



Strangulation is not a "tiff"

[Premier League star Danny Simpson facing jail for throttling ex-girlfriend after drunken tiff*](#)

Danny Simpson has been convicted of the common assault of Stephanie Ward with whom he has a child. Ward, who did not participate in the trial, had called the police on December 29th. According to the police, Ward was shouting "get off me" when they arrived and they viewed Simpson "straddling" Ward with his hands around her throat. The police pulled Simpson off Ward to stop the assault.

You wouldn't realise that a crime had been committed by the media coverage of the trial. The Mirror dismissed the assault as a 'tiff' and a '[drunken row](#)', despite the fact that attempted strangulation is one of the clearest indicators of a high risk perpetrator who may kill.

Instead, The Mirror, in two separate articles, felt it necessary to mention that Simpson used to play for Manchester United and that he used to date pop star Tulisa Contostavlos. Because being able to kick a football and date musicians mitigates his choice to assault Ward.

They further mitigated Simpson's responsibility by insisting that he was too drunk to behave non-violently and that Ward caused the attack by 'harassing' him. Thankfully, the judge recognised the entitlement that Simpson displayed and acknowledged that the abusive language used by Simpson was a clear indicator of controlling behaviour. The Mirror journalists who covered the trial could do with rereading the judge's summation before excusing Simpson's violence and then signing up to some specialist training on domestic violence so they can learn that the only person responsible is the perpetrator.

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