Racial slurs alleged at scholastic soccer game

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The celebration of a Section V boys soccer championship on Saturday was marred by racial slurs yelled at members of the World of Inquiry soccer team, according to the school's assistant principal.

In a post to her Facebook page on Saturday, Kimberly Garlock wrote that she was disheartened and angered by the actions of a handful of adults, who she identified as fans from Red Creek high school.

The team from World of Inquiry, also known as Rochester School 58, defeated Red Creek 3-1 to claim its second straight sectional title.

"Sadly, many adults chose to yell out racial slurs as we exited the stands following the award ceremony," Garlock wrote. "These hateful slurs continued as our team headed to the bus."

The World of Inquiry team also includes players from the Rochester International Academy, which serves students who have recently arrived in the United States.

"Despite the IGNORANT actions directed toward them, our students displayed the Griffin values and model-citizen virtues that make our school community the very best around," Garlock wrote.

Neither Garlock nor other officials at World of Inquiry school responded to requests for comment.

Chip Partner, chief communications officer for the Rochester City School District, said that the district was aware of the reports. In an email to the Democrat and Chronicle, he said that the district would need to investigate further before addressing concerns with Red Creek or making public comment.

"The district is proud of our World of Inquiry boys' soccer team for winning its second sectional championship in a row," Partner said, "and the school's focus now is supporting them in the next game against Geneseo on Tuesday."

World of Inquiry and Geneseo will face off in the Class C state qualifier Tuesday afternoon in Honeoye Falls.

The Red Creek Central School District acknowledged on Monday afternoon that it had already launched its own investigation into the incident.

"It has been reported to us by sources that we believe to be credible, that racial slurs were used at and around opposing team members and/or fans," the district said in a press release. "Our district takes incidents like this very seriously and has started a full investigation into these claims while following District and Section V protocol regarding this matter."

The Red Creek School District, located on the eastern border of Wayne County, has approximately 900 students.

"Our District will not tolerate this type of racial insensitivity and poor sportsmanship," the news release said. "We have been in contact with School 58 officials and will work together with them to use this unfortunate event as a learning experience."

The World of Inquiry boys soccer team drew significant attention last year when it won the Section V title. It became the first team from the Rochester School District to win a Section V championship since East High in 1980.

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KIMBERLY GARLOCK

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, WORLD OF INQUIRY