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Athletes, schools may share blame, judge says

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Here are excerpts from U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich's sentencing of sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**: ". . . The message of this case is that the federal criminal laws apply across the board to the universities and to the athletes, as well as to the agents who do business with them. Sports agents simply might be the easiest target."

"This trial must have seemed like vindication to those who decry the hypocrisy of big-time college athletics, to those who feel that the student-athlete is a myth and to those who argue that the mega-millions of dollars involved in college sports have corrupted everything the money touches. . . . I know not whether they are correct, but I do believe that those involved in intercollegiate athletics should be aware of the perception."

"The idealistic goal of education may be perpetually overshadowed by the concrete reality of a money-making enterprise (collegiate athletic programs)."

"What is best for the student athlete seems to be lost in the economic arguments. It is not the responsibility of this court to de

cide what, if any, modifications and rules changes should be made by those who are truly responsible for regulating intercollegiate athletics. . . . (But) there is a perhaps previously unrecognized player on the field - the rule of law."

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universities and to the athletes, as well as to the agents who do business with them. Sports agents simply might be the easiest target."

Lloyd Bloom watches as his attorneys comment after he was sentenced Monday to three years in prison and told to repay some fees. Credit: Amanda Alcock

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