

The Balco Story:
How Reporting it
Changed U.S. Sports.

Elliott Almond, San Jose Mercury News

THE BALCO INVESTIGATION

HOW DOPING PROBE UNFOLDED

42-COUNT INDICTMENT:
NUTRITIONIST, BONDS'
TRAINER, 2 OTHERS CHARGED

By Pete Green and Elliott Aronson

The indictment in San Francisco Thursday on charges of distributing drugs to some of the nation's best athletes followed a year and a half of dogged federal investigation, culminated by what would be called the "surrender" of Victor Conte's 42 indictments.

They searched the track and medical waste from his company, Balco Laboratories. They dug back into files, scoured out his e-mails, read his e-mail and his postings in Internet chat rooms. They pulled the home records and travel journals through a federal intelligence-classified database, examining wire checks that led to his wife's Swiss bank.

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the results Tuesday in Washington: a 42-count indictment of a four-man Bay Area ring, including the personal trainer of Hank Aaronfield—Bryce Bonds, the accused thief of grandstanding steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs to some of the country's leading Olympic and professional athletes.

See BALCO, Page 101

Association threatens to taint Bonds' legacy

He wasn't among them, but he is a San Francisco grand jury in the Balco case, but he is not there. This is about Barry Bonds.

It was Barry Bonds' image that was the target of the indictment. It was the name that led to the steroid case. It is Barry Bonds. Not power that has pushed the center out into the national spotlight but also into President Bush's State of the Union address last month.

It is a story that Attorney General John Ashcroft would have wanted to be the indictment, from the manager of Regina-Svevia and H.E. Hines, who would have the biggest impact in the case.

That Bonds, the greatest slugger of his time, "the poster boy for the home run, the great and powerful, the man and our beloved athlete. The federal government would not allow it to go on and forward, and he, the great player.

Bonds is charged with nothing but confessed to everything. He is charged with everything but confessed to everything. He is charged with everything but confessed to everything.

See KILLION, Page 102

INSIDE

The indictment is also a case of the high-level political star for the performance-enhancing drug case. See KILLION, Page 102.

"We are ready to run it." Even if it is a responsibility to be a staff member. See KILLION, Page 102.

INDICTED



Victor Conte Jr., founder of Balco Laboratories, who is the owner of the team Apollon



Brad Kornhuber, owner of the Oakland Athletics, has been indicted for doping.



Greg F. Anderson, chief counsel of Barry Bonds, is in the center of the case.



James J. Valente, CEO of the Oakland Athletics, is a staff member of the team.

San Jose Mercury News

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FEBRUARY 14, 2004 | SATURDAY

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THE NEWSPAPER OF SILICON VALLEY

Olympians could face ban

U.S. DRUG AGENCY PREPARED TO KEEP ATHLETES WHO USED STEROIDS OUT OF SUMMER GAMES

By Elliott Almond and Mark Emmons
Mercury News

U.S. anti-doping officials are prepared to ban athletes involved in the Balco drug scandal from competing in this summer's Olympic Games if evidence shows they used performance-enhancing drugs.

As four Bay Area men were arraigned Friday in San Francisco federal court, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency began combing through documents released as part of the 42-count indict-

ment alleging a conspiracy to give athletes illegal steroids and prescription drugs.

"We fully expect that developments in the U.S. Attorney's proceedings and our ongoing investigation will lead to the initiation of more doping cases against athletes and others," said Terry Madden, the anti-doping agency chief. He made the comments Thursday after the indictment of Balco's

See **BALCO**, Page 21A

COMING SUNDAY

Barry Bonds' athletic reputation under scrutiny.

Inside: Four defendants plead not guilty.
PAGE 21A



VICTOR CONTE JR.: Owner of Bay Area Lab Co-Operative, based in Burlingame, at center of scandal.



GREG ANDERSON: Barry Bonds' personal trainer was allowed to post lower bail (\$25,000).



