



SCOTT W. STOREY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

For Immediate Release – January 11, 2005

Contact: Pam Russell
Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: Kevin Ponis Convicted of Sexual Assault on a Child

Today a Jefferson County jury convicted Kevin Mark Ponis, DOB: 12-20-68, of Littleton, of sexual assault on a child by a person in position of trust in a pattern of conduct. After a four day jury trial that began January 4, the jury deliberated almost two days before they reached a unanimous guilty verdict on this count. Ponis was charged with ten felony counts stemming from sexual contact he had with a 17-year old student while he was her teacher and coach at Dakota Ridge High School in south Jefferson County, and in the summer after she graduated, but before she turned 18. The jury also reached a unanimous verdict of not guilty on one count of sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust. They were unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the other eight counts.

Ponis was a teacher and tennis coach at Dakota Ridge. During the course of the trial, two other young women testified that they had also been students of, and coached by, Mr. Ponis. They both described that their relationships with him had become more and more intimate and ultimately sexual, but that they were 18 by the time there was actual sexual contact.

Ponis now faces an indeterminate prison sentence of between 8 and 24 (the minimum the Judge can sentence Mr. Ponis to is a number between 8 and 24) up years to lifetime supervision. A pre-sentence investigation report

will be completed by the Probation Department, as well as a sex offender evaluation, prior to his sentencing which has been set for March 8, 2005, at 8:00 a.m. in Division 7.

Following the return of the jury verdict today, Mr. Ponis' bond was revoked and he was taken into custody by the Jefferson County Sheriff. A bond hearing has been scheduled for Friday, 1/14 at 1:30 p.m.

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