

## **Convicted Felon Drug Dealer Is Star Player On Stritch Mens Basketball Team**

**By Mark Belling, WISN-AM**

The star athlete at the center of a drug dealing operation broken up last year at Brookfield Central High School is a star player this year on the men's basketball team at Cardinal Stritch University.

Gage Malensek, 19, of Brookfield, was convicted this morning in Waukesha County Circuit Court of two felony counts in connection with the sale of vape cartridges loaded with THC. Malensek was charged in January of last year after a police investigation into the sale of the drug cartridges.

While Malensek was kicked off the Brookfield Central team, he enrolled this year at Stritch, a Catholic university which offers NCAA Division 3 sports. He has been a star member of Stritch's basketball team this season. Prior to his conviction, Malensek was the best player on Brookfield Central's team although it went on to win the state Division 1 championship without him. Malensek was a star high school football and basketball player but his scholarship offers likely dried up after the felony charges.

But Stritch was evidently happy to take him.

Malensek pleaded guilty this morning to two felony counts as part of a plea bargain in which several other counts are dismissed. He is scheduled to be sentenced next month. The original criminal complaint detailed Malensek's sale of vape cartridges which were filled with THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and then sold mostly to fellow students. A teammate of Malensek's pleaded guilty to reduced charges for one instance of delivering drugs for Malensek.

**Mark Belling**

**February 24**

