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Sports agent admits lying about paying college star - Tried to 'wash away' wide receiver Cris Carter

By Adrienne Drell November 5, 1988 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 30 Word Count: 384

A Los Angeles sports agent admitted Friday he lied to a federal grand jury and falsified documents to conceal money paid to All-America football star Cris Carter and to another college athlete. "I'm a novice, a beginner," David Lueddeke, 36, told U.S. District Judge Ann C. Williams in pleading guilty to perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

Lueddeke, now a financial consultant, said he had only been a sports agent for "45 or 50 days" when he began representing Carter in Columbus, Ohio, in 1986.

"I was in trouble before opening the door or getting stationery . . . I was very, very scared and frightened," said Lueddeke explaining why he lied to a grand jury on July 12, 1987 and then, a week later, altered a promissory note.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Pearl contends Lueddeke committed perjury by saying he did not represent Carter, then a member of the Ohio State football team, when in fact he had given him \$5,000 to negotiate a player contract with the National Football League.

On the flight back to Chicago for his second grand jury appearance, Lueddeke said he concocted "a fabricated story to wash away Mr. Carter."

But Pearl said Lueddeke had done even more by taking a blank promissory note signed by Carter to release Lueddeke of any liability or damages. He also falsified notes signed by former Ohio State player George Cooper.

Carter, now a wide receiver with the Philadelphia Eagles, pleaded guilty in September to mail fraud and obstruction of justice for taking money from Lueddeke and professional agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom while still an amateur.

Carter, who will be sentenced March 27, and Lueddeke, who will be sentenced Jan. 6, could be sentenced to 10 years in prison.

In a related action Friday Bloom's attorneys sought to dismiss his eight-count federal racketeering and extortion indictment on anti-trust grounds.

The motion filed by Dan Webb, Steven Molo and George Lombardi contends that National Collegiate Athletic Association regulations barring athletes from signing with professional agents while still eligible for college scholarships constitute price fixing.

This restricts the right of athletes to receive compensation in a competitive market, is a violation of anti-trust laws and so cannot form the basis of a conviction, the motion maintains.

Bloom and Walters are charged with using money and threats of violence to sign 44 college athletes to professional contracts before their college eligibility had

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