Players involved in agent probe offered deal to avoid prosecution

By Chris Mortensen

Cox News Service ATLANTA — At least 10 football and basketball players, including former Ohio State All-American Cris Carter and three former Clemson players, have agreed to reimburse their universities for part of their scholarships to avoid federal prosecution for

dealing with agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Repayment of the scholarships is a stipulation of a pre-trial diversion program being offered to most athletes who have testified before a Chicago federal grand jury that is completing its investigation of Walters and Bloom, sources close to the case said. Athletes who accept the program are assured they will not be indicted for their dealings with the agents.

Attorneys representing athletes confirmed details of the agreement being offered by the U.S. attorney's

• The athlete must report to a U.S. probation officer for one year, during which he will perform community service:

• The athlete "will also agree to make restitution to the (blank) university for all monies he received to which he was not entitled."

The agreement ends with this paragraph: "Upon successful completion of the program, Mr. (athlete's) case will be closed. He will not be federally prosecuted for any offense involved in his signing the contract with, and receiving money from, World Sports and Entertainment while at the same time he was representing himself to the university as an

No word on Harmon

Ronnie Harmon, a former University of Iowa football star who was linked to agents Norb Walters and Lloyd Bloom, was not mentioned in the Atlanta Constitution article as having been offered the repayment program.

However, the list of players mentioned in the article was not complete. Of the 60 people subpoenaed by the grand jury in Chicago, a source said most were offered the repayment plan.

Harmon, now a running back with Buffalo in the NFL, reportedly received more than \$54,000 from the agents while an undergraduate at Iowa.

amateur athlete eligible to play college football (or basketball)."

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY Howard M. Pearl of Chicago devised the program and met initial resistance from some athletes and their attorneys in

recent weeks, sources said. Pearl, who did not return repeated telephone calls, has told the athletes they must pay back money only for the years they would have been ineligible because of signing with Walters and Bloom, sources

Carter is among the athletes who have agreed to enter the program, sources close to the investigation said. Carter, a wide receiver, signed with Walters and Bloom prior to his junior season - which he played — and was declared ineligible when his signing was exposed before his senior season last year. He now plays for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League.

Others who have accepted the prosecutors' offer, sources said, are: former Clemson football players Kenny Flowers of the Atlanta Falcons, Terrence Flagler of the San Francisco 49ers and Terrence Roulhac; former Michigan football players Garland Rivers of the Detroit Lions and Bob Perryman of the New England Patriots; former Pittsburgh football player Tony Woods of the Seattle Seahawks; former Florida football player Adrian White of the New York Giants; former Fort Hays State football player Frankie Neal of the Green Bay Packers (who played some of his college career at Florida), and former Ohio State basketball player Brad Sellers of the Chicago Bulls.

THE ATHLETES HAVE been warned by Pearl not to talk publicly about any aspect of the investigation, sources said, and have been told that the program can be withdrawn between now and the time indictments are announced, probably no later than April 15.

Approximately 60 athletes have been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury, which began its inquiry last May 19.

"Most of the athletes are being offered the pretrial diversion plan," a source said. "The ones who are not offered the program probably will be indicted along with the agents."

Walters and Bloom face possible charges of fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, tax fraud, extortion, racketeering and obstruction of justice, sources close to the investigation said.

Pearl has told athletes entering the program that the scholarship they accepted was a benefit that could have been given to another amateur athlete, sources said. In order to apply a recently narrowed mail fraud statute, the government must prove the agents' action had tangible damages, sources said.

Mike Trope, an attorney representing Bloom, criticized the strategy of Pearl's program. "The government is artificially creating a loss by creating a remedy," said Trope.

Additionally, any athlete who received Pell Grants - federally funded stipends for financially needy students — when he should not have been eligible also will have to make repayment.

Michigan Athletic Director Don Canham expressed reservations about accepting repayment from Rivers and Perryman.

