

# Sports

SECTION F

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

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## 5-Year Sentence for Walters

### Bloom Gets Three Years In Case Against Agents

□ Judge Warns Boosters, Coaches, F6

By Chris Mortensen  
Staff Writer

CHICAGO — A federal judge sentenced former sports agent Norby Walters to five years in prison and ex-associate Lloyd Bloom to three years Monday, primarily for their dealings with college athletes. He then allowed them 30 days to report to jail despite new testimony about a death threat allegedly made by Walters against Bloom in 1987.

"When you gamble and you lose, there is a price to be paid," U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich told Walters and Bloom, who were convicted April 13 of racketeering, conspiracy and mail fraud. "This

was a high-stakes game, and it is now time to pay up."

Marovich said Walters was handed the more severe sentence because of his association with organized crime.

A tearful Walters, who did not testify at his trial, presented his side for the first time before the judge and denied testimony from reputed Mafia captain Michael Franzese that mob money was used in the sports-agent operation.

"This bum, Michael Franzese, is a liar," Walters told the court. "I knew him. I was one old guy who maybe tried to do him a favor, but he is lying about the money."

Walters and Bloom entered the sports agent business in 1985 and signed 58 college players from 32 schools through March 1987 until The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution reported their dealings and alleged threats to recalcitrant players.

CONVICTED Continued on F6

## Rose Sues to Stop Hearing

### Giamatti Accused of Bias; Decision by Court Sought

□ A Season First: Reds, Braves Meet, F5

By Terence Moore  
Staff Writer

Pete Rose, acknowledging for the first time allegations against him of betting on baseball games, filed suit Monday in an attempt to prevent a hearing next week with commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti.

Rose claims in the suit that the commissioner has prejudged the case, in which the Cincinnati Reds manager has been accused by former associate Ronald Peters of wagering on baseball, including games involving the Reds. Rose could be banned by Giamatti for life.

Rose, whose team begins a three-game series with the Braves tonight at Atlanta-Fulton County

Stadium, denied in a statement filed in Hamilton County (Cincinnati) Common Pleas Court that he bet on games. He asked that the hearing, scheduled for next Monday, be called off because Giamatti "displayed bias and outrageous conduct... as an investigator, a prosecutor and a prospective judge." Instead, Rose wants his fate decided by the courts.

The case was assigned to judge Norbert N. Nadel. One of Rose's attorneys, Reuven Katz, said he expects Nadel to hold a hearing this morning.

Rose also said a 225-page report on the charges by baseball investigator John M. Dowd was "based almost exclusively on hearsay statements."

Giamatti responded in a statement that baseball's attorneys had reviewed the court papers "and have advised me that Mr. Rose's lawsuit is wholly without merit... I trust the court will permit me to proceed with my hearing."

ROSE Continued on F5

# Switzer Resigns at Oklahoma

## Coach Stepping Aside Amid NCAA Probation, Charges Against Players

By David Davidson  
Staff Writer

University of Oklahoma football coach Barry Switzer, ultra-successful on the field but embattled over NCAA rules violations and criminal activity among his players, resigned Monday.

Switzer, 52, is expected to be replaced by Sooners defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs, whose appointment could come as early as today.

Switzer said he will remain at Oklahoma on "special assignment," probably as an assistant to athletics director Donnie Duncan, through next spring.

"I will never coach at another institution," Switzer said at a press conference in Norman, Okla. "I will never coach at another college level. I promise you that."

"It's no fun anymore. I'm drained. I don't have the energy level to compete in this arena today. I finally decided the time had come for new leadership."

Switzer said no one asked him to resign. "It is my decision," he said.

Switzer's winning percentage of .837 is fourth-best in college football history, and his teams won three national championships and 12 Big Eight Conference titles during his 16-year reign at Oklahoma. However, the Sooners' image was stained by two NCAA probations and a reprimand.

