

Staples coach agrees to alcohol education

NORWALK

By JARED NEWMAN
Hour Staff Writer

A Staples High School lacrosse coach accused of drunken driving pleaded guilty Tuesday to reduced charges of two motor vehicle infractions, at a cost of \$327 including court fees.

Scott Smith, 24, will also enroll in alcohol education classes and hear about DWI-related tragedies

at a panel arranged by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The Wilton resident is head coach of varsity lacrosse at the Westport school and was 2002 all-area MVP at Wilton High School.

Westport police pulled Smith over on May 12 after observing his black BMW zipping down Charles Street and illegally turning right onto Saugatuck Avenue. The arresting officer smelled alcohol, issued a sobriety test to Smith —

which he failed — and took him into custody.

Sources told *The Hour* that Smith went on a profanity-laced tirade at Westport police headquarters, ripping up his DWI report and asking officers if they “knew who he was.” Smith then reminded police of his position as Staples’ lacrosse coach, his athletic achievements, his degree from Johns Hopkins University and his plans to buy a \$1.2 million home in

Wilton, the source said.

Smith’s attorney, John Thygerson, told the court that his client was ashamed, particularly after the story of his arrest made “front page news.”

“He was so embarrassed about how he acted the next day that he sent a letter of apology and a fruit basket to the Westport Police Department,” Thygerson said.

Thygerson also presented 20 let-

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ters written by parents and peers in support of Smith.

Feeling that a second chance was in order, Norwalk Superior Court Judge Maureen Dennis offered an anecdote about a minister who said the most effective role models aren’t perfect, but they correct their mistakes.

“Certainly this has been

very difficult for you, and embarrassing,” Dennis said, adding that she hopes Smith can now set a good example for his team.

Thygerson said there’s no indication that Smith will be fired or asked to leave the lacrosse team, but he hadn’t heard anything one way or another.

Westport Superintendent of Schools Elliott Landon did not return a call seeking

comment.

The telephone voice mailbox of Staples’ athletic director Marty Lisevick was full, and he did not respond to an e-mail.

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