

<http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-apcoachsuspend11106.artnov06,0,3763449.story?coll=hc-headlines-local>

Volunteer Coach Suspended After Alcohol Charge

Associated Press

November 6 2006

NORTH BRANFORD -- North Branford's superintendent of schools has suspended a 20-year-old volunteer coach who was charged with possessing alcohol.

Superintendent Robert Wolfe suspended John Falvey, who was issued an infraction Friday for possession of alcohol by a minor.

Falvey told police he is a coach with the high school football team. Wolfe said Saturday that Falvey is not a paid assistant coach, but does volunteer at practices two to three times per week.

"Someone asked me if I'm disappointed," Wolfe said. "I'm outraged and I have already addressed the matter with the head coach regarding this volunteer's work with the team."

Police responded to a tip about an underage drinking party at a home following the football game between North Branford and Westbrook-Old Saybrook.

Police said the door was answered by a resident of the home, Richard Haggerty, 19, who officers said had an odor of alcohol on his breath.

Police said Falvey also was inside the home and there was beer in plain sight near the door. Both were cited for having the beer. Haggerty also was charged with possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Two weeks earlier, six high school athletes were cited for possession of alcohol at a house party and were suspended from school activities.

Wolfe overturned the quarterback's suspension from the team. He was criticized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and local police.

The incident led to one of the first uses in Connecticut of a new state law that holds homeowners accountable for preventing underage drinking on their property. The law went into effect on Oct. 1.

The homeowner, who was not identified, was arrested and charged with failure to halt possession of alcohol by a minor.

Copyright 2006 Associated Press