"I'm not sure what I would do about that," said Canham. "I'm not sure they cheated anyone except Walters. Plus, we pulled their scholarships. They lost a chance to get their diplomas, and that is a penalty. This (repayment) is an interesting twist to the whole thing."

Tubbs, Manning nab Big 8 coach, player awards

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -Billy Tubbs, the winningest coach in the Big 8 since joining the league in 1980, was named Tuesday the Associated Press Big 8 Coach of the Year.

In an earlier announcement, Kansas' Danny Manning was the overwhelming choice by the same media panel as Big 8 Player of the Year for the third straight season.

Tubbs' Oklahoma team was picked third behind Missouri and Kansas in the pre-season poll last fall. But the emergence of players like center Stacey King and defensive specialist Mookie Blaylock along with regulars Harvey Grant and Ricky Grace helped catapult the Sooners to a spot among the nation's elite. Going into this week's first-round NCAA game, Oklahoma owned the Big 8 regular season and postseason championships, the No. 4 national ranking and the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Southeast Regional.

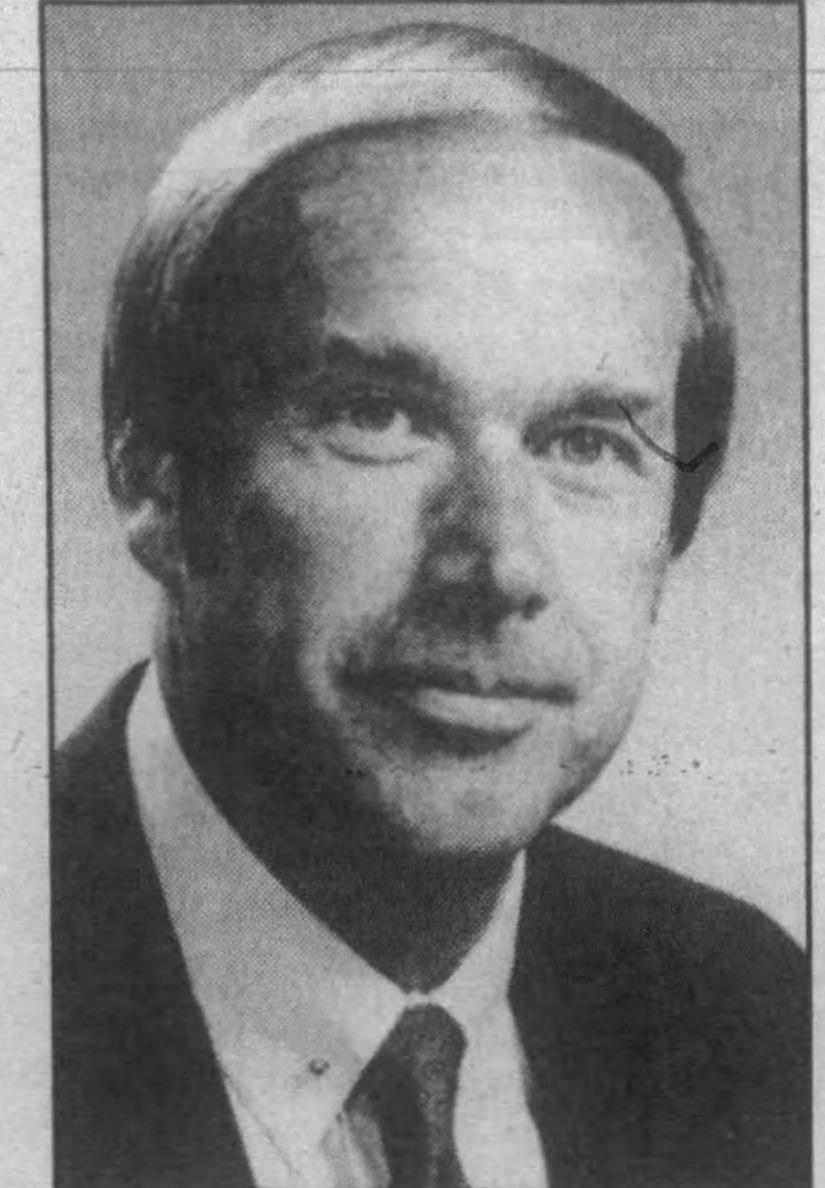
Even though pre-season pollsters picked Tubbs' team third this year, nobody in the Big 8 was shocked that it shot to the top. Since he arrived on the Norman, Okla., campus in 1980 from Lamar University, Tubbs has compiled a record of 195-70, better than any other Big 8 boss during that span, captured three Big 8 titles and six straight NCAA bids. Only once, in his first season, have his teams failed to lead the Big 8 in scoring.