The NCAA put Oklahoma on probation for two years on Sept. 20, 1973 — Switzer's first season as head coach — and issued a reprimand of his program on Nov. 11, 1980. In December, the NCAA infractions committee handed down a three-year probation.

Switzer denied knowingly breaking NCAA rules, although he was named in four of the 20 violations in the latest case.

At his press conference, Switzer said he was frustrated by NCAA regulations that do not "recognize the financial needs of young athletes."

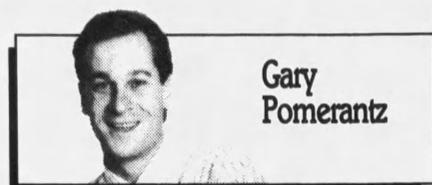
"I am not making excuses but simply giving an explanation when I say it was difficult to turn my back on these young men when they needed help," Switzer said. "We have created a system that does not permit me or the program to buy a pair of shoes or a decent coat for



The Associated Press

Barry Switzer pauses during press conference at which he announced his resignation as Sooners coach.

SWITZER Continued on F6



Gary Pomerantz

## Why Wasn't Switzer Fired?

The deep thinkers at the University of Oklahoma ought to be ashamed. They let coach Barry Switzer walk out through the front door on Monday, legend intact.

Had they but a half-ounce of courage, they would have dropped him through the dog door months ago.

The most ironic thing of all is that Switzer departed decrying certain NCAA rules, which is sort of like Jesse James decrying bank closing hours.

Smug and loose, Switzer had become The Coach With The Rap Sheet. Even as his program imploded over the winter, Switzer maintained an air of detachment and innocence. He was not only too cool for his own good, but too cool for anyone's good.

His program was stung with a three-year NCAA probation in December, in part for paying off recruits and players. The NCAA reprimanded Switzer for "failing to exercise supervisory control." His starting quarterback pleaded guilty to selling 17 grams of the white stuff to an undercover cop. His starting cornerback put a slug from a .22 into the chest of a teammate and, in return, received a three-month jail term. Three other Sooners players face charges of first-degree gang rape involving a 20-year-old Oklahoma City woman. In Central Park, they call this kind of stuff *wilding*.

And so the vaunted Sooners became a punchline. Said comedian Jay Leno: "The Sooners are No. 1 in AP, UPI and FBI." Even the Falcons' Tony Casillas, a former Switzer player at OU, turned comedy, albeit unwittingly: "Sometimes these things go in cycles, but this is the worst cycle I've ever seen." It was all shameful, a public emasculation of the university. And still, the deep thinkers at OU did not fire Switzer.

We will hear conflicting whispers over the ensuing days. We will hear the Ghostbusters theory: That the only way to out-con the con man is to *slime* him and that somebody got hold of some secret information about Switzer and threatened to make it public unless he stepped aside. Surely, there must be enough dirt on Switzer to fill the Grand Canyon.

We also will hear that, with a new university president to start shortly at OU, Switzer was given the choice to resign or be fired. Same choice, in other words, given to Eddie Sutton at Kentucky.

## Freedom Without Restraint Creates Problems

This one rings more true. If so, a question begs: Doesn't anyone in the collegiate ivory tower have the guts to do what needs to be done? Somebody in one of those college towns where sports is held holiest has got to make a bold move. If the system works and academics truly is the top priority, prove it. Take no prisoners. Don't ease out the guilty. Fire them. In the case of Switzer, not only wasn't he fired, but he reportedly will become a special assistant to the athletics director. Real gutsy.

That Barry Switzer can coach is irrefutable. His winning percentage over 16 years as Sooners coach was the best among America's active coaches. But the guy never could spell discipline and when he said Monday that he was resigning because he'd lost his competitive edge, not a sane soul could believe him. When Switzer ripped NCAA guidelines that fail to help needy athletes, he returned to one of his favorite subjects and yet, on resignation day, it rang hollow as, say, Oklahoma 63, Kansas State 0.

