

Manfred - Report on Palmeiro investigation

Written by Statement from Commissioner's Office
Wednesday, 09 November 2005 12:00

Commissioner's office statement regarding the report issued by the
House Committee on Government Reform on its
investigation of Rafael Palmeiro's testimony on

March 17, 2005

Nov. 10, 2005

Major League Baseball Executive Vice President Rob Manfred made the following statement regarding the report issued by the House Committee on Government Reform on its investigation of Rafael Palmeiro's testimony before the Committee on March 17, 2005:

"The Committee on Government Reform produced an impressive and well-documented report. While the confidentiality provisions of our agreement with the Major League Baseball Players Association preclude us from commenting on the substance of Mr. Palmeiro's positive test for a performance-enhancing substance, we acknowledge the two direct criticisms of our drug-testing program and have previously taken steps to correct them.

"First, Major League Baseball recognizes that the use of amphetamines is a serious problem in Major League Baseball and must be banned. In his April proposal to the Players Association Commissioner Selig called for the inclusion of amphetamines as a banned substance under our policy. We remain committed to that proposed change.

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"Second, we acknowledge that our collection protocols must be constantly monitored. In fact, during this past season, we agreed with the Players Association on changes in our collection procedures designed to deal with the type of lapse identified by the Committee. We will continue to monitor the collection protocols to ensure that such lapses do not occur in the future.

"Major League Baseball appreciates the effort made by the House Committee on Government Reform to focus public attention on the serious problem of steroid abuse. This report reinforces the Commissioner's position that the issue relates to the game's integrity. We will continue to pursue changes that will eliminate the use of performance enhancing substances. While Major League Baseball prefers to deal with this issue through the collective bargaining process, it is prepared to endorse Congressional legislation should Congress determine that the bargaining process has failed to yield results."