## Franzese Key

 In Case of Sports AgentsBy Chris Mortensen
Stuff Writer CHICAGO - If a federal jury believes Michael Franzese, sports agent
Norby Walters took $\$ 50,000$ cash in a Norby Walters took $\$ 0,000$ cash in a
brown paper bag from the mobster in 1985, and passed some of it to college
athletes for the next two years. athletes for the next two years.
"I would get 25 percent of the business, and in turn I would provide the
same services that I always had," Fransame services
zese testified.
The services: Franzese says he per-
mitted Walters and associate Lloyd Bloom to use his reputation as a captain in the New York Colombo crime family to "settle disputes" with malcontent
clients. clients.
The instructed Thursday by U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich that Franzese's testimony under immunity "must be considered with caution and great At stake is the future of Walters and
Bloom, who await a verdict on charges of racketering, conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion stemming primarily from their deaings with college
athletes. After deliberating 12 hours, the jury Friday began a weekend break from the five-week trial.
Robert Gold, Walters's attorney, argued to the jury that it should ignore
anything Franzese testified about because he is "an admitted perjurer" who made a deal with the government to shorten his own current prison term.
U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas also U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas also
cautioned the jury, but said, "I wouldn't ask you to believe anything Michael Franzese said unless it was corroborated." One of the more chilling moments of of a meeting in 1979 at the New York Stage Delicatessen among himself, Walters and Sonny Franzese, his father, had just been paroled from prison. My father told Norby before he
went to prison in 1970 that it was his understanding that he and Norby were 50 50 partners," Franzese told the jury. "Norby understood he had an obligation, They had a discussion. At the end of the meeting, it was resolved that they were $50-50$ partners."
Michael Fra
Michael Franzese, 37, said all three men discussed "various ways money
could be generated through the agency" "Norby said he wanted to pursue


Sports agent Norby Walters awaits the verdict of a federal jury, which took a weekend break.
larger acts, and that he could use my heip," testified Franzese. "I told him at it would be $50-50$."
The conspiracy charge in the government's indietment of Walters begins with
an alles at attempt by the agnt an alles 2d attempt by the agent and
Franzese to muscle in on the Jackson Five tour.
Corrobo
Corroborating earlier testimony by the group's former manager, Ron another booking agent was hired, he Walters and another alleged Colombo crime family member, Larry Carosa, paid Weisner a visitit in 1981 . leave the meeting so Larry and I could spend some time with Weisner," Franzese testified. "I explained to Weisner
that if Norby was not involved in the that if Norby was not involved in the tour, there might not be a tour."
The Jackson Five tour in 1981 went without Walters as a booking agent, and it also went without noticeable trouble. The prosecution maintained that a racketeering conspiracy continued into
the sports field when Walters took on the sports field when Walters took on
Bloom and Franzese as a partner in late 1984 and early 1985.

Bloom threatened several athletes who tried to back out of contracts signed
with the agents, including two who test fied at the trial, Everett Gay of the Dal las Cowboys and Maurice Douglass of the Chicago Bears. Dan Webb, Bloom's defense attorney, mad and said something nasty like "IIll break your legs," but that it was simply a "24-year-old kid who lost his head about
getting stiffed" by college athletes. getting stiffed" by college athletes.
Valukas countered, reminding jury that Bloom made reference in his threats to Gay, then playing for Texas, that the money came "from partners in California."
Franzese Franzese had moved to Los Angeles
in 1985.

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Pole-Sitter Martin: 'It's Like a Movie Being Run on Fast Forward'

By Eu Hinton
Suff Wherer
BRISTOL, Tenn- Like a black hole in the Bue Ridge mountains. Bistol raeevay
lies it it is the ititie monster of NASCAR
 It is a halfmile "short track" with the characereristis of of supperspeedway "worse Ihan Daytona or Talladega, said Mark Mar.
tin wholl sarto on the poie oro todays Val. leydale 500 .
The turns are banked 36 degrees, highest on the Winston Cup tour, and drivers
get the sensation of "watching a movie beget the sensation of "watching a movie be-
ing run on fast-forward" on a VCR, said Martin. "There is less reaction time here than any other track we run."
"If something happens," said Martin's fellow Ford Driver, Bill Elliott, who won you really know it."
And when you wreck, "you just don't hit
anything lightly", Wlliott anything lightly," Elliott continued. "Usualy , you tear a car up pretty well." though he has won more races here, 10 , than anyone else.
"You hit the wall harder here than anywhere else on the NASCAR circuit. Anywiere, said Waitrip. "And if you're going
significantly faster here Iwhich they are, due to the newly re-paved surface], you're going to hit the wall significantly harder." Going into today's $1: 10$ p.m. start (tele--
vised live by ESPN) there is good news and vised live by ESPN), there is good news an double bad news for the drivers.
The good news about the re-paving of
the track is that the turns are smoother. Beore, "it was as if there were speed bumps on the track," said Waltrip. "Cars would go
over them, and all four wheels would come over them, and
off the ground."
The beginning of the bad news is that the re-surfacing makes the track, which was already far too fast for its size, even faster.
Martin won the pole at 120278 Martin won he pole at 120.278 mph , lead-
ing a dozen drivers who wiped out the old track record of 117.552 in Friday's qualifying.
If 120 mph doesn't sound very fast, be advised slower than the fastest only about 70 circuit, Talladega, and Bristol is less than one-fifth the size of Talladega. So the sensation and the unforgiving reaction time of
120 here is similar to 120 here is sime news is that tire " big is The worse news is that tires, "a big is-
sue here," according to Waltrip, will also be an unknown going into today's race. "Any time you have new pavement, it creates problems" in developing a proper
custom tire for a track, said Wayne Tor custom tire for a track; said Wayne Tor-
rence, an assistant field manager for Goodyear. "And here, there is not any cooling time for tires."
Last seaso
Last season at Watkins Glen, N.Y.,

road course not nearly as treacherous as Rusty Wallace, suffering from an inner he Bristol oval, only a few patches of new ear infection, has been experiencing vertiproblems with tires widespread blistering go during practice here and likely will need iptoe through the race
Whaltrip not only will use a neck harness
Drivers had hoped to learn what to expect from tires during a 200 -lap race on to fight centrifugal force pulling his head Saturday for NASCAR Grand National cars. over, but "will strap myself down with evBut that race was rained out. erything I can find."
So now, they'll start the race virtually Martin conceded that "no track is more
blind on the tire situation, and Martin physically hind on the "tire situation, and Martin physically demanding," but then grinned lag 25 to 40 laps into the race and let us pit and said, "It's great. The tougher the and check tires."
NASCAR used such a caution period for NOTES: Waltrip's string of seven tire checks last Sunday at Darlington, S.C., straight victories at Bristol ended in 1984,
but the sanctioning body typically does not and he's looking to regain his magic after make such decisions until race morning. one top 10 finish in his last four appearWhat is rertain, regardless of the sur- ances. "It has been the most frustrating face, is that the high-banked short track thing I've ever been up against," he said.
creates such centrifugal force on drivers "You can't thates such centrifugal force on drivers "You can't imagine how disappointing it is
that "this about the most physical, when youve been so good at a track, then demanding track we race on," said Elliott, wou have such miserable luck.". Alan Kulwho had his still-mending broken left arm wickl, starting third, said," "I think we can rick, starting third, said as anyone."

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