

Colon Banned 50 Games For Positive Test

Oakland Athletics' right-handed pitcher [@Bartolo Colon](#) has been suspended for fifty games after he tested positive for performance enhancing drugs. The suspension was announced on Wednesday by Major League Baseball (MLB).

In a statement released through the MLBPA, the 39-year-old Colon rendered an apology to his fans, teammates, and his team while accepting responsibility for his actions. Colon added that he is ready to serve suspension as required by the Joint Drug Program.

The suspension of Colon was the second ban of 50-game imposed by the MLB this week after Giants' All-Star outfielder Melky Cabrera tested positive for [testosterone](#) last week.

Bartolo Colon has a career record of 171-122 and a 4.05 ERA and signed a \$2 million contract with the Oakland Athletics, his seventh Major League team, for a period of one year. His failed test for testosterone immediately led to the removal of his belongings from his locker at Oakland Athletics and his nameplate was also taken down.

A person familiar with the suspension said the baseball pitcher has not filed grievance at all and added that the Major League Baseball had not found any links between Colon and Cabrera at this point.

Joseph R. Purita, an orthopedic surgeon in Florida, had revealed last year that he assisted a team of doctors in Dominican Republic with the treatment of Colon and added that he had used human growth hormone in the procedure, but not in this case.

The former Cy Young Award winner joins San Francisco Giants outfielder Melky Cabrera on the suspended list for the rest of the regular season with the suspension announcement. Colon would be missing the final 40 games of the regular season and the first ten games of the post-season if Oakland gets that far. If not, any remainder of the suspension would be served in a future season of another league contract is signed by Colon.

In a statement, Oakland Athletics said the team is really disappointed to learn of Colon's suspension as he was one the team was relying on. The place of Colon was given to Tyson Ross by General manager Billy Beane. Colon has a 171-122 record in 15 big league seasons and the right-hander won the 2005 AL Cy Young Award when he was the Los Angeles Angels. After the suspension, he would be losing \$469,945 of his \$2 million base salary this year and it would also cost him the chance to make \$850,000 in additional bonuses based on innings.

This year, five players have been suspended under the big league drug program. In June, Philadelphia infielder Freddy Galvis (clostebol metabolite) and free agent outfielder Marlon Byrd (tamoxifen) were suspended for fifty games each and San Francisco reliever Guillermo Mota (clenbuterol) was penalized for 100 games in May. The 50-game suspension of NL MVP Ryan Braun was overturned after it was argued that his urine sample was not handled according to the rules in the drug program specified at the time. Under the minor league drug program, there have been 76 suspensions this year.