

— jeanc State Convention 2007 —

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# Sports Writing

To <sup>categorize</sup> ~~many~~ Barry Bonds' alleged involvement in steroid use as controversy is an understatement. His numbers are considered <sup>by many</sup> ~~as~~ the best the game has ever seen, <sup>but</sup> is this due to taking products such as Human Growth Hormone and "the clear"?

To Marcos ~~Breton~~ Breton the facts clearly portray that Bonds was indeed tremendously aided by steroids.

"He has been seen in commercials for Balco, photographed with Victor Conte, and ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> known for buying and using Balco products before the feds raided the headquarters ~~of Balco~~," Breton said.

In 2003, Balco's founder Victor Conte, who Bonds has referred to as a "good friend" was arrested for steroid distribution and money laundry.

~~Breton~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~case~~ ~~against~~ ~~Bonds~~ ~~is~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~just~~ ~~convicting~~ ~~another~~ ~~athlete~~ ~~of~~ ~~steroid~~ ~~use~~. ~~But~~

Breton emphasizes that <sup>the</sup> case against Bonds is more than just convicting another athlete of steroid use. ~~But~~

"He inspires love and hatred. He makes you choose sides about him, fair play, drug use, and even your heroes," Breton said.

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Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield, and Marlon Jones are among the names of <sup>of numerous</sup> athletes admitting to steroid use.

"Who's name is missing? Barry Bonds," ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Breton said.

His numbers increased dramatically from age 37, supposedly an age for ball player's stats to ~~drop~~ diminish. A hitter known for speed and had never hit more than 49 home runs went on to hit 73 ~~home runs~~ big ones in 2001 along with increasing his slugging ~~percentage~~ and on-base percentage to marks he had never reached before.

Breton does not mistake this as <sup>a</sup> coincidence.

"We know that training and nutrition are much more refined in this day of age, and Bonds has been known for taking very good care of his body, but you can't point to one baseball player in this history of the game that put up stats like this at such a late age," ~~the~~ Breton said.

Although Breton is steadfast in his belief that Bonds did use steroids he still considers him a hall of fanger.

"He was someone who was a phenomenal athlete that took steroids which made him a greater athlete." ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

It is impossible to go back and subtract the ~~home runs~~ <sup>home runs</sup> now in an era where almost all ~~the~~ professional baseball players are taking steroids," Breton said.

Regardless of what one voter says the ~~point of~~ <sup>the majority of</sup> way a people view him will prevail when it comes to Bonds being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

So the real question is, Is he in or is he out?