



## THE BONDS THAT TIE.

By Kerry Schmidt July 23, 2006

Before I get into the above, I must congratulate those of you who watched it, and loudly condemn those of you who did not.

If you failed to watch this epic sports event, you dare not call yourself a sports fan!

Last Tuesday night on ESPN, the World Series of Darts was held.

How could you have missed this? I can't tell you who won, where it was held, or any other detail, since I was forced to pass, due to common sense.

But stay tuned. Next week the World Series of Diaper Changing will be on, so you can atone for your sins.

Ah, the Bonds that tie. Bonds that group most sports writers together to vent their self important spleens on morality and righteousness.

Bonds, as in Barry.

The entire sports world has castigated, condemned, tried and convicted him of steroid use, income tax evasion, being an adulterer ( boy, that's a small group of pro athletes) and just about everything else.

But the real reason that everyone loves to loath Barry is that, in the past, at least, he has been a colossal jerk. Plus, he's black and broke Babe Ruth's HR total.

Speaking of colossal jerks, USA TODAY columnist, Jon Saraceno will be out of work when the Bonds saga finally goes away. He has written at least a dozen bad columns of Barry, most of them repetitive.

He only writes politically correct stuff. Like a politician, he wets his finger, sticks it in the air to test which way it is blowing, then goes with the flow.

But back to the facts.

The Grand Jury's time frame expired Thursday, with no indictment.

But not for lack of trying. According to a combination of reports on the Grand Jury's actions, approximately \$57 million of tax payer's money has been spent trying to nail Bonds to the cross. They chased down people that new Bonds way back in 1998.

Bonds is accused of perjury and income tax evasion, and most agree he would get a maximum sentence of up to six months if convicted on both counts.

Wow, nearly 10 million bucks a month. Hell, Bond's salary is not even that much. At least the Giants pay his salary. We pay the Grand Jury's.

Never give up when on a vendetta, so an attorney involved in the case said a new GJ will be convened to continue the ever-so-critical case, perhaps as early as next week.

Bonds testified before a Grand Jury three years ago that he had never "knowingly" used steroids (and, using them before 2004 was not illegal), and has also been accused of failing to report income from selling his memorabilia.

The two main witnesses against Bonds are Steve Hoskins and Kimberly Bell.

Hoskins' father was a friend of Bobby Bonds, Barry's dad. So in 1993, when Barry was traded to SF, he, as a favor to his dad, hired Hoskins as his business manager and public relations advisor.



In 2003, Bonds fired Hoskins and told the FBI that Hoskins had forged Bond's signature and sold his memorabilia without Bonds' permission.

Hoskins then told authorities that Bonds was a heavy steroid user.

Bell, a buxom beauty, who said she had a nine year relationship with Bonds, told the BALCO (the company headed by Steve Conte that allegedly gave steroids to a number of athletes) Grand Jury that Bonds was using steroids and that Bonds had given her \$80,000 in cash, allegedly from memorabilia sales.

She testified to this after Bonds had ended their relationship, in which Bell had lived a life of luxury.

Conte served four months in jail for a guilty plea of distributing steroids, but now that he is out, he says he has proof that he never gave any to Bonds.

Thus, the credibility of the above two witness apparently was not enough for this GJ to indict.

The key witness, really, is Gary Anderson, Bond's personal trainer.

He plead guilty to money-laundering and steroid distribution and was sentenced to three months in jail with three months home confinement.

And herein lies the crux on the government's potential case. Anderson has refused to testify against Bonds. And for this, he was sent back to jail on July 5, but was released Thursday when the current GJ term expired.

So, what does all this mean and where will it go?

U.S. Attorney Kevin Ryan said, "We are not seeking an indictment (at this time)...and have postponed any decision in light of some recent developments."

He added that "...Some unanswered questions remain and we intend to pursue the answers to these questions."

Michael Cordoza, the attorney for Hoskins, said he thinks "(the Feds) are trying to turn up the heat on Anderson" to get him to testify.

Prosecutors could send Anderson back to jail if he again refuses to testify (he says he will not testify).

Anderson's attorney, Mark Geragos, said "They obviously need Greg, but he's not talking."

On his client going back to jail, Geragos said "legally, they can only coerce him (to testify), but not punish him.

Robert Shapiro, a famed defense attorney (remember O.J. Simpson) agreed, saying, "You can't lock up a person forever. Once it becomes clear he won't testify, that person has to be released."

In other words, sports fans, it don't look so good for the Feds right now.

Even Cardoza said, "I don't think anybody knows what's happening, but as a former prosecutor, you can never have too much evidence."

But then he quickly added, "I just hope they (the Feds) hurry up and make up their mind. Pretty soon, the sympathy will go over to Barry."

Shapiro was more succinct. "The announcement not to indict was a clear victory for Bonds.

"This is very positive news for Bonds, and probably the correct news. (Sic) They would like to hear from a couple of key witnesses, but it is pretty obvious they will not testify.



## OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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“So, right now, they don’t have any evidence that would be sufficient to warrant an indictment.

Plus, he added that even if the reluctant witnesses did testify, the Feds don’t know what they would say.

OK, enough facts, especially since most of the people – certainly Saraceno – don’t care what the facts are.

Plain and simple, they don’t like Barry, so he’s guilty.

As I have said before, I do think he took some stuff, but so have well over half of the players in baseball.

Do you hear anyone bitching about Mark MacGuire? Sammy Sosa? Not a peep out of putting an asterisk after their 2-3 great years.

Growing up in the 50’s, baseball was America’s sport. Yes, the NFL was just really getting started, but baseball ruled.

I was living in Tokyo, Japan in 1951 and on Armed Forces Radio, I listened to Russ Hodges scream, “The Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant” over and over, after Bobby Thompson’s “Shot heard ‘round the world.”

And I will always remember listening to Pittsburgh’s Bill Mazeroski’s lead-off home run in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> to beat the hated Yankees, 10-9 in the 1960 World Series.

And even as late as October 15, 1988, I was in Dodger Stadium for Game 1 of the World Series. Bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Dodgers down 4-3, Kirk Gibson, on two bad knees and sore ribs, comes up and after being down in the count, 0-2 and with each swing came excruciating pain, he worked the count full and homered to win, 4-3. And the best baseball announcer ever, Vin Scully, simply said “...It’s a long fly to right field, and.....she is..... GONE.”

Then he just kept quiet for over 3 minutes and let the screams of the fans tell the story.

Unfortunately, today, I have become virtually sick of the game. Why? Because all we ever seem to hear about is steroids. Rarely can you pick up a sports section and not hear about who is taking what.

OK, dammit, lots of guy took them. But as I said, that was not illegal in the sport until after 2004.

And Bonds is just one of a good majority of players who took “something.”

But why spend millions of dollars and several years of wasted Grand Jury time just to get an indictment on one player who simply did (or did not, to be fair) do the common thing.

You want to clean up the game, fine. But don’t go on a huge witch hunt for just one player.

Like him or not, no matter what he did or did not ingest, he is one of the greatest players to ever play the game.

Let it go and lets us get back to enjoying America’s pastime.

HEY, the doctor says I can imbibe a wee dram of single malt. See ya.