

Mob racket nets 600G from tennis great

By CHRISTOPHER
FRANCESCANI

Tennis ace Steffi Graf lost more than \$600,000 in just three months in a massive mob-run stock scheme that bilked investors out of \$50 million over four years, the Post has learned.

Jet linebacker Brian Cox was also scammed out of a substantial sum in the "pump-and-dump" operation, sources told The Post — but Cox's agent said it wasn't so.

The athletes were two of over 1,000 investors allegedly duped by 20 crooked brokers and mobsters in a scam that state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer called a "horror show."

Two defendants, Hunter Adams and Michael Reiter, were identified as Gambino family associates who "passed significant amounts" of the profits "up through the crime family," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Breen said yesterday.

Sources said Reiter is the son of Mark Reiter, a jailed former Gambino family capo who once worked for mob don John Gotti.

The suspects were rounded up in raids yesterday, and are awaiting arraignment in Brooklyn federal court on charges including securities fraud and money laundering, which carries a maximum 20-year prison term.

Joseph Tacopina, a lawyer for indicted broker James Bila, said he "vigorously refutes the gov-

ernment's version of events."

The brokers allegedly used a classic "pump-and-dump" scam in which the stock prices are artificially boosted through pressure and deception.

The brokers made millions selling at high prices, the feds said — and when the prices dropped, investors were left with worthless stock.

Graf was allegedly snookered by Howard Weinstein, a Long Is-

land-based broker who used to trade at Stratton Oakmont, the notorious mob-run boiler room shut down in the late 1990s.

Cliff Brady, Cox's agent and financial adviser, denied the Jet star lost money in the alleged scam.

"We haven't done really well as far as the stock market has gone lately, but I don't think anybody has," Brady said.

Both Weinstein and a lawyer for Reiter declined to comment.