



Ben Wallace, left, of the NBA champion Detroit Pistons, and his teammates are kept apart from Ron Artest, far right, of the Indiana Pacers by Pacers' head coach Rick Carlisle and official Tommy Nunez Jr. Artest's hard foul on Wallace sparked a melee Saturday in Detroit.

No charges filed in hoops brawl

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Investigators interviewed nine people injured in the brawl at the end of the Pistons-Pacers game, but no charges were imminent in the case, the county prosecutor said Monday.

Police were also reviewing videotapes and interviewing witnesses from Friday night's melee, when Indiana forward Ron Artest charged into the stands after a fan threw a cup at him.

If charges are filed, they probably would be for assault and battery, a misdemeanor that could bring a three-month jail sentence, said David Gorcyca, the Oakland County prosecutor. The only possible felony charge could be against the person who hurled a chair into the crowd. Police Chief Doreen Olko said none of the people involved was seriously injured.

Asked if Artest could claim self-defense, Gorcyca said: "Even if someone did throw water, you don't have a license or a green light to punch them."

John Green of West Bloomfield Township was the fan who threw the cup at Artest, Gorcyca said. The prosecutor identified Green — a former next-door neighbor — by repeatedly watching footage of the brawl. He said footage showed that once Artest was in the stands, Green grabbed him from behind and sucker-punched him.

Green, however, told reporters he didn't throw the cup. "I wish the whole thing didn't happen," he said. "I'm sure the NBA players that got involved in it wish it never happened, the fans never wished that it had happened. I know I don't. It was awful, it was ugly."

Pistons chief executive Tom Wilson said Green is a season-ticket holder and will be banned from The Palace.

On Sunday, the NBA suspended Artest for the rest of the season. The league also suspended Indiana's Stephen Jackson for 30 games and teammate Jermaine O'Neal for 25. Detroit's Ben Wallace — whose shove of Artest after a foul led to the five-minute fracas — drew a six-game ban, while Pacers guard Anthony Johnson got five games.

Four players — Indiana's Reggie Miller, and Detroit's Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell and Derrick Coleman — were suspended one game apiece for leaving the bench during the initial fight.

Wright wins, eyes mega-bouts

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Winky Wright did what he had to do, beating Shane Mosley a second time Saturday night to retain his 154-pound titles. Now he can do what he really wants — fight for big money against the likes of Felix Trinidad, Oscar De La Hoya and Bernard Hopkins.

"Tito's No. 1," Wright said of Trinidad. "But I'll fight Oscar, Bernard Hopkins — whoever the fans want."

Wright made a case to be included among boxing's elite fighters, but it wasn't easy as he barely pulled out a majority decision against a determined Mosley.

The fight was strikingly similar to the first between the two in March, when the underdog Wright controlled the action from the outside and won a decision. In the rematch, though, Mosley landed well inside against the favored Wright and the fight was still in doubt going into the final round.

When the scorecards were added up, though, it was Wright winning by 115-113 margins on two cards, while the third judge had it 114-114. The Associated Press had Wright winning 116-112



Winky Wright, right, lands a right to the face of Shane Mosley in the ninth round of their WBC/WBA super welterweight title fight Saturday at the Mandalay Bay Events Center.

before a sparse crowd at the Mandalay Bay Hotel-Casino.

"He was a great fighter. I caught him with more shots," Wright said. "He deserved the rematch, though. He came to fight."

The fight was so close that had Mosley won the last round on one other scorecard, it would have been a majority draw. Both fighters were clearly tired in the final round and they clinched on a number of occasions, then hugged as the bell sounded to end the

fight.

"I showed the fans tonight when I fight I give 100 percent," Mosley said. "I banged with him, I boxed with him. I got the better, cleaner shots."

Wright was dominating the early rounds but in the fifth, Mosley landed to the body, Wright put his hands down and Mosley hit him with a right that excited the crowd. The two went back and forth, with Mosley landing well to the body and Wright jabbing him to the

head.

"I wanted to show he couldn't hurt me, that I could take a punch," Wright said. "But it was a heck of a punch."

As the round ended, the two fighters touched gloves in respect over the head of referee Joe Cortez and Mosley then looked at the crowd and pounded his heart with his glove.

Mosley seemed re-energized by the round and rallied, trying to fight Wright (See Wright, Page 12)

After election, Blacks must look inward

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA) — African-Americans should place less emphasis on electoral politics and more focus on economics and other forms of community empowerment, some activists suggest.

"I've always believed that voting has to be done in combination with other things," says Ron Daniels, executive director of the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, a non-profit legal and educational organization dedicated to protecting the rights of citizens. "We should mix it with some of the things that we don't like to do that this period will force us to do."

With the high cost of the war in Iraq, a bloated federal deficit that exceeds \$400 bil-

lion, Blacks realize that they must increasingly rely on themselves, not the federal government.

"We need a resurgence in African-American-based organizations like the NAACP, like the Urban League, like other local community-based groups," says National Urban League President and Chief Executive Officer Marc Morial. "We need to continue to recognize that when we had no voice in the political system, we had our historic organizations and they carried the ball. Always on top of my list is economics and jobs."

The Urban League operates job-training programs for the unemployed. Every chapter has a jobs board that carries job openings. Still, the Black unemployment rate is

10.7 to the White unemployment rate of 4.7. And even when Blacks and Whites acquire the same level of education, Whites are paid more than Blacks.

According to the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth, annual Black spending power stood at \$688 billion in 2002 and is projected to reach \$921 billion in 2008. Many activists say redirecting a significant slice of that pie to Black businesses could transform the Black community.

However, Bill Spriggs, senior fellow at the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based economic research organization, has mixed feelings about that prospect. He says if African-Americans were mobilized and motivated to combine

resources, mass investments or even near takeovers of certain industries could help force the hiring of or doing business with African-Americans.

"I suppose there is a way in which you could lower the discriminatory barriers in things like Hollywood, for instance or the recording industry where we have a significant foothold or the sports industry where we have a big foothold," he says. "We live in a very decentralized economy. It's a pure capitalist economy," says Spriggs. "It's just very hard for people to imagine how you're going to do something that's so centralized and then, 'How does that benefit me?'"

Many Blacks who are fed up with Corporate America (See Election, Page 3)