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Ritzly sports center threatens to sue coach who went to b-ball association for poor kids: suit

The owners of House of Sports, a ritzy Westchester "Olympic style athletic training facility," are threatening to sue their former basketball coach for going to a "competitor" — a non-profit basketball association catering to poor kids.

BY BARBARA ROSS, DAREH GREGORIAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Monday, August 11, 2014, 2:28 PM

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ALEC TABAK/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Andrew Borman poses in his new office in Midtown.

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The owners of a ritzy Westchester "Olympic style athletic training facility" are threatening to sue their former basketball coach for going to a "competitor" — a non-profit basketball association catering to poor kids.

In papers filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, Andrew Borman, nephew of legendary Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, says his old bosses at the 120,000-square-foot House of Sports in Ardsley are stiffing him on his back pay and threatening to get a court order blocking him from working at the free program.

That's because House of Sports, which describes itself on its website as "the epicenter of high level sports training and competition" with "state-of-the-art facilities" and "world class coaching," says Borman is in violation of his contract since he's going to a "competitor."

Borman's pro-bono lawyer, Judd Burstein, called that claim "laughable."

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He noted House of Sports charges families as much as \$1,300 per season to let their kids play on a team while Borman's new workplace, the Manhattan-based New Renaissance Basketball Association, charges kids nothing, provides transportation to and from games and pays for uniforms and gear.

In addition, he noted, Borman is overseeing the academic component of the Renaissance program where the 175-200 boys get free one-on-one tutoring through a program at St. Francis College in Brooklyn and SAT prep. The students range in age from third graders to seniors in high school.

Borman, who played Duke basketball himself and was a member of the 2001 championship team, started working at House of Sports in March 2012 after signing a five year contract. It bars him from working at a competitor for 18 months if he leaves before the contract is up.

Court papers show that in addition to his \$235,000 annual salary, Borman was entitled to yearend bonuses of 2.5% of House of Sports ' net revenue in the basketball program, and an 18% commission on sponsorship revenue.

Burstein said Borman took a 60% pay cut when he switched jobs.



DAVID LONGSTREATH/AP

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski directs his team during the first half of the NCAA Final Four championship game against Arkansas Monday, April 4, 1994, at the Charlotte Coliseum in Charlotte, N.C.

Borman, 34, told the Daily News he felt he had to switch gigs because "Renaissance is the opportunity I think every coach dreams about -- the opportunity to help kids from the city not just as basketball players but as students, as people."

"There are no strings attached. No fees. Our only mission is to help kids and help them take that next step -- whether it's getting ready for fourth grade or going to college," the North Carolina native said.

"I don't have to worry about a single penny coming into the program. All we do is give, which is incredible."

The non-profit is privately funded through donations, and has sent 18 kids to college on full scholarships over the past three years.

Borman is asking the courts to order House of Sports to give him back salary plus other bonus and commission sums.

Burstein said he won't know

how much that comes to until there is a forensic analysis of House of Sports ' books.

Borman also wants a declaration that Renaissance is not an House of Sports competitor in order to head off the Westchester facility's threat of legal action.



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Steven O'Connor, who identified himself as one of House of Sports' owners, said Monday that his lawyers had just received the court papers and would have no comment.

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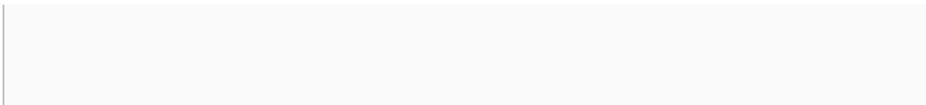
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