

Coach accused of sex abuse

Simeon assistant assaulted students, prosecutors say

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Tribune reporters

An assistant coach at Simeon Career Academy high school was ordered held in lieu of \$300,000 bail after being accused of sexually assaulting and abusing several teenage girls.

Gerald Gaddy, 42, of the 8000 block of South Maryland Avenue, was charged with one count of aggravated sexual abuse of a victim age 13 to 17 in a position of authority, criminal sexual assault by

someone in authority and aggravated battery in a public place, police said.

The charges stem from at least two incidents, on Jan. 1 and June 25, that occurred in the 8100 block of South Vincennes Avenue, where the school is located, police said. Prosecutors said the victims in the incidents are three girls who are members of the team that Gaddy coaches.

Prosecutors said at bond court Wednesday afternoon that during the past school year, a 16-year-old student told school officials that Gaddy had fondled her buttocks and made comments about her figure. He then repeatedly asked the girl to become his

girlfriend, prosecutors said.

One of the victims, who was 17, said she had sex with Gaddy on his desk in his office, said prosecutors, who also said that victim had told others that she was dating an older man.

In June, a 15-year-old girl accused Gaddy of squeezing her buttocks, prosecutors said. They said the school launched an investigation into the abuse after the allegations were made.

Gaddy's public defender said he lives with his girlfriend and has an associate's degree in art.

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