

← Back

Conviction didn't end scholarship, athlete says

By Adrienne Drell March 17, 1989 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 15 Word Count: 265

New York Giant Mark Ingram kept his college football scholarship even after being convicted of theft and admitting to school officials that he improperly took money from two sports agents, the wide receiver testified Thursday. Testifying at the fraud trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, Ingram told a federal jury that the agents gave him \$7,500 in cash while he was a student at Michigan State University and told him, "I should look out for Mark Ingram."

The two agents are accused of defrauding colleges by inducing athletes to violate National Collegiate Athletic Association and Big 10 Conference rules against professional representation.

Ingram said he secretly signed a contract to be represented by the agents in 1986 and lied about it to the university several weeks later on an Aug. 23, 1986, eligibility certification form.

The next April, MSU officials learned about the contract.

"The university did not revoke your scholarship?" asked Bloom's attorney, Dan K. Webb, during cross-examination.

"Correct," Ingram said.

Defense attorneys showed jurors MSU rules that permit the school to withdraw financial aid to any athlete who "engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty" and require students to exhibit "desirable behavior . . . on and off the field."

Ingram also testified that at the end of his junior year in 1986, he served 30 days in jail for felony theft because he pilfered from dormitory rooms. Yet he said he went on to play on the university's varsity football team the next season.

Gwendolyn Norrell, MSU representative, acknowledged Ingram's criminal problems were "undesirable behavior," but did not justify revoking his scholarship.

Chicago Sun-Times

Date: March 17, 1989

Page: 15

Copyright 1989, 1996 Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.