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Third Ohio Teen Pleads Guilty in Dangerous Prank

[By Seamus McGraw](#)

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KENTON, Ohio (Crime Library) — In a vote that reflects the deep divisions that have rent this northwest Ohio community since a group of teens — among them players for the Kenton High School football team — played a prank that left two teens critically injured, the Kenton Board of Education Thursday voted 3 to 2 against barring students convicted of felonies from participating in sports.

Superintendent Doug Roberts, contacted by Crime Library this morning, declined to comment on the vote and said that the board, which reached its decision at a public meeting Thursday planned no additional statement.



Kenton High School

The board's decision marked its first public statement on the controversy that began last fall when, prosecutors have said, five teens stole a decoy deer from a nearby yard and placed it on a darkened country road, apparently so they could watch motorists swerve to avoid it.

According to authorities, Robert J. Roby Jr., a 2005 graduate of the same high school as the teens who pulled the prank, was cresting a hill when he caught sight of the life-size decoy and swerved to avoid it. He lost control of his car and slammed into a tree. Roby, who also was a high school athlete, broke bones in his neck, arm and leg. He was the lucky one. His passenger, Dustin Zachariah, now 18, was ejected from the car. He reportedly suffered brain damage.

Five teens, among them members of the high school football team, were charged in connection with the crash, and for months, the community has been debating the question of whether the accused have received preferential treatment because of their positions on the school's much-vaunted team.

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