

← Back

Purdue may forfeit 3 football victories

By From Sun-Times Wires May 12, 1987 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 96

Word Count: 343

Rod Woodson's dealings with a professional agent might force Purdue University to forfeit its three football victories during the 1986 season. Woodson must repay Purdue his \$5,000 senior-year scholarship because of his transactions with **Norby Walters**, a New York-based agent who is suing Woodson for \$500,000 for an alleged breach of contract, according to a copyright story in the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Journal-Gazette.

Bob King, assistant athletic director at Purdue, said he received a letter two weeks ago from Woodson's attorney, Eugene Parker, and expects a check from Woodson after the defensive back signs a professional contract.

Woodson was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers as the 10th pick in the first round of the NFL draft last month.

Walters claims he lent Woodson \$21,606, which financed a trip for Woodson's father, mother and girlfriend to Honolulu in January to see Woodson compete in the Hula Bowl, as well as a down payment on a silver 1986 Merkur leased by Woodson. **Walters** also said he arranged a loan for the car for Woodson.

If **Walters'** charges are true, Woodson violated NCAA rules. A possible penalty would be forfeiture of Purdue's three 1986 victories

Although approached repeatedly during the last two weeks by a Journal-Gazette reporter, Woodson has declined to comment, other than to say, "I made a mistake." Woodson's parents referred reporters to Parker, who declined to comment on Walters' allegations because of the pending lawsuit.

Purdue athletic director George King and Big Ten Commissioner Wayne Duke were unavailable for comment. A university spokesman said forfeits might not be called for because no Purdue coaches or athletic department officials were implicated in an in-house investigation, which has been forwarded to the league office.

According to King, Parker indicated that Woodson would repay the scholarship because the promissory note and contract

"professionalized" him.

"He is not obligated to do it at all," King said. "I suppose the university could sue somebody, but I don't think they would. He (Woodson) wanted to protect his situation at Purdue University. He played here. He hopes to come back and graduate at some future date."

Bob Pille also contributed to this report.

Chicago Sun-Times

Date: May 12, 1987

Page: 96

Copyright 1987, 1996 Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.