Sports/Port2

The Atlanta Zournal [] THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



The Associated Press/Staff TOUGH YEAR: 1987 ends with Norby Walters, a longtime promoter in the music industry, out of sports.

Agent signings lead to a year of scandal

14 athletes were stripped of their collegiate eligibility

CHRONOLOGY OF CONTROVERSY

26D

By Chris Mortensen

From Florida to Washington state he had traveled, briefcase in hand, full of cash and contracts, pursuing college athletes. All over the country he was snapping his fingers and introducing himself as "Norby Walters, agent of the stars."

Take the cash, sign the dotted line, deal done.

Until March 1987, the practices of New York-based agent Norby Walters were perhaps known only to the college athletes he and his associates had approached during the previous two years. But since his practices surfaced in a March 12 report in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Walters, 56, has become the central figure in the widest-ranging scandal to hit college athletics in years.

Through the spring, summer, fall and continuing even now, the storm has dominated college athletics and touched down in many other arenas. A year-long investigation of the relationship between agents and college athletes by The Journal-Constitution has triggered action by legislatures in 12 states and investigations (still underway) by the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago and a federal grand jury.

But no one has been more affected by the scandal than 14 college athletes who lost their eligibility this year because of dealings with agents. It is against NCAA rules for an athlete to sign a contract with, or accept money from, an agent. Ten football players, three basketball players and one track star had their college careers ended prematurely this year because they broke this rule.

These players included the Southeastern Conference's 1987 basketball player of the year, Derrick McKey of Alabama, and a football All-American, Cris Carter of Ohio State. In all, at least 50 to 60 athletes broke NCAA rules in dealing with Walters and his associate, 28-year-old Lloyd Bloom. But many had already completed their college eligibility when they were

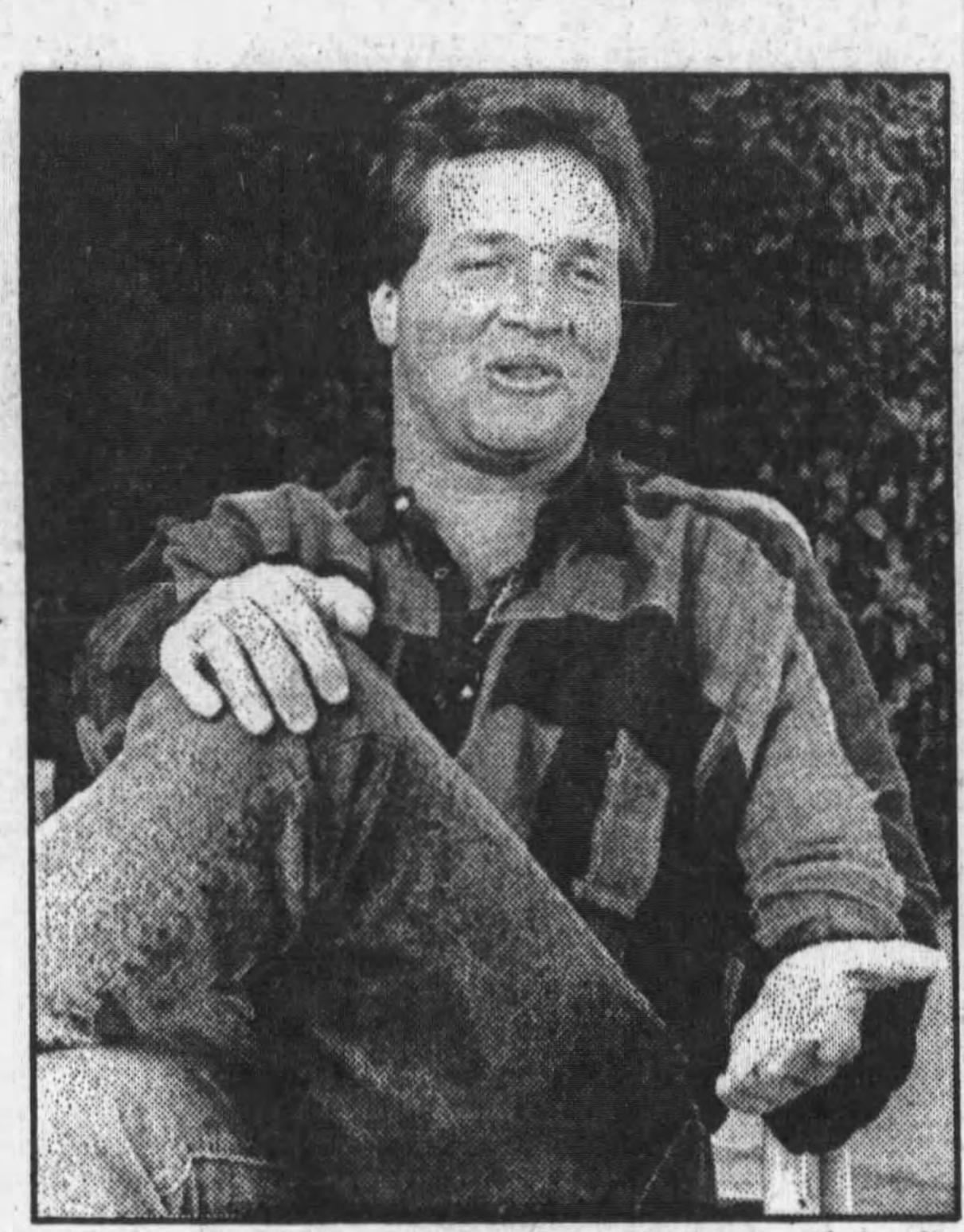
The agents scandal has proved costly not only to athletes but to schools and coaches as well. The University of Alabama, for example, was forced to give up \$250,000 in NCAA basketball tournament revenue after it was proven that two of its players in the tournament had accepted money from Walters. And Earle Bruce lost his job at Ohio State for a sub-par season that he feels might have been avoided if Carter had not lost his eligibility.

