

COLLEGES

Judge sentences sports agents: 'It's time to pay up'

By John Gorman

A federal judge Monday sentenced sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom to prison, declaring they had engaged in "a high stakes game and it's time to pay up."

Walters, 57, was given a five-year sentence and Bloom, 30, a three-year term for compromising the eligibility of college football players by signing them to early contracts and then threatening those who tried to break the contracts or refused to repay loans.

U.S. District Court Judge George Marovich rejected Walters' tearful plea and Bloom's terse apology to the court and his family. Marovich also blasted the athletes who took the bribes and the schools who profited from the athletes' performances.

"Those athletes who received money for prematurely signing with Walters and Bloom are equally guilty of fraud," Marovich said. "The court was deeply disturbed by the athletes' testimony that they have not yet begun to perform the community service and restitution acts they agreed to in exchange for

bypassing a trial."

Marovich then warned the universities that the public may perceive that the millions of dollars made in college sports "have corrupted everything the money touches." He added he doubted the trial would alter the policies of colleges with major sports programs.

"I am not so naive to minimize the impact of money on the decision-making process," he said. "The idealistic goal of education may be perpetually overshadowed by the concrete reality of a money-making enterprise."

U.S. Atty. Anton Valukas, who prosecuted the case with Howard Pearl and Helene Greenwald, had asked Marovich for an unspecified period of prison time for Walters for "using his ties to organized crime to further his business interests."

"Mr. Walters made use of a system where he believed you can cheat on your taxes, you can tell a little lie, give a good con job, you can bribe purchasing agents to get business and walk away with a good buck," Valukas said.

As he addressed Marovich in a packed courtroom, Walters whispered that his entire life be weighed before Marovich imposed sentence.

"Does a man who spent his life doing the right thing do the wrong thing?" Walters said. "No." Scores of letters praising Walters for his charitable work had been mailed to Marovich, the judge acknowledged.

Walters exhaled dramatically before attacking the credibility of the chief witness against him.

"Michael Franzese is a liar," Walters said.

A captain in the Colombo organized crime family in New York, Franzese had testified that he had known Walters since the mid-1950s and had been his business partner since 1970 when his father, Sonny, was sent to prison. Franzese testified he had given Walters \$50,000 in 1985 to start the sports agent business, World Sports & Entertainment Inc.

"While I applaud Mr. Walters for his good acts, I also feel that he should be held accountable for his bad acts as well," Marovich said, but

added, "as the trial examined the field of college athletics, various bad actors surfaced. Mr. Walters and Mr. Bloom were certainly among them, if not leading the pack."

Bloom and Walters were convicted in April of racketeering, mail fraud and racketeering conspiracy.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Howard Pearl told the judge Bloom had engaged in acts "traditionally associated with loan sharks and con men."

"When the athletes threatened to repudiate their agreements, Mr. Bloom threatened them with grave bodily harm," Pearl reminded the judge. "He threatened to break the legs of [Bears defensive back] Maurice Douglass and [Dallas Cowboys wide receiver] Everett Gay. They were terrified by those threats."

One of Bloom's attorneys, Dan Webb, said Bloom was sorry for what he had done and had admitted his guilt to prosecutors before the trial.

"He's a good man who's made some mistakes," Webb said. "He embarked on the sports agent business without the foggiest idea of

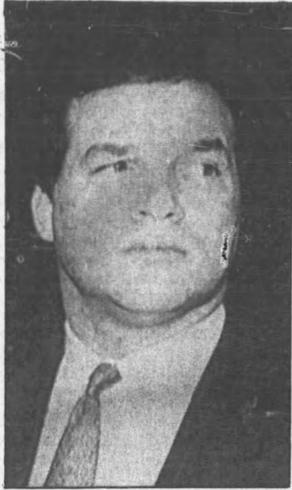
what the sports business was all about."

After Marovich sentenced the two, he ruled that the two would be given a month to settle their affairs before surrendering to a federal prison.

Marovich listened to testimony by FBI special agent Scott Jennings that Bloom had told him in January, 1988, that Walters had threatened to have him killed when he dissolved their partnership and moved to Los Angeles. Marovich ruled that neither man was a threat and allowed them to remain free on bond until their surrender.

