

Opinion

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

# TOPICS OF THE TIMES; Big-Time College Fraud

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Two sports agents, **Lloyd Bloom** and **Norby Walters**, were convicted of **fraud** and **racketeering** last week for signing athletes to contracts before their college eligibility expired. They were the only figures in the case so convicted. But they were hardly alone in their deceit.

The trial's most painful moments came when two football players, Devon Mitchell and **Ronnie Harmon**, described their educations at the University of **Iowa**. Mr. Mitchell, who now plays for the Detroit Lions, took courses in football, karate, billiards, tennis, ancient athletics, recreational leisure, jogging (which he dropped), advanced bowling, advanced slow-pitch softball and speed reading. In his sophomore year he received three F's, a D, a C and an A (for playing varsity football).

Mr. **Harmon**, now with the Buffalo Bills, had a similar record. As a freshman, he took billiards, coaching football, soccer and bowling, and compiled a 1.62 grade-point average. He preserved his sophomore eligibility by taking a summer school course called Fundamental Military Organization. During another summer he took a course in watercolor painting to raise his grade-point average, but managed only a D. Despite all this, **Iowa** athletic officials certified to the National Collegiate Athletic Association that both players were progressing toward degrees. Both remained eligible.

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