Additionally, a flurry of lawsuits has been filed by and against Walters and Bloom in federal and local courts around the country. The NCAA has been pushed to the brink of changing at least one of its rules and reconsidering others. Two professional sports leagues, the NBA and the NFL, have been drawn into the controversy.

Relations between the pro leagues and the colleges were strained when Bloom said the agents purchased confidential information on college athletes from pro scouts and were damaged further when the NFL conducted a supplemental draft for players who lost their eligibility for dealings with the agents.

And so 1987 comes to an end with Norby Walters, a longtime agent/promoter in the music industry, out of the sports agent husiness. Also out of the business is

The year in sport	S
The top 10 stories	22D
Heroes and goats	22D
Champions	23D
Milestones	230



DAMAGED RELATIONS: Lloyd Bloom created stress between colleges and pros when he said agents purchased information from scouts.

another agent, Jim Abernethy of Atlanta, who was one of Walters' most outspoken critics during the summer but by winter had admitted to similar practices of pay-

ing college athletes. The heightened concern about agents is typified by the NCAA's recent decision to require players in the 1988 basketball tournament to sign documents stating they have not dealt with an agent before playing.

Clearly the agents story will not go away with the start of a new year This is where it stands at year's

Twelve states have passed or formally proposed legislation requiring agents to register and setting penalties, including fines and jail terms, if agents deal illictly with college athletes. Alabama, California, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas have passed such laws. Bills have been introduced in seven other states — Arizona, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, Ohio and Washington — and will be voted on in 1988.

Also, individual legislators in six other states — Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Oregon and Tennessee - have suggested similar laws and, in most cases, plan to introduce them formally in 1988.

In all, 18 of the 50 states have passed or apparently will consider laws regulating sports agents. Before Walters' activities surfaced, only California had a law on

the books. ■ At least 60 athletes have appeared, under subpoena, before the federal grand jury in Chicago. The grand jury is expected to decide in January whether to indict Walters and Bloom on charges including fraud, tax fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, extortion, obstruction of justice and violation of the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Athletes also face possible indictment on fraud and tax-evasion charges, sources close to the case say.

The fraud investigation centers around the U.S. Attorney's contention that athletes, after signing with Walters and Bloom, defrauded their schools by annually signing documents saying they had done nothing to

