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Student says Charles Ramsey violently choked him; Eastern Michigan coach says he was concerned for his own safety

by **Dave Holzman** | **The Ann Arbor News**

Monday December 29, 2008, 5:52 PM

Eastern Michigan University officials concluded that basketball coach Charles Ramsey grabbed a student and used profanity in November, and that led to a three-day suspension earlier this month.

Whether more than that took place and what precipitated the Nov. 22 incident with Shawn Quinn, an EMU senior and roommate of basketball player Zane Gay, remains unclear.

EMU athletic director Derrick Gragg informed Ramsey in a Dec. 8 letter that he was suspended without pay because of the altercation following the Eagles' loss to the University of Detroit-Mercy at Calihan Hall in Detroit. Ramsey missed his team's Dec. 8 game against Wayne State. Ramsey's base salary is \$169,269.

That letter from Gragg, along with accounts of the incident, were made available Monday by university officials through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Ramsey told his side of the story to EMU officials on Dec. 1. He met with Melody Reifel Werner, the associate athletic director in charge of compliance; Mike Malach, the associate athletic director in charge of internal affairs; and Jacqueline Wiley, human resources consultant.

In his interview, Ramsey said:

- He was being escorted to the locker room by a single officer when "someone from behind the door grabbed my shoulder and then I heard deranged remarks" about his coaching ability. The remarks included profanity, Ramsey said.

- The area was not well-lit, and he did not see the person behind the door. "I was startled when the guy lunged at me."

- He was concerned for his safety and the safety of family members, including his 8-year-old son, Charles. "I wasn't sure where my son was at that exact moment, I could have been killed."

- He reacted by grabbing Quinn by the coat. "If anything, I pushed him into the wall."

Assistant coaches Derrick McDowell and Andy Moore also were interviewed. Moore identified Quinn as someone who was harassing Ramsey at an EMU game against Alma on Nov. 9.

Quinn, however, told a different story. He was interviewed by Werner, Malach and Wiley on Nov. 24. Earlier that day, he also e-mailed EMU President Susan Martin.

According to Quinn's e-mail to Martin, he was standing outside the locker

