

Jacobs pleads no contest to 2 misdemeanor charges

BY STEVE MEGARGEЕ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Green Bay Packers running back Josh Jacobs pleaded no contest Thursday to misdemeanor charges of battery and criminal damage to property stemming from a May altercation with his girlfriend during which she said he threw her to the ground.

Jacobs must pay a \$1,000 fine plus court costs for the battery charge. Under an agreement with prosecutors, the criminal damage charge can be dismissed in a year if he fulfills terms that include staying out of trouble, avoiding the victim in this case, submitting to supervision, completing counseling and paying restitution to the victim.

“I fully understand the seriousness of the situation, and I take full responsibility,” Jacobs said during an appearance in a Brown County court.

Jacobs was arrested May 26, three days after Hobart-Lawrence police officers came to his Wisconsin home to investigate a disturbance. According to police, the woman told them that Jacobs grabbed her and threw her to the ground as she was trying to exit a garage door, causing her to hit her head. Police said Jacobs also took her phone from her while she was on the ground.

Police said they noticed redness on her face and neck and could feel a bump on the back of her head.

According to a criminal complaint, the woman’s statement was corroborated by surveillance footage from the camera system in the garage where the incident occurred.

Jacobs was charged in late August and the NFL subsequently placed him on the commissioner’s exempt list, which prevents the three-time Pro Bowl running back from playing or practicing but allows him to



Green Bay Packers running back Josh Jacobs stands on the field before a NFL preseason football game against the Arizona Cardinals, Aug. 28, in Green Bay, Wis.

keep receiving a paycheck. Players on the commissioner’s exempt list may be allowed at team facilities for meetings, individual workouts, therapy and rehabilitation and other non-football activities.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said Thursday that the league is monitoring the case, which is being reviewed under the league personal conduct policy, and Jacobs remains on the exempt list. The Packers had no immediate comment.

Jacobs could face a league suspension.

David Chesnoff, one of the lawyers representing Jacobs, said the running back already has begun counseling.

“This plea reflects Josh’s acknowledgement of his actions and his acceptance of responsibility for these actions,” Chesnoff said. “There are significant consequences for Josh, and he intends to meet all the requirements the court imposes under these negotiations.”

According to the criminal complaint, Jacobs’ girlfriend told police she had been looking through Jacobs’ phone and saw he was talking to other women, and that she threw his phone in anger without breaking it. She told police that Jacobs had her phone and she told him he could look through it.

Police said the woman

indicated she tried to retrieve her phone from Jacobs, but he grabbed her arm. They left the home in separate vehicles but eventually returned, and the woman later grabbed a second phone from a duffle bag. That led to the events in which she was trying to exit a garage door.

Jacobs entered his plea three days before the Packers open the season at Minnesota.

He is coming off a 2025 season during which he rushed for 929 yards and 13 touchdowns. That followed a 2024 season in which he ran for 1,329 yards and 15 touchdowns while earning his third Pro Bowl selection.

Green Bay has no other running backs who rushed for more than 106 yards last season.

The only other running backs currently on Green Bay’s 53-man roster are MarShawn Lloyd, Chris Brooks and Kaleb Johnson. The Packers acquired Johnson from Pittsburgh the day that Jacobs was placed on the commissioner’s exempt list.

Lloyd is a 2024 third-round pick who has played just one game over the last two seasons due to a variety of injuries, but he is healthy now. Lloyd said Jacobs has offered him advice about this upcoming game by telling him to “just stay where your feet are” and to “just be yourself.”

Former 16th-ranked Michigan faces Oklahoma amid struggles

BY LARRY LAGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan’s football team has much bigger problems, including No. 11 Oklahoma, than a clock controversy.

The dramatic ending to the formerly 16th-ranked Wolverines’ 13-12 win over Western Michigan — with a disputed second on the clock that gave Bryce Underwood another chance to complete a Hail Mary — has been one of the most talked about topics in sports for nearly a week.

“That was a crazy game,” said Sooners linebacker Cole Sullivan, who transferred from Michigan after last season.

The conclusion and fallout from Michigan’s last game has overshadowed, to some degree, how poorly it played in all three phases during coach Kyle Whittingham’s debut with college football’s winningest program.

“We got plenty to fix,” Whittingham said.

And not a lot of time.

The Wolverines, who fell out of the AP Top 25, are 6 1/2-point underdogs on Saturday at home against the Sooners in a Big Ten-SEC matchup.

Underwood walked out of the locker room and down the tunnel for last week’s prime-time kickoff with a music and light show during his energetic entrance, slapping his helmet and pumping his right fist in a demonstrative display of emotion.

The closely watched quarterback, in his second season after being the nation’s No. 1 recruit, got off to a great start with his arm and legs on a game-opening touchdown drive.

Underwood struggled for the rest of the game — his game-winning, 47-yard touchdown throw notwithstanding — and was often seen expressionless and speaking to no one on the sideline.

“I just feel like we’ve got to come out and dominate and be aggressive — how we were the first drive — every single play,” Underwood said. “We can’t get down, our energy can’t get down.”

When asked earlier this week how firmly entrenched Underwood is as Michigan’s QB1, Whittingham said the sophomore has to improve to keep his job.

Underwood, who appears to be very active on social media, insisted later in the week that he was unaware of what Whittingham said about him.

“I didn’t see that,” Underwood insisted. “It’s cool.”

Underwood’s seat could get hotter if he doesn’t make better decisions and throw more accurately against the Sooners, especially if they shut down Michigan’s running game as the Broncos of the Mid-American Conference did last week. Michigan’s No. 2 quarterback is Tommy Carr, whose brother CJ is Notre Dame’s quarterback and grandfathers are in the College Football Hall of Fame.

Western Michigan was also in control on offense against the Wolverines. In the second half, the Broncos had a 20-play touchdown drive that took nearly a quarter off the clock and possessed the ball more than twice as long as the Wolverines did.

Special teams contributed to Michigan’s misery too, with Andrew Marsh losing a fumble on



Michigan’s wide receiver JJ Buchanan (6) makes the game-winning catch to win over Western Michigan with a last-second touchdown during an NCAA college football game in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, Sept. 5.

a punt return.

Making matters worse for Whittingham, his team was flagged nine times for 80 yards.

But the Wolverines’ tepid performance didn’t diminish Oklahoma coach Brent Venables’ view of them.

“We’ve put Michigan in

a great light like they deserve for a long time here for the last several months,” he said. “This isn’t the first week that we’ve been preparing and talking about Michigan and Georgia and Texas and many other teams that are on our schedule.”

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to KRS 241.066, KRS 241.067 and KRS 241.068, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control gives notice of the following vacancies in Hardin County:

a. One (1) Quota Retail Package Liquor Licenses

Applications for these quota vacancies will be accepted by the Department for a period of thirty (30) days following this announcement.

Scotty Tracy, Commissioner
Maggie Woods, Distilled Spirits Administrator
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
500 Mero Street, 2NE33
Frankfort, KY 40601

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given, that sealed bids will be received by the City of Vine Grove, Hardin County, Kentucky, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, for the construction of the following project: CREEKVALE DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Sealed bids may be delivered or forwarded by certified mail, until 3:00 p.m. local time on the 25th day of September, 2026 to the City of Vine Grove, 300 West Main Street, Vine Grove, KY 40175. Proposals received after such hour will be returned unopened. After the hour of 3:00 p.m. on September 25, 2026, the bids shall be opened and publicly read aloud. The place of opening shall be the City of Vine Grove, City Hall, 300 West Main Street, Vine Grove, KY 40175. All interested citizens are invited to attend. Should any citizens require special provisions, such as handicapped modifications or non-english translation personnel, the City of Vine Grove will provide such provisions as long as the request is made by September 18, 2026.

The project generally consists of the following: removal of existing bridge structure and abutments; construction of new bridge abutments; installation of provided concrete box beams and appurtenances; construction of concrete bridge deck; general clearing, excavation, earthwork and grading; installation of provided guardrail; maintenance of traffic for road closure; replacement and modification of roadway approaches; restoration and seeding.

