

Sports

Chris McCosky editor/644-1101

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Mother says Mann was sexually harassed during stay at Plymouth Canton

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Barbara Mann, mother of former Plymouth Canton student Rachel Mann, said Tuesday that the recent investigation of the Ann Arbor Pioneer girls cross country program, which ultimately led to the team's forfeiture of the state Class A championship, was the result of ill will toward Pioneer coach Bryan Westfield "among certain parties."

She said that her daughter, who was ruled athletically ineligible by the Ann Arbor school district, was deemed eligible by both Plymouth principal Milo White and assistant superintendent of schools Wiley Brownlee prior to the start of the cross country season.

She also said her daughter was subject to "sexual harassment" while at Canton.

Mann, who had initially refused to speak to the media, decided to release a statement Tuesday afternoon because "there were a lot of things happening behind the scenes and that the people of the Plymouth-Canton community have only heard one side of the story," she said.

Mann cleared the statement with her lawyer, Marian Fapel, before releasing it. The Manns have retained Fapel presumably to challenge the school district's ruling that Rachel Mann was ineligible. Barbara Mann would not comment on the legal issue, and Fapel couldn't be reached for comment.

"RACHEL MANN fled the Plymouth-Canton school district as a result of being subjected to what we believe was sexual harassment and intentional infliction of emotional and intellectual distress from a member of the Plymouth-Canton school district," said Barbara Mann.

Mann would not identify person nor say whether she was speaking about a student, teacher or coach.

George Pryzgodski, Rachel Mann's former coach at Plymouth Canton High School and the only person from the Canton district close to the situation available for comment late Tuesday night, said: "I don't know what she's talking about or who she's talking about." He refused to comment further on the charges until advised by the school's administration.

Mann said that Rachel and her father, Dustin Mann, moved in with friends in the Ann Arbor Pioneer school district last summer while waiting for their Canton home to be sold.

Barbara Mann said that she was told by members of the Ann Arbor school district to register Rachel at Pioneer. Rachel was granted an academic waiver to attend Pioneer, and her name was twice submitted to the school's athletic eligibility list. Both times, Pioneer officials ruled Rachel eligible, she said.

"Dr. Brownlee claimed he was at fault for not ruling Rachel ineligible at the time," Barbara Mann said.

She added that the school investigated Rachel's eligibility twice. Both times Rachel was ruled eligible. "After the two other attempts failed, they came up with that rule about living with only one family member. We believe that Rachel was eligible," she said.

THE MICHIGAN High School Athletic Association confirmed Pioneer's ruling that Rachel Mann was ineligible.

Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA said, "She (Rachel) did not move into the Ann Arbor Pioneer attendance area with persons she had been living with. She had a brief residence with one parent in the home of a friend in the Pioneer district. When they did establish a permanent residence in the Ann Arbor district, it was in the (Ann Arbor) Huron attendance area."

Barbara Mann said the repeated investigations were "an effort by certain parties to hurt Rachel and Bryan Westfield."

"Bryan Westfield would have never run Rachel in a meet if he thought there was any question of her being ineligible," Mann said.

She said that Rachel Mann ran for the Ann Arbor Track Club (which is coached by Westfield) for four weeks during the summer. She said that was the only contact Rachel had with Westfield before cross country season.

"This man (Westfield) does nothing for himself," Barbara Mann said. "Everything he does for the children. He is always for the underdog. He has used his own finances to help underprivileged kids have a chance. To see this kind of man get torn down is sad. He should be praised."

Barbara Mann concluded her statement by saying: "It is very sad when we take high school athletes and try to pawn off our miseries and mistakes on innocent children. You can take their trophy away, but Rachel and her teammates can hold their heads up high. They know what their accomplishments were, and you can't take that away from them."

Livonia hosts weightlifting trials

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

As meet director, Bud Charniga has a heavy assignment the weekend of May 2-3.

Through his efforts, Eddie Edgar Sports Arena in Livonia will be the site of the 1987 U.S. Pan American Games Weightlifting Trials, which will be held in conjunction with the U.S. Weightlifting Federation's national championships.

