# The List: A Collection of Allegations, Reprimands, Suspensions against Athlete-Agents (with commentary)

In preparation of my law review, I searched for every agent allegation, misdeed, reprimand and suspension and kept many of those notes and links. In my humble opinion, if the NFLPA is going to get into the agent regulation business, it is up to the NFLPA to investigate and publically report disciplined and reprimanded agents to the public and, more particularly, the future members of the NFLPA- the prospective **Players**. There are an estimated 800-1000 active NFLPA agents each year who pay \$1700. In otherwords, the NFLPA makes \$1-2 MILLION in revenue just off of their agent program. And yet it is still under-regulated. The same statement can be made about/to the States. Due process is a MUST, but to not do anything is worse that doing too much. The NFLPA also must share information with States and States must share information with the NFLPA. Where there is smoke, there is often fire and the States and NFLPA are the only entities that have a fire extinguisher of any nomenclature.

As a lawyer, our discipline history is available on each Bar website and every transaction we, or often our employees, do subjects us to Bar scrutiny. We hire our employees and we are ultimately responsible for their work. There is a slogan on a desk down in Key West that says, "the Buck stops here." It is located on Truman's old desk in the Key West White House. It stands for taking ultimately responsibility, a trait that has long since lapsed in today's business world.

The point is- Shouldn't the NFLPA have a similar standard? Shouldn't States hold <u>SOMEONE</u> ultimately responsible? One cannot make very specific rules and regulations and selectively enforce them or allow the wrongdoer's to hide behind failures to prove violations, subpoena power, et cetera, especially when Secretaries of State (for instance, Gregory Sirb of Pennsylvania's athlete agent office) claim poor lines of communication and incidents of unreturned calls from the NFLPA. A mere audit of State Registration lists will reveal criminal activity by agents even in the first TWO rounds. If an agent is too lazy and contumacious to even pay a nominal fee and register, what makes a Player or a Player's Union think that agent will be otherwise diligent?

I apologize for my outrage. I would rather not take the role of "watch dog." I recognize that I am "new" and "don't know how things work," as I have been told repeatedly. Well, if it involves cheating, lying or hiring cheaters or liars, I don't want to know "how things work" and simply want to raise the bar a little. That said, here is a list of every agent claim I found. Full disclaimer- the veracity depends on the truthfulness and investigation of the reporter. I avoided "message board" claims and went with reputable stories from reputable sources. I am MERELY providing links and information from various sources.

### Here are the Reports from the NFLPA site (password protected):

**Feldman, Steve** v. NFLPA (appeal by Feldman sustained due to lack of evidence)

NFLPA v. **Ashe, Mason** (dispute between agent Mason Ashe and Dante Culpepper)

NFLPA v. Branion, Joby (2003) (suspension upheld) (active agent with Athlete's First)

NFLPA v. **Branion**, **Joby** (2007) (suspension reversed)

NFLPA v. Caravantes, David (sustained NFLPA in part, overruled in part)

NFLPA v. Cornrich, Neil (suspension upheld)(active agent with NC Sports)

NFLPA v. **Durand**, **Jeff** (reprimand upheld)

NFLPA v. **Irwin, Jeffrey** (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. **Jones, Sean** (suspension upheld) Sean Jones became an NFL agent after years in the NFL, before having his investment business – Amaroq Asset Management – come under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2007. Jones and several others were also indicted in Texas that same year, on mortgage fraud charges stemming from bogus loans that allegedly diverted proceeds into accounts accessed for personal use. mentioned in the above story was also suspended by the NFLPA for two years in 2003, for "financial irregularities in Jones' representation of player-clients Ebenezer Ekuban(notes) of the Dallas Cowboys, and Cris Dishman, formerly of the Houston Oilers." Jones eventually was ordered to pay Dishman and his wife \$396,500 in damages for multiple infractions, including unauthorized stock trades. <a href="http://sports.yahoo.com/nfl/news;\_ylt=AgckNm5uWBqg2loAVjlBnVBDubYF?slug=cr-smithsuit102710">http://sports.yahoo.com/nfl/news;\_ylt=AgckNm5uWBqg2loAVjlBnVBDubYF?slug=cr-smithsuit102710</a>

NFLPA v. **Jumper**, **Timothy** (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. Luchs, Joshua (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. McGuire, Kennard (reprimand upheld)(active agent with MS World)

NFLPA v. Myles, Frank (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. Poston, Carl & Kevin (Reprimand sustained as to Carl)(both active)

NFLPA v. **Poston, Carl** (suspension upheld): In 2007, revered NFLPA head, Gene Upshaw, alleged Carl Poston made a major mistake in a contract by omitting an alleged second \$6.5 million roster bonus that was due to Lavar Arrington in 2006. He also criticized Poston for "making a mockery of our system." Arrington was quoted, "They suspended him without a hearing, the NFLPA. If you are educated and you pay attention to what is going on around you, they do a lot of foul stuff. It's like organized crime, to be honest with you. They are bad." Poston received a two-year suspension. No criminal charges were filed. As if that was not enough of an indictment of the NFLPA, Poston went a step further. He shrugged it off, saying, "We were not actively recruiting any college players this year, anyway, and the players that we do have in the NFL are all locked up with multi-year deals, so it doesn't affect us too much." Poston is listed as an active agent with clients, Carolina Panthers Chris Gamble, Denver Broncos Cassius Vaughn, Green Bay Packers Charles Woodson, St. Louis Rams James Butler and Tennessee Titans Patrick Trahan. His brother is listed as agent of several others.

NFLPA v. **Pruitt, Gregory** (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. Raleigh, Greg (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. **Sandhu, Zeke** (sustained NFLPA in part and was suspended, overruled in part)(active agent)

NFLPA v. **Segal, Joel** (suspension upheld): In 1994, Joel Segal was suspended for a year from representing league players by the NFLPA.<sup>3</sup> He was also fined \$5,000, the maximum permitted at the time, according to the story. Segal was disciplined for providing money under an assumed name to a Florida State player in 1993. Active agent.

NFLPA v. Shearin, Joseph (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. Treggs, Brian (2004, 2005) (suspension upheld)

NFLPA v. **Weinberg, Steve** (2004) (sustained NFLPA in part and was suspended, overruled in part): In 2001, the NFLPA permanently suspended Steve Weinberg after serious money

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http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1Y1-101053711.html http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1Y1-96075128.html

http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-84034672.html

<sup>3</sup> http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-728079.html

management and embezzlement charges arose out of a battle between him and his former partner, Howard F. Silber. According to a release at the time, "The NFLPA charges that, in an attempt to avoid a financial judgment to Silber, Weinberg diverted assets into an off-shore trust, thus leaving Weinberg's clients open to having some of their wages garnished." The NFLPA indicated clients were served with writs of garnishment. They also noted prior fines and concerns with Weinberg. Current agent, David Canter, also claims that Weinberg smeared his name with clients on the way out. When agents split, allegations are thrown like daggers.