Life always was a matter of freedom to Switzer, a bootlegger's kid raised in poverty in Crossett, Ark. Switzer always gave his players plenty of freedom. Thomas Lott wore a bandana under his helmet like some hood-eyed pirate. Jack Mildren's hair touched his shoulders and fluttered outside his helmet like blond feathers. Joe Washington hand-painted his football shoes silver. The Boz cut the side of his hair like a cornfield and etched the rows in the colors in a pack of Lifesavers.

Facing the heat, Switzer would say players respond best when their individuality breathed freely and that for every kid who'd blown a second chance, hundreds had turned the corner.

The truth is, 18-year-old kids need guidance and a lot of supervision, especially those thrust into the limelight of big-time college football. Allowing for such freedom without restraint might have brought Barry Switzer three national titles, but it also brought three new pastimes to his players: drug dealing, gun firing and alleged gang raping.

An OU president once cracked that he hoped for a university that could make the football team proud. When last seen, pride had left OU on the last train for the coast.

## SWITZER'S TROUBLES AT OKLAHOMA

During his 16-year career as Oklahoma coach, Barry Switzer compiled a 157-29-4 regular-season record, but the Sooners were placed on probation twice and were reprimanded another time.

■ **Sept. 20, 1973:** The NCAA handed down a two-year probation against the Sooners as Switzer, who had been assistant head coach for three years, began his career as head coach.

■ **Nov. 11, 1980:** The NCAA reprimanded Oklahoma's football program but stopped short of a second probation within an eight-year period.

■ **Dec. 19, 1988:** NCAA slapped OU football with a three-year probation, in part for illegal payments to

players and recruits. The NCAA cited Switzer for failing to "exercise supervisory control."

■ **Dec. 29, 1988:** Four days prior to the Citrus Bowl, assistant coach Scott Hill, along with several other Sooners assistants, ran up a \$475 bar bill, then engaged in a fracas that caused \$583 in damages at an Orlando, Fla., golf club. Hill earlier had been reprimanded by the NCAA for recruiting improprieties and was barred from recruiting off-campus in 1990.

■ **Jan. 13, 1989:** Cornerback Jerry Parks became embroiled in an argument with teammate Zarak Peters and shot him in the chest with a .22-caliber revolver, apparently on a dare. Peters is back in school with the bullet still lodged in his upper body. Parks

pleaded no contest to the charge and received a three-month jail sentence.

■ **Jan. 21, 1989:** Three Sooners reserves were charged with first-degree gang rape involving a 20-year old Oklahoma City woman. The alleged rape took place in Bud Wilkinson Hall, the football players dormitory. Nigel Clay, Bernard Hall and Glen Bell face trial.

■ **Feb. 10, 1989:** Quarterback Charles Thompson, a sophomore, was arrested for selling 17 grams of cocaine to an undercover agent. Three days earlier, Thompson had spoken out against drugs to a Norman, Okla., elementary school. Thompson pleaded guilty to the drug trafficking charge.



# Falcons Pay Package Store; Checks Still Unwelcome

By Darryl Maxie  
Staff Writer

The Atlanta Falcons' battle against the liquor store across the street is over, but their checks still aren't welcome there.

The Falcons on Monday paid the \$370.81 the Suwanee Package Store demanded after stopping payment on two checks to a player they said owed money.

The day after the Falcons issued two checks dated May 25 to free-agent tight end Jeff Modest, they stopped payment and said Modest owed money at the Falcon Inn. Modest, however, had already cashed the checks at the store, which is across the street from the team's training complex.

Jim Hay, the Falcons' chief financial officer, said Saturday the team would reimburse the store "no questions asked" only if the team was legally responsible. A two-sentence statement issued Monday by owner Rankin Smith Sr. through the Falcons indicated that stance had been reversed.

"Payment was made fully to the Suwanee liquor store to satisfy the matter over the stopped payment of two checks," Smith said. "While we feel our posture was correct, we nevertheless want to maintain good relationships with our Suwanee neighbors."

A courier delivered the money — in the form of a cashier's check — to the store's Lawrenceville attorney, Winship E. Rees.

