



By Associated Press

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Jury in ex-Penn State assistant Sandusky's sex abuse trial could get case Thursday, judge says

BELLEFONTE, Pa. - Friends and excolleagues of Jerry Sandusky testified today on behalf of the former Penn State assistant football coach as his defense sought to counter prosecution witnesses' claims that he sexually abused boys in the shower on Penn State's campus. The testimony came on what was a truncated day in a trial that has moved at a brisk pace since testimony began last week. Judge John Cleland told jurors that the defense could rest its case by Wednesday, which would mean closing arguments could come Thursday morning. "This is all very tentative, you understand," he told the 12 jurors and four alternates, adding that since they will be sequestered in a hotel while they deliberate they should "pack appropriately." It was still unclear how Sandusky's defense team, led by attorney Joe Amendola, would proceed on Tuesday. After the proceedings ended for the day, when asked if he would testify on his own behalf, Sandusky looked an Associated Press reporter in the eye and said nothing.

Cleland told jurors of the possible timeline after three defense witnesses testified that Sandusky was an admired local figure because of his ties to Penn State and the outreach of The Second Mile, the charity for at-risk youth that the defendant founded in 1977.

Former Penn State assistant coach Dick Anderson, who worked with Sandusky for several years, testified that he and other members of the football staff were present when Sandusky brought young boys into the team's showers. He said he never witnessed anything inappropriate.

"If Jerry would bring someone in with The Second Mile, they had been working out, for whatever reason they came in, it was not uncommon ... with the other coaches in the shower as well," Anderson said.

Anderson, who coached at Penn State from 1970 to 1983 and again from 1990 to 2011, said adults and children often shower together at gyms. He noted, for example, that it's not unusual for him to be in the showers with boys at the YMCA. Anderson took the stand after prosecutors presented their 21st, and final, witness, a woman whose son said Sandusky raped him in the basement of the coach's home.

The woman said her son, labeled Victim 9 in court records, told her that Sandusky called him late one night after the first round of charges were filed in November, asking if he'd be a character witness. But the next month, prosecutors brought charges against Sandusky, alleging he'd had forced anal sex with the boy. The woman said her son's laundry would often be short of underwear and he would claim he had thrown it away because he had an accident. Last week, the teen said Sandusky forced him to have anal sex that made him bleed.

"I always wondered why he never had any underwear in the laundry," she said. "There was never any underwear, any socks ... that was odd to me:" Also Monday, prosecutors withdrew one count against Sandusky, saying the statute he was charged under did not apply at the time of the alleged illegal contact.

That leaves 51 counts involving 10 alleged victims over a 15-year span. Sandusky, whose November arrest led to the ouster of Penn State's president and the firing of Hall of Fame football coach Joe Paterno, has denied wrongdoing.

During his testimony, Anderson said Sandusky had a "wonderful reputation" in the community. "He was well thought of in every regard," Anderson said. He also testified about the busy schedule Penn State coaches kept.

Another former Penn State coach, Booker Brooks, took the stand to vouch for Sandusky's character, as did a State College area political consultant, Brent Pasquinelli, who raised money for The Second Mile. Brooks said Sandusky's reputation was "exemplary, top-notch," while Pasquinelli called Sandusky "a local hero." Besides Anderson, Brooks and Pasquinelli, three other witnesses testified for the defense Monday: a woman who ran a golf-related charity that one accuser was recommended for by Sandusky, a young man who knew Sandusky through The Second Mile and vouched for his reputation, and a schoolteacher who said Sandusky seemed genuinely interested in helping one of the alleged victims

in the case. Each was on the stand for no more than 10 minutes.

A number of potential witnesses could still testify. Along with Sandusky himself, they include his wife, Dottie; an expert who could discuss whether Sandusky has "histrionic personality disorder," as his lawyers have said in court papers; and a physician who spoke with key prosecution witness Mike McQueary the day he allegedly saw Sandusky attack a child in the shower in 2001.

