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Ex-Bergen Catholic High School wrestling star Lukas Iorio accused of wild rampage on Jersey Shore

MAY 28, 2014, 8:58 PM LAST UPDATED: MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014, 6:07 PM

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MANASQUAN – A former Bergen Catholic High School wrestling star was arrested and charged with going on a violent rampage in a hijacked beach patrol buggy, authorities said Wednesday.

Lukas D. Iorio, 20, of Ridgefield Park, jumped feet-first into the plastic windshield of the golf cart type buggy operated by two members of the shore community's beach patrol on Sunday night, Police Chief Elliott A. Correia said.

Correia said Iorio kicked out the windshield, overpowered the two beach officers and threw them out of the cart, then continued south on the beach "at a high rate of speed," swerving toward pedestrians as they strolled on the beach walk.

A 49-year-old man tried twice to jump out of the way, but he was hit and injured as the cart passed him, Correia said.

When he reached the southern end of the beach walk, police said, Iorio crashed the cart



FILE PHOTO

Lukas D. Iorio

into a gazebo and ran over two bicycle racks in an apparent effort to steal a bike. A 53-year-old man approached Iorio to see if he was injured after the cart crash and to try to calm him down, police said, but Iorio punched the man in the back of the head and ran away on foot.

He then ran into the back yard of a nearby residence, burst into an unlocked back door and confronted the residents inside, repeatedly punching a 72-year-old man in the face and head, according to Correia.

Iorio was eventually subdued by several family members in the house, along with the two beach patrol officers, who pursued him on foot, police said.

Two Manasquan police officers then arrived at the scene, handcuffed Iorio and took him into custody, Correia said, adding that the Manasquan first aid squad treated five people who were injured in the rampage.

Iorio was held on \$341,000 bail at Monmouth County jail, on charges of carjacking, burglary, resisting arrest, assault by auto, simple assault, leaving the scene of an accident, failing to report an accident, criminal mischief, reckless driving and operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Iorio, who had a 17-4 winning record in 2012, his last year of wrestling for Bergen Catholic, was scheduled for an initial appearance in Manasquan Municipal Court on June 4.

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