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# Prosecutors are poised to push probe of agents

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Prosecutors in Chicago are about to make a major push in their probe of the relationship between college athletes and two New York-based sports agents, according to published reports. The Atlanta Constitution cited unnamed sources in today's editions as saying U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas and assistant Howard M. Pearl are ready to speed the proceedings after gathering evidence, partially through a nationwide FBI investigation.

The newspaper said the 60 athletes subpoenaed by the federal grand jury will testify within the next month. The paper said possible charges against the agents, **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**, include **fraud**, **extortion** and violation of the RICO (**Racketeering** Influenced Corrupt Organizations) Act.

**Walters** and **Bloom** have acknowledged giving cash to athletes with college eligibility remaining, and to signing them to representation contracts. That is a violation of NCAA rules, but the two have denied breaking any laws.

Only a few of the subpoenaed athletes have testified since the grand jury convened May 19. The paper again cited unnamed sources saying that one of those athletes may face perjury charges for allegedly lying to the grand jury.

Prosecutors say the athletes committed **fraud** when they accepted the money and then signed

documents to re-certify their athletic scholarships.

The paper quoted an unidentified attorney for some of the athletes as saying, "I don't think there is any doubt that some athletes are going to be indicted."

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