## 'I am not an evil man' <br> New York-based agent Norby Walters started his career in the restaurant business and made his mark in the music industry. Now he has made his fame - or his infamy - for his controversial dealings with college athletes. <br> By Chris Mortensen <br> NEW YORK - Norby Walters strolls through the halls of his office, located across the street from the Ed Sul- livan Theater. The walls are lined with 100 gold and platinum records. "What do you think?" he asks. "Is this a smalltime operation? Or is it big time?" answer in Norby Walters' mind. His answer in Norby Walters' mind. His business address says it all for Walters: Broadway. The offic <br> The office is on the 10th floor of buildings. There are 35 employee <br>  <br> young woman in the lobby says, "Ooooh, that's Oran 'Juice' Jones.' Oran 'Juice' Jones? <br> "Yeah, he's got a video." It is in the music industry that Walters has spent most of his career and made much of his money. But it is in the sports world the the sports world that he has has gained, fame - or infamy - recently. ame - or infamy - recently Walters told The Atlanta Journal- Constitution in March that he has routinely given large amounts of cash to college football and baskettall pash to who in turn have signed postdated conwho in turn have signed postdated con- tracts to be represented by him Both tracts to be represented by him. Both the contracts and the cash constitute violations of NCAA rules. Since the first report of Walters' dealings with report of Walters' dealings with college athletes, there have been numerous es. athletes, there have calations in the case. <br> See WALTERS


anor Sharp/Saff
CHANEE OF PACE: After undergoing his third shoulder surgery, Bruce Sutter is pitching again, but just to his son Chad (right) and other little leaguers.

## Sutter trying for his biggest save

Will he ever prove he's not just $\$ 10$ million worth of bad investment, a financial black hole? 'All I can say is I'm not rolling over and taking the money. That's why l've gone through the operations.'

Three times a week, Bruce Sutter drives from Kennesaw to Buckhead for physical therapy on his right shoulder,
his $\$ 10$ million right shoulder, as it's more commonly regarded. Unable to travel anywhere without the price tag in tow, Sutter some days could use a U.
Haul to lug the burden.
Haul to lug the burden.
Will he pitch again and show Atlanta
privately, the way he lives his life. of "I don't want to make a big deal out of my situation," he says. "I'm healthy. there who are really suffering. And here I am making all this money. All I can
say is $\mathrm{I}^{\prime} \mathrm{m}$ not rolling over and taking say is I'm not rolling over and taking
the money That's why I've gone through the operations."
In February, Sutter had his third surgery in 14 monthe. He was told to sit out the 1987 season, try again in '88. And he
knows that all the tring in the world mows that all the trying in the world in a shoulder so weak in 1985 that he couldn't pass a
breakfast table.

Progress reports on Sutter's therap et shipped near and on Sutter's therapy loctor in Atlanta to a neurologist in Col orado, from the Braves' front office to Sutter's agent in Chicago. They're al hoping for a twist to an old fairy tale.
They're hoping Sutter, perhaps the best They're hoping Sutter, perhaps the best
relief pitcher in baseball history before reise pill from in breatness, can be put back
his together again.
Mark Albert, the former Atlanta
Chiefs trainer who directs Sports Therapy and Exercise Prescription (STEP) of Atlanta, says Sutter is meeting his goals See SUTTER

## Braves

 lose 6th in row 8-4- MEANWHILE, DOWN ON THE FARM

By Gorry Fraley
Statt Writer
SAN DIEGO - The fall to the bottom began on the
Fourth of July last year. The Atlanta Braves may be Fourth of July last year. The Atlanta Braves may be eaad by Califomia deth march night with a sloppy $8-4$ loss to San Diego Saturday nig at Jack Murphy Stadium. The Braves have lost fiv
straight games in California and siv straight straight games in California and six straight overall. "This is the type of thing you have to get out of as quickly as possible.
The Brest
The Braves briefly put their heads above water with a two-rum seventh inning that tied the game at
Reliever Jeff Dedmon could not keep the tie. Dedmon (2-2) who forced in a run with four walks in the sisth, walked the leadoff hitter, Tim Flannery Gwyin. Flannery scored on a double-play grounder. The Padres put it away in the bottom of the eighth, scoring three runs off Paul Assenmacher and Jim Acker. The main damage was done by a base
gle hit off Acker by Randy Ready.
Gwynn, batting .383 , has become a challenger to hit 400. In his last 25 games, Gwynn is batting 474 (45-for-95). Manager Chuck Tanner had one bit of advice
for the Braves pitchers when they face him "Pray," Tanner said.
Trailing, the Braves gave Dedmon a $3-2$ game in mon, who san pitcher Lance McCullers on four pitches with the bases loaded. Mccullers is a career 2 -for- -1 hitter. The week-long problems on offense stopped in the
seventh. The Braves tied the game with only their sec ond multi-run inning of this trip.
The Braves created the first run of the inning out or odd pieces. Rafael Ramirez led off with a single, stole
second and reached third because shortstop Garry Tem second and reached third because shortstop Garry Tem
See BRAVES
See BRAVES 11C