REMI KORCHEMNY: Prominent track and field coach posted \$100,000 with Conte, Valente.



JAMES VALENTE: Balco VP faces money-laundering charge with Conte, Anderson.

NOTICE ANY SIMILARITY?
DOG-FRIENDLY LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST (FAMILY 3E)



Essential gadgets for grilling
FOOD & WINE, 1F

San Jose Mercury News

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NOV 26, 2004 | WEDNESDAY
THE MOUNTAIN VIEW COLLEGE FACILITY

Study: Aspirin cuts risk of cancer in women

By David Sacks

Women who take regular aspirin have a lower risk of developing the most common type of breast cancer, those from who do not, researchers are reporting.

The finding is part of an ever-growing body of research that suggests aspirin may have been around for 100 years and it still can help keep us healthy. In this case, women who take aspirin have a 40 percent lower risk of developing the most common type of breast cancer, those from who do not, researchers are reporting.

See STORYLINE, Page 7A

U.N. envoy to unveil interim leadership

By David Sacks

U.N. envoy to the Middle East will announce the interim leadership of the Palestinian Authority on Thursday, the end of a long and contentious process, and the start of a new phase in the struggle for peace in the region.

See STORYLINE, Page 7A

N.Y. TIMES FINDS FLAWS IN COVERAGE

By David Sacks

The New York Times, both acknowledging flaws in its coverage of alleged weapons programs and other stories in Iraq.

See STORYLINE, Page 7A

A MERCURY NEWS SPECIAL REPORT

HOW BALCO BUILT THE WORLD'S FASTEST MAN

Tim Montgomery was a top-10 sprinter who talked about becoming the best. After turning to a team from Balco, he set a world record.



By David Sacks

Mark Diamond and Peter Cury

In November 2003, seven months before the start of the 2004 Olympic Games, Tim Montgomery set a world record in the 100-meter dash. The sprinter, who had been a top-10 performer in the world since 1999, had set a world record of 9.78 seconds. A Mercury News investigation shows that the role of Montgomery's coach, Peter Cury, and the role of the Bay Area-based performance enhancement company, Balco, played a significant role in Montgomery's success. Cury and Balco provided Montgomery with a state-of-the-art training facility and a team of scientists and coaches who worked with him on his diet, his training, and his recovery. The investigation also reveals that Cury and Balco had a long history of providing performance enhancement services to athletes, including Montgomery's former coach, Art Long.

By David Sacks

Montgomery's times



500,000 dollars worth of prize money from the 2004 Olympics. Montgomery's success was the result of a combination of factors, including his natural talent, his dedication to training, and the support of his coach and Balco.

CONTRIBUTOR: The timing is suspiciously perfect. Montgomery's success was the result of a combination of factors, including his natural talent, his dedication to training, and the support of his coach and Balco.

Gay vows in S.F. appear doomed

By David Sacks

JUSTICES CAST DOUBT OVER LEGALITY OF 4,000 WEDDINGS

The San Francisco Superior Court judge who is presiding over the legality of 4,000 gay marriages in San Francisco has cast doubt over the legality of the marriages.

THE WINNER TO BE DECIDED BY A SHOW OF HANDS

By David Sacks

THE WINNER TO BE DECIDED BY A SHOW OF HANDS

The winner of the 2004 U.S. Open will be decided by a show of hands. The tournament is a stroke play competition, and the winner is the player with the lowest total score.

Rock paper scissors basics

By David Sacks

Rock paper scissors basics

Rock beats Scissors, Scissors beats Paper, Paper beats Rock.

- Rock: fist with thumb tucked in
- Paper: flat hand
- Scissors: two fingers extended

Weather High 75-82 Low 55-62

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APRIL 11, 2004

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APRIL 11, 2004



CHIEFS WEAR OUT RAVENS' DEFENSE

By Dave Kasper
Moving Zach Taylor's popularity back to 1982-83

SHEFFIELD ADMITS TO STEROID USE

He says Bonds introduced him to Balco



Gary Sheffield, left, told Dave Kasper that he and Barry Bonds shared a falling-out over steroids and helped to expose the scandal in 2003.

