

Ex-Mets Pitcher Koosman Is Charged With Not Filing Tax Return

By David Voreacos

May 9 (Bloomberg) -- Jerry Koosman, the former Major League Baseball pitcher, has been criminally charged with failing to file a U.S. income tax return for 2002 and intends to plead guilty on May 22, according to court records and his attorney.

Koosman, 66, was charged with a misdemeanor offense on April 15 in federal court in Madison, Wisconsin, court records show. He faces as much as one year in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

"Right now, we're working and cooperating with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Madison," Robert Bernhoft, Koosman's attorney, said in an interview. "After the 22nd, we'll be much freer to discuss the case."

Koosman, a lefthander, pitched for 19 years in the major leagues, including 12 seasons with the New York Mets, from 1967 to 1978. He compiled a career record of 222-209, struck out 2,556 batters and had an earned run average of 3.36.

Koosman, who lives in Osceola, Wisconsin, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

Koosman had gross income of more than \$3,000 in 2002 and failed to file a tax return before April 15, 2003, prosecutors said. He's scheduled to plead guilty before U.S. District Judge **Barbara B. Crabb**.

Koosman broke into the Mets' starting rotation in 1968, compiling a record of 19-12, with an ERA of 2.08 and 178 strikeouts. In 1969, he won 17 games and lost 9, with an ERA of 2.28. He pitched two games and won both in the World Series as the "Miracle Mets" upset the Baltimore Orioles.

World Series

He also won a game in the 1973 World Series, which the Mets lost in seven games to the Oakland Athletics.

Koosman pitched in 1979 and 1980 with the Minnesota Twins. In 1981, he played for the Toronto Blue Jays, the Twins and the Chicago White Sox. He spent the next two years with the White Sox before throwing his last two years with the Philadelphia Phillies, retiring in 1985.

Bernhoft also represented actor **Wesley Snipes** at his conspiracy and tax fraud trial in 2008. Snipes was convicted of three misdemeanor counts for willfully failing to file a tax return and was sentenced to three years in prison. He is on bail pending appeal.

The case is USA v. Jerome M. Koosman, 09-cr-51, U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin (Madison).

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Last Updated: May 9, 2009 00:01 EDT