

Judge denies motion for another agent's testimony

CHICAGO, ILL. (AP) - The judge in the trial of sports agents Nor Walters and Lloyd Bloom turned down a request Tuesday from Bloom's lawyer to allow testimony of former sports agent Mike Trope.

Trope was expected to tell the jury it is common for college seniors expecting to play professional football to sign representation contracts with agents before they are drafted. A motion by Webb indicated Trope - whose clients once included Tony Dorsett, Earl Campbell and Lawrence Taylor - was willing to testify

that 90 percent of players drafted in the first three rounds of the 1984 National Football League draft had signed with agents before the draft.

Trope also believed many players who signed accepted money from agents while they were still playing college football, the motion said.

Trope said in Webb's motion that he began signing clients in 1973, beginning with Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers of Nebraska, and continued through 1985.

Webb's motion also said Walters,

Bloom and other agents filed a number of lawsuits against former college athletes who broke agreements - clearly believing such contracts were legally binding even if they violated NCAA rules.

The agents are charged with extor tion, fraud and racketeering. They are accused of defrauding universities of scholarship money by paying college athletes to sign contracts before their eligibility expired - a violation of NCAA rules.

Prosecutors also contend the

agents physically threatened some players if they tried to back out.

In testimony Tuesday, singer Dionne Warwick and her manager said they did not receive threats from a reputed mobster who prosecutors contend helped Walters threaten clients.

Named in the indictment as unindicted co-conspirator was reputed organized-crime figure Michael Franzese, who is serving a prison term for unrelated racketeering and tax violation convictions.



Tradition is a large part of the National Invitation Tournament. St. Louis, which has been in the tournament 14 times, will play St. John's - a participant in 25 NITs - tonight for the championship. St. Louis' Mike Ivester and teammates celebrated Monday when St. Louis beat Michigan State.

Catholic schools battle tonight for NIT crown

NEW YORK (AP) - All Saints' Day is coming early this year.

St. John's and St. Louis, Catholic schools with proud basketball traditions, meet tonight for the title of the National Invitation Tournament at Madison Square Garden.

St. John's is playing in its 25th NIT and St. Louis is appearing for the 14th time, but it has been years since either school won the title of the nation's oldest postseason tournament.

Ed Macauley led St. Louis to its only NIT title in 1948. St. John's won the last of its four NIT titles in 1965.

"Tradition is good for historians," St. John's Coach Lou Carnesecca said Tuesday, "but it won't help us tomorrow night."

St. John's, with a 19-13 record, reached its low point after losing to last-place Boston College in the game to determine the last berth in the Big East tournament. But the Redmen have rebounded with four victories in the NIT, including a 76-65 semifinal victory over Alabama-Birmingham. "It was very depressing after the B.C. game," Carnesecca said. "A lot of people thought we were dead, but we stuck with it and we're still playing."

to happen in a year or two. You've got to grab it while you can."

St. Louis, with a 27-9 record, reached the final by beating Michigan State, 74-64.

"We may be a surprise team to a lot of people around the country, but we felt we were pretty good all along," Coach Rich Grawer said.

"It's kind of mind-boggling, but someone told me there's only 10 teams in the country with 27 wins or more, and we're one of them."

Despite their record, the Billikens didn't get much national publicity until they arrived in New York.

"The last time I saw this many reporters was when I was a high school coach and Steve Stipanovich was playing for me," Grawer said.

Grawer says he isn't worried about playing before a pro-St. John's crowd in New York City. "We always preach to our kids about how great it is to overcome the odds," he said. "It's always more satisfying to win on the other guy's court.' What does concern Grawer is St. John's big front line. "They've got a 7-footer, a 6-10 guy and a 6-8 guy," he said. "I just hope we can see over them." Carnesecca, meanwhile, is worried about St. Louis' high-scoring trio of Anthony Bonner, Monroe Douglass and Roland Gray. "You're talking about three of the best players in St. Louis history," he said. "Two of those guys are going to make a lot of money in the pros."



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Because they start three freshmen - guard Jason Buchanan, forward Malik Sealy and center Robert Werdann - the Redmen are considered a team of the future.

"The future is now," Carnesecca said. "You never know what's going



CHAMPAIGN, ILL. (AP) - Illinois doesn't believe in importing basketball talent from other states, let alone other countries.

Eleven of the 12 players for the Fighting Illini, making the school's first trip to the NCAA Final Four in 37 years, are from Illinois.

"We're very pleased that the talent we've got are all from the state," Coach Lou Henson said Tuesday. "They're a very close group. They like each other. They play hard for each other. They never think they're

Fisher said, joking with reporters Tuesday.

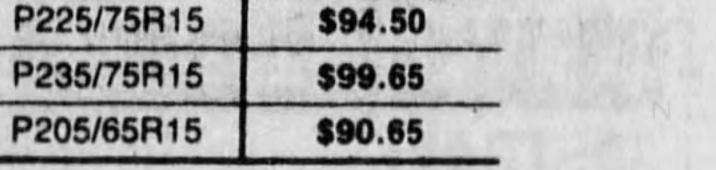
"Illinois scares me," Fisher said. "They've totally dominated us in the two games we've played."

But Henson says the Wolverines won't be pushovers.

"We're going to be playing against a very athletic team with tremendous size and great skill," he said.

His own players, Henson added, have suffered through injuries and personal tragedy.

But Gill has recovered from a leg



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beaten.

"I've never had a team I feel will put more into a game than this one. They all work hard."

The Chicago area is the source for most of the talent.

Nick Anderson and Ervin Small are from Chicago's Simeon High School, Kenny Battle from suburban Aurora, Kendall Gill from Rich Central, Lowell Hamilton of Providence St. Mel, Eddie Manzke of Orland Park, Mike MacDonald of Streamwood and Marcus Liberty from Chicago King. Southern Illinois is represented by .

Larry Smith of Alton and Stephen Bardo of Carbondale. Mark Shapeland of Monticello and P.J. Bowman of Champaign represent central Illinois.

Freshman Lou Aguilera, the only out-of-state player, is a walk-on from Connecticut.

Illinois plays Michigan in Saturday's NCAA tournament semifinals in Seattle, and the two Big Ten teams are no strangers.

Illinois beat Michigan, 96-84 and 89-73, during the regular season.

Bo Schembechler, talking as athletic director rather than football coach, used those scores to goad the Wolverines through the regionals, saying he wanted them to get another chance at Illinois in the Final Four.

"Well, Bo, we've got Illinois. Tell me what to do," interim coach Steve

injury and Smith is back from visiting his mother, who is recovering from a stroke. Hamilton is still bothered by an ankle injury but expects to be ready to play.

"Any time you beat a team a couple times, they really get fired up and have a lot of incentive the next time. But this is the Final Four," Henson said. "It won't make any difference.

"These players are harder to beat on the court than they are on the chalkboard. No team I've ever coached has had more heart than this team."

Wrestler commits to Northern Iowa The Register's Iowa News Service

CEDAR FALLS, IA. - Doug Kjeldgaard of Council Bluffs Lewis Central said Tuesday he orally committed to wrestle at Northern Iowa.

Coach Don Briggs is expected to sign Kjeldgaard April 12, the first day wrestling recruits may sign letters of intent. Kjeldgaard said he chose Northern Iowa over Iowa, Iowa State, Nebraska and Nebraska-Omaha.

Kjeldgaard recently won the state Class 3-A 145-pound championship and had a 37-0 record this season. During his high school career, Kjeldgaard had a 117-8-1 record and became the first wrestler to win four Hawkeye Eight Conference championships.

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