Yankees star says he wasn't aware of cream's contents

By Matt Donohue
New York Yankees star Gary Sheffield said he was completely unaware of the steroid cream's contents, according to a story in this week's Sports Illustrated that also details the catcher's falling-out with Barry Bonds.

GARY SHEFFIELD SPEAKS OUT

In an interview with *Sports Illustrated*, New York Yankees star Gary Sheffield explains his relationship with Barry Bonds and Balco Labors cream.

What do A's, Giants do now?

A's: BEANE PREPARES TO ADDRESS PAYROLL, PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS

By Dan Kelly
Picking another in a series of open-baseball reports, a look into the current state of Oakland Athletics and how they might address payroll and performance problems.

GIANTS: BIG BAT TO PROTECT BONDS, NOT A PRIORITY

By Dan Kelly
From the state of a disappointing season to the state of Barry Bonds, the Giants aren't necessarily looking to sell a big bat to protect Bonds.

Injuries adding to 49ers' misery

By David Brown
In Oakland a day after the three-team loss, the locker room looked like a hospital ward.



Giants' claims to San Jose increasingly unjustified

It's the San Jose area's best-kept secret, an under-the-radar baseball franchise has been the topic.

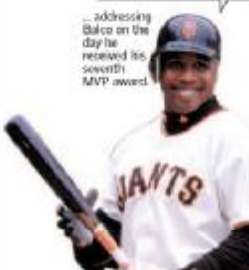


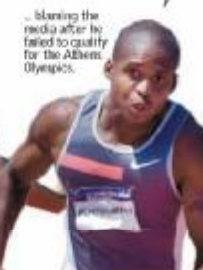
BALCO STEROID SCANDAL DEEPENS

NOW, BONDS' STORY

He testified that he unknowingly took substances

Tracking Balco's biggest names

A look at the most prominent athletes with ties to the Balco Laboratories steroid scandal

<p>Giants left fielder Barry Bonds</p> <p>What they said "I don't have an answer. I really don't. I really don't care about all this stuff. I'm 40 years old. I don't owe you a response."</p> <p>...addressing Balco on the day he received his seventh MVP award.</p> 	<p>New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi</p> <p>"Are you talking about steroids? No."</p> <p>...in February when asked about his weight loss.</p> 	<p>New York Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield</p> <p>"You get a needle or sprig. I'll give you blood."</p> <p>...during spring training this year when pressed on the topic of steroids.</p> 	<p>Track star Marion Jones</p> <p>"I have never, ever used performance-enhancing drugs."</p> <p>...at a San Francisco news conference in June.</p> 	<p>100-meter world-record holder Tim Montgomery</p> <p>"This is the reason I didn't win. I've got y'all on my back. I have to deal with y'all every day."</p> <p>...blaming the media after he failed to qualify for the Athens Olympics.</p> 
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<p>What we know</p> <p>According to a newspaper report, he told a federal grand jury that he unknowingly used steroids from Balco. His trainer, Greg Anderson, has been named as a steroid source for others.</p>	<p>Two months earlier, according to a newspaper report, Giambi told a grand jury that he had used steroids and human growth hormone as early as 2001.</p>	<p>He has since told a Sports Illustrated reporter of taking "the orange" and "the clear," the two designer drugs at the center of the Balco scandal. Sheffield claims he didn't know the properties of the drugs.</p>	<p>Her ex-husband, C.J. Hunter, told investigators that she used drugs from Balco during the 2000 Olympics. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency has investigated her but has not leveled charges.</p>	<p>In May, a Mercury News report detailed how Montgomery and Balco used a drug regimen in an attempt to set a world record. Later, leaked grand-jury testimony by Montgomery confirmed that he had used THG.</p>
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<p>The big question?</p> <p>Now that there seems to be confirmation he took steroids, will fans who have been nonchalant on the issue change their tune? And what becomes of any records he might set?</p>	<p>Giambi also testified to using Clomid, a fertility drug that enhances the effectiveness of testosterone. Giambi can exacerbate tumors in the pituitary gland—the kind that sidelined Giambi last season. Coincidence?</p>	<p>Will he emerge unscathed because he came clean publicly, or will the lingering effects of the Balco case haunt the remainder of his career?</p>	<p>So far, she has managed to avoid being charged by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. Can she keep that up after Victor Conte takes her down tonight on "20/20"?</p>	<p>Will the Court of Arbitration for Sport clear the way for a lifetime ban when it reviews Montgomery's case next year?</p>
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Source: Mercury News reporting

