

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

ILLEGAL SPORTS BOOKMAKER SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRING TO COMMIT SPORTS BRIBERY

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – April 11, 2013

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Paul Joseph Thweni was sentenced today by the Honorable Anthony J. Battaglia to serve 30 months in custody, followed by three years supervised release, for his role in a criminal conspiracy.

The indictment charged that Thweni and nine others enriched themselves by operating an illegal sports gambling business and by distributing marijuana. Using proceeds from those crimes, Thweni and his co-conspirators influenced the outcome of basketball games at the University of San Diego (USD) during the 2009-2010 season, and then attempted to recruit players to do the same during the 2010-2011 season. Thweni pleaded guilty to the indictment on August 2, 2012.

According to court documents and other admissions, Thweni and his co-conspirators bribed co-defendant Brandon Johnson to influence the outcome of basketball games during the 2009-2010 season while Johnson was a member of USD's basketball team. The co-conspirators then profited by placing bets at Las Vegas casinos on games Johnson influenced. Co-defendant Steve Gorla, who was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment in October 2012, admitted that the conspiracy made more than \$120,000 from the game-fixing scheme. Thweni previously admitted that during the 2010-2011 season, the co-conspirators attempted to recruit current college basketball players at USD and other schools to influence the outcome of basketball games in exchange for cash.

Judge Battaglia ordered the defendant to report on April 19, 2013 to begin serving his sentence.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 11CR1345-AJB

Paul Joseph Thweni

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1: Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 - Conspiracy

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Case Number: 11cr1345AJB: Convictions:

Steve Warda Gorla
Richard Francis Garmo
Thaddeus James Brown
Brandon Johnson
Richard Thweni
David Gates
Jake Salter