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Manslaughter conviction in sibling fight

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

A Markham man has been convicted of manslaughter in the death of his brother follow-

ing a fight last May. Jonathan Shepherd, 33, died three days after he was rushed to Markham Stouffville Hospital with vital signs absent.

Mr. Shepherd collapsed May 7, 2000 after a dispute with his brother Stephen, 30, turned physical.

When police responded to the domestic disturbance call, they found Jonathan Shepherd lying in the living room of his Featherstone Avenue home not

breathing.

He remained on life support in hospital until his death on May 10. An autopsy determined the cause of death was complications arising from asphyxiation.

A charge of aggravated assault laid against Stephen

Shepherd was upgraded to manslaughter after his brother's death and Mr. Justice Bruce Glass convicted him Wednesday after a week-long trial.

He will be sentenced June 20 in the Superior Court of Justice in Newmarket.

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Local NHLer pleads guilty to assault in U.S.

Brad May didn't know he was dealing with police officers during an incident in an Arizona night club last month.

The Phoenix Coyotes forward, who grew up in Markham and Stouffville, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault and disorderly conduct charges in a

fight with a night club manager and two sheriff's deputies.

A superior court judge fined Mr. May \$5,000 and sentenced him to a year of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio had recommended felony charges against May, 30,

in the fight that occurred April 14. But the County Attorney's Office filed the two misdemeanor counts.

Darrow Soll, Mr. May's lawyer, told AP the player accepted them because the prosecution realized that Mr. May "did not know these people were police officers, nor could he have known."

"He did it to avoid litigation, move on with his life and concentrate on his family and hockey," Mr. Soll said. "Brad is upset that he was ever accused of knowingly striking a police officer. He respects the police very much, and the evidence is clear that he did not strike at an officer, but rather was simply defending himself."

Mr. May, who played minor hockey in Stouffville and then Markham, is well known for his charitable work in the area. His annual celebrity golf tournament has raised thousands of dollars for charities.



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