



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
TODD SPITZER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 6, 2023

Kimberly Edds

Case #: 19HF0488

Director of Public Affairs

Office: 714-347-8405, Cell: 714-504-1917

media@da.ocgov.com

Former Girls' Basketball Coach Sentenced to 150 Years to Life for Sexually Assaulting Four Young Athletes

SANTA ANA, Calif. – A former girls' high school and club basketball coach was sentenced today to 150 years to life for sexually assaulting four young girls he coached. One girl testified that in addition to being sexually assaulted, the defendant had her run topless during private practices. Another testified that she was promised more playing time in exchange for engaging in sex acts. His victims ranged in age between 11 and 17 years old.

A jury found Carlos Francisco Juarez, 48, of Costa Mesa, guilty in July of 10 felony counts of lewd act upon a child under 14, seven felony counts of lewd act upon a child and two felony counts each of oral copulation of a minor under the age of 16 and sexual penetration by foreign object of a minor.

Juarez primarily coached for club basketball teams, including So Cal Swoosh and O.C. Mustangs, but also worked at Aliso Niguel, Costa Mesa, Mater Dei, and Tustin high schools. He is accused of coaching each of his four victims at some point between 2005 and 2010.

In 2005, one victim who was 11 years old at the time took private lessons from Juarez at a gym in Tustin where Juarez had the girl practice topless after he initially sought to have her remove all her clothes. He is also accused of sexually assaulting the girl after a practice and then giving her an envelope of money.

Juarez was convicted of sexually assaulting three more of his young players, including moving into the home of a 13-year-old girl where he continued to engage in repeated sexual abuse. The abuse continued for more than four years.

Juarez was convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl he was also coaching during private basketball lessons in 2008, and forcing a 13-year-old basketball player to perform a sex act on him in exchange for the promise of becoming a starter.

“This coach was in a position of trust and authority over these young girls and he took advantage of them. Youth sports should be a safe environment where neither parents nor athletes should have to worry about children being targeted by a sexual predator,” said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. “As a result of the bravery of these young victims to speak out, another child molester is behind bars for the rest of his life and will no longer be allowed to prey on innocent children.”

Deputy District Attorney Raquel Cooper of the Sexual Assault Unit prosecuted this case.

###