NFLPA v. **Zucker**, **Steve** (2001) (sustained NFLPA in part and was suspended, overruled in part) NFLPA v. **Zucker**, **Steve** (2004) (sustained NFLPA in part and was suspended, overruled in part)

NFLPA v. **Marlon Sullivan** (2010) - The NFLPA recently suspended NFLPA Contract Advisor **Marlon Sullivan** for six months and fined him \$10,000 for improperly supervising a person he had hired to recruit for him. While the recruiter was working for Sullivan, he provided money to a former college player as an inducement to sign with Sullivan as his Contract Advisor. Under the NFLPA Regulations, Contract Advisors are held responsible for the actions of their recruiters whether or not they have knowledge of and/or approved of such actions. In addition, Sullivan also failed to sign a disclosure form acknowledging that Sullivan would pay the recruiter a fee to recruit the player as a Sullivan client. http://www.nflplayers.com/Articles/Public-News/NFLPA-Disciplines-a-Contract-Advisor-for-Violations/

NFLPA v. Ian Greengross (and Kenny Rogers) (2010) (pending) - The NFLPA's Committee on Agent Regulation and Discipline (CARD) issued a disciplinary complaint against NFLPA Contract Advisor Ian Greengross today for violating numerous provisions of the NFLPA's Agent Regulations while recruiting and representing players, and for the actions of his recruiter, Kenny Rogers. Under the NFLPA Regulations, an agent is held responsible for the actions of his recruiters, employees and associates if their conduct violates the Regulations. Rogers is alleged to have, at various times, misrepresented to prospective player-clients that he was an NFLPA employee, a Club official and an official from a testing service in an effort to recruit them. He also is alleged to have recruited players as clients while those players were signed to agent contracts with other agents in violation of the Regulations. Under the Regulations, Greengross now has the opportunity to answer the complaint, after which CARD may impose discipline, including a fine, suspension or revocation of his Certification as a Contract Advisor. Given the significance of the violations, CARD is considering exercising its right to immediately impose discipline pending any hearing on the matter and has asked Greengross to show cause as to why such action should not be taken.

Additionally, the following articles discussed further reprimands and suspensions (many still active):

**David Dunn**, <a href="http://www.prosportsgroup.com/SportsAgentNews/Sep2003/News/condon.htm">http://www.prosportsgroup.com/SportsAgentNews/Sep2003/News/condon.htm</a> In 2003, David Dunn was suspended for two years. It all started because of facts that arose out of a lawsuit filed by Leigh Steinberg, his former partner. Steinberg won a \$44.66 million judgment against David Dunn, and his firm, when a jury found that Dunn engaged in unfair competition. It was overturned on appeal and the parties settled out of court. David Dunn filed bankruptcy, but faced action from NFLPA because of the facts revealed during the suit. For an administrative reason to protect bankrupts, his suspension was apparently stayed while he was in personal

<sup>6</sup> http://sports.espn.go.com/nfl/draft05/news/story?id=2032249

<sup>4</sup> http://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/stories/2003/02/24/story8.html#ixzz0we7eOC9v

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://www.prosportsgroup.com/SportsAgentNews/Sep2003/News/condon.htm

bankruptcy. Ultimately, the NFLPA and Dunn agreed to an 18-month suspension, including a stipulation that no wrongdoing was admitted by Dunn. Either he did something wrong and the Players are entitled to know or he did not. A backroom suspension with undisclosed terms is not fair to the "P" in NFLPA- the Players.

Ed Sewell, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-19413043.html Joel Segal, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-728079.html Robert Caron, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-84034672.html James Gould, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20541189.html Carl Poston, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1Y1-101053711.html

Jeff Nalley, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-19493406.html: In 1998, Jeffrey Nalley gave star running back, Curtis Enis, a suit and other possible benefits before his bowl game during his Junior year. The NFLPA suspended him and fined him \$15,000 if he returned to player representation. He did. "This is the most severe penalty we have ever imposed," said NFLPA general counsel Richard Berthelsen, "but our committee felt it was well-justified under the circumstances. Hopefully, the message it sends will not be lost on the agents..." It was. Nalley is a current agent with Select Sports Group.

Craig Domann, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 **Jason Fletcher**, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Richard Katz, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 **Thomas Kleine**, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Joe Linta, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Lyle Masnikoff, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Howard Shatsky, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Neil Cornrich, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Neil Cornrich, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-7952823.html Neil Cornrich, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-212754.html Major Adams, http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/59408 Steve Weinberg, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-97458717.html Jerome Stanley, http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-212754.html 

Tank Black, http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1999-05-13/sports/9905130244 1 david-canteruf-police-department (also mentioned David Canter, Sean D. Alfortish and Bufford Jordan) Florida authorities simultaneously were going after William "Tank" Black. The NFLPA filed a disciplinary complaint against Black, alleging he made improper cash payments to players in 1997 and 1998 and acquired new automobiles for them in 1998 before their eligibility had expired. At its peak, his agency, Professional Management Inc., was a \$100 million company that represented five first-round picks in the 1999 draft. 10 Tank Black who openly admitted to giving money to players long before Josh Luchs did, saying, "I did give some players money while they were in college, but it was a necessary part of the profession I was in at the time."11 His was and is the most notorious of all agent prosecutions. It was lead by federal and state police in Gainesville. According to Tank Black, the state and/or federal investigators improperly shipped everything they seized to the NFLPA in Washington. Black also says a NFLPA official, Trace Armstrong, illegally sat in on interviews the police conducted with Jevon Kearse and other

http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/football/college/news/1999/05/25/florida\_agent/

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<sup>8</sup> http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1P1-19493706.html

http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/2009/09/12/2009-09-12 zone.html#ixzz0vNngmxFC