"I'm pretty sure he wouldn't have accepted anything else," said Buford Jones, the store manager.

While the Falcons have had a change of heart, Jones hasn't. He said Smith was rude to him when the matter was brought to his attention, so Falcons checks will remain unacceptable.

Signs posted in the store stating, "NO ATLANTA FALCONS CHECKS CASHED OR ACCEPTED" were still up Monday, though Jones said store owner Kelly Alford may elect to have them removed.

Jones said he was pleased to receive the money, but believes the Falcons paid because they feared a negative image, not because they wanted to be neighborly.

"It's a little late for that, isn't it?" Jones said. "What are we talking about, three weeks since [Modest] cashed them? I would hate to get in another bind with the Falcons. But I think everybody knows about Rankin. Money doesn't buy you class."

# Colleagues Express Surprise, Compassion as Switzer Exits

By Earnest Reese  
Staff Writer

Coaches who have opposed Barry Switzer philosophically and on the football field declined to take parting shots at the man who resigned Monday at the University of Oklahoma.

From Penn State's Joe Paterno, whose program's squeaky clean image has contrasted sharply with Switzer's, to Nebraska's Tom Osborne, whose teams annually struggle against the Sooners, the tone was sympathetic.

"Barry is a friend of mine, and I've enjoyed our friendship," Paterno said. "I know that Barry is doing what's best for him and what he thinks is best for the University of Oklahoma."

Osborne and Switzer both became head coaches in 1973, and they have domi-

nated the Big Eight ever since, with the Sooners usually getting the better of the Cornhuskers.

"I was sorry to hear that Barry has decided to resign," said Osborne, who learned of Switzer's decision over the radio on a fishing trip. "We've been friends and competitors for a long time, and we've shared some great moments in college football."

"All I can say is that I'm sorry he has decided to leave coaching at Oklahoma. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Lou Holtz of Notre Dame was among the coaches throughout the country who had no inkling that Switzer, 52, would step down.

"I'm very surprised, but every individual has to make a decision based on what he feels is best for himself and the

school," Holtz said. "Barry is a very unselfish individual. I'm sure he had justification for making his decision."

"He's been there 16 years, and he's done a tremendous job on the field. I'm surprised that anyone could stay at a school like Oklahoma that long."

Holtz watched some footage of Switzer's press conference Monday. "He made a statement about financial aid — that athletes should be paid," Holtz said. "I don't care how much money you give some individuals, it's not going to be enough."

Switzer played at Arkansas and later became an assistant under head coach Frank Broyles, currently the Razorbacks' athletics director.

"I'm very surprised and disappointed," Broyles said of Switzer's resignation. "He's just a fine individual. But I'm proud

he chose to go out on his own terms. He's a year older than I was when I made that decision."

Broyles said there was no need for anyone to shed tears for Switzer.

"It's not like it used to be for coaches," he said. "Barry is financially independent."

Said Arkansas coach Ken Hatfield, who played for the Razorbacks when Switzer was an assistant there, "He's just a great guy. He encouraged me when I was a freshman here, told me to hang in there and don't give up. He was a real competitor on the field and in recruiting. I don't think anybody had any inclination he'd resign at this point."

Hatfield said he understands what can prompt such a decision.

"When you get up in the morning and you don't feel good about your job, and

you haven't felt good about it for a long time, it's time to do something different," Hatfield said.

Said Tennessee coach Johnny Majors, a one-time Arkansas assistant along with Switzer, "He's a good friend of mine, and I'm sorry to hear that he's decided to step down. I talked to Barry about a week ago about something else."

Only Kansas coach Glen Mason, whose team was beaten 63-14 by the Sooners last season, was less than gracious.

"I like Barry," Mason said. "He's a very charismatic individual. But [there's] a business side and a social side. I'm speaking of the social side."

Mason does not expect the Jayhawks suddenly to challenge the Sooners.

"Let's face it. Oklahoma was good before Barry Switzer got there, and Oklahoma will be good long after he's gone."

