

 **Teen Pleads Guilty in Portillo Death**

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**SALT LAKE CITY** — Jose Domingo Teran has pleaded guilty in the death of soccer referee Ricardo Portillo.

Teran, 17, made the plea in an agreement with the prosecutor that kept the case in the juvenile court system. The prosecutors originally wanted to try Teran as an adult.

Teran was charged with homicide by assault, a third-degree felony. He punched Portillo after being charged with a foul and issued a yellow card in a game on April 27 in Taylorsville, Utah.

Portillo went to the hospital as a result of the punch, slipped into a coma and never regained consciousness, dying one week later.

As a result of the plea, Teran could remain in a juvenile prison until his 21st birthday. The juvenile parole board will determine if he gets out earlier, but Juvenile Judge Kimberly Hornak said she would recommend the maximum sentence.

Additionally, she ordered Teran to keep a photo of Portillo on the wall of his cell. Teran must also write a letter to Portillo's family once a week, updating them on what he has been doing to improve himself in prison and explain how he will make sure a similar crime never happens again.

At the plea hearing, Portillo's 21-year-old daughter, Ana, made a statement, looking directly at Teran, "We wished you had decided to take a deep breath before you did what you did. You messed up and took our dad away."

The plea deal was unexpected, but the prosecution offered to accept the plea in lieu of not arguing to remand the case to adult court. Teran took that offer and admitted his guilt.

He apologized for his actions to the Portillo family, saying he normally thought before he did something.

"I acted impulsively, childish," he said. "I learned a lesson."

**CONTRIBUTING SOURCE:** Salt Lake Tribune

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## Coach Admits Assaulting Little League Umpire

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A New Jersey Little League coach admitted attacking an umpire who wouldn't call a game because of darkness.

Henry Milstrey of Newark pleaded guilty in June to assault while a jury was deliberating his fate following a two-week trial.

Prosecutors say Milstrey, 46, called for help and approximately 16 men assaulted 51-year-old Robert Waters in 2011. Waters, who was president of the Newark Little League, suffered a concussion, a broken bone and lost a tooth during the attack.

Milstrey faced up to 10 years in prison if a jury had convicted him.

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## Little League Manager Assaults Teen Umpire

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Little League baseball manager Thomas Murphy, 43, of Berkeley Township, N.J., faces two counts of simple assault after he allegedly slapped a 17-year-old umpire who had ejected him from a recent game in Ocean County, N.J.

Witnesses reportedly told police they saw Murphy “strike the 17-year-old umpire with an open right hand to his right ear.” Authorities said the umpire did not require medical treatment after the incident.

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## Dutch Volunteer Soccer Official Dies After Teens Attack

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ALMERE, Netherlands — Volunteer soccer official Richard Nieuwenhuizen, 41, died a day after he was attacked by several members of an amateur under-17 soccer team following a Dec. 2, 2012, game.

The attack occurred at a game between a Buitenboys team and visiting Nieuw-Sloten, a club from Amsterdam. Nieuwenhuizen's son played for Buitenboys.

After the players started shaking hands with the three volunteer officials, Nieuwenhuizen, who served as an assistant referee for the game, was allegedly knocked to the ground, punched and kicked in the head by several Nieuw-Sloten team members.

When the attack was broken up, Nieuwenhuizen chose not to involve the police and went home to rest. He returned later in the afternoon to watch another Buitenboys team play. But he collapsed at the game and was taken to the hospital. He died the next day.

Dutch sports minister Edith Schippers said, "It is absolutely terrible that something like this can happen on a Dutch sports field."

On the day Nieuwenhuizen died, police arrested three unidentified teenagers, two aged 15 and another 16, from the Nieuw-Sloten team. Three days later another 16-year-old player was arrested. And on Dec. 11, three more teenagers, two aged 16 and one 17, were arrested along with a father of one of the players. All eight faced charges of manslaughter, assault and public violence.