<sup>11</sup> http://greenevillesun.com/story/306063

players suspected of taking cash.<sup>12</sup> The NFLPA revoked his right to practice for three years in 1999, citing evidence of payments to former players at Florida, LSU and South Carolina.<sup>13</sup> Two former Florida football players purportedly confessed they received cars, regular cash payments and other gifts from an employee of Black's firm.<sup>14</sup> According to affidavits filed, two players said they received new Mercedes-Benz cars after they completed their college eligibility. Cash payments of \$200 - \$600 per month were also claimed. A \$25,000 was to be assessed if he reapplied after that time.<sup>15</sup> The longest revocation prior Tank Black's suspension was one year.<sup>16</sup> In a recent interview, Tank Black said he was unfairly singled out and that "most agents who compete for top players provide cash and other favors to prospective clients." <sup>17</sup> Tank Black had bigger problems than illegal benefits. Black was convicted of defrauding his NFL clients out of as much as \$14 million. In 2000, a 34-count indictment said Black took more than \$1 million from drug dealers and funneled it into a car title loan business. That title business was part of a \$300 million pyramid scheme that involved athletes' money, prosecutors said.<sup>18</sup> He was sentenced to 82 months in prison on money laundering charges.<sup>19</sup>

#### Josh Luchs,

http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2010/magazine/10/12/agent/index.html#ixzz12ErYGGv3

Finally, here are a few pieces that discuss issues on which there has not yet been State or NFLPA action or findings were "inconclusive":

**Unknown (2010)** - Oregon's Department of Justice is investigating a sports agent. It has never prosectued.

http://www.oregonlive.com/sports/index.ssf/2010/11/oregon\_department\_of\_justice\_i.html

**David Canter**, <a href="http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/17249">http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/17249</a> (written about but redacted this section): In 1999, the Sports Business Journal reported that David Canter was charged for paying for hotel rooms for the family the University of Florida's defensive back Tony George before the Orange Bowl. According to the SBJ, the reservation was made by a travel agent, and the rooms were held using a credit card belonging to Canter. George signed with Canter just hours after the game. No other information about the incident was available; no action taken. Active.

**Steve Feldman,** Accused of giving benefits to Lawrence Phillips. Phillips was cleared to play after the NCAA determined a lunch and ride Phillips had with an employee of California sports agent Steve Feldman would not affect his eligibility. The NCAA continued to investigate two other issues involving Phillips, including a 1995 Mustang convertible the player had been driving. The NCAA would not identify the other issue. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-849332.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-849332.html</a> Active. No known action taken against either.

13 http://www.sportslawnews.com/archive/articles%201999/blackdecert.htm

15 http://www.sportslawnews.com/archive/articles%201999/blackdecert.htm

http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/2009/09/12/2009-09-12\_zone.html#ixzz0vNngmxFC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Id

<sup>14</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Id

 $<sup>{}^{18}\</sup>text{http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2010/writers/stewart\_mandel/07/19/ncaa.agents/\#ixzz0uGwFpxT5}$ 

<sup>19</sup> http://greenevillesun.com/story/306063

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> http://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/article/17249

Unknown, <a href="http://www.fitsnews.com/2010/07/19/ncaa-investigating-usc-player/">http://www.fitsnews.com/2010/07/19/ncaa-investigating-usc-player/</a>

Michael Katz (Rosenhaus), <a href="http://www.sbnation.com/ncaa-football/2010/10/22/1768609/unc-north-carolina-agent-investigation-drew-rosenhaus">http://www.sbnation.com/ncaa-football/2010/10/22/1768609/unc-north-carolina-agent-investigation-drew-rosenhaus</a>

Michael Katz (Rosenhaus), <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/22/AR2010102205774.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/22/AR2010102205774.html</a>

**Chris Hawkins** apparently vetted UNC players for Peter Schaffer of All Pro Sports & Entertainment in Denver and Kevin Conner of Universal Sports Management in Atlanta and is linked to AJ Green ineligibility, <a href="http://www.sportingnews.com/ncaa-football/feed/2010-08/unc-investigation/story/ex-oklahoma-players-say-john-blake-introduced-them-to-agent">http://www.sportingnews.com/ncaa-football/feed/2010-08/unc-investigation/story/ex-oklahoma-players-say-john-blake-introduced-them-to-agent</a>

Gary Wichard, <a href="http://www.sportingnews.com/ncaa-football/feed/2010-08/unc-investigation/story/ex-oklahoma-players-say-john-blake-introduced-them-to-agent">http://www.sportingnews.com/ncaa-football/feed/2010-08/unc-investigation/story/ex-oklahoma-players-say-john-blake-introduced-them-to-agent</a>

Gary Wichard,

http://www.al.com/sports/index.ssf/2010/10/report\_dareus\_told\_ncaa\_that\_b.html Garv Wichard,

http://rivals.yahoo.com/ncaa/football/news;\_ylt=AmfENrVfdYv\_VWUpcgWV1YMcvrYF?slug=cr-blake100410

Gary Wichard, <a href="http://rivals.yahoo.com/ncaaf/news?slug=cr-uncagents092910">http://rivals.yahoo.com/ncaaf/news?slug=cr-uncagents092910</a>
Gary Wichard, <a href="http://rivals.yahoo.com/ncaaf/news?slug=ys-agentcoach080910">http://rivals.yahoo.com/ncaaf/news?slug=ys-agentcoach080910</a>

Ian Greengross, <a href="http://sports.espn.go.com/chicago/nfl/news/story?id=5401023">http://sports.espn.go.com/chicago/nfl/news/story?id=5401023</a> : Apparently, Ian Greengross of Game Sports and Entertainment is being investigated by the NFLPA because of a possible affiliation with a "runner" named Kenny Rogers. Greengross denied affiliation and said Rogers, "doesn't work for me. I never paid him." He later recanted, saying, "I paid Kenny to work with some of my players... He introduced me to a lot of coaches, and (I paid him) to review film of players and scout players. I paid him a flat fee. I never paid a percentage for referring players." Rogers might have posed as an NFLPA representative to several players in an attempt to influence players. This "investigation" reeks of lies, fraud and everything that is wrong with athlete-agency.

James Gould, Safety Marcus Ray missed 2 games of his senior season after the NCAA learned that Gould had given him free food, access to a stadium skybox and help with hotel rooms. Michigan officials said Friday that Ray and his mother received tickets to a July jazz festival in Cincinnati from agent James Gould. James Gould, the agent Ray was involved with, won't learn his punishment until April 8, when he has a hearing in front of Roger Kaplan to appeal the two-year suspension and \$15,000 fine recommended by the NFL Players Association. Unknown punishment; unsure why not listed on NFLPA site. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20541189.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20541189.html</a> Active with "Management One."

