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Sports agent jury prospects hear all-star witness roster

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A stellar witness lineup of politicians, entertainers, mobsters, athletes and academic officials was promised potential jurors Wednesday in the federal fraud trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. A roomful of 60 people, called for possible jury duty, were read the lists of witnesses. Later, U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich excused 21 people and ordered the rest back for questioning today.

Bloom and Walters are accused of signing college athletes to professional contacts before their amateur status expired. Defense attorneys maintain they did not intend to defraud the universities and that others who did the same thing were never charged with crimes.

Among the potential witnesses are four current or former players for the Chicago Bears and Chicago Bulls. Current Bears Ron Morris and Maurice Douglass are expected to testify for the government.

Former Bear Egypt Allen and current Bulls player Brad Sellers are expected to be defense witnesses.

Government witnesses include Wayne Duke, Big Ten commissioner; and professional football players George Swarn of the Cleveland Browns, Devon Mitchell of the Detroit Lions, Paul Palmer of the Kansas City Chiefs, Roderick Woodson of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Everett Gay of the Dallas Cowboys.

Defense witnesses include Pete Rozelle, National Football League commissioner; Roy Innis, national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality; Walter Byers, former National Collegiate Athletic Association president; Mike Trope, sports agent and author; sports agents Steve Endicott and Sherwood Blount; Larry Troutman, manager of Roger-Zap singing group.

Also football players John Clay of the San Diego Chargers, Kenneth Davis and Brent Fullwood of the Green Bay Packers, Jerry Ball Jr. of the Detroit Lions, Charles R. Gladman III of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Timothy McGee of the Cincinnati Bengals and Robert T. Flagler of the San Francisco 49ers.

Also expected to be called are Texas Gov. William Clements; pop singer Peabo Bryson; Michael Franzese, convicted organized crime figure; Theodore Hesburgh, former University of Notre Dame president, and Joseph Jackson, singer Michael Jackson's father.

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