The Dutch Football Association cancelled all amateur games for the weekend after Nieuwenhuizen's death out of respect for him.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said in a statement he was "deeply shocked" by the death. "Football is a mirror of society and, sadly, the same ills that afflict society — in this case violence — also manifest themselves in our game," he said. "Nevertheless, I remain convinced that football — through the example set by the tireless efforts of people like Mr. Nieuwenhuizen — is a force for good, and we must continue to use its positive example to educate people against these wrongs."

Contributing source: *The Guardian, The Huffington Post*

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 **Youth Coach 'Sucker-Punches' Referee**

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WEST PARK, Fla. — A youth football coach who “slipped through the cracks” of a background check is awaiting trial while out on bail after he was arrested and charged with assault in connection with an incident in which he attacked a youth official.

Dion Robinson, 43, an assistant coach, was caught on camera hitting referee Andrew Keigans, 41, during an Oct. 13, 2012, game in West Park (see [tinyurl.com/d3knk19](http://tinyurl.com/d3knk19)). The attack occurred after Keigans penalized the coach for unsportsmanlike conduct for making derogatory comments.

“As we were walking off the field and getting close to the exit of the field, that’s when the coach ran around to the side of me and sucker-punched me,” said Keigans, Miami Beach, Fla.

Keigans said he was “shocked” by the attack. He said he referees youth football, basketball, baseball and softball for a living. He’s been officiating for 14 years and has never been physically attacked before.

“I called a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct and then I noticed (West Park Saints) Coach Dion Robinson was coming at me and then I was punched in the face,” Keigans said. “He hit me in the ear and I was shocked. I weigh 318 pounds and for him to knock me on the ground, he got me really good.”

The remainder of West Park Saints’ games for the season, as well as other teams in the youth league, were suspended by the Miami-Dade Xtreme Youth Football League.

Robinson had previously been convicted of assault with a firearm, aggravated assault and cocaine distribution dating back to 1989. He is no longer allowed to coach in the city, said West Park Mayor Eric Jones.

Jones said the city did a background check on Robinson, along with other coaches. The only thing they found on Robinson was a minor charge from Miami-Dade County.

“Even though we don’t consider ourselves for being at fault, we’re going to revamp our program to make sure we cover all the bases and make sure that we do more extensive background checks,” Jones said.

Keigans’ attorney, Ernest Santos Jr., said he may file a lawsuit.

“My concern here is that the coach in this situation had a predisposition to violence,” Santos said.

CONTRIBUTING SOURCES: YAHOO! SPORTS, CBS4 MIAMI, SUNSENTINEL.COM

**Photo caption:** Andrew Keigans was hit by an assistant coach during a Florida youth football game. The attack was caught on video.

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 **Grandfather Punches Umpire at Game**

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A 55-year-old man, apparently upset over calls made by the umpire at a May 8 children's softball game in Mount Olive, Ala., was arrested after authorities say he bloodied the official's nose.

Darryl Keeton was charged with third-degree assault of a sports official, which is a Class C felony, said Jefferson County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Randy Christian.

Deputies were called to the Mount Olive ballpark just before 8 p.m. on a report of an assault. The victim, whose name hasn't been released, told deputies Keeton was upset with his calls, and had been complaining and yelling about them. Keeton was there to watch his granddaughter play.

The umpire told Keeton to be quiet or he would be ejected from the park. When the game ended and the umpire tried to leave the field, he said Keeton confronted him and punched him in the nose.

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 **Hockey Player Gets a Year for Referee Assault**

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A Winnipeg hockey player was sentenced May 1 to one year in jail for a savage attack on a referee that occurred during a recreational game and ended the victim's officiating career.

Lance Guimond, 25, pleaded guilty to assault causing bodily harm for the June 2011 incident at a suburban arena complex. He admits sucker-punching the referee from behind, knocking him out cold, then kicking the man in the helmet with his skate as he lay on the ice.