It's a record nobody appreciates more than the man who oversees Oklahoma's vast athletic department, Donnie Duncan.

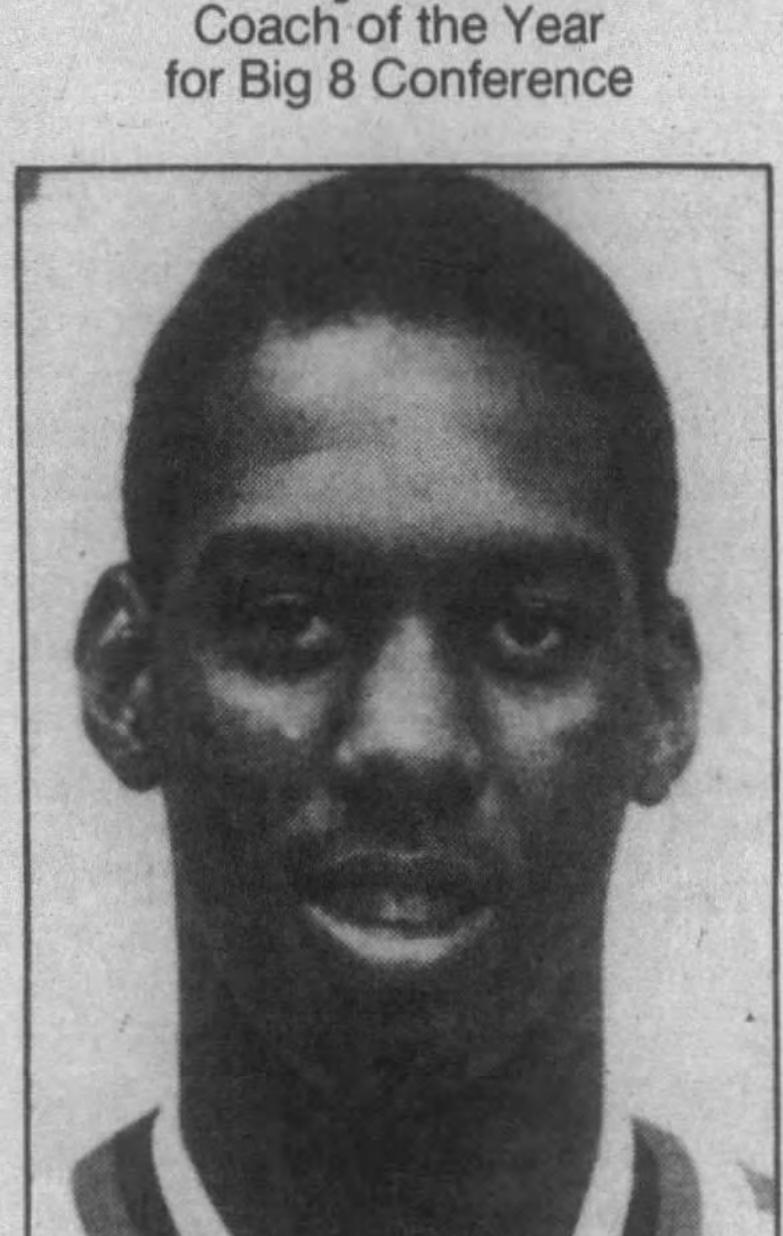
"From an athletic director's point of view, I like the style of play that Billy has instituted," Duncan said.. "I- enjoy watching our team, and our fans enjoy watching our team because they're entertaining. We're just up