SEE KAWAKAMI—MERCURY NEWS

Asterisked legacy: Barry Bonds, the greatest steroid user ever

Up the partition he goes, and maybe you have found where he truly belongs: Barry Bonds, the greatest steroid user ever.

Barry Bonds, who may have asterisked himself into a strange and lonely part of baseball Valhalla.

He used, Bonds used steroids, by every indication of his own testimony.

Pain and simple. He took substances given to him by Balco Laboratories, which developed what it believed were undetectable steroids.



timkawakami

Bonds said he didn't know they were steroids, but took them anyway; according to his testimony before a grand jury, as reported in today's editions by the San Francisco Chronicle.

He denied that he took steroids before 2003, but now is not the time to grant him the benefit of the doubt. Now is the time to doubt his extra benefits.

Bonds used, Bonds, whose home run totals exploded in 2001, after

See KAWAKAMI, Page 25A

IN SPORTS

MARK PURDY ON BONDS' VERSION

Can we believe that such a smart guy wouldn't ask his trainer what that stuff was?

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Previous Balco reports, athlete profiles and investigation details are available online.

REPORT LATEST IN WAVE OF REVELATIONS; TONIGHT, SPRINTER MONTGOMERY ACCUSED

By Elliott Aldred, Pete Carey and Mark Emmons

In the space of 24 hours, the Balco Laboratories scandal has engulfed three of the biggest names in sports — the Giants' Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi of the New York Yankees, and track and field star Marion Jones.

In a story posted on its Web site Thursday night, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that Bonds last winter told a grand jury investigating the Burlingame clinic that he took clear and cream substances but believed them to be flaxseed oil and an arthritis treatment.

Hours earlier, ABC released a transcript of an interview with Balco founder Victor Conte Jr. in which he says he created an illegal drug program



"It's not cheating if everybody is doing it."

— VICTOR CONTE JR., ON "20/20"

See BALCO, Page 25A



MEDAL COUNT IN JEOPARDY

Drug investigation could cost Jones Olympic winnings

With sprinter Marion Jones labeled a drug cheat by Balco's founder, the IOC took the first step in a process that could strip Jones of five medals.

By Elliott Almond
Mercury News

Sprint star Marion Jones' troubles continued Tuesday as the International Olympic Committee initiated an investigation into drug allegations made by Balco Laboratories founder Victor Conte Jr.

President Jacques Rogge announced the formation of a disciplinary panel to examine Conte's claims that he gave Jones performance-enhancing drugs beginning just before the Sydney Games and continuing through 2001. If Conte's statements are proven true, Jones could be stripped of the five medals she won at the 2000 Olympics.

Rich Nichols, a lawyer for Jones, denied the claims Tuesday in a prepared statement.

"Marion Jones has passed a lie detector test, released a physician's report, maintained the same physical appearance and consistently stated that she has never, ever taken illegal performance-enhancing drugs, while Victor Conte is someone who is under federal indictment, facing serious prison time and has a record of issuing a

See JONES, Page 7D

RUNNING TALLY

Major developments this year in the case involving Marion Jones and allegations she used performance-enhancing drugs. Jones has consistently denied the charges.