**Woy & Willis**, made up of "sports agent Jordan Woy, and entrepreneur and philanthropist Chad Willis": The NFL Players Association has dispatched an investigator to look into **Horace Smith**, who was fired in February from his position as the director of college scouting for Dallas-based sports agency Woy & Willis Sports Group. The suit filed by Woy & Willis states that Smith allegedly took out loans "in excess of \$350,000" using the names of three players without their knowledge and then had the money directed into secret accounts with a brokerage firm in New York City, where Smith could access the funds for his own use. The suit also claims Smith engaged in "unauthorized and extravagant expenditures supposedly on behalf of players," and misused two rental cars tied to the sports agency — one of which remains unaccounted for. Investigators are also looking into a jewelry deal allegedly brokered by Smith, in which the players were offered custom jewelry at nearly double the appraised value. The items, which allegedly included high-end Breitling watches priced at nearly \$85,000 each, ultimately were not

purchased by the players at the inflated prices. Woy's suit also alleges that Smith has sought to start his own competing sports agency in Dallas, while contacting Woy & Willis clients and telling them he left the firm voluntarily. Smith's wife, LaShonta Smith, is also named in the suit for allegedly serving as the notarizing agent for the fraudulent signatures on the loans. Woy commented: "You can never foresee when an employee will act in an unauthorized manner," Woy said. "As soon as we found out about his actions we terminated him. We have a great relationship with the players and their families and have filed the appropriate legal actions to protect the players and our company."

 $\underline{http://sports.yahoo.com/nfl/news;\_ylt=AgckNm5uWBqg2loAVjlBnVBDubYF?slug=crsmithsuit102710}$ 

"You can never foresee when an employee will act in an unauthorized manner"? That is contrary to the black letter law and the inherent responsibility an owner and a manager of a law office or sports representation firm must have. Agents must be PERSONALLY responsible of selecting, overseeing and managing ALL employees. Woy & Willis' agency has admitted an employee committed financial fraud- it was done by their director of scouting. I wonder if the employee had any other misdealings or provided incentives to players. How deep does it go?

This is an agency distancing itself from a rogue employee. I get that and do not intend to say a principal of the company was personally, directly or otherwise first-hand responsible. Yet, where does the Buck stop in Woy's office? Heck, they even hired a lawyer to send me a cease & desist letter to make sure proper blame is placed on Smith and not Woy. If Woy failed to manage or supervise Smith, he may have some culpability. It may not be because of the loan, but as a service provider to his clients. That service was jeopardized and clients were put in harm's way because of someone he delegated authority to.

An agent must always be tied in enough to his own business to know when the agent's clients are being defrauded. The client essentially hires the agent, not the agent's staff. Woy hired Smith and has a legal and fiduciary responsibility to manage and supervise what employees do to his clients. If my secretary, paralegal, or anyone else I hire takes out fake loans in my clients' names, misuses a firm credit card or advances (thus subjecting me to tax fraud) or brokers fraudulent deals for clients, I am on the hook... the BUCK STOPS HERE. On Woy's website, there is a boast about representing 40 athletes and desire to add 30 more in 2010? 78% of Players are bankrupt 2-3 years out of the league. Kudos for terminating Smith, but either an agent is part of the solution or part of the problem. I am not sure which Woy is, but it is my personal opinion that an agent MUST be held accountable for the actions of his/her employees. There is too much at stake. Again, I get you may have no legal liability this time, but in a world where an agent has to get a restraining order due to fear of client theft or financial or personal harm, there is some break-down of service to the client.

**Kenny Rogers** (2010) (Runner affiliated with Ian Greengross) – linked to Cam Newton issues. http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/05/sports/ncaafootball/05auburn.html? r=2&ref=sports

**Teague Egan** (2010) I am not exactly sure who Teague Egan is, but he is one of the latest buzz names around sports. My research revealed he is a NFLPA certified agent. His place of business is his mother and father's house, a multi-million dollar home in Ft. Lauderdale. His father was apparently listed as one of America's richest by Forbes magazine. **I'd love to know if he has any tie-ins or what his qualifications were to NOT to even have to have a college degree, much less a graduate degree.** He is apparently a college student at USC, according to official school records per ESPN. According to his bio, "Teague attended the University of Southern California, where he started 1st Round Enterprises becoming the

founder and chairman. Originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but now living in Los Angeles, the entertainment capital of the world, Teague befriended many athletes on the USC football team, as well as filmmakers around the city." **Already, I see a red flag / potential misrepresentation on whether he "attends" or "attended" USC.** Regardless, I see no degree, at all, mentioned.

According to ESPN, <u>Southern California</u> freshman tailback <u>Dillon Baxter</u> was ruled ineligible to compete for the Trojans because he rode in a golf cart on USC's campus. USC self-reported the infraction and also filed an official request with the NCAA for Baxter's reinstatement. There are also tons of photos of Egan with current USC Players or allegations he threw parties they attended.

Egan: "As an (sic) contract advisor, I have never ever given a player money, anything of monetary value, or extra benefit <u>not afforded to other students or my friends,"</u> Egan wrote in a statement to ESPNLosAngeles.com Saturday night. "We did not mean or intend to break any rules, and are truly sorry this instance got blown out of proportion." Remember, his site said, "Teague <u>befriended</u> many athletes on the USC football team, as well as filmmakers around the city." Is he trying to hide behind these Players being his friends? It doesn't matter under the law/rules.

"Obviously we take this very serious," Kiffin said Friday in a video released on the school's website. "We talked to Dillon and Dillon didn't know that [the student was an agent], but we turned it in to the NCAA and, in the meantime, he won't be going with us." This is interesting because the question is- is Baxter a friend or not? Either he is not a friend and didn't even know Egan was an agent or he was a friend and likely knew and lied about it. It is exactly why students should NEVER be certified. Further, it really doesn't matter as you will see in the Rules/Laws below.

Egan is just another in a world of hanger-ons who think they can be an agent because they are a huge sports fan, have people that can help with the contracts and/or simply have the connections to open the door. Wrong. That ship needs to sail. It is time for NFL "agents" to have real qualifications and experience. Otherwise, the voyage the "P" in NFLPA, the "Players," are on will continue to lead them to an island of economic ruin. That is not amusing to me.

**Jimmy Sexton** – A host of allegations have been posted about Jimmy Sexton, as well as suits against a financial company that owned his firm. This report entirely comes from <a href="http://www.sportsbybrooks.com/tag/morgan">http://www.sportsbybrooks.com/tag/morgan</a> keegan

"In 2002, Sexton was party to one of the highest-profile cases of a NCAA football star squandering his eligibility perhaps because of his relationship with an agent. On Jan. 25, 2002, the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported:

Receiver Donte Stallworth should have his eligibility reinstated, despite violating two NCAA rules after declaring himself available for the NFL draft for one day, Tennessee officials told the NCAA.

