

Melky Cabrera Suspended For 50 Games

San Francisco Giants left fielder [@Melky_Cabrera](#) has been suspended for 50 games by the Major League Baseball after he tested positive for [testosterone, a performance-enhancing drug](#). The suspension puts an abrupt end to what had undoubtedly been an MVP-caliber regular season and throw the playoff hopes of Giants into doubt.

Cabrera, who began his major league career with the Yankees, was hitting .346 with 11 home runs and 60 RBIs in his first season with San Francisco and leads the National League with 159 hits. He is second in batting average behind Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen. Despite the suspension, Cabrera may still be able to win the NL batting title as he has 501 plate appearances, one less than the minimum needed to win a batting championship for a player on a team playing 162 games. Under 10.22(a) of the Official Baseball Rules, Melky Cabrera may win the batting title if an extra hitless at-bat is added to his average and it remains higher than that of any other qualifying player.

In a statement, the San Francisco Giants said the team fully supports the policy of Major League Baseball and its efforts to eliminate performance enhancing drugs from baseball. With the suspension, Cabrera became the second player of Giants to receive a drug suspension this season. In May, reliever Guillermo Mota was penalized for 100 games and became just the third player of the Major League to be disciplined twice for positive drug tests.

Born on August 11, 1984, Melky Astacio Cabrera is a Dominican professional baseball player presently playing for the San Francisco Giants of Major League Baseball (MLB). He has been associated with the New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves, and Kansas City Royals in the past. In 2005, Melky Cabrera made his MLB debut for the Yankees and won the All Star Game MVP Award in 2012.

The 28-year-old Cabrera produced a 51-hit month in May and was given nicknames like "Got Melk?" "Melk Man" and "Melky Way." In May, Melky Cabrera batted .429 in May with three homers, five triples, seven doubles and 17 RBIs and hit safely in 25 of 29 games. His 51 hits matched Randy Winn for most hits in a month since the club came to San Francisco in 1958. He also set the record of most hits for San Francisco in May and surpassed Hall of Famer Willie Mays' 49 from 1958. The baseball player ranks second in baseball with a .346 batting average. The failed test may end up costing the baseball player in excess of \$60 to \$70 million this winter, which may be the highest cost any player has ever paid for failing a drug test because of the timing of the suspension.

The news of *Melky Cabrera's suspension for the use of testosterone even draw comments from Victor Conte*, the founder of BALCO that was at the heart of Major League Baseball's steroids scandal. Conte said as half of all baseball players are still using performance enhancing drugs and added that the only players that get caught are "the dumb, and the dumber."