Alex Rodriguez Suspended Through 2014

<u>New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez</u> will be suspended through the 2014 season after he was found involved in baseball's latest scandal of performance enhancing drugs. However, Rodriguez will be allowed to play as he pursues an appeal of the decision.

Rodriguez, who has missed this entire season after a hip surgery, is scheduled to make his 2013 debut with the Yankees scheduled to play the White Sox. His rehabilitation efforts have been shrouded by the investigation of Major League Baseball into Biogenesis, a now-defunct South Florida anti-aging clinic. Yankees Manager Joe Girardi said he is keen to play Rodriguez.

Major League Baseball is all set to suspend as many as a dozen players, including outfielder Nelson Cruz of Texas and Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta, whose names figured in documents obtained from Biogenesis and its owner, Tony Bosch. The suspensions are expected to be of 50 games each, the number agreed upon for first-time offenders in the collective bargaining agreement between baseball and the players' union.

The 38-year-old Rodriguez is a three-time MVP and 14-time all-star. The American baseball third baseman for the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball (MLB) previously played shortstop for the Seattle Mariners and the Texas Rangers. Considered one of the greatest baseball players of all time, Alex Rodriguez is the youngest player ever to hit 500 home runs, breaking the record Jimmie Foxx set in 1939, and the youngest to hit 600, besting the record of Babe Ruth by over a year. On September 24, 2010, A-Rod hit two home runs to surpass the mark of Sammy Sosa -- 609 home runs, and became the all-time leader in home runs by a player of Hispanic descent. Rodriguez and the Yankees in December 2007 agreed to a 10-year, \$275 million contract that was the richest contract in baseball history (breaking his previous record of \$252 million). In February 2009, the New York Yankees slugger admitted to using steroids and said he used them from 2001 to 2003 when playing for the Texas Rangers because of "an enormous amount of pressure" to perform.

In 1993, Alex Rodriguez was drafted first overall by the Seattle Mariners and made his major league debut as the starting shortstop on July 8, 1994, in Boston at 18 years, 11 months, and 11 days of age. In 1996, Alex Rodriguez was selected by both Sporting News and Associated Press as the Major League Player of the Year, and came close to becoming the youngest MVP (Most Valuable Player) in baseball history, finishing second to Juan González. A-Rod, in 1998 season, was selected as Players Choice AL Player of the Year, won his 2nd Silver Slugger Award and finished in the top 10 in the MVP voting. In his final season with Seattle in 2000, Rodriguez was selected as the Major League Player of the Year by Baseball America and finished 3rd in the BBWAA AL MVP voting. He was associated by *Sports Illustrated* on February 7, 2009 of testing positive for anabolic steroids, testosterone and Primobolan, in 2003. Two days after the allegations, the baseball slugger admitted to steroid use from 2001 until 2003, claiming that he ceased using such substances after spring training that year.