**A-Rod’s fighting erases any shot at compassion | New York Post**

Alex Rodriguez has remained pugnacious, fighting MLB and the Yankees and anyone else he sees as the enemy in a way befitting a person with deep pockets and a deeper sense of victimization. If he is innocent of taking illegal performance enhancers the past few years — as he has said in a few forums, but never under oath — then fight on he should. But if he is guilty and all this has been an exercise in finding a loophole through which to escape, then he has made a mistake in overvaluing the advice of his lawyers and his own sense of float-through-all-crisis entitlement. And made a huge mistake in underestimating the capacity of the country and the sport for forgiveness — if you give those groups reasons to provide second or third chances. Perhaps he was too immersed in his own case to notice, but the regular season ended with his now former teammate, Andy Pettitte, hailed into retirement despite his PED past. Since the conclusion of the season, Matt Williams — he of the prominent spot in the Mitchell Report — has been hired as Nationals manager. Jason Giambi, once a BALCO All-Star, signed yet another minor league contract with the Indians, whom he serves as resident sage and manager in training. Jhonny Peralta and Bartolo Colon, despite their naughty ties to the same Biogenesis scandal that has felled A-Rod, signed four- and two-year deals, respectively, as free agents. Carlos Ruiz and Marlon Byrd, also with PED-related suspensions in their recent pasts, signed three- and two-year free agent deals, respectively. No one is ever completely forgiven. This all stays on the permanent record, soils the history of all touched by these actions. But the country and the sport both have short memories, a need to move on to the next matter without staying obsessed with the past — just look how quickly the A-Rod news, for example, wiped all of the enmity about the Hall of Fame voting from our frontal lobes. Rodriguez himself should know what the value of contrition is. He used that tack when outed the first time with steroids in 2009. He did his mea culpa, behaved as much like a reasonable human being publicly as he is capable and generally had the fervor around him die down week by week, never disappearing, but diminishing to a tolerable level. Such is the needy, greedy, seedy makeup of the man that given a second shot — a level of redemption — decided to try to reverse aging or chase 800 homers or whatever in a strip mall in Miami with a non-doctor named Anthony Bosch. We can argue whether MLB was overzealous or even unscrupulous in how it went about accumulating evidence and aligning itself with Bosch — and it is a discussion to continue about how far we want MLB to go to try to defang the use of performance enhancers in the game. But A-Rod, who once denied even knowing Bosch, clearly was in cahoots with him, exchanged hundreds of text messages with — again — someone he claimed not to know, at one point, and was taking advice what to put in his body from someone with all the airs of a “Scarface” extra and, again, no medical degree and a strip-mall address. The evidence amassed by MLB made 13 other players accept suspension. It ultimately convinced an independent arbitrator named Fredric Horowitz — in a forum that has long been favorable to players — to ban Rodriguez for the 2014 season, and deliver a written finding that essentially endorses MLB’s every contention while finding A-Rod’s defense to be, at best, underwhelming and dubious. So even if MLB’s behavior is unsettling, this case was about whether A-Rod took PEDs or not. And if the only evidence to the contrary is A-Rod’s paid mouthpieces claiming he is a victim of a conspiracy that makes Oliver Stone’s “JFK” seem simplistic, I will assume Rodriguez is a cheat and a serial liar about that cheating. Yet, even with that, he has had his chances to get out ahead of this yet again. With an admission and cooperation, he probably gets a far shorter suspension and saves lawyers’ fees that have a gross national product feel to them. He also could have begun some reclamation that, while never cleansing him, at least begins the process of potentially making him a viable face around the sport. If this offseason did not tell him the value of speedy acceptance and admittance, how about the lesson of Pete Rose, who denied, denied, denied until his tell-all a decade later and, well, how has that worked out for him? Or Lance Armstrong, who did the pugnacious legal thing, too, costing himself plenty of dough and whatever lingers of his reputation. Look, maybe there is even still time for Rodriguez at this late date to try what seems so difficult for him — honesty, self-reflection, a more righteous course. It will not stop the suspension or the tarnish to his name. Maybe, however, he can still find out it is a forgiving country and a forgiving game — but first you have to give folks reasons to offer forgiveness. The greatest Yankee that I was lucky enough to see in person was The Mick.  