

Former ASU coach indicted

Written by Mike Kelly
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Travis Jones, a former assistant coach at Appalachian State University, is in trouble with the law.

Jones, who coached at ASU from 1998-2000 and is currently the assistant defensive line coach with the Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints, has entered a plea bargain agreement for his involvement concerning a real-estate scam in Texas. Jones changed his plea from non-guilty last week.

A sentencing date has not been announced, but Jones is hoping for probation. Jones, who was involved in the fraudulent financing of two properties, was indicted in March along with 40 other defendants on one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud.

Jones was also one of 14 accomplices who were "solicited by John Barry, convicted real estate swindler, to invest in real estate by using their credit to qualify for and obtain mortgage loans in exchange for payments," according to the indictment. Barry reportedly used networks of real estate agents, mortgage brokers and title company officials to defraud lenders on 114 properties in Texas, according to attorney Malcolm Bates, who outlined the case to reporters in March.

But Jones' involvement in the scam, according to federal officials, is minor. Jones has been a member of the Saints coaching staff since 2008. He played college football at the University of Georgia (1991-94) before he joined the Georgia coaching staff in 1997.

Following his three-year stint with the Mountaineers, Jones moved on to Kansas (2001-02), LSU (where he was the defensive line coach from 2003-04), and the Miami Dolphins (2005-07). His involvement with the case came when he was a member of the Dolphins coaching staff.