The referee, whose name was not released, suffered a concussion and has had to give up involvement in the sport he loved, the court was told. The man works full-time as an elementary school teacher and was supplementing his income by refereeing. Due to continued problems, including headaches, sensitivity to light and being at increased risk of further head injury, he is unable to return to officiating.

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 **Youth Coach Guilty in Umpire Attack**

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**HENDERSONVILLE, N.C.** — A former youth baseball coach was found guilty of simple assault Dec. 6, 2011, for attacking a 16-year-old umpire during a game in May 2011.

Samuel Cody, who was 37 at the time of the incident, was arrested after he struck a 16-year-old umpire during a game involving 11- and 12-year-olds boys ("Coach Charged With Umpire Assault," 8/11).

Cody was ordered to pay \$860 in restitution to the umpire for his medical bills for the conviction of the misdemeanor assault.

At the trial several witnesses, including the victim and the defendant, testified. Cody's attorney said his client acted in self-defense.

With the ruling, assistant district attorney Dustin Dow said it was clear the judge rejected that claim.

According to the original police press release, the incident "appears to have been the result of a coach arguing a call by an umpire during the game." The original argument was reportedly with a 20-year-old umpire. The assaulted umpire stepped in between the coach and the other umpire and was then struck.

Because of his age and the fact that he was a crime victim, the umpire was not identified.

Before the verdict, the league had suspended Cody from the league for the remainder of the season. There has been no announcement of further punishment after the guilty verdict.

**CONTRIBUTING SOURCE: ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**

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## Policeman Sees Official Assaulted, Makes Arrest

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**BRADFORD, Tenn.** — Message to sports fans with malice toward officials on their minds: If you're going to assault an official, don't do it when a police officer is standing next to the victim.

Bradford police cited Mark Hampton, 49, for an assault on referee Donny Joyner, 51, Milan, following a Dec. 6, 2011, game between Bradford and Trenton Peabody.

Joyner, a 20-year officiating veteran, said he was leaving the court after the game when Hampton approached him. "He said nothing," Joyner said, but Hampton "hit me with a forearm in the shoulder-side area." Hampton is a member of the Bradford Special School District Board of Education. Joyner teaches at Milan High School, but said he doesn't know Hampton.

It is routine for police to greet officials when they reach the exit to the gym, Joyner said. In addition to the escort's witnessing of the incident, the assault was captured by video surveillance cameras.

"I've worked some (NCAA) Division I games, but this is the first time I've ever been physically contacted," Joyner said.

Bradford Police Department said Hampton surrendered to authorities after being informed he was being charged.

Contributing source: *Jackson (Tenn.) Sun*

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## Police ID Suspect in Junior High Attack

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Police on the campus of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell have identified the suspect in an assault of a referee at a junior high basketball tournament on campus in December 2011.

Police say a spectator, who has turned himself in, was angry about a call and threw a water bottle at that referee. The fan was being removed from the gym. Later, the spectator, who was not named, allegedly punched the official when he saw him in the lobby, knocking him down. The referee was not seriously hurt.

Police have not determined if charges will be filed.

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## Player, Coaches Arrested After Fla. Referee Assault

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SARASOTA, Fla. — Four people were arrested and charged with battery on a sports official in the wake of an incident at an Aug. 27 youth football game in which the referee was tackled by a player, then kicked and pummeled by a mob of people. Assaulting a sports official is a felony under Florida state law, with a maximum punishment of four years in prison.

Referee Jayme Ream, 41, St. Petersburg, declined to press charges against those who attacked him. However, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office filed charges against the perpetrators with the help of home video that captured the incident. The video can be seen at [youtube.com/watch?v=TKtQOH7KFQw](http://youtube.com/watch?v=TKtQOH7KFQw).

