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News Release

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Federal jury convicts Bemidji man on conspiring to traffic counterfeit sportswear

Yesterday in federal court in Fergus Falls, a jury found a 39-year-old Bemidji shop owner guilty of trafficking counterfeit sports apparel. The jury convicted Christopher Walter Ashmore of one count of conspiring to traffic counterfeit sportswear. He was indicted on July 20, 2010.

Between February of 2009 and December of 2009, Ashmore conspired with others to traffic counterfeit sports apparel. He received the counterfeit goods from co-defendant Charles Freddie Thompson, age 40, of Long Prairie, intending to resell them to customers in his store, Homerun Sports, in Bemidji. On December 4, 2009, Ashmore possessed approximately 192 items of counterfeit sportswear in his store.

For his crime, Ashmore faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. United States District Court Judge John R. Tunheim will determine his sentence at a future date. Thompson pleaded guilty on July 28, 2010, to one count of conspiracy and awaits sentencing.

This case is the result of an investigation by Homeland Security–Investigations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey S. Paulsen.

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