In a letter dated Jan. 16 and obtained by the Associated Press on Thursday, the university disclosed Stallworth received nearly \$1,300 in benefits from an agent after declaring himself available for the draft.

The NCAA has not yet responded to Tennessee's appeal. Stallworth, a junior, sent the NFL on

Jan. 10 a petition to make himself eligible for the draft early. He changed his mind the next day, and the NFL withdrew his name from the underclassmen draft list before the Jan. 11 deadline. By making himself available, Stallworth's eligibility was immediately revoked under NCAA bylaws even though his name was withdrawn. During those hours his petition remained in effect at the NFL office, Memphis agent Jimmy Sexton bought Stallworth \$13.60 in FedEx postage, a \$48.60 dinner for two, a \$6 ride to the airport, a one-day rental car for \$151.92 and a \$980 one-way airfare from California to Tennessee for his brother, the letter said.

Stallworth and the university maintained the player didn't sign a deal to make Sexton his agent and received all the benefits before the Jan. 11 draft deadline. Sexton did not immediately return calls seeking comment. His mother, Donna, a nurse in Sacramento, declined to comment when reached.

Stallworth's appeal to have his eligibility reinstated was subsequently denied by the NCAA, ending his career at Tennessee. Tennessee Coach Phil Fulmer said at the time, "It's discouraging to me that we have a young man who wants to come back to school and do the right thing. ... That he digged deep in his own pockets to make the reimbursement."

On Nov. 7, 2004, the MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL reported that Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton self-reported a SEC rule violation involving agent Sexton .

The SEC passed a rule in May stating that no sports agents are to be allowed on the playing field before, during or after a game. Hamilton said that before the Auburn game earlier this year, Sexton was seen crossing the back of an end zone with a Tennessee administrative staff member to get to the other side of the stadium where he owns a skybox.

Hamilton said. "Jimmy spent about five minutes on the field crossing it. The players were on the field warming up, but he had no contact with them. It was totally innocent."

Despite what appears to be significant client loss in recent years, Sexton still boasts an impressive list of pro athlete clients. But he's most known for <u>representing college and pro football coaches</u> like Nick Saban, Lane Kiffin, Frank Beamer, Houston Nutt, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Parcells, Rex Ryan and Tony Sparano.

If you ever wondered how Kiffin landed the Tennessee job out of nowhere, understand that the current USC coach's most important step in getting the Vols job was soliciting the services of Univ. of Tennessee grad Sexton. Despite his renown for repping the coaching ranks, Sexton told Memphis Business Quarterly magazine in 2007 that revenue from those relationships only represented about 15 percent of his firm's total yearly take. So why then has Sexton taken on so many high profile college coaches? Is it unreasonable to surmise that perhaps a direct line to a college football coach like Nick Saban might also provide an inside track to those currently populating that coach's roster?

Last week Sexton renamed his agency to "SportsTrust Advisors." Long known as "Athletic Resource Management," Sexton reported the name change as the result of a merger with **Pat Dye**, **Jr**.'s agency. Perhaps it's a coincidence that the rebranding of Sexton's agency comes as legal fallout from his former clients over failed investments appears to be reaching a crescendo. Or not."

(Many others listed in "notes" section attached)

# **Miscellaneous:**

Finally, worth noting was the notorious suit between Tom Condon and Lamont Smith, <a href="http://www.prosportsgroup.com/SportsAgentNews/Sep2003/News/condon.htm">http://www.prosportsgroup.com/SportsAgentNews/Sep2003/News/condon.htm</a>

Lawsuit: Agents cannot misrepresent facts about other agents according to NFLPA Regulations. Lamont Smith filed suit for defamation and contractual interference against Tom Condon and IMG. Lamont Smith stated in 2003, "He has basically stated to kids, repeatedly, that general managers have been reluctant to deal with me because of the interjection of race in negotiations, which is patently false. The apparent intent is to blackball. It leads a player to think you are not accepted in NFL circles, which could not be further from the truth." One of the defamation claims was dismissed because it was filed too late. One count of defamation claim was thrown out because the athlete did not directly hear Condon's alleged remarks. Another survived summary judgment. However, Smith lost not because Dunn was proven innocent of making the remarks, but because the introduction of past statements would unfairly prejudice Condon or were irrelevant to the case. So, Lamont Smith couldn't prove his civil case for damages? Did the NFLPA follow up, investigate and/or admonish Tom Condon? Not that we can tell.

Here are a few other names that have been subject to agent v. agent battles with NFLPA:

Bolar v. Raccuria
Burrough v. Barnes
Chandler v. Slough
IMG v. Uberstine
Mackler et. al. v. Overstreet et. al.
Mackler v. Brady
Nero v. Murtha
PAS-Roth v. Weinberg
Peek v. Harrison
Schaffer v. Rosenhaus
Shaw v. Steinberg
Spires, Gregory v. Rosenhaus, Drew & Jason
Streich v. Cindrich

#### **Independent Investigation:**

We audited which states reported registered agents and compared that to the first two rounds in the NFL as to whether those agents could have properly recruited those players. Nebraska just started registering and Oklahoma failed to provide the information, so 5 of the first 6 picks were not subject to scrutiny.

With regard to failed registrations, we didn't get past pick number 7, Joe Haden, whose agent is **Malik Shareef** (confirmed by the NFLPA's list), but neither Malik Shareef, nor **DSI Sports** are registered with the State of Florida. Under 468.454, "An agent contract between a student athlete and a person not licensed under this part is void and unenforceable." Additionally, under 468.4561, a "Violation of this section shall be a felony of the third degree." If Joe Haden was recruited in any way while at/in Florida, this means not only did Mr. Shareef apparently disregard the law, may be guilty of a felony, but his contract is void and Mr. Haden might be free to keep the fee.

<sup>23</sup> http://www.hackneypublications.com/sla/archive/000405.php

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> http://www.prosportsgroup.com/SportsAgentNews/Sep2003/News/condon.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> http://law.marquette.edu/cgi-bin/site.pl?2130&pageID=2826

Two spots later, **Gary Wichard**, whose name has and is still being tossed around related to the Marvin Austin investigation, is listed as signing C.J. Spiller from Clemson University. South Carolina's current list does not list Mr. Wichard, neither does North Carolina. C.J. was signed on 12/31/2009, a mere 4 days after his last game.

