

Former CU football player Tyler Gregorak: 'I still do not know' what happened to me

Former Buff was accused of stealing gun from bouncer's car

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Posted:

Former University of Colorado football player Tyler Gregorak maintains that he doesn't know whether he was drugged or framed or what happened to him the night he was accused of stealing a gun and wallet from the car of a bouncer at the Nitro strip club on Pearl Street.

But, according to his attorney, Boulder police never matched Gregorak to a man captured on a surveillance video outside Nitro or matched him to fingerprints found inside the bouncer's car. The Boulder County District Attorney's Office dropped all charges against him Friday.

"I am grateful that this whole ordeal is finally over," Gregorak said in a statement. "Perhaps someday I will learn what happened to me that night, but as of now, I still do not know."

Deputy District Attorney Amy Okubo said her office dropped a felony trespassing charge and a misdemeanor theft charge against Gregorak, 31, because prosecutors didn't believe they could prove the elements of the charges at trial.

Gregorak, who went on to be an assistant football coach at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, after leaving CU, was accused of stealing a gun, wallet, sunglasses, cologne and other items after a bouncer turned him away from the strip club on May 1, according to police. When the bouncer got off work around 3:20 a.m., he found the door of his Nissan Sentra ajar, his wallet missing from a center console and a loaded .45-caliber Glock 36 handgun taken from the glove compartment, according to police.

Gregorak awoke to find the items in his hotel room, and later that day he returned the items to the bouncer's home and apologized, according to police. Neither he, nor police, had any idea how he would have known how to find the bouncer's car, which was parked in a city garage.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported in May that UNLV Athletic Director Jim Livengood told Gregorak to resign or his contract wouldn't be renewed when it expired June 30.

Livengood, at the time, said Gregorak used "horrible judgment" and placed himself in an "unacceptable environment."

In his statement Friday, Gregorak said, "This has been a nightmare for me and my family."

"I look forward to getting back to coaching and putting this behind me," he said.

His Denver-based defense attorney David Beller said UNLV "reacted and failed to support Mr. Gregorak" before any charges were filed or facts known.

"It is ironic that UNLV could not extend a short amount of time for due process when they charge their law students thousands to learn this simple legal right," Beller said. "Before ever attending a court appearance, Mr. Gregorak was informed that UNLV would not renew his contract."

Beller said Gregorak is currently living in Spokane, Wash., where he's exploring other opportunities and hopes to be coaching again soon.

"Justice, though delayed, has prevailed," he said.

According to Beller, Gregorak told police that he "must have been drugged and had no knowledge of how the items got into the hotel room he rented the previous night."

Even though the Nitro bouncer told police that he recognized Gregorak as the same man he refused to let enter on the night his car was burglarized, Beller said, surveillance video from the club shows the man outside the club was not Gregorak.

A parking attendant didn't see anyone break into the bouncer's car that night, hotel staff didn't notice that Gregorak brought a gun or any other items into the hotel, and a dozen friends who were with Gregorak at some point that night never saw him with the items,

Beller said.

Fingerprints lifted from the car couldn't be matched to Gregorak, Beller said, and friends who were with him said he had a few drinks, but wasn't drunk.

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