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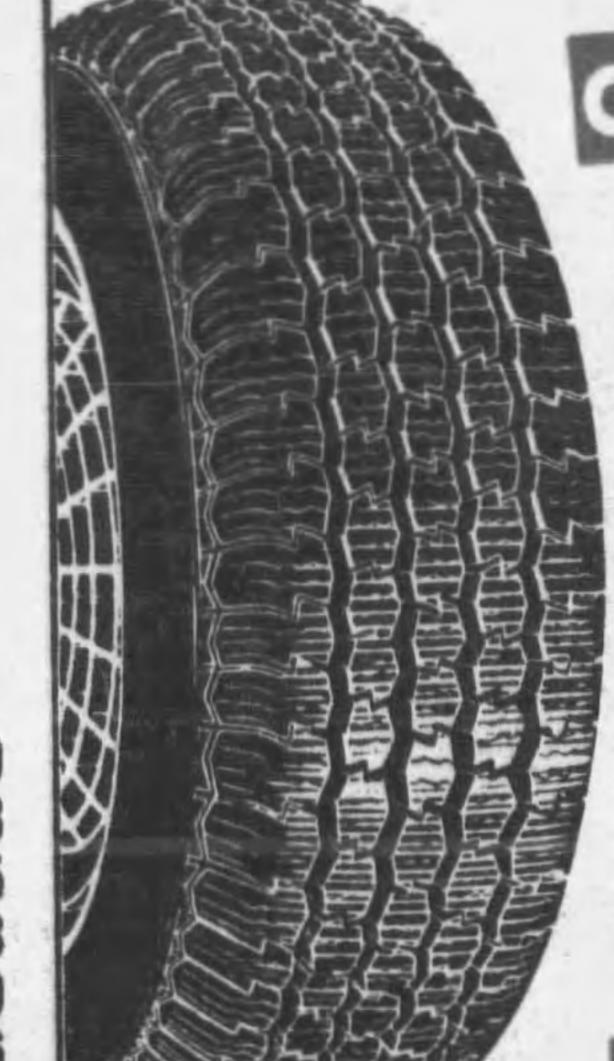
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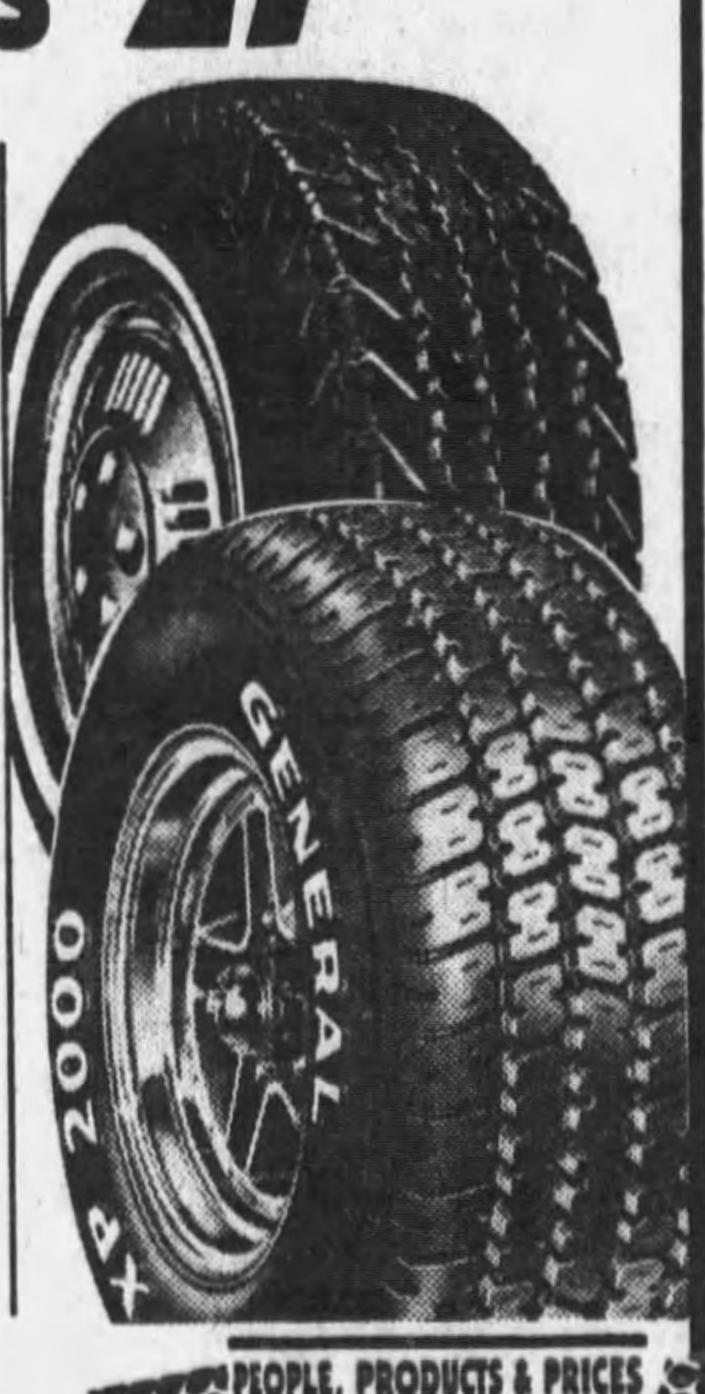
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Athletes who dealt with Walters and Bloom during their college careers

The following players have been identified as having had dealings with agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom during their college careers. Most actually signed contracts with Walters and Bloom and received money from the agents in return; others stopped short of signing. Most of the athletes were not exposed until their college careers were over and thus were not penalized by their schools or the NCAA. Players who lost NCAA eligibility because of their dealings with the agents are denoted by an asterisk. Sources for the names on this list include Bloom and others close to the NCAA and grand jury investigations of the agents' dealings. All athletes on the list have either testified or have been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

Player	School	Sport	Agent dealings
Egypt Allen	TCU	Football	Signed contract
Jeff Atkins	SMU	Football	Signed contract
*Teryl Austin	Pitt	Football	Signed contract, later reinstated
Jerry Ball	SMU	Football	Signed contract
Robert Banks	N. Dame	Football	Signed contract
Raven Caldwell	Ark.	Football	Signed contract
*Cris Carter	Ohio St.	Football	Signed contract
John Clay	Missouri	Football	Signed contract received \$37,000
Terry Coner	Alabama	Basketball	Signed contract
Kenneth Davis	TCU	Football	Accepted money
Doug Dubose	Neb.	Football	Signed contrac
Terrence Flagler	Clem.	Football	Signed contrac
Kenny Flowers	Clem.	Football	Signed contrac
Brent Fullwood	Auburn	Football	Signed contrac
Everett Gay	Texas	Football	Signed contrac
*Charles Gladman	Pitt	Football	Signed contrac
Vince Hall	MTS	Football	Signed contrac
Ronnie Harmon	Iowa	Football	Signed contract received \$55,000
William Harris	Texas	Football	Signed contrac
Tracy Henderson	Iowa St.	Football	Signed contrac

