

4 KILLED IN MEAFORD CRASH

Young men were on way to hockey tournament **PAGE 3**

Tonight's Jackpot
649
\$8,000,000
estimated

Canucks in Mexico hit-run
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DENNY DOHERTY
Head 'Papa' dies
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Jacob Poirier stands outside a Scarborough court yesterday after impaired driving and resisting arrest charges against him were dropped. The 21-year-old says he was beaten by police — and that's why 20 court appearances failed to convict him.
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Charges dropped after 20 court dates

Man claims he was beaten by cop

His assault charges dropped after officer fails to show

KEVIN CONNOR
 Toronto Sun

Jacob Poirier wanted to be a police officer until the night he was allegedly beaten to a pulp by one.

The 21-year-old was drunk and vomiting by his car outside a house party in Scarborough in January, 2006 when, he claims, a cop came along and pepper-sprayed and brutally beat him.

He was then charged with impaired driving and assault resisting arrest, charges that were dropped by the Crown yesterday.

Poirier, who lives in Courtice and has no priors, says he wasn't driving and was planning to spend the night at his friend's house and denies the assault charges.

'Worst night of my life'

"I wouldn't hurt a fly. That was the worst night of my life. I don't usually cry, but I did that night," said Poirier, who is meeting with his lawyer on Monday to discuss suing the police officer, named in court documents as William R. Hamilton.

After 20 court remands, the Crown dropped the charges.

"We have reviewed the matter and are withdrawing the charges," Crown attorney Julie Battersby said yesterday in

Scarborough court.

Asked about the case yesterday, Toronto Police spokesman Kristine Bacharach said: It is not appropriate to comment at this time.

Police had still not disclosed a videotape from the mandatory surveillance camera in the station sally port where Poirier says his second beating took place.

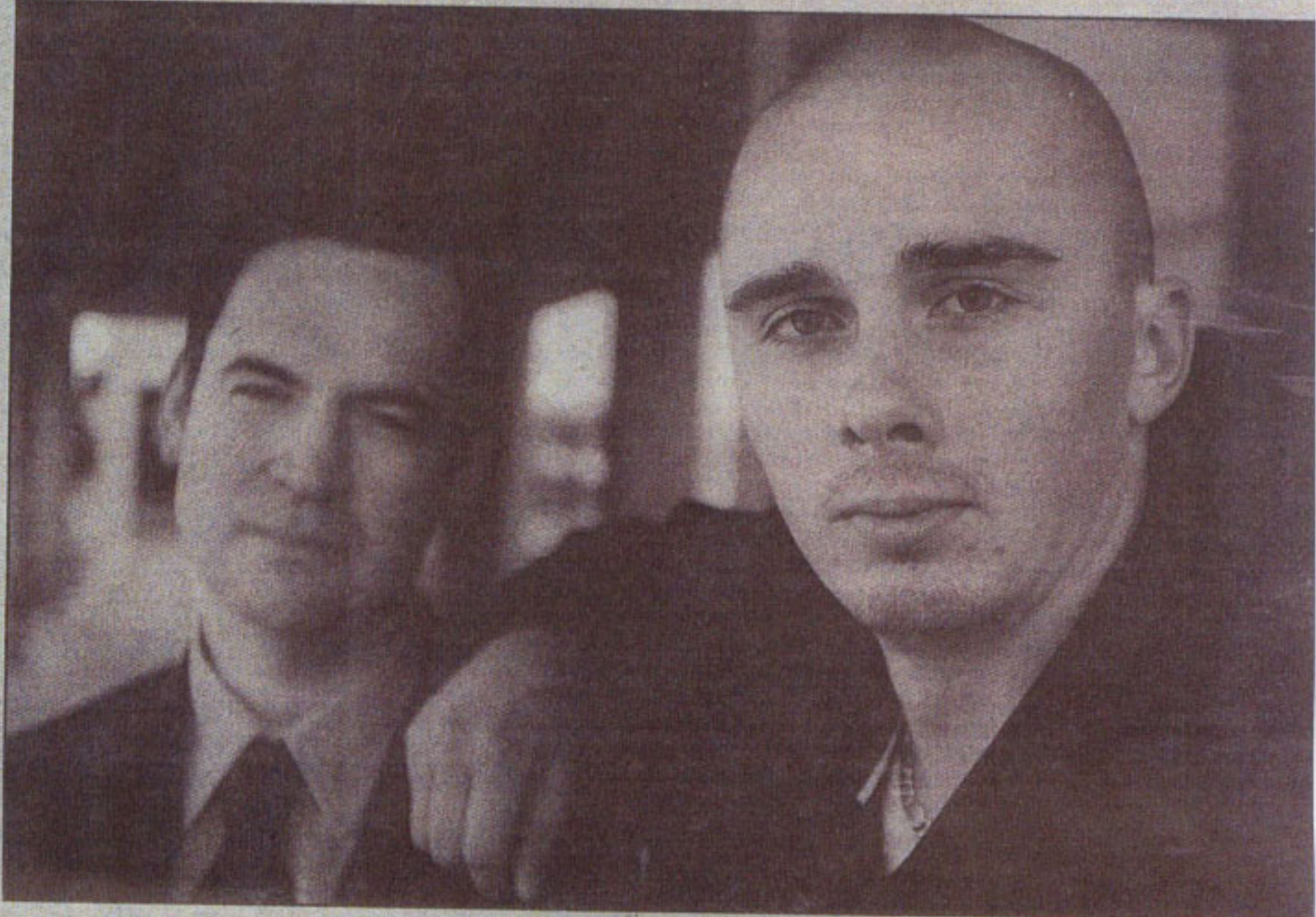
Poirier's lawyer, David Costa, said the police failed to provide the videotape evidence "which is telling."

'Failed to appear'

"The officer failed to appear at the pretrial. If he was assaulted he would have been there. (Poirier) was released from custody the same night. If someone beats on a cop they don't get out the same night. It's just another red herring," Costa said.

The defence wanted the videotape to show Poirier was beaten and pepper-sprayed when he arrived at the police station.

"I was handcuffed and blinded because of the pepper spray and I thought my skin was going to fall off. When I was being walked in they didn't tell me I was coming up to stairs. I fell down them face first. (The cop) had a good laugh at that," Poirier said.



Jacob Poirier, right, who claims he was beaten by a Toronto police officer, stands with his lawyer David Costa outside court in Scarborough yesterday. Assault charges against Poirier were dropped when the officer didn't appear for the pretrial.

"I wish people could see that tape."

He says that once he was in his cell the cop beat him with a baton.

"I kept saying, 'I can't believe you are doing this.'"

"At one point when I was

being beaten I didn't think I was going to survive," Poirier said.

"Nonsense"

"Cops can't have a licence to beat people up. We can't live in a society where this nonsense goes on," Costa said.

Because of the charges, Poirier couldn't drive and get to work, so he lost his job and then his apartment.

"Everything I had was shot down in one night," Poirier said.

"I can't believe I ever wanted

to be a cop."

Since the charges have been withdrawn, Poirier is able to apply to have his mugshot and fingerprint records destroyed — a process that can take years.

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