and down the floor." Nobody ever accused a Billy Tubbs team of an inability to score. But if the Sooners scored 100, wouldn't the other guys score 110? That was the only knock on the coaching style of Tubbs, a volatile Tulsa native, until the arrival this year of Blaylock, a junior college guard. With uncanny quickness, Blaylock has set three separate records for steals and helped give Tubbs a smothering defense to go with an offense that averages more than 100 points, second among all 291

Division I teams. "I heard something when I first came here about our not playing defense," Duncan said with a smile. "Anybody who says we don't play defense is saying that you don't press all over the floor and you don't hustle. I suspect



Billy Tubbs Coach of the Year



Danny Manning Player of the Year for Big 8 Conference

coach who hoped we wouldn't play defense the way we play it." Another hallmark of Oklahoma teams these past seven seasons

has been their hustle.

"From the time the game starts to when it ends, our kids play as hard as any athletic team I've ever seen," Duncan said. "And that starts with the coach. If he doesn't demand that of them in practice they couldn't do it."

received one vote for coach of the year, and two voters split their ballot between Tubbs and Kansas State's Lon Kruger, whose Wildcats finished second to Oklahoma in the league race.

At 6-foot-10, Manning is a basketball contradiction. He has a big man's size and rebounding ability, but the ball-handling skills of a guard. Going into Kansas' first-round NCAA game this week, his career scoring total stands at 2,788, more than any other player who ever came through the Big 8.

Seminoles' coach familiar with Hawkeyes' style

By Mark Neuzil Gazette sportswriter

Pat Kennedy, Florida State's basketball coach, has not seen Iowa play in person this season.

But once he looked at four or five tapes of the Hawkeyes, it was all very familiar. Kennedy, whose Seminoles play Iowa at 8:07 p.m., Iowa time, in an NCAA first-round game on Friday in Los Angeles, was an

assistant coach at Lehigh when Davis coached conference rival Lafayette. "Obviously, he's using a lot of the same system now," Kennedy said Tuesday. "It was successful then and it's still successful. A lot of

it he's still using." Kennedy, who was head coach at Iona for six seasons before taking over at Florida State

brought back a lot of memories, and not many of them were good. "It's well-known and well-documented relentless pressure," Kennedy said. "We've got to handle that. No question, it's the key to the

game." Kennedy said his club, which features four starters who did not play much, if any, last year, handles full-court pressure well. The Seminoles are 19-10 overall and were 8-6 in the Metro Conference.

Most of the schools in the Metro who use

pressure follow Louisville's lead with a 2-2-1 three-quarters court press, Kennedy said. "Iowa presses the full 94 feet.

"We've had pretty good success against it. Virginia Tech used it and we didn't have too many problems with it."

While the Iowa defense gives Kennedy some worry, B.J. Armstrong's and Roy Marble's offensive talents also give him pause.

"Armstrong is a very dangerous offensive player," Kennedy said. "He can create a lot for himself and the team. Containing him will be important for any team's game plan." Kennedy's point guard is 6-6 junior George

McCloud, who was a 230-pound reserve forward last year. McCloud's trimmed down to 205 and averages 18.5 points per game. "He can post inside or shoot the 3-pointer,"

two years ago, said Davis' full-court press Kennedy said. "He can do four or five things. Hopefully, he'll cause a problem for their defense." Kennedy's best player might be forward

Tony Dawson, a 6-7 junior college transfer from Kinston, N.C. Dawson played on the same high school team as North Carolina State center Charles Shackleford. Dawson averages 17.5 points and 7.6 rebounds per game.

