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Jose Capellan dies at age 34 from apparent heart attack

By Enrique Rojas
ESPNdeportes.com

Former major league pitcher [Jose Capellan](#) died Tuesday from an apparent heart attack at his home in Philadelphia, his wife told ESPNdeportes.com. He was 34.

Capellan's funeral will be held next week in his hometown, Cotuí, in the northern region of the Dominican Republic.

Capellan's wife, Patricia Capellan, said that her husband was found dead in his bed by her stepfather, Alejandro Almonte, around 8 p.m. ET on Tuesday. She told ESPNdeportes.com that Capellan had problems with Ambien, a drug used for sleep disorders.

"Apparently it was a heart attack, [according to] the paramedics who responded to the emergency call," Patricia Capellan said. "I was working when I received a call telling me that Jose was dead. I could not believe it. He was alone in the house."

"When I got home, the police were already there. They asked me if he used any other medication because there was indications that his heart could not resist anymore. Jose had no love problems or other problems, such as have been speculating on social networks. He didn't drink alcohol, but had lost control in the use of sleeping pills."

Jose and Patricia Capellan were married for 11 years and had no children. The former pitcher had a daughter, who lives in Miami, from a previous relationship.

Patricia Capellan reiterated in a radio interview with ESPNdeportes that her husband "had problems with Ambien."

"He had become addicted to this prescription drug, not just now but rather over the past five years," she said. "He was even under treatment as part of Major League Baseball for the use of this medication. These problems were well-known by those of us who lived with him -- myself, his mother and his brothers."

"My husband did not commit suicide, nor did he have financial or problems with other women. He didn't have the same financial situation as he had before, but he was not having any kind of trouble."

Capellan played parts of five seasons in the majors with the [Braves](#), [Brewers](#), [Tigers](#) and [Rockies](#) from 2004 to 2008. He went 5-7 with a 5.89 ERA in 99 games.

Capellan also played in Korea and the Dominican Republic Winter League with Gigantes del Cibao and Toros del Este. His last appearance in professional baseball was with Toros in the 2013-14 winter season.