Dexter Austin, 43; Timothy Howard, 38; Antonio Bradley, 28; and a 14-year-old player were charged. The four had ties to the Sarasota Gators, a team for 13- to 14-year-old players in the Mid-Florida Football and Cheerleading Conference (MFFCC). According to witness reports, the problem began late in the first half with the North Port Huskies leading the Gators, 30-6. A flag for a personal foul was thrown, sending Gators coaches into a rage.

"Standing on my sideline, at first I couldn't understand why they were so upset," said North Port Coach Mike Cody. "The flag had been thrown on our team. Maybe they thought it was against them."

When the Gator coaches came onto the field and approached Ream, he threw his hat to indicate another penalty had been called. That prompted Austin to throw an open water bottle at Ream. Authorities say Ream threw a punch that knocked down Austin. Ream's punch is not seen on the video. Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight absolved Ream of wrongdoing because he was legally defending himself.

In the video, Ream can be seen walking away from the coaches before they charged him. Initially Ream was able to remain upright, but the Gators player ran full steam into the referee, knocking him down. Once on the ground, Ream was kicked and hit. Bystanders attempted to break up the melee and Ream finally was able to crawl out of the pile. But Ream was again knocked down and the assault continued.

According to the sheriff's department, Ream's shoulder was fractured in the fracas.

Knight applauded those who helped break up the brawl. One coach who fell while trying to protect Ream was also kicked. Knight identified the attacker as Austin.

"I feel like our people did the best they could do in the situation they were put in," said Cody, who also praised those from the Gators who came to Ream's aid. The incident led Cody to arrange for uniformed police officers to be on hand at the Huskies' remaining games.

The Sarasota School District has since terminated its contract with the MFFCC and schools in the district will no longer grant permission for the league to use their fields for games.

A person who answered the phone at Ream's home said the referee would not comment. However, on Sept. 2, Ream conducted a press conference at his attorney's office. Ream issued a statement but did not take questions. "I have enjoyed being a ref for the past 14 years in the Tampa Bay area," he said. "I look forward to reffing more games and continuing for many years. Unfortunately, I believe this situation involves people that let their emotions overcome them. It is my hope that the many players and their families who were not involved in this behavior continue to enjoy the sport of football.

"Me and my attorney will fully cooperate with the investigation and allow them to decide the proper ramifications for the people involved," he continued. "Thanks for the kind words and support. ... I would also like to encourage all parents in youth sports to continue to show good sportsmanship."

**Photo caption:** Referee Jayme Ream (center) speaks at a press conference at his attorney's office after he was assaulted during a youth football game in Florida. Flanking Ream are (from left): attorney Frank DiCosola; Michelle Ream, the referee's wife; and attorney Louis Christopher.

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## Soccer Referee Punched During Match

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A 39-year-old soccer player in California was arrested Aug. 5 after he punched a referee who gave him a red card, police said.

Salvador Munoz-Barcena was playing soccer at Ramsay Park, Watsonville Police Lt. David McCartney said.

A 54-year-old male referee gave Munoz-Barcena a red card. Munoz-Barcena swore at the referee in Spanish and said he wanted to slug him. Munoz-Barcena then hit the referee in the face, causing a cut and a swollen eye, McCartney said.

Munoz-Barcena left the field and the referee reported the assault to police, McCartney said. Munoz-Barcena later returned and apologized.

Police arrested Munoz-Barcena on suspicion of battery to a sports official.

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 **Court Date Set in Md. Referee Assault**

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GLEN BURNIE, Md. — A court trial date has been set for a youth basketball coach accused of second degree assault on a referee during a game on June 5. Referee Kevin Murray filed charges after he was physically attacked by the coach and a bystander over a call in the 10-yearold boys' basketball game.

A Sept. 29 trial date in Glen Burnie District Court is scheduled for Rodney Hall Jr., 33, of Glen Burnie. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison, as well as a \$2,500 fine. Hall in late June was banned from coaching and received a five-year suspension from all Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks facilities.

In addition, a parent who joined in the Harundale Youth Sports League scuffle was banned for a minimum of two years from county recreation and parks facilities, said John Spinnenweber, chief of athletics for the county Department of Recreation and Parks.