## Like old times:

 Moses on top| NO TRIPLE FOR LEWIS | 13 C |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ RESULTS | 20 C |

## By Karen Rosen Stat Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Edwin Moses believes suspense is good for the - 400 -meter intermediate hur-
dles. By the end of Saturday's TAC Championships fi-
nal nal, the suspense was the same as
the 10 years prior to Moses' loss June 4 to Danny Harris: Who would take second?
The old Edwin Moses, all 31 years at full thrust,
was dominant in winning the national Was dominant in winning the national title with a
time of 47.99 seconds. Harris, the 21 -year-old hurdier who ended Mocess 12 D-race win streak in Madrid,
struggled to hold off David Patrick, 48.70 to 48.76 . struggled to hold off David Patrick, 48.70 to 48.76 .'
II've been hearing the rumors: He's old, he's washed up, he's hearingned," said Moses. "They said the washed up, he's finished," said Moses. "They said the
same thing about Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar) years ago.

13C

HEARS THE CHEERS: Edwin Moses waves to crowd after 400 -meter hurcles victory.

‘JUST A ROCK 'N ROLLER:' Reputation as a 'leg-breaker' disturbs Norby Walters.

## Walters

The U.S. attorney's office in Chicago and federal grand jury there are investigating Wal lers' dealings with college athletes, considering such charges as fraud, extortion and racketeer
ing against him. abama basketbail player Derrick McKey an Pittsburgh football players Teryl Austin an f NCAA eligibility because of dealings with Of NCAA eligibility because of dealings with
Walters. ... At least 60 other college athletes have been subpooenaed by the Chicago grand ury. ... Some of these athletes, who accepted
money from Walters in violation of the terms on their signed scholarships, have been told by authorities that they face possible fraud and taxevasion charges...At least four states have in roduced or passed legislation regulating agents.
And Walters, who admits that he has flagrantly disregarded NCAA rules but contend that he has broken no laws, has become a symbol of evil to many in college athletics. Vince
Dooley, the University of Georgia athletic direc. or and head football coach, has called Walter the most recent example of the ugly face of unscrupulous agents sticking their heads above
the water." And Wimp Sanderson, the Alabama basketball coach, has said he'd like to go into a room alone with Walters "and see which one walks out."
Walters says, "We've been blamed for every
thing but the Iran-Iraqi war, and I think that"
Wexters, on a recent afternoon, is at his ccasionally stopping to read bits of a news report on the controversial concert tour of the naon's top two rap groups: Run D.M.C. and The "P' napping his fingers to the beat of the music he ears on the telephone while holding for his
party. Walters, 55, looks a little slicker than a rock neatly into place, and he is wearing a gray and lack tweed coat and black pants, bell-bottoms like show biz. It is the same look, the same act, that numerous college athletes get when they are flown
to New York to visit Walters and his 28 -year-old associate, Lloyd Bloom. Showtime. What's wrong with a little razzle-dazzle? ity of Pittsburgh linebacker) Tony Woods with is parents and took them to a big party for Ed have seen the look on the kid's face. It was worth a million bucks. How much would you wrong with having fun? Live life. Don't be There are more serious accusations agains Falters than flying a player to New York and against NCAA rules and could have cost Woods senior season at Pitt and his scholarship. The portrait painted of Walters by some
current and former college sources close to the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago is of an agent who misleads players into gning coniracts and accepting money, telling and not telling them that they will lose their eli gibility and their scholarships if caught. One layer, former Clemson star Terrence Flagler, tes by waving cash in their faces. Two unnamed players allegedly have told the National ootball League players' union that Walters witched agents. The Chicago grand jury is look ing into such alleged threats, as wei. as the eating of a rival agent in Chicago. And a New Ork judge has described Waiters' practices as to act unethically.
Walters strenue

保 says, "Right now, it seems to be an accepted
fact that I'm a leg-breaker. It bums me out." In a different mood, Walters jokes: "Geez, in show business, before an act goes on stage, you
ell them to break a leg and it means good luck.

