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# Agents trial routs a coach's defense

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*By Editorials April 18, 1989 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 33 Word Count: 463*

The nation's college administrators and coaches ought to take to heart what Chicagoan Doris Schloeman said. Ms. Schloeman was one of the federal jurors who last week convicted sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom** of corrupting college athletes by enticing them with cash and gifts to sign professional contracts while still in school. But Ms. Schloeman said after the trial that schools and athletes were just as guilty as the two men. The schools, she said, "knew what these kids were doing, and all they cared about was having a good football team, making money and if these kids could send them to the bowl games."

As obvious as this is becoming to everyone else, it is a message that seems not to have penetrated some of the thick heads on college campuses, where athletes barely beyond childhood increasingly and scandalously are being used for the glory and, mostly, the money they can bring to their schools.

We particularly have in mind the head belonging to one Hayden Fry, the University of **Iowa** football coach. Even before the jury's verdict was known, Fry was railing against those - presumably even the jurors and most especially the media - who would dare besmirch the good name of college athletics. It was - we should add - two of Mr. Fry's former players, **Ronnie Harmon** and Devon Mitchell, who testified during the trial that they had taken "fluff" courses

while at the school and had not made satisfactory progress toward their degrees.

Sputtering that he was "mad as hell" at the accounts of how the two athletes had taken courses like water colors and billiards, he said the problem was not with the athletic department, because the courses were designed by educators. "I've had it to the nth degree with all the adverse publicity and the negative images across the whole United States," he said. "The problem that existed is an academic problem set up by academicians. At no time has the coaching staff had anything to do with curriculum."

Right. And the coaching staff obviously had nothing to do with protecting its players, making sure they got an education, like people are supposed to when they go to college. Or, excuse us, isn't everyone on a college faculty and staff supposed to work toward that end anymore?

Apparently not in Mr. Fry's mind. His job apparently is only to round up some bodies, get them into shape and put them out on the field of combat. And, apparently in his mind, his job is not to have to tolerate a bunch of reforms, as he made abundantly clear about one idea that is increasingly being discussed - protecting freshmen by banning them from athletics and athletic practices.

If that happens, said Mr. Fry, he'll quit.

Then, say we, good riddance.

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**Chicago Sun-Times**

**Date:** April 18, 1989

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