Felony charges possible for 'Pacman'

LAS VEGAS (AP) -Tennessee Titans star Adam "Pacman" Jones could face felony and misdemeanor charges stemming from a triple shooting at a strip club in February.

The cornerback would face a felony charge of coercion and misdemeanor threat and battery charges in the 5 a.m. shooting at Minxx, police Lt. George Castro said Monday.

Castro said detectives haven't determined who fired the shots that wounded three people, one critically, outside the club during the NBA All-Star game weekend.

Castro said the request for charges will be submitted to Clark County district attorney David Roger no later than the end of the week. Roger will be asked to consider charges against the 23-year-old Jones and Robert Reid, 37, and Sadia Morrison, 24, whom Castro described as friends of Jones.

No arrest warrants have been issued, and an investigation will continue into whether another person might have been involved and fired the shots.

Castro characterized Jones as an instigator of a scuffle inside the club that led to the shooting outside.

"Was he an inciter? Yes, he was," Castro said.

Lawyers for Jones have denied Minxx club co-owner Robert Susnar's account that Jones arrived and left the club with the shooter. After 500 hours of reviewing videotapes and interviewing witnesses from the club, Castro said police were unable to establish a relationship between Jones and the shooter. Jones was questioned by Las Vegas police and released.

Two club security guards and an unidentified woman were wounded in the shooting. One guard, who was paralyzed from the waist down, was transferred last week to a rehabilitation hospital. The other guard and the woman were not seriously wounded.

Jones' attorney Worrick Robinson of Nashville, Tenn. had no comment before Monday's police news conference. Another Jones lawyer, Manny Arora in Atlanta, was out of the office and did not immediately respond to a message from The Associated Press.

The pre-dawn shooting followed a scuffle that broke out in the club when dancers on stage were showered with thousands of dollar bills, according to a police search warrant.

Susnar has said the shooting happened after Jones threatened to kill a bouncer, whom the club owner said intervened when Jones allegedly attacked a dancer who grabbed money on the stage.

Police later reported confiscating $81,000 in cash belonging to Jones. The money was recovered from a safe in the hotel room of Houston-based promoter Chris Mitchell, whose "Harlem Knights" dancers were brought in for the weekend at Minxx, a club several blocks west of the Las Vegas Strip.

The NFL confirmed last month that officials were reviewing Jones' off-field conduct, which has included 10 incidents where he was interviewed by police.

Jones was not welcome to take part in the team's offseason conditioning program, which began last week.

The Titans are trying to decide whether to keep Jones, the sixth pick overall in 2005. The cornerback did not tell team officials about being arrested twice in Georgia in 2006 — a potential violation of the personal conduct policy.

In January, a Tennessee judge ordered Jones to stay out of trouble until July 5, 2007, to have public intoxication and disorderly conduct charges from an August 2006 arrest in the Nashville suburb of Murfreesboro, Tenn., expunged.

Jones also has charges pending from a February 2006 Georgia case, in which he's accused of biting a Fayetteville police officer between his thumb and index finger. Jones was charged with felony obstruction of police. On March 13, a Georgia judge delayed a court appearance in that case to give Jones' attorneys time to determine how the NFL might react to a potential plea agreement

Serena rankled by heckler at tourney

Serena Williams says a heckler bothered her throughout her match Monday at the Sony Ericsson Open, making at least one racist remark before he was finally ejected.

"The guy said, 'Hit the net like any Negro would.' I was shocked," Williams said. "I couldn't believe it. I had to do a double take. I think I hit a double fault on that point."

