

# Attorney expects Central LB to play for Louisville

## ■ Pleaded no contest to lewd, lascivious conduct

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FORT PIERCE — Sharieff Rhaheed-Muhammad pleaded no contest to a charge of lewd and lascivious conduct Monday, but defense attorney Bob Watson does not believe it will prevent the Fort Pierce Central High School linebacker from a promising football career at the University of Louisville.

"I think he's going to be a star

linebacker," Watson said when asked about Rhaheed-Muhammad's future.

St. Lucie Circuit Judge Charles Schwab ordered Rhaheed-Muhammad to 50 hours of community service, cover costs for the investigation as well as medical bills and therapy costs for the victim, undergo a mental health evaluation and comply with any recommended counseling.

Rhaheed-Muhammad will remain on probation until his 19th birthday, but Schwab gave him permission to transfer his probation out of state.

"I think it's looking really good for him at Louisville with the ruling and everything," Central coach Josh Shaffer said.

See RHAHEED, 3C

## SHARIEFF RHAHEED-MUHAMMAD

**High school:** Fort Pierce Central  
**College signed with:** Louisville  
**Height/weight:** 6-4, 215  
**Position:** Outside linebacker  
**247Sports.com ranking:** 3 stars (out of 5)  
**Rivals.com ranking:** 3 stars (out of 5)

**2013 stats:** 33 tackles (4 solo, 29 assisted), 8 tackles for loss, 2 sacks, 1 interception in 6 games.

**Career stats:** 158 tackles (50 solo, 107 assisted), 22 tackles for loss, 17 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries, 1 interception in 25 games at Central (2012-13) and Fort Pierce Westwood (2011).



## RHAHEED from 1C

"Obviously I can't speak for (Louisville), but I think it was made worse just by the national media attention. Had it stayed local, I don't think it would be any question that he would be fine (going) there.

"I'm just pleased for all parties around that it was settled. The whole situation was just a bad situation for everybody involved, so I'm just pleased that it's over."

Louisville athletic department spokesman Rocco Gasparro declined to comment Monday, but Louisville coach Bobby Petrino told reporters that he was going to let the court process play out before making a decision. Shaffer said Louisville remained in contact with Watson throughout the process.

"It's one of those things where you don't make a decision until you have to," Petrino said during a press

conference March 8.

Rhaheed-Muhammad, rated No. 2 in the Scripps Super 11, was considered one of the defensive jewels of Louisville's recruiting class in February. He picked the Cardinals over Arkansas, Michigan State and Missouri on National Signing Day, but he also had offers from Alabama, LSU, South Carolina, Tennessee and many others.

Rhaheed-Muhammad was a two-time, first-team all-area selection. He missed the first six games of 2013 due to offseason wrist surgery but finished the season with 33 tackles, eight tackles for loss, two sacks and one interception in six games.

"He is a very athletic kid with huge upside, which is why so many colleges offered him," said 247Sports.com State of Florida Recruiting Analyst Chris Nee. "He's very quick, and he gets off the ball well. ... That first step is what's most appealing."