

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**FILED 00CR1060**

**FORGOTTEN**

**DEC 29 2000**

v.

MITCHELL SCHUMACHER

**DEC 28 2000**

MICHAEL W. BOBBINS  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

No.

Violation: Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE DENLOW**

**JUDGE GETTLEMAN**

The UNITED STATES ATTORNEY charges:

1. At times material to this information:
  - a. There existed throughout the United States a market for the purchase and sale of sports memorabilia. Sports memorabilia generally consisted of clothing and other items that were in some way associated with athletes. "Game worn" and "game used" sports memorabilia primarily consisted of sports memorabilia that was worn or used by athletes during official sporting events.
  - b. "Fraudulent sports memorabilia," as that term is used in this information, refers to items of sports memorabilia that were marketed as having been worn or used by professional athletes during sporting events but were not in fact worn or used by those athletes.
  - c. Defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER was a resident of Wisconsin and operated a sports memorabilia business in Brown Deer, Wisconsin by the name of "M.S. Auction."
2. Beginning in or about 1994, and continuing until in or about August 1999, at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and elsewhere,

MITCHELL SCHUMACHER,

defendant herein, along with others known and unknown, devised, intended to devise, and participated in a scheme and artifice to defraud purchasers of sports memorabilia, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, by creating and distributing throughout the United States large quantities of fraudulent sports memorabilia.

3. It was part of the scheme that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER, through the operation of M.S. Auction, sold items of fraudulent sports memorabilia to sports memorabilia dealers and to the general public by telephone, mail order, and from specific locations, as well as at sports memorabilia shows.

4. It was further part of the scheme that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER purchased numerous basketball jerseys from various sporting goods manufacturers and retail suppliers. These jerseys corresponded to specific professional basketball players and were of the type worn by those players in official games.

5. It was further part of the scheme that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER marketed many of the basketball jerseys as being game worn or game used, even though, as the defendant well knew, the corresponding players had not in fact worn or used the jerseys during official games or otherwise. Among the misrepresentations that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER made to prospective customers were false claims that he was able to obtain game worn and game

used jerseys because he had connections within the professional teams for which the corresponding athletes played.

6. It was further part of the scheme that as to many of the basketball jerseys, defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER obtained "certificates of authenticity" from a company ("Company A") that was engaged in the business of authenticating sports memorabilia. Company A knowingly issued certificates falsely authenticating jerseys as being game worn or game used.

7. It was further part of the scheme that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER held in the inventory of M.S. Auction numerous items of fraudulent sports memorabilia to be distributed through future sales.

8. It was further part of the scheme that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER sold large quantities of basketball jerseys and provided his customers with certificates of authenticity from Company A purporting to authenticate these jerseys as being game worn or game used, knowing that the jerseys had not been used or worn by the corresponding players. Defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER provided these certificates of authenticity in an effort to lull the customers into believing that the jerseys were in fact game worn or game used.

9. It was further part of the scheme that defendant MITCHELL SCHUMACHER misrepresented, concealed, and hid, and caused to be misrepresented, concealed, and hidden, the purposes of the acts done in furtherance of the scheme.

10. On or about August 6, 1999, at Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme, and attempting to do so,

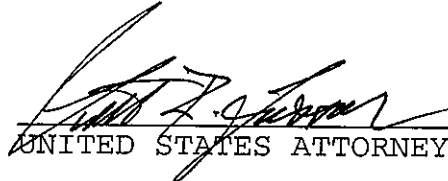
MITCHELL SCHUMACHER,

defendant herein, did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail according to the direction thereon an envelope addressed to:

James Formella  
4131 N. Austin Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60634,

which contained an auction catalogue that described fraudulent items of sports memorabilia that were available for purchase from M.S. Auction.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY