

Investigation of four Blazers continues

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Prosecutors have broadened their investigation and narrowed the number of Portland Trail Blazer players they are looking at in a probe of allegations of sexual misconduct involving the NBA club.

Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday also said a third player has retained a local attorney as prosecutors near a decision on whether to file criminal charges in the case.

Investigators from the Salt Lake County attorney's office have expanded their investigation to interview a number of other juveniles who were at the Marriott Hotel when two 16-year-old girls claimed they had sex with several team members Jan. 23.

Meanwhile, the focus of the probe has apparently narrowed to four players, sources confirmed, with the actions of two being most scrutinized. One of the players hired a local attorney Monday, bringing to three the number of Portland players who have hired Salt Lake lawyers.

A source close to the investigation said prosecutors have been in touch with the lawyers, as well as with a team attorney. A decision on charges likely will come this week.

Attorney Ron Yengich, who represents one of the players, refused to say whether he had talked to prosecutors. The other lawyer, Ed Brass, was out of town Tuesday and unavailable for comment.

A third lawyer, Kevin Kurumada, said Tuesday he has not talked to prosecutors. Team attorney Walter Bugden would not comment.

Salt Lake County attorney David Yocom declined to comment Tuesday.

The source said there were a number of juveniles at the Marriott Hotel the night before Portland played the Utah Jazz, including several who may be able to corroborate portions of the girls' stories.

Most left after hotel security cleared the 12th floor, where the team was staying, but three girls — two 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old — returned.

The girls claimed they had met members of the team in a mall adjacent to the hotel the day before the game and were invited to come to the hotel that night for a party.

One of the 16-year-old girls claimed she had sex with "four or five" players and the other with three. The 15-year-old said she was present but didn't have sex.

Following a three-day investigation, Salt Lake police said the girls consented to the alleged sex acts and had lied to the players about their ages, saying they were 18. Police held a news conference Jan. 27 to say they were recommending no charges be filed.

However, the department on Friday acknowledged its news release was wrong. One of the girls had said she was 19, and the other two had said they were 17.

The focus of the probe has apparently narrowed to four players — with the actions of two being most scrutinized.

Age is important as prosecutors consider possible charges involving contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The police department's public announcement angered Yocom, who said it was his responsibility to review the case and determine whether a crime was committed.

Prosecutors also expressed concern that police may have brushed aside initial claims by one of the girls that she was frightened and intimidated into having sex.

The girls gave police the first names of seven people who participated in the alleged incident. Six correspond to members of the Portland roster.

Police have said there is little doubt some sexual activity occurred.

RIM RESULTS

Racquetball

Jan 14
Men's 1
Bill Miller def. Brian Enos
Jason Tomilson def. Matt Stockton

Men's 2
Josh Eubanks def. Marcus Mason
Mitch Easton def. Phi Psi B

Jan 19
Men's 1
Phi Psi A def. Kappa Sigma CR
Phi Psi A def. Jeff Hansen
Men's 2
Phi Psi def. Kappa Sigma
ATO Two def. Phi Psi B

Jan 26
Men's 1
Theta Chi def. Jason Tomlinson
Phi Psi A def. FIJI I
Men's 2
Gretchen M. See def. Chi Psi
ATO def. Josh Eubanks

Volleyball

Jan 27
Coed One
Zero Gravity def. Gamma Phi/Sigma Nu
The Mallards def. KKG/SAE
Coed 2
J-Guys def. Unknowns
Totankas def. Unknowns
Ka'u def. Gamma Phi/Sigma Nu
The Bumps def. Yellows
Up and Coming def. Thornton
Thunderbolts
Coed 3
The Goonies def. Hilo
Miyukennes def. APASU

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Melissa L. Carly S.
Chelsea S. Christina V.
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Amy D. Lesley P.
Launa D. Tracy P.
Darcy D. Whitney P.
Amy E. Christy S.
Nikki F. Kara T.
Marieke G. Carly V.
Tessa W.
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