



# Court OKs federal access to major leaguers' drug test results

Continued from page 1C convicted of steroids distribution.

During 2004 raids on three labs involved in the MLB testing program, investigators seized computer files containing the 2003 test results. The unidentified samples had been collected as part of a MLB survey to gauge the prevalence of steroid use.

Baseball players and owners agreed in their 2002 labor contract that the results would be confidential, and each player was assigned a code number to be matched with his name.

Quest Diagnostics of Teterboro, N.J., one of the largest drug-testing firms in

the nation, analyzed more than 1,400 urine samples from players in the 2003 season. Comprehensive Drug Testing, of Long Beach, coordinated the collection of specimens and compiled the data.

Subpoenas were issued to both companies in late 2003, a day before the test results were to be destroyed, and in April 2004 Internal Revenue Service agents seized the test results and samples. It's unclear whether the data seized includes test results or specimens from Bonds.

Bonds always has maintained he never tested positive, but federal investigators demanded to see the 2003 test results for Bonds,

then Yankees players Gary Sheffield and Jason Giambi and seven other players. When they raided the testing labs for those 10 results, investigators also seized computer files containing the test results of nearly 100 other players not named in the government's subpoena and warrants.

The Major League Baseball Players Association protested the seizure as a violation of the players' constitutional rights.

Bonds' attorney didn't immediately return calls for comment.

Michael Weiner, general counsel for the players' association, which sued to keep the government from access-

ing the records, declined to immediately comment, wanting first to review the decision.

The government's investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the Burlingame supplements lab at the center of the steroid scandal, already has resulted in guilty pleas from BALCO president Victor Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente, chemist Patrick Arnold, track coach Remi Korchemny and Anderson.

Bonds agreed this month to a \$16 million deal to play for the Giants next season. Details are still being negotiated, and the Giants haven't announced the agreement.

# Panthers in unlikely spot for finale

## All but home for holidays a week ago, Carolina can reach playoffs with win, help

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prised we're still in the running for the playoffs," linebacker Chris Draft said.

The Panthers had to improvise to beat the Falcons. Playing their third straight game without quarterback Jake Delhomme (thumb), the Panthers decided to run the ball - even though the had managed 88 yards rushing in the past two games.

"Coach (John) Fox talked about it all week. He said we were going to run the ball until we got a first down," center Geoff Hangartner said. "Lucky that happened pretty early."

Carolina started with 12 straight running plays. It led to Chris Weinke's 1-yard pass to backup tight end Jeff King for the game's only touchdown.

DeShaun Foster rushed for 102 yards on 28 carries, while DeAngelo Williams added 82 yard on 21 carries while often taking direct snaps from center. The Panthers, who had the worst third-down conversion rate in the NFL, went 8-for-16 on third-down and seven conversions came on direct snaps to Williams.

"We needed a spark. We have not done too well over the last month," said Fox on the decision to use Williams on third down. "These guys have hung in there. We have been a little inoperable on offense and we just needed a spark. The key is that we needed to execute and we did execute and that was the key."

The Panthers rushed for 183 yards on a team-record 52 attempts and held the ball for nearly 42 minutes. Weinke snapped a 17-game losing streak as a starter by having to throw only seven passes.

"This is the best Christmas present I could have, coming in here and getting a victory," Weinke said. "Coming down here and getting a victory in this hostile environment was really big."

The defense, much-maligned after giving up 37 points a week earlier against Pittsburgh, shut down the NFL's top rushing offense. The Falcons, who had rushed for 252 yards in the first meeting against Carolina, had just 83 yards rushing. Julius Peppers had two sacks and Carolina intercepted Michael Vick twice.

"They baby, they are good, but this time we came out and played a complete game," defensive tackle Kris Jenkins said. "We finally did that after a nice hiatus, you know. We needed this one."

For a team that lost 11 players to season-ending injuries, the Panthers could still salvage a season that started with such high hopes. While the Panthers never expected to at best finish 8-8, it may be good enough to reach the playoffs in the mediocre NFC.

The Panthers are also hoping that Delhomme will return against the Saints. He practiced Wednesday and is listed as questionable for Sunday, but Fox is optimistic Delhomme will be ready to play.

"We're not giving up. We have a lot of pride," Draft said.



Fox



Draft



Weinke

# Sosa works out for return to major leagues

Continued from page 1C Baltimore Orioles, when he hit .221 with 14 home runs and 45 RBIs.