# Judge Gives NCAA Rules Sharp Teeth

By Chris Mortensen  
Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Blasting the hypocrisy and corruption in college athletics, the federal judge who sentenced sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom Monday sent a warning to "boosters, coaches and administrators" who break NCAA rules.

"If Walters and Bloom are guilty of mail fraud, racketeering and conspiracy, so too may be alumni and other boosters who pass money or cars under the table and conspire with the athlete to lie about it. . . . so too may be the coach or administrator who acts in like fashion," U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich told a packed courtroom in a statement he later released to the media.

"I want to give fair warning to those who may violate [NCAA] rules, whatever they are: You may now be playing a different ballgame, and it might be called hardball. There is a previously unrecognized player on the field — the rule of law."

Marovich made his statements prior to passing sentence on Walters and Bloom, former sports agents who received respective jail terms of five and three years based on their racketeering, conspiracy and mail fraud conviction on April 13.

Echoing sentiments expressed by the jury that convicted the sports agents after a five-week trial, Marovich said, "There were no heroes here. Sports agents simply might be the easiest target."

**To those who may violate [NCAA] rules, whatever they are: You may now be playing a different ballgame, and it might be called hardball. There is a previously unrecognized player on the field — the rule of law.**

— George M. Marovich  
U.S. district judge

"A startling aspect of this trial was the absence of any easily identifiable good guys," the judge continued. "The universities are not simon-pure, and I do not see the athletes in a favorable light."

"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."

Marovich, who described himself as an avid sports fan, seemingly expressed disappointment at the reluctance of college officials in the trial's aftermath to adopt such reforms as banning freshman eligibility.

"Immediately following this trial, certain persons came forward with proposals to modify the system to make it better," Marovich said. "President [Hunter] Rawlings of Iowa [University] proposed that Iowa take the lead by giving students a year to adjust to college and not allow freshmen to compete. . . . He appears to have retreated from his position."

"New Big Ten commissioner James Delaney said his top priority will be to foster the seemingly incompatible marriage of athletics and academics. He was quoted as saying, 'I don't think the colleges should be acting in concert with the pro leagues.' He also indicated he might support eliminating freshman eligibility."

Marovich also quoted Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler, who testified against the agents in the trial, as predicting "that the Big Ten will 'commit suicide' if it decides to unilaterally make freshmen ineligible."

"It is not surprising," said Marovich, "that there is resistance to change; what is interesting is the underlying reason for the resistance. The schools do not want to give opponents a competitive edge, and they want more than a three-year return on four-year scholarships."

"The dialogue is more like what one would expect to hear from nuclear disarmament negotiators than from educators: No one wants to go first. What is best for the student-athlete seems to be lost in the economic arguments."



University of Oklahoma athletics director Donnie Duncan (right) listens as football coach Barry Switzer answers questions from the media.

# Switzer Resigns, Vows Not to Coach Collegiately Again

From Page F1

a player whose family can't afford these basic necessities.

"How can any coach stick to these rules when a young man's father dies many miles away and the son has no money for a plane ticket home to the funeral?"

(The NCAA passed a rule last year that allows schools to provide transportation for players to and from home in emergency situations.)

Switzer maintained that he "never bought a football player," that he "takes full responsibility" for the Sooners' current probation and that Oklahoma "is living up to the rules, to the letter, today."

Oklahoma's image was further tarnished when several of Switzer's assistant coaches were involved in a brawl at an Orlando, Fla., country club last December during the team's trip to the Citrus Bowl. Switzer took no disciplinary action.

Earlier this year, five of Switzer's players were charged with felonies, and pressure mounted on the coach to resign.

Cornerback Jerry Parks is serving a three-month jail sentence after pleading no contest to shooting teammate Zarak Peters in the chest with a .22-caliber pistol.

