedroom where, minutes before, he had been sleeping with his girlfriend and his young daughter.

Afterwards, there would be an anonymous tip that Fort Myers area men were involved — and many leads to follow, many conversations in which the same names were linked with the rented SUV that crossed Alligator Alley that night, and linked with the bag of burglary tools apparently left accidentally at a friend's home early in the morning.

But in that early interview with investigators, Hunte claimed he didn't even know Charles Wardlow, also 18 — a young man Hunte would later explain he knew as "my sister's baby's father" and whom other witnesses described as the nephew of Taylor's half sister's boyfriend. Hunte said didn't know Eric Rivera, then 17. He said he didn't know Jason Mitchell, then 19 — who had attended a party at

Taylor's home the month before and seen the cash the football player kept on hand. Then there was another name — one Hunte said he didn't know, either.

Told investigators knew a different story, and that those same men were being interviewed separately at that moment, Hunte then asked: "What do I need to say?"

"The truth," they replied.

What follows in the police account of that interview — which was released Wednesday — are several pages worth of statements that are blacked out and covered over.

Just what Hunte said then and what he has told since are things Michael Hornung, Hunte's defense attorney, wouldn't discuss, citing Judge Dennis Murphy's gag order in the case.

But at some point in the six months since then, Hunte must have given prosecutors enough of what they were looking for, as Hunte has accepted a plea agreement: 29 years in prison for armed burglary and a lesser charge of second-degree murder. That's in exchange for his full testimony and cooperation at the upcoming trials of the other suspects.

Rivera, Mitchell and Wardlow still face felony murder and armed burglary charges. All have entered written not-guilty pleas, and as of earlier this week, their trials were scheduled for late August.

Hunte's plea deal was accepted in a closed courtroom last Friday, where Hornung said he told Taylor's father, Pedro Taylor, of his client's remorse.

"It's what he wanted to do," Hornung said of Hunte's plea and promise to testify.

While there's no clear link in the timing, less than a week after the plea deal, authorities quietly arrested a (See Sean Taylor, Page 11)

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