"We've got a nice inside-outside thing with he and McCloud," Kennedy said. "Dawson's an old throwback. He's a blue-collar worker. He's been very good and very consistent."

Kennedy is 38-21 in two years at Florida State. He took the team to the NIT last year, where it lost in the second round. He also lost four starters from that bunch.

"We play a very balanced game," Kennedy said. "We're not a complete transition team, but we're not a walk-it-up team, either. We press a little, zone a little and try to stay disciplined."

Kennedy is worried about Marble in the transition game. The weak spot in the Seminole starting five might be at small forward, where returning starter Jerome Fitchett, a 6-7 senior, has been somewhat disappointing.

When Fitchett, who averages 4.8 points and 3.9 rebounds, hasn't played well, Kennedy uses 6-6 freshman Brad Johnson, who was recruited as a quarterback for Coach Bobby Bowden's football team and was red-shirted last fall. Bowden gave Johnson permission to go out for basketball after the season ended.

The other starter is 6-3 sophomore guard Tharon Mayes, a Proposition 48 sit-out last

Kennedy will use 10 of the 12 men he suits up before halftime, he said. Among the top reserves are Michael Polite, a 6-7 forward, and Derrick Mitchell, a junior college point guard.

Lute's Wildcats look to stay for whole dance this time TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Each of

the last three years, Arizona has danced the NCAA Tournament's one-step shuffle. A quick loss, and out the door.

This time, the No. 2-ranked Wildcats, 31-2 and top seeded in the West Regional, are looking to win the dance marathon while doubling as a doorman and ushering other guests home.

"We're excited, I think, that the time is here," Coach Lute Olson said Tuesday, "and it could not come at a better time. We're playing the best we've played all year long.

"If you don't think you can win it, you shouldn't be there, and you won't win it if you don't think you

He said his staff and players aren't concerned about the strength of the West Regional field, which includes seven teams ranked in the Top Twenty.

"We're not worried about any-Kansas Coach Larry Brown thing, and that's not to say we veterans readily admit they were zona started five underclassmen don't respect everybody we play, because I think we do," Olson said. "But respect and fear, I

If you don't think you can win it, you shouldn't be there, and you won't win it if you don't think you will. ??

Arizona Coach Lute Olson

think, are two different things." In 1985, Olson's first NCAA team at Arizona played a firstround game at Albuquerque, N.M., and lost to Alabama 50-41. In 1986, Arizona visited Long

Beach, Calif., losing a first-roun-

der to Auburn, 73-63. Last year, the Wildcats danced at home, but to the same tune. Texas-El Paso came into McKale Center and beat Arizona 98-91 in overtime.

A year ago, the Wildcats were 18-12, making the West field as the 10th seed. This season's awed, fearful or outmanned the first few or three times they played in the NCAA Tournament.

They say that's not the case now, coming as they are off a regular season in which they won three tournaments, including the Great Alaska Shootout and the Fiesta Classic in which they beat Michigan, Syracuse and Duke.

This year's trip will be to Pauley Pavilion at Los Angeles for a first-round meeting with Ivy League champion Cornell, the last-place seed in the West.

A year ago, point guard Steve Kerr sat out what would have been his senior season because of reconstructive knee surgery. Ariand their only senior was a reserve guard.

Kerr came back this season to

provide the leadership for a team that features three other seniors, earning a spot on the All-American second team. The only underclassmen among the starters, junior forward Sean Elliott, was a first-team pick.

Olson said he was "very excited" about Elliott's selection but was "excited and surprised" with Kerr's "because people with 12point averages usually don't make these. I think it's a great tribute to team basketball."

On paper, Cornell, 17-9, appears to have no chance of beating Arizona, but Kerr warned that "it's really a no-no to talk down the line. We don't think about them or talk about (the second round), because if you don't win the first game, you're out."

Olson said he won't even look at game tapes of any team other than Cornell because "I want to stay focused."