## Barry Switzer's Career Coaching Record

Year	W	L	T	Rank
1973 Oklahoma	10	0	1	3
1974 Oklahoma	11	0	0	1
1975 Oklahoma	11	1	0	1
1976 Oklahoma	9	2	1	5
1977 Oklahoma	10	2	0	7
1978 Oklahoma	11	1	0	3
1979 Oklahoma	11	1	0	3
1980 Oklahoma	10	2	0	3
1981 Oklahoma	7	4	1	20
1982 Oklahoma	8	4	0	16
1983 Oklahoma	8	4	0	--
1984 Oklahoma	9	2	1	6
1985 Oklahoma	11	1	0	1
1986 Oklahoma	11	1	0	3
1987 Oklahoma	11	1	0	3
1988 Oklahoma	9	3	0	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	

## Bowl Record

1975 — ORANGE: Oklahoma 14, Michigan 6
1976 — FIESTA: Oklahoma 41, Wyoming 7
1977 — ORANGE: Arkansas 31, Oklahoma 6
1978 — ORANGE: Oklahoma 31, Nebraska 24
1979 — ORANGE: Oklahoma 24, FSU 7
1980 — ORANGE: Oklahoma 18, FSU 17
1981 — SUN: Oklahoma 40, Houston 14
1982 — FIESTA: Arizona State 32, Oklahoma 21
1984 — ORANGE: Washington 28, Oklahoma 17
1985 — ORANGE: Oklahoma 25, Penn State 10
1986 — ORANGE: Oklahoma 42, Arkansas 8
1987 — ORANGE: Miami, Fla. 20, Oklahoma 14
1988 — CITRUS: Clemson 13, Oklahoma 6

selling 17 grams of cocaine to an undercover agent. He subsequently pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine and is awaiting sentencing.

The NCAA probation and felony charges lent credibility to allegations in a book written by former Sooners linebacker Brian Bosworth that rules violations were common at Oklahoma, that Switzer's players used cocaine and fired guns at the dormitory and that the football program bordered on anarchy.

Still, interim president David Swank had expressed confidence Switzer could re-

store order.

However, the school's board of regents earlier this month deferred action on Switzer's contract. A year ago, he received a \$12,500 bonus and a \$5,000 raise.

Switzer was named head coach at Oklahoma in 1973, and his first team went undefeated. His teams compiled a 157-29-4 record, winning national championships in 1974, 1975 and 1984.

Switzer would have been the winningest active coach going into the 1989 season. Only three major college coaches compiled higher winning percentages — Knute Rockne (105-12-5, .881) and Frank Leahy (107-13-9, .864), both of Notre Dame, and George Woodruff, who compiled a record of 142-25-2 (.846) at Pennsylvania, Illinois and Carlisle.

The son of a Crossett, Ark., bootlegger, Switzer played at the University of Arkansas and was an assistant coach there before joining Jim McKenzie's staff as Oklahoma's offensive line coach in 1966.

Chuck Fairbanks was named head coach following McKenzie's death in 1967 and Switzer was named offensive coordinator. Three years later, Switzer was promoted to assistant head coach, and when Fairbanks resigned to become coach of the New England Patriots, Switzer replaced him.

The Associated Press also contributed to this report.

# Convicted Agents Are Told by Judge, 'It Is Now Time to Pay Up'

From Page F1

"That's when this all started to come down," said Walters.

Walters, 58, also must serve a five-year probation following his prison term and must forfeit \$250,000 in remaining assets from his business operations.

Bloom, 30, also received five years probation and must make restitution of \$145,000 he defrauded from Kansas City Chiefs running back Paul Palmer, the 1986 Heisman Trophy runner-up from Temple University.

Marovich did not impose any fines because, he said, "they suffered significant losses" as sports agents. Walters told the court those losses exceeded \$1 million.

"But a substantial prison term is important because of the crimes and a deterrent factor I cannot ignore," the judge said.

Marovich added that he would recommend a minimum security prison to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, which will decide where Walters and Bloom will serve their sentences.

U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas said federal law requires each man to serve two-thirds of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole. Walters and Bloom had faced maximum penalties of 55 years imprisonment.

