

Accused weeps at crash site

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

An Aurora man charged with killing two women in a road rage collision was found weeping at the side of the road a month after the crash, a jury was told yesterday.

Josef Mansour, 36, was heading for York University Feb. 25, 1998, a little more than a month after the Jan. 19 accident that killed 37-year-old Suzanne McGregor of Richmond Hill and 33-year-old Lina Marra of Woodbridge, when a police officer spotted him.

Still distraught by the collision, Mansour said he abandoned his plans to go to school and began heading home instead.

On Vandorf Sideroad between Leslie Street and Bayview Avenue, he pulled on to the shoulder.

Const. Frank Badowich, who was on patrol, noticed the agitated Mansour sitting behind the wheel of his Toyota 4-Runner at about 2:25 p.m.

When Badowich asked Mansour what was wrong, he told the officer about the fatal collision five weeks earlier.

"I was really upset. I was very upset," Mansour told the nine-woman, three-man jury.

"He asked me, he said 'What's wrong?' I told him that I was in an accident and that it was about a month ago.

"I told him I was in an accident and I killed two people and I didn't mean to make her mad. I didn't mean to make Suzanne mad when I passed her."

Mansour, who has pleaded not guilty to two counts of criminal negligence causing death, has testified McGregor "was playing games" on Dufferin Street from Teston Road to just south of Rutherford Road, where the cars collided.

He said she cut him off, drove extremely slowly in front of him and refused to let him back into traffic when he tried to pass her, despite an oncoming car. He has testified she attempted to box him in on a muddy shoulder as he drove toward a guardrail.

Mansour said he feared he made McGregor angry when he passed her south of Teston as she continued

to "play games" for the next several kilometres.

However, Crown attorney LeeAnne McCallum has accused Mansour of becoming enraged when McGregor pulled in front of him.

His anger caused him to dangerously pursue McGregor along Dufferin, speeding and tailgating her until the crash, McCallum said.

Mansour said he expressed regret for the crash to Badowich.

"I said I'm sorry. I wish I could take it back and I didn't mean to make her mad."

Wamback show draws YOA calls

From Prince George to Kenora, Calgary to Mississauga, callers to the nationally broadcast radio program Cross Country Checkup made it clear the Young Offenders Act is flawed and needs fixing.

About 100 people attended the live broadcast of the popular call-in show at Newmarket Theatre Sunday afternoon, which featured a panel including Joseph Wamback, father of beating victim Jonathan Wamback.

Wamback told the audience the Young Offenders Act is powerless, serving to protect the accused while punishing victims.

The Wambacks have been waging war against the Act for the past 10 months since their son was beaten into a coma last June 29 as he walked through a park near his home.

He emerged from the coma three months later, but still requires extensive therapy.

Meanwhile, two of the three youths charged with aggravated assault in the beating remain free on bail, awaiting trial.

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