You tell an athlete that, and they take it as a
threat." threat."
He laughs. He wishes he hadn't made the
comment "because people won't take it the right way." Walters is concerned about Bloom's "Ioose which Bloom, who also is under investigation by the U.S. attorney and the federal grand jury in
Chicago, has left at least the suggestion of a Chicago, has left at least the suggestion of
threat. "Back at the Hula Bowl, I asked him about all his troubles with the players, and he just
sort of shrugged it off and said, 'That's $O \mathrm{~K}$. A lot of these guys won't be playing the piano in the near future,' " says Dan Rambo, personne
director for the Saskatchewan team in the Cana dian Football League.
Walters says Bloom, who was not available to be interviewed for this story, is "all talk." He

or business. "The guy cannot keep his mouth shut about certain things, and besides, how can this be good for business?" Walters says. "Lloyd is a fool. But he is young, and he is allowed to be foolish. gotten us into a lot of trouble." Why, then, is Walters still Bloom? "Because Lloyd has talent; he's aggres "When it comes to signing athletes, nobody is
"Whers and better, unless it's myself."
music field says his agency expanded from the music field into sports three years ago at the
"whim" of Bloom. "I said to myself, 'Why not?'" says Walters.
Asked "why yes", he says, "Simply for the
reason of expansion of business. It's no different than any other business. I have a lucrative, respectable business in the music field, even can be shady. But the NFL is looking to expand; NBA has expanded. Why can't I expand?" His first year as a sports agent, Walters attention to NCAA rules. The NCAA, he emphasizes, has no jurisdiction over him.
"That first year, we found that all the chip players were already signed by other agents," he says. "So we knew right then what the name of the game was. Our attorney inso we went out and dazzled everybody. We signed everyone. Almost everyone.
Walters says that he
Walters says that he, Bloom and Terry Boar, a former football player at Long Beach
State who grew up near Mobile, Ala., have been solely responsible for recruiting and signing ath-
letes. He openly admits that most of these athletes. He openly admits that most of these athletes have been signed while still playing college says he plans to continue the practice. He conlends the practice is no different than colleges paying players, which he says is common.
Walters won't say paid or signed during the past three years, but estimates from informed sources put the number between 60 and 100 . At one time Walters agency had under contract at least seven play-
ers who were selected in the first round of this year's NFL draft.
Walters cites his experience, Bloom's ag. gressiveness and Bolar's personality as primary
factors in their recruitment of athletes. He has signed only black athletes.
"I sign only black athletes because I relate to black people,". Walters says. "There's nothing mystical or exploitative about it. And, tell me,
what is wrong with helping a young man's family if there is a need? Is that such a crime?" Atlanta attorney David Franklin, a veteran entertainment agent, does not object to Walters Boys are a white group)
man I know is probably the least racist white man I know," says Franklin, who is black. "He's en. He'll do whatever it takes. He's a Damon Runyon character."
Joel Katz, another entertainment attorney, speaks highly of Walters: "He has a top reputa-
tion as a booking agent. He pays all his bills" Walters refused to talk in detail about his Wart in the music industry. He began his career


#### Abstract

in the restaurant and nightclub business and at one time owned 21 restaurants and clubs in New Ye one eime owned 21 restaurants and clubs in Ne York. But he turned to the music industry, he says, "because I didn't like that other business." Franklin offers a telling story of how Walters made his name in the entertainment field. "I first met Norby in Los Angeles back in the '60s, and he had a group, called Chuck Brown and the Soul Searchers," recalls Frankin. "They had a hit record, and after the recor broke, these guys decided to leave Norby for larger booking a aency. Norby told them tha they had a contract, but some big West Cost they had a contract, but some big West Coast firm stepped in anyway. Norby sued, and he won in court. Norby knows what court's all