The defense list of potential witnesses also included members of Paterno's family, but it was unclear how they might fit into the defense case or whether they will be called. **Tom Kline, a Philadelphia lawyer who represents one of the accusers, said he was served a defense subpoena on Monday, ordering him to produce a copy of the fee agreement he has made with Victim 5, along with copies of his interactions with reporters.** Lawyers involved in the criminal case are barred from speaking in detail about the case under a gag order imposed by Cleland. In their questions to prosecution witnesses, the defense has sought to show how the stories of accusers have changed over time, that they were prodded and coached by investigators and prosecutors, that some are motivated to lie by the hopes of a civil lawsuit jackpot, and to paint Sandusky's interactions with children as misunderstood and part of a lifelong effort to help, not victimize, them.

Amendola pressed the accusers for dates and locations, details of their involvement with the kids' charity Sandusky founded, arrests or drug problems, contacts they had with Sandusky in the years since the alleged abuse ended and the terms of representation deals with civil lawyers. At least six said they told incorrect or incomplete stories in early contacts with police, and three testified that some of the details only came back to them in recent years.

BELLEFONTE, Pennsylvania (AP) - The defense in Jerry Sandusky's child sexual abuse trial began putting its own witnesses on the stand Monday, and one could be the former Penn State assistant football coach himself.

The 68-year-old Sandusky faces dozens of counts of sexual abuse of 10 boys over 15 years, allegations he denies. The scandal has rocked one of the country's most storied sports programs.

Jurors last week heard from eight young men who say he sexually abused them as children. Prosecutors say he met and groomed victims through the charity he founded for at-risk youth. The identities of two other alleged victims have never been learned by investigators.

On Monday, the mother of one alleged victim said her son's underwear was frequently missing from

the laundry and he claimed he'd thrown it away because he had an accident. The mother of the teen called Victim 9 by prosecutors was the last witness they called before rested their case.

The woman's son testified Thursday that Sandusky had repeatedly forced him to have anal sex that resulted in bleeding. The teen testified that he "just dealt with it."

The accusers say Sandusky plied them as children with gifts, dazzled them with the prestige of Penn State's football program and scaled up physical contact, from a hand on the knee or a fatherly kiss to fondling, repeated oral sex and, in some cases, rape.

Prosecutors on Monday dropped one of the 52 counts against Sandusky, citing a timing issue. The encounter involved in the charge occurred in 1995 or 1996, but prosecutors say the statute didn't apply until 1997. More counts related to the accuser dubbed Victim 7 by prosecutors are still pending.

The defense on Monday asked the judge to dismiss a number of other charges, but those requests were denied. The defense has sought to show how the stories of accusers have changed over time, that they were prodded and coached by investigators and prosecutors, that some are motivated to lie by the hopes of money from a civil lawsuit, and to paint Sandusky's interactions with children as misunderstood and part of a lifelong effort to help them, not victimize them.

"Jerry, in my opinion, loves kids so much that he does things none of us would ever do," defense attorney Joseph Amendola said at the start of the trial.

During cross-examination, at least six accusers said they told incorrect or incomplete stories in early contacts with police, and three testified that some of the details only came back to them in recent years.

In some cases, the witnesses said they were embarrassed or did not want to get dragged into the case, while others spoke of recent improvements in what they recall.

10:40 a.m.

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) - Prosecutors have dropped one of the 52 counts against former Penn State assistant Jerry Sandusky, citing a timing issue.

The state attorney general's office withdrew the count Monday morning as the trial entered its second week. The encounter involved in the charge occurred in 1995 or 1996, but prosecutors say the statute didn't apply until 1997.

More counts related to the accuser dubbed Victim 7 by prosecutors are still pending. Prosecutors also told Judge John Cleland they would call one more witness before resting their case.

Sandusky is charged with sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period. From this morning on newspress.com

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) - Jurors could soon begin hearing defense witnesses as the child-sex abuse trial of former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky enters its second week.

Eight of Sandusky's alleged victims have already testified in the case, along with witnesses connected to two other alleged assaults for which prosecutors haven't named accusers.

The prosecution could rest its case Monday morning. Sandusky flipped through papers as he arrived for court in a car driven by attorney Joe Amendola.

Sandusky is charged with 52 counts stemming from alleged encounters with 10 boys over a 15-year span. He denies the allegations.

Amendola suggested in opening statements that Sandusky would testify in his own defense but that's a risk that defense lawyers are normally reluctant to take.