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### Ex-CSU football player allegedly masterminded fraud

By Deborah Frazier, Rocky Mountain News

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FORT COLLINS - A bank fraud scheme that resulted in the arrest of several Colorado State University football players this fall was masterminded by a former player, according to an affidavit that reveals new details in the case.

Eleven people have been charged. Prosecutors say illegally obtained debit cards were used to defraud banks of more than \$100,000.

The debit cards were used to get cash and make purchases in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico and Georgia between September 2005 and July 2006.

Larimer County District Attorney Larry Abrahamson filed felony theft, identity theft and fraud charges against three CSU players, two former players, a CSU student and a local resident in September.

A grand jury indicted three other suspects, including two former CSU football players, in October.

Football players Micah Lamar Crews, Adakole Brian Abata and Robert Bruce Herbert were suspended from the team after they were charged, CSU officials said.

Also charged were Tramell McGill and Daniel Aaron Foster, both former CSU players, Preston Louis Garcia, a CSU student, and Fort Collins resident Calee Jo Chleboun.

Abata, Herbert, Garcia, Chleboun and McGill pleaded guilty to lesser charges in return for their agreement to testify against others in the case.

A Larimer County grand jury indicted former CSU players Cleodis Enrique Floyd and Alphonso Ryan Williams and a friend of Floyd's, Mike Justice.

Although records tied to the grand jury indictments are sealed, a public affidavit from McGill's girlfriend, Michel Swanson, sheds some light on how investigators believe the case developed.

Floyd came up with a money-making scam and discussed it with Williams, McGill and a friend of Floyd's known as "Big Mike," Swanson said in the affidavit.

Swanson also said that Herbert was not present for the conversations and his name was never mentioned.

Floyd, who lives in Seattle, was indicted on 65 felony counts of theft, forgery and violations of Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act.

A hearing, where a plea bargain could be announced in his case, is scheduled for Jan. 5.

Williams, was indicted on 63 felony counts of theft, forgery and violation of Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act.

A hearing for a possible plea deal in Williams' case is set for Feb. 22.

Justice, indicted on 32 felony counts of theft, forgery and violations of Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act, is a fugitive with a warrant out for his arrest. He went to high school with Floyd in Washington state.

No one from Abrahamson's office would comment because of the grand jury case. Those charged in both cases have declined to comment. A CSU spokesman said Abata, Crews, Foster, Garcia and Herbert remain in school but face a disciplinary board hearing when their cases are settled.

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