

Local news

Jury: White not teen girl's attacker

Judge orders suspect freed from jail cell

By Kimball Perry
Post staff reporter

Jimmy White, accused of fondling and cutting a 14-year-old girl, then leaving her tied by railroad tracks, was found not guilty Friday.

Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge Norbert Nadel ordered White freed from the Justice Center, where he has been held since his August arrest.

This was the second trial for White. The first ended in a January mistrial when jurors were unable to reach a unanimous verdict. A majority wanted to free White.

After Friday's verdict, White's lawyer,

Clyde Bennett, verbally attacked some of the victim's neighbors for pinning the blame on White.

"I believe the case was orchestrated to some extent by the citizens. Not the prosecutors, but by the citizens," Bennett said. "It was bogus, to be honest."

The girl, who was attacked behind the Pleasant Ridge Bigg's, gave only a sketchy description of her attacker.

Neighbors then believed White, based on that description, to be the attacker.

One of those neighbors, Carmen Price, arranged for the victim to hide in her house while she invited White inside for a visit.

After White left, Ms. Price asked the vic-



Jimmy White

tim if White was her attacker. Bennett argued — and the jury apparently believed — that that was unfair to White.

Before the victim identified White at Ms. Price's home, she had been unable to pick him out of a police photo array.

The day after she saw White at the house, though, she picked him out of the photo lineup.

"Jimmy maintained his innocence from day one," Bennett said.

Ms. Price balked at testifying in this case and did so only after threatened with arrest for ignoring her subpoena to court.

Prosecutors had no DNA evidence to link White to the crime and had no useable fingerprints on the knife found near the scene.

White was charged with gross sexual imposition, felonious assault and two counts of kidnapping.