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# **Charter School Coach Takes Issue with Transfer's Penalty** (/more-news/charter-school-coach-takes-issue-withtransfer-s-penalty.html)

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Lincoln Park's basketball coaches weren't overly surprised when transfer Nick Aloi was declared ineligible by the WPIAL on Thursday. But they were shocked by what they considered extra-harsh punishment.

When the WPIAL Board of Control declared Aloi ineligible for one year, its members could have made the penalty retroactive to his January transfer date. Instead, the board used Wednesday's hearing as the start date, forcing the sophomore to miss his entire junior season.

"I think it's more than just about the kid. I think it's about charter schools," said Lincoln Park's Mike Bariski, athletic director and assistant coach at the Midland charter school. "It's a shame that Nick has become a target."

Aloi will ask the PIAA to overturn the WPIAL's decision.

He and his parents testified that his transfer from Ellwood City was for academic reasons; both parents are doctors, and Lincoln Park would better prepare Aloi for medical school. Ellwood City insisted that the move was made with athletic intent, an argument the WPIAL accepted.

"The board voted unanimously, 16-0, to deny eligibility in the sport of basketball for one year from the date of the hearing," WPIAL executive director Tim O'Malley said, "because they felt that the transfer was motivated at least in part by an athletic purpose related to basketball."

The guard averaged 15 points as a freshman at Ellwood City, where his grandfather is superintendent. Aloi missed his sophomore season after ACL surgery.

"Ellwood City Principal (Kirk) Lape did a masterful job of demonstrating for the board that there were some issues from their perspective that related to basketball," O'Malley said, "... and then he went on to tout the academic abilities of the high school."

Attorney Craig Lee, who represents the Alois, said they have additional evidence they believe will show inaccuracies in Lape's testimony that Aloi's father was unhappy with Ellwood's basketball program, Lincoln Park has won similar PIAA appeals. But with Lincoln Park winning the Class A state title this season and PIAA executive director Bob Lombardi promoting legislation that would limit charter school athletics, the landscape maybe has changed.

"I know that we will get a fair shake, because Dr. Lombardi is a fair guy," Bariski said. "But that doesn't bode well for us."

#### Jam Fest this weekend

A Pitt basketball recruit will be playing in Pittsburgh this weekend as West Haven (Conn.) Sacred Heart sophomore Mustapha Heron is one of 3,200 AAU players participating in the Under Armour Hoop Group Pittsburgh Jam Fest.



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THE SWIMMING POOL ACCESSIBILITY EXPERTS

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Heron, a Class of 2016 recruit, will play for Harlem (N.Y.) New Heights. The Jam Fest will have five age groups playing Friday to Sunday at 18 Western Pennsylvania schools, with North Hills serving as tournament headquarters.

The event also will showcase the nation's No. 1 sophomore, Josh Jackson of Southfield, Mich., as well as the No. 3 junior, 6-foot-10 center Diamond Stone of Milwaukee, during the only live recruiting period for college coaches this spring.

"This is an event that brings over 300 travel teams in grassroots basketball to Pittsburgh," said Mike Rice, the former Robert Morris and Rutgers coach who is vice president of the Hoop Group. "We have teams from 23 states and some of the best talent in the country coming together."

April 27, 2014

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The war against charter schools including charter school athletes is un-American and at its core racially discriminatory. Can you imagine a law that mandates only one restaurant be built in each district and that people are allowed to eat only at the restaurant in their district. And, to top it off, if one decides to go to a better or even premiere restaurant outside of their district, they can be charged with a felony especially if they are found to lie about their address to gain access to the premiere restaurant in the outside district. In addition, they may be prohibited from eating out for a period of time. Would we as Americans tolerate this craziness? Of course we would because most Americans don't care about their freedoms bought with the sacrifice of so many. Far worse is our continued tolerance of a school segregation system faced by our children today who are forced to go to the school in their district and face monumental obstacles and costs to get their children a better education at a competing district or charter school. Consequently, we have the worst performing public school sector in the developed world!

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he move means cheerleaders will have their own state-sanctioned competitions, from local scholastic leagues, to sectionals and state championships starting next February.

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The new Minnesota Vikings stadium project ran into a problem late last year: Where to store the unexpected amounts of reusable dirt from the soon-to-be demolished Metrodome? The obvious solution: Three nearby parking lots owned by the Wilf family, the Vikings owners.

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