At five years, Walters can be expected to serve about 40 months, authorities said. Bloom can be expected to serve about two years.

From the moment Walters and Bloom began to seek college athletes, they caused ripples. They eventually signed 58 athletes from 32 schools, as many as 50 whose eligibility had not expired. Most of the athletes who testified against the agents signed agreements with the government to reimburse their schools and to perform some community service.



Lloyd Bloom leaves a Chicago federal court Monday after receiving a three-year prison term.

BASEBALL

Frey likes Phils' future after trade

By Alan Solomon
Chicago Tribune

PITTSBURGH—The Phillies are looking better, according to Cub General Manager Jim Frey.

The Mets? Well, they got what they wanted, Frey said.

Frey said Monday he likes Philadelphia's end of its two Sunday deals with the Giants and Mets. The Phils gave up Juan Samuel (to New York) and Steve Bedrosian (to San Francisco) and picked up five players: pitchers Terry Mulholland, Dennis Cook and third baseman Charlie Hayes from the Giants; and outfielder Lenny Dykstra and pitcher Roger McDowell from the Mets.

"Philadelphia did some good things in terms of helping their ballclub for the future," Frey said. "They got a couple of good, young pitchers as I understand it, and they got a guy [McDowell] they can use in the bullpen. I always thought McDowell was a pretty good pitcher. Dykstra, I like him because he's a spirited, fiery-type guy."

"Some of our people tell me that Hayes is a pretty good young player. If you take that, together with the John Kruk and Randy Ready [from San Diego for Chris James] deal and you get seven for three, I think they did a good job."

And the Mets?
"I'm sure they think that they needed the right-hand hitter [Samuel] more than the left-hand hitter [Dykstra]," Frey said. "That's about what it amounts to."

"The Mets said they were looking for a right-hand hitter with some power. There's no question they got that in Samuel."

■ When Mark Grace comes off the disabled list this week, someone's got to

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go. Chances are it'll be an outfielder. Frey didn't reject the possibility the extra man might go via trade.

Asked if anything was alive at this point, Frey said, "Yeah, maybe. Might be. There's teams that are calling all the time, and it's always a question of matchups."

He indicated that any deal at this time wouldn't be a major one.

■ Andre Dawson's home run Sunday, his first since he hit two on May 5, was certainly a major event in his comeback from knee surgery. A bigger

liked by the people he's worked with and the players he's worked with, than Zimmer.

"He's doing a tremendous job over there. Maybe he ought to be Manager of the Year."

■ Maybe he ought to be Manager of the Year—or at least Manager of the Three Months—just for coping with the exciting, effective but stomach-rattling pitching of Mitch Williams.

"You'd better have a strong heart," says Zimmer, good-naturedly. "You'd better not have anything ailing you, or you'd wind up in a hospital."

Zimmer said Williams will be a better pitcher when he develops confidence in his breaking pitches.



'Philadelphia did some good things in terms of helping their ballclub for the future.'

—Cubs General Manager Jim Frey, on Sunday's two trades by the Phillies

one might have been Saturday when, on his own, he stole a base.

"I wanted to test the leg," Dawson said. "I knew I was feeling good."

"I didn't even play hit-and-run with him on first base," manager Don Zimmer said, "because the thing they're worried about is sliding."

"I won't be afraid to put on a hit-and-run now."

■ San Francisco manager Roger Craig on Zimmer, who was one of his coaches and remains a friend:

"Zim is a really bright baseball guy, and a lot of people don't give him credit for that. I can't think of a coach, or a man, who has been better

"Three out of every four hitters are what? Fastball hitters," said Zimmer. "Well, they know that's all they're going to get off him."

"Good fastball hitters are going to hit you. Sooner or later, they're going to hit you."

Williams threw four curves Sunday after throwing all fastballs Saturday. Two of the breaking pitches became outs.

Confident yet?

"It's getting there," Williams said. "It's not what I would fall back on if I had the bases drunk [loaded, in Mitchspeak] and a full count. I've got to pick my spots right now."