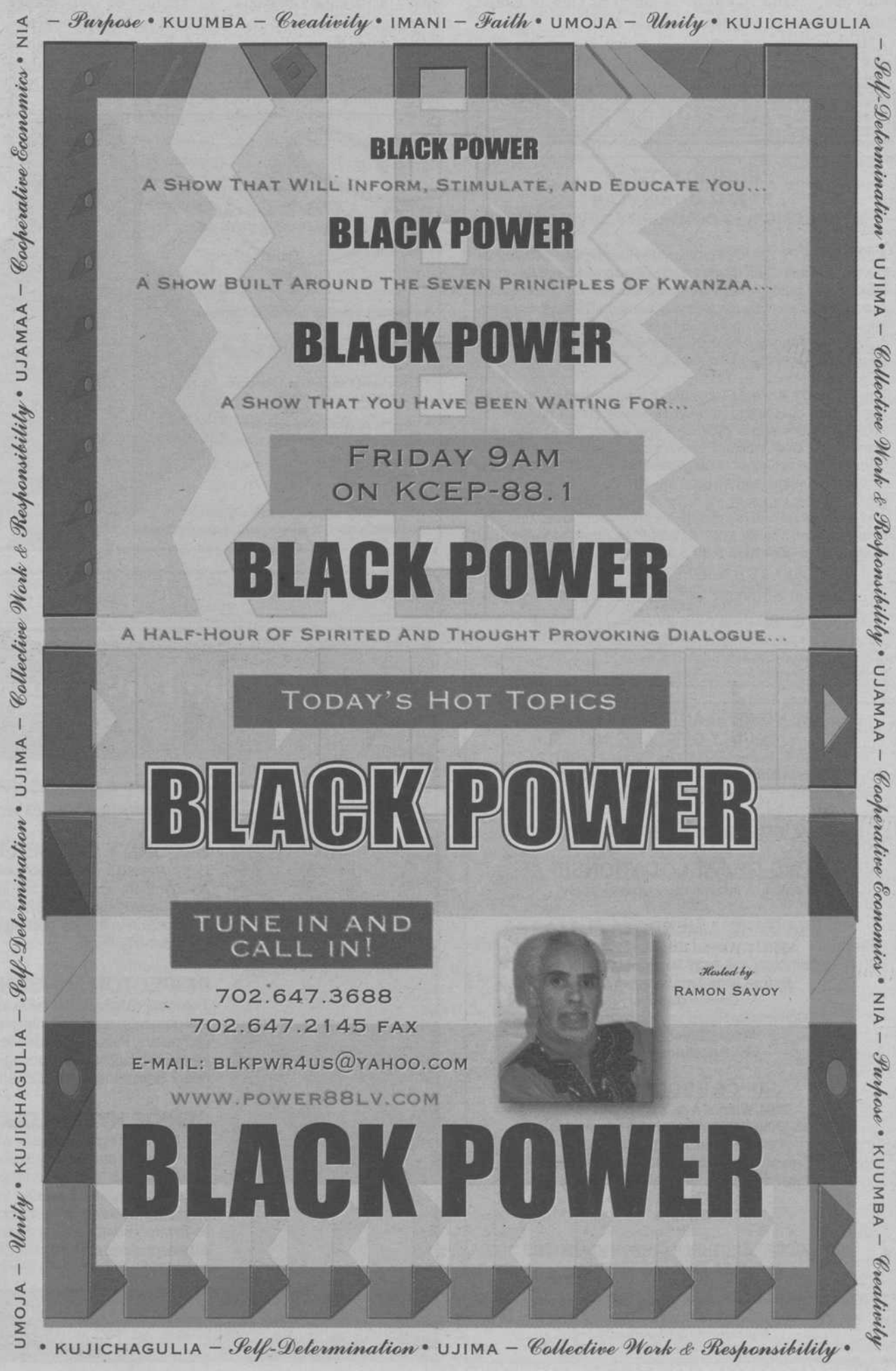
In a match delayed by rain, Williams defeated No. 23 Lucie Safarova, 6-3, 6-4 in the third round and will next play top-seeded Maria Sharapova.

Williams complained late in the match to the chair umpire about the heckler."I shouldn't have let it bother me, because growing up in Compton we had drive-bys," said Williams, who was raised in Los Angeles. "I guess that's what my dad prepared me for, but I'm not going to stand for it."

Fans and security confirmed a man heckled Williams inappropriately, tournament director Adam Barrett said. "The man was identified and escorted off the site," Barrett said.

"As security determines the severity of his actions, he may not be welcome to return. We take these matters very, very seriously."

Williams, an eight-time Grand Slam champion, is among the event's most popular players. She lives in South Florida, considers Key Biscayne her home tournament and has won the title three times.With a small crowd in the stadium for her late-afternoon match, she said she could hear the heckler between points and during them. "Every time I missed a shot or a serve, he would say, 'That's the way to do it,'" she said.

"He was calling, 'Foot fault.' He was saying, 'Hit in the net.' ... I mean, who does this? That's so elementary. You don't do this on a professional level."

Williams and her sister Venus have boycotted the Indian Wells tournament since 2001, when the family was booed after Venus withdrew just before a semifinal match against Serena. Their father, Richard, said those jeers were racially motivated. "It's always something with me," Serena said with a laugh.