

Teen injured in shooting at Pennsylvania school

Student talked 14-year-old girl into dropping gun

By DAN LEWERENZ
Associated Press

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — A 14-year-old girl shot a female classmate yesterday in a parochial school cafeteria but dropped the gun at the urging of another student, authorities said.

A witness said the shooter fired at the floor and the bullet ricocheted and hit the victim.

"This is a situation of a student who was upset with another student," police officer David Ritter said. "This is not a random act of violence and as far as I understand there are no other targets for this violence."

The shooting happened around noon at Bishop Neumann Junior-Senior High, a Roman Catholic school.

Police said freshman Brent Paucke, 14, persuaded the girl to drop the gun. Brent said he ducked under a table when the girl came in screaming and fired two shots, but then recognized her from his school bus.

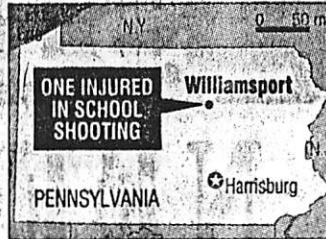
"She was saying, 'I don't want to live. I should just commit suicide right here.' And she pointed the gun at her head," Brent said. "I got up and started talking to her. I didn't want anyone to get hurt."

Brent said the girl pointed the gun at him, and his principal told him to back away. But he said he kept talking because he feared more people would be hurt.

"You could tell she was really mad and she looked like she was about to go off on everybody," Brent said. He said the girl eventually placed the gun on the floor and he kicked it away.

Andrew Miller, 16, said he was in the cafeteria when the girl came into the cafeteria.

"She told everyone to get down," he said. "She fired to-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

wards the ceiling, then fired into the ground, which ricocheted and hit the girl in the shoulder."

Kimberly Marchese, 13, was in stable condition at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, authorities said.

The suspect was in police custody within four minutes, Ritter said.

The girl in custody was being questioned and police said they did not yet know where she got the gun.

Authorities would not say if they planned to charge the girl as an adult, but said they would need to petition a court before they could do so.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Sholder consoled one of his daughters outside Bishop Neumann Junior-Senior High in Williamsport, Pa., yesterday. A student was hurt when another student fired a shot into the floor and the bullet ricocheted.