Recreation and Parks Director Rick Anthony said the "deciding factor" in Hall's punishment was a previous suspension.

"We hold our coaches to a high standard," Anthony said.

Anthony would not discuss the previous offense other than to call it "egregious."

In his criminal complaint, Murray accused Hall of "pushing" him twice in the chest and "wrestling" with him on the ground after a disputed call.

While Murray was on the ground, a female bystander joined the scuffle, kicking the referee twice in the face, the complaint states.

Anthony confirmed that the bystander was the parent of a player on the Harundale team, but declined to identify her. No criminal complaint has been filed naming the woman.

In his criminal complaint, Murray admitted to grabbing Hall by the torso and wrestling with him on the ground. Based on accounts relayed by witnesses, Recreation and Parks remains confident that Murray acted appropriately, Spinnenweber said.

Murray received minor injuries in the scuffle, including a cut on his arm and a bruised temple. His eyeglasses were damaged.

Spinnenweber said the referee was able to officiate a number of games later that day.

CONTRIBUTING SOURCE: *THE MARYLAND GAZETTE*

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 **Coach Charged With Umpire Assault**

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FLETCHER, N.C. — An assistant coach for a Fletcher youth baseball team was charged with "assault on a sports official."

Samuel Cody, 37, was arrested and charged after he allegedly struck a 16-year-old umpire during a May 26 game involving 11- and 12-year-old boys. He was also ordered not to be in Fletcher Park, according to police. The court date is set for July 28.

North Carolina is among the 21 states that have specific legislation or statutes related to assaults of referee and umpires.

The police press release indicated the disturbance "appears to have been the result of a coach arguing a call made by an umpire during the game." The 16-year-old umpire, who was the other umpire on the game, reportedly stepped in between the arguing umpire and Cody to defuse the situation and was struck by the assistant coach. Prior to the alleged assault, the head coach for the team was ejected for arguing a call and left the park, but Cody continued the argument.

Chuck Johnson, an assistant coach on the opposing team, told the *Ashville Citizen-Times* what he saw.

"(Cody) hit him right in the head," Johnson said. "He hit one umpire and then tackled the other one. He hit the 16-year-old and tackled the 20-year-old (umpire)."

Fan witnesses from Cody's team claimed the umpire struck the assistant coach first.

The umpires were not identified. It was reported the umpires were brothers.

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 **Player Shoves Whistle Into Referee's Mouth**

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LOWER LAKE, Calif. — A JV basketball player was given a lifetime ban from high school sports for pushing basketball referee Tim Morin during a Jan. 28 game in Lower Lake.

Middletown High School sophomore Brandon Thomas, 16, shoved Morin, who is a veteran official from the Coastal Mountain Officials Association, twice with open palms late in the fourth quarter of the game, which Middletown won, 56-51. Thomas received a double technical foul and was ejected.

"There was a timeout and I turned my back to the court," Middletown Coach Anthony Bazzano told the *Lake County Record Bee*. "But you could hear the reaction (of the crowd) and evidently there was something going on behind me."

Once Bazzano realized Thomas had put his hands on Morin, the coach got Thomas off the court and into the locker room where he stayed until his father came to get him.

Morin could not be reached for comment.

In the aftermath of the game, Thomas was cut from his team, suspended from school and received the lifetime ban from all sports, in accordance with Section 211 of the California Interscholastic Federation North Coast Section (NCS) Constitution. Section 211 reads, "Any student who physically assaults the person of a game or event official shall be banned from interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's eligibility. A physical assault is the intentional infliction of or an attempt to inflict a harmful or offensive touching or contact upon the person of an official. Note that the rule is violated even if no contact is made with the person of an official."

Thomas can apply for reinstatement to the state executive director after 18 months from the date of the incident, which would be the summer before his senior year.