It will be the first weightlifting tournament ever held at Edgar, which has hosted such events as hockey, figure skating, boxing, wrestling, ethnic festivals, arts and crafts shows, and Spree concerts.

Former Olympic, Pan American and U.S. National team members will compete in 10 different weight classes, ranging from 52 kilograms (under 114 1/2 pounds) to 110 kilograms (242 pounds and up). They

will compete in two different weightlifting disciplines, the clean and jerk and snatch.

"To be honest, we got this meet almost by accident," said Charniga, former national weightlifting competitor. "The meet was originally awarded to Buffalo (N.Y.), but I found out at our last (Federation) meeting that they had dropped out, so I jumped at the opportunity."

THE MEET will decide the roster for the U.S. Weightlifting Team for two events: the 10th Pan Am Games, Aug. 7-23 in Indianapolis, and the 1987 U.S. Olympic Sports Festival, July 15-26 in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. In addition, the National Championships will serve as a qualifying event for the 1987 International Weightlifting Federation Championships.

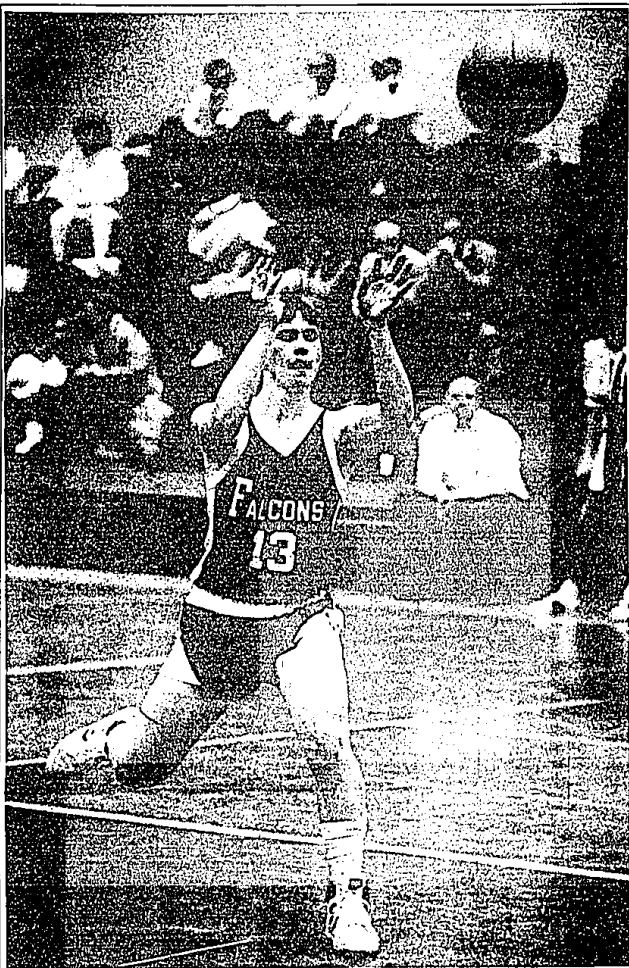
Charniga estimates 60 weightlifters will compete in the two-day event. The Holidome in Livonia will serve as meet headquarters. The event also ties in with Charniga's mail order business, Dynamic Fitness Equipment, which he runs out of his home.

"I sell Eiko barbell equipment which is made in Sweden," Charniga said. "Eiko is used at all the major weightlifting events — the Olympics, the World Championships and the Pan Am Games. That was part of the reason why I made a pitch to host it here. But it's just not the exposure. It's something I've always wanted to do."

CHARNIGA SAID the cost of renting Eddie Edgar Arena is \$1,000, a fee he hopes to offset by selling tickets. But there are several other projects the Livonian must complete before the competition starts.

"We're looking for a lumber company to donate wood," he said. "We need sponsors. We also have to have a scoreboard."

Those interested in donating their time or money can call Charniga, 425-2862.



