

# Is 'Pacman' worth media cost for Titans?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones may have finally worn out his welcome with the Tennessee Titans.

Jones has had one legal problem after another since the Titans drafted him in April 2005.

He has kept his job because of his talent and the fact the Titans haven't had enough salary cap room to replace him.

Now Las Vegas police are investigating the latest incident — a Feb. 19 triple shooting that left one man paralyzed — and Jones has become a public relations nightmare who might be too costly to keep.

At the NFL scouting combine on Friday, Titans coach Jeff Fisher tried to deflect questions about Jones.

"Once we're able to gather the facts on this one, we'll be able to address his future and those other types of things," he said.

The Titans are leaving the investigation of the shooting at the Minxx Gentleman's Club and Lounge to the Las Vegas police, who said in an affidavit last week that they had seized \$81,000 in cash they believed Jones brought to the club.

The club's co-owner, Robert Susnar, has led the charge against Jones, saying that the gunman, suspected of shooting two employees and a customer, arrived and left with Jones. Susnar was not at the club when the shooting happened but said he learned what happened from his staff.

Police have not commented since the affidavit

was issued and won't say more about the case until they have new information. No suspects have been named, and no one has been charged in the case.

Jones has not commented publicly since the shooting. His attorneys say Jones spoke to Las Vegas police hours after the shooting and was allowed to return home to Atlanta. He then hired attorney Manny Arora of the Atlanta law firm of Garland, Samuel and Loeb P.C., which has represented top athletes, including Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis in 2000.

The Titans are currently in a more flexible position than in the past — they can now afford to let him go even if they can't find a team willing to take him via trade. Before signing any of their restricted free agents, they have an estimated \$36 million in salary cap space.

Free agency starts Friday, and a cornerback already was going to be a top target for a team trying to improve the NFL's worst defense, with Nate Clements at the top of the list.

They have drafted a cornerback in each of the past six drafts, and have studied the position strongly at the combine, where general manager Mike Reinfeldt said teams can never have enough good cornerbacks.

"With Adam Jones, we'll continue to monitor that and it may impact what we do. It's important that we have the information and take everything into consideration," Reinfeldt said.

This is the eighth time Jones has been in trouble and

the police have been involved; he has been arrested three times. Charges from a Nashville nightclub incident in July 2005 were dismissed in March 2006. A judge dismissed a simple assault charge for spitting on a woman on Feb. 1.

But Jones could risk having his expungement revoked for an arrest on public intoxication and disorderly conduct charges in Murfreesboro from last August. A judge agreed to expunge the charges in January if he stayed out of trouble until

July 5.

The Rutherford County district attorney general, who was out of the office last week, did not return a phone message left by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Fans have blistered radio airwaves and online forums since news broke about the Las Vegas incident. Many fans want Jones released, which reportedly would cost the Titans \$5.4 million against the salary cap this year.

On Monday night, WTVF-TV aired a wire-

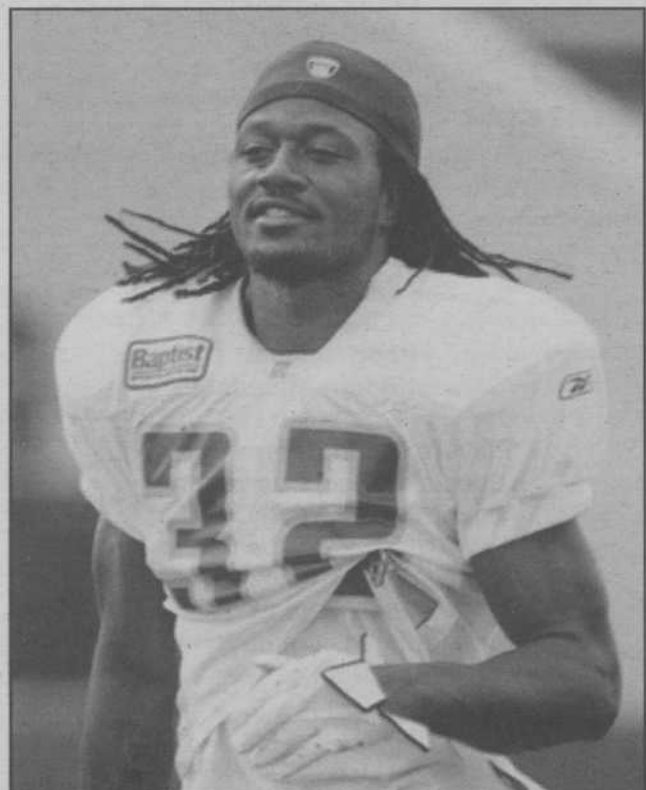
tapped phone conversation from a drug investigation in which one of Jones' acquaintances talks about the player's drug use, gambling on college football and not taking football seriously.

"You know, I was talkin' to (Jones) the other day about smokin', and he was like 'Man, if I didn't smoke, I couldn't take all the stress that I'm dealing with right now,'" said Darryl Moore, who faces charges including conspiracy and possession of cocaine and marijuana for resale.

In the same investigation, police confiscated a 2004 Cadillac XLT with "PAC-MAN" embroidered in the front seats. Jones said he had loaned the car to Moore for use in a rap video, and he bought the car back at auction.

By Tuesday, no one wanted to talk about Jones.

Susnar, the club co-owner, gave dozens of interviews last week implicating Jones but did not return a telephone message Tuesday. The Titans declined to comment on the wiretap conversations.



Tennessee Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones has been a magnet for trouble since he was drafted in 2005.

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