Sosa feels that baseball has turned its back on him, calling it a "blow" to not have received more offers to come back last season.

Washington was the only

team that publicly expressed interest in the Dominican's services, offering him a non-guaranteed \$500,000 contract that Sosa rejected.

"I want the chance and I believe one is going to appear. This time I will accept an offer like the one with the Nationals because I

want to get back to the majors," he said.

Sosa, who won the National League's most valuable player award, played 17 seasons with the Texas Rangers, Chicago White Sox and Cubs, and Baltimore.

A year away from the game

wouldn't shake him, he said.

"[Ed Williams] went to war and lost a couple years. More recently, Barry Bonds stayed away for more than a year and came back, and the same happened with Frank Thomas because of injuries," he said.

# Strawberry: Yanks' Jeter must embrace A-Rod

By Ronald Blum THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Darryl Strawberry thinks the Yankees' clubhouse is beset by bad chemistry that can be cured only one way: Derek Jeter needs to "embrace" Alex Rodriguez.

"They've got to come together," Strawberry said Tuesday. "It's time for them to mend their relationship and get back to, like, OK, let's have some fun. We're here in New York together. We're on the greatest team that we possibly could play on. Let's try to win instead of going separate ways. Because I remember them when they were young and they went to dinner together and they did everything together."

Strawberry, a former Yankees and Mets star, spoke after a news conference to announce that Yankees special adviser Ray Neron's book "The Boy of Steel" will be made into a movie. The book tells the

story of a cancer patient who became a Yankees bat boy for a day.

Strawberry was a player development instructor for the Yankees before resigning in February 2004. He shifted to the Mets as a spring training instructor in 2005 and plans on being with them next year.

His remarks about the Yankees' chemistry were sparked by questions regarding the return of Andy Pettitte, who played with Strawberry on three of the Yankees' World Series championship teams. Pettitte was in New York for a physical Tuesday, and his contract could be finalized Wednesday.

"Hopefully, it will rub off on the team, guys will get more supportive of each other," Strawberry said. "I think the Yankees' problem is that they just don't support each other enough. I mean, back when I played in those years we were winning, we all supported each other, we all

cared for each other. I think they need to get back to that, because the talent is there, but everybody seems like they're going their separate ways."

Rodriguez was booed by fans at times last season, and Strawberry said A-Rod has been treated like "an outsider."

"He's a sensitive guy," Strawberry said. "He's only played in Seattle and Texas. It's not New York. It's a big difference. You don't get booed in Texas. You don't get booed in Seattle when you play there."

Jeter, the Yankees' captain, has been cool toward A-Rod since a 2001 Esquire article.

"Jeter's been blessed with great talent around him," Rodriguez was quoted as saying in the magazine. "He's never had to lead. He can just go and play and have fun. And he hits second - that's totally different than third and fourth in a lineup. You go into New York, you wanna stop. Bernie

(Williams) and (Paul) O'Neill. You never say, 'Don't let Derek beat you. He's never your concern.'"

Rodriguez has struggled in the postseason with the Yankees. He is 4-for-41 (.098) without an RBI in his last 12 postseason games dating to 2004 and was dropped to eighth in the batting order for the first time in a decade as the Yankees were eliminated in Game 4 of the first round against Detroit this year.

At the World Series to accept an award, Jeter was asked whether there was anything he could do to make things easier for Rodriguez.

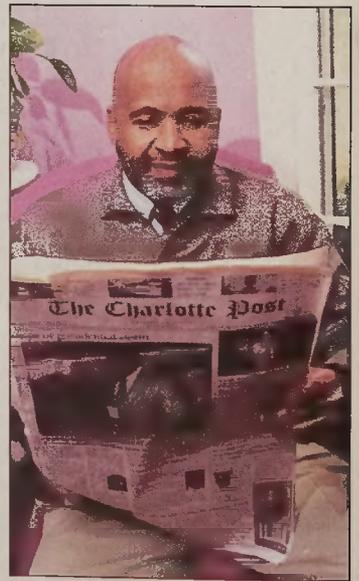
"What would you like me to do? I'm trying to think," Jeter said. "Well, you're there. You support him. Everyone supports all your teammates at all times. I don't really know if there's anything else I can do. Maybe I'm not that smart."

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