

Grand Island rugby team bus in Fairport crash

Buffalo News story on May 14, 2016 - 8:40 PM

The team bus of the Grand Island High School rugby club was involved in a three-vehicle crash after a game Saturday in Fairport, Monroe County.

One player complained of neck pain and was treated at the scene on Route 250 in the Village of Fairport, according to village Police Chief Samuel Farina.

He said the accident occurred about 2:30 p.m., when a car waiting in traffic to make a left turn was rear-ended by another car. The first car was shoved over the center line and was struck by the oncoming bus.

Coach Dan Hager said there were about 20 people on the full-size Ridge Road Express bus, and he credited driver Mike Wheeler for doing what he could to minimize contact by running the bus off the road, missing two trees and a utility pole.

Players Zane Johnson, a sophomore, and Ryan Schwinn, a junior, have been trained as junior firefighters and “went into full help mode,” Hager said, assessing injuries at the scene before firefighters arrived.

Farina said the driver of the car that was struck by the bus was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries, which the driver of the other car was cited for following too close.