

her recollection of that night. “I said, ‘I know you have a daughter and you wouldn’t grill her the same way.’” *EW* has contacted ESPN for a response from the former coach.

If Bellotti, now a lauded ESPN analyst, was surprised by the allegations, he shouldn’t have been. One oft-cited study found that although male student athletes comprise only 3.3 percent of the collegiate population, they accounted for 19 percent of sexual-assault perpetrators.

Goodman says her best friend, a grad assistant for the team, was pressured about her allegations as well, leading her to fear he would lose his job if she kept pursuing the issue.

UO spokeswoman Julie Brown says, due to federal privacy laws, the university cannot comment on, or confirm or deny that an investigation took place.

EPD spokeswoman Melinda McLaughlin researched the incident based on names provided by *EW*. She says, “This investigation was reviewed by the DA’s office and due to a lack of evidence, the case was not filed for criminal prosecution. Based upon the investigation the case was closed and cleared as ‘unfounded.’”

At that time the district attorney was Doug Harclerod, and current Lane County DA Alex Gardner was a county prosecutor.

Goodman says she was told by the UO that another woman, the player’s roommate and also an athlete, claimed to be in the house at the time of the alleged assault and said she didn’t hear cries for help or Goodman saying no.

“What was the point of me screaming?” Goodman asks. “He was so much bigger and stronger than me. I needed to make sure I lived. Nobody knew he was giving me a ride home. He could have snapped and killed me, and nobody would have known — those are things that run through your mind.”

Goodman says, “As soon as I said I kissed him, as soon as I said he put a condom on,” people said it wasn’t rape. When she said she’d had an abortion, she was asked if she took DNA evidence from the fetus.

Peggy Whalen of Womenspace points out that the type of questions female rape victims are often asked would never get asked of a male robbery victim: “Do you normally go out drinking?”; “So what were you wearing?”; “Have you given money away in the past?”

Whalen says, “It’s absurd to hear those questions in that context, and that’s what we ask victims every day.”

Womenspace works to prevent intimate partner violence and support survivors, but, as Whalen points out, victim blaming crosses the spectrum from so-called date rape to domestic violence.

“I hate terms like date rape,” Whalen says, “because we don’t call it date murder or acquaintance murder; it’s a way of making [rape] less so and less big of deal.”

THE RED ZONE

Many UO students will tell you that such behavior — drunken group sex in a bathroom at a campus-area party — happens all the time. According to the “First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault,” “One in five women is sexually assaulted while in college. Most often, the assault happens her freshman or sophomore year.” The first several weeks of college are called “the red zone” because that is when a freshman is most likely to experience rape or attempted rape.

What called the recent UO rape investigation to the public’s attention was the fact that the allegations were made against three basketball players — and that officials quickly decided not to prosecute.

Lane County DA Alex Gardner elected not to press charges of forcible rape against Damyeon Dotson, 19, Dominic Artis, 18, and Brandon Austin, 19, citing among his reasons that the 18-year-old woman was not so drunk that she “appeared to have been affected to the point of perception or memory impairment.” In other words: She wasn’t drunk enough.

Robin Olafson, the Sexual Assault Examiner Program coordinator for the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force, says in the 12 years Olafson has been providing emergency room medical and forensic care to those who have been sexually assaulted, she has seen hundreds and hundreds of patients, “and I’ve only actually been subpoenaed five

times.” She adds, “If we measure our success based on prosecution rates it would be pretty depressing.”

Some women, Olafson says, go through the examination and never choose to file charges. Oregon keeps rape kits for six months, she notes, giving those who have been raped time to decide what they will do.

A look at the response to the recent victim’s report sheds light on why many women might choose not to pursue justice.

A report on the alleged rape was filed with the UO police on March 9, with the EPD being notified four days later. Although the UO knew that the investigation into the victim’s allegations was ongoing by the time the NCAA tournament began on March 18, it nevertheless allowed two of the basketball players under investigation to participate.

The school pulled the players from the team after several hundred students rallied on campus and the story made national headlines. Playing in the tournament netted basketball Coach Dana Altman a \$50,000 bonus, while Athletic Director Rob Mullens received \$25,000. Altman would have gotten thousands more had the Ducks made it further in the tournament — they lost to Wisconsin in the round of 32.

Sports are big business at the UO. The athletic department’s projected revenues and expenses for 2014 are each around \$93 million. UO’s focus on its sports began to rise in 1994 when it sent its football team to the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1958.

