

Former High School Coach Convicted of Sexually Assaulting 15 Year Old



Sacramento County
District Attorney's Office
Semper Justitia

DATE: November 15, 2022

CASE: Aaron Daniel Rios (Case #20FE013135)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney James Wax, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit

Aaron Daniel Rios was convicted by a jury of eight counts of sexual assault against a minor, including one count of forcible digital penetration of a minor, one count of sexual battery by restraint and six counts of lewd and lascivious acts on a 15 year old, while being more than 10 years older. The jury also found true aggravating factors that the victim was particularly vulnerable and the defendant took advantage of a position of trust or confidence.

Rios was a coach for the St. Francis High School track and cross-country team and a coach for a private running group called "Sac Elite." He met the then 13-year-old victim in 2018 when she joined his private group. In March 2020, COVID regulations shut down the school's running program and resulted in the Sac Elite athletes running in smaller groups. Rios began running more closely with the victim and gradually developed an inappropriate relationship with her. He downloaded an app on her phone that deletes messages after they are received so he could send her inappropriate messages. In early July 2020, Rios kissed the victim on the mouth and told her it would be there "little secret." In another incident, Rios grabbed the victim from behind and forcibly held her while he groped her private areas.

The victim tried to get away, but they were alone and the defendant was bigger than her. Rios ultimately allowed the victim to leave, but told her she couldn't say anything about what had occurred.

Rios faces a maximum sentence of 16 years and 8 months in prison. Sentencing is set for December 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11 before the Honorable James McFetridge.

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