"It is possible to be reinstated, but it is not automatic," said NCS Commissioner Gil Lemmon. "He would have to show that he's been good at school and in the community. He might also be required to take an anger management class of some sort."

Lemmon said that lifetime bans don't happen very often.

"It happens very rarely," Lemmon said. "Maybe in the past 15 years, we've had five situations where we've had students physically assault an official — typically it's pushing an official and that constitutes assault. The school is then obligated to follow through with the penalty and there may be other penalties attached to that."

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## Siblings Plead Guilty of Assaulting Official

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A Letcher (Ky.) County man and his sister, accused of assaulting referee Michael Eldridge at an elementary school basketball game, pleaded guilty to lesser charges in February.

Billy Smith struck Eldridge in the head and arms repeatedly after the game last October. Smith and his sister, Nikki Sanders, were both arrested. Smith pleaded guilty to an amended charge of assault on a sports official. He was sentenced to six months in jail and given 18 months probation. Sanders pleaded guilty to an amended charge of menacing. She was sentenced to 45 days in jail and given 18 months probation.

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## Soccer Referee, 17, Attacked By Adult Player

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EDISON, N.J. — A 17-year-old soccer referee was attacked by an adult player during an unsanctioned game on Oct. 24, 2010, involving the Edison United Soccer Association (EUSA).

According to Sgt. Darrin Cerminaro from the Edison Police Department, Andres Diaz was not playing in the game at the time of the attack, but became upset when the official was going to impose a penalty against one of the players on his team.

Diaz, 34, ran across the field, tackled the referee and attacked him until Diaz was pulled off. He was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, which could be a felony depending on the extent of the injuries.

Diaz was held on \$5,000 bail at the time of his arrest. It is not known whether he posted bail or remains in jail.

The referee, who police cannot identify because he is a minor, was taken to the hospital after not responding well to tests at the scene. He suffered a bruise over his left eye, swelling and black-and-blue marks on his back.

The president of the EUSA, Douglas Weh, refused to make any comment about the incident when contacted by Referee. Weh told the Newark-based Star-Ledger that the league was formed within the last year as a way for adults to stay in shape and have fun while training young referees how to officiate games.

Weh said that he is letting lawyers handle the matter, but would not identify who those lawyers are.

Alan Brown, who is with the New Jersey Referees Association, has not had any report from that game filed with his office and does not know the identity of the referee or any details about the attack. If the game was sanctioned through U.S. Soccer, Brown said a report would have been filed immediately after the game by the referee.

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## Player Gets 10 Years for Assaulting Referee

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ROCHESTER, N.Y. — A former semipro football player was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his postgame attack of a referee.

Leon R. Woods, 23, Rochester, pleaded guilty June 25 to a felony of first-degree assault. Woods swung his helmet repeatedly to the face and head of referee Peter McCabe Jr., 54, Lakeville, N.Y., after an Oct. 24, 2009, game played under the auspices of the North American Football League (NAFL). Woods also was sentenced to five years of post-release supervision.

McCabe said he is pleased the ordeal is over but is disappointed in the sentence. "The judge was lenient," McCabe said. "The judge said it was just an isolated incident. If the district attorney hadn't gone off on the judge, the sentence would only have been five years."

Assistant District Attorney Brian DeCarolis said the attack on McCabe was brutal and unprovoked. "It was a blindsided hit," DeCarolis said. "He came up from behind Mr. McCabe and drilled him."

With the jury out of the courtroom, acting Monroe County Court Judge Melchor E. Castro listened to a recording of a phone call Woods made to his girlfriend while he was in jail after his arrest. The judge heard Woods say, "It's not even like I killed the guy, you know what I'm saying?"

Woods' attorney, Joseph Dinolfo, had two private conversations with his client after the recording was played. When court resumed, Dinolfo said Woods would enter a guilty plea, accepting a sentencing offer previously made by Castro.

"We felt it was in the best interests not only of Mr. Woods, but of his family and Mr. McCabe," Dinolfo said.

