

# Clarett arrested with 4 guns

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The legal morass that has ensnared Maurice Clarett since he was Ohio State's star running back mounted Wednesday when police found four loaded guns in his sport utility vehicle and couldn't subdue him with a stun gun because he was wearing a bullet-proof vest.

It was just the latest in a series of problems for the beleaguered Clarett, who hasn't played a game since scoring the winning touchdown in the Fiesta Bowl as a freshman for Ohio State's 2002 national champions.

He already faced trial in an armed robbery case next week, and his bond on those charges was raised to \$1.1 million after he was jailed on the new weapon and traffic charges.

Clarett hid one semi-automatic handgun under his legs in the driver's seat and had an AK-47-type assault rifle on the passenger seat, police said.

They said they found two other semi-automatic handguns, including one in a holster in a backpack.

"We don't have any idea why he had them or what, if anything, he was going to do with them," Columbus police Sgt. Michael Woods said. "But if you've got four guns in your car, you're up to no good."

The arrest came near the home of a witness set to testify against Clarett next week in the robbery case, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien said.

When police tried to



Former star Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett makes a phone call as he is booked at Franklin County Corrections Center on Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio.

shock Clarett, they couldn't because of the vest and had to use pepper spray.

Police say he wove in and out of lanes, did a U-turn on a freeway and refused to leave the SUV after a spike stick flattened its tires.

Clarett's promising football career was derailed when he was suspended for the 2003 season after being charged with falsifying a police report.

He dropped out of school, then sued and lost in an attempt to be included in the 2004 NFL draft. He was a surprise third-round pick by the Denver Broncos in the 2005 draft but was cut during the preseason.

Earlier this year, he was charged with robbery and carrying a concealed weapon after authorities say he was identified by witnesses as the person who flashed a gun and robbed two people of a cell phone in an alley behind a Columbus lounge early on New Year's morning.

Assistant Franklin County Prosecutor Tim Mitchell asked a judge Wednesday to keep Clarett in jail and revoke his bond on the robbery charges, given that Clarett was arrested close to the home of Tywona Douglas, one of the people who identified him in the alley behind the bar.

Clarett's attorney, Nick Mango, said it was "probably unlikely" that Clarett would be able to post the higher bond, meaning he would stay in jail for the duration of his trial, which starts Monday.

The 22-year-old Clarett, a high school friend of NBA star LeBron James, became a father when his girlfriend gave birth to a premature daughter last month. When a judge scolded Clarett last week for being late for a hearing on the robbery charges, his attorney said Clarett was taking care of the baby.

Clarett did not speak to police who tried to interview

him at the station Wednesday, and his arraignment in that case was scheduled for Thursday.

Police said the 6-foot, 245-pound Clarett refused to get out of the SUV when he pulled into a restaurant parking lot after a highway chase. It took several officers to handcuff him, and he kicked the doors of a transport vehicle as he was being taken to city police headquarters, Woods said. A partially full bottle of vodka was found in the SUV, but no breath test was given because there was no indication Clarett was intoxicated, Woods said.

Clarett had planned to play for the Youngstown-based Mahoning Valley Hitmen, one of five teams in the Eastern Indoor Football League, starting in January.

Hitmen coach and owner Jim Terry said he spoke with Clarett by cell phone early Wednesday about upcoming tryouts and there was no hint anything was wrong.

The arrest will not affect Clarett's status with the team, Terry said. "We gave him a chance and now we'll wait to see what happens," he said. "I've seen far worse situations than this."

# Urban Chamber 'pays it forward'

Special to Sentinel-Voice

More than 60 high school and college students will receive scholarships on Saturday at the Urban Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Ann Gregory Memorial Scholarship and Community Enrichment Awards Reception.

The theme of this year's event, which runs from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Palazzo ballroom at the Venetian Hotel-Casino, is "Instead of Just Returning a Favor, Pay It Forward." A reception with a no-host cocktail hour will precede the theatre-style awards presentation. Tickets are \$50.

