Banned athletes could return

By Julian Emerson
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Four of the eight UW-Stout hockey players suspended in October after another student’s death could return to the team if hockey coach Terry Watkins grants permission.

The four unnamed players could be reinstated before the team’s next game Jan. 7.

The suspensions occurred in the wake of the death of UW-Stout student Bradley Simon, 22, which resulted from an incident Sept. 18 outside the Log Jam tavern in downtown Menomonie. Simon was pushed into a concrete wall while riding a bicycle trying to escape a group of hockey players after a disagreement in the Log Jam earlier with former hockey team member Jared Britton, 23.

Simon died five days later.

Britton, a senior from Regina, Saskatchewan; and Jedidiah McGlasson, a 21-year-old freshman hockey recruit from Kenai, Alaska, were suspended from the university after the incident. On Monday they pleaded not guilty to felony charges stemming from Simon’s death. It remains unclear who shoved Simon. Britton and McGlasson are scheduled to return to court Feb. 18.

University officials suspended eight other hockey players who were at the Log Jam that night for the rest of this season. The eight players suspended are Alex Breeden, Brandon Larson, Nicholas Hopper, Charles Beaton, Garrett Grimstad, Eric Scovill, Rudy Hartviksen and Ryan Sullivan.

The university code of conduct allows students to appeal suspensions. "The action was taken by UW-Stout following the advice of the UW System’s General Counsel’s office and the state Department of Justice," university spokesman Doug Mell said.

Watkins and UW-Stout Chancellor Charles Sorensen were not available for comment Friday.

The suspended players have missed 13 games so far and would play in 12 regular season games if they are reinstated before Jan. 7.

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