

Rafael Palmeiro Signs Contract With Sugar Land Skeeters

Disgraced slugger [Rafael Palmeiro](#) has signed a contract with independent Sugar Land Skeeters that will make the twenty-year MLB veteran play final three games of the season alongside son Patrick, an infielder with the Texas club.

Rafael Palmeiro, who has not played professional baseball in more than a decade, signed the contact with the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League, an eight-team association outside Major League Baseball's traditional farm system. In a release issued by the club, the 50-year-old Palmeiro said we discussed me playing earlier this year and it is something that he has looked forward to since then. Rafael added the chance to play with his son is an opportunity the Skeeters have offered me and he is very excited to make it happen this weekend.

The return of Palmeiro comes a decade after an illustrious major league career that was all set for the Hall of Fame until a positive test for Stanozolol ([Winstrol](#)), an anabolic steroid, was revealed just five months after Rafael Palmeiro emphatically denied under oath of ever using performance enhancing drugs. Rafael continues to maintain he never made use of anabolic steroids intentionally.

A four-time All-Star who played 20 major league seasons with the Chicago Cubs, Texas Rangers, and Baltimore Orioles, Palmeiro retired with 569 home runs and 3,020 hits that made him one of only five players in the history of Major League Baseball to be a member of both the 500-home run and 3,000-hit clubs -- Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Eddie Murray, and [Alex Rodriguez](#) are the others.

This is not the first time the minor-league club based in Sugar Land has made headlines with an unusual signing. In 2012, a pair of starts for the Skeeters was made by Roger Clemens, the seven-time Cy Young Award winner named 82 times in the Mitchell Report on steroid use in baseball, when he was 50 years old. Last year, seven-time NBA All-Star Tracy McGrady made the opening day roster of the Skeeters as a pitcher. McGrady made four appearances, allowing four hits and five runs while recording a 6.75 ERA in 6 2/3 innings.

The retired Cuban American Major League Baseball first baseman and left fielder played for the Cubs (1986–1988), Texas Rangers (1989–1993, 1999–2003), and the Baltimore Orioles (1994–1998, 2004–2005). Rafael was named to the MLB All-Star Team four times and also has the distinction of winning the Gold Glove three times. Palmeiro was a part of 2,831 major league games, which is the most by any player who never participated in the World Series. Palmeiro was identified as a fellow steroid user by former Rangers teammate José Canseco in his 2005 book, *Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big*. Canseco claimed he personally injected Rafael Palmeiro with anabolic androgenic steroids. Palmeiro appeared at a Congressional hearing on March 17, 2005 about steroids in baseball and denied ever using steroids while under oath. Palmeiro was suspended for ten days on August 1, 2005 after he tested positive for an anabolic steroid.