

NEWS

AGENTS PROBE TIED TO ATTACK ON RIVAL

By John Gorman
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The investigation of sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom** began after the slashing and beating two years ago of Kathie Clements, an associate of rival sports agent Steve Zucker, U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas revealed Thursday.

Outside the presence of a federal jury in the trial of **Bloom** and Walters, Valukas made the disclosure in a meeting among U.S. District Court Judge George Marovich, defense attorneys and prosecutors. However, Marovich ruled the information would not be presented to the jury.

Clements, the wife of former Notre Dame quarterback Tom Clements, was attacked by a masked man in her Skokie office on March 16, 1987. The incident occurred after Zucker and Clements had signed three of the defendants' former clients—then Tennessee wide receiver Tim McGee, Nebraska running back Doug DuBose and Washington defensive lineman Reggie Rogers.

"I'm prepared to show that the investigation started with the beating of Kathie Clements and her linkage to **Walters** and Bloom . . . and was not due to some NCAA pressure," Valukas told Marovich.

Walters, 58, and Bloom, 29, are charged with defrauding several universities by convincing the athletes to sign representation agreements, in violation of NCAA eligibility rules, and concealing the existence of the agreements.

Also on Thursday, FBI agent John O'Neill was called to rebut earlier testimony by Joseph Grant, singer Dionne Warwick's manager, about a June, 1988, meeting of Grant, **Walters** and three other men.

Grant had denied he told O'Neill that one of the men with Walters had dark hair and was in his mid to late 20s—a description that would match Michael **Franzese**, a mob chieftain who had testified he helped **Walters**

"muscle" unruly clients. But O'Neill testified that Grant had given just such a description at their interview last year.

Under cross-examination by one of Walters' attorneys, Ethan Levin-Epstein, O'Neill said he had interviewed Grant on orders from Chicago office FBI agent George Randolph in an effort to discover a relationship between **Walters** and Franzese. But O'Neill admitted he had not brought a photo of **Franzese** to ask Grant to identify him, even though such photographs were available.