April 25: The Mercury News reports that an IRS agent's account of an interview with Balco founder Victor Conte Jr. indicates he admitted providing the designer steroid THG to 27 elite athletes, including Jones. Conte's lawyers dispute the agent's account.

June 16: At a news conference in San Francisco, Jones rails against the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and asks for a public hearing, possibly before the U.S. Senate. Her representatives later send a letter to Sen. John McCain asking for such a venue. McCain declines, calling the anti-doping agency the best forum to resolve the issue.

June 17: Jones' lawyer declares the sprinter has passed a polygraph test.

July 22: The Mercury News reports that Jones' ex-husband, disgraced shot putter C.J. Hunter, told federal investigators in a June interview that Jones used illegal performance-enhancing drugs before, during and after her five-medal performance at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney.

Dec. 4: Jones says she will sue Conte for defamation after he tells ABC's "20/20" that he helped her take performance-enhancing drugs before the Sydney Games.

Tuesday: The International Olympic Committee says it is launching an investigation into Conte's allegations.

— MERCURY NEWS ARCHIVES

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THE NEWSPAPER OF SILICON VALLEY

BALCO LABORATORIES INVESTIGATION

TWO DRUGS ARE PUZZLING

Athletes apparently used medications for memory and appetite

By Elliott Almond
Mercury News

Victor Conte Jr. has boasted that his drug program eluded the authorities for three years. Even as details of the scandal surrounding Balco Laboratories have been highly publicized in the 15 months since a raid of Conte's Burlingame nutrition company, the uses for two of the substances confiscated there remain a mystery to drug testers.

According to a source with intimate knowledge of the program, one was piracetam, a prescription drug used to treat disorders of cognition and balance. Balco athletes used it to help them train longer. The other was mazindol, a prescription appetite suppressant that Conte experimented with as a stimulant.

Piracetam and mazindol are two pieces of the sophisticated regimen created by Conte, a self-taught

nutritionist who is one of four Bay Area men facing federal charges of money laundering and distributing anabolic steroids. All have pleaded not guilty.

Conte, 54, was the mastermind of the Balco regimen. The program combined pharmacology with nutrition to develop a stable of fast sprinters, according to the source.

See **BALCO**, Page 19A

Unlocking Balco's Secrets

Conte is a combination of parts and pieces, including his IQ and his natural competitiveness. Balco founder Victor Conte Jr. helped athletes to improve their performance by using drugs.

By offering, as well as the widely reported use of "the steroid" in the design of the "the steroid" of the steroid, Conte Jr. has a lot to say about why these athletes failed to make the Olympics and why they were not used.

Source	Why Balco used it	How Balco used it
DRUGS	Conte Jr. used a variety of drugs, including anabolic steroids, to improve the performance of his athletes.	Conte Jr. used a variety of drugs, including anabolic steroids, to improve the performance of his athletes.
PHARMACEUTICALS	Conte Jr. used a variety of pharmaceuticals, including piracetam and mazindol, to improve the performance of his athletes.	Conte Jr. used a variety of pharmaceuticals, including piracetam and mazindol, to improve the performance of his athletes.

UNLOCKING BALCO'S MEDICINE CABINET

PAGE 19A



Baseball faces up to drug problem

New rules against steroids have flaws, but rules they are. Thanks, Mr. Bonds

Barry Bonds, take a bow. Once more, it's all about you. When baseball officials mail out their new drug policy to players, a picture of Bonds should be on the letterhead. Heck, we should make little cloth patches of Barry's face and sew them on the shoulders of the urine police who will travel around the country and enforce the new rules.