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In 1996, Nike founder Phil Knight and other donors began a push to support the sports program and soon the Nike swoosh became synonymous with the UO. The school even rebranded its O in 2001, the year Goodman says she was raped. That work continues — the UO announced June 6 that it has hired 160over90, the same firm Nike uses, for more rebranding.

Recent years have seen a \$90 million makeover of Autzen Stadium, construction of a Knight-funded \$41 million student-athlete tutoring center and a Knight-funded Football Performance Center — estimated at \$68 million or more — complete with Ferrari leather furniture, custom green PlayStation consoles and hydrotherapy pools. The UO spent \$35 million in 2013 on coaching salaries alone.

But it’s not just UO’s opulent facilities and athletic successes that make headlines; it’s also the problems its athletes have had with the law that have put the school in the limelight.

In 2010, football players Jeremiah Masoli and Garrett Embry pleaded guilty to stealing laptop computers and other items (Masoli was later kicked off the team after getting busted for pot); running back LaMichael James was arrested for domestic violence for allegedly choking his girlfriend; Duck placekicker Rob Beard was accused of brawling in a bar.

In 2011 an Oregon State Police officer pulled over a car going 118 mph. Football player Cliff Harris was at the wheel and quarterback Darron Thomas was one of the

passengers. When asked “Who’s got the marijuana in the car?” Harris famously responded, “We smoked it all.”

More recently, shortly after leaving the UO football program, Colt Lyerla, who now plays in the NFL for the Green Bay Packers, was arrested in October of last year for cocaine possession. Then, on Dec. 13, 2013, football player Troy Hill was arrested for menacing and felony counts of fourth-degree assault, including strangulation, after he had an argument with his girlfriend in his apartment. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of menacing in January, and according to GoDucks.com, remains on the team.

A criminal record doesn’t often stop a sports star from playing, nor does it stop him from entering professional sports. Within one year of the 2003 rape allegations against NBA player Kobe Bryant, he had a seven-year, \$136 million contract and regained his Nike sponsorship.

For women who allege rape, though, the stigma can last a lifetime.

Goodman sees a silver lining to the UO rape case. Although it might have taken some time for the story to come to light — and while the players did play for more than a month after the incident — at least, she says, this time a rape wasn’t swept under the rug.

Goodman didn’t cry when she talked about her own experience. She only choked up when asked what advice she would give the recent victim. “Life isn’t over,” Goodman says. “You’re courageous for coming forward.”

RAPE ON CAMPUS

Though it precedes the current UO rape scandal by more than a decade, Goodman’s story bears a number of similarities to it. Both women were reluctant to come forward; both women had been out drinking; both incidents involved athletes; and in both cases, the Lane County district attorney did not file charges and both reports led to victim blaming.

And though Goodman and the current victim found themselves subjected to vilification and accusations of false reporting, studies indicate that the vast majority of sexual assaults reported are factual. According to the National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women, false reports hover around 2 to 8 percent. The study points out that false rape statistics are sometimes skewed when a rape is deemed a false report because investigators believe the rape didn’t happen, not because the report was actually proven false.

According to BB Beltran, executive director of Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) in Eugene, one thing people can do to help those who have been assaulted is “support survivors and tell them that they believe them.”

On the surface, the university appears to be a bastion of rape prevention.

The UO has a number of professionals and volunteers trying to prevent sexual assaults and support survivors, from its Counseling Center to its Sexual Wellness Awareness Team (SWAT) and the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education division of Student Affairs. Two UO students, Samantha Stendal and Aaron Blanton, won a prestigious Peabody Award for an anti-rape PSA they created. Associate Dean of Students Sheryl Esyter says all students under 21 entering the university take an online education module that includes a section on sexual assault. There is also a required online module about sexual assault for faculty and staff.

In other ways, though, the university is failing rape victims miserably.

UO professor Jennifer Freyd co-authored the recent book *Blind to Betrayal* and has risen to national attention for her work on institutional betrayal. Freyd has been invited twice by the Obama administration to the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Months before the UO rape case made headlines, she says, she tried to bring the institution’s attention to problems with the way it was dealing with sexual assault.

Freyd’s background as a psychology researcher is in the area of memory. Her work has focused until recently on betrayal trauma theory. “Why is betrayal so toxic?” she asks.