



Department of Justice

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

Docket #: 06-cr-87-WBS

CONTACT: Lauren Horwood

PHONE: (916) 554-2706

lauren.horwood@usdoj.gov

YOUTH FOOTBALL COACH SENTENCED TO 7 ½ YEARS IN PRISON

Defendant Kept Crack Cocaine for Sale Inside Team's Equipment Bag

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that NAKIA LATEEF “KEITH” OWENS, 33, of Elk Grove, Calif., was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge William B. Shubb to 90 months, 7 ½ years in prison followed by five years of supervised release. OWENS pleaded guilty on January 7, 2008 to possession with intent to distribute at least 50 grams of cocaine base.

This case was investigated by the Sacramento Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne Pings, who prosecuted the case, on October 29, 2005, patrol officers of the Sacramento Police Department stopped a vehicle that was being operated with no license plates or visible registration tags. The driver was on both probation and parole. OWENS, who was in the passenger seat, was on formal searchable probation and also had an outstanding arrest warrant for other vehicle code violations. In addition, the officers smelled the odor of marijuana coming from inside the car.

Inside the car's trunk, they found a Sacramento Raiders youth football team equipment bag that contained a small amount of marijuana in a sock plus a youth-size football cleat shoe with 64.7 grams of crack cocaine inside it. The officers also found a binder that was marked, “Keith Owens Playbook.” OWENS told the officers that he was the coach of the Sacramento Raiders youth football team.

Judge Shubb, in sentencing the defendant, said that Mr. Owens had broken the hearts of the children he coached by turning out to be a “phony.” In imposing the sentence, the judge stated that children need to be protected from predatory drug dealers like the defendant.

###