Mark Ingram	Mich. St.	Football	Signed contract
Keith Johnson	Georgia	Football	Signed contract
Rod Jones	Wash.	Football	Accepted expenses
Byron Linwood	TCU	Football	Signed contract
Mark Logan	Kent.	Football	Signed contract
*James Lott	Texas	Football	Signed contract
Terrence Mann	SMU	Football	Signed contract
Tim McGee	Tenn.	Football	Signed contract
*Derrick McKey	Alabama	Basketball	Signed contract
*Alvin Miller	N. Dame	Football	Signed contract
Devon Mitchell	Iowa	Football	Signed contract
Ron Morris	SMU	Football	Signed contract
Andrew Mott	S.Miss.	Football	Signed contract
Frankie Neal	Florida	Football	Signed contract
Calvin Nichols	Gramb.	Football	Signed contract
Paul Palmer	Temple	Football	Signed contract
Tim Peoples	Wash.	Football	Accepted expenses .
Bob Perryman	Mich.	Football	Signed contract
Tommy Powell	Auburn	Football	Signed contract
Garland Rivers	Mich.	Football	Signed contract
Reggie Rogers	Wash.	Football	Signed contract
Terrance Roulhac	Clem.	Football	Signed contract
Brad Sellers	Ohio St.	Basketball	Signed contract
Edwin Simmons	Texas	Football	Signed contract
George Swarn	Miami-O.	Football	Accepted trip, entertainment
Craig Swoope .	Illinois	Football	Signed contract
Adrian White	Florida	Football	Signed contract
Lorenzo White	Mich. St.	Football	Parents took trip at agents' expense
James Williams	Fresno St.	Football	Signed contract
Lester Williams	Iowa St.	Football	Signed contract
Tony Woods	Pitt	Football	Signed contract
*Rod Woodson	Purdue	Foot./Track	Signed contract
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Jeopardize their eligibility. The agents could be considered parties to the fraud, the investigators believe. The extortion investigation centers on threats Bloom allegedly made against athletes and other

agents. At least one athlete, Ohio State's Carter, has accepted a pretrial diversion plan offered by the U.S. Attorney in Chicago to avoid indictment. Carter agreed to report to a probation officer and perform community service, according to his attorney.

■ The NCAA, hoping to reduce athletes' temptation to take money from agents, is considering a move that would give the athletes more spending money. Under current rules, athletes who qualify for federally funded Pell Grants are allowed to keep only \$900 of the maximum \$2,100 with the remainder going to the school; the NCAA in January is expected to vote to allow athletes to keep a larger amount, perhaps the full \$2,100.

The agent storm also has renewed calls from many in college athletics for schools to give their athletes spending money.

The early returns from litigation have not been encouraging for Walters and Bloom, their attorneys admit, but at least six lawsuits are pending and others have been threatened. Two judges in New York have blasted the agents' practices, one in dismissing their suit against former Auburn football player Brent Fullwood and one in ruling that a dispute between Walters and former Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon should be settled before an NFL arbitrator.

Walters and Bloom also agreed to never again approach a Big Ten athlete and to turn over all their documents pertaining to current or former Big Ten athletes in return for the conference dropping a lawsuit against them. The agents also have settled disputes with numerous former college players, including such high draft picks as Mark Ingram of Michigan State and the New York Giants and Kenny Flow- should be fully investigated. ers of Clemson and the Atlanta Falcons.

Still pending are \$500,000 breach-of-contract lawsuits filed by Walters and Bloom against three other former college athletes, all of them NFL first-round draft picks: Tony Woods of Pittsburgh, Terrence Flagler of Clemson and Rod Woodson of Purdue.

Additionally, two former Florida athletes, Adrian White and Frankie Neal, have suits pending against the agents. Ohio State's Carter has sued Walters for \$4 million in damages.

Bloom has been permanently decertified by the NFL Players Association, the first agent ever permanently decertified. Walters was not certified.

All of this and many other subplots started in March, when Walters confirmed his flagrant disregard for NCAA rules to The Journal-Constitution but said, "I have broken no laws."

Walters, of course, is not the first agent to sign college athletes with eligibility remaining. The most notable agent who previously signed athletes with eligibility remaining was Mike Trope, who this year wrote a book, "Necessary Roughness," about his dealings.

Trope has not been active as an agent for three years. "When I was signing guys," he noted, "they didn't have to sign any documents stating they were clean, like they do now."

Trope says, however, that no agent had signed so many players in such a short period as Walters, and

'These other agents got what they wanted. They wanted me out of the business. They drove me out.

- Norby Walters

no agent had ever signed nine firstround NFL draft picks, as Walters had under contract at one point this year. (By fall, all of Walters' clients had fled to other agents.)

No agent had ever spent as much as \$600,000 in pursuit of college athletes, as Walters apparently did. No agent had ever been the subject of a federal investigation. No agent had ever lost \$1 million.

"I couldn't dispute that figure," a weary Walters said with a sigh. "These kids stole from me, the legal fees, this absurd federal investigation ... it's just so damned

depressing." The impact on Walters has been considerable. His company, once proudly called Norby Walters Associates, has been renamed General Talent International. He says he will venture further into rock-androll promotions and eventually into the film business.

But he knows he has not heard the last of his three years in the sports agent business. "I'm hoping Chicago goes to sleep," Walters said of the investigation. "But I have a feeling it won't."

The federal investigation began after another agent, Kathie Clements of Skokie, Ill., was beaten unconscious by a masked man in her office on the morning of March 16. Chicago detectives called it a "message beating," noting the attacker did not attempt any other crime.

