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Local News

Nov 27, 2007 9:44 am US/Central

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High School Bus Driver Charged With Driving Drunk

Police: Juan Garcia Kept Bottle Of Booze With Him In Bus

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (CBS) — A bus driver is charged with drunken driving after swerving and hitting the curb in Deerfield while transporting high school students to an athletic tournament.

Juan Garcia, 51, of Skokie, was driving the students and athletic director from Highland Park High School to the tournament in Elk Grove Village on Nov. 17. At 1:55 p.m., police were sent to Waukegan and Oakmont drives in Deerfield after the bus was seen swerving and hitting the curb.

Upon arriving, police saw several students outside the bus, and approached the athletic director. Officers found out that parents had followed the bus when it started swerving around.

Police found that the driver had red and blood-shot eyes and smelled alcohol on his breath, and his blood alcohol level registered at 0.197. Garcia claimed to have had one beer in the morning, but a clear water bottle with what appeared to be an alcoholic beverage was found in the bus.

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Garcia was charged with aggravated driving under the influence and illegal transportation of open alcohol. His bond was set at \$20,000 on Nov. 18 at the Lake County Courthouse.

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Juan Garcia is accused of driving drunk on a bus carrying high school students to a tournament.

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