Reliever Mitch Williams says he'll throw more breaking pitches, but will still rely mostly on his fastball.

TENNIS

Wimbledon pressure on Chang

LONDON (AP)—While most American teenagers are celebrating the end of school, Michael Chang is about to start receiving an education in what it means to be a 17-year-old tennis star.

Chang was welcomed to Wimbledon last year as a raw, hustling kid. He was praised for managing to win a set against seventh-seeded Henri Leconte of France.

This year, he enters the world's most famous tennis tournament as the French Open champion. On Monday he was seeded ninth for Wimbledon, though his baseline game is ill-suited to grass.

The pressures on Chang will be vastly increased in this year's tournament, which begins its two-week run next Monday.

Instead of being an upstart gunning to upset established players, he will be the prey coveted by lesser-known players. He will be subjected to the voracious appetite of Britain's gossip columnists and to constant attention from a phalanx of international photographers and writers who will examine everything from his Chinese-American roots to his outspoken Christianity.

But the placid Chang said he is not bothered by the spotlight into which he will walk.

"At Wimbledon I have little to lose," he said last week during an exhibition tournament in the Netherlands. "Last year I was thrown out [by Leconte] in the second round. I don't feel any extra pressure. It's others who are laying that on my shoulders."

Chang lost all four of his matches on grass in the Netherlands and is already being written off for Wimbledon by some opponents, including three-time champion John McEnroe.

"Chang's game is made for slow surfaces," McEnroe said. "If he gets to the final at Wimbledon, I will drop my pants on Centre Court."

The French Open champion's difficulties on grass led Wimbledon officials to seed Chang ninth, even though he is sixth in the world computer rankings. McEnroe, fellow American Tim Mayotte, Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland and Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia all jumped ahead of Chang in the seedings.

West Germany's Boris Becker, who won the first of his two consecutive Wimbledon crowns when he was 17, said the key for Chang is to avoid drastic changes in his life—and his tennis—after winning the French Open.

"It's a major step in his career, but it's not the end," Becker said. "Now life starts—and that's difficult to accept at his age. He must make sure next time he goes out on the court it's with the same fire and desire he had in Paris."

Becker was seeded third behind top seed Ivan Lendl and defending champion Stefan Edberg.

Other men's seeds were Mats Wilander (4), McEnroe (5), Hlasek (6), Mecir (7), Mayotte (8), Chang (9), Jimmy Connors (10), Brad Gilbert (11), Kevin Curren (12), Aaron Krickstein (13), Andrei Chesnokov (14), Mikael Pernfors (15) and Amos Mansdorf (16).

Defending champion Steffi Graf of West Germany headed the women's seedings, followed by Martina Navratilova (2), Gabriela Sabatini (3), Chris Evert (4), Zina Garrison (5), Helena Sukova (6), Arantxa Sanchez (7), Pam Shriver (8), Natalia Zvereva (9), Jana Novotna (10), Monica Seles (11), Mary Joe Fernandez (12), Helen Kelesi (13), Hana Mandlikova (14), Lori McNeil (15) and Susan Sloane (16).

HORSE RACING

Ex-Derby entrant still on the run

By Neil Milbert

"My horse is like me," Phil Teinowitz reflected Monday, pondering Cryptoclearance's life and times on the racetrack. "He's a survivor."

"I was born at Roosevelt Road and Independence. If you had a list of guys who started out on the 1200 block of Independence and are still around, I'd be the only guy on it."

Like his Chicago owner, who has become a man of considerable means, New York-based Cryptoclearance has thrived, not merely survived. Going into Saturday's Grade II \$500,000-added Budweiser-Hawthorne Gold Cup, the 5-year-old stretch-runner has a 38-race bankroll of \$2,629,317.

Of this amount \$25,000 came when he ran fourth behind Alysheba, Bet Twice and Avies Copy in the 1987 Kentucky Derby.

Today, Alysheba, Bet Twice and Avies Copy are living the life of Romeo on stud farms. Virtually all of the others who took part in that 17-horse Run for the Roses also have disappeared from the racing scene. Such brandnames as Demons Begone, the 11 to 10 favorite; Capote, the previous year's champion 2-year-old; Gulch, and War are history.

