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# Corrigan denies cover-up - Irish AD speaks out on report about Miller

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*By Herb Gould July 19, 1987 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 105 Word Count: 595*

Notre Dame athletic director Gene Corrigan strongly denied a report Saturday that he had admitted university officials and wide receiver Alvin Miller had "designed a cover story to explain the end of (Miller's) career." "That just blows my mind," Corrigan said of the Atlanta Journal and Constitution report. "It's the most damaging thing I could imagine. There has never been an attempt by anyone at Notre Dame to cover up anything involving Alvin Miller."

Corrigan said he was considering asking for a correction. "I think I have to, but I feel like I don't want to say anything to anybody," he said. "This whole thing is such a huge misunderstanding."

Miller, who reportedly was subpoenaed by a Chicago grand jury investigating agents' payments to college football players, sustained a severe knee injury last October at Alabama.

Reading from the Atlanta article, Corrigan said, "It says, 'Corrigan said Miller told Notre Dame officials he had accepted cash and signed with (agent Norby) Walters and associate Lloyd Bloom.'

"That's not true. I've never even talked to Alvin about it," said Corrigan, who last week announced he was leaving Notre Dame to become Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner, pending formal ACC approval.

While saying he often was distracted during a telephone conversation with the Atlanta reporter, Corrigan said, "For him to suggest there was a cover-up doesn't make any sense to me. I don't know where in the conversation it got into something like that."

After Miller underwent surgery last fall to reconstruct his knee, doctors said he would need at least 12 months - probably 16 - to recuperate.

Facing a midseason return at best, the oft-injured Miller - who rarely started and never lived up to his high school buildup - decided not to attempt playing next fall as a fifth-year senior, associate sports information director John Heisler said.

The report even erred in saying Notre Dame had announced Miller would not return, Heisler said, regardless of the reason.

"He was never declared in

eligible to play because of a knee injury," Heisler said. "We didn't say that in deference to Alvin because there was always a slim hope he would be able to return."

Miller, Parade magazine's 1982 player of the year from the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood, informed school officials in April he intended to return to St. Louis and take a job when the spring semester ended, Heisler said.

"The whole idea of a cover-up is just nuts," Heisler said. "Who covered up anything?"

Corrigan said he became aware Miller had been linked to the federal grand jury investigation of sports agents in May, when a report said Miller had been subpoenaed.

"Because Alvin had already withdrawn from the football team and returned home once school ended, we saw no need for an investigation at that time," Corrigan said.

Speculating Miller knew in April he would be implicated, Corrigan said, "My reaction was that Alvin was such a good kid that, rather than put Notre Dame through that (grand jury) situation,

maybe he thought the best thing for him to do was just to hang it up. But that's just conjecture on my part."

Heisler said Miller was within one or two classes of graduation and might not need to return to South Bend to earn the needed credits.

Corrigan said he had no knowledge of the Atlanta report's mention other Notre Dame players might be involved in accepting payments from agents. "If we found a kid in violation of a rule like that, he'd be ruled ineligible instantly," Corrigan said.

In light of Notre Dame's pride in its athletic integrity, "I don't know how much damage can be done by what I would call a misunderstood statement," Corrigan said.

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**Chicago Sun-Times**

**Date:** July 19, 1987

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