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From the Los Angeles Times

Sports agent gets five-year sentence

Gustavo "Gus" Dominguez of Chatsworth receives the mandatory minimum sentence for smuggling Cuban baseball players to the U.S.

By Kevin Baxter
Times Staff Writer

July 10, 2007

Chatsworth sports agent Gustavo "Gus" Dominguez was sentenced to five years in prison Monday for smuggling Cuban baseball players to the U.S.

The sentence was the mandatory minimum possible for Dominguez, 48, who was facing the possibility of more than 200 years in federal prison. A former pitcher at Cal State Northridge and co-founder of the Encino-based agency Total Sports International, Dominguez was found guilty in April of 21 felony counts of smuggling, conspiracy and harboring and transporting aliens for profit.

Dominguez also must pay a \$2,100 assessment fee — \$100 for each guilty verdict — and undergo three years of court supervision once he is released from prison.

However, U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore declined to impose additional fines and recommended that Dominguez participate in a drug and alcohol program which, if completed successfully, could cut a year from his sentence. Defense attorney J. Stephen Salter said Dominguez "developed a bit of an alcohol issue" during the trial.

Moore also ruled that Dominguez may voluntarily surrender to prison officials in 60 days and will serve his sentence in a "camp-like" facility in Southern California. Salter, who had pleaded for leniency, said he was pleased with Moore's ruling but didn't rule out an appeal. The defense has until July 19 to challenge the verdict of the Key West, Fla., jury which, if it stands, could affect Dominguez's certification as an agent.


Dominguez, whose firm represents several professional baseball players including Chicago Cubs catcher Henry Blanco, is the first agent charged with smuggling Cuban baseball players to the U.S. Dominguez pioneered the representation of Cuban defectors in pro baseball and has worked with about three dozen in the last 16 years.

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Yankee Hughes Makes Rehab Start In Tampa

A Tribune wire report

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TAMPA - New York Yankees rookie Phil Hughes pitched two innings Monday for Single-A Tampa in his first minor-league rehab start since being sidelined more than two months by ankle and hamstring injuries.

Hughes didn't allow a hit, gave up an unearned run and walked two. He struck out three against the Dunedin Blue Jays.

His next start is scheduled for Saturday with Double-A Trenton.

Feds: Mitchell Didn't Get Complete Affidavit

SAN FRANCISCO - Federal prosecutors said they did not give baseball steroids investigator George Mitchell a complete copy of an affidavit containing names of players who allegedly received performance-enhancing drugs from a former New York Mets clubhouse employee.

Prosecutors urged a judge to keep under seal the names of the players identified in a sworn statement signed by IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco said a motion by Hearst Corp. seeking unredacted copies of the search warrant affidavit is a "thinly veiled attempt to benefit financially" by publicizing the names of people involved in the government's steroid probe and does not serve a public need.

The government also argued that most of the facts concerning the government's investigation of former Mets employee Kirk Radomski were publicly disclosed after he pleaded guilty in April to felony charges of distributing steroids and laundering money.

LEGAL: Los Angeles sports agent Gustavo "Gus" Dominguez was sentenced to five years in prison Monday for smuggling Cuban baseball players to the United States.

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ANGELS: Los Angeles waived infielder-designated hitter Shea Hillenbrand on Monday, a disappointment for Los Angeles after signing a \$6.5 million, one-year contract in December.

Hillenbrand, 31, batted .254 with three homers and 22 RBIs in 53 games with the Angels.

BLUE JAYS: Toronto released right-hander Victor Zambrano.

Zambrano, 31, appeared in eight games with Toronto this season, including two starts, going 0-2 with a 10.97 ERA.

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