Cornell, he added, has the advantage "that they have everything to gain. No one is expecting that they should knock us off. But that's why they play the game."

that was started by some old

lowa's Miller a finalist for SIU grid job CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Southern Illinois University at Carbondale has narrowed down the candidates for its next head football coach to six finalists.

Three head coaches and three assistants make up the finalists, The Southern Illinoisan newspaper reported Tuesday. Among the assistants is Del Miller from the University of Iowa.

Head coaches who reportedly made the finals are Western Illinois University's Bruce Craddock, Troy State's Rick Rhoades and Western Kentucky's Dave Roberts.

Assistant coaches who reportedly made the finalists are Larry McDaniel, interim head coach at SIU; Tom Lichtenberg, an assistant at Ohio State and formerly at

Iowa State; and Miller. Charlotte West, SIU's interim athletics director, called the finalists "an outstanding group of

candidates." "I'm excited" West said. "It's a win-win situation. We had a good quality of applicants. They are all

excited about the job."

SIU will conduct interviews beginning today, when Lichtenberg will be on campus, the newspaper said. The final candidate to be interviewed will be McDaniels who will meet with university officials March 22, the newspaper said.

SIU is seeking a replacement for Ray Door who recently resigned to take an assistant coaching position at the University of Southern California.

West said her goal is to have a coach hired by March 25.

The candidates will meet in one-on-one interviews with West, SIU-Carbondale President John C. Guyon and Chancellor Lawrence

There also will be group meetings with the Selection Committee and Athletics Department person-

West said she will use input from all of the groups to make her recommendation on the new

Buckeyes have plenty of respect for NIT opponent Old Dominion COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

About the only thing Big Ten Conference fans know about Old Dominion is that it has a great women's basketball program. The Monarchs men's team will

try to change that tonight when they play Ohio State, 16-12, in the opening game of the National Invitation Tournament. Old Dominion's women's team

won the NCAA championship in 1985 and has piled up several other national honors. But the men's team has been in

Dominion followed a 23-8 team with a 6-22 decline. But third-year coach Tom Young guided the Monarchs to an 18-11 record this season.

One person who knows — and respects — ODU is Ohio State

364-7222

Coach Gary Williams. "(Old Dominion) played Mary-

land and lost by a bucket and played DePaul and lost by something like six. They're good. They're not deep — they only play seven guys. But they're very quick," said Williams. Williams and Young are

friends. Both are graduates and former players at Maryland and both were head coaches at American University. Young said, "This year was

very satisfying when it was all the shadows. A year ago, Old said and done. We didn't have a lot of hope for the NCAA tournament unless we won our conference tournament. We weren't like Gary at Ohio State, who had to sit and wait to find out." Williams said he isn't con-

cerned over his team's attitude

heading into the NIT. The Buckeyes watched as a group as they were bypassed by the NCAA. But. the second-year OSU coach said he doesn't anticipate the team's disappointment to be a factor.

"Of course you're down for not making the NCAA tournament, but as the game gets closer you get into it," he said. "We're playing at home, so we should have a good crowd. When you start playing, you forget all that other stuff. We didn't get in (to the NCAA), and that's that.

"When you don't get into the NCAA, the NIT gets more attractive. There are around 300 Division I teams in the country and with 64 in the NCAA and another 32 in the NIT, that means only

about a third get to keep playing. I feel good about our chances of winning some games."

Ohio State beat four Big Ten opponents who were ranked in the Top 20, including Purdue in the Buckeyes' last home game. The Buckeyes have been a different team at St. John Arena, going 11-3; they were 3-9 on the road and 2-0 on neutral courts.

Old Dominion, which relies on the fast break, will most likely start a lineup comprised of Anthony Carver, a 6-foot-7 sophomore who averages 15.1 points a game; Steve Trax, 6-5, 10.6; Garrick Davis, 6-7, 12.5; Frank Smith, 6-0, 9.2; and Darrin McDonald, 6-4,

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