

Missouri fan asks that charge be filed against Husker

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Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A Missouri football fan stepped forward Tuesday claiming he was the person assaulted by a Nebraska player following the Cornhuskers' loss Saturday night to the Tigers.

Nebraska coach Frank Solich, meanwhile, was still pondering whether to take disciplinary action against the player, Kellen Huston, the team's place-kick holder.

Matthew Scott, 21, of Lees Summit, Mo., claims he was punched by a Husker player on Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo., after the Tigers' 41-24 upset of Nebraska, University of Missouri Police Chief Jack Watring said.

Watring said the case is being handled as a misdemeanor assault because Scott did not suffer any broken bones or serious injuries.

"But he has two black eyes and a very swollen nose," Watring said.

Watring said the case will be forwarded to the city attorney for prosecution. He was contacting television stations for copies of post-game videotape showing what happened.

Scott is not a student at the University of Missouri, Watring said.

Solich said at his weekly news conference Tuesday that he has talked to players and other witnesses who saw the incident, and he has watched a videotape of the incident with athletic director Steve Pederson.

Solich said he would talk to more witnesses before deciding what, if

any, action would be taken against Huston.

"I'll try to be fair in the decision I make," Solich said, "and from that, you'll find out as soon as I get all that information gathered."

Huston, a junior walk-on from Ankeny, Iowa, has not spoken publicly about the incident. Solich said Huston and Huston's parents were distraught over the incident.

Video of the incident has been shown repeatedly on local television stations. Omaha television station KMTV's tape shows Huston hitting the fan in the face with a clenched fist soon after the fan ran at Huston while pointing a finger at him.

Huston was confronted by the fan as he was unbuttoning his chin strap and walking off the field, Solich said.

"I believe he reacted to what he thought was a threatening situation that happened in less than a second," Solich said.

Solich said it is never appropriate to hit someone.

"We all understand that as coaches, as a member of this football team, but could it happen in that kind of a situation? Did it happen? It did," he said.

Any time crowds rush a field after a game, the situation can easily get out of hand, Solich said.

"There is an understanding that some of those fans are elated with a win and want to be with their players and congratulate them," Solich said. "But there also are those who have been heavily drinking and are out of control. It's not a very good situation for players and coaches for either team when fans storm the field."

Linebacker Demorrio Williams said the situation Saturday was "scary."

"My main thing is to hurry up and get off the field," he said. "You got people running on the field who are drunk and saying crazy stuff to you. You have to get to the locker room the best way you can."