Mesa

MCC player arrested in homecoming assault on football coach

by Jonathan Reid - Oct. 16, 2012 04:21 PM
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A Mesa Community College football player was arrested Saturday on charges he assaulted a coach after Saturday's homecoming game against Snow College.

Defensive end Edward Atanoa, 20, a sophomore, attempted to punch defensive coach, Alvin McKinley, 34, grazing the back of his head, and then hit his hand when he threw his helmet, according to police.

Police who arrived at the school after receiving a call about 11 p.m. said Atanoa told them he was upset over not being allowed to play in the game and had planned on hitting McKinley once before leaving, according to a court document.

Atanoa was arrested on suspicion of aggravated assault, police said.

MCC officials said the incident is currently being reviewed and declined further comment.

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