On Clements' desk that morning, a Chicago detective found two copies of the March 12 Journal-Constitution story detailing Walters' activities as an agent. The detective took one of the copies and eventually turned it over to the FBI.

FBI agent George Randolph took a keen interest in Walters' dealings, sources have said. He went to U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas in Chicago, and the two agreed that the signing of college athletes

Randolph discovered that athletes since 1983 have been required annually to sign a 19-page document recertifying their scholarships with their schools. In signing, the athletes state they have done nothing to jeopardize their NCAA eligibility.

In addition to pursuing the fraud case, the U.S. Attorney's office and the grand jury have been considering possible RICO charges.

A series of calculated acts upon a group of individuals could make RICO applicable, according to sources close to the case. The facts that college athletes from various states were targeted by the agents, and that Walters by his own admission to the media pursued only black athletes, have been presented to the grand jury, according to sources close to the case.

Alleged threats of violence by Valters and Bloom against athletes also have been presented. Fullwood, who accepted money from the agents prior to his senior season in 1986, told The Journal-Constitution that he testified to the grand jury that Bloom threatened to "bump off" his current agent, George Kickliter.

Walters and Bloom have denied

making any threats. Chicago police have not linked Walters or Bloom to the beating of Clements, and Walters and Bloom have repeatedly denied any involve-

ment in it. The Chicago investigation apparently will not include Abernethy, who admitted to The Journal-Constitution earlier this month that he.

like Walters and Bloom, had given large sums of money to college athletes in attempts to sign them. Abernethy named seven who had signed contracts with him; two already had completed their eligibility, and the other five were quickly declared ineligible by their schools.

Previously, Georgia Tech's Riccardo Ingram and Tony Jeffery of TCU had lost their eligibility when, during the The Journal-Constitution's investigation of Abernethy, it became known that they had violated NCAA rules in dealing with him.

Auburn football player Kevin Porter, Texas A&M football players Tony Bartley and Melvin Collins and Memphis State basketball players Sylvester Gray and Marvin Alexander lost their eligibility after The Journal-Constitution obtained copies of notarized contracts they had signed with Abernethy.

Attorneys general in two states, Alabama and Tennessee, have conferred with the Chicago prosecutors to determine if they can proceed have. I'm out."

with an investigation into Aber-

nethy's dealings, sources said. Abernethy has estimated that as many as 80 percent of all college athletes with clear pro potential have signed with agents. Other agents, as well as college coaches and athletic directors, say they cannot believe the figure is that high.

But, after what has happened in 1987, no one doubts that a serious problem exists that must be further addressed in '88. At least two agents. — Walters and Abernethy — are no longer paying college athletes, but how many more are still out there?

As late as August, Walters was vowing to fight rival agents and predicting that, next year, "I might have 20 first-rounders." But now he says he has abandoned the business, never to return.

"These other agents got what they wanted," Walters said softly. "They wanted me out of the business. They drove me out. I didn't think they could do it, but they



IN WRITING: Former Atlanta sports agent Jim Abernethy produced contracts signed by college athletes.

Athletes who dealt with Abernethy during their college careers

The following players have been identified as having had dealings with former agent Jim Abernethy during their college careers. All signed contracts with Abernethy and received money in return. Players who were not discovered until after their eligibility was complete are denoted by asterisks.

Player	School	Sport	Agent dealings
Riccardo Ingram	Ga. Tech	Foot./Base.	Signed contract
Tony Jeffery	TCU	Football	Signed contract
*Wayne Waddy	TCU	Football	Signed contract
*John Booty	TCU	Football	Signed contract
Tony Bartley	Texas A&M	Football	Signed contract
Melvin Collins	Texas A&M	Football	Signed contract
Kevin Porter	Auburn	Football	Signed contract
Marvin Alexander	Memphis St.	Basketball	Signed contract
Sylvester Gray	Memphis St.		Signed contract

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The agents scandal of 1987: A chronology

March 12: Norby Walters, a New York-based agent, admitted in a story published in The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution that he had given cash to numerous college athletes in an effort to sign them as clients — a violation of NCAA rules that could result in players losing their eligibility. Walters defended the practice as good business and noted that the NCAA has no jurisdiction over him. It was also reported that two college seniors allegedly had told the NFL players' union that Walters threatened "to break their legs" for firing him. Walters denied this. While admitting that he's broken NCAA rules, Walters said he has broken no laws.

March 13: At least five colleges opened investigations to determine whether Walters has dealt with their players: Florida, Alabama, Auburn, Michigan State and Ohio State.

March 26: The Journal-Constitution reported that the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago and the FBI had begun investigations into the activities of Walters and his associate, Lloyd Bloom

March 27: It was reported that Walters and Bloom had filed lawsuits against former college standouts Brent Fullwood of Auburn and Terrence Flagler of Clemson, charging that the players signed contracts and accepted money before their senior seasons last fall — violations of NCAA rules — and then reneged on the contracts. (The agents have filed similar suits against at least five other former college players.)

April 28: University of Washington defensive end Reggie Rogers, in a lawsuit filed against Walters, gave this account of a meeting with the agent in December: Walters opened his briefcase, said "I came prepared," took \$5,000 cash out of the briefcase and spread it across the living-room floor in front of Rogers. Walters fraudulently told Rogers he would not be breaking NCAA rules by accepting the money and signing a contract, the suit in the Superior Court of Sacramento County, Calif., alleges.