The attack occurred immediately after the Western New York Cougars had lost to the Utica Colonials. Robert Lockhart, one of the other four officials who worked the game, told police after the attack, "(Woods) ran up to McCabe and swung his helmet like a weapon. It was like a roundhouse punch. He hit (McCabe) right in the face."

McCabe suffered a fractured skull and underwent facial reconstructive surgery. He still hasn't recovered his sense of smell or taste.

"If it hadn't been for my crew, I'd have been killed," McCabe said. "The worst part was the reaction of the other players. No one would give up their cell phone so we could call for help. I'm just glad it's over with."

CONTRIBUTING SOURCE: ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT CHRONICLE

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## Coach Guilty of Lacrosse Referee Verbal Assault

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A man who verbally assaulted lacrosse referee John Laney, South Orange, N.J., pleaded guilty to a disorderly conduct charge in Nutley (N.J.) Municipal Court on June 16. Sam Vitellaro, 21, of Clifton, N.J., was fined \$150 and mandated that he show proof of passing an anger management course.

Vitellaro, a coach for an eighth-grade boys' lacrosse team, was ejected by Laney in an April 16 game midway through the third quarter in Nutley prior to his verbal assault. "After being ejected, he shouted: 'I'll get you in the parking lot, and I ain't (expletive) kidding!'" Laney said. "This was a night game, the third of three games, in the pouring rain, with poor lighting on the perimeter on the field. I did not realize that he was indeed waiting in the shadows of the field at the only gated exit. Vitellaro did not go to the parking lot and drive away until his assistant coach ran to him to convince him to leave. The assistant only took that action when he learned that the police were en route to the field."

Laney, a longtime high school and college lacrosse referee, filed charges the next day and Vitellaro agreed to a plea bargain.

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## Soccer Referee Stabbed by Heckler

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**SACRAMENTO, Calif. —** A soccer referee in the Sacramento, Calif., area was stabbed by a heckler after weeks of harassment.

Police said the incident may have been the result of nearly a month of pent-up road rage.

The referee of an unsanctioned soccer league in the Natomas area of Sacramento, whose identity has not been released, was apparently involved in a near-collision with another man in a parking lot following a game three weeks before the stabbing, according to the Sacramento Police Department.

Following the incident, the two men reportedly got into an argument. According to those reports, the assailant's anger built up over a week and he ended up on the sidelines of a game the next weekend, heckling the referee.

According to the police report, the man, who is known by the victim because he is a frequent spectator, stabbed the referee from behind in the ribs between games and then fled the scene.

The 33-year-old victim was taken to the hospital for his injuries and is recovering. Officers were able to identify the suspect, described as a male Hispanic, but not locate him. He is facing a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

"The anger must have built up," said police spokesman Sgt. Norm Leong. "That's a dangerous person, when you continue a feud over a couple weeks and it ends up in some kind of violence like it did."

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## Youth Coach Charged With Assaulting Referees

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FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — Jason Edward Adkins, a youth soccer coach from Spotsylvania, Va., was charged with two counts of assault and battery and destruction of property related to a May 4 game altercation he had with two young referees.

The incident occurred near the end of a parks and recreation game in Fredericksburg between 10- and 11-year-olds. Adkins, 34, is accused of coming onto the field and confronting 16-year-old referee Tyler Simpao and 20-year-old Trevor McConnell following the enforcement of a penalty.

Simpao, Stafford, Va., ejected Adkins after he entered the field, but the coach did not leave.

"He approached me and shoved me with both hands, then grabbed my shirt, twisting it with both hands," Simpao said. "I removed his hands from my shirt and he turned his attention to the other referee, who had come to assist."

"When I ran over to assist Tyler, (the coach) attacked me by pushing me and grabbing my face," said McConnell, Fredericksburg, Va. "He then ripped my glasses from my face and broke them. I yelled for one of the parents to call 911. At that point, parents were running on to the field and the coach walked off."

