

THREE TEENS ON TRIAL FOR BEATING AND INJURING ANOTHER YORK REGION TEENAGER

Teens shared beating story with friends

One of the kicks delivered in beating was described as a football punt

After punching and kicking a 15-year-old unconscious, three teens gathered with a group of friends and shared details of the beating, a court has heard.

"They get out of the car and everyone is talking at once," a 17-year-old male witness testified yesterday about events in June, 1999.

One youth said he "threw a punch at his face ... He hit him a couple more times."

Another teen said he kicked the 15-year-old in the back after he fell to the ground, while a third teen kicked dirt in his face, said the one witness to testify yesterday.

"I heard (one of the teens) say he gave him one nice shot," he told Mr. Justice Michael Caney at the trial of the three youths in an Etobicoke courtroom, which continues today.

One of the kicks was described as a football punt, he said.

The three youths, whose identities

are protected under the Young Offenders Act, have pleaded not guilty to aggravated assault.

The act also prohibits publishing the name of the victim and the witness who testified yesterday.

The witness said that, earlier on the day of the beating, he had gathered with friends — including the three accused — and went to a nearby park in York Region to smoke marijuana.

'I heard (one of the teens) say he gave him one nice shot.'

At the park, the witness said, he saw the victim in the washroom and believed he was writing on the wall.

He testified he noticed the boy's shirt had letters on it associated with a particular group of teenagers. The same letters had been written on the washroom walls and on playground equipment, he said.

The witness said he followed the victim out of the washroom and told his friends the teen was a member of the group associated with the graffiti.

One accused youth grabbed the teen by his shirt and told him to leave the area and that no one wanted any trouble, he said. Another accused teen gave "him a very light backhand to the face".

The teen left the area and the group of friends went into the washroom to read what the teen had written on the wall, the witness said while answering questions from Crown Attorney Mary Lou Dickie. The graffiti was racist and included swastikas.

Some of the teens later left in a car, the witness said, while he and others walked to a friend's house.

Not long after, the teens in the car returned to tell the others about the attack they had made on the 15-year-old they believed was responsible for the

graffiti, the witness said.

One of the accused teens said he "asked (the victim) if he had a problem with black people".

The teens were "excited" as they described the beating, the witness said.

Within days, the witness said, he spotted a poster stating an area teen was in a coma and police were seeking the attackers.

Under cross-examination, the witness said no one thought the victim would be seriously hurt.

The witness agreed it is possible one of the accused wasn't even at the park or with the teenagers who described the details of the beating.

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