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COLLEGES; 911 Calls Lead the Police to Duke's Lacrosse Team

Published: March 30, 2006

Following is a timeline of the sexual-assault case roiling Duke University.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 -- The Duke lacrosse team, ranked third in the nation, defeated No. 20 Loyola, 9-7, in San Diego, improving its record to 5-1. Coach Mike Pressler said, "Now we look ahead to one of the most difficult weeks in Duke lacrosse history, with North Carolina next Saturday followed by a Tuesday game with Cornell and then Georgetown the following Saturday."

TUESDAY, MARCH 14 -- At 12:53 a.m., a woman called 911 to report that a man had shouted racial slurs at her and a friend as they walked by a house owned by Duke and rented by several players.

At 1:22 a.m., a security guard at a Kroger grocery called 911 to report that a woman outside the store had refused to get out of her car and that she appeared intoxicated. After the police arrived, she accused three lacrosse players, whom she identified by first names, of forcing her into a bathroom at the house and sexually assaulting her for 30 minutes. The woman said she and another woman had been hired to perform as exotic dancers for a party at the house.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 -- Duke begins looking into the incident less than 24 hours after it was reported, the university's president, Richard H. Brodhead, later said.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16: In an affidavit for a search warrant, Durham police investigator Benjamin W. Himan described the woman's account of rape, assault, kidnapping, robbery, strangulation and hate crimes. A magistrate approved the search warrant seeking DNA evidence, clothes, cameras, computers and other evidence in and around the house. After the search, three residents of the house, all lacrosse captains, were interviewed by the police and agreed to go to Duke University Medical Center to provide DNA samples.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 -- Duke defeated North Carolina, 11-8, at home.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21 -- Duke lost to third-ranked Cornell, 11-7, at home.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 -- A lawyer for some of the players canceled a planned meeting between players and investigators. The district attorney obtained a court order to compel DNA samples. The police reveal that in their search of the house, they seized four laptop computers, five cameras, a bath mat, a bath rug, five broken artificial fingernails, a bottle of K-Y jelly and cash.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 -- Forty-six members of the team reported to the Durham police crime lab to provide DNA samples and be photographed. Some were also interviewed.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 -- The players attended practice after a two-day break that the coach attributed to the emotional loss to Cornell. "All our focus is on trying to beat the Hoyas now," Pressler said of the Georgetown game.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25: As community members organized a protest at the lacrosse stadium, Athletic Director Joe Alleva announced the team would forfeit the game against Georgetown and a game Tuesday against Mount St. Mary's for violating policy with the party and underage drinking. Alleva said the team's roster would be removed from the

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university Web site.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 -- About 100 protesters banged pots and pans outside the house and about 60 marched to the home of the university's provost to call for more action to protect the community.

MONDAY, MARCH 27 -- The police searched a second home where lacrosse players live.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 -- Brodhead met with the captains of the team and he said they denied having sex with the dancer. Brodhead announced the suspension of the season until the case was resolved. The captains issued a statement saying that DNA results would "demonstrate that these allegations are absolutely false." Michael B. Nifong, the Durham County district attorney, said in a television interview, "I am convinced that there was a rape."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 -- Protesters taking part in a rally against sexual violence handed out fliers asking anyone with information about the incident to call the police. The lacrosse team resumed practice.