**Ben Dogra** and **Michael Lartigue** signed pick number 16, Georgia Tech's Derrick Morgan on January 12, 2010. Mr. Lartigue is not listed as ever licensed by Georgia and Mr. Dogra's registration expired in June of 2009.

Neither **Ryan Tollner**, nor **Bruce Tollner** appear to have been registered in Idaho and yet signed Mike Iupati.

And then there is **Alvin Keels**, who picked up Terrence Cody, a second round signee out of Alabama. During the applicable period, records indicate he was neither listed on the State of Alabama's registry database, nor approved through the University of Alabama.

Just a few FYI's from Florida's agent lists- **Richard Burnoski** is an agent IN FLORIDA, with a few Players from Florida, and yet has an expired agent license in FL. **John Rickert** and **Malik Shareef** (detailed above) never registered yet signed Florida Players.

As for Georgia's list, Cordero Howard of Georgia Tech signed with Mike Bauer, then Jordan Woy, then back to Bauer. Neither were registered in Georgia.

**Jordan Woy** signed Chris Chandler out of Clemson, not listed here in South Carolina http://www.scconsumer.gov/licensing/athletic\_agents/registered\_agents.pdf.

This is far from exhaustive, but was simple. States and the NFLPA can easily audit these lists and must. To do otherwise is sanctioning illegal behavior.

#### **Conclusion:**

Scouts agree: "Those runners and agents, they will have access to these kids," said one college scout. "They're everywhere. So it's got to be a multifaceted attack. It can't just be the NFL or the NFLPA or the colleges or the NCAA. It has to be everyone working together. And when someone gets caught, the agent needs to be suspended and the schools need to be sanctioned. That's the only chance you have." <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-25444226.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-25444226.html</a>

And we know the head of the NFLPA, De Smith's position: "It's a tremendous concern," Smith said. "We have a staff dedicated at the NFL Players Association whose job it is to not only look over the agents and what they're doing, but to respond to any instance where we feel that the rules have been violated. We have one serious issue under consideration right now. We're looking at facts where an agent may have had a runner who was posing as an NFLPA employee. That investigation is continuing. I can promise you that if the facts turn out the way that we think right now -- not only will we take action against the person who was falsely impersonating an NFLPA employee -- we will look to see what action we will take against the agent, and also consider whether there's any criminal violation. Then I'll make the appropriate referrals... I think that's an insidious problem. I think that any agent or contract advisor who does that and preys upon kids like that in college is something that we're going to deal with extremely aggressively."

# So, why does the expression where there is smoke there is fire somehow mean little to the States or NFLPA?

I had the following exchange with the Assistant Executive Director of the NFLPA (underlining added for emphasis):

#### Me:

I hope something being done about Wichard, Greengross & Rosenhaus employee claims. SMH.

## George:

"Do you have evidence you can provide to support accusations? <u>Can't punish someone based on press stories</u>."

#### Me:

I agree. The ? isn't if <u>I</u> have evidence. That's silly. <u>It is what the NFLPA is doing to investigate.</u> <u>If you want to hire me to be agent administrator, we can talk.</u> Ill pay my salary just in obvious fines. The PA has some obligation to look at the smoke to determine the cause of the fire.

# George:

just because we don't scream from the rooftops doesn't mean nothing is being done. <u>Public talk does nothing to advance effectiveness</u>... and it's not silly. Because a lack of evidence and information often prevents action... the bigger issue is what are you and other agents doing to help prepare clients for a lockout? Not an accusation just our reality

#### Me:

<u>Disagree some. Problem is largely risk v reward. Public reprimand is deterrence & informs Players like State Bars do... lock-out, head injury, agent issues all highly important. Agents must be CEOs, not law breakers. All linked.</u>

### We all MUST do MORE!

# BREAKTHROUGHSPORTSAGENCY

# **More Notes:**

These are raw notes and contain direct quotes from articles, are out of order and "messy"...

**David Caravantes**, a sports agent at the center of the controversy surrounding USC's Reggie Bush and his family's home used an attorney to try to force the running back to pay \$3.2 million after Bush decided not to sign with marketing company New Era Sports, according to ESPN. Sports agent David Caravantes of San Diego threatened to reveal embarrassing personal information about the Bush family if he didn't pay the money. Caravantes also attempted to evict the Bush family from the Spring Valley home they allegedly rented from Michael Michaels. He was reprimanded and fined \$10,000 by the NFLPA for his role in the ongoing saga involving Reggie Bush. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-9094017.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-9094017.html</a>

**Steve Endicott,** an unregistered sports agent, was arrested in Tallahassee for trying to sign several Florida State football players as clients, campus police said. Endicott was charged with

failing to register as a sports agent and appeared in court shortly after his arrest. He was sentenced to one year's probation and fined \$3,000 for court and investigative costs, the university said. http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-915132.html

Robert Walsh and Nate Cebrun, Sports agent Robert J. Walsh and his "middle-man," Nate Cebrun were arrested, on charges of providing \$2,500 in money orders to former Auburn basketball player Chris Porter. Walsh plead guilty and paid \$20,000 in restitution to Auburn and was banned from soliciting further players from the State of Alabama. Cebrun also plead guilty to reduced charges and paid \$7,500 in restitution to Auburn. Both were given one-year suspended jail sentences and ordered to serve two years' probation for the misdemeanor offenses. A Las Vegas sports agent pleaded guilty Monday to charges that he illegally paid former Auburn basketball player Chris Porter. Robert L. Walsh pleaded guilty in Lee County Circuit Court to conspiracy to interfere with or hinder business. The charge is a misdemeanor. Walsh was given a one-year suspended jail sentence and ordered to serve two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay Auburn \$20,000 restitution and to suspend his license with the National Basketball Association to do business as a sports agent. Circuit Judge Robert Harper also ordered Walsh not to contact any college or university athletes in Alabama regarding representing them as a sports agent.

Raymond Lee Savage Jr., and Jason Goggins, Raymond Lee Savage Jr., and Jason Goggins were arrested and charged in the State of Alabama. Goggins purportedly visited Tyrone Prothro in his hospital room shortly after Prothro suffered a severely broken left leg in a 2005 game against Florida. The Alabama attorney general's office contended that Savage sent Goggins to Prothro's hospital room. Prior thereto, the Alabama Athlete Agent Regulatory Commission denied Savage's application to work in Alabama. According to reports, Goggins' arrest was the eighth criminal case the state has pursued against sports agents. We couldn't find that many. Goggins was charged in a two-count indictment with failure to register as a sports agent in Alabama and contacting an athlete before registering. Savage was similarly charged. One was dismissed against Savage because of a flaw in filing of the charges.<sup>24</sup> It is unknown what the ultimate disposition of these charges were.

Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom present an interesting story. In 1988, both were accused of signing University of Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner before their college eligibility expired. Bloom didn't serve any time after he agreed to a plea agreement in which he agreed to testify against Walters. Charges in Alabama were dropped against Walters after he agreed to pay the University of Alabama more than \$200,000 in damages the university lost as a result of the basketball players being declared ineligible. Lloyd Bloom plead guilty to a misdemeanor and was sentenced to wash state troopers' cars for a week while staying at the Tuscaloosa hotel of his choice. He commented, "I'm very happy. When you have a six-year jail term hanging over your head and you get seven days at the Sheraton Capstone, you can't help but be very delighted." As a result of such activity, Bloom and Walters were vilified by rival agents, and banned from school's campuses, but they reveled in the controversy. After almost 2 years of investigation by the FBI, they were indicted on charges that include racketeering, mail fraud, and conspiracy to commit extortion in connection with the signing of 44 athletes to professional contracts before their college eligibility had expired. Lloyd Bloom commented: "It hurt us a

<sup>24</sup> http://www.prosportsgroup.com/Sports\_Agent\_News/Charge+against+sports+agent+cut

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1988-06-16/sports/0050010094 1 lloyd-bloom-tuscaloosa-capstone

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1067699/index.htm

little at first, but now we have no problem. Other agents are jealous of us. They are sleazeballs. Ex-jocks and accountants. They are meaningless to me. Gnats. I will not be defeated by small-time guys in polyester suits."<sup>27</sup>

**Sean Alfortish,** A judge has signed an arrest warrant for sports agent Sean Alfortish, who is accused of funneling money to former University of Florida players. The Florida Times-Union cited sources Tuesday as saying the state attorney had proof that Alfortish bought former Florida player Tim Beauchamp wheel rims valued at \$1,500. The sources also said Alfortish is accused ... The men were identified as Sean D. Alfortish and Bufford Jordan, both of Kenner, La. According to a police department news release, Jordan acted as a ``runner" who solicited business for Alfortish. Chief assistant state attorney Bill Cervone said the Louisiana-based agent has agreed to turn himself in to authorities in Gainesville within the next two weeks. Alfortish will be charged with violating Florida's agent law. Sean Alfortish pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor charge of attempting to conduct business in Florida without an agent's license. Circuit Judge Stan Morris ordered Alfortish to leave the state and placed him on unsupervised probation for one year. As part of the plea agreement, a felony charge of illegal agent activity was reduced to the misdemeanor, and Alfortish was ordered to reimburse the University Police Department the \$30,000 it spent on its investigation. Sean Alfortish and Michael Joseph. McDonald Further still, the University of Florida police also filed a felony count of unlicensed athletic agent activity against the ex-roommate of former football players Tim Beauchamp and Dock Pollard. Michael Joseph McDonald was accused of acting as a "runner" between the players and a Louisiana agent, Sean Alfortish.. McDonald was allegedly distributing money from the agent to the players. Beauchamp and Pollard were suspended for the Orange Bowl. 28 Ultimately. Alfortish plead guilty to a reduced misdemeanor charge. Alfortish gave cash and wheel rims valued at \$1,500. Alfortish was placed on probation for one year and ordered him to pay \$30,000 to University Police for the cost of the investigation.<sup>29</sup> He gave up his license without NFLPA charges. http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/keyword/unsupervised-probation/recent/2

Lance Lushnick, A grand jury has issued subpoenas in its investigation of a report that a relative of Alabama linebacker Keith McCants may have received money from agent Lance Luchnick, a state prosecutor said today.McCants, who gave up his final year of eligibility to make himself available for the NFL draft, signed Luchnick to negotiate his first professional contract. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of attempting to violate Alabama's sports-agent registration law and was fined \$5,000 in Mobile. Braxton Kittrell, a Mobile County circuit judge, suspended a six-month jail sentence as part of a plea bargain. Luchnick's lawyer, Mark Kolitz of Dallas, said that under the agreement, the \$5,000 fine would be given to five charities. Lance Luchnick, the agent for the linebacker Keith McCants, the top draft pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, yesterday pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of attempting to violate Alabama's sports-agent registration law and was fined \$5,000 in Mobile. Braxton Kittrell, a Mobile County circuit judge, suspended a six-month jail sentence as part of a plea bargain.

**Doug Andreaus,** A former student accused of working as an unregistered sports agent pleaded no contest to the charge in court Thursday as a wide-ranging investigation of Florida State University's football program neared an end. Doug Andreaus, 28, of Tallahassee was fined \$1,000 and placed on 18 months of probation for failing to register with the state's Department of Business and Professional Regulation.He is the first person prosecuted under Florida's six-year-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1987-06-20/sports/0130460232 1 lloyd-bloom-polyester-gnats

http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20350075.html

http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-26754180.html

old sports agent law. More arrests of unregistered agents are likely ear-ly next week, FSU Police Lt. Jack Handley said. http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/keyword/sports-agent

**Raul Bey,** the man who plunked down his American Express credit card to pay for a \$5,900 shopping spree for Florida State University football players, became the fifth person arrested in a probe into agent involvement at the school. Bey turned himself in to FSU police late Thursday. He was charged with failing to register as a sports agent and released. The third-degree felony carries a maximum five-year jail sentence and a \$5,000 fine. A court date is expected to be set Monday in Leon County Circuit Court.

**Meirley Lockhart,** Authorities have extradicted Meirley Lockhart, who avoided police and NCAA investigators for more than a year, from Atlanta. She was arrested last week for failing to register as a sports agent. She accompanied would-be agents Nate Cebrun and Raul Bey in their efforts to recruit Seminoles players. If she cooperates with investigators, Lockhart could help speed the conclusion to an NCAA investigation into the FSU football program.

Charles Taplin, University police arrested sports agent Charles Taplin, of Houston, earlier this month for attempting to contact student-athletes. LSU said notes and a cell phone gathered during Taplin's arrest, combined with interviews with several student-athletes, pointed to Gaines as assisting Taplin. <a href="http://www.fanblogs.com/lsu/006701.php">http://www.fanblogs.com/lsu/006701.php</a> LSU strength and conditioning coach, Travelle Gaines, has been arrested for violation of sports agent laws.

