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ESPN SHOW TO SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON PORTLAND CONTROVERSY

By: Anne Danahy adanahy@centredaily.com

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Former Penn State basketball player Jennifer Harris will appear on ESPN on Sunday morning to talk about her claim that coach Rene Portland discriminated against her.

The show, "Outside the Lines," is scheduled to air at 9:30 a.m.

ESPN spokeswoman Tilea Coleman said that in addition to Harris, two Penn State players from different eras will discuss their relationships with Portland. Coleman would not say who the other players are. "It should be a pretty compelling piece," she said.

In November, the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission on behalf of Harris.

The complaint, which also names Penn State and athletic director Tim Curley, claims Portland discriminated against Harris because she is black and because she wouldn't conform to "out-of-date gender stereotypes." The center has said Portland thought Harris was a lesbian and discriminated against her for that reason.

Portland has denied the allegations. The university has said it is investigating them.

Harris played in all 30 games for the Nittany Lions last season before transferring to James Madison University.

Penn State spokesman Bill Mahon said he and others from the university had been invited to participate in the ESPN show but declined.

"They offered the invitation 'to be fair to Penn State' but said we would appear with a surprise guest they would not identify in advance," Mahon said in an e-mail. "It sounded more like good entertainment than it did good journalism."

According to a news release from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, center attorney Karen Doering and sports project coordinator Helen Carroll will appear on the program.

Anne Danahy can be reached at 231-4648.