Community Enrichment Awards will be handed out to Suzanne Madison of Allegra Consulting; Punam Mathur, vice president of corporate diversity and community affairs for MGM MIRAGE; Nevada System of Higher Education Chancellor Jim Rogers; Tony Sanchez with ABLE, the Alliance of Black and Latino for Education; Maureen Peckman, spokeswoman for the Council for Better Nevada; Urban Avenue Magazine and Gov. Kenny Guinn. Francisco Aguliar and Sonya Douglas-Horsford will each receive the executive director's New Leadership Award.

The prime sponsor for this year's reception is the Venetian Foundation. Scholarship donors are Famous Daves, Judge George Assad for Hannah Brown, MGM-MIRAGE, Ronald McDonald Charities, Stations Casinos, Urban Chamber Scholars, and the Venetian Hotel.

The Urban Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that promotes community outreach. Though the thrust of the organization focuses on the African-American community, membership is open to people of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

For reservations and ticket information, call the Urban Chamber at 702-648-6222 press "0" or visit [www.urbanchamberlv.org](http://www.urbanchamberlv.org).

# Gang convicted of hate crime

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Four members of a Hispanic gang were convicted earlier this month of conspiring to use violence to push Blacks out of their neighborhood, after federal prosecutors targeted the gang with laws normally used to prosecute White supremacist groups.

All four were found to have caused the death of a Black man shot while parking his car in 1999 and a man shot while standing at a bus stop in 2000 in the largely

Hispanic city of Highland Park, east of Los Angeles. Convicted were Gilbert "Lucky" Saldana, 27; Alejandro "Bird" Martinez, 28; Porfirio "Dreamer" Avila, 31; and Fernando "Sneaky" Cazares, 26.

Saldana and Avila are already serving life sentences in state prison. For a guilty verdict, jurors had to find that the attacks were part of a conspiracy to violate the victims' right to live where they pleased and to use state-ad-

ministered facilities, including public streets.

Justice Department attorney Bobbi Bernstein had asked jury to send a message that America does not tolerate racial violence. Defense attorneys claimed police concocted the conspiracy charges by tying together random attacks committed largely by unknown perpetrators.

The four face life in prison without parole. Sentencing is to begin Oct. 23.

# Clippers

(Continued from Page 1)

fied monetary damages and penalties. The lawsuit also names as defendants the Sterling Family Trust and the Korean Land Company, which owns multifamily rental properties throughout the county. In November, a federal judge ordered Sterling to pay nearly \$5 million in fees to plaintiffs' attorneys in a lawsuit accusing him of discriminating against Black and Hispanic tenants.

The case — filed by attorneys including the non-profit Housing Rights Center for 19 plaintiffs — resolved with a financial settlement that the judge described as "one of the largest ever obtained in this type of case," though the terms were not disclosed.

The 2003 lawsuit alleged that Sterling tried to drive out tenants, particularly Blacks and Hispanics, at apartments he owned in Koreatown.

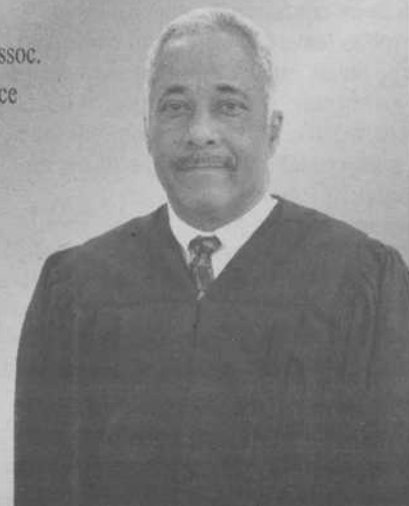
RETAIN  
JUSTICE MICHAEL  
**DOUGLAS**  
SUPREME COURT  
Seat "F"

"Two years ago, Nevadans put their trust in me to continue serving them on the Supreme Court and I have taken that awesome responsibility seriously every day. The Supreme Court is the guardian of the law... it is a place in Nevada's government where every citizen must be confident in the character, dignity and intellect of its caretakers."

"I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming primary election on August 15th." - Michael Douglas

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- Southern Nevada Central Labor Council
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