Adkins was arrested following the incident, placed in Rappahannock Regional Jail and later released after posting a \$1,000 bond.

"I appreciate the response of the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office," said McConnell, a grade 8 official with six years of experience. "I think the charges filed were deserved, given the extreme nature of this coach's behavior."

Kevin Brooks, the director of the Spotsylvania Parks and Recreation Department, which runs the league Adkins coached in, said the coach was suspended indefinitely. Brooks said the department would conduct its own investigation into the incident. And Spotsylvania now requires that two adult field marshals are present at each location hosting a game.

Simpao and McConnell have continued to referee after the incident.

"This has not deterred me from refereeing," Simpao said. "I have been a referee for about three years now and I have had to deal with many ill-behaved coaches, but never to this extent. It comes down to how you deal with the situation and our referee instructors have taught us how to handle these situations. I'm glad this didn't happen to a first-season referee."

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## Postgame Confrontation Results in Arrests

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The coach of a junior college women's basketball team and one of his players spent a night in jail after a confrontation with referees following a Feb. 10 game at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas.

Bill Damuth, coach of Trinity Valley Community College, of Athens, Texas, was charged with resisting arrest. Freshman Leshia Dunn was first charged with assault, but that was reduced to interfering with an arrest.

According to Blinn campus police, Damuth, who had received a technical foul during the game, followed the unidentified referees into a hallway after his team lost, 61- 55. A campus police officer stepped between Damuth and the officials. Damuth shouted profanities and was warned to stop. The report says Damuth then directed his anger at the officer, who arrested him. Dunn saw Damuth being handcuffed and allegedly grabbed the arm of another officer.

Dunn was suspended for one game before returning to the team. The school terminated Damuth.

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## Player Hits Official in Face With Helmet

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ROCHESTER, N.Y. — A football official who was struck in the face with a football helmet is recovering at home after having facial reconstruction surgery following the incident.

Pete McCabe, 54, of Lakeville, N.Y., has been a football official for roughly 25 years and is a member of the Rochester Chapter of Certified Football Officials (RCCFO), which assigned the officials to the game that preceded the incident.

The attack occurred immediately after the Western New York Cougars had lost to the Utica Colonials in a game played on Oct. 24, 2009, under the auspices of the North American Football League (NAFL). The NAFL comprises approximately 100 teams across the country.

During the game, two players from the Cougars were ejected, but the alleged attacker, Leon R. Woods, was not one of them.

Woods, 23, of Rochester, has been charged with first-degree assault, a felony, in connection with the attack on McCabe. Woods, a running back, is accused of intentionally swinging his helmet in the attack on McCabe.

Woods was held in the Monroe County jail on \$10,000 cash bail or \$30,000 bond, according to jail deputies. He was awaiting a preliminary trial date.

McCabe was hospitalized following the game and later had surgery to repair broken bones to his face and nose. His jaw was also wired shut in an attempt to heal a fractured jaw. In addition to severe lacerations, McCabe may have permanent loss of his sense of smell.

According to a statement given to police, Robert Lockhart, one of the other four officials who worked the game, "(Woods) ran up to McCabe and swung his helmet like a weapon," he said. "It was like a roundhouse punch. He hit (McCabe) right in the face."

Cougars president and CEO Jonathan S. Sharp Sr. said Woods has been banned from the team and the league. The Cougars are also under review by an NAFL committee. Officials from the NAFL could not be reached for comment.

"The surgery went much better than expected," said McCabe's wife, Pam. "He's doing well considering what he's been through. He's taking it one day a time. His injuries could have been much worse. He has a long road ahead and is truly grateful for all of the support he has received."

Asked whether or not McCabe would continue officiating, his wife declined to answer on his behalf.

.CONTRIBUTING SOURCES: SPORTSPLEX OPERATORS AND DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION, 13WHAM-TV, (ROCHESTER, N.Y.) DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

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