about." Walters has filed suit against six athletes is negotiating out-of-court settlements with
Walters contends that most of his current lies about him. He said in March that othe agents were spreading rumors that he was tied that the U.S. attorney is trying. to apply to Wa
ters has conjured up talk of organized crime New York's Organized Crime Task Force says it knows of no link between waiters and
organized crime. "Tve never heard of Norby
Walters", says Now York Assistant US Attor ey Diane Giancalone, who along with U.S. A torney Rudolph Giuliani has been heavily in
volved in investigating the Mafia. of Norby Walters," says Walters "Just hhink the U.S. attornesy, in Nays Yow York is waging the most successful battle ever against organized
crime. He's put away four of the five (Mafia)
families. They have tapped telephone conversations. Don't you think if my name came up somebody would have
known about it?"
known about it?"
Walters, though
surfaced 20 years ago, when he owned the 2 restaurants and clubs ' "It's unbelievable I had that many") in New York. Walters says one Ma
fia name might be linked to his past: John "Sonay" Franzese, a reputed captain in the Colombo crime famili, Franzese has been in prison since
1967 for conspiracy to commit bank robbery and parole violation.
Walters would not provide details of their relationship. He says it was not a business con-
nection, and he did not consider Franzese a friend.
in New York, you get to know a lot of people,' Walters says. ' You get to know politicians, stars
and these so-called mobsters. and these so-called mobsters. I got to know
Franzese. But I never really knew him. It is inevitable et hat if your live in New York all your life, and you own restaurants, then you are going to come in contact w
not make me a criminal.

Walters says the restaurant business pro mad haches You have to deal with the public too much. There are always probems. he tails off. Asted to be specific had a shooting once. It was a drag. A real bumHe would not go on.
Those familiar with his past say Walters got involved in the restaurant and nightclub busi-
ness because his father once owned a club tha reatured many top jazz musicians. The club was
called "Soldier Meyer's," named after Walters' father. How Soldier Meyer became Soldier Meyer and how Norby Walters became Norby Wal.
According to Walters, his father was a Pol-
ish immigrant who came to America in 1905 ish immigrant who came to America in 1903
with the name of Yosele Chezchonovitch. Yosele joined the Army and, to make things simpler,
listed his name as Meyer. He became Yosele eyer.
"Man, he was down by the Mexican border
ahting Pancho Villa and he enne fighting the Indians," says Walters, telling the story he heard from his father. "Can you magine this Poish immigrant coming to AmeriIndians?"
Walters' father did some other fighting When he punched out a man who made derogacory comments about his Jewish heritage, 1 was
suggested that Yosele Meyer become a boxer. He did, contending for the Army lightweight ti-
tle, according to Walters. His fighting name became Soldier Meyer
Soldier Meyer eventually got into the saloon
usiness in Broklyn. His club became a popular hangout, and his two sons, Norby and Walter Meyer, grew up in the saloon business. Franklin,
the Atlanta attorney, remembers Soldier Meyer's nightclub.
"It was definitely the place to go, especially you were into jazz and seeing a olo of the top
black acts," says Franklin. "What was it like? Did you see the movie "The Cotton Club?" That's what it was kind of like. Norby used to
clean tables, wash dishes, all those odd jobs. He grew up in that environment. It was like the movies. They drew the criminal element, call


Soldier Meyer eventually turned the business
ver to his sons. They expanded. Norby and ver to his sons. They expanded. Norby and
Walter Meyer had huge visions, and they opened a first-class nightclub called The Bel Air. Opening night was unforgettable, for
Norby Meyer became Norby Walters.
"We bought a 50 -foot neon sign that didn't
et in until opening day," says Walters. "That night, Walter and I were in tuxedos et the "That getting ready to greet people. They'd walk in, and I'd say, 'Hello, I'm Norby,' and they'd say, Nh, are you Norby Walters?' Id say, 'No, I'm
Norby, and this is my brother Walter.' That went on for awhile; it was hilarious, like that bbott and Costello 'who's on first?' routine.
Norby and Walter Meyer got suspicious.
They stepped outside and looked at the sign that was supposed to say "Norby \& Walter's Bel Air was supposed to say "Norby \& Waiter's Bel Air
Club.." Instead, it said "Norby Walters' Bel Air "'They left out the \&,' and I've been Norby hated me for it." There is no reason for anyone in college ath-
letics or elsewhere to hate Norby Walters today ccording to Norby Walters.
What I am doing is not evil says the agent.
"What I am doing is not evil, nor is it agains.
the law. I am a businessman. No more, no less."

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