At a post-sentence hearing in which Valukas requested immediate incarceration of the two men, FBI special agent Scott Jennings testified that Bloom revealed to the government in 1988 he had received a death threat from Walters when he tried to dissolve their New York-based relationship in April 1987.

According to Jennings, Bloom said Wal-

ters told him, "If I'm in the jackpot, you're in the jackpot. If you go to L.A., I'll just have to have you popped."

Bloom then said Walters made a gesture with his hand as "if it were a gun," according to the FBI agent.

Jennings also said Walters reminded Bloom of his organized crime ties, pointed to a black phone on the desk and said, "All I have to do is call Mr. Irving and have Lloyd Bloom taken care of. Nobody will ever be able to connect Mr. Walters with Lloyd Bloom's death."

After the hearing, Walters denied that the threat ever took place, while Bloom said he had been confused during the interview with the FBI.

Bloom's statements to Jennings were not used as evidence during the trial because he did not testify, but Valukas used it Monday to contend that the two men posed a danger to each other.

Valukas and Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Pearl also presented evidence to argue that Bloom should be sent to prison immediately because he was continuing to engage in "fraudulent" activity in the credit-repair business.

Bloom's attorney, Dan Webb, accused the government of "going for the jugular" and called it "an extraordinary event here today, asking for the blood of my client."

Marovich sided with the defense, allowing Walters and Bloom to remain free on \$200,000 bond before they report July 19 to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to begin serving their sentences.

Marovich also set a July 12 hearing for a motion that would enable Walters and Bloom to remain free until a decision is delivered by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

"It's a four-quarter game, and we're down at halftime," Bloom said after sentencing.

Earlier, Bloom told the judge, "I might not be the brightest person in the world, but I try hard to do right and not break any laws."

Initially choked with emotion, Walters eventually relaxed and said, "If I believed I had been breaking the law [in signing college athletes], I wouldn't have done it."

Walters cited his own decision to initiate lawsuits against players who broke their contracts.

"I told my lawyers, 'Sue 'em!'" Walters told the judge, pounding his fist on the podium. "I am not a chump. Those players ripped me off. I opened up a Pandora's Box, and it's still coming at me."

The judge acknowledged that he had taken into account "some 50 letters" he had received on Walters' behalf from members of the entertainment community and social groups.

Testifying Monday for Walters was Roy Innis, national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), who told the judge that Walters had been active in charity work for his group. Innis said Walters was scheduled as the dinner chairman for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. banquet next January.

"I think all of us have a bit of schizophrenic . . . a bit of Jekyll and Hyde personality in us," Innis told the judge. "I don't know about the association Mr. Walters has with [organized crime], but the Norby Walters I know has always been very forthright, direct and honest and very giving of his time."

Despite Walters' claims that Franzese

lied about their relationship, Marovich said he "concurred with the jury that Michael Franzese was a very big presence in this case."

Franzese had testified that he continued a long business relationship previously established between his father, John "Sonny" Franzese, and Walters. Valukas described both Franzeses as "prominent members of an organized crime family. Michael Franzese was rated once as the 18th most powerful mob figure in this country, and his father is a reputed killer who has a strong reputation for violence."

Webb, seeking a favorable sentence, reminded Marovich that he was "the first federal judge ever to preside over a trial of sports agents."

"You might be the last because at least 15 states have passed laws since the Walters and Bloom affair, and others are on the way," Webb told the judge. "So the tremendous impact of this case is well in motion."

Walters' attorney, Robert Gold, had told the court that Walters "was a broken man, his career is over, and he knows it."

Gold and Walters expressed satisfaction that Marovich displayed restraint in sentencing.

"Given that I still do not believe the conviction, I think the judge showed compassion and understanding today," said Walters.

Three jurors who convicted the two men attended Monday's sentencing.

"We're curious," said Marjorie Benson, the jury forewoman. "This has been an interesting day. We've heard some new things. Would it have changed anything [with the verdict]? I don't think so."