

Student gets probation for punching coach

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STAFF WRITER

A student at Gates Chili High School was sentenced to three years probation for assaulting the varsity team's head coach last year.

Davarcea J. Fort was facing a second-degree assault charge, a felony, for punching the coach inside the football locker room at Gates Chili High School last October. Authorities said Fort entered the locker room with three other male high school students and the four got into a verbal confrontation with some members of the football team.

Head coach Jason Benham was punched in the right eye by Fort during the incident. An order of protection was issued preventing Fort from having any contact with Benham until 2022. Fort told Monroe County Court Judge Victoria Argento that he no longer attends Gates Chili High School and is finishing his schooling elsewhere.

Fort was given juvenile offender status because he was 17 at the time of the crime. Argento granted the modification of Fort's 9 p.m. curfew for work at a restaurant, granted that he provides proof of work.

Fort's attorney, public defender Don Scalia, declined comment.

No charges were filed against the other three teens, who were all juveniles at the time.

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