

Agent Says He Paid Collegians

NCAA is probing New Yorker's dealings, paper says

Combined News Services

Atlanta — A New York-based agent says he gave cash to college athletes in an effort to sign them as clients and the NCAA has begun an investigation that could result in some of them losing their eligibility and some teams forfeiting games or championships, according to The Atlanta Constitution.

The paper said that the agent, Norby Walters, also has come under the scrutiny of the National Football League Players Association, which says two seniors eligible for the April 28 draft called the union last week to report that Walters had threatened "to break their legs" for firing him. Walters denied that charge but did not deny making cash payments to college football and basketball players before their eligibility had expired, the newspaper reported.

Among the players Walters has given money during their college playing careers, the paper said, is Auburn running back Brent Fullwood, who completed his eligibility last fall.

In addition to Fullwood, others who reportedly have had dealings with Walters include Buffalo running back **Ronnie Harmon** of Iowa, Chris Carter of Ohio State, Lorenzo White of Michigan State, Tommy Powell of Auburn, Kenny Flowers and Terrence Flagler of Clemson, John Clay of Missouri, Ron Woodson of Purdue, Tony Woods of Pitt, Garland Rivers of Michigan, Reggie Rogers of Washington, Mark Ingram of Michigan State, Doug Dubose of Nebraska, Paul Palmer of Temple and Edwin Simmons of Texas. All of the players are seniors.

Walters said he has filed or will file lawsuits

against at least eight players who he claims have broken contracts with him. Walters conceded that some of the contracts were signed while the players still had college eligibility.

SMU Faculty Hits Trustees

Dallas — In the wake of the school's football play-for-pay scandal, the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University unanimously approved a resolution seeking to give the school's president — not the board of trustees — overall power to run the private institution. In a related development, SMU has complied with an Internal Revenue Service request and provided the addresses of some of the former players who received the payments.



Steve Howe, in bubblier times

Japanese Tell Howe Sayonara

Tokyo (UPI) — Former Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Steve Howe, whose major-league career was shortened by drug problems, has been barred from playing in Japan and will return to the United States in a few days, baseball officials said yesterday.

The officials said Howe, who turned 29 Tuesday, expressed "understanding" at the decision by the Tokyo-based Seibu Lions to drop plans of signing him. The move came after Japanese professional baseball commissioner Juhei Takeuchi had ruled Howe could not play in Japan because of his history of drug abuse, officials in the commissioner's office said.

"I am disappointed, but I will return to the United States and try to play in the major leagues again," Howe was quoted by officials as saying.

Howe was named the 1980 National League Rookie of the Year after recording 17 saves and a 2.95 ERA. He was suspended in 1983 when he tested positive for cocaine use, and was later suspended for the 1984 season. Howe was reinstated in June but decided to bypass the season and work on his rehabilitation. He pitched in the winter leagues but hurt his left elbow and returned to Los Angeles for surgery.

Howe was signed by the Minnesota Twins in 1985, but he had another drug relapse and was released. He began last season with the San Jose Bees of the Class A California League but tested positive again and was suspended. He and his agent insisted the result of the drug test was incorrect.

Taking Liberties with the law

Aughinbaugh Doesn't Look Like a Killer

By Pat Calabria

IN THE BACK of Sandy Aughinbaugh's mind, rolling around like a volleyball, is the nagging thought that maybe she's wasting her time and her money and her youth. And then, in the jargon of the sport, she kills it.

She can't allow that kind of distraction, not when she's attempting to help a fledgling pro league off the ground and not when she's having so much fun.

"There are times," Aughinbaugh said, "when I think I could do this forever."

She's 25 and one of the stars of the New York Liberties of the women's Major Volleyball League, and she says she likes the identification. She must 'ike it because she interrupted her studies in law school at the University of San Diego to take what she freely admits is a gamble. She's put the rest of her life on hold.

"That's definitely crossed my mind," Aughinbaugh said. "I can't help but think about it sometimes. I don't miss studying, but I do feel left behind. The people back at school are ahead of me now. I left a job back there. I haven't done much to help the old bank account."

The team salaries for the 22-game season climb all the way up to \$5,000. The players are quartered in a large rented house in Bay Shore, practice three days a week and play to small crowds at Hofstra University, in the shadow of Nassau Coliseum, the closest symbol of the big time. Some of the players

have to commute to coaching jobs across the country between games.

The reward is that Aughinbaugh can say she's still having fun at her job, and she likes to ask how many other people can say that.

Her classmates back in San Diego didn't travel with the national team for a year, as she did, and that was a lifetime's worth of experience in itself.

"We went to Cuba, and I walked into my hotel room, and the first thing I saw was a lizard sitting on the chair," she said. "The whole place was very strange, like nothing had changed since Castro [came to power]. You'd be walking along and see these gorgeous '58 Chevys. It was like time had stopped there, in 1961."

In the Dominican Republic the team slept four to a room that was crawling with roaches and mice, and the men's team played in an arena that was nothing more than a shack with an aluminum roof. On the other hand, there was Italy.

"We stayed in all the small towns, and that was the best way to see the country," Aughinbaugh said. "We met every little mayor of every little village, and then, after the games, they'd have a reception for us and we'd dance and sing with all the children. How do you put a value on something like that?"

She never expected to see the world by playing volleyball, but then, she never expected even to play volleyball. She was pulled out of a gym class at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo to try out for the volleyball

team one night, practiced with the squad for a year and then her career took off. At Cal Poly, she made such an art of the kill (slamming the ball over the net) that the other students called her "Awesomebaugh."

When she was cut from the national team in August, it ended her dream of playing in the Olympics, and she thought it ended her future in volleyball as well. Aughinbaugh took a part-time job as a legal assistant after her law classes until the Liberties beckoned.

"I thought, 'You may never get another chance like this again,'" she said. Anyway, she had never been to New York.

When she arrived, she discovered that she and her teammates were going to have to sell the game as well as play it. So the Liberties have arranged clinics at high schools, and Aughinbaugh has taped posters to store windows. It's nothing she hasn't done before, because volleyball isn't often played in the spotlight. But she cares.

She'd like to help lay the foundation for the spread of pro volleyball, and she'd like to be around to see the team prosper. She's well aware that when it happens — if it happens — she may be long gone to get her law degree and set up a practice.

"I think about that, too," Aughinbaugh said, "but it's worth it. If the sport makes it, great. Then I can look back and say, 'Hey, I was there. I helped start it all.' That would be nice. It would be enough."



Sandy Aughinbaugh would rather play volleyball than study.