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Jury deliberating in trial of ex-Angels player Doug DeCinces on insider trading charges



California Angels infielder Doug DeCinces is shown in this MArch 1987 photo. (AP Photo/Jeff Robbins)

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1 COMMENT

The fate of a former Angel star is in the hands of a jury, which will decide whether he committed insider trading in making more than \$1 million in investments related to a friend's medical-device company.

Jury deliberations began late Wednesday in the [federal trial of former Orioles and Angels third baseman Doug DeCinces](#), who, along with friend David Parker, is accused of wrongly profiting off non-public information allegedly provided by James Mazzo, a Laguna Beach neighbor of DeCinces who owned Advanced Medical Optics.

Federal prosecutors during the nearly two-month trial alleged that Mazzo improperly passed DeCinces private information about Advanced Medical Optics' efforts to purchase two smaller companies, as well as a merger with larger Abbott Laboratories. Prosecutors allege that DeCinces made about \$1.3 million from stock trading related to the Abbott deal, while also tipping off Parker and a half-dozen other friends and family members who made another \$1.3 million.

The Abbott merger came amid market turmoil in the wake of the Wall Street crash of 2008. Advanced Medical Optics was facing rising debt and falling revenue, its stock price having plummeted from more than \$30 a share to around \$5 or \$6. Abbott ultimately purchased AMO at around four times the stock price at which it was trading.

"Even though everyone else was losing, they won," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer L. Waier said of DeCinces and his friends in her closing arguments to the jury Tuesday, May 2. "They won big. They won because they knew tomorrow's news today."

Prosecutors provided a timeline of phone calls and meetings at social events between Mazzo and DeCinces followed by DeCinces stock purchase patterns that they allege lined up with milestones in the discussions between Advanced Medical Optics and Abbott.

The prosecutors also relied heavily in closing arguments on testimony from Joe Donohue, the owner of a physical therapy office that DeCinces went to for treatment. Donohue testified that DeCinces tipped him to buying AMO stock, telling him to "keep it between us."

Attorneys for DeCinces, Mazzo and Parker all denied the government's charges, telling jurors that prosecutors were relying on speculation and conjecture. They also attacked Donahue's testimony, claiming he changed his story after learning that he could face criminal charges.

DeCinces' attorney, Ken Julian, told jurors that his client was buying the stock on the advice of Richard Pickup, a veteran trader and friend of DeCinces, rather than on insider information from Mazzo.

"There is a chasm between the charges in his case and the evidence," Julian said Tuesday.

Mazzo's attorney, Richard Marmaro, told jurors that there was no evidence that his client and DeCinces discussed improper information about the AMO buyout.

"They saw a baseball player and they saw a CEO and they assumed guilt," Marmaro told jurors Wednesday. "They investigated, but they did so with blinders on."

Mazzo's peers consider him a "man of the highest character and integrity," Marmaro told jurors. Among those who testified on behalf of Mazzo's character was former Chapman President Jim Doti. Mazzo was elected vice chair of the Chapman Board of Trustees last year while awaiting trial, Marmaro said.

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