

Casey Heynes, teen who attacked bully in YouTube video, says he just 'snapped'

BY MICHAEL SHERIDAN
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER
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An Australian teen dubbed "The Punisher" who became a YouTube star after viciously lashing out at a bully said he "snapped" after years of being picked on.

The moment 10th-grader Casey Heynes explodes on a pint-sized kid who punched him several times is as frightening as it is impressive.

"I actually snapped and grabbed him and picked him up off the ground and threw him to the ground in self-defense," the 16-year-old told Australia's "A Current Affair" in an interview that aired Sunday.

"I wasn't really thinking, I was just like, 'Yeah, finally it's over,'" he said of the experience. "I was scared."

The 40-second video captured the incident last week at Chifley College in St. Mary's North near Sydney. It was posted to YouTube and instantly scored thousands of views.

The spindly-legged 7th grader, identified as Ritchard Gale, does his best Rocky Balboa-dance as he pops Heynes in the face with a right cross, the video shows. The boy attempts to hit him a few more times, but his much-bigger victim slaps his fists away.

Then with sudden fury and speed, Heynes is seen grabbing Gale, lifting him, then body slamming him to the cement. The young bully is then seen standing up and limping away. He suffered only a scratch on his knee.

Heynes said he never fought back before and wasn't planning to this time. But the "anger just built up."

Heynes said Gale and his friends began teasing him two weeks prior to the fight, but said he's been bullied for years. He once had friends, but they all "ditched" him because of the teasing.

"[The bullies] called me fattie," he said. They would also "slap me on the back of the head, [and] trip me. Throw water bombs at me... practically every day."

They once even duct-taped him to a pole.

Heynes said he was "lonely," and after his friends abandoned him he was an easy target. The teen also admitted he considered suicide.

"I just started to put myself down," Heynes said. "And then all the crap just kept piling on."

"I didn't realize how much trouble he was actually in until I saw that video," Heynes' father, Colin, told "A Current Affair." "And he said 'Well, that goes on every day, dad.'"

Heynes and Gale have both been suspended because of their school's "zero tolerance" policy regarding fighting.

The teen doesn't regret lashing out at the bully, even though he admits he could have seriously hurt the younger boy.

"I just wanted it to stop," he said.

While many are praising Heynes, his father fears the fight video will only invite more bullies to target his son.

"There'll be reprisals from other kids in the school and he still has to go to school somewhere," he said, Australia's Daily Telegraph reports.

"He's not a violent kid, it's the first time he's lashed out and I don't want him to be victimized over that."