Yes, baseball finally got steroid religion Thursday. And its pastor, Bud Selig, was happy to proclaim that the sport was headed—or on the way to heading, or kind



Mark Purdy

of getting close to where it might potentially be headed. "We are acting today to help restore the confidence of our fans in our great game," baseball's commissioner said at a news conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Translation: We finally got sick of people looking at Barry Bonds, one of our marquee attractions, and yelling, "Cheater!"

The new rules are not perfect—not as strict as in other sports, not as punitive as

See **PURDY**, Page B31



BUD SELIG
Baseball commissioner

"My goal for this industry is zero tolerance regarding steroids."



SEN. JOHN MCCAIN
Led steroid hearings

"It's not everything I had wanted, but it's certainly significant progress."



DON FEHR
Head of players union

"I'll be very surprised if, over time, this doesn't take care of the problem completely."

BASICS OF THE NEW TESTING PLAN

For what: banned substances including steroids and steroid precursors and designer steroids such as THG. Amphetamines are not banned.

How: one mandatory test a season for each player, plus random tests year-round with no maximum.

MAJOR LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS FOR A POSITIVE DRUG TEST

	FIRST TIME	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Old program	Counseling	15 days	25 days	50 days	1 year
New program	10 days	30 days	60 days	1 year	Up to league

First offense carries suspension; fourth would result in 1-year ban

By Elliott Alwood and David Pejak

Baseball confronted its steroids scandal head-on Thursday, increasing the penalties for players caught using drugs in response to the Balco investigation that has tainted the reputations of sluggers such as Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi.

Some critics said baseball did not go far enough. But if the new system of random tests for an expanded list of banned substances was designed to avert political

pressure, it met that goal.

"I applaud the players and management for what they have achieved," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who held hearings on the steroids issue last year and had threatened to propose legislation if baseball did not develop a stricter testing policy. "No, it's not everything I had wanted, but it's certainly significant progress."

After ownership meetings in Scottsdale,

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MARCH 18, 2005 | FRIDAY
THE NEWSPAPER OF SILICON VALLEY

BASEBALL APPEARS BEFORE CONGRESS

FACING THE HEAT

HARD-HITTING QUESTIONS ABOUT STEROIDS



MARK MCGWIRE
Resolutely refuses to answer questions about drugs use

"I'm not here to talk about the past."

JOSE CANSECO

"We've got to admit to certain things we've done. From what I'm hearing, I was the only person to use steroids. That's hard to believe."

CURT SCHILLING
Believing to Jose Canseco's "bank 'abuse'"

"The illegal ones made in that book... should be seen for what they are: an attempt to make money at the expense of others."

SAMMY SOSA

"I have never taken illegal performance-enhancing drugs. I have never injected myself or had anyone inject me with anything... I am clean."

RAFAEL PALMEIRO

"I am against the use of steroids. I don't think athletes should use steroids, and I don't think our kids should use them."

BUD SELIG

"We are concerned that recent revelations and allegations of steroid use have been sending a terrible message to young people."

With his silence, McGwire winds up speaking volumes

Mark McGwire looked ready to smile.

The great home run hitter was calm, like video script. He was wearing reading glasses down low on his nose, and seemed to be listening back to him. Trying to compose himself, McGwire took a sip from a small bottle of water. He uttered and complete agony seeped through the television screen.

"My lawyers have advised me to be careful answer these questions without jeopardizing my friends, my family or myself," he said. "I intend to follow their advice."

The funny thing is, no one



mark.purdy

had asked him a question yet. But make no mistake: After McGwire's performance, the doubts were answered with no doubts. Did McGwire use anabolic steroids to help him hit 70 home runs in 2001? After this, who would anyone think

See PUNDT, Page 17A

A long day, brimming with emotion

By Elvid Alexander

Mercury News

BONDS SET BACK BY 2ND SURGERY

He's likely to miss at least the first month of the season after Thursday's repairs to right knee. Page 1D

Morning Buzz runs down the best moments of the Capitol Hill hearing. Page 2D

mercurynews.com
Read Major League Baseball's drug saga here

WASHINGTON — Members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday chastised baseball players and executives about steroid use and testing, and expressed frustration over the expanded release by Mark McGwire, once the game's premier slugger, to address allegations about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

During more than nine hours of testimony, lawmakers clothed with witnesses in a remarkably riveting hearing about the state of the national pastime.

