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# Sports probe nets ex-Ohio St. star - Carter pleads guilty to mail fraud

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*By Adrienne Drell September 17, 1988 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 13 Word Count: 391*

Former Ohio State All-America football star Cris Carter admitted Friday he professed to be an amateur athlete although he had accepted \$5,000 from two professional agents. Carter, 26, now a wide receiver with the Philadelphia Eagles, pleaded guilty to charges of mail fraud and obstruction of justice, and agreed to cooperate with an ongoing investigation of college sports.

His sentencing was scheduled for March 27 when Carter could receive 10 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines. He has already agreed to make restitution of \$4,519.60 to Ohio State.

But U.S. District Judge Brian Duff counseled Carter not to "carry a heavy heart" on the playing field until then.

"It's a long, long time away and a lot of water could be over the bridge," said Duff who released Carter on a \$4,500 recognizance bond and permitted him to travel around the country with the Eagles.

U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas and assistant Howard Pearl who negotiated a plea agreement with defense attorney David Bohan said Carter will testify at the Feb. 27 trial of agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

Carter admits in 1986 he signed a representation agreement with their firm, World Sports Entertainment Inc., and took \$5,000 with promises of monthly payments to follow even though he was still a player on the Ohio State team and barred from signing professional contracts.

To conceal the improper deal, Bloom allegedly postdated the agreement so it appeared it was signed after Carter's last season of eligibility.

In addition, the payments were made in the form of Western Union Telegraphic money orders, Carter's plea agreement states.

Bloom and Walters are charged with inducing collegians to sign improper contracts and with using threats of violence to keep clients in line.

According to court documents, Carter testified before a federal grand jury in 1987 and discussed Bloom and Walters. But he knowingly withheld the fact he had also received a \$5,000 check from another agent, David Lueddeke.

Lueddeke has been charged with perjury and obstruction of justice.

During his three years at Ohio State, Carter caught 168 passes for 2,725 yards, and scored 27 touchdowns - the most ever for a receiver in the school's history.

Carter is the only athlete to be charged in the probe. Prosecutors placed 43 other former collegians in a special program where they will pay their schools back scholarship funds, perform community service and testify against Bloom and Walters.

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