May 8: Alabama declared basketball player Derrick McKey, the SEC's player of the year as a junior, ineligible for his senior season because of evidence that McKey signed a contract with and accepted money from Walters during his junior season.

May 19: A federal grand jury began proceedings in Chicago to investigate the activities of Walters and Bloom. Several athletes and athletic directors were immediately subpoenaed to testify. The grand jury, sources said, would consider such charges as fraud mail fraud, wire fraud, extortion and violation of the RICO (Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations) Act against the agents. The grand jury also would consider indictments against athletes for committing fraud against colleges by signing contracts in violation of the terms of their signed scholarships. At least 50 to 60 athletes have been or will be subpoenaed by the grand jury.

May 20: College athletes allegedly involved with the agents were told by a U.S. attorney that they could face up to one year in jail for fraud and tax evasion.

May 23: Walters said he is innocent of any criminal wrongdoing, and he called the FBI and federal grand jury investigations "totally off base." Said Walters: "The federal government has no business sticking its nose in my business. ... I have broken no

June 7: It is reported that the U.S. Attorney, FBI, Big Ten and Southeastern, Conference have investigated the possibility of point-shaving in games played by former Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon and former Alabama basketball player McKey, both of whom were obligated contractually to Walters and Bloom. No evidence of tampering was discovered, but Alabama athletic director Steve Sloan said, "Anytime one guy gives money to another guy, the red flag goes up. Gambling is the one thing that could ruin college ath-

June 10: Many athletes implicated in the grand jury investigation may have an opportunity to avoid prosecution if they accept a "pre-trial diversion" plan that includes community service, according to Richard Margolis, attorney for former Clemson (and current Atlanta Falcons) running back Kenny Flowers, who admitted to receiving \$17,000 from Walters and

June 11: New York State Supreme Court Judge Myriam J. Altman, in denying Walters' request to dismiss an NFL arbitration proceeding, described Walters' practices as pernicious and deceptive in influencing athletes to act unethically.

June 17: It was reported that two football players with eligibility remaining at the University of Pittsburgh would soon be declared ineligible by the school for signing contracts with Walters and Bloom. The players: running back Charles Gladman and defensive

back Teryl Austin. June 26: It was reported that Austin told school officials that Walters stopped \$250-a-month payments and encouraged him to tear up his contract because the player's value as an NFL prospect had dropped.

June 28: In an interview, Walters said, "We've been blamed for everything but the Iran-Iraq war, and I think that's next."

July 14: Former Auburn University running back Fullwood said he testified before the grand jury that threatened to "bump off" his current agent, George Kickliter. Fullwood also testified to the grand jury that he accepted money prior to his senior season, and that Walters and Bloom had offered him \$8,000 to introduce them to University of Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett. Fullwood said he denied the request on Bennett.

July 15: It was reported that Ohio State wide receiver Cris Carter, a two-time All-American, will be suspended from the team because he accepted money from Walters and Bloom. The next day, Ohio State called a press conference to announce Carter's ineligibility for taking money from the agents, as well as signing a representation contract.

July 18: It was reported that Notre Dame wide receiver Alvin Miller is ineligible for his senior season because of dealings with Walters and Bloom. Miller had previously told Notre Dame officials he would not return because of a knee injury.

July 20: Carter asked the NFL to hold a special

draft so that he can enter the league immediately. July 22: Bloom, responding to Fullwood's statements of July 14, denied threatening any athlete or agent. He also said no additional players will lose NCAA eligibility because of dealings with the agents. "There will be no more bombshells because Cris Car-

ter was the last one," he said. July 28: Bloom disclosed that he and Walters have purchased information — including phone numbers on college athletes from NFL scouts. This marked the first time anyone in the NFL has been linked to the Walters-Bloom case. College coaches provide NFL scouts access to their players and practices, while trying to keep agents away. Officials in both college and pro football said Bloom's allegation, if true, would, damage relations between the NFL and the colleges.

July 29: It was reported that the University of Texas will declare James Lott, a defensive back on the football team and a three-time NCAA champion high



Cris Carter



BRENT FULLWOOD: Alleged threats, payoffs.



Terrence Flagler

jumper on the track team, ineligible for his senior season in both sports because he accepted money from Walters and Bloom. Reminded of his earlier statement that all underclassmen who signed with the agents have been exposed and no more would lose their eligibility, Bloom said, "I guess I forgot one."

Aug. 2: Bloom said he originally talked Walters into representing athletes on the basis that it would be a "\$100,000" investment. "That (\$100,000) is probably just a speck on our legal fees now," said Bloom, who estimated the total cost near \$800,000.

Aug. 11: Georgia Tech coach Bobby Ross and Alabama coach Bill Curry said they have restricted access to their practices to NFL scouts following Bloom's revelations that the agents paid NFL scouts for inside information on college prospects.

Aug. 12: Acting on information uncovered by the Journal-Constitution, Texas Christian University (TCU) officials interrogated star running back Tony Jeffery about his involvement with Atlanta-based agents Jim Abernethy and Gary Wilson. Jeffery kept his eligibility with a strong denial, telling reporters, "I'm denying whoever said something. I have not taken any money. I have not signed with an agent."

