

EDUCATION

# North teacher fired

## Derek Walcott released after sexual contact with students

By Mickey Patterson  
Oldham Era sports editor

North Oldham High School basketball coach Derek Walcott has been fired for having sexual contact with two students, including one instance on school property.

Walcott, 27, was fired Feb. 23 after an investigation by the school system, the Oldham County Police Department and the Cabinet for Family and Children Services.

"After our own internal investigation it was pretty obvious what we needed to do," Superintendent Paul Upchurch said. "Once we know something like this can happen, there's not a whole lot of worrying about what to do."

Walcott will not be charged with a crime. Both students are 17 and admitted in interviews the acts were consensual. The age of consent in Kentucky is 16.

The investigation started when a North teacher heard rumors of Walcott being involved with students and reported it to the administration.



Walcott

"Information we have at this time was everything that occurred was consensual. There is no information to suggest that anyone was forced to do anything," Oldham County Police Detective Ted Spegal said.

Spegal said County Attorney John Fendley determined no charges would be filed because the acts were consensual.

Walcott admitted to all charges during his interview. Walcott did not return several phone calls from The Era.

According to the police report, one of the students had sexual contact with Walcott on three different occasions starting in November, once in the school parking lot behind North's gym, once in a car on the way to see a movie in Louisville and once in a car in a parking lot behind a convenience store on U.S. 42.

Intercourse occurred only in the last instance, according to the report.

Walcott also admitted to sexual contact with a student in his home, also in November, according to the report.

School officials initially said there was no contact on school grounds.

"That was minor compared to what we uncovered," Upchurch said. "I didn't see that report. The termination was based on our internal investigation."

Spegal said the investigation uncovered no use of alcohol or drugs, which could constitute a criminal charge.

Walcott, a former standout basketball and soccer athlete at South Oldham High School, was in his first year as the head coach of the Mustangs after serving as an assistant coach the past two seasons. He was also in his first year as a full-time teacher. He was the head soccer coach for two years, and earned small school Coach of the Year honors in 2004.

"It's very, very hard, a very tough issue for us," Upchurch said. "Anytime something like this happens it doesn't reflect well on us. I think people should understand this is highly unusual and I would hope, based on our record over the years, folks will not let this be a conflict. We have dealt with it and moved on."

E-mail us about this story at: [sports@oldhamera.com](mailto:sports@oldhamera.com).

Oldham, Kentucky

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006

# The Oldham Era

Volume 129, Issue No. 5, 28 p. 770

October