



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2016

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Felony Assault Investigation

PULLMAN – On July 23, 2016 at about 1.27 a.m., officers were dispatched to 450 NE Oak St., Pullman. Dispatchers advised of multiple callers reporting a physical dispute. An ambulance was also dispatched due to reports of an unconscious person and another person with their teeth kicked out. Upon arrival, officers found Jackson Raney, a 24-year-old Washington State University (WSU) student, on the ground unconscious and Alexander Rodriguez, a 22-year-old WSU student bleeding from his mouth. Witnesses reported to officers that fights broke out after someone threw a firework into a crowd in the back yard. They identified WSU football players as the instigators who left the scene prior to the arrival of the police. Jackson Raney and Alexander Rodriguez were transported to Pullman Regional Hospital for treatment.

Witnesses estimate there were approximately 80 to 100 people at the location when the disturbance occurred. Detectives were ultimately able to identify sixty-five (65) potential witnesses, interviewing sixty-one (61). The remaining four (4) identified witnesses either would not return calls to investigators, failed to show up for interview appointments, or could not be located. Of those interviewed, 22 are WSU football players. It was determined that some of the potential witnesses interviewed were not present at the time of the altercation, including some of the football players. Investigators obtained from witnesses two cell phone videos totaling approximately 19 seconds that partially captured the incident.

Investigation revealed that Alexander Rodriguez was allegedly punched in the head by Toso Fehoko, a 19-year-old WSU student and football player, and was knocked to the ground where Rodriguez was also struck by unknown subjects. Rodriguez suffered a broken jaw.

Jackson Raney was allegedly punched once in the head while standing and then punched a second time in the head while on the ground by Robert Barber, a 22-year-old WSU student and football player, knocking Raney unconscious and causing a concussion.

Dylan Rollins, a 19-year-old WSU student, was allegedly punched in the head by Dylan Axelson, an 18-year-old WSU student and football player, and by another unidentified male, suffering minor injuries. Based on statements and video evidence, investigators concluded that Axelson acted in self-defense. Therefore, no charges will be forwarded to the Whitman County Prosecuting Attorney against Axelson. Charges will be requested against Rollins for disorderly conduct for his role in provoking a physical altercation.

Pedro Diaz, a 19-year-old WSU student, was allegedly punched in the head by an unidentified male causing minor injuries. Joshua Whitfield, a 22-year-old WSU student, was allegedly struck

in the head by an unknown subject causing minor injuries. Investigators could not identify their assailants. Charges will be requested on Diaz for disorderly conduct for his role in provoking a physical altercation.

On September 16, 2016 at about 9:00 am, at the request of investigators, WSU football staff surrendered Fehoko and Barber at the Pullman Police Department to be arrested on charges of 2nd Degree Assault. Fehoko and Barber were booked and released. This is standard protocol for those arrested on felony charges when they live in the state, are not an immediate danger to the public, and are not a flight risk. The case will be forwarded next week to the Whitman County Prosecuting Attorney who will ultimately determine what criminal charges, if any, will be filed.

The WSU Football staff and others in WSU Athletics have been completely cooperative during this investigation, helping investigators coordinate interviews with football players and facilitating the investigation.

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