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Paralyzed Student Wins \$8 Million Settlement From NYC

Sep 24, 2010 – 5:22 PM

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Mara Gay

Contributor

(Sept. 24) -- A man who was paralyzed after a high school football scrimmage as a teenager has been awarded an \$8 million settlement from [New York City](#).

Blake Hunt's C5 vertebra was shattered in 2007 when he was hit in the head by a player he had tried to tackle, [the New York Daily News reports](#).

Hunt, now 20 and living in a nursing home, sued New York City and its Department of Public Education for negligence. He said he would use the

money to pay for college.

"I'm just thankful it's over," Hunt, who was raised in foster care, told the Daily News. "I can move on with my life now. Now, I can really go back to school. I don't have to think about it anymore."

The paper reported that his attorney, Barry Greenberg, argued that the teenager had been improperly trained for the scrimmage and was too small to tackle the players on the field that day.

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"The hope is that this case has effects on how the athletic programs are run and that they are safer and better for kids in the future and that they are more careful," Greenberg said. He did not immediately return a call for comment today.

The New York City Law Department said the settlement was fair. "This was a tragic accident, and our sympathies are with the plaintiff and his family," the department said in a statement to the Daily News.