Aug. 16: It was reported that Bloom had become the first agent ever permanently decertified by the NFLPA, meaning NFL teams are not allowed to negotiate with the agent regarding a union member. "So what?" responded Bloom. "The NFLPA has no jurisdiction over college seniors."

Aug. 19: The NFL announced it would conduct a supplemental draft on Aug. 28 for Ohio State's Carter and Pitt's Gladman, both of whom were declared ineligible for dealing with Walters and Bloom. The NFL's decision immediately drew strong protests from college coaches and athletic directors around the coun-

Aug. 20: It was reported that NFL owners, seeking to help colleges with the agent problem, had proposed a detailed entry wage scale to the NFL Players Association in labor negotiations. "The wage scale would eliminate the need for a college senior to have an agent," said NFL Management Council director Jack Donlan. The owners also offered labor jurisdiction to the NFLPA over college seniors entering the league. NFLPA officials, already seeking jurisdiction over college seniors, are interested in the proposal, but only if the money saved by the owners is distributed to the veterans.

Aug. 26: The NCAA announced a conditional "amnesty program" and reinstated Pitt defensive back Austin, who had cooperated with investigations concerning Walters and Bloom. NCAA assistant executive director Steve Morgan said, "We're interested in having more athletes come forward ... we're breaking new ground. We're hoping for a purging of the souls, so to speak."

Aug. 27: NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle met with six athletic directors who protested the proposed supplemental draft. Rozelle announced after the meeting that he had postponed the draft for a week to allow Ohio State and Pitt to decide whether to appeal for the reinstatement of Carter's and Gladman's eligibility in light of Austin's reinstatement.

Aug. 28: Ohio State and Pitt said they would not appeal to the NCAA for reinstatement of the eligibility of Carter and Gladman. Among the reasons: Carter and Gladman had repeatedly denied involvement with Walters and Bloom.

Sept. 4: The NFL conducted a supplemental draft for Carter and Gladman. Carter, a projected firstround pick in 1988, was selected in the fourth round by the Philadelphia Eagles, and Gladman was not selected in any of the 12 rounds. Several NFL teams said they did not participate in support of the colleges' protests. Pitt coach Mike Gottfried banned the Eagles and BLESTO, a scouting service which the Eagles subscribe to, from the school's campus.

Sept. 11: Carter filed a \$4 million lawsuit against Walters and Bloom for damages he sustained in losing his eligibility. Carter also alleged in the lawsuit that "Walters suggested, by reference to Walters' ability to have a recalcitrant's player's legs broken, that Cris would suffer physical harm if he did not adhere to the agreement."

Sept. 15: Walters and Bloom agreed to drop their \$500,000 breach-of-contract lawsuit against Washington's Rogers; in turn, Rogers agreed to drop his \$1.4 million lawsuit filed in California, which has state legislation regarding agents. "It's a victory for state legislation," said Edward King, Rogers' attorney.

Nov. 4: NFLPA arbitrator John Culver, a former U.S. Senator from Iowa, ruled that Harmon, now of the Buffalo Bills, did not have to repay \$49,054.95 of the \$54,924.42 that Walters gave the athlete dating back to Harmon's junior year at Iowa. Culver ruled that the money was an inducement and not a loan and said in a 30-page decision, "If such unfettered bribery were permitted, the result could be a bidding war among (agents)."

Nov. 13: It was reported that Georgia Tech would declare football and baseball All-American Riccardo Ingram ineligible for accepting at least \$4,000 from Atlanta's Abernethy. Tech officials confronted Ingram, who admitted signing with Abernethy.

Nov. 17: Carter's attorney, Robert Berry, confirmed that Carter had accepted a pre-trial diversion plan from the U.S. Attorney in Chicago "in order to avoid indictment" in the ongoing grand jury investigation. Berry said Carter would have to report to a pro-

bation officer and perform some community service. Nov. 19: TCU ruled ineligible Tony Jeffery, the nation's third-leading rusher, two days prior to its key game with Texas A&M when evidence of his relationship with Abernethy was uncovered.

Dec. 14: Abernethy, citing a religious experience and admitting his practices were unraveling due to the Journal-Constitution investigation, produced contracts on Ingram, Jeffery and six of seven other college players he said he had signed: Memphis State basketball players Sylvester Gray and Marvin Alexander; Auburn football player Kevin Porter; Texas A&M football players Tony Bartley and Melvin Collins; and TCU football players John Booty and Wayne Waddy.

12-6 SAT

Abernethy also said he had some dealings with, but did not sign, football players Michael Dean Perry of Clemson, Sterling Sharpe of South Carolina and Tracy Rocker of Auburn. Additionally, Abernethy said he paid \$5,000 to unnamed scouts from the Dallas Cowboys and the National Basketball Association for inside information on college players.

