

RONALDO'S RAPE CASE HUSH-MONEY SETTLEMENT CHALLENGED



Cristiano Ronaldo and Kathryn Mayorga.



A LAS VEGAS WOMAN WHO ALLEGED CRISTIANO RONALDO SEXUALLY ASSAULTED HER IS SEEKING MORE MONEY FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPERSTAR.

A legal fight by soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo against a Nevada woman who wants more than the \$550,000 AUD she received in a rape case hush-money settlement in 2010 should be decided by an arbitrator, not in a courtroom, a US magistrate judge said Tuesday.

Kathryn Mayorga, a former teacher and model who lives in the Las Vegas area, claims in a lawsuit that Ronaldo or his associates violated the confidential settlement by allowing reports of it to appear in European publications in 2017.

Mayorga met Ronaldo at a nightclub in 2009 and went with him and other people to his hotel suite where she alleges he assaulted her in a bedroom, according to her lawsuit. **Ronaldo, through** his lawyers, maintains the sex was consensual.

Mayorga's lawyers say she didn't break the confidentiality agreement. Her lawsuit claims conspiracy, defamation, breach of contract,

coercion and fraud. It seeks to void the 2010 deal and collect at least \$300,000 more from Ronaldo. Her attorneys have asked for the case to be decided in a courtroom.

The recommendation Tuesday by US Magistrate Judge Daniel Albregts put in writing his verbal ruling in November allowing the settlement to remain under seal and recommending to US District Judge Jennifer Dorsey that it be decided by a mediator.

"The court finds that none of (Mayorga's) arguments to invalidate the arbitration agreement have merit and it will compel all of her claims to arbitration," Albregts wrote. **Magistrates handle** court filings and pre-trial arguments. US district judges handle trials.

Mayorga's lawyers didn't immediately respond to messages about whether they'll appeal Albregts' recommendation. Ronaldo's lawyer, Peter Christiansen, declined to comment.

Ronaldo is one of the richest athletes in the world. He plays in Italy for the Turin-based soccer club Juventus and captains his home country Portugal's national team. **Ronaldo's lawyers** maintain that reports about the settlement and payment were based on electronic data illegally hacked, stolen and sold by cyber criminals.

They say they believe the documents have been altered and complain that Mayorga's lawsuit damages Ronaldo's reputation.

Mayorga's lawyer, Mark Stovall, says Mayorga, then 25, had learning disabilities as a child and lacked the legal capacity to sign a nondisclosure agreement.

Ronaldo's lawyers counter that there is no evidence Mayorga was incapacitated or incapable of understanding what she was signing. They have said in court the existence of the agreement and payment should never have been disclosed publicly.

TRY TELLING A WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL THAT THE CITY IS OWNED BY YOUR EASTERN RIVALS. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE DANIEL GEORGIEVSKI'S BLOOD BOIL.

WHY THE SYDNEY DERBY IS MORE THAN EAST V WEST: GEORGIEVSKI



When it comes to the Sydney Derby, Western Sydney Wanderers defender and Blacktown local Daniel Georgievski believes there is so much more to it than geography.

Any Sydneysider would know that the Western Motorway isn't the only thing that connects Australia's melting pot in the west and the gateway to the sun-kissed laneways of the eastern and northern beaches.

It connects two sets of people, with different ideals, different upbringings and different values.

Georgievski has become a fan-favourite at his hometown club

Throw in the derby's battleground, Southern Sydney and the contested inner-west, and you're walking a tight rope of epic proportions.

"From (growing up in) the west, we never really affiliated ourselves with the eastern suburbs," Georgievski told FTBL. "Now that there are football clubs, now we can express ourselves in a different way, that's how I see it."

Georgievski expressing himself in a different way means

going hell for leather in a bid to crush the only team he cares about beating, Sydney FC.

"It's more than just a game, it's bragging rights," said Georgievski. "But not just the word... it means more to you if you are from Sydney, you understand the different sets of people.

"You fight to win the city. When I played at (Melbourne) Victory there was a pure hatred against City. When the Wanderers came into the league, Sydney had to share the city. The feeling we have now is 'I don't want to share my city with you'.

"If we get a result it'll burn them a lot more – if they can't beat us it'll be a huge loss. There are other derbies I've played in where people say 'I don't care if we finish last as long we beat our rivals'.

"If we beat them again, Sydney FC think 'they always have that on us'."

The Wanderers currently hold the keys to the city after a 1-0 win at home at the beginning of the season. It led to

Sydney FC and Socceroo right-back Rhyen Grant echoing the words of his former captain Alex Brosque saying the derby has "genuine hate" between the two sides and says the match's importance has eclipsed their original rival, Melbourne Victory.

Other blockbuster events that the 31-year old has fought in include the Eternal Derby, Steaua Bucharest's battle against Dinamo in which he won three in his career.

While there aren't Nokia phones and gold coins being hurled at players in Sydney's showpiece event like there are in Romania, the rivalry he feels is gaining a bigger spot in people's hearts.

He added: "I haven't built up that hatred I get from the derbies you get over time, but i can feel the hostility growing."

The Sydney Derby story continues on Saturday at Kogarah Stadium at 5pm with Sydney FC leading the pack in the A-League by 13 points, and the Wanderers four points outside the finals.