

Former Tour champion arrested over alleged attack

■ Jan Ullrich is accused of attacking an escort

By Ciaran Fahey
The Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Former Tour de France champion Jan Ullrich was arrested early Friday and is in police custody for allegedly attacking an escort at a Frankfurt hotel.

Police spokesperson Carina Lerch said the retired German cyclist was arrested after police were called to the hotel. She said Ullrich was under the influence of drugs and alcohol and could be charged with “assault or attempted murder.”

“It seems Mr. Ullrich and an escort woman had a dispute and that he attacked her,” Lerch said. “She alerted the hotel staff and they called police. Mr. Ullrich is still in custody.”

A police statement said the woman needed medical treatment. Lerch said no further details could be given on her condition while police were investigating.

A news agency reported the 44-year-old Ullrich had been arrested the week before in Mallorca, where he lives, after an incident on the property of his neighbor, actor Til Schweiger.

On Monday, Ullrich had told German tabloid Bild of personal problems.

“The separation from Sara and distance from my children, whom I have not seen since Easter and have barely spoken to, have had a great effect on me. I have done things as a result that I very much regret,” Ullrich told the mass circulation daily.

Ullrich, the only German to win the Tour de France, was dogged by doping allegations over his career and admitted to German magazine Focus in 2013 that he received blood-doping treatment from Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes.

“Almost everyone took performance-enhancing substances then. I took nothing that the others didn’t also take,” the 1997 Tour champion said then.

Ullrich served a two-year ban for doping in 2012, five years after he retired in 2007.



Zoe AnDyke photo

AnDyke is shown teaching a disc golf class in Tillamook. She has taught at 19 schools in four states and worked with more than 3,300 students.

Sharing her gift with others

■ Zoe AnDyke is one of the top professional disc golfers in the nation and wants to teach the sport to all

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Zoe AnDyke has gained notoriety in the last few years for disc golf, and rightly so. After all, the La Grande native has become one of the top female professional disc golfers in the nation.

But before she was a touring pro — in fact, before she even picked up a disc — she was a teacher and a coach.

AnDyke has been able to blend those passions in the last couple of years into the nonprofit organization Universal Play Disc Golf, or UPlayDG, of which she is the executive director. The organization gained its nonprofit status a year ago today.

Before she was hurling discs for dough, AnDyke was a physical education teacher and activities coordinator for the Academy at Sisters, an at-risk youth boarding school. She also has extensive experience coaching swimming and volleyball.

It was a desire to get back to her teaching roots, and help those who are not active, that spurred the drive for UPlayDG.

“The question that remained was how to tie (together) my need to teach and professionalism in the world of pro disc golf,” AnDyke said. “I felt those things were lacking for me.”

She did free disc golf clinics on the road at tour events, as well as at corporate wellness and fundraising events.

But there was still an itch for more.

“I started checking into avenues to get myself into

“We’ve had great success with a large spectrum of special needs. Whether it’s the sound of the chains being gratifying, all the way to throwing something. Special needs had some positive outcomes.”

— Zoe AnDyke

schools just so I could start giving the gift of disc golf to kids,” she said.

She finally broke through in 2014 and brought her gift to a P.E. class at Lincoln Elementary in Corvallis.

AnDyke has since taught disc golf in 19 schools in Oregon, California, Hawaii and Vermont. She said in an email she has “been able to introduce disc golf and all of its amazing benefits to more than 3,300 different students, ages pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.”

“I would go into a school for a full week,” AnDyke said when describing the process in an interview with The Observer. “I would give schools the option for how long they wanted to book me. I would take over every P.E. class and see every student in whatever school I was in. It was really fun for the schools that took (the class).”

In 2015, she began talks with connections at Oregon Sports Authority and Intel on making her vision into a nonprofit.

“I got some great coaching back in 2015 and ’16,” she said.

The help came from recently retired OSA CEO Drew Mehalic and Intel’s Sam Oatley. Dustin Keegan,



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Zoe AnDyke, a La Grande native and professional disc golfer, is shown during last month’s Grande Ronde Open II. AnDyke is the executive director of Universal Play Disc Golf, or UPlayDG, which became a nonprofit organization a year ago today.

a fellow pro disc golfer and close friend of AnDyke, has also been instrumental in the process.

“He’s my support. (He handles) all schedule operations management,” she said. “From Day 1 he has always said, ‘Sure. I’ll do it.’”

But why disc golf? AnDyke described disc golf as an “accessible way to be a little happier and a little healthier. It’s for the old, the young, boy, girl, any culture. It’s a one-time cost (to buy discs), or you can just find discs. It’s a positive way to get people outside and active.”

AnDyke said the sport has also made waves with people with special needs.

“The really unique thing about disc golf is that it even works standing in a circle around a basket,” she said. “We’ve had great success with a large spectrum of special needs. Whether it’s the sound

of the chains being gratifying, all the way to throwing something. Special needs had some positive outcomes.”

The sport is indeed inexpensive. A three-disc starter costs \$16-\$20 online. Most courses are free to play on. Individuals can also purchase baskets to play at home, but even that isn’t necessary.

“You don’t even need a course,” AnDyke said. “When you understand the simplicity, anyone can play with their family and friends.”

She said she could counter any reason someone may not want to play the sport, and she has expanded teaching it beyond the classroom.

“It can be done indoors.

We teach in every season, every month that we can,” she said. “Summertime is the best time. We do camps. We do church events. One of the most fun ones I’ve done was a family reunion. All I can think of is all the possibilities.”

AnDyke is also writing curriculum for disc golf and is working with a publisher with the hope of further taking the sport into schools and giving other teachers the tools to teach it.

“I would imagine that it’ll evolve and spread through the curriculum, but I also see myself and Dustin doing instructor training (for the long term),” she said.

Seattle’s Hernandez bumped from rotation and into bullpen

By Kristie Rieken
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Seattle’s Felix Hernandez has lost his spot in the rotation in the wake of his latest terrible start in a season filled with struggles.

The right-hander, who threw a perfect game in 2012, will pitch out of the bullpen for the first time in his career. He’s having the worst season of his 14-year career as the Mariners chase their first playoff berth since 2001. Hernandez has a career-high 5.73 ERA this season and is 0-4 in his last five starts, capped by a clunker against the Rangers

on Tuesday when he allowed a career-high 11 runs — seven earned — on eight hits in six innings.

The six-time All-Star and 2010 AL Cy Young Award winner, who earned the nickname King Felix for his majestic presence on the mound, trotted from the dugout to the bullpen after the third inning Thursday night against Houston but did not pitch. Manager Scott Servais announced the decision postgame.

Servais said he spoke with Hernandez before the game and informed him of the decision. Hernandez has spent his

entire career with the Mariners, where all his 398 appearances have been as a starter.

“He’s done an unbelievable job as a Mariner,” Servais said. “And I certainly don’t take any of this lightly, but I just think trying to make the best decision for the ballclub and really the best decision for Felix at this point is just take a breath. Step back, gather yourself.”

Servais said the conversation was a difficult one.

“Certainly I respect him and everything he’s done here throughout his career, but these things happen and ultimately it’s about the team,” he

said. “It’s never easy but again hopefully he takes it the right way. He’ll get a chance to pitch at some point down there and maybe he can work his way back in the rotation. We’ll see. He’ll let us know on that.”

Hernandez declined to speak to reporters when approached after the game.

The 32-year-old right-hander is 168-124 with a 3.32 ERA in his career. But after posting an AL-leading and career-best 2.14 ERA in 2014, Hernandez has become increasingly less dominant each year, bottoming out this season by going 8-10 in 23 starts.

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