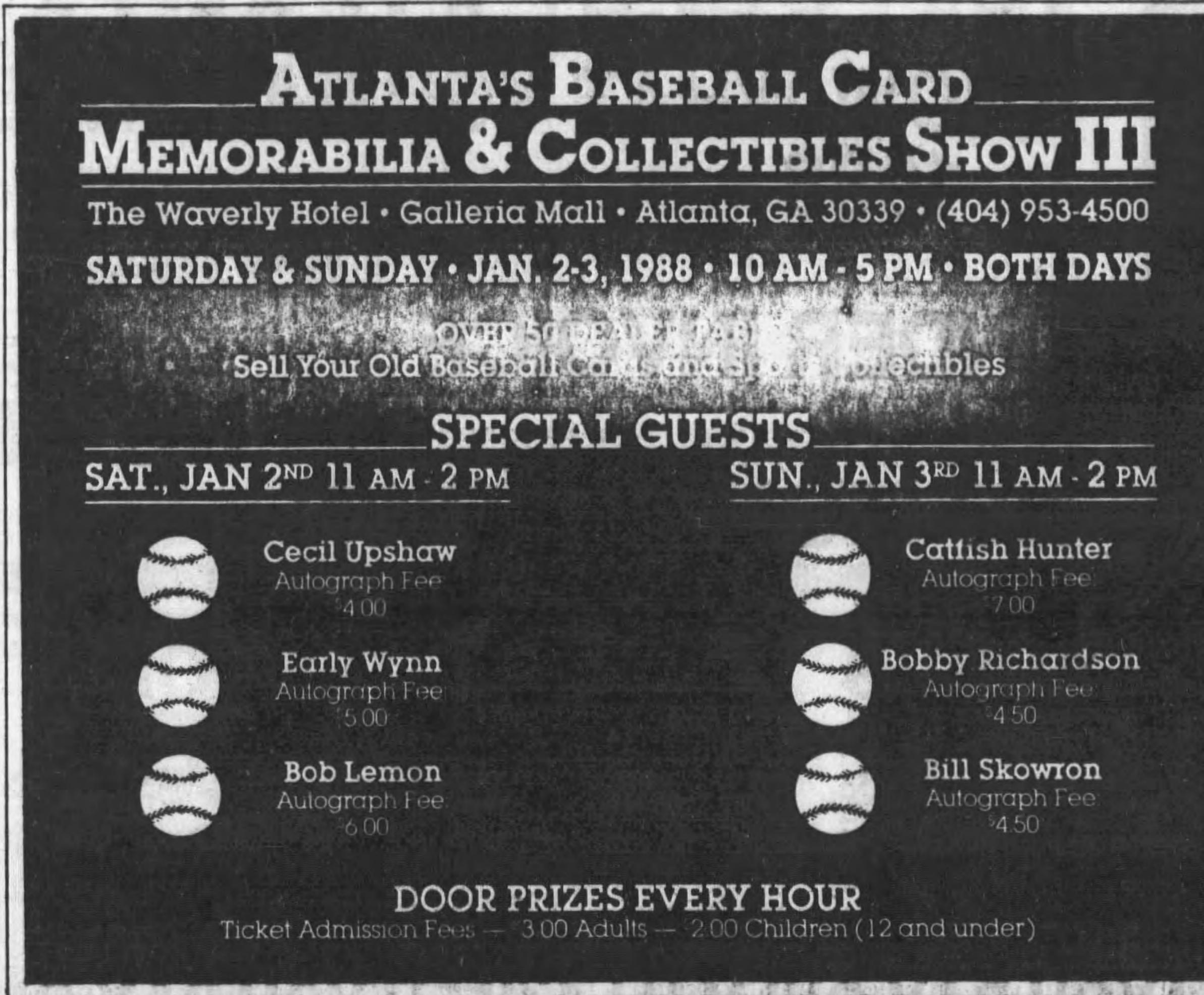
Dec. 15: Gray, Alexander, Porter, Bartley and Collins all were declared ineligible by their colleges after admitting they had signed contracts and accepted money from Abernethy. Perry, Sharpe and Rocker denied involvement with Abernethy and his former associate, Wilson. Booty and Waddy already had completed their eligibility.

Dec. 17: Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill met Abernethy at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. Sherrill accused a reporter and photographer of "ambushing" him. After a meeting at a nearby hotel, Abernethy said Sherrill tried to negotiate a settlement on money the agent paid to Bartley and Collins because Sherrill wanted them reinstated for the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1. NCAA officials said that reinstatement is highly improbable.

Dec. 18: A federal judge in New York, exalting the NCAA Constitution, dismissed a \$500,000 lawsuit Walters and Bloom had filed against Fullwood because, the judge ruled, "we decline to serve as the paymaster of the wages of crime, or referee between thieves." U.S. District Judge Charles Brieant also ruled that both sides "knew the transaction was fraudulent and wrong," lending further support to the federal investigation in Chicago, sources there said.

Dec. 21: Despite an apparent settlement for \$7,100 between Abernethy and the Texas A&M players, the NCAA informed A&M that it would not reinstate Bartley and Collins for the Cotton Bowl. The NCAA's Morgan said both players had not been forthcoming and that the time for players to come forward would have been when Pitt's Austin was reinstated. "The eligibility committee is moving back to a harder line," Morgan said of agents and athletes.

Dec. 23: A federal judge signed a consent decree in which Walters and Bloom agreed to never again deal with a Big Ten Conference athlete; in return the Big Ten will not pursue damages against the agents. The conference also will be allowed to review any documents the agents have pertaining to past or current Big Ten athletes.





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