Andy Miller, a professional sports agent who figures prominently in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's investigation of the St. John's basketball program appears to have broken the law in two states by repeatedly contacting the prominent college players without registering as an agent in those states or alerting the athletes universities about the conversations. According to the New York Times, telephone records and diary entries belonging to Miller, show that he had numerous phone conversations with Mike Miller (no relation), the star guard for the University of Florida, who played in the Final Four. The records also show repeated calls to Tony Harris of the University of Tennessee. Both states have strict laws governing agents [click here for selected Florida statutes, including a requirement that they register with the state and that they notify the university when contacting an athlete. In Florida, violating these provisions can be considered a felony; in Tennessee, it is a misdemeanor. Miller is not registered in either state. Miller's phone records and diaries, which were reviewed by the Times, are evidence in a lawsuit filed against him by Eric Fleisher, Miller's former employer at Assist Sports Management. Fleisher accuses Miller of stealing his clients and is seeking \$30 million in compensatory and punitive damages from Miller; Wilhelmina Models Inc., with whom Miller is associated; two other businesses; and 10 former clients. Prosecutors in Gainesville, Fla., have reached a deferred prosecution agreement with a sports agent accused of making improper phone calls to former University of Florida forward Mike Miller. New Jersey-based agent Andy Miller, who is not related to Mike Miller, was charged with unlicensed agent activity for calling the Florida player 45 times over the span of a year. By terms of the agreement, the agent must pay \$1,500 in investigative costs and participate in a debriefing session with state investigators.

**Jeffrey Newport,** In 1996, Jeffrey Newport gave disability insurance and clothing to a running back at Texas Christian University. He was required to pay a \$16,500 fine to the state of Texas. The NFLPA suspended Newport's license for a year, which the article claimed was "the first time in this decade that the NFLPA has disciplined an agent for paying a college athlete." e state of

<sup>30</sup> http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-8375009.html

Texas fined a sports agent \$16,500 for funneling money to Texas Christian running back Andre Davis. The fine was part of a settlement between Jeffrey Newport and the Texas secretary of state Antonio Garza, who registers and regulates sports agents. Under a 1987 law, sports agents are required to register with the Texas Secretary of State. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-64653740.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-64653740.html</a> Suspends Sports Agent A sports agent whose activities compromised the college eligibility of Texas Christian University tailback Andre Davis last season has been fined \$16,500 by the state of Texas for violating the athlete-agent law. The fine is the largest levied against a sports agent by the secretary of state since the statute went into effect in 1987. The agent, Jeffrey Newport of Houston, was suspended from operating as a sports agent in Texas for two years. Newport, 40, was cited for buying a \$250,000 disability insurance policy for Davis the day after he finished his junior season at TCU in 1994. Newport also was cited for providing Davis with money and "other things of value," <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-4325921.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-4325921.html</a>

**Robert Caron,** purportedly gave benefits (gifts and favors including cash, free trips and pagers) to USC players, including tailback Shawn Walters, who was suspended from the team, along with Israel Ifeanyi and Erric Herrin. Caron subsequently was sued by the university and was ordered to pay \$50,000 in damages. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-84000163.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-8375009.html</a>

Temple University on Monday said it would forfeit the six games it won in 1986 with star running back Paul Palmer, who has admitted violating his eligibility by accepting payments from and signing a contract with a sports agent. The university also withdrew the athletic prizes and awards given to Palmer during that period, Temple President Peter J. Liacouras said in a statement released Monday night. Palmer, now a running back with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, admitted last week to accepting monthly payments and a \$5,000 loan from two sports agents who are now under federal investigation. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1N1-1085381CB2E15B58.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1N1-1085381CB2E15B58.html</a>

**Mel Levine,** Former Miami safety Bennie Blades said he and five teammates received money from sports agent Mel Levine, in violation of NCAA rules. In exchange for the payments, the players agreed to let Levine represent them when they turned professional. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1N1-1084EBD2C0C57474.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1N1-1084EBD2C0C57474.html</a> The University of Miami formally notified the NCAA on Monday of allegations that six former football players received thousands of dollars from a sports agent while they were with the Hurricanes in 1987. The allegations aren't likely to hurt the university because of a four-year NCAA statute of limitations on such violations.

**Jim Ferraro,** an agent who represents former Hurricanes now in the NFL and contributes \$10,000 a year to the university's athletic department, was charged with conspiracy to commit unlicensed athlete-agent activity. A Miami Hurricanes booster and sports agent has been charged with felony conspiracy for his role in a free limousine ride for three football players. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-83872628.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-83872628.html</a>

**Darryl Dennis,** The Alabama attorney general, said that the panel returned misdemeanor counts of tampering with a sports event, violating the deceptive practices act and commercial bribery. Siegelman said that prosecuting the case could be difficult because Abernethy lives in Georgia. Porter, who prosecutors have said is not a target of the investigation, did not attend the grand jury session. But the attorney general said that the state was seeking Porter's assistance in prosecuting the case. Abernethy could not be reached for comment. He said previously that the grand jury investigation "sounds like sour grapes from Auburn fans who wanted Porter in the Sugar Bowl."

Porter was declared ineligible for the Sugar Bowl game against Syracuse because of the rule that prohibits college athletes from dealing with agents. Abernethy said he believed he paid Porter about \$1,000 a month, plus bonuses. <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/1988/01/12/sports/sports-people-former-agent-indicted.html">http://www.nytimes.com/1988/01/12/sports/sports-people-former-agent-indicted.html</a> Langham was suspended for the final two games of his collegiate career for allegedly taking money from an agent. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-8275751.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-8275751.html</a> he signed a contract with sports agent Darryl Dennis after the 1993 Sugar Bowl. Alabama Athletic Director Hootie Ingram said the university declared Langham ineligible after receiving a letter Nov. 22 from Dennis, claiming to represent him. The Birmingham News reported Langham said he did not know what he was doing and had no intention of entering the NFL draft when he signed an agreement with Dennis during the early hours of Jan. 2. The signing reportedly occurred as Langham and Alabama teammates celebrated their Sugar Bowl victory at a nightclub and Dennis gave them complimentary drinks. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-977497.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-977497.html</a>

It was a year ago that a very somber Al Wilson stood before his University of Tennessee teammates and bared his soul. Wilson confessed he'd had illegal contact with a sports agent. He went on to explain he now realized he'd done more than violate an NCAA rule, he'd violated something more precious - his teammates' trust. Wilson finished speaking and buried his head in his hands. Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer broke the silence, announcing the NCAA had stripped the Volunteers of their 1997 Southeastern Conference title. With that, Fulmer instructed the stunned players in the auditorium to slip the championship rings from their fingers and pass them to the center aisle. <a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-64109752.html">http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-64109752.html</a>

