

Footy player 'raped teens'

Girls took pic of accused, court hears

Mitch Mott

A "senior grade" men's player in the Adelaide Footy League is standing trial accused of multiple counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with two 14-year-old girls – one a junior player at his club.

In a trial which started last week, a judge presiding over the hearings without a jury heard that the player had befriended the junior through the club and occasionally drove her home.

The now 28-year-old has pleaded not guilty to five counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a person under 17.

Carrie Demertzis, prosecuting, told District Court judge Kris Handshin that the girls had taken a photo of the inside of the player's room which allegedly showed a portion of the accused's leg.

The court heard the two girls had been friends since primary school.

Ms Demertzis said that in October or November 2020 the junior player had been walking home when the older man offered her a lift.

The girl alleges they drove to some scrub land and had sex in the back seat.

Ms Demertzis said that incident was the subject of one count of unlawful sexual intercourse, while the other four charges were all alleged to have occurred on November 9, 2020.

The two girls had been out with friends the night before and in the early hours of the morning needed a lift home.

The junior player called the man to come and pick them up.

Ms Demertzis told the court the other player was expecting someone younger to pick them up than the man who was then aged 25.

The man allegedly drove them to his house and invited them to come to his room.

"They were told to be quiet and not to wake his housemate

as there would be backlash to him having two underage girls at the property," Ms Demertzis said.

"There was some talk about watching a movie, then he asked them if they wanted to have a threesome.

"He asked them if they had daddy issues and when the girls were somewhat reluctant he accused them of being frigid."

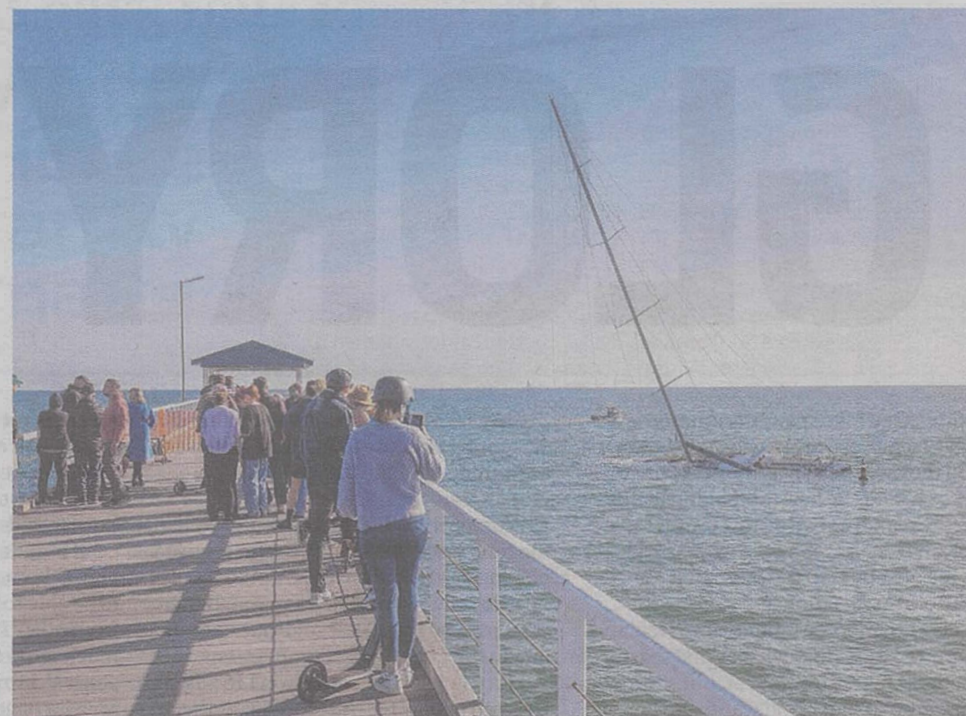
The court heard the man allegedly had sex with one of the girls and attempted to have intercourse with the other girl but stopped when he was told no.

One of the girls allegedly took a photo of the bedroom as she was leaving at 6.12am.

"The photo shows a portion of a leg which has the same tattoo as the accused," Ms Demertzis said.

The alleged offending was reported to police after one of the girls told her mother and rang the other girl's mother.

The trial continues later this month.



Onlookers at Grange Jetty take in the troubled Helsal II. Picture: Ben Clark

Yachtie gets sinking feeling

Todd Lewis

An iconic yacht that competed in Australia's most famous water race has found trouble off a popular Adelaide beach.

Helsal II - which completed the Sydney to Hobart yacht race on several occasions in the 1990s and noughties - began taking on water at about 6.30pm on Saturday night before it capsized on the sandbar just metres from the Grange

Jetty. The skipper managed to make it safely to shore and did not suffer any injuries.

A Department of Infrastructure and Transport spokesman said authorities were alerted around 7.45pm on Saturday about a sunken 70-foot yacht about a mile from the Grange shoreline.

"The vessel has been marked with a battery-powered continuous flash white light and two anchors will be deployed to avoid

further movement of the vessel," he said.

"The Department is working with the owner to plan (its) removal."

A section of the Grange jetty was cordoned off for safety reasons and the local council part-closed the jetty.

The Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron posted to Facebook that the vessel was Helsal II, it had been on a "recommissioning voyage" and that the owner was OK.