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Penn State to Settle Some Claims for \$60 Million

Settlement Covers About Two Dozen Men Who Say Sandusky Abused Them

By KRIS MAHER

Pennsylvania State University's board of trustees has authorized payment of roughly \$60 million to settle about two dozen personal-injury claims by men who say they were sexually abused by former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, according to people familiar with the matter.

The university has reached agreements in principle to settle about 25 out of some 30 claims, and settlements are expected to be finalized within the next month, the people said. It is unclear what will happen to the remaining claims, including at least one in which the plaintiff has filed a civil lawsuit against the university.

Former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky after a court hearing in January. He is serving a prison sentence of 30 to 60 years.

Attorneys for the men have declined to say how much money they were individually seeking, but people familiar with the process said amounts would vary and be determined in part by the nature of the abuse, whether it occurred on Penn State's campus and over what length of time.

"We are close to seeing formal agreements consummated that include a large number of victims' claims," said Tom Kline, a Phila-

delphia attorney who represents a young man identified as Victim 5 in Mr. Sandusky's criminal trial in Centre County Court last year.

The university announced on Friday that it had reached tentative settlements, but it didn't include dollar amounts or the number of cases. A spokesman for Penn State declined to comment Wednesday.

Michael Rozen, a partner with Feinberg Rozen LLP who is leading the settlement negotiations on behalf of the university, said, "I'm optimistic that final resolutions of the majority of claimants can be obtained in the near future."

The university has said settlements would be paid by its insurer, Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association Insurance Co. The insurer is contesting in court whether it should have to pay any claims related to the case.

Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul, Minn., attorney who represents two men who say they were abused by Mr. Sandusky, including one who has sued the university, said he isn't close to reaching settlements. "We haven't made what you would call satisfactory progress," he said.

Mr. Sandusky was convicted last year of sexually abusing 10 boys over more than a decade and is serving a 30- to 60-year prison sentence. Eight young men testified at the trial that they had been

abused by him. Since then others have come forward to say they were also abused, dating back as far as the 1970s.

The settlements are nearing completion a year after an independent investigation found that former Penn State officials allegedly conspired to keep silent about Mr. Sandusky's abuse and allegedly failed to report knowledge of at least one instance to authorities. The report by Louis Freeh, former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has since come under fire from alumni and others.

This week, the leadership of Penn State's board voiced its first public criticism of the report. Board chair Keith Masser was quoted as telling USA Today that he thought the conclusions of the report, which was commissioned by the board, amounted to "speculation." The Penn State spokesman said Mr. Masser had no further comment.