

# 1 man found guilty in death

## Assault induced fatal heart attack

BY KRISTEN DELGUZZI

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One family walked out of court Friday all smiles. Another was in tears. A third left with a solemn look of satisfaction.

Each was reacting to the verdict in the same case: the trial of two men accused of indirectly killing a woman who died of a heart attack last summer after a confrontation outside a West End nightclub.

Jurors found Jeffrey Jackson, 22, of Mount Auburn, guilty of involuntary manslaughter and felonious assault for the Aug. 18 death of Crystal Flagg, 19, of Hyde Park.



Crystal Flagg

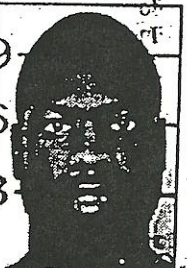
Mr. Jackson appeared stunned by the verdict. His family, sitting in the rear of the Hamilton County courtroom, erupted in sobs.

Prosecutors said Mr. Jackson initiated contact with Ms. Flagg outside KT's Dance Hall by pinching the young woman's rear. When she rebuffed his advances, he and a friend both hit her.

Someone broke up the argument, and her brother, Stanley, stepped in to help her.



Jeffrey Jackson



Lonnell Brown

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"Her brother took her across the street, and she died of a heart attack," said assistant prosecutor Gus Leon.

He said the coroner found no structural or congenital problems with Ms. Flagg's heart. Rather, her heart began beating abnormally from "the stress of the attack," Mr. Leon said.

Ms. Flagg's mother and other relatives nodded as the guilty verdicts were read. They embraced before leaving the courtroom without comment.

## Second defendant acquitted

Ms. Flagg also was struck by Lonnell Brown, 24, of Westwood who was acquitted of involuntary manslaughter. Jurors also determined he did not commit a felonious assault, but they did convict him of a less serious charge of assault.

Mr. Brown buried his head in his arms when he heard the verdict. Several of his relatives smiled, pumped their arms and whispered, "Yes."

"I was pleased with this decision," said Mr. Brown's attorney, Clyde Bennett II. "He didn't kill this woman. We consider this a victory. A big victory."

Mr. Jackson faces up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced next month by Common Pleas Judge Richard Niehaus.

The maximum sentence for Mr. Brown is six months in jail. But by being convicted of assault, he also may have violated the terms of his probation on drug-related charges and could be sent to prison for several years, prosecutors said.