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It Doesn't Take Much To Represent Athletes

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The origin of the sports agent can be traced back to 1966, when Bob Woolf took on the unprecedented role of representing a member of the Boston Red Sox in contract negotiations. As the world of sports became a multi-billion dollar industry, the role of agents has grown immensely.

So has the penchant for scandal.

In 1985, the NCAA was scarred when agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom** were indicted for recruiting 58 athletes at 32 different universities. The agents reportedly dished out \$800,000 to the students.

Recently, Joel Segal was fined \$3,500 for violating a Florida law designed to regulate agents. Segal's case is part of an ongoing investigation concerning Florida State and its athletes' accepting gifts.

And last week, California agent Robert Caron paid \$50,000 to USC and agreed to never again offer a USC player gifts or money. Three players were suspended Sept. 28 for receiving gifts from Caron.

So what does it take to be an agent? Not much.

In the NFL, an agent needs a college education and a clean

background. In the NBA, all you need is a client.

"Every day, more and more people are getting into the agent industry," said Chicago-based agent Steve Zucker. "And they're from all walks of life, with all different kinds of ethics. It's becoming more and more of a problem."

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