

# Bonds not worrying about distractions • Rhodes

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By JANIE McCAULEY  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.

Barry Bonds had a pointed message for the grand jury: Go ahead, investigate me.

After arriving at spring training Tuesday, more fit than in recent years following a productive winter of conditioning, the slugger insisted he's unfazed by all his off-the-field issues and is ready to resume his pursuit of the home-run record.

"Let them investigate. Let them; they've been doing it this long," Bonds said Tuesday after his first workout this year with the San Francisco Giants. "It doesn't weigh on me at all — at all. It's just you guys talking. It's just media conversation."

When Bonds showed up, he waved twice to the swarm of people waiting to see him make his entrance, then quickly headed into Scottsdale Stadium to get to work.

Noticeably absent were his two personal trainers, Greg Oliver and Harvey Shields, who no



San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, left, is surrounded by reporters after a workout Tuesday at the team's camp in Scottsdale, Ariz.

longer can be with the slugger at the ballpark. Bonds, who spent the weekend in Las Vegas for the NBA All-Star game, was flanked by his two publicists and a Major League Baseball security guard assigned to him.

He joked with new teammate

Barry Zito in their corner space of the clubhouse, then the 42-year-old Bonds made his way through the room and greeted outfielder Jason Ellison, infielder Rich Aurilia and pitcher Matt Morris. Clubhouse staff soon came his way with new undershorts and hats.

Bonds took part in a team meeting before walking to the field for the Giants' first full-squad workout, and he took a big bow for the horde of cameras. He re-emerged later in the morning to start his routine and waved his batting helmet to fans in the bleachers, carrying two bats in his right hand.

He shagged fly balls and hit five home runs in batting practice, including a shot to the berm in right-center on a fastball from No. 2 starter Matt Cain.

That was enough to impress new skipper Bruce Bochy, who saw Bonds do his share of damage against his old team, the San Diego Padres. Bonds has hit more homers against San Diego than any other team.

"He's an incredible talent," Bochy said. "He showed it (Tuesday) on the first day."

Bonds was mostly business, with a little fun mixed in, once he got on the field.

He still could be indicted if a federal grand jury determines that he perjured himself when testifying in 2003 in the BALCO

steroid distribution case that he hadn't knowingly taken performance-enhancing drugs. Bonds, who has long denied ever using steroids, said his level of concern about the investigation is none.

Last month, the New York Daily News reported that Bonds failed an amphetamines test last season and then attributed it to a substance he took from teammate Mark Sweeney's locker.

Bonds publicly apologized to Sweeney at the time, then stretched with him and Ray Durham on the first day of workouts.

"I did not blame Mark Sweeney," Bonds said Tuesday, noting he apologized only "because you guys just started talking about it and I just thought it was unfair for him to be accused of something that wasn't true."

Asked if he had failed an amphetamines test, Bonds declined to comment. Also, he denied reports that he wasn't always available to pinch-hit last season.

"That's not true at all," said Bonds, who has language about behavior in his new contract.

Rhodes, who becomes a free agent Feb. 28, delivered an MVP-like performance in the Super Bowl, rushing for more than 100 yards in the win against Chicago. He was featured in a Disney World television commercial with coach Tony Dungy.

Rhodes has been in trouble with the law before. Following a 2002 domestic disturbance at his home, Rhodes pleaded innocent in Marion Superior Court to misdemeanor charges of battery and domestic battery. Latrina Moore, who lived with Rhodes at the time and is the mother of a child with Rhodes, said Rhodes hit her and shoved her to the floor after she confronted him about other women calling their home, prosecutors said at the time.

Under an agreement with prosecutors in that case, Rhodes was charged with domestic battery but avoided prosecution. Instead, Rhodes was placed in a diversionary program and underwent mental health counseling.

The Associated Press left a message Tuesday seeking comment from Rhodes' agent Michael McCartney.

# Yankees' Jeter already tiring of A-Rod questions • Clark

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By RONALD BLUM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## TAMPA, Fla.

Derek Jeter wouldn't discuss his off-the-field relationship with Alex Rodriguez. A-Rod, however, felt relieved to speak his mind.

As 64 New York Yankees players assembled on the field for the first time this year, the focus was on the withered friendship of their two biggest stars.

"I don't have a rift with Alex," Jeter said Tuesday, a day after Rodriguez finally acknowledged they no longer are the best of friends. "We go out there. We work together. This is our fourth year to be playing together. It's



JETER



RODRIGUEZ

annoying to hear about it all the time."

Shortly after arriving at spring training Monday, Rodriguez said it was time for him to stop pretending that his relationship with Jeter was as close as it was in the 1990s. The pair have drifted apart since Rodriguez made critical

remarks in a 2001 Esquire article.

"That's as honest as I've been since I've been here, the four years, and that part of it felt good," Rodriguez said Tuesday as he left Legends Field.

A-Rod's psyche has been subject to analysis by fans since he joined the Yankees before the 2004 season. While he's a two-time AL MVP, Jeter has four World Series rings.

Rodriguez felt a need to conform during his first three seasons in New York. He appears to be taking a different tack this year.

"I just found myself trying to say always the right things and trying not to screw up," he said. "And I think that came across for

some people as very disingenuous and phony perhaps; those are the things you hear. If you're going to get chopped up into pieces, you might as well be as honest as you can and get ripped for it."

He thinks he'll be more at ease going forward.

"You get a little gun-shy, that's all," he said. "It all comes down to being yourself."

Sitting in nearly the same spot in the first-base dugout at Legends Field that Rodriguez occupied a day earlier, Jeter appeared uncomfortable discussing the topic.

"I don't see the relevance of it," he said. "It has no bearing on us playing baseball."

He doesn't comprehend the focus on their relationship.