Darin Megers flung in 10 points Tuesday night in Farmington's loss at Farmington Harrison.

The Falcons, despite being heavy underdogs, gave the Hawks a tough battle.

In full bloom Burgess sparks Hawk victory

By Bill Parker
staff writer

Mike Teachman was all smiles Tuesday night. Sure, he was happy his Farmington Harrison varsity basketball team just beat cross-town rival Farmington, 62-51. And he was probably elated with the fact that his team moved into a tie with Plymouth Canton — which lost in overtime to Plymouth Salem, 64-63 — for the Western Division lead of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

But even that wasn't the only reason for all the smiles. The main reason Teachman was grinning from ear to ear was because his flowering bud had finally blossomed.

We're talking about Chad Burgess.

The 6-foot-2 sophomore forward came off the bench to ignite his team with a game-high 23 points. He also hauled in seven rebounds and held Farmington's hot-shooting Steve Howell to 10 points through the final three quarters of the game.

"The key to our win tonight was Burgess," said Teachman. "He's going to be a real fine player if he already isn't one. We've been waiting for him to come along. He did a great job for us tonight. He led us offensively and he all but shut down Howell. He's going to be a good one alright."

TWICE IN the second quarter, after the Falcons had closed the gap to one, Burgess went to the charity stripe and calmly pumped in both ends of a pressure free throw set.

And with 31 seconds remaining in the half it was Burgess who connected on a three-point play to give his team a 30-26 lead. He finished the quarter with seven points including a 5-for-5 performance from the line.

With 51 seconds remaining in the third quarter and Harrison's lead reduced to two points, 40-42, it was Burgess who came down with a crucial defensive rebound. Seconds later Burgess made a beautiful inside move and filled the net to give his team a 44-40 advantage after three.

As if that wasn't enough heroics for one night, Burgess added 10 fourth-quarter points, while limiting Howell to two, as the Hawks rolled on to victory.

Another telling statistic of the game was Harrison's 14 of 17 performance from the free throw line. Farmington, on the other hand, was just one of two from the line.

"YOU HAVE to expect that sort of thing," said

Farmington coach Bob Kaump. "They were playing man-on-man and dumping the ball inside. They're going to draw the fouls. We were just hoping they'd miss some of them."

"Overall I was very pleased with the game. The kids played hard and did a good job of shooting from outside. We just needed to drive it a little better but it's tough to drive against their zone."

Overall the Falcons were 25 of 58 from the floor. Of those 25 baskets 17 were from long range. If there was a three-point shot in the Western Lakes the Falcons would have won by a rout.

Although the Hawks held the lead throughout most of the game, they never really put it away until midway through the fourth quarter.

HARRISON JUMPED out to a 15-6 lead in the first quarter only to have Howell dump in three straight from the corner to lead his team on an 8-2 run. The quarter ended with Harrison leading 17-14.

The Falcons battled back in the second quarter, led by Chris Cahill's six points off the bench. The lead exchanged hands four times in the stanza before the half ended with Harrison leading 32-26.

Farmington pulled to within two, 38-36, late in the third quarter. But with starting center Andy Bowden resting on the bench with his fourth foul, the Falcons were lucky to finish the quarter trailing by only four, 44-40.

A basket from the corner by Howell pulled Farmington within three, 48-45, early in the fourth quarter before Burgess and Brian Hoskins meshed in six points each in leading the winners on a 16-4 run.

Hoskins finished with 17 and Brad Ridgeway added 14 for the winners, 65, 54 in the WLA.

Howell dumped in 18 while Darin Megers chipped in 10 for Farmington, 1-10, 1-8 in the league.

N. FARMINGTON 60, NORTHVILLE 38: After a slew of closely contested games, North Farmington was more than happy to accept a cruiser Tuesday night.

Rick Karcher scored 24 to pace all scorers. Mark Taylor and Kurt Dudek scored 10 each.

North broke open a 28-24 game with a 16-6 run in the third quarter.

The Raiders are 4-5 in the Western Lakes, 5-6 on the season.

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