

EXCLUSIVE: Star Catholic Memorial Football Player Cited In Head-On Crash That Leaves Two Hospitalized

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

A star running back at Waukesha Catholic Memorial High School, who is committed to playing at national power Penn State next season, was cited by Waukesha County Sheriff's deputies in connection with a head-on crash on National Avenue that left three people injured, two seriously.

Sheriff's officials say 17-year old Corey Smith was passing another vehicle on National when he struck a vehicle head-on. The driver of that car, also 17, was hospitalized as was the 17-year old girl who was a passenger in Smith's car. An occupant of the vehicle being passed was also hurt but with less serious injuries.

Smith was cited for improper lane usage and other traffic citations. He has not been criminally charged. Catholic Memorial Athletic Director Matthew Bergan says Smith and his passenger were headed to the school's homecoming dance. There is no indication of any misuse of alcohol or anything else; it appears to simply be a crash precipitated by bad driving. Smith has not been suspended from the team.

Catholic Memorial President Donna Bembenek says the school followed the same protocol with Smith as it would for any other student at the school.

Smith is one of the most highly rated high school players in Wisconsin and is a Top 100 national running back prospect. Catholic Memorial is a football powerhouse and the overwhelming favorite to win the state Division 4 football championship.

Mark Belling
October 23, 2023