"They see us on the field; if one person gives another one a look, it's a story," Jeter said. "If we're at opposite ends of the bench, people say it's a story."

Jeter spoke with Rodriguez in the clubhouse. He played catch with him on the field as they warmed up. But he refused to say how close he and Rodriguez are away from the ballpark.

"How would I characterize it? I would characterize it as it doesn't make a difference," Jeter said. "What we do away from the field, how much time we spend together, really makes no difference when we're playing."

## FOOTBALL

SOUTH BEND

### Another Golic to play at Notre Dame

Mike Golic Jr., whose father and two uncles played football at Notre Dame, plans to follow in their footsteps and play for the Fighting Irish in 2008.

The 6-foot-4, 260-pound offensive lineman who plays at Northwest Catholic High in West Hartford, Conn., became the first high school junior to verbally commit to Notre Dame in 2008.

Mike Golic Sr. of ESPN's "Mike & Mike in the Morning" show said Monday he called his son, who is in Italy, and told him to call Irish coach Charlie Weiss and tell him of his plans.

"I can't even begin to express how proud I am," Mike Golic Sr. said. "He had said if Notre Dame ever offered, that's the one he'd take."

Golic is projected as an offensive lineman, although his father said he also could play defense. Mike Golic said his son, a center, plays with a defensive mentality and a bit of a mean streak.

"And I kind of like that," he said.

BOSTON

### Mistrial declared in malpractice case

A judge declared a mistrial Tuesday in Notre Dame football coach Charlie Weiss' medical malpractice lawsuit after a juror collapsed and several doctors, including the two defendants, rushed to his aid.

The juror, an elderly man, began moaning as he listened to an expert testifying in defense of Massachusetts General Hospital surgeons Charles Ferguson and Richard Hodin. Weiss claims they botched his care after gastric bypass surgery in June 2002.

The judge immediately ordered the other jurors out of the courtroom, but some saw Ferguson, Hodin and other doctors who were in the courtroom rush to the collapsed juror's aid.

An attorney for Weiss said it was with great reluctance that he ask for the mistrial in the case that was expected to go to the jury today.

"I cannot think of an instance where there would be more reason than when a juror has this kind of incident," attorney Michael Mone said.

## TENNIS

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands

### Hewitt pulls out of ABN Amro tourney

Lleyton Hewitt pulled out of the ABN Amro tournament with a hamstring injury Tuesday.

The seventh-seeded Australian, who won the Rotterdam tournament in 2004, was due to play his opening singles match today.

Hewitt, a former Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, injured his right hamstring last week at the ATP tournament in Marseille, France. He retired during his second-round match against Gilles Simon, the Frenchman who went on to win the title.

"It is obviously extremely disappointing for me," Hewitt said. "I was coming here for my first trip since 2004, when I won the tournament."

Hewitt said he had been having treatment on the injury three times a day.

"It's improving, but it's improving slowly," he said.

## BASEBALL

MESA, Ariz.

### Zambrano, Cubs agree to contract

Pitcher Carlos Zambrano and the Chicago Cubs agreed to a \$12.4 million, one-year contract Tuesday, avoiding salary arbitration by striking the deal just before their scheduled hearing.

Zambrano earned \$6.5 million last season while going 16-7 with a 3.41 ERA and 210 strikeouts. He asked for \$15.5 million in arbitration, while the Cubs countered at \$11,025,000, more than any player had been awarded.

Now, the sides can focus on trying to work out a multiyear contract, which would likely be in the five-year range.

Zambrano told WGN-TV last week that he would leave as a free agent after the season if the Cubs did not sign him to a long-term deal by opening day, but he backed off those comments a few days later.

### What in the world is going on? Find out in the Daily Journal.

**2007 ROCKLANE JR. LEAGUE T-BALL/SOFTBALL/BASEBALL SIGN-UPS**

There are several different divisions for boys & girls ages 4-16. Costs for T-ball will be \$50 with all other divisions being \$65 (max being \$155 per family).

League Dates: April 28th - June 30th

**SIGN-UP DATES AND TIMES**  
 Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
 at Rocklane Christian Church (Rocklane Rd. & Franklin Rd.)  
 Saturday, Feb. 24th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 at Gander Mountain, Greenwood (Emerson & County Line Rd.)

**Final Registration Deadline by mail is March 1st**

**For more information:**  
[www.RocklaneJuniorLeague.org](http://www.RocklaneJuniorLeague.org) or Erica Copeland 889-0128

## Franklin College Men's Basketball

# HCAC Tournament Semifinals

**Spurlock Center Gymnasium**

*Schedule: Friday, Feb. 23 (Semifinals)*

**6 p.m.** - No. 2 seed Transylvania University vs. No. 3 seed Bluffton University

**8 p.m.** - No. 1 seed Franklin College vs. No. 4 seed Defiance College

**Saturday, Feb. 24**

**7:30 p.m.** - Championship game (Semifinal winners)

*Ticket Info:* Advance tickets available for semifinal round only.

**Locations:** Business Office, Old Main Athletic Office, Spurlock Center Gymnasium

**Hours:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday • 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday

**Cost:** Adults \$5; Senior citizens, high school and middle school students \$3; Students from the participating schools free with valid student ID.

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## Franklin Varsity Basketball Alumni Night

**FRANKLIN**  
Grizzly Cubs

Former Girls & Boys Varsity Basketball Players are Invited to Celebrate the Last Regular Season Home Game in Vandivier Gymnasium

*BOYS: Friday, February 23, 2007 vs. Jennings Co. 7:30 PM*

R.S.V.P TO:  
Noel Heminger

High School Athletic Office  
317-738-5711 or Fax: 317-738-5729

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Coach or Player

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will be attending

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