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**District of Kansas**

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**FORMER BARTON COUNTY TRACK COACH LANCE BRAUMAN**

**SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS AND A DAY IN FEDERAL PRISON**

*NEIL ELLIOTT, RYAN CROSS AND LYLES LASHLEY SENTENCED MONDAY, TOO*

**WICHITA, KAN.** – Former Barton County Community College track coach **Lance Brauman** was sentenced Monday to 12 months and a day in federal prison. A jury in July found Brauman guilty on one count of embezzlement from student assistance program funds, one count of theft from a program receiving federal funds and three counts of mail fraud.

Brauman, 36, was sentenced Monday during a hearing before U.S. District Judge Monti Belot in Wichita. In sentencing Brauman, Judge Belot said he was concerned about how the coach's unlawful activities affected his players.

"You were essentially teaching these kids that cheating was all right," Belot said to Brauman.

Belot also ordered Brauman to pay U.S. Department of Education up to \$18,986 in restitution. Brauman shares the obligation with one other defendant. After he completes his prison sentence, he will serve 3 years on supervised release.

Three other defendants charged in the same investigation also were sentenced Monday. Each of them was convicted of crimes that occurred while they were working in the athletic program at Barton.

**Ryan Cross**, 33, a former basketball coach, was sentenced to 4 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud.

**Neil Elliott**, 42, a former athletic director, was sentenced to 4 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud.

**Lyles Lashley**, 33, a former track coach, was sentenced to 3 years probation. He pleaded guilty to one count of theft from a program receiving federal funds. Lashley also ordered to pay the U.S. Department of Education up to \$18,986 in restitution. He shares the obligation with Brauman.

In addition to the defendants sentenced Monday, four other Barton coaches have been charged and convicted.

**Ryan Wolf**, a former basketball coach, pleaded guilty to four counts, including one count of embezzlement from student assistance funds, two counts of theft of federal funds and one count of mail fraud. He was sentenced to 3 years probation and ordered to pay more than \$120,000 in restitution.

**Shane Hawkins**, a former assistant basketball coach, pleaded guilty to one count of perjury. He was sentenced to 3 years probation and ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine.

**David Campbell**, a former basketball coach, pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement from a student assistance program. He was sentenced to 3 years probation and ordered to pay more than \$7,700 in restitution.

**Matt Skillman**, a former basketball coach, pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement of student assistance funds and one count of mail fraud. He

was sentenced to 2 years probation and ordered to pay a fine of more than \$26,000.

Melgren commended the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, which investigated the cases.