HE was the reason I became a Brooklyn-born fan of the Pinstriped team who played in The Bronx.  # 7 was not a perfect ballplayer, as his legs betrayed him early and throughout his HOF career thanks to osteomyelitis.  Off the field, he was far from the model husband and father, as liquor consumption destroyed his body on the inside, but the impact of these maladies wouldn't be fully appreciated  until well after he retired and ultimately passed away. A-Rod?  He was, at one point early-on in his career, if not THE best in the game, darned close to it.  And as he played into his prime years, he carried with him the largest contract ever signed by a MLB player.  Then he steered his star to The Bronx and despite finally winning a World Series ring, he never quite won Yankees fans over.  A myriad of incidents have all contributed to this failure to become a fan favorite: damaging his relationship with Derek Jeter, balking at moving over to third base, being seen with women (not his wife) in hotels when on the road, knocking a ball out of Red Sox pitcher Bronson Arroyo's glove on a play at first base, the "hah" play at third base in a Blue Jays game, lying to his teammates about PED use the first time back in 2010, and most recently this PED case that has seen an independent arbitrator rule that he be suspended for a full season. He is a liar and a cheat (maybe from before he first took the field as a celebrated rookie with the Mariners back in 1994), and he is no better than all the rest of the PED users from Canseco to McGwire, Sosa, Palmeiro, Clemens, and Bonds.  He couldn't hold # 7's jockstrap if you ask me.  I hope he just wises-up one day soon, accepts a check for $ 61 million from the Yanks, and just goes away.  A pox on his house. why should he apologize? EVERYONE involved in this has lied!!!!!Steroids saved the sport and drove salaries thru the roof. Why would Selig or the MLBPA have any true interest in stopping PEDs? All this nonsense is just a bunch of fluff to protect their phony image. Joel, you just have to STOP!!! The history of the game is littered with the corpses of players who didn't play fair...if Joe Jackson went to his grave without being forgiven, then this guy - a fraud from the start - deserves NOTHING...except, perhaps, having his entire stat line stricken from the official record...how do we know that he EVER played fair? He cheated not only the integrity of the game, but the history of the game....save your pity for Mays, Mantle, Reggie, Schmidt, et, al, who have had their HR records diminished by the bloated HR records of the PED generation... No!!!!!!  To cujo0000, the 3 players from the list of over 100 to be let out were David ( I know nothing ) Ortiz, Manny Ramirez and the infamous Arod. I believe it is an injustice to these players, however, it is a fact. In an aside from this, I just read this ridiculous article authored by red sox-reeking Ricky Doyle titled " the active players most likely to enter the HOF are David ( on the list ) Ortiz, Derek Jeter and Miguel Cabrera. for him to attempt to slide Ped-Papi into the HOF on the Trojan-horse backs of Jeter and Cabrera is a baseball sacrilege! Maybe Doyle had a monumental, momentary, memory lapse or just thought he could use the old red sox-media routine " if-you-tell-the-lie-enough-it-will-become-the truth. At any rate, Papi's roid rage over a called strike in Baltimore was just more proof in the pudding that he is a user. also, it has been noted that, like Clemens ans Bonds, his hat size has gotten bigger. His constantly improving statisics are reflective of aging-user. Sherman preaching morals is more sickening than aroid and selig and the whole bunch combined. Being the whining little parasite that he is what else can you expect. Hey Joel, why don't you come clean and try writing an objective column. I'll bet Ardoid and Pete Rose get into the hall before that happens. If A-Roid ever gets his way and does have a hearing in Federal Court, he will be forced to testify on his own behalf. He then will be under oath and face the chance of committing perjury. He may also face actual criminal charges in for the use and trafficking of illegally obtained drugs. Keep going A-Roid, you may just put yourself in a situation where you will be trading your baseball uniform for a Federal Prison uniform. I think the Yankees should file suit against A-Roid for contract fraud and try to cancel the remainder of the contract and possibly recoup monies already paid out to him. In the interview of Bosch on 60 Minutes, A-Roid's intent for using the drugs was to achieve the various incentive plateaus written into the contract giving him Millions more dollars. I think they would have an excellent out. THis story is not going away! It's funny how so many here continue to blame everyone...Selig, MLB, the devil, etc., except the real culprit A-Roid. You are as delusional as A-Roid. Why won't A-Roid testify under oath about his PED use? (except to Mike Francesa). A-Roid is a serial cheater and liar and a pathetic individual. Tony Bosch may be a sleaze ball but unlike A-Roid answered every question asked of him on 60 Minutes directly and without hesitation. A-Roid continues to try to make the discussion about him being an unfair target, a witch hunt and not about his PED use. Anything to change the subject and blind the idiots with smoke and mirrors. Dont like what A-Rod is doing at all.... but I completely disagree with Sherman that THIS is about A-Rod...  THIS is about how MLB is handling/has handled performance enhancing drugs since the mid 90's baseball strike through now.   A-Rod (stupidly in my opinion)  is a publicity sucking distraction from what was obviously a "hear/see/speak no evil about these drugs by Selig and MLB when baseball was recovering its fans in the mid 90's until recent years when the effort started to clean things up.  Or was forced on Selig and MLB -   I mean ...what choice did baseball have when normal, professional athlete's bodies started turning into Macy's Thanksgiving Day floats.  Bonds anyone? I-Rod? The fact that George Steinbrenner was thrown out of baseball for two years for the Dave Winfield event but MLB gets a pass from Sherman (and many others) on how it obtained information to bury A-Rod?  Sorry, that just doesnt fly. MLB and Bud Selig are dirty here,  at least as much as A-Rod b/c he's just an individual,  a bad press sponge and someone guilty of clearly bending and breaking rules... but just one guy. @ MangyQusiling Right on Mangy. I don't think the Yankees will sully themselves by getting into A-Rod's pigpen tho. A-Rod continues with his "scorched earth" policy of making things as painful as possible. I don't think that he will ever get to court....because either the suits will be dismissed on their 'merits' or he will capitulate at 'death's door' if he is compelled to testify. Living in luxury outside of baseball is better than having a 300 lb. cellmate with poor hygiene. @Bopper4720 You're right Bosch is anything but a Liar, unlike Rodriguez who like OJ may in fact be believing his lies now since he's said them so much.  And A-Rod never said anything remotely truthful to Fatcessa.  Still laughing about how his lawyers "crushed it".  LOLLLLL. @ opaque/53fc9a3c-4e19-11e3-a6c8-000bcdcb471e Why don't you include every N.Y sportswriter who comments on the situation because every one tells the same story. You are obviously the only one who sees the facts clearly and all these guys are being paid by MLB. Cough. @ up brace OK and the Players Assoc. doesn't like hispanics, and his doctor was drunk at the time of surgery and the hospital staff was on leave for the day and....and...and...President Obama should be sued because he has not come to the aid of a minority...and...and... @ Rico Z What gets me is it has impacted the price of tickets - the Yankees when the New Yankee Stadium opened were charging $2500 per seat, per game directly behind home plate.  Outrageous.  I seriously think someone could come up with a Class Action Lawsuit about how these high salaries (not fairly obtained) led to the outrageous ticket prices throughout the sport.  Maybe we'll get some refunds and/or they'll be forced to lower their ticket prices. @ bTeri EXACTLY!!!!  And what about the princes - Torre, Cox and LaRussa going into Cooperstown while they closed their collective eyes to PED's?! Selig is a viper who SHOULD NEVER get in to Cooperstown!