Plans are available for public inspection at City Hall. Copies of the Plans and Specifications for the project may be obtained from Heritage Engineering LLC, at 642 South 4th Street, Suite 100, Louisville, KY 40202 or via email at tmarconi@heritageeng.com. There is no charge for PDF copies of the plans or specifications. Questions pertaining to the plans and specifications shall be directed to Mr. Tony Marconi, P.E. via email at tmarconi@heritageeng.com or (502) 562-1412, ext. 1226. All questions must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Thursday September 17, 2022. The work to be performed and the bid to be submitted shall include sufficient and proper sums for all general construction, mechanical installation, labor, materials, permits, licenses, insurance, and so forth incidental to and required for the construction of the facilities.

Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the title of the Project and the name and address of Bidder. All bids must be submitted on the bid forms as identified in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder’s bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate bid. The check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded the project, enter into a contract with the Owner upon notification to do so within ten (10) days of said notification.

Approved performance and payment bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and supplying of materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of the Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bonds will be in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make such combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in bidding. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for at least ninety (90) days.

A conditional or qualified Bid will not be accepted.

All bidders shall be certified for bridge construction with the Kentucky Department of Transportation. Each Bidder shall provide proof of certification with their bid.

Award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The lowest, responsive, responsible bidder must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise be excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally assisted programs under Executive Order 12549.

All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Specifications.

The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.

Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Plans and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with the provisions of the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The Bidders shall also comply with the requirements of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 entitled Construction Contractors - Affirmative Action Requirements.

CITY OF VINE GROVE

Former Michigan hockey players sue over alleged sexual abuse decades ago

BY ED WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — More than a dozen former hockey players are suing the University of Michigan, alleging their coach and other staff were aware of sexual hazing that included the forced shaving of their genitals and other abuse by teammates decades ago.

"The abuse was ritualized, meticulously planned, and sadistic. ... Enduring sexual abuse was required to be a member of the Michigan Men’s Ice Hockey team,” attorney Michael Pitt said in a sex discrimination lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court in Detroit.

The plaintiffs are 16 men who played at Michigan between 1984 and 2001. The lawsuit apparently grew out of conversations among several former teammates in 2024.

The university said the allegations are “disturbing,” but denies responsibility.

“To the extent any former student athlete engaged in hazing or other misconduct, they were violating university policy,” spokesperson Paul Corliss said in a written statement.

“The university first adopted an official anti-hazing policy in 1982. It was one of the first universities in the country to do so, and it has earned its standing as a leader in this area,” he said.

The 72-page document describes players being forced to consume excessive amounts of alcohol and eat live fish. A com-



Michigan hockey coach Red Berenson watches NCAA college hockey practice in Ann Arbor, Mich., Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

mon allegation: They were forced to have hair around their genitals shaved by teammates. A player identified as John Doe 7 said he was taunted with a blowtorch while on a table. The lawsuit says Red Berenson, who was coach from 1984 to 2017, was aware of the abuse and did not intervene.

John Doe 3 said he told Berenson that he didn’t want to participate in the hazing. The coach coerced him by telling him to be a “Michigan Man” and a “good teammate,” according to the lawsuit.

Berenson, 86, declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press. He told MLive.com there was a “certain element of initiation” by the team’s seniors, but no one had complained to him.

“Were there some mishaps? Were there some bad experiences? Possibly, but it wasn’t a matter of direction or

encouragement from the coaching staff or from the administration,” Berenson, a former NHL player, said.

"When they say sexual, I’m guessing they’re stretching this,” he said.

Berenson announced the end of “freshman hazing” in 2012, mostly referring to first-year players being forced to carry equipment and eat team meals last. He made no mention of physical abuse but acknowledged “captains that got too carried away,” according to news reports at the time.

The university could argue that the hockey players waited too long to file a lawsuit, a position it took in 2020 when former athletes sued over sexual misconduct committed decades earlier by a campus sports doctor. The university ultimately agreed to pay \$490 million to settle claims by more than 1,000 people.