Only Cryptoclearance and On the Line, who has been recycled into a sprinter, still are gainfully employed on the racetrack.

Since running fourth in the Kentucky Derby, Cryptoclearance twice has been triumphant at its American classic distance of 1 1/4 miles. Last summer he came to Hawthorne and buried 3 to 10 favorite Outlass Real-



Jose Santos, in his first trip to Hawthorne, rode Cryptoclearance to first place last year in the Budweiser-Hawthorne Gold Cup.

ity by 10 lengths in the Gold Cup. In April he won the Widener at Hialeah in 1:59 2/5, second fastest time in the 52-year history of the prestigious Grade I race.

Teinowitz takes exception to those who believe Metropolitan Handicap winner Proper Reality will be the favorite in Saturday's race. "Proper Reality never has won at a mile and a quarter and I've done it twice, including once on this track," he pointed out.

"I'm prepared to face the reality of the situation—last year we beat Outlass Reality when he came to Hawthorne on top of his game and this year we're going to beat Proper Reality."

This year Cryptoclearance also will have a runningmate going for him, a 4-year-old colt named Lustra. The latter's job is to ensure the ultra-fast early fractions that make horses endowed with early speed vulnerable when Cryptoclearance hits them with his best shot in the stretch.

"I got disgusted when Lost Code was getting away from us on the lead," Teinowitz explained. "This year, after I lost the Gulfstream Park Handicap [Cryptoclearance was third behind speed demon Slew City Slew and Bold Midway], I decided to do something about it."

"I bought Lustra to set an honest pace. Now, wherever Cryptoclearance goes, he goes."

Fires

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took the lead in the middle of the turn for home, and drew away.

According to Fires, he had a little bit of luck. "Randall Meier's horse [Arctic Mystery] was in front of me, and I was going to swing my horse to the outside," explained Fires.

"Just as quick as that thought flashed through my mind, Randall's horse jumped the shadow from the light towers and went wide. So, instead of going outside, I just took his position on the inside. That left me on the fence, and three lengths in front."

"It was just like it was meant to be for me to win that race."

Fires has achieved two other career milestones at Hawthorne. He won the 4,000th race of his career at Hawthorne in the summer of 1986, and last year he set a Hawthorne meeting record by taking 133 trips to the winner's circle in 96 days.

Until Monday, the highlight of the current year for Fires was his upset victory with 15 to 1 shot Mercedes Won in the \$500,000

Grade I Florida Derby.

For more than 20 years, the native of Rivervale, Ark., has been spending late spring, the summer and early autumn at the Chicago tracks and riding in Florida during the winter.

"I came to Arlington to help out my brother, William, who was training there in 1962 and 1963," recalled Fires. "In 1964, I started riding and I came back."

Fires was North America's No. 1 apprentice jockey in 1965.

Subsequently, he tried both New York and California, but didn't like it, and came back to Chicago.

"I have to give a lot of the credit for what I've been able to do in my career to my agent, Paul Blair. We've been together ever since I stopped riding under contract [in the mid-1960s]. Paul doesn't tell me how to ride, and I don't tell him how to be an agent."

Because Fires spent the prime of his career in Chicago at a time when the quality of racing here was down, he never has been spoken of in the same breath as the likes of Laffit Pincay, Angel Cordero and Pat Day. But his record over two decades speaks for itself—in Chicago racing history, Earlie Fires is one of a kind.

Bet Earlie and often, clean up

If a horseplayer at Hawthorne had decided to bet to win on every horse Earlie Fires rode Monday and reinvest the winnings each time, the return on the original \$2 investment would have been \$2,244.60, according to Hawthorne's mutual department.

In winning all six of the races in which he appeared on the nine-race program, Fires was aboard three favorites. Two of

his horses were the second choice in the wagering, and another was the public's third choice.

Two of the races were run at a distance of 7 1/2 furlongs on the grass. The other four races were run on the dirt at distances of 1 mile 70 yards, 6 1/2 furlongs (in two instances) and 6 furlongs.

Neil Milbert