



**U.S. Department of Justice**

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois

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**FLORIDA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD  
INVOLVING SCHEME TO SELL FAKE JERSEYS**

ROCKFORD — A St. Petersburg, Fla. man pleaded guilty today in Federal Court to mail fraud. **Bradley Wells**, 31, of St. Petersburg, Fla., was charged in an indictment on October 25, 2011, with mail fraud in a scheme between 2005 and 2009 to market and sell fraudulent sports memorabilia represented as “game used,” or worn in an actual game.

According to the written plea agreement, Wells, in the name of Authentic Sports, Inc., Historic Auctions, LLC, and in his own name, obtained hundreds of jerseys that were not game used and then had them altered in order to sell them for a higher price. Wells and other others had the jerseys altered to appear that they were game used, changing the shape of the jerseys and adding patches or other identifiable marks on the jerseys. Wells admitted he then sold the altered jerseys to sports trading companies falsely representing that the jerseys were game used.

Mail fraud carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, as well as restitution to the victims. The Court may also impose a fine totaling twice the loss to any victim or twice the gain to the defendant, whichever is greater. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines. The sentencing hearing for Wells is scheduled for December 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

The guilty plea was announced by Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and William C. Monroe, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael D. Love.

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