McGuire's testimony, or lack thereof, was arguably the most memorable of the day. The retired player, who is 368 out of the single-season home run record (since broken), declined to publicly hear charges or discuss his past, even refusing to address anti-steroid work, the state-

legal steroid prosecutor he has admitted taking. The former A's standout failed to answer himself to committee members — as well, perhaps, to the American public — when he repeatedly said, "I'm not here to talk about the past."

When a lawmaker asked if the players believed using drugs constituted cheating, the others on the panel — including Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling and former A's star Jose Canseco — all essentially said yes. McGwire replied, "It's not for me to determine."

McGuire gave the same answer when asked whether a record should be invalidated if it were shown that drugs helped a player reach the milestone.

He also refused a request by Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., to provide a clear answer about his use of drugs.

See STEROIDS, Page 17A

GUILTY PLEAS IN BALCO CASE



BY MICHAEL HIGGINS — MERCURY NEWS

Balco founder Victor Conte Jr., center, pleads guilty to two felonies. He will serve four months in jail and four months under house arrest.

STERIODS SCANDAL WILL CONTINUE TO REVERBERATE

By Sean Wilentz and Elliott Almond

Boston Post

Balco Laboratories founder Victor Conte Jr. and two of his co-defendants pleaded guilty Friday in a deal that would end a case that began with an obscure law enforcement firm and grew into the sports world's largest drug scandal.

The agreement means that star athletes such as Barry Bonds and Marlon Jones will not have to testify about illegal drug use in a high-profile trial. Prosecutors agreed to drop dozens of counts against the defendants as part of the deal.



Greg Anderson
Barry Bonds' trainer pleaded guilty to two felonies and may serve up to six months.



Russ Karchewsky
Track coach did not reach a plea agreement. He is probably working on a deal.



James Valente
Balco vice president pleaded guilty to one felony and probably will be placed on probation.

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Will the sentences given to the Balco defendants "hang over"?



other crimes, including possibly obstructing justice with money laundering or perjury based on the grand jury testimony of a witness who said she was his longtime mistress. Also, the lead Balco investigator and other federal agents have spent time in Raleigh, N.C., this year asking track athletes and coaches

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While some might suggest the investigation ended with light sentences — Conte, for instance, will serve four months in jail — the case con-

tinues to reverberate. Congress is considering legislation to ban steroid use in professional sports. Incompetitors might now pursue

Now, will feds face Bonds?

They cleared the field of the suspecting players Priano, and the only remaining issue left is the question that never first and will be answered last: Do the federal officials in charge of the Balco investigation have the will, energy and evidence to prosecute Barry Bonds?

Every other major case piece — with the possible exception of Marlon Jones — has been prosecuted. Everything else has been decided.

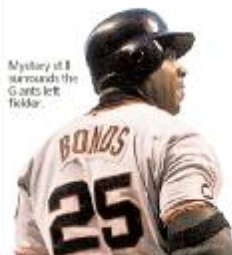


Erik Kawakami
is my reporter.

Except Bonds, who waits. Now that Victor Conte Jr., Greg Anderson and James Valente have struck pleas, deals for surprisingly light sentences, that is the whole universe of this case, the end game and climax.

Bonds will either be cleared or be charged with perjury or tax evasion, either he was targeted early and inaccurately or he's the only trophy left to hunt and need.

See KAWAKAMI, Page 21A



Mystery still surrounds the Bonds left fielder.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SOME OF THE ATHLETES INVOLVED IN THE STEROID SCANDAL | PAGE 21A