



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER KU FOOTBALL PLAYER SENTENCED ON COCAINE CHARGES AFTER CAUGHT AS A FUGITIVE PLAYING FOR PRO EUROPEAN TEAM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former University of Kansas football player was sentenced in federal court today after spending nearly three years as a fugitive from justice until he was arrested in Spain.

**Tywanne M. Aldridge**, 25, formerly of Lawrence, Kan., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 13 years and one month in federal prison without parole. The court enhanced **Aldridge's** sentence due to his flight.

**Aldridge** was convicted by a federal jury on Nov. 30, 2000, of attempting to possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams or more of cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

Following his four-day trial and jury conviction, the court released **Aldridge** until the date of his sentencing. In the interim, Graves said, **Aldridge** fled the country as a fugitive until he was arrested in late July 2003, in Spain, where he was playing professional football for a team called the Barcelona Dragons. After being arrested, **Aldridge** was transported back to the United States last week.

**Aldridge** was originally charged in a criminal complaint on Feb. 11, 2000, with attempting to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm. That criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 16, 2000, in Kansas City.

At that time, **Aldridge** was a defensive back for the University of Kansas football team. He was originally arrested attempting to purchase two kilograms of cocaine for \$17,500 per

kilogram from an undercover police officer on Feb. 9, 2000.

Co-defendant **Christopher McFarlane**, 40, of Lawrence, also was convicted for his involvement in the case. He too, was charged in the indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 16, 2000, but pleaded guilty.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregg R. Coonrod. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)