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# Walters, Bloom seek new trial

*By Adrienne Drell May 17, 1989 Publication: Chicago Sun-Times Page: 10 Word Count: 202*

Attorneys for convicted sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom** contended Tuesday they were improperly barred from cross-examining mobster Michael **Franzese** about his involvement in several murders. "The jury was prevented from getting the full picture of **Franzese's** background, his propensity to lie, his bias and his motive to testify falsely," the attorneys maintained in written arguments for a new trial.

The motions were filed before U.S. District Judge George Marovich.

**Walters** and **Bloom** were convicted last month of luring amateur college athletes to sign post-dated professional contracts and threatening them with violence if they tried to renege.

An admitted capo in the Colombo organized crime family, **Franzese** testified he was **Walters'** business partner and provided "muscle" for him in dealing with entertainment and sports clients.

Now serving a 10-year prison sentence, **Franzese** was a critical government witness in the trial.

Defense attorneys say Marovich erred in not letting them question **Franzese** about murders he disclosed to the government after he had been given immunity in the **Walters** and **Bloom** case.

**Walters**, who lives in New York, and **Bloom**, now a resident of Sherman Oaks, Calif., are to be sentenced June 19. They face a maximum 55 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines.

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