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Student charged with attempted murder in stabbing of teen at Piper High

April 18, 2014 | By Linda Trischitta, Rebeca Piccardo and Erika Pesantes, Sun Sentinel

SUNRISE — As students looked on during gym class, an 18-year-old senior repeatedly stabbed a 16-year-old sophomore with a silver pocket knife following a heated argument over a basketball game, according to officials and students.

"He's very lucky to be alive," the stabbed boy's father told [WPLG-Ch. 10](#).

The injured teen, Urique Wilson, was listed in stable condition at Broward Health Medical Center. His injuries were not considered life-threatening, Sunrise police said.

Police say Wilson and Kimanie King, 18, got into the Thursday morning argument at Piper High School.

King was charged with attempted murder and possession of a weapon on school grounds. During his first-appearance court hearing on Friday, he was ordered held on a \$36,500 bond and prohibited from being in contact with Wilson or setting foot on school grounds.

During the hearing, King's attorney, William Barry Paul, said his client was a school soccer player who was planning to graduate next month.

"He's an honor student at Piper who's never been in trouble a day in his life," Paul said. "Even the school's response to this was shock that he would be in any way involved in anything like this."

The attorney characterized the incident as "an unfortunate mishap in a school brawl" and said that it was "closer to an aggravated battery with a significant self-defense issue." He declined to comment further following the hearing.

Assistant State Attorney Eric Linder said Friday that the incident was more serious than a school fight and that a student witness overheard King say he would stab somebody.

"It shows that while there may not have been premeditation necessarily to stab this alleged student, it shows that there was a certain premeditation that he would stab somebody if they bumped into him in the gym before he even entered the gym," Linder said.

At the time of the stabbing, a number of students from neighboring schools were attending Piper for a music event. The school was immediately locked down as word of the stabbing spread across the campus.

During the altercation, King left the gym, got a silver pocket knife with a blade that was approximately 2.5 inches long, and stabbed the sophomore multiple times, including in his upper left chest, Sunrise Police Officer Cindi McCue said.

Broward Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie said he visited the wounded teen at Broward Health Medical Center.

"He's under observation and family members are with him," Runcie said. "My understanding is he should recover well, under the circumstances."

King was detained right away, and a two-hour lockdown of the school was held only as a precaution, Runcie said.

When Piper High School was locked down, children from other schools were visiting the campus to participate in a music competition.

Tom Alberts, of Coral Gables, said he was waiting outside the high school to pick up his son, Gabriel, a senior at Coral Reef Senior High School in Miami-Dade County who was part of the music event.

"There are kids here from all over," Alberts said. "Obviously that's in total disarray now. But I hope the [stabbed boy] is all right."

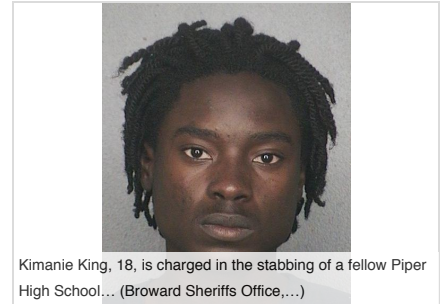
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Kimanie King, 18, is charged in the stabbing of a fellow Piper High School... (Broward Sheriffs Office,...)

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While Alberts was sitting in his car outside the campus, a bus carrying a band from Miami-Dade County was turned away at the gate.

Trezaul Francis, 18, a senior, said, "This isn't something that happens often at Piper."

Kevin Bailey, 18, also a senior, said, "I'm shocked there was a stabbing. A handful of fights happen throughout the year, but there hasn't been a stabbing in years."

Runcie praised the police.

"We addressed the issue in a prompt fashion, through excellent cooperation with Sunrise Police, who are our school resource officers and who will add additional officers there for the rest of the year," Runcie said.

He called Piper High "a good school."

"We see no concern about the safety of our students at the school," Runcie said. "There is no pattern, there is no concern for parents to draw any long-term conclusions about Piper High School."

Michelle Wayman was there to pick up her daughter, Logan Lewis, 16, who spent the lockdown in her chemistry class.

"Teachers let the students text their parents, to let them know everything was OK," Lewis said. "It was handled much better than last week's incident."

Lewis said she felt safe, locked in her classroom, without witnessing any violence.

There are 2,611 students enrolled at the campus at 8000 NW 44th St.

It was the second violent incident at Piper High School since last week. On April 10, two boys fought in the school cafeteria, leaving one student hospitalized with a head injury and the other under arrest.

School officials called Thursday's stabbing an isolated incident that was "absolutely unrelated" to last week's fight. They were quick to point out that the school is safe.

"Our students are safe, we're going back to normal and parents can rest assured that we're moving forward in a way that we're assuring that their children are safe," Runcie said.

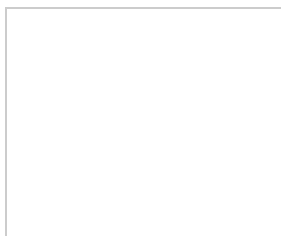
All public schools in the Broward district, including Piper High, will be closed Friday, a scheduled day off.

Staff researcher [Barbara Hijek](#) and Staff photographer [Joe Cavaretta](#) contributed to this report. Ltrischitta@Tribune.com, 954-356-4233 or Twitter [@LindaTrischitta](#)

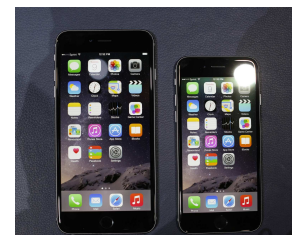
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