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Testimony by agent blocked

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A federal judge Tuesday blocked potentially explosive defense testimony by prominent sports agent Michael Trope in the sports corruption trial of **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**. Trope, an author and attorney, has represented more than 150 professional players, including Lawrence Taylor and Heisman Trophy winners Ricky Bell, Mike Rozier and Tony Dorsett.

Court documents indicate Trope would have testified that in 1984 about 90 percent of college seniors selected in the first three rounds of the National Football League draft had signed with agents and had received loans before expiration of their college eligibility.

Defense attorneys wanted to call Trope to show it is the "custom and practice" for sports agents to sign college players and lend them money before their college eligibility expires.

U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich ruled the testimony would be irrelevant because it would be substituting Trope's "view of morality for society's view of morality." He compared the proposed testimony to a child's saying, "All the other mommies leave their kids do it."

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